

REPORT · JULY 2026

The Great Lakes State *Affordability* Crisis

Costs skyrocket for working Michiganders as Trump and Republicans ignore worsening crisis and rip away help.

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Costs are skyrocketing for working Michiganders. Trump and Republicans are *ignoring the crisis* — and ripping away help.

Donald Trump's destructive policies are ripping away Michiganders' economic security. Between his massive cuts to government spending, deeply unpopular war with Iran, and his disastrous tariff regime, Trump's agenda is hurting the local economy in all areas, stoking a dire affordability crisis as food prices, energy bills, health care costs, and housing costs spike.

A majority of Michiganders believe Trump's economy is weakening or in recession — and for good reason. Small business owners are sounding the alarm about rising costs and health care premium hikes. Local food businesses are being forced to raise prices, electricity bills in the state have shot up, and hundreds of thousands of residents are losing the health care coverage they relied on to see a doctor as a result of the Trump-GOP budget. Michigan is one of the states hardest hit by Trump's cancellation of clean energy investments, which have threatened or cost the state roughly 8,000 jobs over the past year and a half. Meanwhile, for buyers and renters alike, housing has become increasingly unaffordable for median-income Michigan households, prompting the Governor to take action. Even the state's automotive industry is in turmoil, thanks to Trump's tariffs last year and ending grant aid.

Throughout Trump's second term, the President and Republicans in Congress have worked in lock-step to reward their rich and powerful friends at the expense of everyone else. They are obliterating the economic security of millions across the country, and working families are the ones paying the price.

— BY THE NUMBERS

The Great Lakes State affordability crisis, in figures.

70%

Of Michigan voters oppose Trump's trade policies, as of late June.

WLNS News

\$817

More that Michigan families have spent on housing costs such as rent and mortgage payments since Trump took office.

Joint Economic Committee

390,000

Michiganders anticipated to lose health care between 2025 and 2034 due to Trump-GOP cuts to Medicaid and the ACA.

KFF

\$950M

Annual loss to Michigan hospitals from the Trump-GOP Medicaid cuts alone.

Third Way

+46%

Rise in Michigan natural gas prices since Trump took office in January. Electric bills are up 18%.

U.S. Energy Information Administration

\$534

Extra gasoline spending for the average Michigan household as gas jumped ~60% between January and May.

Joint Economic Committee

41,500

Total Michigan jobs estimated lost due to Trump-GOP funding cuts – plus \$4.5B in state GDP.

Michigan Advance

8,000

Clean energy jobs canceled or delayed in Michigan since January 2025 – one of the hardest-hit states.

Climate Power

SECTION 01 · COST OF LIVING

Cost-of-living is a *top concern* for Michiganders.

Inflation and the cost of living is a top issue for Michigan voters. Most Michigan voters think the economy is weakening or in recession. 70 percent of Michigan voters oppose Trump's trade policies, as of late June. Michigan shoppers are facing high prices due to Trump's tariffs. According to the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, Michigan voters are expressing concerns about the cost of groceries and the job market, with most saying they are paying more for groceries, utilities and other staples.

“*A majority of Michiganders believe Trump's economy is weakening or in recession — and for good reason.*”

— DETROIT REGIONAL CHAMBER · MAY 2026 VOTER POLL

SECTION 02 · GROCERIES

The cost of groceries is *up*.

Michigan families are still paying more at the checkstand under Donald Trump's tariffs and trade policies. The cost of groceries has been climbing, up 2.7 percent year-over-year and now nearly 30 percent higher than before the pandemic. The pain is concentrated in the staples families buy every week: ground beef is up more than 12 percent over the year, and coffee has jumped nearly 20 percent since Trump slapped tariffs on Brazil. That squeeze lands hardest in Michigan, where Detroit households spend a larger share of their income on groceries than any other major U.S. city, driven by some of the lowest urban wages in the nation, and where grocery prices have risen 27 percent since 2019 while paychecks lag behind.

SECTION 03 · HEALTH CARE

Health care costs are up thanks to *Trump & Republicans*.

The Trump-GOP big, ugly bill cut \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Up to 390,000 Michiganders total are anticipated to lose their health care between 2025 and 2034 because of Trump and Republicans' changes to Medicaid and the ACA. Already, an estimated 232,544 Michiganders have already lost their Medicaid, CHIP, or ACA coverage after Republicans gutted health care – including over 78,000 who have been kicked off of Medicaid and CHIP. Michigan hospitals are estimated to lose nearly \$950 million a year due to Medicaid cuts alone.

SECTION 04 · ENERGY

Michigan energy costs *skyrocketing*.

Since Trump took office in January, household electric bills are up 18 percent and natural gas prices are up 46 percent. 58 percent of Michiganders believe Trump has made energy prices more expensive. Longer-term, the average Michigan utility customer will see bills rise by an estimated \$320 annually because of Trump and Republicans' removal of tax credits for clean energy. Trump's policies have killed 375 MW worth of energy supply – enough to power roughly 190,000 Michigan homes.

