



## New York is the Best State to Start Your Career

*Top States Also Include California, Illinois, and Texas*

**June 30, 2022 (Seattle, WA)** - According to a new study from BestColleges.com, New York is the best state for new college graduates to begin their careers. All 50 states were examined and ranked on the basis of nine metrics including average rent price, cost of living, average entry-level salary, number of job openings, racial/ethnic diversity, percentage of young people, women's equality, educational attainment, and level of fun (entertainment, recreation and attractions).

For the full report, visit:

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/careers/best-and-worst-states-to-start-a-career/>

Top 5 Best States to Start Your Career	
1	New York
2	California
3	Illinois
3	Texas
5	Colorado

New York's ample job opportunities (4/50), enticing average entry-level salary (3/50), diverse population (6/50), and high percentage young people between the ages of 25 and 34 years old (8/50) outshine an expensive cost of living (49/50) and average rent price (42/50). High ranks for women's equality (7/50), educational attainment (9/50), and overall fun (4/50) help the Empire State earn the number one spot.

California comes in second place with the highest number of job openings (1/50) and second most diverse population (2/50). Plus, those looking to make friends will find a high percentage of young people (3/50) and abundant opportunities for fun (1/50). Relatively

high ranks for women's equality (14/50), educational attainment (14/50), and average entry-level salary (9/50) help combat the state's high cost of living (48/50) and average rent price (44/50).

In Illinois, there are plenty of options for work and play with high ranks for number of job openings (5/50) and fun (5/50), plus impressive diversity (14/50) and women's equality (12/50). This state is a good choice at number three, boasting the lowest cost of living of all the states in the top five (1/50), while taking a hit for its average entry-level salary ranking (48/50).

Texas tied with Illinois, where those starting their career will find a significant number of job openings (2/50), high percentage of young people (7/50), and a diverse population (5/50). The Lone Star State also stands out due to its high fun ranking (8/50) and relatively low cost of living (16/50).

Colorado's impressive average entry-level salary (7/50), percentage of young people (2/50), educational attainment (2/50), and fun ranking (6/50) earn it the final spot in the top five. The state also ranks highly for women's equality (13/50), but those just starting out should be aware of the high cost of living (29/50) and average rent price (37/50).

"While New York and California's sky-high rents and pricey living expenses may be deterrents for those just starting out on their own after college, there are many reasons to move to these states, especially beyond their popular cities," said Jessica Bryant, analyst for BestColleges.com. "Employers are looking for fresh talent across the country and recent grads should consider the factors most important to them when relocating."

The five worst states are New Hampshire (46/50), Vermont (47/50), Montana (48/50), Maine (49/50) and West Virginia (50/50). Maine's high cost of living (40/50) and average rent price (46/50) coupled with limited job opportunity (42/50) solidify its 49th-place spot. And despite a relatively low cost of living (11/50), West Virginia's low number of job openings (39/50) and average entry-level salary (32/50) make it the worst state to start your career.

## **Ranking Methodology**

To complete this study, BestColleges used an array of publicly available datasets related to young adults entering the workforce. Each variable we considered was weighted by level of importance as follows: average rent (15%), cost of living (15%), average entry-level salary

(15%), number of job postings (15%), racial/ethnic diversity (10%), percentage of young people (10%), women's equality (10%), educational attainment (5%), and fun (5%).

Average rent prices were taken from Apartment List's May 2022 state-level rent estimates.

Cost of living figures were obtained from The Council For Community and Economic Research and reflect the first quarter of 2022.

Average entry-level salary figures were obtained from ZipRecruiter and reflect 2022.

Data for racial/ethnic diversity, the percentage of young people, and educational attainment was all obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau. We define young people as adults between the ages of 25 and 34. Educational attainment data looked at adults over the age of 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher. All Census Bureau data is as of 2020.

For the number of job openings by state, figures were obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and reflect March 2022.

To determine women's equality, data was obtained from Georgetown Institute's 2020 U.S. Women, Peace, and Security Index.

Lastly, for our "fun" metric, which looked at the level of entertainment, recreation, and attractions by state, we used WalletHub's 2022 Most Fun States ranking.

### **About BestColleges.com**

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