

REPORT · OCTOBER 2026

The Sunflower State *Affordability* Crisis

Trump drives costs higher for Kansas farmers, ranchers, and homeowners while ripping away Kansans' health care and food assistance.

A REPORT • OCTOBER 2026

Trump is driving up the cost of nearly everything Kansans need while *tearing away* their health care and food assistance.

The economy ranks as Kansas voters' top issue, and a majority of Kansans disapprove of the job Trump is doing. Kansas homeowners pay the fourth-highest home insurance premiums in the country after rates jumped more than 42 percent in five years, Kansans have paid \$1 billion more for gas since Trump started his war with Iran, diesel hit an all-time record in the state, and health insurance premiums skyrocketed for 182,303 Kansans after Trump and Republicans ended ACA tax credits.

Meanwhile, Trump and Republicans are ripping away the help families depend on: an estimated 47,801 Kansans have already lost their ACA, Medicaid, or CHIP coverage, and 41,240 Kansans have fallen off food assistance, while Kansas hospitals stand to lose \$1.5 billion because of the Trump-GOP health care cuts. At the same time, Trump's trade war and his war with Iran are crushing Kansas farmers with soaring fertilizer and diesel costs, and his decision to throw open the border to cheap foreign beef has hammered the state's cattle ranchers. The average Kansas family has already had to spend an estimated \$4,400 more on everyday essentials since Trump took office, and the squeeze is only deepening.

Throughout his second term, the President and Republicans in Congress have worked in lockstep 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 in Kansas are the ones paying the price.

— BY THE NUMBERS

The Sunflower State affordability crisis, in figures.

\$4,400

More the average Kansas family has spent on everyday essentials under Trump.

[Joint Economic Committee](#)

\$4,095

Average Kansas home insurance premium — 4th highest in the country, up 42.6% since 2020.

[The Wichita Eagle](#)

+181%

Average ACA premium increase for the 182,303 Kansans who counted on tax credits — gone this year.

[Center for American Progress](#)

47,801

Kansans who have already lost ACA, Medicaid, or CHIP coverage since the Trump-GOP cuts passed.

[Georgetown CCF](#) · [KFF](#)

\$1.5B

Loss Kansas hospitals face over the next decade from Trump-GOP Medicaid cuts.

[State Health & Value Strategies](#)

700

Kansas farms lost in 2025 alone — and economists warn 2027 will be worse.

[Salina Post](#)

41,240

Kansans off SNAP since the Trump-GOP cuts — a 22% drop, including over 18,000 children.

[Center on Budget & Policy Priorities](#)

\$1B+

Extra Kansans have paid for gas since Trump's war with Iran — \$947 per household on average.

[Joint Economic Committee](#)

SECTION 01 · COST OF LIVING

Cost-of-living is Kansans' *top concern*.

The economy ranks as Kansas voters' top issue, according to a September Emerson College poll, and 53 percent of Kansas voters disapprove of the job Trump is doing. The average Kansas family has had to spend an estimated \$4,400 more on everyday essentials under Trump, according to the Joint Economic Committee. Trump's tariffs cost American households an average of \$1,000 in 2025 and are expected to cost another \$820 per household in 2026, according to the Tax Foundation.

Grocery costs keep climbing.

Grocery prices are now more than 4 percent higher than when Trump took office, with ground beef at a record of more than \$7 per pound and coffee at more than \$9 per pound. In the Kansas City region, Harvesters reports “record numbers of people seeking food assistance in every corner of our service area.”

SECTION 02 · HOUSING & INSURANCE

The Kansas *home insurance crisis*.

Kansas homeowners pay the fourth-highest home insurance premiums in the country, an average of \$4,095 a year, 71 percent above the national average, after rates in Kansas jumped 42.6 percent from 2020 to 2025. Insurers paid out \$879 million in Kansas storm claims last year, nearly double the total from two years earlier, according to the Kansas Insurance Department, and more than a quarter of Kansans say they have postponed major purchases or life decisions because of insurance spikes. Trump's tariffs are projected to add \$143 a year to the average Kansas homeowner's premium, and a 50 percent tariff on steel and aluminum remains in effect, driving up the cost of the materials Kansans need to rebuild after storms.

Sunflower State housing crunch.

