



Tax Burdens in Denver and Peer Cities

Emily Lapel
Legislative Analyst
Denver Policy
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Purpose

Explore tax burden in
Denver and how it
compares to peer cities
in the western US

Denver Sales Tax

2018

Denver – 3.65%

State – 2.90%

RTD/CD/FD – 1.10%

Combined Total - 7.65%

2019

Denver – 4.31%

State – 2.90%

RTD/CD/FD – 1.10%

Combined Total – 8.31%

Denver Income Tax

- State Income Tax
 - Colorado's income tax is a flat 4.63% of taxable income
- Occupational Privilege Tax (OPT)
 - 5 Municipalities in Colorado impose an OPT
 - Denver imposes a monthly OPT of \$5.75 for every employee within the City and County of Denver

Denver Property Tax

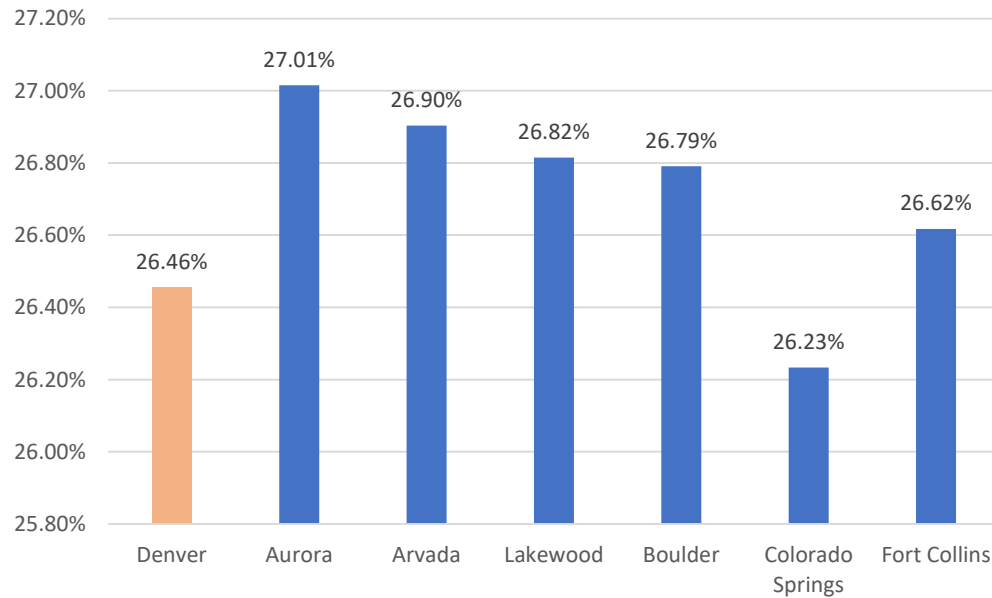
- The assessed value for residential property is 7.20% of the actual value whereas the assessed value for commercial and business personal property is 29% of the actual value.
- The assessed value is then multiplied by the current mill levy.
- Mill levies are determined by the school district, city council, and special districts.
- Denver's average property tax is 0.53%

Denver and Front Range cities

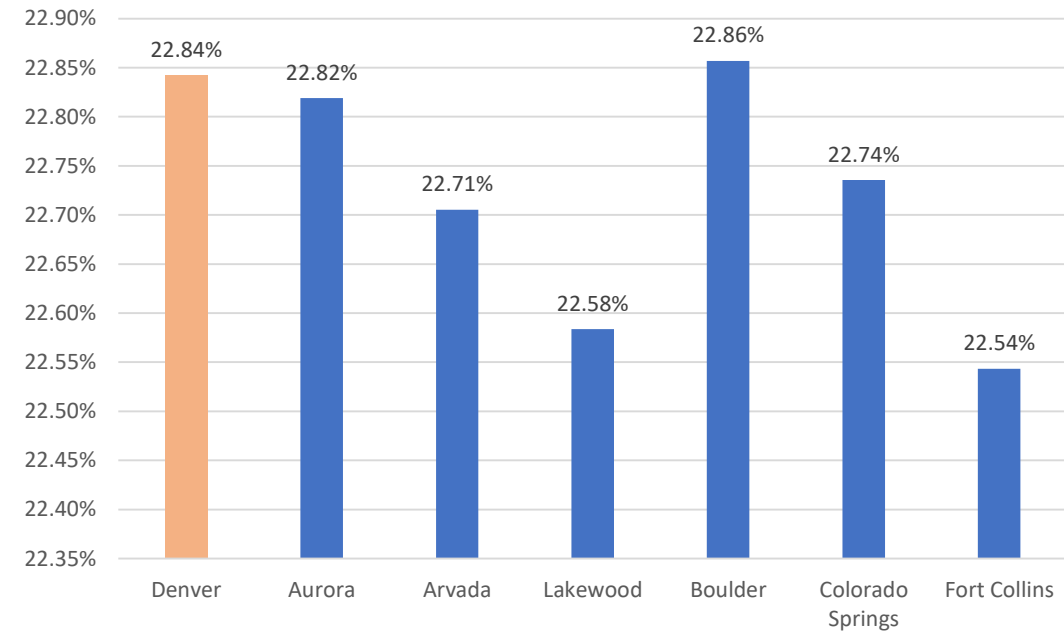
City	Combined Sales Tax	City and County Income Tax	Property Tax (Average)
Denver	8.31%	\$5.75 OPT/Month	0.53%
Aurora	8.50%	\$2 OPT/ Month	0.70%
Arvada	8.10%	No income tax	0.70%
Lakewood	7.50%	No income tax	0.70%
Boulder	8.85%	No income tax	0.64%
Colorado Springs	8.25%	No income tax	0.50%
Fort Collins	7.30%	No income tax	0.66%

