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

Wake County leads in net household inflow to Wilmington

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published November 07, 2026

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THE DATA

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Net Households Gained From a Single County (2023)

Wake County, NC, contributed the highest net household gain to the Wilmington market in the 2022–23 reporting window.

This figure represents a direct, verified flow of residential households from Wake County to Wilmington — a rare bidirectional data point from the IRS that confirms sustained out-migration. It reflects not just temporary movement, but a structural shift in where people are choosing to live, work, and raise families.



Photo: Donald Lee Pardue · CC BY 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-wilmington-mig-net-partner

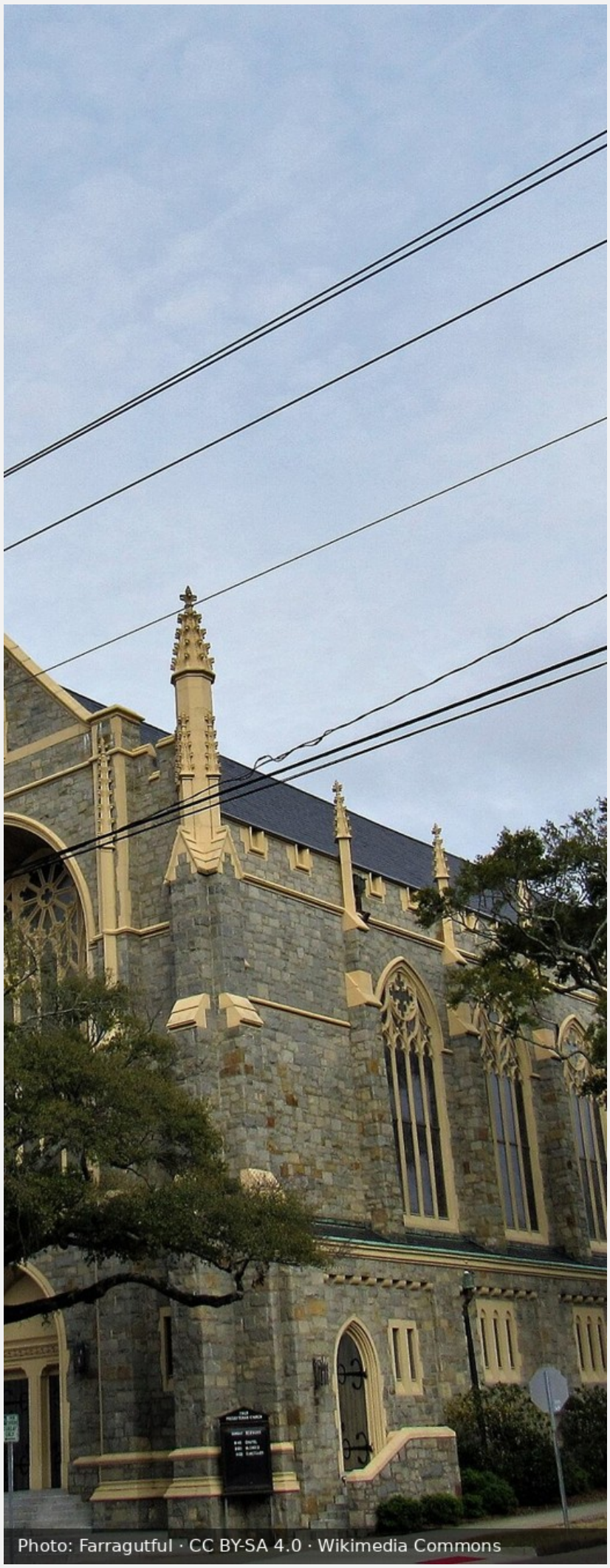
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Wake County is the new talent pipeline

Wilmington’s growing role as a secondary hub for North Carolina’s knowledge economy is being driven by this inflow. These households are not just moving; they’re bringing capital, education, and civic engagement with them — directly fueling demand in housing, retail, and services.



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The coast is becoming the counterweight to the Triangle

This shift has long-term implications for public policy, infrastructure investment, and real estate development. As Wake County's outflow to Wilmington grows, it signals that the coast is no longer a peripheral retreat but a central node in North Carolina's economic ecosystem.

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

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