

Cumberland County, NC — #1 of 10: Net Households Gained From a Single County

Cumberland County leads the Triangle in net household inflows

Based on 2022–23 IRS data, ALEX Intelligence 2026

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THE DATA

317

Net Households Gained From a Single County (2023)

Cumberland County, NC led all U.S. counties in net household inflows to the Triangle in 2022–23.

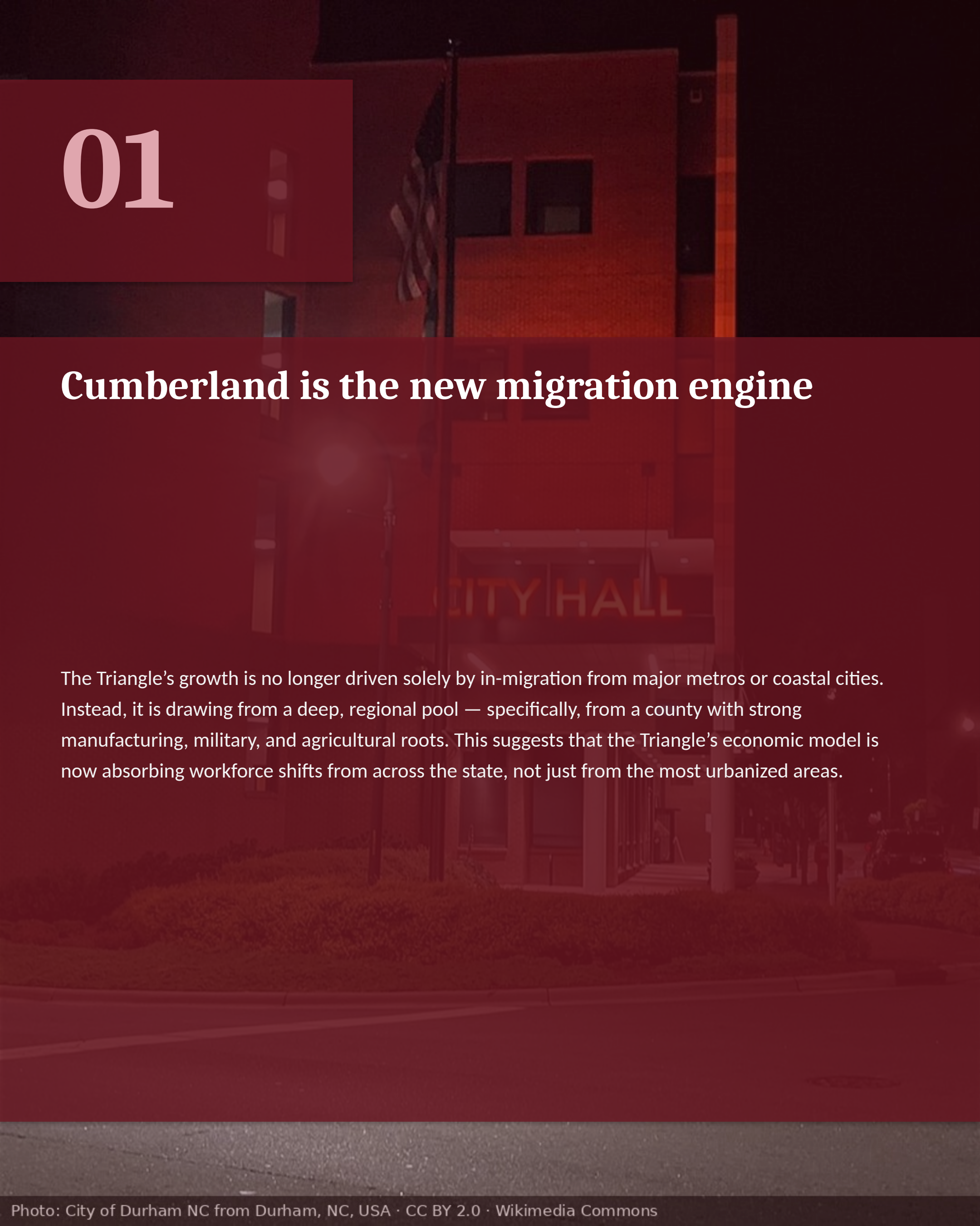
This number reflects a sustained, directional migration pattern from a major non-urban county into the Research Triangle. It is not a one-time spike but a structural shift in regional labor and housing demand. The IRS data shows bidirectional flows, meaning this is not an outlier or data gap — it is a confirmed, measurable trend.

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-triangle-mig-net-partner>



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01

Cumberland is the new migration engine

The Triangle's growth is no longer driven solely by in-migration from major metros or coastal cities. Instead, it is drawing from a deep, regional pool — specifically, from a county with strong manufacturing, military, and agricultural roots. This suggests that the Triangle's economic model is now absorbing workforce shifts from across the state, not just from the most urbanized areas.

02

Inflation is the hidden driver

Cumberland County's net gain of 317 households to the Triangle likely reflects a cost-of-living arbitrage: workers relocating from higher-cost housing markets in the Triangle's own suburbs to more affordable areas in the county, while still maintaining employment in the region. This pattern indicates that housing affordability pressures are not just a local issue — they are reshaping entire migration flows across North Carolina.



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Real Estate Strategy & Intelligence Leader. Democratized Blue Ocean Strategist & Operator.

Diane Hart Alexander, MBA, MHA

Chair & CEO, ALEX Companies

Designated Broker, Alexander Tiffany Southwest, LLC dba ALEX.realestate, et.al.

Texas License #574877-B · Broker License #565194-BB

diane@alex.realestate · +1 713.591.9902



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