

Inflation in Colorado: September 2022 Update

Prices in Colorado fell by 0.17% between July and September, down from a 1.72% increase over the two months prior. Because of this, Colorado's 12-month inflation rate dropped from 8.2% to 7.7% over the last two months. The primary causes of this change are nominal decreases in the prices of household fuels and transportation (driven largely by a decrease in the price of motor vehicle fuel since July) and slower rates of growth in other prices, like food and beverages. Despite moderating in August and September, overall price growth continues to outpace earnings growth; nationally, average hourly earnings have only increased by 4.1% over the past 12 months, which is 50% percent of inflation over that same period.

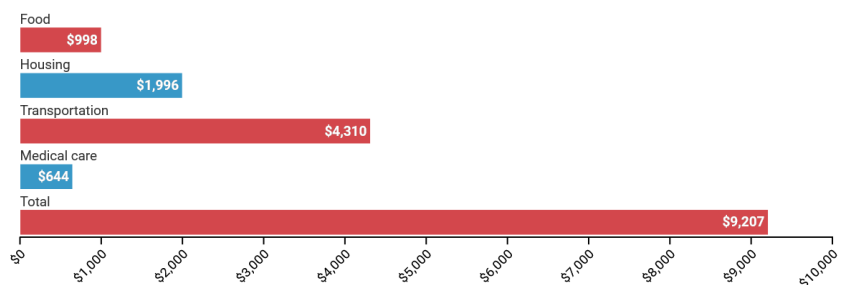
In August and September, the average Colorado household spent \$1,685 more due to inflation—an average of \$843 per month. After the Federal Reserve's three 75 basis-point increases in interest rates, the fed funds rate (the rate at which banks and other depository institutions lend to one another overnight, is now 3.25%, but inflation is still at 40-year highs.

Inflation in Metro Denver was 5% between January and September and 7.7% over the Last 12 Months—.5 Percentage Points below the National Average (BLS CPI Survey)ⁱ

- The average Colorado household has spent \$9,207 more since 2020 because of inflation.ⁱⁱ
- Since March 2021, when the period of high inflation began, average bi-monthly inflation in metro Denver has been 226% higher than its historical average of .42%.

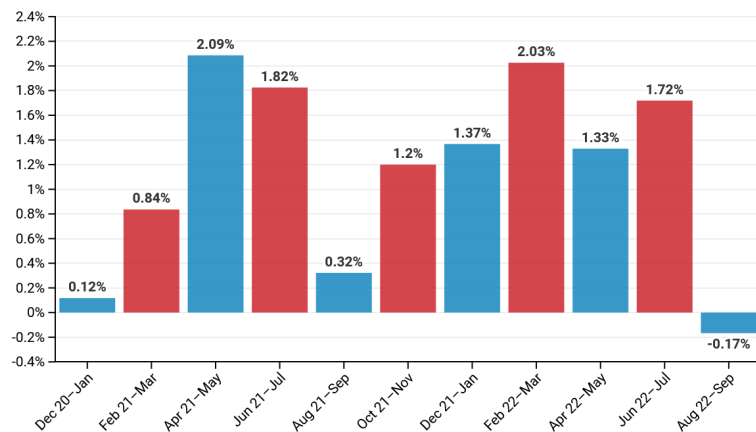
Inflation's Impact on What We Buy

How much more has the average household spent since 2020 because of inflation?



- Of the 23 urban consumer price indices tracked by the BLS, Denver–Aurora–Lakewood's ranks 15th in total growth since the end of 2020.

Bi-monthly Inflation in Metro Denver since January 2021
Inflation first accelerated to high rates during the spring of 2021. After briefly yielding to normal during the summer, the unusually high rates reoccurred in the fall and persisted until September

