



Joint Economic Committee

Republicans

Representative David Schweikert • Vice Chairman

November 2023 CPI Release

Republican Staff Commentary

Headline CPI-U inflation increased 0.1 percent m/m.

- The food price index increased 0.2 percent m/m.
- The energy index decreased 2.3 percent m/m.

Core CPI-U inflation increased 0.3 percent m/m.

- Core inflation excludes food and energy prices, which tend to be more volatile.

Real average weekly earnings for all employees increased by 0.5 percent m/m.

- Real average weekly earnings for production and non-supervisory employees increased 0.7 percent m/m.
- Weekly earnings are a better estimate of income than hourly earnings.

Year-over-year inflation:

- Headline CPI-U inflation increased 3.1 percent y/y.
 - The food price index increased 2.9 percent y/y.
 - The energy price index decreased 5.4 percent y/y.
- Core CPI inflation increased 4.0 percent y/y.
 - This exceeds the Federal Reserve's 2% target.

Year-over-year earnings:

- Real average weekly earnings for all employees increased 0.5 percent y/y.
 - Real average weekly earnings for production and non-supervisory employees increased 1.0 percent y/y.

Since January 2021:

- Headline CPI-U inflation has increased 17.2 percent.
 - The food price index increased 20.2 percent.
 - The energy price index increased 32.3 percent.
- Core CPI-U increased 15.5 percent.
- Real average weekly earnings for all employees decreased 4.5 percent.
 - Real average weekly earnings for production and non-supervisory employees decreased 3.2 percent.

All m/m changes are seasonally adjusted.

[Link to the updated Joint Economic Committee's State Inflation Tracker](#)

Economic Context

Today's inflation-related data releases showcase generally positive economic news, but include a reminder that the effects of previous inflationary damage remain.

- M/m changes to headline CPI-U remains near zero, with increases in services prices balanced by decreases in energy prices.
- Core CPI-U remains elevated, driven by increases in shelter prices and medical services.
- Over the past two months increases in shelter prices and decreases in energy prices have effectively canceled each other out.

- But energy prices are highly variable, which is why they are excluded from core inflation metrics.
- The recent spike in m/m inflation in August and September was driven by abrupt increases in energy commodity prices.

While the media narratives may be focused on the idea that a recession seems unlikely in the near future, we should remember that a soft landing doesn't make up for the turbulence suffered during the descent.

- Prices, on average, are 17.2 percent higher than they were before the start of this inflation episode.
- Real average weekly earnings are substantially lower than they were before the start of this inflation episode.

Some Additional Color

The astonishingly inexpensive grocery bill featured in the Christmas movie "Home Alone" has gained recent media attention. According to these reports, Kevin McAllister paid just \$19.83 in December 1990, but the same purchase at the same grocery store [would cost \\$54.94 today](#), an increase of 177 percent.

That's a bit more expensive than the national rise prices for food at home, but much of the increase has come in the last few years:

- Prices for food at home have risen [126.6 percent](#) since December 1990.
 - Almost a third of that increase has occurred in the last 3 years.
- The effect of recent inflation is [pretty easy to see](#):

