

TABLE TRIMMING:

**AMERICANS ARE CUTTING COSTS
AS TRUMP AND REPUBLICANS MAKE
THANKSGIVING MORE EXPENSIVE
THIS YEAR**



DEFEND AMERICA
ACTION



TABLE TRIMMING:

**Americans Are Cutting Costs As Trump
and Republicans Make Thanksgiving More
Expensive This Year**

*Trump and Republicans Foil Thanksgiving Feasts With Skyrocketing
Food Prices and Travel Turmoil*

This year, as Americans gather around dining tables across the country to celebrate Thanksgiving, the annual feast will cost them significantly more. Turkey prices are way up since last year, and other key staples ranging from cranberry sauce to potatoes have seen prices rise twice or thrice as fast as inflation overall. More than half of Americans consider the cost of groceries a “major” source of financial stress, and Donald Trump’s tariffs are hitting low- and middle-income Americans the hardest. Nearly half of Americans are trading turkey for cheaper alternatives like chicken, and nearly a quarter plan on cooking fewer desserts or cutting portion sizes to cut costs for Thanksgiving this year. Meanwhile, Trump is burying his head in the sand, spewing **blatant lies** denying rising costs.

To make matters even worse, millions of travelers are still facing the prospect of severe delays and cancellations after Republicans shut down the federal government and went on vacation for over a month as working families and airport staff went without paychecks, and millions continue to face the prospect of **massive health care cost increases**.

While Trump and Republicans spend billions bailing out their allies and handing out tax breaks to billionaires, Americans are facing higher prices with fewer resources. Many Americans will find themselves clipping coupons, cutting costs, and waiting in long lines instead of settling in for a relaxing holiday with family and friends.

Signed

Rep. Flavia DeBrito (Maine)
Rep. Luz Bay (New Hampshire)
Rep. Wendy Thomas (New Hampshire)
Rep. Jessica LaMontagne (New Hampshire)
Rep. Dr. Anna Eskamani (Florida)
Del. Teresa Woorman (Maryland)
Rep. Arvind Venkat (Pennsylvania)
Rep. Dan Bergeron (New Hampshire)
Sen. Sara Kyle (Tennessee)
Rep. Laurie Pohutsky (Michigan)
Rep. Timothy Horrigan (New Hampshire)
Sen. Art Staed (Iowa)
Sen. Cathy Kipp (Colorado)
Rep. Marc Plamondon (New Hampshire)



KEY POINTS

Americans Are Deeply Concerned About Unaffordable Food Prices

- **PRICED OUT OF THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS:** Research sponsored by Empower shows that **57 percent of Americans are being “priced out” of their own kitchens** this Thanksgiving, saying groceries are **too expensive** to cook for the holiday at home:
 - Nearly half of Americans (47 percent) are trading turkey for cheaper alternatives like chicken this year
 - **One in ten** Americans don’t plan on serving a main protein due to costs, relying on side dishes instead
 - **Nearly a quarter** of Americans plan on cooking fewer desserts or cutting portion sizes to cut costs for Thanksgiving this year
 - **16 percent** of Americans are shifting from name brands to store labels to cut costs for Thanksgiving this year
- **GROWING CONCERN OVER RISING FOOD PRICES:** **New polling** shows that over half of Americans consider the cost of groceries a major source of financial stress. Low- and middle-income Americans have been bearing the brunt of Trump’s tariffs, according to a recent **S&P analysis** of nearly 10,000 companies.



Turkey Prices Are Way Up

- **TURKEY PRICES ARE UP 25 PERCENT:** Purdue University's College of Agriculture estimates the retail price of turkey to be approximately **25 percent higher** than a year ago on average as stores pass on higher costs to consumers. Wholesale turkey prices are as much as **75 percent higher** from last year, between Trump's tariffs and the avian flu epidemic. Retailers are even **digging into their profit margins** in an attempt to offset the impact of sky-high wholesale price increases. Frozen turkeys are **estimated** to retail at about \$2.05 per pound this year, meaning the average cost Americans will pay for a 16-pound bird (which feeds 8 to 12 people) will be \$33 – nearly **\$10 more** than last year.
- **TRUMP TARIFFS TARGETED TURKEY FARMERS:** Trump's tariffs are a **big culprit** behind rising turkey prices this year. His disastrous tariffs have **increased the cost** of farm equipment, fertilizer, steel, and aluminum, and closed foreign markets to domestic farmers, pushing American farmers into financial ruin. Animal feed often makes up **60 to 70 percent** of poultry farmers' operating costs, and those ingredients have been **hit by Trump's tariffs**.
- **TRUMP IGNORED DEADLY AVIAN FLU KILLING MILLIONS OF TURKEYS:** Thanks to Trump's **refusal to address the avian flu epidemic**, the virus has continued to evolve and spill over to many different species of birds, leaving the US turkey flock at its **smallest rate** in 40 years.



Thanksgiving Dinner Staples Are Costing More This Year

- **PRICE OF THANKSGIVING FEAST RISES FASTER THAN INFLATION:** Costs for national Thanksgiving dinner and dessert staples have risen significantly over the past year. According to ConsumerAffairs, the average cost of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner has risen **7.1 percent** over the past year – more than twice as fast as overall inflation.
- **THANKSGIVING STAPLES COST MORE THIS YEAR:** Key ingredients have seen costs rise twice or even three times as fast as overall inflation. The American Farm Bureau's annual Thanksgiving report **found** that roughly half of the meal's classics are up from 2024. Since last Thanksgiving:
 - A fresh vegetable tray is costs over **60 percent more**
 - The average 12-ounce can of jellied cranberry sauce has jumped **more than 45 percent**
 - Sweet potato prices have risen **37 percent**
 - Frozen peas are up **over 17 percent**
 - Whipped topping has risen **more than 11 percent**, and whipping cream prices have **risen** more than twice as fast as the dairy category as a whole
 - Canned corn prices are up **9.9 percent**
 - Cheddar cheese prices are up **6.6 percent**
 - White potato prices are up **6 percent**
 - Sugar prices are up **4.2 percent**
 - The cost of other holiday staples, including **wine**, pies, rolls, ham, canned fruits, and more, has **increased**

- **REGIONAL THANKSGIVING DISHES COST MORE THIS YEAR:** Regional dishes may be even more expensive this year as well. The cost of pasta dishes like macaroni and cheese will be significantly higher this year, as Trump has slapped a devastating **107 percent tariff** on imported pasta. Buttermilk biscuits have also increased by **more than 11 percent**.

*Travelers Beware: Republicans' Shutdown and Trump's Layoffs
Caused Lasting Flight Delays*

- **HOLIDAY TRAVELERS FACE DELAYS & CANCELLATIONS:** In addition to eye-watering grocery bills, holiday travelers are facing **severe delays and cancellations** as a result of air traffic controller absences and shortages exacerbated by Republicans' lengthy government shutdown and Trump's layoffs.
- **FLIGHT REDUCTIONS HAMPER POST-SHUTDOWN AIRLINE RECOVERY AMID EXPECTED ALL-TIME HIGH TRAVEL VOLUME:** An **all-time high** 31 million passengers are expected to fly between Nov. 21 and Dec. 1. Analysts **estimate** that it will take days or even weeks for airlines to recover from FAA-mandated flight reductions, and **flight disruptions persisted** beyond the GOP shutdown. Trump's own Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy **announced** that delays will "live on in air travel well beyond the timeframe that this government opens back up."