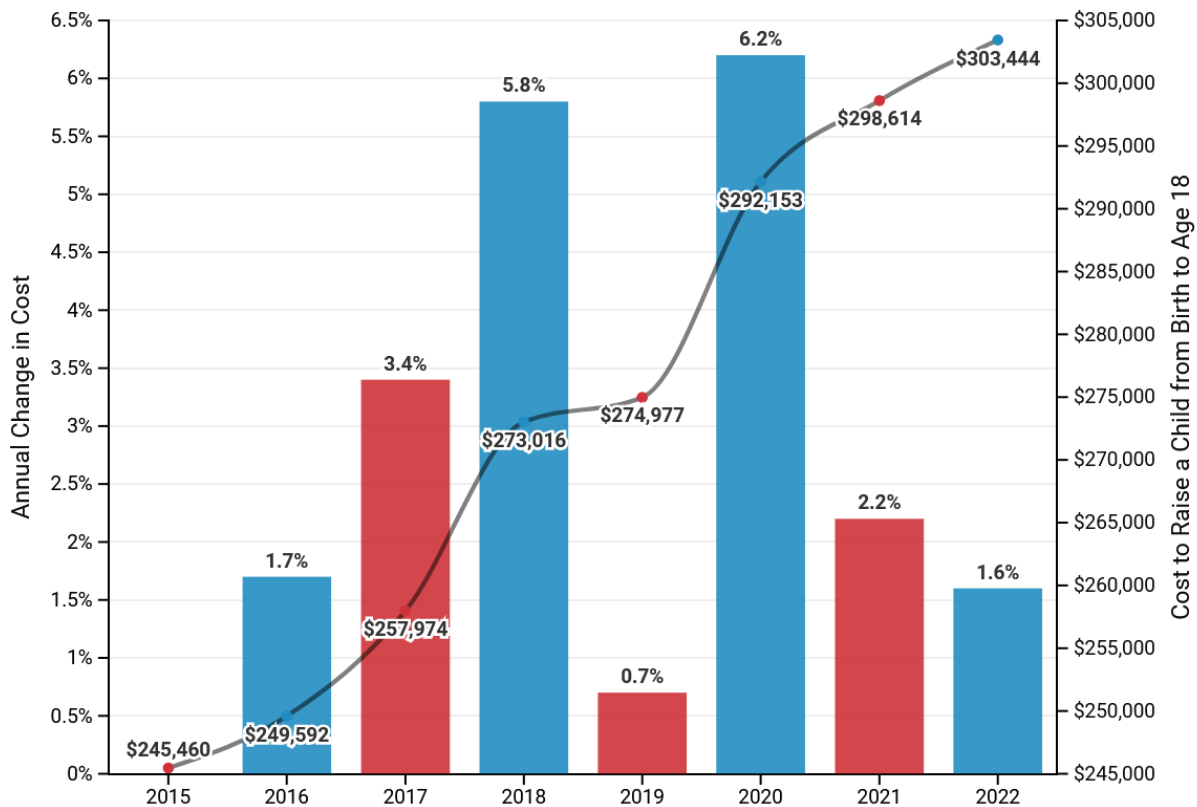


- Average annual inflation between 2010 and 2020 was 2.51%. Since September 2021, all categorized prices in the graphs on page 3 except for education and apparel have grown by more than that.
- The two price categories that grew the fastest over the last 12 months were food and fuels/utilities, which grew by 11.8% and 9.4%, respectively.

The Cost of Raising a Child in Colorado from Birth to Age 18 has Risen 24.2% Since 2015.