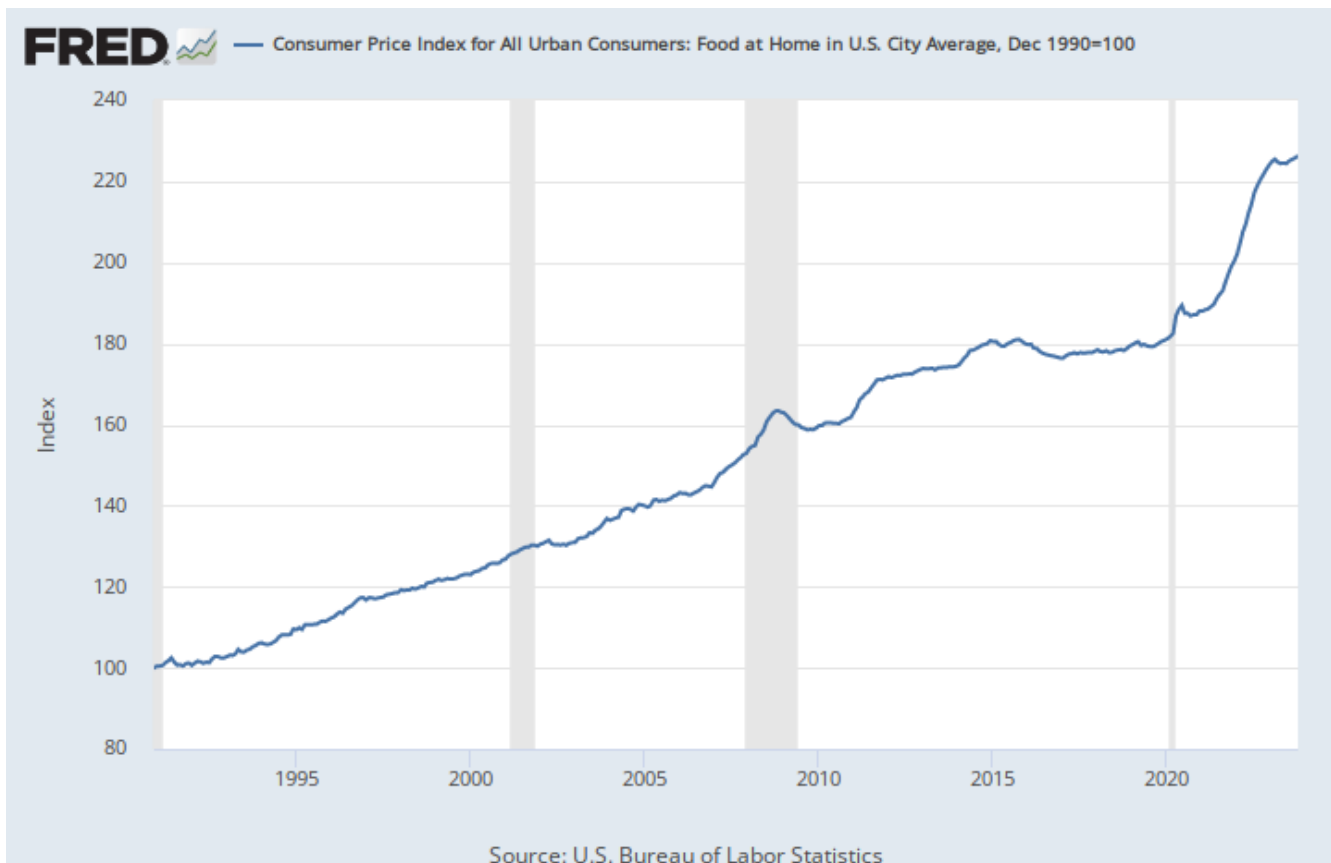


Table 1. CPI Indicators

12/12/2023

After seasonal adjustment

	Nov-23	Oct-23	Difference
Consumer Price Index			
M/M	0.10%	0.04%	0.05%
Y/Y	3.12%	3.23%	-0.11%
Core Consumer Price Index			
M/M	0.28%	0.23%	0.06%
Y/Y	3.99%	4.02%	-0.03%
Real Average Hourly Earnings (All Employees)			
M/M	0.20%	-0.10%	0.30%
Y/Y	0.80%	0.50%	0.30%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, JEC Republican Staff

* Discrepancy from monthly figures due to rounding.

Table 2. CPI Forecast Error

12/12/2023

	Actual	Clev. Fed Forecast	Error
Consumer Price Index			
M/M	0.10%	-0.01%	0.11%
Y/Y	3.12%	3.04%	0.08%
Core Consumer Price Index			
M/M	0.28%	0.33%	-0.05%
Y/Y	3.99%	3.98%	0.01%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Cleveland Fed, JEC Republican Staff

* Discrepancy from monthly figures due to rounding.

