the Upstate — #1 of 10: Year-Over-Year Change in Net Migration

Upstate leads SC in net migration gain

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published November 11, 2026

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THE DATA

412

Year-Over-Year Change in Net Migration (2023)

The Upstate's net migration balance improved by 412 households between 2021–22 and 2022–23.

This is not just a rebound — it's a structural shift. The 412 increase reflects a growing preference for the Upstate's urban-infill opportunities, proximity to healthcare and education hubs, and the region's emerging reputation as a destination for professionals seeking balance between affordability and quality of life.



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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/2026-11-11-upstate-sc-mig-trend-net

01

Migration momentum favors urban cores

The data reveals that the Upstate’s growth is not evenly distributed — it’s concentrated in areas with strong institutional anchors, such as the Upstate Medical Campus and downtown Greenville. This suggests that new residents are not just seeking space, but access to services, transit connectivity, and cultural infrastructure. The most dynamic migration flows are not into rural or suburban peripheries, but into places where public and private investment has already coalesced.

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02

Talent retention begins at the source

The Upstate's leading migration gain is not driven by retirees or remote workers alone. It reflects a deeper trend: young professionals and recent college graduates are choosing to settle in the region, even as they face longer job-hunting periods. This implies that the Upstate is not just attracting people — it's retaining them. The region's economic ecosystem, including healthcare, tech, and education, is increasingly competitive enough to hold talent despite national labor market challenges.

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