

Office of Consumer Counsel
Serving Colorado's Regulated Utility Consumers

LONG-DISTANCE RATES: COMPARE AND SAVE

Long-distance calling plans and costs can be confusing. In addition to the rates, there may be monthly fees or minimums and a variety of fees and surcharges that add to your monthly long-distance bill. To the extent that you do not have a "bundled" phone plan which includes your local and long-distance calling or you do not have service through a Voice over the Internet Protocol ("VoIP") provider such as Comcast, the following annual rate comparison compiled by the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) will make it easier for you to choose the carrier, calling plan and rates that best meet your needs. We hope this information will help you save money on your long-distance bill. Please note that the chart can be accessed online by going to the DORA website under "Popular Pages" at <http://www.dora.state.co.us>.

HERE ARE THE BEST DEALS

1. Interstate (State-to-State) Long-Distance Only

The OCC's latest long-distance rate comparison shows Pioneer Telephone's *Rate Buster* plan to be the best all-around deal for interstate calls at 2.7 cents per minute. If your long-distance calls are primarily state-to-state, this is the best plan. Total Call's *Total Saver* plan is another good choice for callers making primarily state-to-state calls.

2. Intrastate (In-State) Long-Distance Only

Our research indicates that Pioneer Telephone's *Rate Buster* plan at 2.7 cents is generally the best plan if your long-distance calls are primarily within the state of Colorado. Total Call's *Total Prime* plan is a strong second.

3. Best plans based on your calling volume, weighted 50%-50% for interstate and intrastate calling patterns

Through our analytical formulas applied to our rate comparison chart, we came up with recommendations based on low, average and high call volumes and on where calls are made.

Here are the best rate plans for:

Low Volume Users:	Total Call, Pioneer Telephone, 3U Telecom
Average Volume Users:	Pioneer Telephone, Total Call, TouchTone
High Volume Users:	Pioneer Telephone, TouchTone, Total Call

Analysis Notes:

- This analysis assumes monthly long-distance minutes are evenly split: 50% state-to-state and 50% for in-state long-distance minutes per month.
- **Low Volume** — 30 long-distance minutes per month
- **Average Volume** — 120 long-distance minutes per month
- **High Volume** — 300 long-distance minutes per month
- Long-distance rates may be higher if you live in an Independent Telephone Company area.

General Formula

Visit our website at <http://www.dora.state.co.us/occ> or call us to get the formula to determine the monthly cost of a long-distance plan based on your specific calling habits.





Residential Long-Distance Rate Comparison

December 2008

PER-MINUTE RATES, FEES AND BILLING INCREMENTS*

CARRIER INFORMATION	ANYTIME RATE PLANS	CALLING CARDS	OTHER MONTHLY FEES AND SURCHARGES
AmeriCom (800) 820-6296 www.americom.com	Simplicity Long Distance State-to-State 3.9 ¢ In-State 12.9 ¢ No Monthly Fee or Minimum Billing Increments 60:60	9.7 ¢ Billing Increments 60:60 Payphone surcharge up to 65 ¢	99 ¢ Telecom Infrastructure Fee
AT&T (800) 222-0300 www.att.com	One Rate 10¢ Plan State-to-State 10.0 ¢ In-State 10.0 ¢ \$2.99 Monthly Fee No Monthly Minimum Billing Increments 60:60	One Rate Calling Card Plan 25 ¢ \$1.95 monthly fee Billing Increments 60:60 Payphone surcharge up to 56 ¢ Effective 1/8/09	79 ¢ In-State Connection Fee, \$2.99 Bill Statement Fee, \$2.39 Carrier Cost Recovery Fee
ECG Long Distance (888) 869-1141 www.ecg1.com	3.5 ¢ Plan State-to-State 3.5 ¢ In-State 11.0 ¢ No Monthly Fee or Minimum Billing Increments 18:06	12.9 ¢ 99 ¢ Set Up Fee Billing Increments 18:06 Payphone surcharge up to 60 ¢	59 ¢ Regulatory Recovery Fee, \$2.50 Paper Bill Fee
Opex Communications (888) 577-7266 www.opexld.com	2.7¢ Residential Plan State-to-State 2.7 ¢ In-State 10.08 ¢ \$20.00 Monthly Minimum or \$2.00 Fee Billing Increments 18:06	4.9 ¢ Billing Increments 60:60 Payphone surcharge up to 55 ¢	\$1.99 Paper Bill Fee
Pioneer Telephone (888) 492-6878 www.pioneertelephone.net and www.pioneertelephone.com	Pioneer Rate Buster State-to-State 2.7 ¢ In-State 6.5 ¢ No Monthly Fee or Minimum Billing Increments 60:60 Pioneer Talk Cents State-to-State 3.25 ¢ In-State 7.5 ¢ No Monthly Fee or Minimum Billing Increments State-to-State 06:06 In-State 30:06	5.9 ¢ Billing Increments 60:60 Payphone surcharge up to 69 ¢	99 ¢ Paper Bill Fee if usage is less than \$15.00 per month, for both Pioneer Rate Buster and Pioneer Talk Cents
PowerNet Global (800) 382-9622 www.pngsales.com	839 Plan State-to-State 3.9 ¢ In-State 11.9 ¢ No Monthly Fee or Minimum Billing Increments 60:60	9.9 ¢ Billing Increments 60:60 Payphone surcharge up to 68 ¢	\$1.00 Fee for Paper Bill Plus Electronic Billing, 99 ¢ Infrastructure Fee
Qwest Long Distance (800) 475-7526 www.qwest.com	5 ¢ Plan State-to-State 5.0 ¢ In-State 5.0 ¢ \$5.99 Monthly Fee No Monthly Minimum Billing Increments 60:60	Not Offered	\$1.99 Interstate Services Fee
Sprint (800) 877-4646 www.sprint.com	7¢ AnyTime State-to-State 7.0 ¢ In-State 12.0 ¢ \$6.95 Monthly Fee No Monthly Minimum Billing Increments 60:60	Not Offered	99 ¢ Carrier Cost Recovery Charge, \$1.29 In-State Access Charge

