

Incomes Are Rising Faster Than Prices Throughout the Country

Wages and salaries have risen significantly throughout the United States since January 2021. Updated calculations by the JEC Democrats find that average U.S. wages and salaries grew by **nearly \$16,700** between January 2021 and April 2024, outpacing price growth during that period by nearly \$3,800. In addition, new calculations show that wage growth outpaced price growth in **nearly every state** through the end of 2023. It is clear that while costs have risen due to pandemic disruptions and global conflicts, incomes have grown faster.

Additionally, the Biden administration and Congressional Democrats like JEC Chairman Martin Heinrich are continuing to [fight](#) to lower food costs, and data for recent months show that grocery prices are [now falling](#). These efforts—alongside those to reduce the cost of [prescription drugs](#), crack down on [junk fees](#), and invest in [supply chains](#) to help goods move faster—are just some of the ways the Biden administration and Congressional Democrats are working to further cut costs for families.

Average Wages and Salaries Have Outpaced Inflation by Nearly \$3,800 Since January 2021

	Total Wages and Salaries	Consumer Units	Average Wages and Salaries Per Consumer Unit
January 2021	\$9,887,600,000,000	133,595,000	\$74,012
April 2024	\$12,249,500,000,000	135,085,509	\$90,680
Increase from January 2021 to April 2024			\$16,668

Price increase from January 2021 to April 2024 \$12,892

Income Increase - Price Increase **\$3,776**

Source: Table 2.6 Personal Income and Outlays (BEA), Consumer Units (BLS), JEC Republican Staff
 Note: Consumer units are annual values for 2021 and an annual extrapolation for 2024 that applies the observed growth rate from 2021 to 2022 to the 2022 value to estimate the 2023 and then the 2024 value. Consumer units are defined as all members of a housing unit who make collective expenditure decisions and are used here to align with the methodology used in the State Inflation Tracker.

This income growth is the direct result of the massive employment recovery and strong wage growth that has occurred since President Biden took office, with the economy [adding](#) over 15 million jobs between January 2021 and today. This growth has also come with notable wage [increases](#) for middle- and low-income Americans, which has helped [narrow](#) income inequality for the first time in decades.

Across the country, incomes also grew faster than prices through the end of 2023

This strong wage growth has been spread out across the country, with average wages and salaries growing faster than average prices in nearly every state. This coincided with strong state-by-state employment growth throughout this period, and shows how the strong economic growth spurred by Democrats' investments in workers and families has been felt throughout the country. While the most recent data at the state level is for the last quarter of 2023, the strong national-level income growth through April shown above is a good sign that wages and salaries have also continued to grow at the state level.

Average Wages and Salaries Outpaced Price Growth Across the Country From Early 2021 Through the End of 2023

State Name	Increase in Wages and Salaries	Increase in Prices	Difference Between Wage Growth and Price Growth
Alabama	\$11,549	\$9,482	\$2,067
Alaska	\$17,672	\$12,772	\$4,900
Arizona	\$13,381	\$12,833	\$548
Arkansas	\$11,324	\$8,453	\$2,871
California	\$18,888	\$12,828	\$6,060
Colorado	\$20,020	\$14,437	\$5,583
Connecticut	\$15,122	\$10,919	\$4,203
Delaware	\$13,075	\$12,424	\$651
District of Columbia	\$44,838	\$16,942	\$27,896
Florida	\$16,550	\$12,813	\$3,738
Georgia	\$15,203	\$11,248	\$3,955
Hawaii	\$17,542	\$12,403	\$5,139
Idaho	\$12,303	\$11,754	\$549
Illinois	\$17,842	\$11,382	\$6,460
Indiana	\$13,476	\$9,929	\$3,547
Iowa	\$12,258	\$10,046	\$2,212
Kansas	\$13,572	\$10,887	\$2,685
Kentucky	\$13,754	\$9,403	\$4,351
Louisiana	\$12,930	\$9,510	\$3,420
Maine	\$12,790	\$8,805	\$3,984
Maryland	\$14,989	\$12,654	\$2,336
Massachusetts	\$17,543	\$11,496	\$6,047
Michigan	\$13,572	\$10,268	\$3,304
Minnesota	\$15,121	\$12,395	\$2,726

Mississippi	\$8,602	\$8,833	-\$231
Missouri	\$13,682	\$10,993	\$2,689
Montana	\$13,175	\$12,161	\$1,014
Nebraska	\$13,978	\$11,239	\$2,738
Nevada	\$21,439	\$12,802	\$8,637
New Hampshire	\$15,827	\$10,869	\$4,959
New Jersey	\$17,107	\$11,177	\$5,931
New Mexico	\$13,813	\$11,085	\$2,728
New York	\$24,301	\$10,980	\$13,320
North Carolina	\$15,362	\$10,643	\$4,718
North Dakota	\$18,712	\$11,335	\$7,377
Ohio	\$13,363	\$9,790	\$3,573
Oklahoma	\$11,462	\$8,791	\$2,671
Oregon	\$15,510	\$9,758	\$5,753
Pennsylvania	\$14,815	\$9,406	\$5,409
Rhode Island	\$14,970	\$9,386	\$5,584
South Carolina	\$12,094	\$10,342	\$1,752
South Dakota	\$11,251	\$11,317	-\$66
Tennessee	\$13,717	\$9,941	\$3,775
Texas	\$17,229	\$11,072	\$6,158
Utah	\$16,037	\$14,011	\$2,026
Vermont	\$13,447	\$9,285	\$4,162
Virginia	\$17,238	\$12,111	\$5,127
Washington	\$22,114	\$10,937	\$11,177
West Virginia	\$10,283	\$9,299	\$984
Wisconsin	\$13,830	\$9,969	\$3,861
Wyoming	\$15,022	\$12,504	\$2,518

Source: Table SQINC4 State quarterly personal income, population (BEA), Consumer Units (BLS), JEC Republican Staff

Note: Calculations are done comparing Q4 2020 to Q4 2023 values for wages and salaries by state. Consumer units are allocated at the state level using BEA data on population. Consumer units for 2021 come from BLS, and the 2023 value is an annual extrapolation for 2023 using the observed growth rate from 2021 to 2022 applied to the 2022 value.

Overall, these data show that income growth is putting money back into people's pockets across the country, even after accounting for cost increases. Democrats have shown that they are up to the task of passing laws and enacting policies that can drive down costs while supporting workers and boosting wages.