

Welcome to Cola!



Columbia, a city with small town charm

Columbia South Carolina

Hello Vianka,

We are thrilled to welcome you to Elementum Interiors and introduce you to our vibrant city! We have put together this package to highlight all the amazing features of Columbia, affectionately known as Cola or Soda City. Southern hospitality is real here—the people are warm and community-oriented, making it a wonderful place to raise a family.

Cola is a laid-back college town, home to the University of South Carolina, providing a pleasant alternative to the stress of larger cities while still offering all the necessary amenities. There's always something to do. Rich in history and culture, its central location allows easy access to other cities in the South, making it an ideal spot for exploration.

We welcome you to our home and hope you enjoy it as much as we do. We look forward to showing you around.

Y'all holler if you have any questions.

Regards,

Brooke Peasall

President of Elementum Interiors.

Living in Columbia, SC: 10 Things You Should Know About Life in Soda City

[Columbia](#)

[South Carolina](#)

by [Shannon Jacobs](#) | Posted on July 19, 2024



Just two hours from the coast, South Carolina's capital city, Columbia, is home to the state's largest university, a burgeoning downtown cultural scene, and a growing business community full of people lured by the benefits of living in Columbia, SC. Soda City — as it's affectionately referred to by the locals — took over from Charleston as the state's capital in 1786 and has been growing ever since. But what's attracting wannabe residents to the prospect of moving to Columbia, SC?

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It could be the bubbly promise of its nickname, or maybe it's all the history and arts the city has to offer. In any case, read on for all you need to know about moving to Columbia, SC; things to do in Columbia, SC; what living in Columbia, SC, is really like; and the best neighborhoods in town. First, though, a few fun facts.

Columbia at a Glance

- The population of Soda City is estimated to be [almost 144,500](#) — up about 6 percent from a little more than 136,500 in the 2020 Census.

The average household income is just over \$88,000.

- The median age in Soda City is 28.
- Christopher Columbus is Soda City's namesake — and, in fact, the city was the first in the U.S. to be named for Columbus. However, in response to widespread national protests in 2020 regarding monuments honoring the explorer, the city removed its statue of Columbus in 2020.
- The nickname "Soda City" came about not because Columbia has any claim to soft drink ingredients or manufacturing but because folks had started abbreviating "Columbia" to "Cola," which is synonymous with "soda." Hence, Columbia became Soda City. And if you're thinking of moving to Columbia, SC, you'll likely want to familiarize yourself with other quirks of the local lexicon.

10 Things To Know About Living in Columbia, SC

With a population of around 144,500, Columbia is South Carolina's capital and second-largest city, behind only **Charleston, the historic tourist destination** two hours to the southeast. And while Columbia may not have its seaside sister city's beaches and ocean breezes, the capital city has plenty to offer families, single professionals, and retirees looking for a relaxed lifestyle with a big dose of the outdoors. Bonus? It's only an hour and a half from **Charlotte, North Carolina**—which is a plus for just about anyone.

But is Columbia, SC, a good place to live for you, specifically? Are there fun things to do in Columbia, SC? What is Columbia, SC, like? Here's a closer look.



Living in Columbia, SC, means afternoon thunderstorms in the summer months, which is the norm in most of the Southeast U.S.

1. Summers Are Brutal, But Afternoon Thunderstorms Cool Things Down.

Some like it hot, but living in Columbia, SC, means you better like it really hot! In addition to “Soda City,” Columbia was once given the slogan “famously hot,” reflecting its subtropical climate and long, steamy summers as much as its growing reputation as a great place to live. And it is steamy. July is the city’s hottest month, with an average high temperature of 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

Afternoon thunderstorms are a given in the summer months, which is the norm in most of the Southeast U.S. The good news is they often give way to a brief evening cooldown, ideal for a stroll along the Three Rivers Greenway — 19.4 miles of pathways along the Broad, Saluda, and Congaree rivers. Just make sure the lightning is long gone before you head outside.