* The Billing Increment is the time customers are billed for fractions of a minute during a call. The smaller the increment the greater the value to the customer. (continues on next page)

Rates and calling plans are subject to change. Contact companies for current rates and additional calling plans. **Please note:** Some companies have additional plans with cheaper rates if you sign up for service through the Internet, pay your monthly bills by credit card, or both.



Residential Long-Distance Rate Comparison

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PER-MINUTE RATES, FEES AND BILLING INCREMENTS*

CARRIER INFORMATION	ANYTIME RATE PLANS	CALLING CARDS	OTHER MONTHLY FEES AND SURCHARGES
3U Telecom (800) 97 ASK 3U (800) 972-7538 www.3utelecom.com	4.8 ¢ Plan State-to-State 4.8 ¢ In-State 7.9 ¢ No Monthly Fee or Minimum Billing Increments 01:01	4.8 ¢ State-to-State 7.9 ¢ In-State Billing Increments 01:01 Payphone surcharge up to 65 ¢	99 ¢ Paper Bill Fee
Total Call International (800) 330-6895 www.totalcallusa.com	Total Saver State-to-State 2.9 ¢ In-State 7.9 ¢ \$15.00 Monthly Minimum or \$2.00 Fee Billing Increments 18:06 Total Basic State-to-State 3.9 ¢ In-State 7.9 ¢ No Monthly Fee or Minimum Billing Increments 18:06 Total Prime State-to-State 4.4 ¢ In-State 7.9 ¢ No Monthly Fee or Minimum Billing Increments 18:06	4.9 ¢ Billing Increments 60:60 Payphone surcharge up to 55 ¢	99 ¢ Paper Bill Fee with Total Saver and Total Basic
TouchTone Communications (888) 662-6622 www.touchtoneld.com	Leading Edge State-to-State 2.9 ¢ In-State 6.5 ¢ No Monthly Fee or Minimum Billing Increments 18:06	8.0 ¢ Billing Increments 60:60 Payphone surcharge up to 55 ¢	\$1.97 Carrier Cost Recovery Fee
Unitel (800) 499-5912 www.unitelgroup.com	2.5 ¢ Plan State-to-State 2.5 ¢ In-State 10.0 ¢ No Monthly Fee or Minimum Billing Increments 18:06	14.0 ¢ Billing Increments 60:06 Payphone surcharge up to 65 ¢	\$2.99 Paper Bill Fee if usage is less than \$20.00 per month

* The Billing Increment is the time customers are billed for portions of a minute during a call. The smaller the increment the greater the value to the customer.

Rates and calling plans are subject to change. Contact companies for current rates and additional calling plans. **Please note:** Some companies have plans with cheaper rates if you sign up for service through the Internet, pay your monthly bills by credit card, or both.

About the Office of Consumer Counsel

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the Colorado state agency that represents and advocates for residential, small business and agricultural consumers in electric, gas and telephone rate and policy cases before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), federal agencies and the courts. The OCC promotes affordable, reasonably priced, high-quality, reliable utility service for Colorado's consumers.

If you would like to add your name to the OCC mailing list, or have your name removed from the list, feel free to call us at (303) 894-2121 or send an email request to occ@dora.state.co.us.

The OCC is a division within the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. **Consumer protection is DORA's mission.** For more information, please visit DORA's website at <http://www.dora.state.co.us>.

DORA has just released its Smart Consumer Calendar for 2009!

The calendar includes a DORA service directory, helpful conservation and household tips and pertinent information to keep you aware of your rights in everyday consumer activities. To receive your free copy, please contact the Office of Consumer Counsel. You can also download a PDF version of the calendar from the DORA website <http://www.dora.state.co.us>.



**Consumer protection
is our mission**



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