

### MERIDIAN ECONOMICS Trusted Insight, Effective Solutions



Business & Industry Consulting

2022 PNC Christmas Price Index

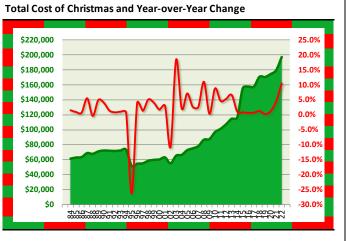
Market Analysis Strategic Solutions Risk Management

**Regulatory Exper** 

# PNC CHRISTMAS PRICE INDEX

**Total Cost of 12 Days of Christmas** 

#### Unit YoY Total YoY Day Unit Unit Ch Cost Total Ch 280 1 Partridge in a Pear Tree 12 \$ 25.8% Ś 3,362 25.8% 2 **Turtle Doves** 11 600 33.3% 6,600 33.3% 3 French Hens 10 319 25.0% 3,188 25.0% Calling Birds 9 600 0.0% 5.400 0.0% 5 Gold Rings 8 1.245 9,960 39.1% 39.1% Geese A-Laying 720 9.1% 5,040 9.1% 6 7 7 Swans A-Swimming 6 13,125 0.0% 78,750 0.0% 8 Maids A-Milking 5 58 0.0% 290 0.0% Ladies Dancing 4 8,308 9 10.0% 33,232 10.0% Lord A-Leaping 13.980 41.940 10 3 24.2% 24.2% 11 **Pipers Piping** 2 3,021 2.6% 6,043 2.6% 12 **Drummers Drumming** 1 3.267 2.6% 3.267 2.6% \$45.523 **Total Overall Cost** 78 10.5% \$ 197.071 9.8% Total "Core" Cost \$32,398 72 15.4% \$ 118,322 17.5%



(December 2022)..... Based on the gifts in the holiday classic, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," true love will need significantly more money on-hand to fill stockings this holiday shopping season. The average unit price tag for the PNC CPI Index in 2022 was \$45,523, an increase of \$4,118 over 2021, or about 10.5%. The allocation of the total gifts has a interesting impact on the total cost.

The "True Cost of Christmas," which accumulates the total cost of all 78 units (364 gifts), increased to \$197,071 from last year's total of \$179,454 - or about 9.8%. The "Core" cost of Christmas - excluding the more volatile and unpredictable gift prices - was \$118,322, compared with last year's total of \$100,704.

With rising costs experienced in the employment sector, average wage-related costs for the five related items were 15.3% higher. Five of the remaining seven items experienced a collective average increase of 5.4%.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Year 2022 proved to be another one for the birds, as supply and demand forces created market competition within the fowl sector, namely for Partridges, Turtle Doves and French Hens, who's collective price increased 29.4% - mainly due to higher cost of feed. The market for Calling Birds and Swans A-Swimming was unchanged for another year.

After falling -5.3% in 2021, Gold Rings increased in price by 39.1% in 2022 - the highest increase of all elements. This coincides with increases in the spot price for gold as Santa has been hoarding precious metals to fight inflation. Geese A-Laying continued their upward migration, climbing 9.1% percent in 2022, after jumping 15.8% in 2021 and 35.7% in 2020.

As for the state of the Arts, the lifting of pandemic restrictions led to an increase in live performances but the tight labor market caused the cost for Lords-a-leaping, Pipers Piping, Drummers Drumming and Ladies Dancing to increase a collective 15.3%. Ladies-Dancing wages rose 10% while Lord A-Leaping increased 24.2% - something that certainly will continue to fuel arguments over wage inequality.

Moreover, the cost for Maids A-Milking (the only unskilled workers in the index), hasn't changed in more than a decade, reflecting the stagnate level in minimum wage rates.

So you better watch out, better not cry, better not pout over those outrageous FedEx and UPS shipping costs (for you internet shoppers) after all, it's the holiday season.

### Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!

**President & Chief Economist** 

## 972.740.9531

bturner@Meridian-ally.com www.Meridian-ally.com