**Table 3. How much did Bidenflation cost
U.S. families this month?**

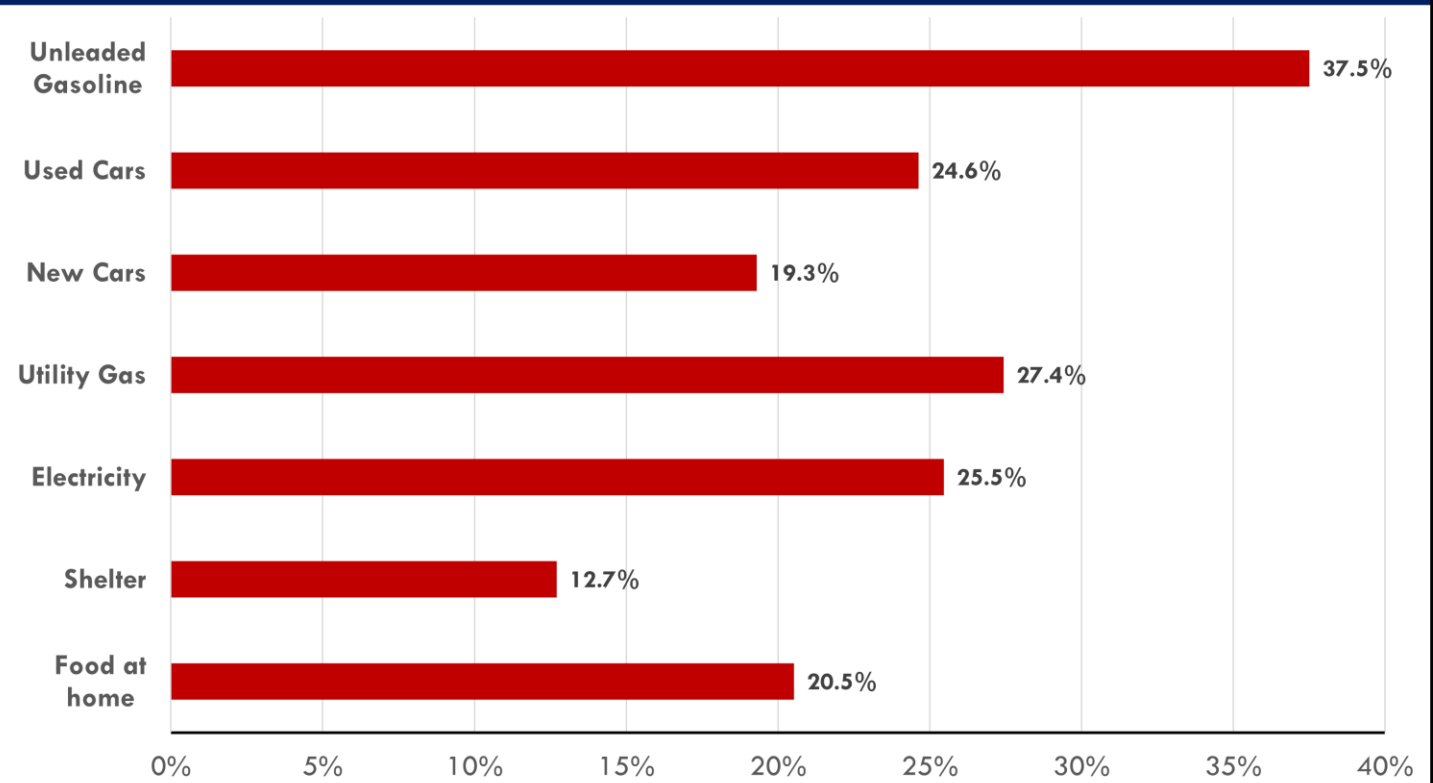
12/12/2023

Rank	State	Overall	Food	Shelter	Energy
41	Alabama	\$ 806	\$ 124	\$ 142	\$ 89
6	Alaska	\$ 1,074	\$ 161	\$ 231	\$ 159
5	Arizona	\$ 1,074	\$ 140	\$ 242	\$ 150
51	Arkansas	\$ 705	\$ 102	\$ 128	\$ 86
4	California	\$ 1,079	\$ 162	\$ 232	\$ 160
2	Colorado	\$ 1,209	\$ 157	\$ 272	\$ 169
28	Connecticut	\$ 920	\$ 132	\$ 190	\$ 122
13	Delaware	\$ 1,037	\$ 128	\$ 251	\$ 105
1	District of Columbia	\$ 1,414	\$ 174	\$ 342	\$ 143
8	Florida	\$ 1,069	\$ 132	\$ 259	\$ 108
23	Georgia	\$ 939	\$ 116	\$ 227	\$ 95
12	Hawaii	\$ 1,043	\$ 156	\$ 224	\$ 154
16	Idaho	\$ 984	\$ 128	\$ 222	\$ 137
21	Illinois	\$ 958	\$ 154	\$ 179	\$ 102
38	Indiana	\$ 835	\$ 134	\$ 156	\$ 89
35	Iowa	\$ 860	\$ 120	\$ 138	\$ 78
24	Kansas	\$ 932	\$ 130	\$ 150	\$ 85
42	Kentucky	\$ 800	\$ 123	\$ 140	\$ 88
43	Louisiana	\$ 793	\$ 115	\$ 144	\$ 97
49	Maine	\$ 742	\$ 107	\$ 153	\$ 99
10	Maryland	\$ 1,056	\$ 130	\$ 255	\$ 107
19	Massachusetts	\$ 969	\$ 139	\$ 200	\$ 129
33	Michigan	\$ 864	\$ 139	\$ 162	\$ 92
9	Minnesota	\$ 1,061	\$ 148	\$ 170	\$ 97