Total Percent of Taxed Income for Homeowners and Renters

Total Percent of Taxed Income for Homeowners
Denver and Colorado Cities



Total Percent of Taxed Income for Renters
Denver and Colorado Cities



Seattle, WA

Property Tax – Average 1.025%

Income Tax – 0%

Sales Tax - 3.6%

- Combined sales tax – 10.1%

Portland, OR

Property Tax – Average 1.125%

Income Tax – 9%

Sales Tax – 0%

Austin, TX

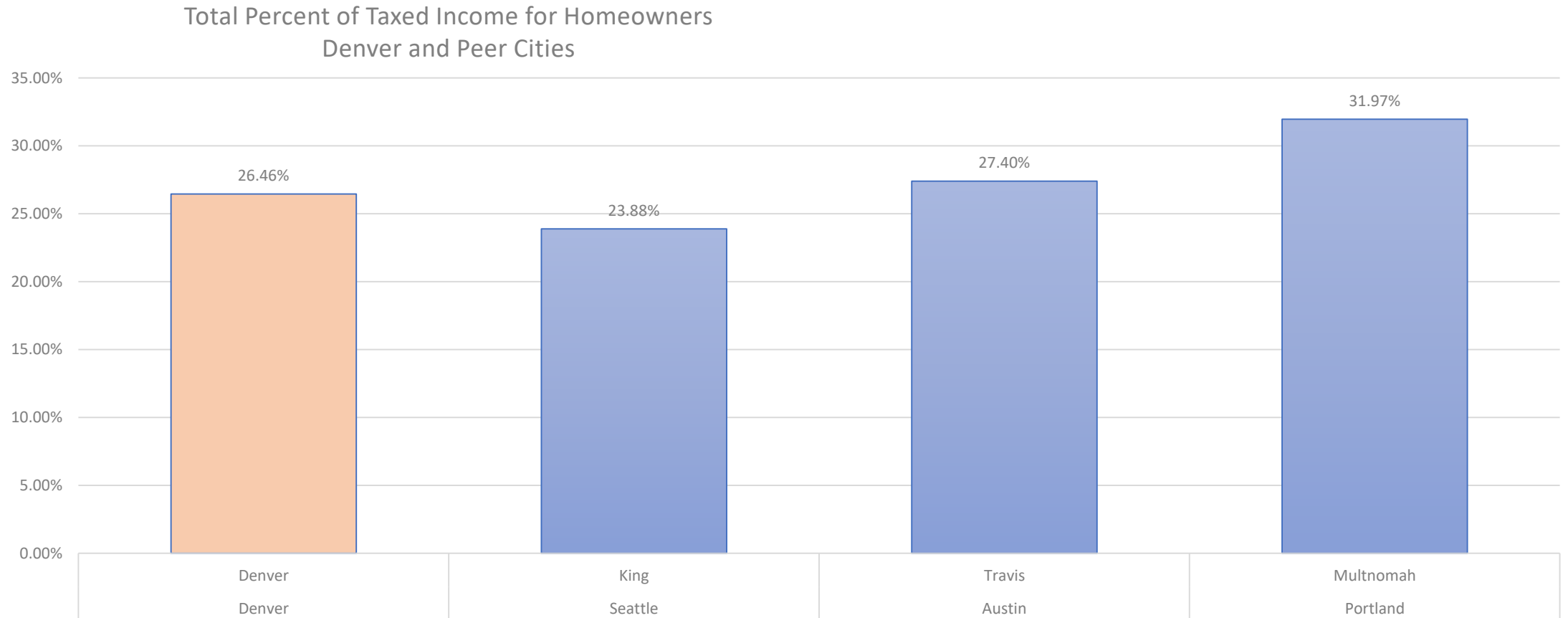
Property Tax – Average 2.34%

Income Tax – 0%

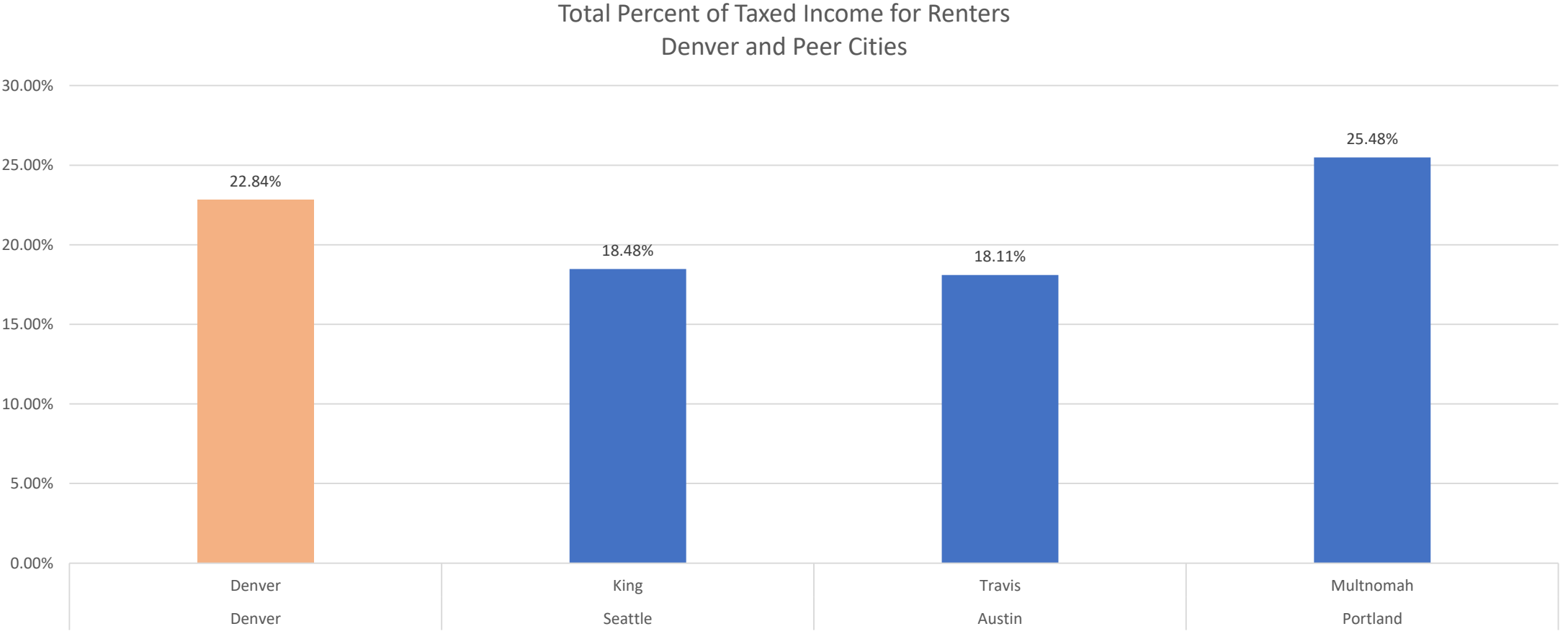
Sales Tax - 2%

- Combined sales tax – 8.25%

Total Percent of Taxed Income for Homeowners Denver and Peer Cities







Total Percent of Taxed Income for Renters Denver and Peer Cities



A Deeper Dive into Sales Taxes

TOTAL TAX

Share of Family Income

INCOME GROUP	TOP 20%						
	LOWEST 20%	SECOND 20%	MIDDLE 20%	FOURTH 20%	NEXT 15%	NEXT 4%	TOP 1%
