#1 of 10: Change in the Income Gap Between Arriving and Departing Households

Birmingham leads Alabama in income gap growth

Source: ALEX Intelligence • Published November 18, 2026

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THE DATA

4.5%

Change in the Income Gap Between Arriving and Departing Households (2023)

Birmingham’s incoming households now earn 4.5% more on average than those leaving, a record widening of the earnings divide.

This 4.5% increase in the income gap between arrivals and leavers reflects a structural shift in Birmingham’s demographic and economic profile. The city is attracting higher-earning residents while those with lower incomes are more likely to exit. This trend is not driven by a single sector but reflects broader regional migration patterns, with new residents drawn to the city’s emerging tech and service hubs.

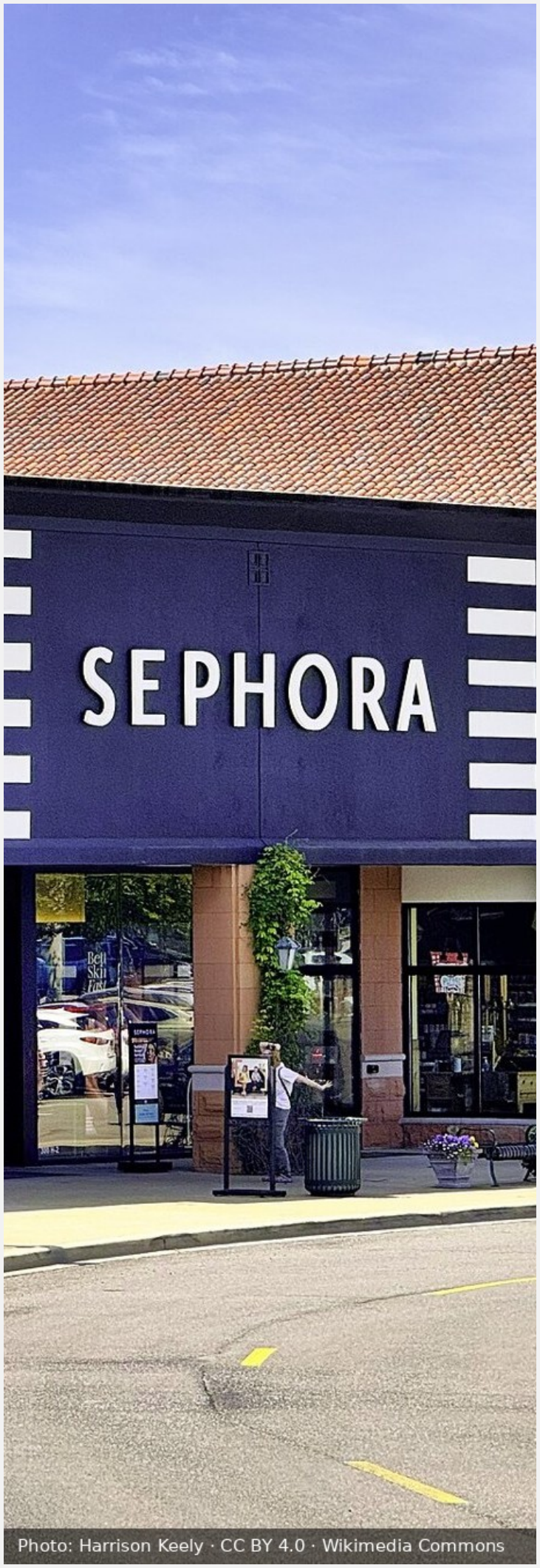


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Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2021-22 and 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-18-birmingham-mig-trend-agi

01

Birmingham is redefining its economic identity

The 4.5% gap isn’t just a number—it’s a signal of economic stratification in motion. As higher-income households move in, property values in core neighborhoods are likely to rise, especially in areas with strong transit access and cultural amenities. This shift is not driven by speculative investment but by a realignment of labor and opportunity, with new arrivals often relocating from higher-cost metros like Atlanta and Nashville. The city is becoming a destination not just for affordability, but for upward mobility.

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02

Outflows signal deeper economic pressure

The widening gap also reveals who is leaving: lower-income households are increasingly exiting Birmingham, possibly due to rising costs or limited access to stable employment. This exodus may accelerate in areas with insufficient affordable housing or weak public services. The data suggests that while the city is attracting high-earning newcomers, it is simultaneously losing economic diversity. Without targeted investment in workforce development and housing equity, this trend could deepen inequality and reduce long-term resilience.

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