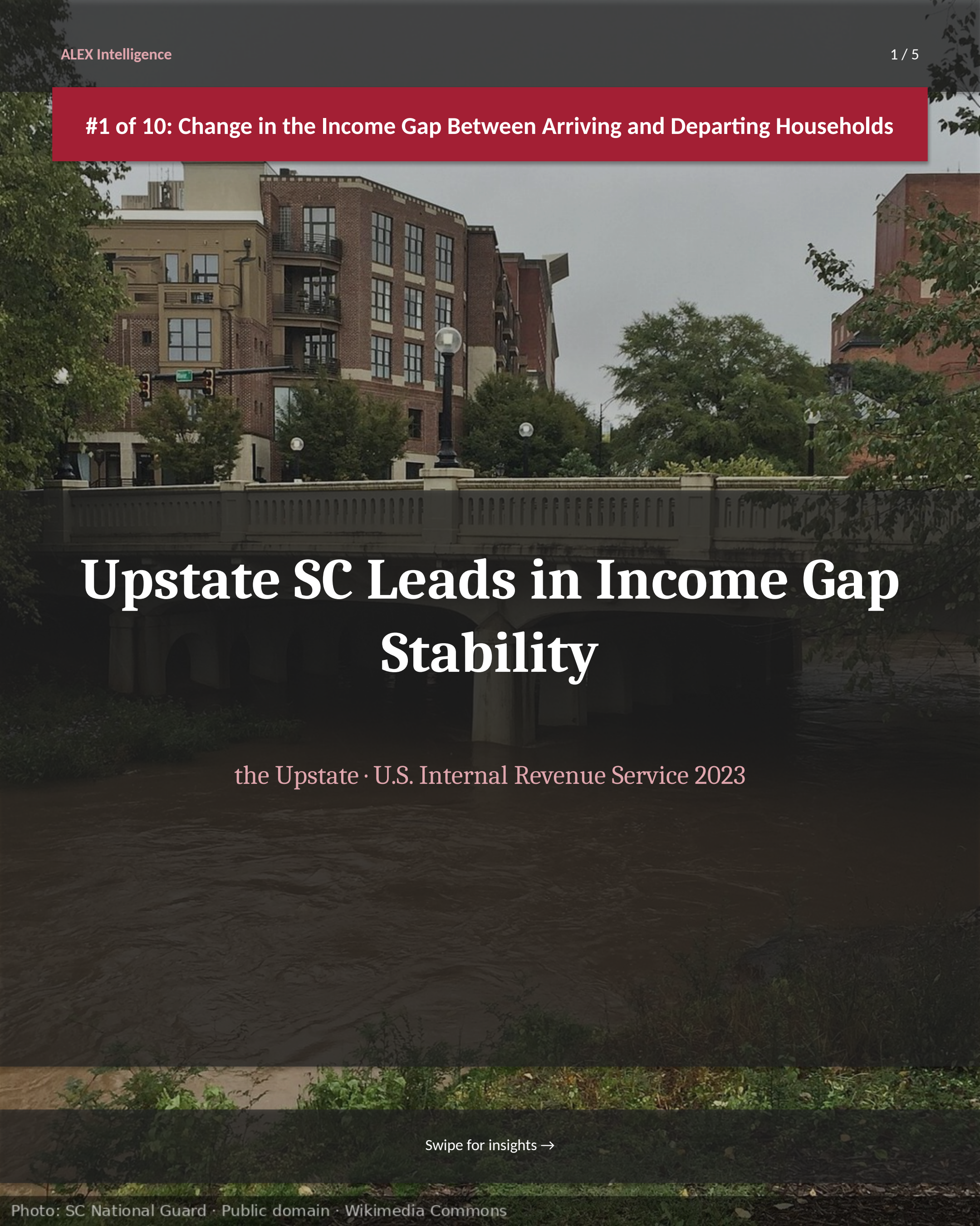
#1 of 10: Change in the Income Gap Between Arriving and Departing Households



Upstate SC Leads in Income Gap Stability

the Upstate · U.S. Internal Revenue Service 2023

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Photo: SC National Guard · Public domain · Wikimedia Commons

THE DATA

0.5%

Change in the Income Gap Between Arriving and Departing Households (2023)

The Upstate's earnings gap between incoming and outgoing households changed by only 0.5 percentage points between 2021–22 and 2022–23.

