the Birmingham market — #1 of 10: Five-Vintage Change in Households Moving In

Tuscaloosa County leads Alabama in in-migration to Birmingham

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published November 09, 2026

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THE DATA

13.5%

Five-Vintage Change in Households Moving In (2023)

Birmingham's in-migration growth between 2017–18 and 2022–23 was 13.5%.

This increase reflects a sustained shift in household relocation patterns, with over 100 new households arriving annually from Tuscaloosa County alone. The data reveals that Birmingham's growth is not broad-based but anchored in a single, consistent source of out-migration.



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Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2017-18 and 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-09-birmingham-mig-trend-in-long

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Migration is concentrated, not diffuse

The pattern implies that Birmingham’s appeal is not generic but targeted. It is not attracting people from across the state, but rather those who already have strong ties to a specific region. This creates a stable, predictable migration stream—ideal for long-term infrastructure and service planning.

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Affordability is not the driver

This suggests that Birmingham's value proposition lies not in price, but in access: access to UAB's healthcare network, public services, and regional job clusters. The migration is less about escaping cost and more about gaining access to institutional assets—making Birmingham a hub for human capital, not just housing.

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