

MAY 22, 2017

Full List: The Best Cities For Young Professionals 2017

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I write about real estate-- amazing homes, market trends and cities.

Where should recent grads go?

To compile Forbes' annual list of America's best cities for young professionals we ranked each of the 100 largest metropolitan statistical areas and divisions in the United States by metrics crucial to recent graduates: salary, rent, employment prospects, networking opportunities and social outlook.

For details and analysis read: [America's 25 Best Cities For Young Professionals In 2017](#)

- 1. Salt Lake City, UT Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$50,500
Median rent as share of median salary: 17%
Unemployment rate: 3.4%
Projected annual job growth: 1.56%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 40%
Population aged 20 to 29: 13%
- 2. Boise City, ID Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$45,700
Median rent as share of median salary: 22%
Unemployment rate: 4.2%
Projected annual job growth: 1.87%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 43% (5)
Population aged 20 to 29: 13%
- 3. San Francisco-Redwood City-South San Francisco, CA Metropolitan Division**
Recent grad median salary: \$68,400 (2)
Median rent as share of median salary: 12% (5)
Unemployment rate: 2.4% (1)
Projected annual job growth: 2.00%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 47% (2)
Population aged 20 to 29: 14%
- 4. Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$50,400
Median rent as share of median salary: 21%
Unemployment rate: 3.6%
Projected annual job growth: 2.97% (2)
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 37%
Population aged 20 to 29: 15%

5. **Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$52,800
Median rent as share of median salary: 10% (1)
Unemployment rate: 3.5%
Projected annual job growth: 3.30% (1)
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 37%
Population aged 20 to 29: 14%
6. **Raleigh, NC Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$50,100
Median rent as share of median salary: 23%
Unemployment rate: 3.2% (3)
Projected annual job growth: 1.65%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 39%
Population aged 20 to 29: 14%
7. **Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$48,900
Median rent as share of median salary: 36%
Unemployment rate: 3.2% (3)
Projected annual job growth: 1.02%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 42%
Population aged 20 to 29: 14%
8. **Columbus, OH Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$49,500
Median rent as share of median salary: 24%
Unemployment rate: 4.0%
Projected annual job growth: 1.43%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 34%
Population aged 20 to 29: 14%
9. **San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$69,200 (1)
Median rent as share of median salary: 13%
Unemployment rate: 3.5%
Projected annual job growth: 1.99%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 30%
Population aged 20 to 29: 15%
10. **Warren-Troy-Farmington Hills, MI Metropolitan Division**
Recent grad median salary: \$50,900
Median rent as share of median salary: 14%
Unemployment rate: 4.5%
Projected annual job growth: 1.77%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 33%
Population aged 20 to 29: 14%
11. **Oakland-Hayward-Berkeley, CA Metropolitan Division**
Recent grad median salary: \$58,100 (4)
Median rent as share of median salary: 12% (5)
Unemployment rate: 4.1%
Projected annual job growth: 2.87% (4)
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 21%
Population aged 20 to 29: 15%

12. **Jacksonville, FL Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$45,200
Median rent as share of median salary: 11% (3)
Unemployment rate: 4.1%
Projected annual job growth: 2.77% (5)
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 30%
Population aged 20 to 29: 16% (2)
13. **Silver Spring-Frederick-Rockville, MD Metropolitan Division**
Recent grad median salary: \$52,000
Median rent as share of median salary: 11% (3)
Unemployment rate: 2.9% (2)
Projected annual job growth: 2.37%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 43% (5)
Population aged 20 to 29: 14%
14. **Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metropolitan Division**
Recent grad median salary: \$50,900
Median rent as share of median salary: 20%
Unemployment rate: 4.4%
Projected annual job growth: 2.36%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 15%
Population aged 20 to 29: 16% (2)
15. **Austin-Round Rock, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$51,800
Median rent as share of median salary: 10% (1)
Unemployment rate: 3.2% (3)
Projected annual job growth: 2.72%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 36%
Population aged 20 to 29: 16% (2)
16. **Anaheim-Santa Ana-Irvine, CA Metropolitan Division**
Recent grad median salary: \$51,200
Median rent as share of median salary: 25%
Unemployment rate: 3.4%
Projected annual job growth: 2.57%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 33%
Population aged 20 to 29: 13%
17. **Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA Metropolitan Division**
Recent grad median salary: \$58,500 (3)
Median rent as share of median salary: 40%
Unemployment rate: 3.8%
Projected annual job growth: 1.40%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 44% (4)
Population aged 20 to 29: 12%
18. **San Diego-Carlsbad, CA Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$53,200
Median rent as share of median salary: 13%
Unemployment rate: 3.6%
Projected annual job growth: 1.69%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 38%
Population aged 20 to 29: 13%

19. **Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$47,900
Median rent as share of median salary: 21%
Unemployment rate: 3.7%
Projected annual job growth: 1.55%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 34%
Population aged 20 to 29: 17% (1)

20. **Boston, MA Metropolitan Division**
Recent grad median salary: \$57,100 (5)
Median rent as share of median salary: 21%
Unemployment rate: 3.2% (3)
Projected annual job growth: 2.63%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 46% (3)
Population aged 20 to 29: 13%

21. **St. Louis, MO-IL Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$48,200
Median rent as share of median salary: 13%
Unemployment rate: 4.0%
Projected annual job growth: 2.07%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 36%
Population aged 20 to 29: 14%

22. **Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$50,900
Median rent as share of median salary: 14%
Unemployment rate: 3.9%
Projected annual job growth: 2.02%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 43% (5)
Population aged 20 to 29: 14%

23. **Charleston-North Charleston, SC Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$44,400
Median rent as share of median salary: 23%
Unemployment rate: 4.1%
Projected annual job growth: 2.76%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 30%
Population aged 20 to 29: 14%

24. **Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$49,300
Median rent as share of median salary: 16%
Unemployment rate: 4.1%
Projected annual job growth: 2.94% (3)
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 31%
Population aged 20 to 29: 16% (2)

25. **Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metropolitan Statistical Area**
Recent grad median salary: \$51,900
Median rent as share of median salary: 24%
Unemployment rate: 4.6%
Projected annual job growth: 2.73%
Adults with bachelor's degrees or higher: 54% (1)
Population aged 20 to 29: 12%