NOVEMBER 2026

Colorado's Thanksgiving Costs Fall Below the National Average

Colorado meal for 10

$56.28

15% since 2025

National average meal for 10

$58.63

6% since 2025

Cost of a turkey

$18.46

22% below national average

Coloradans Paying Less Than the National Average for the First Time in Three Years

Despite inflation running higher in Colorado than across the country, Coloradans will pay less than the national average for Thanksgiving dinner for the first time in three years, according to the Colorado Farm Bureau.[1] Over the past year, overall prices in the Denver metro rose 4.0% compared to 3.7% nationally, and grocery prices rose 2.7% compared to 1.8%.[2]

In their annual survey, the national Farm Bureau reported the price tag on Thanksgiving dinner for a family of 10 rose for the first time since 2022, climbing 6% to $58.63.[3] In Colorado, however, prices dropped to $56.28, down 15% from last year, and 4% below the national average.

When CSI last reported on Thanksgiving costs in 2024, Coloradans paid $71.77 for the meal, 24% more than the national average.[4] This year's meal is 22% cheaper than in 2024, a second straight year of substantial drops in Thanksgiving meal prices for Coloradans.

Meal Costs to Coloradans

- Between 2025 and 2026, the cost of a classic Thanksgiving meal for 10 fell 15% in Colorado, from $65.94 to $56.28, while it rose 6% nationally.[5]
- Compared to the nation, Colorado's Thanksgiving meal for 10 costs $2.35, or 4% less.
  - The price of a turkey in Colorado is 22% cheaper than the national average, $18.46 and $23.68 respectively.
- Turkey drove the savings. Colorado's turkey price fell 33% from last year, accounting for 93% of the drop in the meal's cost.
- Outside the turkey, Colorado still pays more: 9 of the 12 Thanksgiving food items cost more in Colorado than the national average.

[1] Colorado Farm Bureau, "Thanksgiving in Colorado will Cost Less than National Average, First Time in Three Years," Nov. 18, 2026.

[2] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), Denver-Aurora-Lakewood and U.S. city average, all items and food at home, 12 months ending September 2026

[3] American Farm Bureau Federation, "Thanksgiving Dinner Cost Ticks Upward in 2026," Nov. 18, 2026.

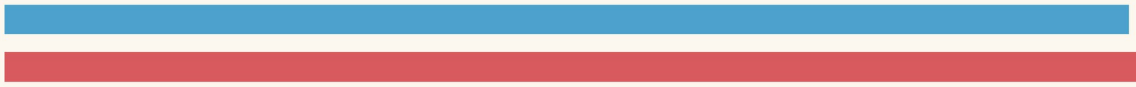
[4] Common Sense Institute, "Thanksgiving Inflation," November 2024.

[5] The Colorado Sun, "Thanksgiving dinner in Colorado will cost less than last year," Nov. 22, 2025.

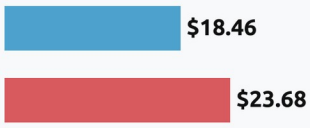
Cost of Thanksgiving Food Items: Colorado vs. US

Colorado Cost | U.S. Cost

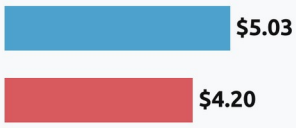
Total, meal for 10 — CO pays $2.35 less



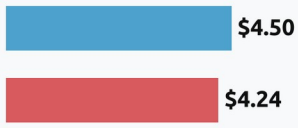
Turkey, 16 lb — CO pays $5.22 less



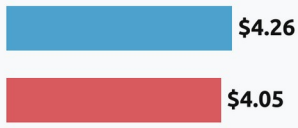
Sweet Potatoes, 3 lb — CO pays $0.83 more



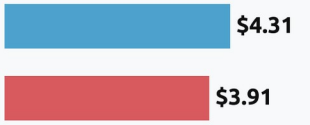
Pumpkin Pie Mix, 30 oz — CO pays $0.26 more



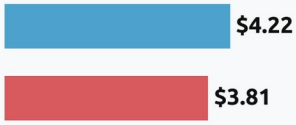
Milk, 1 Gallon — CO pays $0.21 more



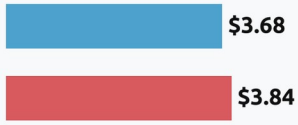
Cubed Stuffing, 14 oz — CO pays $0.40 more



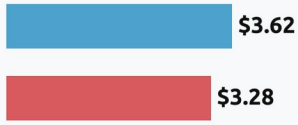
Rolls, 12 — CO pays $0.41 more



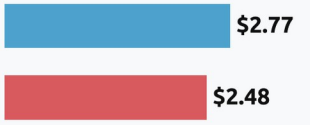
Misc. (coffee, butter, etc.) — CO pays $0.16 less



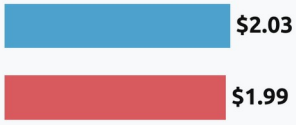
Pie Shells, 2 — CO pays $0.34 more



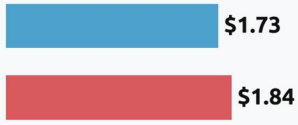
Fresh Cranberries, 12 oz — CO pays $0.29 more



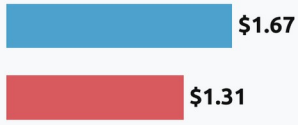
Frozen Peas, 1 lb — CO pays $0.04 more



Whipping Cream, 1/2 pint — CO pays $0.11 less

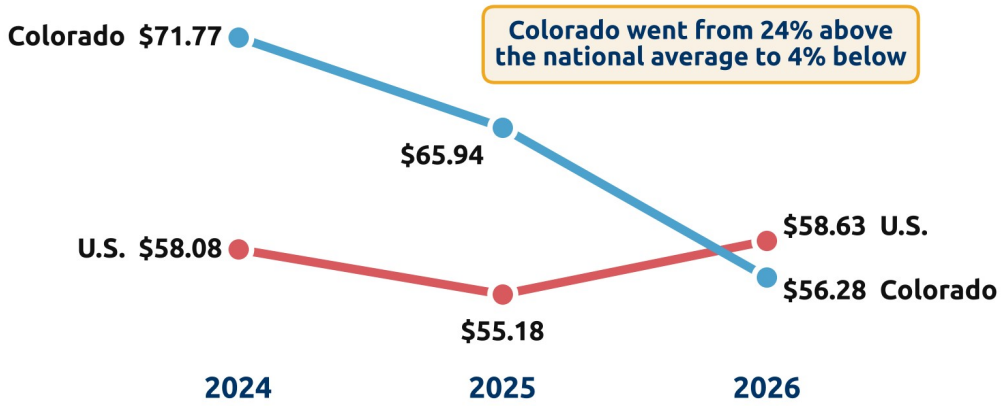


Veggie Tray, 1 lb — CO pays $0.36 more



Source: Colorado Farm Bureau; American Farm Bureau Federation, 2026 Thanksgiving Dinner Cost Survey

THANKSGIVING MEAL FOR 10, 2024 TO 2026



Source: Common Sense Institute, "Thanksgiving Inflation," November 2024 (2024); The Colorado Sun, Nov. 22, 2025, and American Farm Bureau Federation (2025); Colorado Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation, 2026 Thanksgiving Dinner Cost Survey (2026)