Geographically, Columbia is in the center of the state, which means there’s no chance a **cool breeze from the Atlantic** or the somewhat **nearby Smoky Mountains** will make it to town. But the confluence of three rivers makes a huge difference on summer days.

January is the coldest month, with an average low temp of 37 degrees Fahrenheit. And you’ll see snow once or twice a year, living in Columbia, SC, but don’t count on much. For a real winter experience in the cold season, take a day trip to the **quaint little town of Walhalla**, just 150 miles northwest in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. You’re bound to see some flurries or even a drift or two— and if not, there are a dozen waterfalls to explore.

Q: Is Columbia, South Carolina, prone to hurricanes? A:

Soda City isn’t as vulnerable as the coastal areas of South Carolina, which have the potential to take a direct hit from the tropics (see: Hugo, Charleston, 1989). But inland cities like Columbia aren’t out of the woods completely; they can be affected by the remnants of storms that move on shore. By the time a hurricane makes it to Columbia from the Atlantic coast, it’s likely to have weakened quite a bit — but still has the potential to bring flooding, high winds, and even tornadoes spawned by the unstable environment.

2. The Cost of Living in Columbia, SC, Is Affordable.

One of the best perks of living in Columbia? The cost of living in Columbia, SC, is almost 13 percent lower than the U.S. average. Food costs, for example, are slightly lower than the norm, with a grocery cost index of 96 versus 100.

As for the job market, the city's unemployment rate is 5.2 percent, compared with 6.0 percent nationwide. Columbia is a hub for healthcare workers, with about 17 hospitals in or near the city — and there are plenty of jobs open in the healthcare industry.

Housing costs are still relatively low, with the average home price around \$232,700 compared with the nationwide average of around \$363,400 — but a big, big price tag compared to what Columbia was once accustomed to: Just five years ago, the average home ran nearly \$100,000 cheaper. If you want to rent instead, plan on an average of about \$1,400 per month for a one-bedroom apartment.



Three of the city's top five biggest companies are in healthcare.

3. Columbia's Job Market Has Lots of Opportunities.

Great news for grads: The capital earned the No. 16 spot on WalletHub's "Best Cities to Start a Career" list, based on the availability of entry-level jobs, workforce diversity, average starting salary, and annual job growth rate.

Despite experiencing a few economic hiccups over the past five years

like the rest of the nation, Columbia is now in solid shape with an expanding business profile and great opportunities for education and jobs. **South Carolina** was 2023's No. 1 fastest-growing state in the U.S., and Soda City, not to be outdone, earned a spot among Southern Living's Top 5 Cities on the Rise in 2024. With a dedicated push for redevelopment, the "retail follows rooftops" adage is taking shape in Columbia's downtown area, which is enjoying a surge in new businesses.

4. Schools in Columbia Are Good — Especially Compared to the State Overall.

Historically, public schools in South Carolina have not ranked well nationally. In 2023, for instance, the Palmetto State came in at a dismal 42nd on WalletHub's annual ranking. But if you're moving to Columbia, SC, don't despair: Sometimes states have pockets of quality schools that don't necessarily make headlines — and that is the case in Soda City. Almost 18,000 students attend the 23 schools in the A-rated Lexington 05 School District, which is ranked No. 1 in the metro area by Niche for 2024.

Private schools serve almost 7,700 students in the Columbia area. About 70 percent of the 45 schools are religion-focused, but the No. 1 ranked Hammond School focuses instead on a college-prep curriculum. Average annual cost to attend a private school in the metro region is close to \$11,000, significantly higher than South Carolina's average private tuition of just over \$8,000.

And we would be remiss if we didn't mention the University of South Carolina, the largest school in the state. Natives call it "the real USC" in a friendly dig at the other coast's USC: South Carolina's USC was founded before California even became a state, in 1850, and long before the University of Southern California was established in 1880. This USC is a massive research university, with top programs including public health, finance, psychology, biology, and nursing.

Q: Is Columbia, South Carolina, a good place to live?