This near-stasis suggests a remarkable equilibrium in the labor market's pull and push dynamics. Despite rising housing costs and national migration volatility, the Upstate has not seen a widening or narrowing of income disparities between those moving in and those leaving. The stability implies that new residents are not significantly out-earning or under-earning long-term residents, which reduces economic friction and supports housing market resilience.

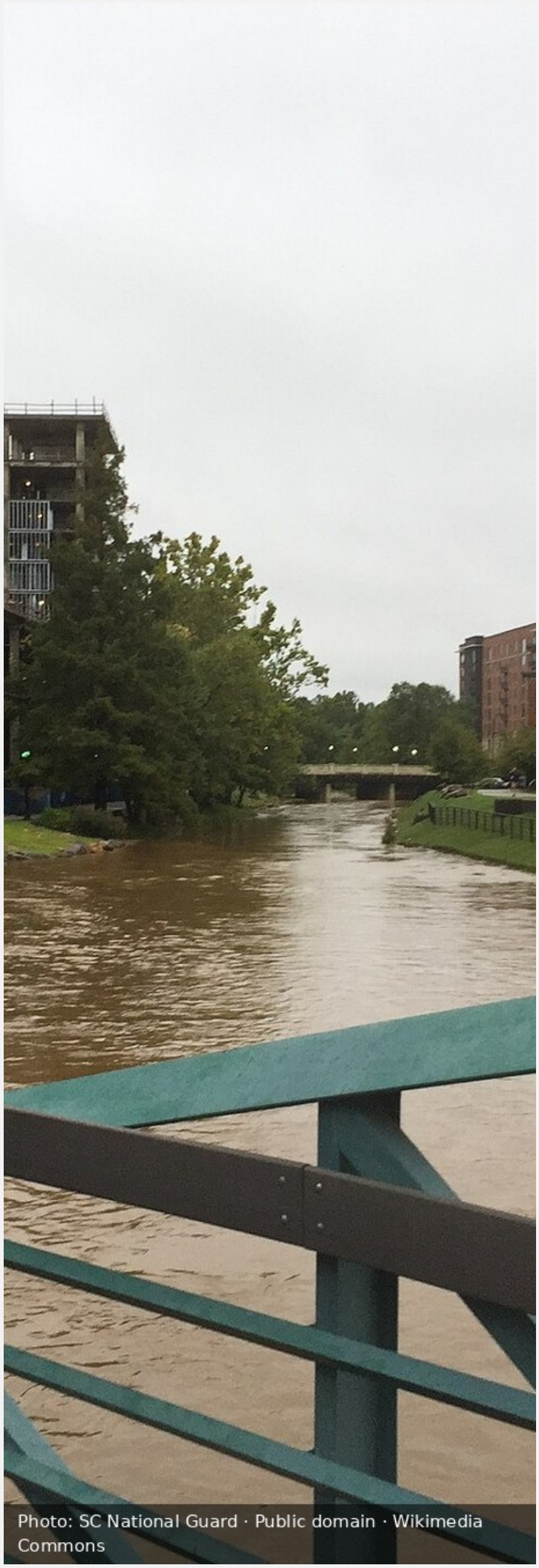


Photo: SC National Guard · Public domain · Wikimedia Commons

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2021-22 and 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-04-upstate-sc-mig-trend-agi

01

Stability as a Magnet

A stable income gap signals that the Upstate is not becoming a high-income enclave or a flight-to-escape destination. This equilibrium attracts a broad cross-section of professionals—remote workers, retirees, and mid-career relocators—without triggering a sharp divergence in household income. The result is a sustainable demand base that supports both price appreciation and affordability over time, unlike markets where new arrivals outpace locals in earnings, creating displacement pressure.

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02

The Quiet Edge of Inclusion

While many markets boast of 'high-growth' or 'high-income' status, the Upstate's strength lies in its consistency. The minimal change in the income gap suggests that the region's economic model is inclusive—newcomers are not replacing locals but supplementing them. This dynamic reduces social and economic polarization, making the Upstate more resilient to downturns and more attractive to long-term residents seeking stability over volatility. It's not the fastest-growing market, but it may be the most sustainable.

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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