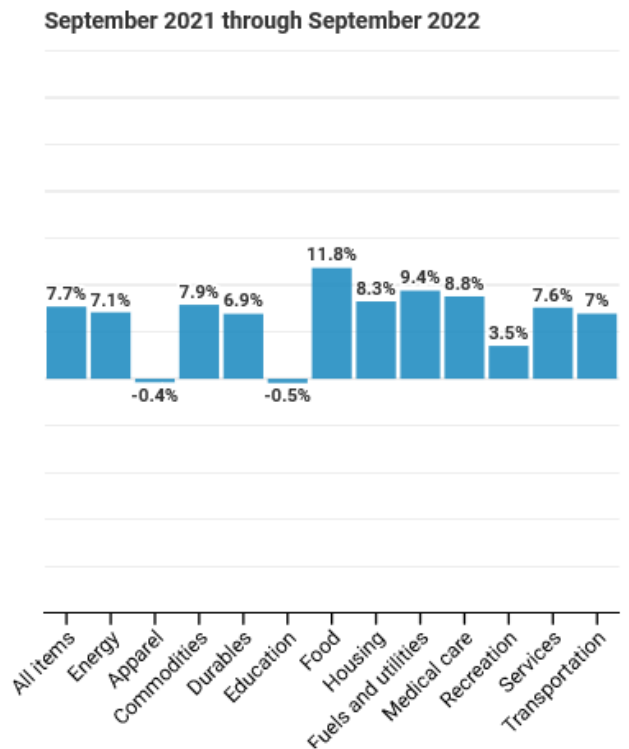
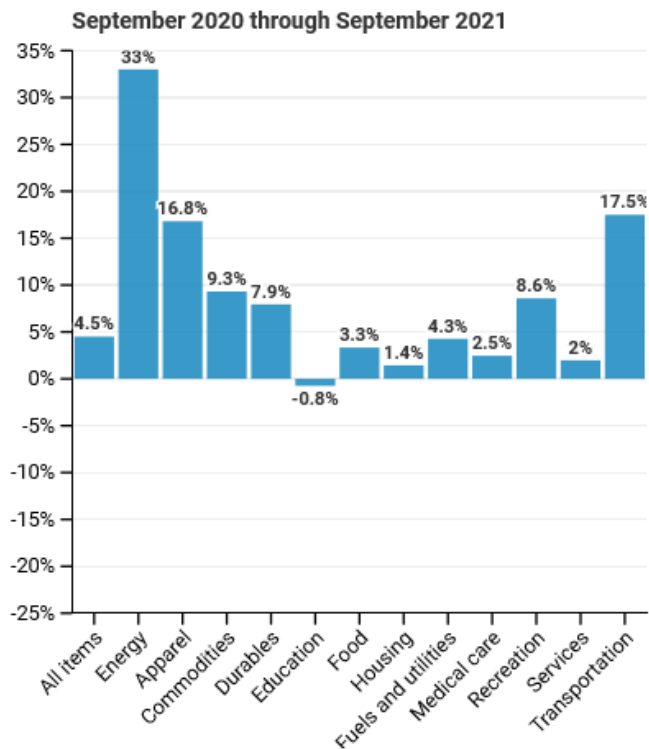
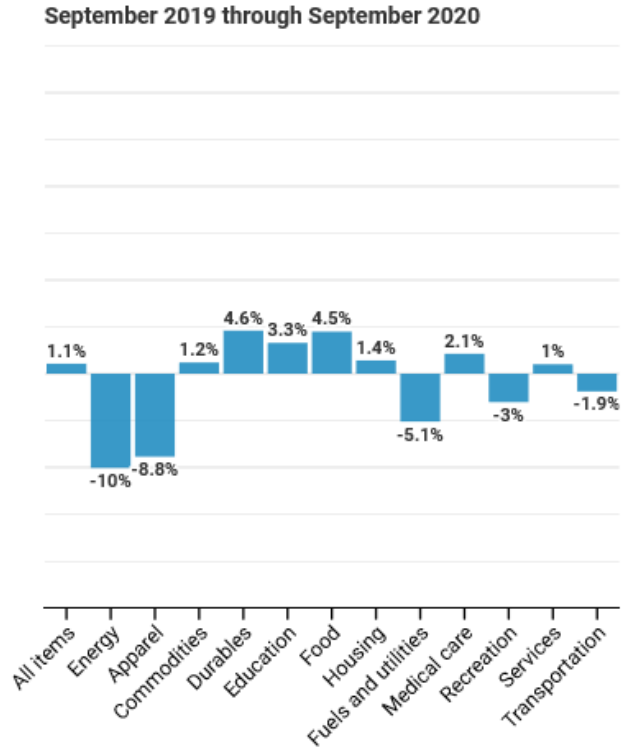
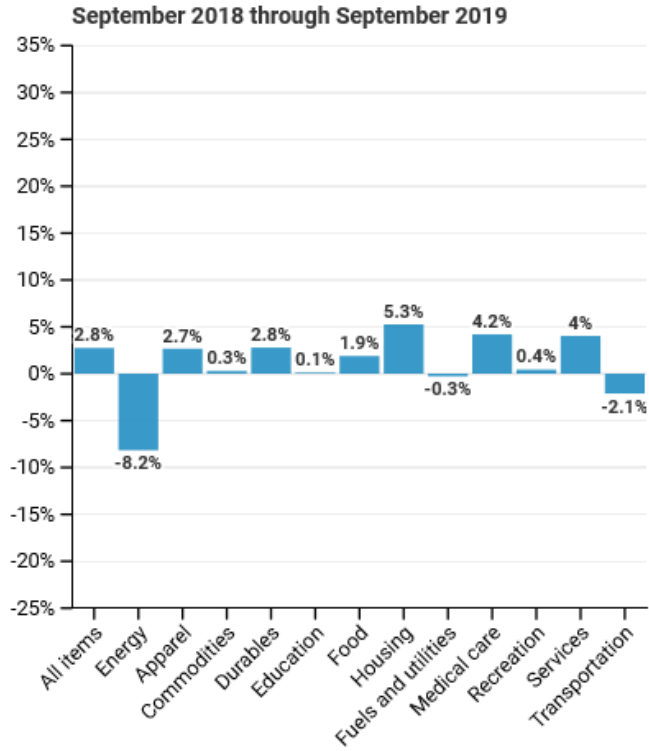
In 2017, the USDA released a report titled "Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015."ⁱⁱⁱ This report estimated that the total expenditures on a child from birth up to 18 years old by married-couple families is \$245,460 in the urban west region. The USDA based its estimates on 7 major categories of spending on a child: housing accounts for 29% of the total, food 18%, transportation 15%, clothing 6%, health care 9%, childcare & education 16%, and miscellaneous expenditures 7%. CSI used BLS estimates of the consumer price index for each cost category from 2015 to September 2022 and estimated the cost of raising a child born in 2022 from birth to age 18 to be \$303,444, which is a 23.6% increase (\$57,984) over its value in 2015. The following graph shows how the total cost of raising a child from birth to age 18 has changed since 2015.

The Cost to Raise a Child in Colorado



Price Changes in Metro Denver over the Previous Year

Source: BLS CPI-U Data



ⁱ <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/>

ⁱⁱ Impacts on household spending are generated by distributing the consumer expenditure estimates from https://www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains/news-release/consumerexpenditures_denver.htm across individual months, weighting them according to their corresponding CPI levels, and adjusting them according to the latter's growth history.

ⁱⁱⁱ [Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015 \(azureedge.us\)](#)