INCOME RANGE	Less than \$22,000	\$22,000 to \$40,800	\$40,800 to \$65,800	\$65,800 to \$113,600	\$113,600 to \$246,000	\$246,000 to \$605,500	over \$605,500
AVERAGE INCOME IN GROUP	\$13,800	\$31,900	\$53,300	\$85,800	\$156,400	\$363,900	\$1,503,300
 SALES & EXCISE TAXES	6.1%	5.0%	4.0%	3.2%	2.3%	1.4%	0.8%
General Sales—Individuals	2.7%	2.6%	2.1%	1.8%	1.4%	0.9%	0.5%
Other Sales & Excise—Ind.	1.3%	0.8%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%
Sales & Excise on Business	2.0%	1.7%	1.3%	1.0%	0.7%	0.4%	0.3%
 PROPERTY TAXES	2.5%	2.2%	2.3%	2.0%	1.9%	1.8%	1.9%
Home, Rent, Car—Individuals	2.4%	2.1%	2.2%	1.9%	1.7%	1.3%	0.4%
Other Property Taxes	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.6%	1.5%
 INCOME TAXES	0.2%	1.7%	2.5%	3.0%	3.4%	3.4%	3.7%
Personal Income Tax	0.2%	1.7%	2.5%	3.0%	3.3%	3.3%	3.6%
Corporate Income Tax	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
 TOTAL TAXES	8.7%	9.0%	8.9%	8.3%	7.6%	6.6%	6.5%