A: If you like balmy weather, a strong business environment, a vibrant cultural scene, and family-friendly neighborhoods, moving to Columbia, SC, may be just the ticket for your next chapter.



Not far from downtown Columbia, Lake Murray and the three rivers offer endless opportunities for kayaking, canoeing, pontooning, and tubing. (Source: [Experience Columbia SC via Facebook](#))

5. An Active Outdoor Lifestyle Is a Hallmark of Living in Columbia, SC.

If you're moving to Columbia, SC, you likely appreciate the outdoors—and if you don't just yet, you will. For starters, the confluence of a [55,000-acre lake](#) and three rivers — technically, the Broad and Saluda rivers come together to create the Congaree — offers a world of outdoor possibility for Columbians. As mentioned earlier, the Three Rivers Greenway wraps more than 19 miles of ADA-accessible and [leashed-pup-friendly trails](#) around the waterways, with overlooks and boardwalks, plus kayak, canoe, and tube rental opportunities on the rivers and pontoon boats on [Lake Murray](#) — just west of downtown Columbia.

Parks are also everywhere in the area — a major bonus of living in Columbia, SC. At Congaree National Park, visitors can view [synchronous fireflies](#), a rare breed that lights up in tandem each year between mid-May and mid-June. The newest local gem is the [12,000 Year History Park](#), where archaeologists found artifacts from thousands of years ago in ancient Indian settlements and, in more recent history, the site of a Civil War battle. Other attractions include the [Riverbanks Zoo & Garden](#) — with Waterfall Junction, a treehouse play zone, and splash pad for overheated kids in the summer — and the [University of South Carolina's "Horseshoe,"](#) the 200-year-old site of the original campus.

6. The City's Arts Scene Is Surprisingly Active and Innovative.

Soda City supports an active arts community that is surprisingly innovative, given the city's relative size, and provides lots of things to do in Columbia, SC. Two professional ballet companies, the [Columbia City Ballet](#) and the [Columbia Classical Ballet](#), call Soda City home, as does the [South Carolina Philharmonic](#). Several theaters provide live performances, including the [Columbia Marionette Theatre](#), a professional puppetry troupe. The marquee [Columbia Museum of Art](#) is an award-winning institution that offers more than two dozen galleries with exhibits from more than 5,000 years of global history.

And like most college towns, Columbia has a thriving community of musicians and artists adding a creative spark to the established institutions. In the music scene, venues include the [USC Colonial Life Arena](#), where bigger acts play, and smaller, locally based concert halls and clubs like [Bill's Music Shop & Pickin' Parlor](#), a must-visit for bluegrass lovers, and [The Senate](#).

Q: Is Columbia, SC, expensive?

A: The capital city is generally more affordable than many other comparably sized metro areas in the U.S. The cost of living in Columbia, SC, is lower, and housing is much more manageable here. Like in any city, though, some

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Columbia, where home prices average around ~~\$~~**\$323,600**.



Devine Street is home to many favorite dining spots, including Il Giorgione Pizzeria & Wine Bar (pictured).

(Source: ilgiorgione.com)

7. Fresh Cuisines Bring New Life to Columbia's Classic Southern Comfort Foods.

Soda City dining has its roots in southern comfort food, but the culinary scene has expanded over the years as Columbia has grown — although the classics will never go out of style and are still well represented here. Innovative chefs have begun to call Columbia home, with eclectic districts emerging throughout the area. [The Vista](#) neighborhood, for example, is a standout dining hub, particularly along [Devine Street](#), where cozy restaurants welcome guests for outdoor dining under the oaks.