Wolverine State gas prices skyrocketing.

Trump's war in Iran caused gas prices to skyrocket in Michigan, where the average price of gas went up roughly 60% between January and May – about \$534 in additional gasoline spending for the average Michigan household.

SECTION 05 · JOBS & INVESTMENT

Job cuts & lost investment.

Trump and Republicans have cut trillions in funding for health care, food aid, and energy investments. These cuts are estimated to cost Michigan 41,500 total jobs and amount to a loss of more than \$4.5 billion in state GDP. Already, Michigan lost 11,200 manufacturing jobs between December 2024 and August 2025. Climate Power reports that Michigan has seen nearly 8,000 clean energy jobs canceled or delayed since January 2025, making the state one of the hardest hit by Trump's attack on clean energy.

SECTION 06 · AUTO INDUSTRY

Auto industry in *turmoil*.

Trump's disastrous policy agenda is hurting Michigan's critical auto industry. In addition to his tariffs, Trump cancelled hundreds of millions of dollars in Michigan energy investments, terminating and threatening two dozen grants amounting to nearly \$1.2 billion in clean energy funding for Michigan, devastating the state's auto industry and halting the state's pivot to electric vehicles:

GENERAL MOTORS · DETROIT

Announced that they would be laying off 1,200 workers at their electric vehicle plant in Detroit and cancelling a \$55 million factory that would have created 300 jobs, citing "decisions" made by the Trump administration.

FORTESCUE · DETROIT

Canceled a \$210 million Detroit electric vehicle battery factory that would have created up to 600 jobs, blaming Trump and Republicans' cuts.

XALT ENERGY · MIDLAND & AUBURN HILLS

Laid off 324 workers and announced it would close two electric vehicle battery plants located in Midland and Auburn Hills.

GROUPE BENETEAU · CADILLAC

Is closing its 50-year-old Four Winns boat plant in Cadillac and divesting the Four Winns, Glastron, and Scarab Jet brands, laying off 239 workers, after its CEO blamed rising fuel costs tied to Trump's war with Iran.

GM SUPPLIER · OAKLAND COUNTY

A supplier for General Motors announced it would permanently lay off 143 workers at their Oakland County plant.

SECTION 07 · HOUSING

Michigan's *housing crunch*.

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently signed a package of bills to address Michigan's affordable housing crisis. Over the past year, Michigan has been ranked in the bottom half in the country for affordable housing and the gap between rent and wages has been growing wider in the state. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority reported a shortage of 119,000 housing units statewide last year. Michigan families have spent \$817 more on housing costs such as rent and mortgage payments since President Trump took office.

SECTION 08 · SMALL BUSINESS

Small businesses *struggle*.

Many small business owners in Michigan, from Detroit to Ann Arbor, say they are struggling with rising costs. Michigan's farmers, for example, have spent two years struggling to bear the cost of Trump's agenda. His trade war collapsed the state's export markets, driving down exports for wheat, cherries, apples, and soybeans. Trump's war with Iran then shuttered the Strait of Hormuz and pushed fertilizer costs up 35%, while farm diesel skyrocketed. This spring, nearly half of Midwest farmers reported they could not afford all the fertilizer their fields needed. Nine Michigan family farms filed for bankruptcy in 2025.

Trump's war on health care hits Wolverine State small businesses hard.

The Trump-GOP effort to rip away ACA tax credits is hitting Michigan's small businesses especially hard. Nearly 95,000 small business owners in the state relied on the ACA for coverage in 2025 – nearly 1 in 5 ACA enrollees in Michigan.

SECTION 09 · HELP RIPPED AWAY

Help *ripped away*.

Trump's budget cuts are ripping away vital assistance for health care, food, and more from hundreds of thousands of Michiganders.

Michigan health care costs spike after GOP rips away premium tax credits.

Thanks to Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress, Michiganders who buy health insurance on their own through the ACA are facing an average premium increase of over 20 percent. Nearly 500,000 people across the state have seen their coverage costs soar 151 percent this year after the Trump-GOP budget ripped away critical tax credits that make ACA coverage affordable. Already, nearly 155,000 fewer Michiganders are enrolled in ACA coverage since the passage of the bill.

Hundreds of thousands are losing food assistance.

Trump and Republicans in Congress cut \$187 billion in food assistance, which could leave as many as 796,000 Michigan residents with reduced or eliminated food aid. These cuts to federal food aid will harm Michigan's economy by around \$415 million. Already, more than 150,000 Michiganders have lost access to SNAP since the passage of the bill – a 10%+ drop in enrollment.

DEFEND AMERICA ACTION

DEFEND AMERICA ACTION • JULY 2026

Working Michiganders are paying the price. It's time to fight back.

Defend America Action is a 501(c)(4) organization dedicated to defending working families from the destructive policies of the Trump administration and Congressional Republicans.

Every figure and citation in this report links to its source – from Michigan state agencies and the Detroit Regional Chamber to Climate Power, KFF, the Joint Economic Committee, and Michigan's independent newsrooms.

DefendAmericaAction.org

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