

**REVIEWED**

Personal computers

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21 affordable computers that are perfect for working or learning from home

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Embracing the new norm that is quarantining is something that we've all had to adjust to. Everyone is working from home, learning from home, even non-urgent doctor's visits have become virtual during the coronavirus pandemic. Because of this, people are realizing that they're in need of certain things to effectively do their everyday tasks. One of the most crucial things people are needing right now is a laptop, so naturally, they're flying off the shelves.

Whether you're looking to upgrade from your current laptop or you simply find yourself without one, here are some top-rated computers that are perfect for learning or working remotely, and in your budget, too.

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Under \$500

If you're looking to spend less than \$500, look no further. We tested the HP 11-v031nr, which goes for a little over \$200, and it's one of our favorite computers. It's very lightweight, has a clear and bright display, and pretty impressive battery life, too.

It's a Chromebook, meaning it doesn't run Windows programs, though it can run anything you would normally run in a browser, including Microsoft Office 365, Google Docs, email, Netflix, and more. It doesn't have the most storage in the world, which you may need for

work or school, but you can add more storage space by plugging in a micro SD card (a 64GB one will cost you less than \$15).

Get the HP Chromebook 11-v031nr on Amazon for \$299.99

Under \$750

The Asus Chromebook Flip C434TA-DSM4T has proven best in various categories. After testing it ourselves, we deemed it the best laptop for students, as well as the best value laptop under \$1,000. It looks like a premium laptop because of its vibrant display and chic aesthetic but doesn't have the premium price tag. It has touchscreen capabilities, fast speeds, and decent storage. It's also a Chromebook, like the HP above, so the same caveats apply.

Get the Asus Chromebook Flip C434TA-DSM4T from Walmart for \$699

Another great option to consider is the HP Laptop 15t. We recommend a 10th Gen Intel® Core™ i5 or i7 processor, depending on how much speed you need. Though they lack the name-brand recognition of HP's best laptop lines, these babies have 12 GB memory and 256 GBs of storage with a fast SSD, which means you'll be able to run multiple programs at once efficiently and you'll have more than enough storage for work or school. Plus, they are super reasonably priced.

- **Get the HP Laptop 15t with i5 processor from HP for \$549.99**
- **Get the HP Laptop 15t with i7 processor from HP for \$719.99**

Lastly, the Dell Inspiron 15 is a high-quality laptop to look at. It has 8GB of RAM, a 256GB solid-state hard drive, and nearly 2,000 positive reviews on the website. It has a standard USB port, so you can plug all your typical gadgets into it without needing a dongle.

Get the New Inspiron 15 5000 Laptop with i5 processor from Dell for \$599.99

Under \$1000

I mentioned the Dell Inspiron 15 earlier because it's one of the highest-rated Dell laptops out there. If you're looking for a little more storage or the very newest model, you can opt for a more expensive version with an i7 processor. It's highly rated, fairly priced for their amount of storage, and makes a great option to work or learn remotely. You can't go wrong with the Inspiron 7000 series, either. It has an i5 processor and a nicer design. including a new 14-

inch option that balances the need for a bigger screen without as much heft as 15-inch models.

- **Get the New Inspiron 15 5000 Laptop 8GB with i7 processor from Dell for \$779.99**
- **Get the Inspiron 14 7490 Laptop 8GB with i5 processor from Dell for \$879**

Also starting just under \$1,000 is Dell's flagship XPS 13 laptop. It has USB-C ports, so you'll need a dongle for any standard USB needs, but at this price you get 8GB of RAM, a 256GB SSD, and a beautiful, slim design. It's been one of our favorite Windows laptops for years.

Get the Dell XPS 13 Laptop 8GB i5 from Dell for \$979.99

If you're looking for a larger-than-average screen, consider the HP 17t laptop. It has everything you need in a laptop including 10th Gen Intel® Core™ i7 processor, 12 GB memory; 256 GB SSD storage, and it even comes in four customizable colors. What perhaps is the best quality, though, is the large 17-inch screen at a very reasonable price.

Get the HP Laptop - 17t from HP for \$829.99

People are obsessed with MacBook Airs, and can you blame them? They're perfect for work or educational purposes. They have an incredibly user-friendly interface, high speeds, a lightweight build, and plenty of storage.

The new MacBook Air can handle just about anything you'd need it to, up to and including photo editing. It also features a new "Magic" keyboard that is more like the ones Apple used to put in its MacBooks, which is easier to use and should be much more reliable. The base model costs under \$1,000 and gets you a 10th-gen i3 processor and plenty of RAM and storage for basic needs.

Get the MacBook Air from Apple for \$899

Under \$2000

For less than \$2,000, you can get the latest version of the Dell XPS 13 that we gushed about above. The newest models still feature razor-thin bezels, making it incredibly portable, but with much more powerful parts inside. This model has an Intel Core i7 processor, 16GB of RAM, and a 512GB SSD. Even with all that we expect it to easily get you through a full workday, meaning all the power you need with no compromises.

Get the Dell XPS 13 9300 from Dell for \$1,749

Light, powerful, and stacked with security features, the HP Envy 13 makes a great work laptop if you want to get more for your money. It has an i7 processor, 8 GB memory and the option of 256 or 512 GB SSD storage. It has a high-resolution screen and can protect your privacy with a built-in Privacy Camera Kill Switch and an integrated fingerprint reader.

- **Get the HP Envy 13 with 256 GB SSD from HP for \$1,049.99**
- **Get the HP Envy 13 with 512 GB SSD from HP for \$1,049.99**

Another HP powerhouse is the HP Envy 17. It has a 10th Gen Intel® Core™ i7 processor, lots of storage and memory, a USB port, and the option of a touch screen. Not to mention, the display is massive, making it easy to see your work. This 17-inch model also has the Privacy Camera Kill Switch, an integrated fingerprint reader, and HP BIOS Recovery to protect your PC from corruption.

- **Get the HP Envy 17 from HP for \$1,319.99**
- **Get the HP Envy 17 Touch from HP for \$1,179.99**

Though we mentioned both the base-level and fully loaded models already, it's worth pointing out the various ways you can configure the Dell XPS 13 to suit your needs (and your budget). You can get 8GB or 16GB of memory, up to an i7 processor, and either get it with or without a touchscreen, all well under \$2,000.

- **Get the Dell XPS 13 Laptop 8GB i7 from Dell for \$1,149.99**
- **Get the Dell XPS 13 Laptop 16GB i7 from Dell for \$1,299.99**
- **Get the Dell XPS 13 Touch Laptop 8GB i7 from Dell for \$1,399.99**

If you're a fan of the MacBook Air, the MacBook Pro offers even more power. Available with the Touchbar second screen, more USB ports, and even a discrete graphics card, the MacBook Pro is ready for, well, professional use. It can handle whatever tasks you throw at it and do it fast. We recommend the 16-inch for creative types because of the upgraded keyboard, though it is a little over the \$2,000 price point.

- **Get the MacBook Pro 13-In from Apple for \$1,299**
- **Get the MacBook Pro 16-In from Apple for \$2,199**

If you're into PC gaming or demanding creative work like video editing then a gaming laptop is also a great choice. The Dell G5 15 offers an awesome combination of size and power, with Nvidia's new RTX 2060 6GB graphics card, capable of playing the latest games at high or better graphics settings—all for just under \$1,500.

Get the Dell G5 15 from Dell for \$1,499.99

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