Some of our current Columbia foodie faves include these hot spots:

- **[Terra](#)**: Since 2006, locals have enjoyed dining under the oaks on the patio at this cozy eatery known for innovative farm-to-table takes on traditional southern dishes. Pro tip: Get the eggplant parmesan.
- **[smallSUGAR](#)**: Got a sweet tooth? You'll be in heaven at this community-focused bakery and cafe in the Vista neighborhood. Besides serving freshly made pastries and other delicious treats (including lunch), smallSUGAR provides a training program for non-college-bound students interested in the culinary arts.
- **[The War Mouth](#)**: Living in Columbia, SC — or anywhere in the state, for that matter — means eating BBQ. That's the rule. And this place is where it's at. Located in the Cottonwood neighborhood, The War Mouth has pork, beef, and chicken prepared in all smoked and pulled varieties, plus other southern classics like catfish stew and pickled okra. Also: strong drinks.
- **[Di Vino Rosso](#)**: For 20 years, this upscale favorite has been serving handmade pasta, fresh seafood, and other Italian dishes in an elegant atmosphere — where locals go for the special-occasion meal. The wine list is exquisite and service exceptional.

8. Living in Columbia, SC, Kids Will Never Run Out of Activities.

In addition to all of its outdoor attractions, Columbia offers plenty of fun stuff for children. The centerpiece is [EdVenture Children's Museum](#), where interactive exhibits include World of Work, FLIGHT,

Maker Works, and the animal health-themed Wags & Whiskers.

Other family-friendly destinations in Columbia include:

- **South Carolina State Museum**: A planetarium, a 4-D theater, and lots of interactive exhibits on science, history, technology, and art make this a fun and educational spot for kids of all ages. Check out the new presentation on solar superstorms on the 55-foot planetarium screen.
- **Palmetto Falls Water Park**: Beat the southern heat with a trip down Fort Jackson's lazy river, giant swimming pool, and slides — open to both military and civilian families. Snack bar, too!
- **Finlay Park**: This expansive downtown greenspace, a family favorite for festivals, markets, and weekend recreation, is in the midst of a massive \$18 million makeover — and it's open in the meantime. By the fall of 2025, the park will feature a cascading fountain, a kids' play area, walking trails, and open space for picnics and garden-variety relaxation.

Q: Why do people move to Columbia, SC?

A: Columbia's central location is convenient to the ocean in one direction and mountains in the other, but staycations are just as enjoyable thanks to Soda City's gorgeous rivers, parks, and green spaces. Add to all that a pleasing blend of historical charm and contemporary convenience, arts, and innovation, and it's clear why so many new residents are moving to Columbia, SC.



Shaded streets, bungalows, and Craftsman-style homes characterize Shandon (pictured).

(Source: [homesforsalelistings.net](https://www.homesforsalelistings.net))

9. Columbia Neighborhoods Offer Varying Lifestyles To Meet Every Taste.

What is the best area in Columbia, SC, to live? That's a tough one. It depends on your personal preferences, of course. But if a move to Soda City is in your future, these hot spots are certainly worth checking out. Among **the best neighborhoods** for living in Columbia, SC, there are plenty that could easily make the grade and become your new home. Here are a few of our picks:

Shandon: Family-Friendly

Shaded streets, bungalows, and Craftsman-style homes characterize Shandon, named after an equally lovely neighborhood in Ireland. With nicely tended lawns and sidewalks, this established area of Columbia is a bit pricey for local standards, with an average home value of around \$427,400 — a more than nine percent rise over last year.

Today's Shandon is an easy walk to the University of South Carolina campus and close to the retail and business districts of Five Points and Devine Street. On weekends and after school, **retirees** and local families enjoy Sims Park and Emily Douglas Park, which feature playgrounds, an amphitheater, a basketball court, and a dog park.

Cayce: Up-and-Coming

Students and young families love this burgeoning nearby city along the Congaree, just 10 minutes from downtown Columbia. Average home values here are still somewhat affordable at around \$208,400 — and homeowners have plenty to celebrate in the neighborhood. The Cayce Riverwalk Park, part of the Three Rivers Greenway, offers 12 miles of pathways and boardwalks and dozens of acres of parkland.

Dining and shopping are within easy reach, too. Area staple The Kingsman Restaurant dishes steaks, burgers, and more to hungry locals, and relative newcomer Steel Hands Brewing, circa 2018, has become a popular neighborhood hangout.

