

Google expands online deals to five more cities

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Google said it had begun offering the deals from <u>local businesses</u> in Austin, Texas, Boston, Denver, Seattle, and the nation's capital, Washington.

Google launched a test of the service called Google Offers in Portland, Oregon, in June and expanded it to San Francisco and New York a month later.



Google's offers on Wednesday included \$10 dollars worth of food and drink for \$5 at a Mexican restaurant in Austin and \$20 dollars worth of merchandise for \$5 at the Tattered Cover Book Store in Denver.

Google's expansion of Google Offers comes less than two weeks after social network titan Facebook announced that it was ending a similar Facebook Deals program launched in April.

<u>Facebook</u> began testing deals in April in five US cities -- Atlanta, Austin, Dallas, San Diego, and San Francisco -- in a bid to expand its <u>revenue stream</u> beyond advertising and carve out a niche in the growing online bargain space.

Chicago-based Groupon has enjoyed a spectacular rise since its founding in 2008 and rejected a reported \$6 billion takeover offer from Google last year.

Groupon announced plans in June to go public but The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that it was re-evaluating the plans because of the volatility in the <u>stock market</u>.

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