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

Huntsville’s income gap widens to 3.0%

Top in Alabama for rising earnings disparity among movers

Swipe for insights →

THE DATA

3.0%

Change in the Income Gap Between Arriving and Departing Households (2024)

Huntsville leads Alabama in the widening gap between incoming and outgoing household incomes.

This 3.0% increase reflects a growing divergence in economic trajectories between those moving into and out of the region. The trend suggests that new arrivals are not just bringing higher income levels but also reinforcing a self-reinforcing cycle of upward mobility within the metro. The data, drawn from IRS migration flows, indicates that in-migration is increasingly concentrated among higher-earning households.

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2022-23 and 2023-24 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-28-huntsville-mig-trend-agi

01

Arrivals outpace leavers in economic momentum

The widening income gap signals that Huntsville is attracting high-earning professionals—likely in defense, tech, and aerospace—while lower-income residents are more likely to leave. These contracts drive demand for skilled labor, raising the bar for entry-level wages and pushing out lower-income households from the housing market.

02

Migration dynamics fuel long-term inequality

The 3.0% gap increase is not a short-term fluctuation but a structural shift. As high-income arrivals consolidate in the region, the cost of living rises, pricing out mid- and low-income households. This creates a feedback loop where economic stratification becomes entrenched. Over time, this could reshape the region's demographic and political landscape, favoring policies that prioritize innovation and infrastructure over affordability. The trend is not unique to Huntsville but is most pronounced here among Alabama's top migration corridors.

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

Diane Hart Alexander, MBA, MHA

Chair & CEO, ALEX Companies

Designated Broker, Alexander Tiffany Southwest, LLC dba ALEX.realestate, et.al.

Texas License #574877-B · Broker License #565194-BB

diane@alex.realestate · +1 713.591.9902

ALEX

ALEX Intelligence
deep intelligence

ALEX Real Estate
genius real estate

ALEX Advisory
uncontested strategy

ALEX Cares
purposeful philanthropy