Historic Elmwood Park: Revitalized

Once the site of the state fairgrounds and later a haven for boarding houses and multifamily housing, the Elmwood Park of today is an example of successful urban renaissance. With so many people moving to Columbia, SC, a concerted effort since the early 1980s

eventually transformed the area into a coveted historic district, with eclectic architectural styles and a welcoming family vibe that includes seasonal porch parties and street fairs. The average home value is around \$324,300.

Elmwood Park was Columbia's first official "suburb," but today it's considered part of the downtown region, within minutes of the business and dining districts. Even closer to home is local fave Uncle Willie's Grocery Store, which bills itself as "Your Mom and Pop's Grocery Store" and offers healthy produce and other goodies.

Seven Oaks: The Burbs

About nine miles northwest of downtown Columbia, Seven Oaks offers the standard amenities of a suburban neighborhood — but with signature southern flavor. The area is a family favorite for professionals who work downtown and don't mind the 15- to 30-minute commute, depending on traffic conditions. Homes are mainly from the mid-century era, spacious and well tended, with an average home value of around \$240,900.

Q: What is the safest area of Columbia, SC, to live in?

A: Like most cities in the U.S., Columbia has areas that are sometimes prone to more crime than others. But overall, is Columbia, SC, safe? According to NeighborhoodScout, the city overall rates a 7 on the crime index, which means it's safer than only 7 percent of American cities. The safest Columbia neighborhoods, based on their data, are around Leesburg, Jackson Boulevard/Hill Street, Washington Road/Knight Road, and Heathwood West/Historic Heathwood.

10. There Are, of Course, Pros and Cons To Living in Columbia, SC.

Is Columbia, SC, a good place to live? Absolutely! But, like every city, it has its ups and downs. Here's a look at some of the pros and cons of Soda City.

Pros:

- **Affordable cost of living:** Columbia is more affordable than many other cities in the U.S. Housing is particularly reasonable, which makes it easier to find the right neighborhood to meet your needs and budget.

Educational opportunities: Soda City is home to the University of South Carolina and several other institutions,

- which contribute to a richer, more diverse cultural environment.
- **Pleasant winters:** Columbia's mild climate is appealing if you're not a fan of harsh winter conditions.

Cons:

- **Limited public transit:** A car is a must in Soda City, where public transportation is not as developed as it is in some comparably sized cities.
- **Hurricane season:** Even though Columbia is two hours from the Atlantic Ocean, remnants of storms that hit elsewhere in the Southeastern U.S. often disrupt normal life at some point between June 1 and Nov. 30.
- **Hot, humid summers:** Outdoor activities are not fun in the summer months, when temperatures can soar into the high 90s and the humidity makes it feel like you're breathing through mashed potatoes.



Cost of Living in Columbia, South Carolina

▼ 9%

lower than national avg.

▼ 28%
HOUSING

▲ 27%
UTILITIES

▼ 1%
GROCERIES

What am I worth?

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How should I pay?

Price a job

Columbia, South Carolina's cost of living is 9% lower than the national average. The cost of living in any area can vary based on factors such as your career, its average salary and the real estate market of that area. PayScale's Cost of Living Calculator can help you find out more about how your individual needs will factor in when beginning your research to figure out how much it would cost you to relocate.

