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Should I Stay or Should I Go? Exploring interstate mobility for young college graduates

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Compared with the 1990s, fewer graduates are choosing to move out of state for employment.

Read TEN magazine's interactive article on interstate mobility for recent college graduates.

Summary

When Anirmend Battulga graduated in 2023 from the University of Colorado Denver, he had choices to make. With an Electrical Engineering degree in hand, the Denver native considered employment options beyond his home state.

Battulga weighed the options and chose not to relocate, at least not now. He decided to accept a position as an estimator with a contracting firm in nearby Aurora, where his family resides.

"The biggest decision is cost of living," Battulga said. "If I relocated, I'd have to, in a sense, start all over."

The decisions that young college graduates face regarding whether to migrate out of state for employment are not new. However, Kansas City Fed research shows that, compared with the 1990s, graduates in recent years appear less likely to move out of state for employment.