48	Mississippi	\$ 751	\$ 116	\$ 132	\$ 83
22	Missouri	\$ 941	\$ 132	\$ 151	\$ 86
14	Montana	\$ 1,018	\$ 133	\$ 229	\$ 142
20	Nebraska	\$ 962	\$ 135	\$ 155	\$ 88
7	Nevada	\$ 1,072	\$ 140	\$ 241	\$ 150
30	New Hampshire	\$ 916	\$ 131	\$ 189	\$ 122
25	New Jersey	\$ 931	\$ 147	\$ 195	\$ 101
26	New Mexico	\$ 928	\$ 121	\$ 209	\$ 130
31	New York	\$ 915	\$ 144	\$ 191	\$ 99
32	North Carolina	\$ 888	\$ 110	\$ 215	\$ 90
17	North Dakota	\$ 971	\$ 136	\$ 156	\$ 88
39	Ohio	\$ 824	\$ 132	\$ 154	\$ 88
50	Oklahoma	\$ 733	\$ 106	\$ 133	\$ 90
40	Oregon	\$ 820	\$ 123	\$ 176	\$ 121
45	Pennsylvania	\$ 784	\$ 124	\$ 164	\$ 85
44	Rhode Island	\$ 791	\$ 114	\$ 163	\$ 105
34	South Carolina	\$ 863	\$ 106	\$ 209	\$ 88
18	South Dakota	\$ 969	\$ 136	\$ 156	\$ 88
36	Tennessee	\$ 845	\$ 131	\$ 148	\$ 93
27	Texas	\$ 923	\$ 134	\$ 168	\$ 113
3	Utah	\$ 1,173	\$ 153	\$ 264	\$ 164
46	Vermont	\$ 782	\$ 112	\$ 161	\$ 104
15	Virginia	\$ 1,011	\$ 125	\$ 244	\$ 102
29	Washington	\$ 920	\$ 138	\$ 198	\$ 136
47	West Virginia	\$ 776	\$ 96	\$ 188	\$ 79
37	Wisconsin	\$ 839	\$ 135	\$ 157	\$ 89
11	Wyoming	\$ 1,047	\$ 136	\$ 236	\$ 146
	U.S. Average	\$ 940	\$ 135	\$ 196	\$ 111