Calculate Cost of Living

Moving From

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Annual Salary

Columbia → Columbia

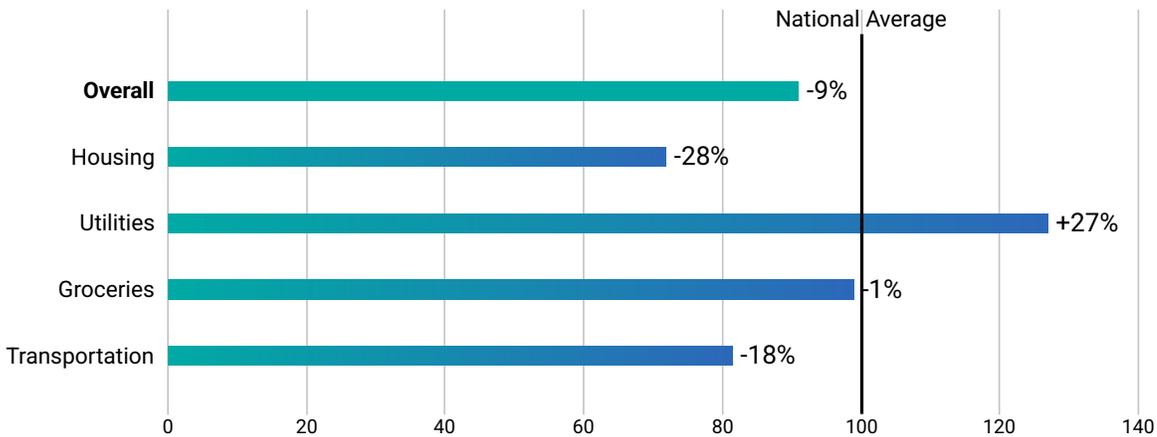
\$50,000

Earnings needed to maintain current standard of living

Cost of Living in Columbia
No change

Housing in Columbia
No change

Cost of Living in Columbia, South Carolina by Expense Category



Housing, Utilities & Transportation

Columbia's housing expenses are 28% lower than the national average and the utility prices are 27% higher than the national average. Transportation expenses like bus fares and gas prices are 18% lower than the national average.



MEDIAN HOME PRICE

\$358,086



MEDIAN RENT

\$1,089 / month



ENERGY BILL

\$254.09 / month



PHONE BILL

\$245.80 / month



GAS

\$2.76 / gallon

Food & Grocery

Columbia has grocery prices that are 1% lower than the national average.



LOAF OF BREAD

\$3.93



GALLON OF MILK

\$4.63



CARTON OF EGGS

\$3.44



BUNCH OF BANANAS

\$0.71



HAMBURGER

\$5.48

Healthcare

Healthcare in Columbia is 17% lower than the national average.



DOCTOR'S VISIT

\$116.02



DENTIST VISIT

\$95.40



OPTOMETRIST VISIT

\$106.26



RX DRUG

\$201.43



VETERINARY VISIT

\$66.59

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Cost of living in Columbia, SC

Are you planning a move to Columbia, SC and wondering if it is an expensive place to live in? We'll break down the cost of living in Columbia by answering the following key questions - what is expected cost of living Columbia, what is the median income in Columbia, what is a good livable salary in Columbia, and what are the average rent and home prices in Columbia.

Is Columbia expensive to live in?

Columbia is part of Columbia Metro metro area, which is ranked 228 out of 273 cities across the US in terms of cost of living. According to C2ER (the Council for Community and Economic Research), the cost of living in Columbia is estimated to be 87% of the national average making it one of the least expensive cities in the US.

Total monthly expenditure you can expect to incur depends on the cost of housing, food, utilities, transportation, healthcare, other miscellaneous goods and services. Note that your household composition (single or married, number of kids) and home ownership status (renting vs. owning) might affect your monthly expenses.

Columbia, SC is ranked

228/273 cities in the US

estimated to be 87% of the national average making it one of the least expensive cities in the US

[See our Columbia City Guide](#)

How do Columbia prices compare to other US cities?

Columbia is ranked 228 out of 273 cities across the US in terms of cost of living. The cost of living in Columbia is 87% of the national average.

Compare Columbia to:

U.S. Average ▾

Category	Columbia	U.S. Average
 Milk (1/2 gal)	\$4.63 (-1.78%)	\$4.71
 Bread	\$3.92 (-0.92%)	\$3.96
 Hamburger	\$5.79 (+2.03%)	\$5.67
 Large Pizza	\$9.34 (-32.5%)	\$12.38
 Chicken (2 pcs)	\$4.89 (-9.27%)	\$5.34
 Doctor Visit	\$150 (+3.42%)	\$144.87
 Dentist Visit	\$50 (-136.65%)	\$118.32
 Rent	\$1,218.67 (-29.49%)	\$1,578.03
 Mortgage	\$1,636.78 (-57.29%)	\$2,574.46
 Gas	\$3.17 (-7.37%)	\$3.41
 Energy Bill	\$228.98 (+9.11%)	\$208.13