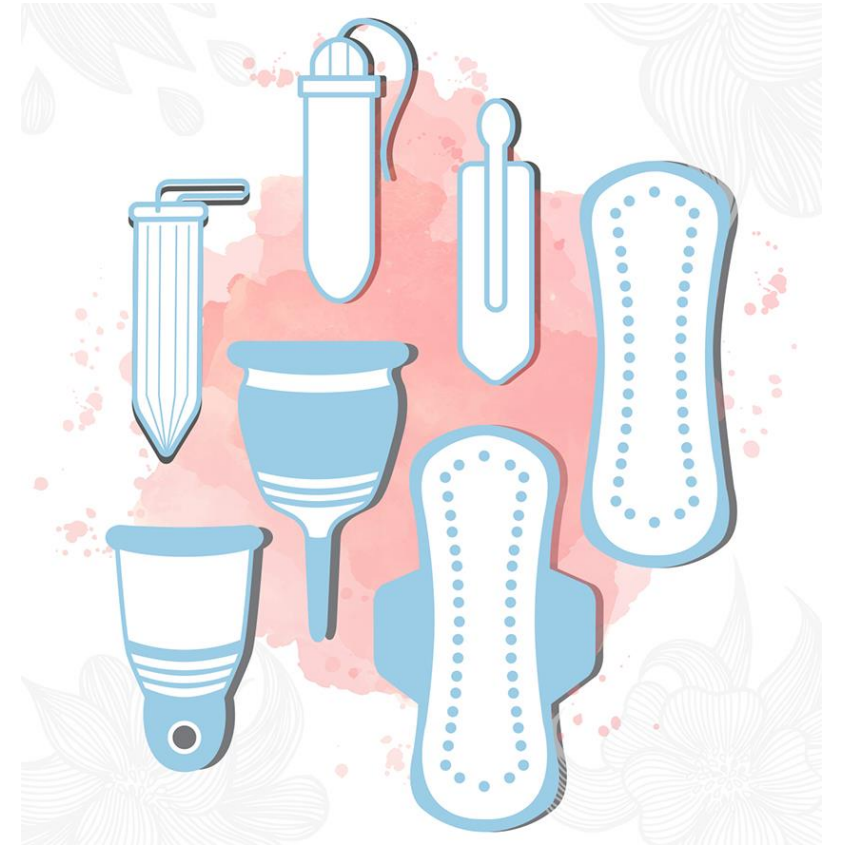
Individual figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

ITEP TAX INEQUALITY INDEX

According to ITEP's Tax Inequality Index, which measures the impact of each state's tax system on income inequality, **Colorado has the 35th most unfair state and local tax system** in the country. Incomes are more unequal in Colorado after state and local taxes are collected than before. (See Appendix B for state-by-state rankings and the methodology section for additional detail on the index.)

“Tampon Taxes”

- Tampons are subject to the sales tax in Denver
 - Considered grooming or hygiene product (1)
- FDA claims that menstrual tampons and pads are medical devices (2)
- Colorado HB17-1127 tried to include feminine hygiene products from sales tax
 - Failed in May 2017
- States that do not tax feminine hygiene products
 - Alaska*
 - Connecticut
 - Delaware*
 - District of Columbia
 - Florida
 - Illinois
 - Maryland
 - Massachusetts
 - Minnesota
 - Montana*
 - Nevada
 - New Hampshire*
 - New Jersey
 - New York
 - Oregon*
 - Pennsylvania



“Tampon Taxes” (Cont.)

Arguments Against Feminine Hygiene Sales Tax

- Sales tax on menstrual items disproportionately impact low-income women and women experiencing homelessness (1)
- Women experiencing homelessness report changing their tampons less frequently, subjecting them to increased risks of infection and toxic shock syndrome (2)
- Menstruation is not a choice, but a bodily function that most females experience throughout their lives
- Sex discriminatory taxation (3)

Arguments For Feminine Hygiene Sales Tax

- Loss of sales tax revenue (3)
- Increase sales tax burden onto other items

