

Denver-Aurora-Centennial — #1 of 7: Median Monthly Owner Cost

Denver leads Colorado in owner cost burden

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published October 20, 2026

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THE DATA

\$2,082

Median Monthly Owner Cost (2024)

Denver-Aurora-Centennial ranks #1 of 7 Colorado metros on median monthly owner cost.

This figure reflects the average cost of housing, property taxes, insurance, and utilities for homeowners. It underscores that even as Denver's economy grows, the cost of staying in one's home has reached a regional peak. This burden is not just a number — it's a structural reality shaping who can live in the city and who must leave.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 • ALEX Intelligence computation

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-20-denver-standing-owner-cost-msa>

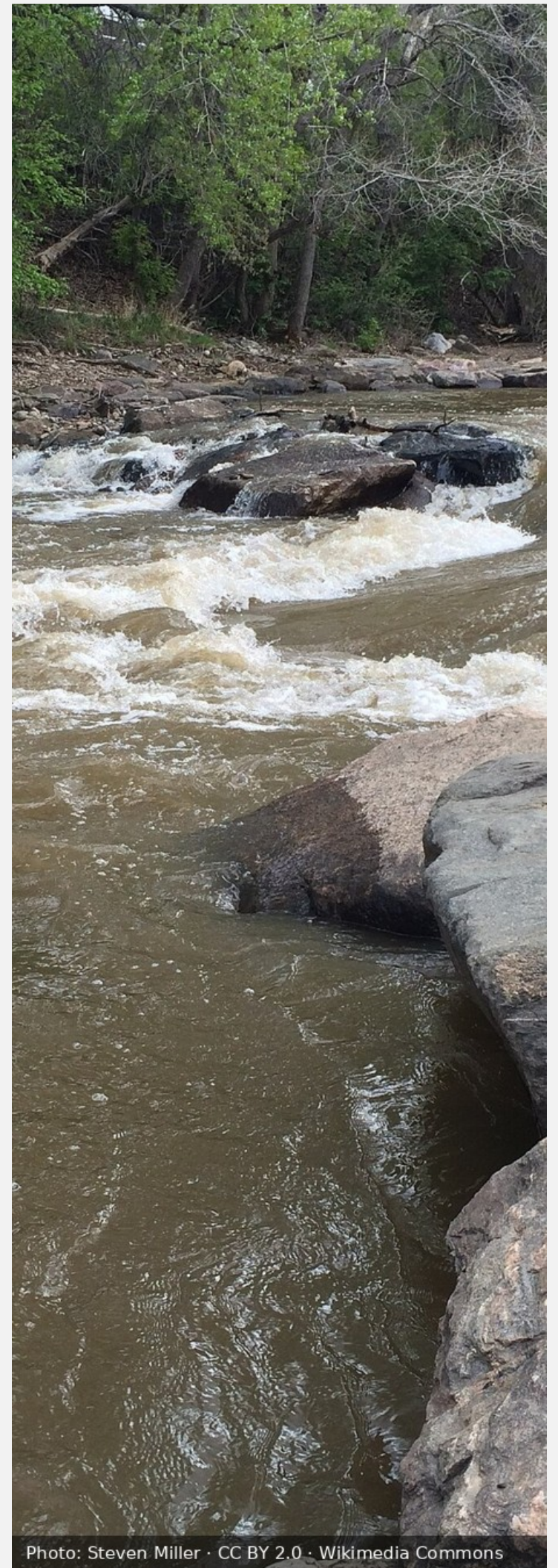


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01

Affordability is the new filter

Denver's top ranking in owner cost isn't a sign of strength — it's a signal of exclusion. The city is no longer a place where rising incomes keep pace with rising prices. Instead, it's becoming a magnet for those who can absorb the cost, not those who are just starting out. This dynamic is reshaping the demographic fabric of neighborhoods, favoring long-term residents and investors over first-time buyers.

02

The cost of staying defines the city

What's striking isn't just the number — it's that the gap between Denver and the next highest, Boulder, is \$50. That's not a small margin in housing economics. It means that even within the same state, the cost of staying in Denver is a full tier above its closest peer. This premium isn't driven by luxury — it's sustained by employment density, infrastructure, and cultural capital, making it a self-reinforcing cycle of demand and cost.



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