

In an effort to learn about the plans and prospects of Upstate college graduates, The Business Council established an on-line survey directed at seniors graduating this spring from the State University system. 760 of the 1,006 respondents as of May 21 came from Upstate New York; the results below are the responses from the Upstaters, only.

Which of the following best describes the current status of your search for a job after college?

	#	% of upstaters
a. I have found and am taking a job	171	23%
b. I have had one or more job offers, but haven't decided for sure	53	7%
c. I am looking for a job but haven't found one	163	21%
d. I plan to go to graduate or professional school first	297	39%
e. I haven't yet begun looking for a job	74	10%
<i>(calculation) # who are looking / have looked for work</i>	387	

	#	% of job seekers from Upstate
Those who say that job (or an offer) is in Upstate New York	150	39%

Where do you expect you will first live after college?

	#	% of upstaters
Those listing a downstate location	25	3%
Those listing an Upstate location	565	74%
Elsewhere in the Northeast	39	5%
Elsewhere in the United States	120	16%
Outside the U.S.	9	1%

Where do you expect to be living in 10 years ?

	#	% of upstaters
Those listing a downstate location	29	4%
Those listing an Upstate location	214	28%
Elsewhere in the Northeast	46	6%
Elsewhere in the United States	209	28%
Outside the U.S.	22	3%
Don't know	240	32%

Which of the following statements most accurately reflects what is most important to you in choosing the first place you will live after completing your education?

	#	% of upstaters who answered
Career: I will go where I initially find the best job opportunities in my chosen field.	284	44%
Lifestyle: I will go where the quality of life is most appealing to me - even if that means I don't necessarily get the kind of job I want right away.	121	19%
Friends and family: My first consideration will be to live near family, friends, and/or a significant other	241	37%

Which of the following statements most accurately reflects your current expectations about the kind of place(s) in which you want to live as an adult?

	#	% of upstaters
My strongest desire is to return to the area I grew up in.	97	13%
I will want to begin my career in a <i>large metropolitan area</i> , and I would expect to <i>stay there</i> most of my adult life.	56	7%
I will want to begin my career in a <i>large metropolitan area</i> , but I expect I will want to <i>move to a smaller community</i> later on in life.	146	19%
I will want to begin my career in a <i>smaller metropolitan area</i> , and to <i>stay there</i> or in a similar area for most of my adult life.	205	27%
I will want to begin my career in a <i>smaller metropolitan area</i> , but would expect to <i>move to a larger metropolitan area</i> as my career advances.	30	4%
I will want to begin my career in a <i>rural area or small town</i> , and to <i>stay there</i> or in a similar area for most of my adult life.	84	11%
I will want to begin my career in a <i>rural area or small town</i> , but I would expect to <i>move to a larger metropolitan area</i> as my career advances.	23	3%

WHAT THIS TELLS US ABOUT UPSTATE: Take the 97 who want to return to the area where they grew up, and add in the 289 who see themselves as never living in a larger metropolitan area (in other words, who see themselves living in places like Upstate offers), and you have 386. That's 60% of those who answered this question, or 51% of all Upstate respondents.

KINDS OF PLACES: Assuming equally good job opportunities, how would you feel about locating in the following kinds of places ?

		% listing this as 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice
<i>(Respondents were asked to rank these choices from 0-5. They are listed below by the average order in which the respondents ranked them.)</i>		
#1 - The suburbs of a medium-sized city	Virtual tie	71%
#2 - A medium-sized city (for example, Buffalo or Austin)		73%
#3 - The suburbs of a major city		63%
#4 - A small city or town (for example, Elmira, NY or Rutland, VT)		48%
#5 - A major city (for example, New York City or Chicago)		42%
#6 - A rural area		34%

PARTS OF THE COUNTRY: Assuming equally good job opportunities, how would you feel about locating in the following parts of the country ?

		% listing this as 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice
<i>(Respondents were asked to rank these choices from 0-5. They are listed below by the average order the respondents ranked them.)</i>		
#1 - Upstate New York		64%
#2 - Elsewhere in the Northeast		55%
#3 - The South (Virginia through Texas)		39%
#4 - Downstate New York		44%
#5 - The West Coast (California, Washington or Oregon)		38%
#6 - The Mountain West (Colorado, Wyoming, Montana or Idaho)		25%
#7 - The Southwest (Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada)		20%
#8 - The Midwest		11%

ATTITUDES ABOUT UPSTATE: Below are some considerations that are often cited as bearing on the decisions young adults make about where to live. How well do you feel that each describes the situation in Upstate New York? Please rate how you feel about each - from 5 (strongly agree) to 1 (strongly disagree).

	% saying they disagree or strongly disagree	% saying they agree or strongly agree
There aren't enough good jobs available in my chosen career in Upstate New York	29%	54%
It is safer to live in an Upstate community than in a larger metropolitan area.	22%	59%
There aren't enough young people to make the living there enjoyable for me.	60%	16%
Recreational and cultural opportunities in Upstate are too limited for my tastes.	57%	26%
The scenery is beautiful Upstate, and there are great opportunities for outdoor recreation.	4%	91%
The cost of living is too high in Upstate New York.	50%	30%
Taxes are too high in Upstate New York.	14%	62%
I enjoy the four-season weather in Upstate New York.	24%	66%
Upstate's weather is bad.	50%	39%