Jefferson County, TN — #1 of 10: Households Moving Out to a Single County

Jefferson County, TN leads in inbound migration from Knoxville

Source: ALEX Intelligence, 2026

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THE DATA

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Households Moving Out to a Single County (2023)

Jefferson County, TN received the highest number of households relocating from the Knoxville market in the 2022–23 period.

This figure represents the largest single-county inflow of households from Knox County, outpacing even neighboring Davidson and Hamilton counties. The data, drawn from IRS Statistics of Income Migration Data, reveals a clear directional shift in population movement across East Tennessee.



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Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county outflows, 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-10-knoxville-mig-out-dest

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Migration is reshaping regional power dynamics

This pattern underscores a deeper structural shift — the consolidation of regional identity around the broader East Tennessee corridor, with Knoxville serving as a hub of opportunity but not necessarily a permanent residence for all.



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Affordability drives displacement, not just choice

The long-term sustainability of this trend depends on whether local governments in Jefferson County can scale their capacity to match the influx. Without proactive planning, this migration may lead to congestion, rising prices, and a new cycle of out-migration — this time from Jefferson County to even more remote areas.

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