

## Homes, Apartments and the Best Places to Live

- CNN and Money Magazine: Best Places to Live  
<http://money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/bplive/2007>  
Find the best place to live by selecting criteria that's important to you. Explore "Top 10s" in various categories.
- My New Place  
<http://www.mynewplace.com/search>  
Search for apartments by location; see what's available and the current rental costs.
- Zillow  
[www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com)  
Provides free real estate information including prices of homes that are for sale. From the homepage is a section "Homes Currently On Zillow." A subsection of this is "Recently Sold Homes." If you click on this and enter a zip code, you can get the median price of recently sold homes in this area. A mortgage payment calculator in the "Mortgage" section will estimate taxes and insurance based on data you provide.

## Raising a Child

- USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. "Expenditures on Children by Families, 2007."  
<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/ExpendituresonChildrenbyFamilies.htm>  
An annual report which provides estimates of the cost of raising children from birth through age 17.

## Cars

- Edmunds.com  
<http://www.edmunds.com/index.html>  
The Edmunds.com Mission Statement is *"To empower automotive consumers by providing complete, clear, timely, accurate and unbiased information needed to make informed purchase and ownership decisions."* Provides "true market" value for new and used cars, reviews, a finance center with loan calculators and a link for insurance quotes.
- Kiplingers.com  
[http://www.kiplinger.com/spending/car\\_center/](http://www.kiplinger.com/spending/car_center/)  
Provides a car buyer's guide which compares prices, features and mileage.
- Sun Sentinel car.com  
<http://www.cars.com>  
Their Research Section provides invoice prices, photos, features, specs, reviews and links to local dealers which show availability and the price for specific models. Also provides a loan calculator.

## Living Expenses

- Consumer Expenditures Tables  
<http://www.bls.gov/cex/tables.htm>  
From this page choose the table "Region of Residence." Scroll through the table to find average yearly consumer expenditures for food, utilities, entertainment, etc.

- Electricity  
U.S. Monthly Electricity Use and Price  
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/esr/table5.xls>  
View an Excel Table of the average monthly bill by sector and state in 2006
- Food  
USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. "Official USDA Food Plans: Cost of Food at Home at Four Levels,"  
<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/USDAFoodCost-Home.htm>  
Provides a table for monthly and weekly average costs for food; depending on a thrifty, low-cost, moderate or liberal food cost plan.

### **Education**

- State of Florida.com  
<http://www.stateofflorida.com/Portal/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=68>  
A portal which provides links to all Florida community colleges, universities and vocational/technical schools.
- FSA Federal Student Aid: Calculators  
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/DirectLoan/calc.html>  
This page lists the interest rates for several federal loans. At the bottom of the page are links to calculators for three different types of payment plans.
- Kiplingers.com Paying for College  
<http://www.kiplinger.com/money/payingforcollege>  
Provides comprehensive information and advice on student loans.
- Student Guide - Financial Aid (US Department of Education)  
[http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/Stud\\_guide.pdf](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/Stud_guide.pdf)  
A comprehensive resource on student financial aid from the U.S. Department of Education. Grants, loans, and work-study are the three major forms of student financial aid available through the federal Student Financial Assistance Programs.

### **Career Information**

- Occupational Outlook Handbook  
<http://www.bls.gov/oco>  
Provides information on hundreds of different types of jobs, including the training and education needed, earnings, expected job prospects, what workers do on the job and their working conditions.
- Salary.com  
[www.salary.com](http://www.salary.com)  
Provides compensation figures for specific jobs in a specific geographic location. This information is based on Human Resources payroll data, surveys on best practices and incentive pay and employer-reported surveys for specific jobs. Information from the Salary Wizard is free, but more in-depth information can be purchased.