



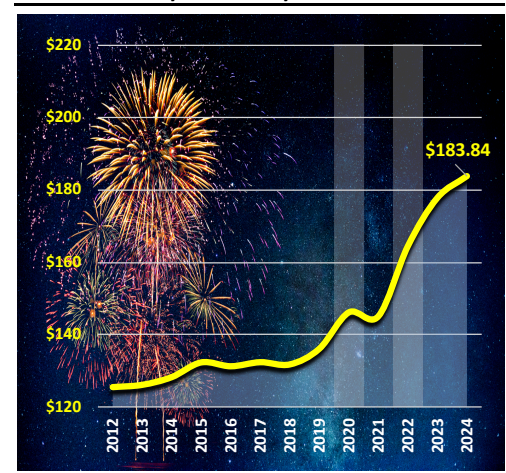
## MERIDIAN ECONOMICS' INDEPENDENCE DAY INDEX

ANNUAL COST OF A TRADITIONAL (YET MODEST) JULY 4th PICNIC

### 2024 Meridian Economics Independence Day Index

		Units	2024 Unit	2024 TOTAL	Annual Change Amount	Annual Change Pct
1	Hot Dog Frankfurters	2	\$ 5.99	\$ 11.98	\$ 0.87	7.3%
2	Hamburger Meat	5	4.99	24.95	1.22	4.9%
3	Hot Dog Buns	2	4.29	8.58	0.36	4.2%
4	Hamburger Buns	2	4.29	8.58	0.36	4.2%
5	Chips & Snacks	2	4.99	9.98	(0.13)	-1.3%
6	Potato Salad	2	4.99	9.98	(0.32)	-3.2%
7	Baked Beans	2	2.50	5.00	0.23	4.6%
8	Corn on the Cob	12	0.50	6.00	0.08	1.3%
9	Soda	3	9.99	29.97	0.69	2.3%
10	Lemonade	3	3.49	10.47	2.01	19.2%
11	Beer	1	18.77	18.77	0.24	1.3%
12	Condiments	9	1.18	10.62	0.21	2.0%
	- lettuce	2	1.99	3.98	0.04	1.0%
	- tomato	4	0.82	3.28	0.13	3.9%
	- onion	3	1.12	3.36	0.03	1.0%
13	Ice Cream	2	9.49	18.98	0.19	1.0%
14	Cup Cakes	2	4.99	9.98	(0.02)	-0.2%
<b>TOTAL JULY 4th HOLIDAY PICNIC</b>		<b>49</b>	<b>\$ 3.63</b>	<b>\$ 183.84</b>	<b>\$ 6.00</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

### Total Cost of July 4th Holiday Picnic



**(July 2024)**..... Based on a traditional Fourth of July picnic menu - it will require us to open our wallets a little wider this holiday season... The average unit price tag for the Meridian Economics' Independence Day Index rose to \$3.63, an increase of \$0.10 over 2023, or about 3.1%.

The "Total Cost of Fourth of July Picnic Menu", which accumulates the total cost of all 14 elements for a very modest menu, increased to \$183.84 from last year's total of \$177.84 or about \$6.00 and 3.4% over 2023.

All but three elements experienced year-over-year unit and cost increases over the previous year. The biggest increase was related to quashing down that lemonade - as the unit beverage costs increased by +\$2, or +19% ... The cost of filling that hot dog and hamburger bun with meat was the next two highest increases of \$0.87 and \$1.22, or 7.3% and 4.9% year-over-year, respectively .

### HIGHLIGHTS

According to May's inflation report, grocery prices have increased by 1.0% over the past twelve months while prices for food eaten away from home have increased by 4.0%. This certainly reflects a slowdown in the pace of rising prices from 2023's cost increases of 5.8% for groceries and 8.3% for ordering from a restaurant or catering the festival.

Of course, venturing out to the lake or to Grandma's house this year might be even more costly as well, as average gasoline prices remain about 2.2% higher than a year ago. Annualized consumer prices rose 3.4% for the twelve months ending on May 31st - **equal to our Index**. And fortunately, median annualized wages in the US rose by 4.1% through May, so purchasing power - at least for some things - has improved. But remember, while consumer prices have increased more than 21% over the past 4 years, average wages have increased only 11%.

So as you explode those cherry bombs, blast those black cats and shoot your bottle rockets, 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 and for those who have given their lives to protect our unalienable rights - Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

**God Bless America!!!!**