



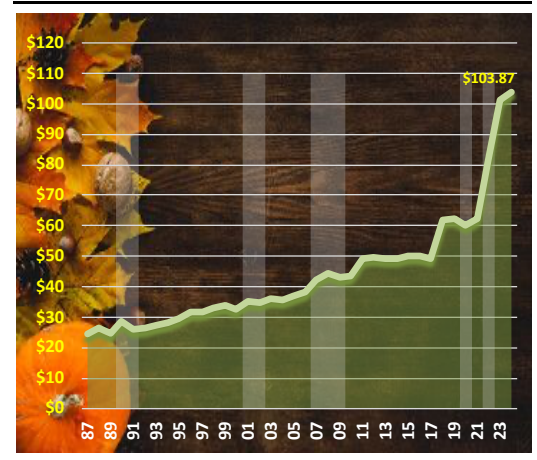
MERIDIAN ECONOMICS THANKSGIVING INDEX

ANNUAL COST OF A TRADITIONAL (YET MODEST) THANKSGIVING DINNER

2024 Meridian Economics Thanksgiving Index

		2024		Annual Change	
		Unit	TOTAL	Amount	Pct
1	1 - 12-pound Turkey	\$ 2.25	\$ 27.00	\$ 3.12	13%
2	1 - 12-ounce package of cubed stuffing	3.49	3.49	(0.50)	-13%
3	1 - 1 pound of frozen green beans	2.00	2.00	(0.99)	-33%
4	1 - 1 pound of russet potatoes	1.00	1.00	(0.69)	-41%
5	1 - 1 pound of sweet potatoes	0.89	0.89	(1.10)	-55%
6	1 ea - 1 bunch Carrots & Celery	1.28	2.56	0.06	2%
7	1 - 10-ounce can of cranberry jelly	2.49	2.49	(0.30)	-11%
8	Miscellaneous seasonings & ingredients	5.00	5.00	0.01	0%
9	1 - Half pint of whipped cream	2.15	2.15	(0.15)	-6%
10	1 - One dozen dinner rolls	3.99	3.99	(0.50)	-11%
11	1 - 1-pound of butter	5.99	5.99	(0.50)	-8%
12	2 - prepackaged pie crusts	4.98	9.96	2.78	39%
13	1 - 20-ounce can of pumpkin pie mix	3.32	3.32	(2.37)	-42%
14	1 - Gallon of whole or 2% milk	3.25	3.25	(0.04)	-1%
15	Various beverages	10.26	30.78	3.81	14%
TOTAL THANKSGIVING DINNER		52.34	\$ 103.87	\$ 2.65	2.6%

Total Cost of Thanksgiving



(November 2024)..... 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... Surprisingly, shifts between cheaper/more expensive items, the average unit price tag for the Meridian Economics' Thanksgiving Index actually declined to \$52.34 from last year's \$56.51, a decrease of \$(4.18), or about -7%.

But the "Total Cost of Thanksgiving," which accumulates the total cost of all 15 elements of a very modest dinner, increased to \$103.87 from last year's total of \$101.22, about \$2.65 over 2023, or +2.6% - and that doesn't even guarantee adequate leftovers for watching that fourth football game for the day.

All but five elements experienced year-over-year unit and cost decreases over the previous year. The biggest increase was related to the turkey itself followed by whatever you choose to wash everything down your gullet.

HIGHLIGHTS

According to October's inflation report, food prices have increased by 2.1% over the past twelve months. Grocery prices have increased less than food bought at restaurants. This reverses 2023 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 less costly as well as average gasoline prices has dropped about -12.2% lower from a year ago although average airline ticket prices are up about +4.4%. Annualized consumer prices rose 2.6% for the twelve months ending on October 31st, but core inflation remains +3.3% higher. And fortunately, median wages in the US rose by 3.9% 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.