Cost of Living compared to national average

13% lower

Housing prices compared to national average

32% lower

Cost of Living Calculator for Columbia

Get an estimate of income required to live comfortably in Columbia. Our cost of living calculator will give you an estimate of your expected expenditures on food, utilities, transportation, housing, healthcare, and more. Simply pick your marital status and family type from the drop-down. The calculator will give you a breakdown of your monthly spends on food, utilities, transportation, housing, healthcare, and other miscellaneous items to help you determine your cost of living in Columbia. Try it now.

Marital Status

Married ▼

Family Type

Married with Children ▼

Your required pre-tax income

\$119,672

Your required post-tax income

\$95,498

Category	Expenditure
Food	\$15,761
Utilities	\$6,370
Transportation	\$15,532
Healthcare	\$5,716
Housing (Rent / Mortgage)	\$11,268
Other Housing	\$10,960
Miscellaneous	\$29,892
Total Annual Expenditure	\$95,498

What is a livable salary in Columbia?

The median household income in a city certainly

Median Household Income

helps gauge the cost of living. The median household income in Columbia is \$55,653, which is 16% less than that of the state. The median income for an individual is \$30,016, which is 25% less than that of the state.

\$55,653

Median Individual Income

\$30,016

The minimum salary you need to live in Columbia is the sum of your daily expenses (groceries, utilities, transportation, entertainment), your monthly housing-related costs (rent, mortgage, insurance, maintenance), any debt expenses (monthly interest payments and principal paydowns), as well as your savings and investment goals.

A good rule of thumb for housing affordability is the 28% rule: your monthly rent or the sum of your monthly mortgage, property taxes, and insurance should not exceed 28% of your gross income (income before tax).

Understanding the expected costs in Columbia can help you determine whether a given salary is a livable salary. For instance, if you know the typical housing costs in Columbia, you can use widely followed simple rules to determine if you can afford it on your salary. A good rule of thumb for housing affordability is the 28% rule: your monthly rent or the sum of your monthly mortgage, property taxes, and insurance should not exceed 28% of your gross income (income before tax). Another good rule of thumb is the 50-30-20 rule which says 50% of the net income (income after tax) should be spent on needs, 30% on wants, and 20% on savings and investments. So plan to ensure that your net

investments. So plan to ensure that your net

income covers your needs and wants, so that you can live comfortably in Columbia, SC.

What is the average rent in Columbia?

Housing is generally the biggest monthly cost that you would need to account for. The average rent in Columbia (located in Columbia Metro) metro area for a 2-bed home is \$1,218, which is 22% less than the average rent across the US. However, this average takes into account both metro and suburban areas. So, the costs may go up or down depending on which neighborhood you eventually decide to stay.

Rent compared to national average

22% less

What is the median home price in Columbia?

The median home price in Columbia is \$145,000 with a median price per sqft of \$80.

The cost of living index for housing estimates the cost of housing in Columbia to be 67.7% of the national average. This makes it one of the least expensive cities in the US.

Median Home Price

145K

Average Rent

\$1,218

Median Price/Sqft

\$80

Housing Index

67.7%

What is a cost of living calculator?

A cost of living calculator helps you to assess how much you will need to make in order to live comfortably in a specific city. It takes into account various expenses that you will make in your daily lives (on housing, food, utilities, transportation, entertainment, etc.) and helps you determine a livable salary. The prices of goods and services vary in different cities, and hence having a cost of living index or calculator can make the decision to move easier by allowing you to directly compare

one city with another.

About the cost of living data

1. To calculate the cost of living, data has been taken from C2ER (Council for Community and Economic Research)
2. The Cost of Living Index takes into account the data from 273 cities across the US
3. The Cost of Living Index and hence, the ranking reflects cost differentials for professional households in the top income quintile

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