



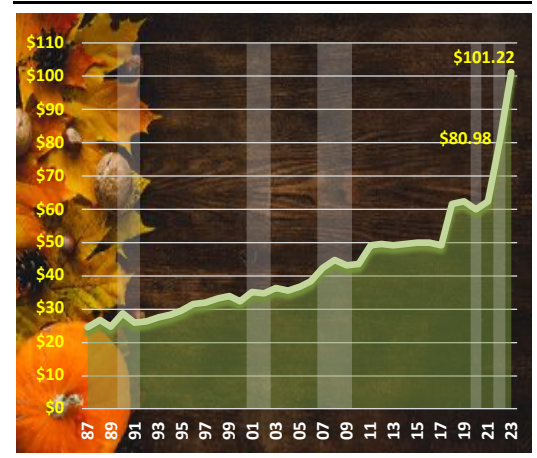
MERIDIAN ECONOMICS THANKSGIVING INDEX

ANNUAL COST OF A TRADITIONAL (YET MODEST) THANKSGIVING DINNER

2023 Meridian Economics Thanksgiving Index

		2023		Annual Change	
		Unit	TOTAL	Amount	Pct
1	1 - 12-pound Turkey	\$ 1.99	\$ 23.88	\$ (3.12)	-15%
2	1 - 12-ounce package of cubed stuffing	3.99	3.99	0.08	2%
3	1 - 1 pound of frozen green beans	2.99	2.99	0.64	34%
4	1 - 1 pound of russet potatoes	1.69	1.69	0.04	3%
5	1 - 1 pound of sweet potatoes	1.99	1.99	0.34	27%
6	1 ea - 1 bunch Carrots & Celery	1.25	2.50	0.06	3%
7	1 - 10-ounce can of cranberry jelly	2.79	2.79	0.22	7%
8	Miscellaneous seasonings & ingredients	4.99	4.99	0.86	25%
9	1 - Half pint of whipped cream	2.29	2.29	0.05	3%
10	1 - One dozen dinner rolls	4.49	4.49	0.76	30%
11	1 - 1-pound of butter	6.49	6.49	1.97	62%
12	2 - prepackaged pie crusts	3.59	7.18	2.48	71%
13	1 - 20-ounce can of pumpkin pie mix	5.69	5.69	1.41	39%
14	1 - Gallon of whole or 2% milk	3.29	3.29	(0.55)	-22%
15	Various beverages	8.99	26.97	15.00	187%
TOTAL THANKSGIVING DINNER		56.51	\$ 101.22	\$ 20.24	33%

Total Cost of Thanksgiving



(November 2023)..... Based on a traditional Thanksgiving dinner menu - and a little bit of "from scratch" cooking - over the lips and past our gums will require us to open our wallets a little wider this holiday season... The average unit price tag for the Meridian Economics' Thanksgiving Index rose to \$56.51, an increase of \$18.99 over 2022, or about 31%.

The "Total Cost of Thanksgiving," which accumulates the total cost of all 15 elements of a very modest dinner, increased to \$101.22 from last year's total of \$80.98 or about \$20.24 over 2022 - and that doesn't even guarantee adequate leftovers for watching that fourth football game for the day.

All but two elements experienced year-over-year unit and cost increases over the previous year. The biggest increase was related to whatever you choose to wash everything down your gullet - as the unit beverage costs increased by +\$15, or +187%) ... The cost of milk

HIGHLIGHTS

According to September's inflation report, grocery prices have increased by 2.4% over the past twelve months while prices for food eaten away from home have increased by 6.0% - so for this year. This reverses 2022 results that proved cheaper to order most of your thanksgiving dinner from your favorite BBQ or smokehouse - particularly saving that 20% tip ...

Of course, venturing out to Grandma's house might be costly as well as average gasoline prices remain about 3.0% higher from a year ago although average airline ticket prices are down about -13.4%. Annualized consumer prices rose 3.7% for the twelve months ending on September 30th. And fortunately, median wages in the US rose by 4.2% so purchasing power - at least for some things - has improved but the immediate future might not be as prosperous as we'd like. But remember, over the past two years, consumer prices have increased more than 25%.

So as you travel over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house you go, let's be sure and take some time to express our gratitude for family and friends and for the many blessings that we enjoy, especially for the freedom and liberty we sometimes take for granted living in a nation that has been set apart specifically for these latter days.