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, JEC Republican Staff

Increased prices have Americans Seeing Red

Increase in prices for various items since January 2021



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI-U data

Ranked CPI-U Changes (Major Expenditure Categories)

M/M	
Utility (piped) gas service	2.79%
Energy services	1.73%
Used cars and trucks	1.58%
Electricity	1.43%
Transportation services	1.06%
Public transportation	0.99%
Motor vehicle insurance	0.96%
Medical care services	0.60%
Physicians' services(1)	0.55%
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)	0.50%
Rent of primary residence	0.48%
Services less energy services	0.47%
Medical care commodities(1)	0.46%
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	0.46%
Cereals and bakery products	0.45%
Shelter	0.45%
Food away from home(1)	0.43%
Fruits and vegetables	0.34%
All items less food and energy	0.28%
Motor vehicle maintenance and repair(1)	0.27%
Food	0.22%
Hospital services(1)(3)	0.12%
Food at home	0.11%
Dairy and related products	0.10%
All items	0.10%
Education and communication services	0.07%
New vehicles (cars and trucks)	-0.06%
Other food at home	-0.11%
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	-0.23%
Commodities less food and energy commodities	-0.30%
Airline fares	-0.39%
Recreation commodities	-0.61%
Apparel	-1.29%
Energy	-2.29%
Education and communication commodities	-2.55%
Fuel oil(1)	-2.65%
Energy commodities	-5.80%
Motor fuel	-5.99%
Gasoline (all types)	-6.02%

Y/Y	
Motor vehicle insurance	19.2%
Transportation services	10.1%
Motor vehicle maintenance and repair(1)	8.5%
Rent of primary residence	6.9%
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)	6.7%
Shelter	6.5%
Services less energy services	5.5%
Food away from home(1)	5.3%
Medical care commodities(1)	5.0%
All items less food and energy	4.0%
Cereals and bakery products	3.4%
Electricity	3.4%
Other food at home	3.3%
All items	3.1%
Food	3.0%
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	2.9%
Food at home	1.7%
Education and communication services	1.4%
New vehicles (cars and trucks)	1.3%
Apparel	1.2%
Fruits and vegetables	0.4%
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	0.1%
Energy services	0.0%
Hospital services(1)(3)	0.0%
Commodities less food and energy commodities	0.0%
Recreation commodities	-0.6%
Physicians' services(1)	-0.7%
Medical care services	-0.9%
Dairy and related products	-1.4%
Used cars and trucks	-3.8%
Energy	-5.4%
Education and communication commodities	-7.9%
Public transportation	-8.1%
Gasoline (all types)	-8.9%
Motor fuel	-9.2%
Energy commodities	-9.8%
Utility (piped) gas service	-10.4%
Airline fares	-12.1%
Fuel oil(1)	-24.8%

Since January 2021	
Fuel oil(1)	70.9%
Motor vehicle insurance	39.6%
Energy commodities	37.6%
Motor fuel	36.9%
Gasoline (all types)	36.6%
Energy	32.3%
Transportation services	30.9%
Utility (piped) gas service	27.4%
Motor vehicle maintenance and repair(1)	26.8%
Energy services	26.0%
Cereals and bakery products	25.8%
Electricity	25.5%
Used cars and trucks	24.6%
Other food at home	23.9%
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	21.2%
Food at home	20.5%
Airline fares	20.3%
Food	20.2%
Food away from home(1)	20.0%
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	19.7%
New vehicles (cars and trucks)	19.3%
Rent of primary residence	18.6%
Shelter	18.2%
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)	17.9%
All items	17.2%
Services less energy services	16.3%
Dairy and related products	15.8%
All items less food and energy	15.5%
Public transportation	14.9%
Fruits and vegetables	14.5%
Commodities less food and energy commodities	13.3%
Hospital services(1)(3)	12.1%
Medical care commodities(1)	8.8%
Apparel	8.6%
Recreation commodities	6.6%
Medical care services	5.3%
Education and communication services	5.2%
Physicians' services(1)	3.5%
Education and communication commodities	-15.9%