



Search

"Dow Jones", "The Dow", "Dow Jones Industrial Average" and "DJIA" are trademarks of the Dow Jones & Company, Inc. ("Dow Jones") and have been licensed for use by State Street Bank and Trust. The Products are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by Dow Jones and Dow Jones makes no representation regarding the advisability of investing in the Product. ALPS Distributors, Inc., a registered broker-dealer, is distributor for the SPDR DJIA Trust, a unit investment trust. IBG - 3776

- TOOLS
- BASICS
- INVESTING
- TAXES
- INSURANCE
- FAMILY FINANCE
- LIVING
- RETIREMENT
- YOUR BUSINESS

MAY 2011

10 GREAT CITIES FOR COLLEGE GRADS

Colorado Springs, Colo.



Courtesy of David Shankbone

Median monthly rent: \$802 (nat. average, \$817)

Median income (2009): \$26,977 (nat. average, \$30,402)

Income growth (2005 to 2009): 3.4%

Unemployment rate: 10.1% (nat. average, 9.2%)

Percentage of residents ages 20-24: 7.9% (nat. average, 7.0%)

Located 60 miles south of Denver, Colorado Springs has the lowest metro population on our list at 608,000. But the city offers an unbeatable combo for recent grads: A vibrant, tech-based plus rock-bottom living costs. In 2010 alone, **the city added 1,398 jobs** in fields like information technology, banking and higher education. Major companies like Hewlett-Packard (HPQ), Verizon Communications (VZ) and FedEx (FDX) have corporate offices here.

While incomes are strong -- **starting salaries averaged \$36,900** -- rent has remained low, even downtown. The area features dozens of restaurants, bars, art museums and concert halls within a walkable, nine-block radius. And with the Rocky Mountains looming over the city, Colorado Springs is an outdoor enthusiast's delight. It ranks among the country's fittest cities, according to a Gallup survey conducted last year.

Pros: An abundance of parks, hiking trails, and recreation centers, educated community, low crime rate, high percentage of residents ages 20-24 compared with other cities on our list

Cons: High unemployment rate for low-skilled workers (opportunities skew toward the highly-skilled), limited public transit, low median income. The average commuter will need to drive to work -- or bike along the city's 118 miles of urban bike trails.

Recommend 17

5 of 12

POPULAR SLIDE SHOWS:



7 Little-Known Credit Card Perks



Fast-Growing, Women-Owned Businesses



7 Steps to Lower Property Taxes



Best Values in Used Cars, 2011

DISCUSS

The T. Rowe Price College Savings Plan
Rated "Top" by Morningstar

-Morningstar.com, 10/25/10

[Get Started](#)

[Disclosure](#)

T.RowePrice
INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE

Today on Kiplinger

- [How Big Is the Risk of Inflation?](#)
- [Fund Managers Reveal 6 Traits of a Good Investor](#)
- [How to Fill out a W-4 Form](#)
- [Feds Cracking Down On Insider Trading](#)
- [When to Hold a Winning Stock Pick](#)
- [When Health Plans Aren't Required to Cover Adult Children](#)

The T. Rowe Price College Savings Plan
Rated "Top" by Morningstar

-Morningstar.com, 10/25/10

[Get Started](#)

[Disclosure](#)

T.RowePrice
INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE

Connect With Kiplinger

[Follow Us on Twitter](#)

[Become a Fan on Facebook](#)

[Subscribe to RSS](#)

[Sign Up for E-mail Updates](#)

Kiplinger MONEY CALENDAR 2011

TODAY IS: **MAY 19** | **Start planning your summer vacation**