

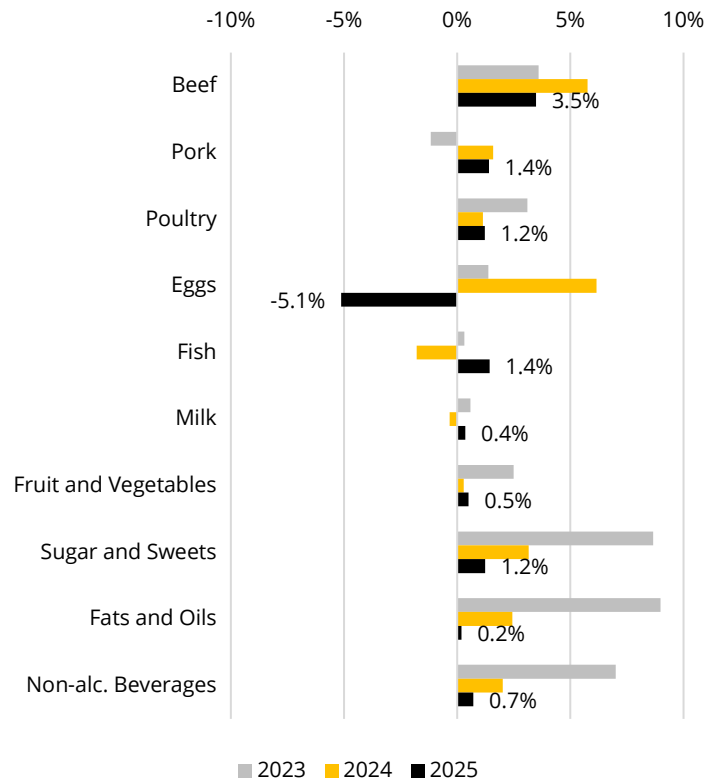


**Food Prices Projected to Cool in 2025 and Beyond, Still Higher Than Pre-Pandemic Levels**

After spiking in 2022, consumer food inflation is expected to slow to 2.2% in 2024. The consumer price index (CPI) for food at home is rising even more slowly this year (1.0%), while prices for food consumed away from home are increasing by 4.1%, according to [FAPRI-MU's U.S. Farm Income and Consumer Food Prices report](#). Assuming a continuation of current policies and normal economic conditions, food inflation is projected to stabilize around 2% per year after 2025 (Figure 1).

Compared to last year, inflation for most major food categories is projected to ease in 2024, with a few exceptions. Soft production pushes up beef prices, while a resurgence of avian influenza is driving egg prices higher again. Assuming greater domestic availability in 2025, the annual CPI changes for beef and eggs are expected to slow to 3.5% and -5.1%, respectively. Other food categories are projected to see modest price increases (Figure 2). Despite the projected price decrease, the 2025 CPI for eggs remains 35% higher than in 2021. Similarly, prices for most major food categories in 2025 are expected to stay well above pre-pandemic levels.

**Figure 2. CPI Changes for Selected Food Categories, 2023-25**



Understanding food inflation trends is crucial for consumers and businesses as they plan ahead, and these insights can help with pricing strategies and managing supply chain risks. These projections can allow businesses to adjust expectations and consumers to prepare for ongoing cost pressure at the grocery store and restaurants.

**Figure 1. Food Inflation is Projected to Stabilize Beyond 2025**

