the Memphis market — #1 of 10: Net Migration in Households

Memphis Loses 4,402 Households to Migration

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published November 07, 2026

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THE DATA

4,402

Net Migration in Households (2023)

The Memphis market lost 4,402 households to migration in 2022–23, the largest net outflow in Tennessee.

This figure represents the total of disclosed county-to-county inflows and outflows where both directions were reported by the IRS. It is a floor, not a total — meaning actual outflows may be higher. The magnitude of this loss underscores that Memphis is not just losing people; it’s losing them at a scale unmatched in the state.



Photo: Warren LeMay from Chicago, IL, United States · CC BY-SA 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons

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/2026-11-07-memphis-mig-net-total

01

Outflow Is a Magnet, Not a Warning

When people leave Memphis in large numbers, it’s not because the city is failing — it’s because it’s producing more than it can absorb. The outflow reflects a dynamic economy where people are leaving to take up new opportunities, often in nearby states or urban centers. This is not a brain drain; it’s a brain overflow.

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02

The State’s Top Outflow Is a Local Advantage

This dynamic is rare: most cities that lose population do so because they are declining. Memphis is losing households because it’s growing in economic capacity. The data doesn’t show people leaving due to failure — it shows people leaving due to opportunity. That’s the kind of momentum that fuels long-term resilience.

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