

#1 of 10: Share of Arriving Households From the Top Three States

72.8% of new households come from just three states

Knoxville leads Tennessee in migration concentration

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THE DATA

72.8%

Share of Arriving Households From the Top Three States (2023)

This concentration is unmatched among Tennessee's major metros, reflecting a highly selective migration pattern.

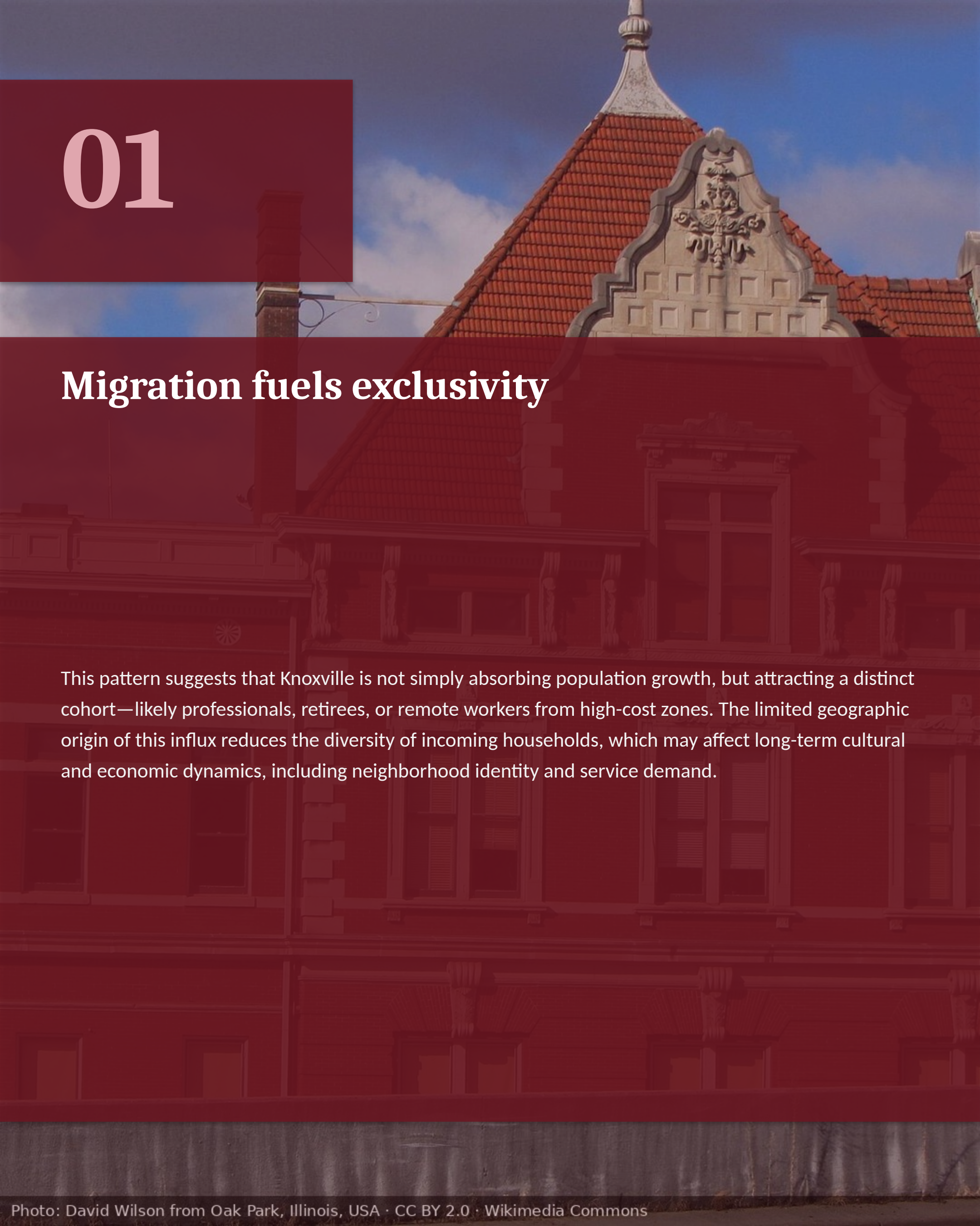
The data reveals that over seven in ten new households in Knoxville originate from only three states: Tennessee, Florida, and California. This level of concentration suggests that migration to the city is not broad-based but driven by specific regional flows—particularly from high-cost, high-mobility states. The dominance of in-state migration (Tennessee) underscores deep local attachment, while the strong presence of Florida and California reflects a growing pull from Sun Belt and coastal markets.

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-30-knoxville-mig-state-top3>



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Migration fuels exclusivity

This pattern suggests that Knoxville is not simply absorbing population growth, but attracting a distinct cohort—likely professionals, retirees, or remote workers from high-cost zones. The limited geographic origin of this influx reduces the diversity of incoming households, which may affect long-term cultural and economic dynamics, including neighborhood identity and service demand.

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In-state dominance as a stabilizing force

This in-state migration acts as a stabilizing force amid national volatility. Unlike markets dependent on out-of-state inflows from distant or volatile regions, Knoxville benefits from a self-reinforcing cycle: people leave other Tennessee counties for Knoxville, reinforcing its status as the state's economic and cultural anchor. This internal strength may insulate the market from broader economic shocks.



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