A Kansas worker must earn \$21.70 an hour to afford a modest two-bedroom rental, and a minimum wage worker would have to work 120 hours a week. The median Kansas home sold for \$310,000 in August, up from \$285,000 a year earlier, and mortgage rates have climbed to 7.40 percent, up from 5.98 percent just two days before Trump started his war with Iran. Kansas families have spent \$679 more on housing costs such as rent and mortgage payments since Trump took office, and homebuilders estimate that Trump's tariffs on building materials add a typical \$10,900 to the cost of a new home.

— SECTION 03 • FARMERS

Trump's wars are *crushing* Kansas farmers.

Trump's war with Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz, bottling up almost half of the world's urea fertilizer exports just as Kansas farmers began spring planting. In Sumner County, farmer Robert White watched urea jump from \$370 a ton to \$850 a ton in four days. Kansas farmers paid \$83.2 million more for diesel during planting season than a year earlier, an 83.8 percent jump that was one of the steepest in the nation, costing \$1,440 more to fill a typical farm fuel tank.

“*Before the conflict, a bushel of corn would buy two gallons of fuel. Now a bushel of corn doesn't buy a gallon of fuel.*”

— OTTAWA CO-OP FUEL MANAGER, ON TRUMP'S \$8 BILLION AID PACKAGE: “A BAND-AID.”

A Kansas State economist estimates farmers face roughly \$30,000 in added diesel costs alone this year. Trump's tariffs cost American farmers about \$15 billion in losses in the Chinese market alone. Kansas lost 700 farms in 2025, and Kansas State economists warn that 2027 “is going to be much more expensive than 2026 for farmers.”

— SECTION 04 · CATTLE RANCHERS

Trump ***sold out*** Kansas cattle ranchers.

Cattle are the biggest single sector of the Kansas economy, worth \$11.7 billion and nearly 39,000 jobs. Trump quadrupled Argentina's beef import quota in February, then in August waived tariffs on 300,000 metric tons of foreign beef coming from Argentina and Brazil.

“*The answer to increasing prices in grocery stores isn't selling out American farmers and ranchers to buy votes in November.*”

— PRESIDENT OF THE KANSAS FARM BUREAU

In September, immigration enforcement in southwest Kansas coincided with a nearly 16 percent drop in fed-cattle slaughter, and the Kansas Livestock Association warned of “millions of dollars in lost revenue and additional costs.”

SECTION 05 · HEALTH CARE

Kansas health care costs are up thanks to *Trump & Republicans*.

The Trump-GOP law cut over \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the largest health care cuts in American history. After Trump and Republicans ripped away ACA tax credits, premiums skyrocketed for 182,303 Kansans, and premiums for those who counted on the credits increased by an average of 181 percent this year. A 60-year-old Kansas couple making \$85,000 saw annual premium costs rise by \$26,923 to \$34,148. Insurers are now seeking another 19.5 percent average increase for 2027. 36,040 Kansans have dropped their ACA coverage as premiums have skyrocketed, and 11,761 Kansans who relied on Medicaid or CHIP have lost their coverage after the passage of the Trump-GOP cuts. 63,000 Kansans are anticipated to become uninsured between 2025 and 2034.

Kansas hospitals on the brink.

Kansas hospitals stand to lose \$1.5 billion over the next decade because of the Trump-GOP Medicaid cuts, and hospitals and clinics face a \$418 million funding loss and a 16.4 percent spike in uncompensated care demand from the loss of the tax credits. Since the Trump-GOP law passed, 15 Kansas health care facilities are at risk of cuts or closure, or have already closed, including Rock Regional Hospital and the University of Kansas Hospital's pediatric intensive care unit.

Everyone pays more.

The 1,551,300 Kansans with employer-sponsored insurance are staring down a double-digit cost hike, with employers projecting health plan costs to rise 11.1 percent nationwide in 2027.

SECTION 06 · ENERGY & GAS

Kansas energy costs & gas prices *skyrocketing*.

Families in Kansas paid \$50 more for electricity in 2025 under Trump than in 2024, and \$82 more in just the first seven months of 2026 than in the same stretch of 2024. State regulators approved a \$128 million rate increase for Evergy last fall, and customers of Empire District in southeast Kansas face average bills nearly \$28 a month higher.

Trump's war with Iran is driving up gas prices.

Regular gas in Kansas averaged \$4.00 a gallon last week, up \$1.24, or 44.8 percent, from a year ago. Kansans have paid \$1 billion more for gas since the war began, with Kansas families paying \$947 more for gas on average. Last week diesel stood at \$6.08 a gallon, up 80 percent from a year ago, after hitting an all-time Kansas record of \$6.25 a gallon on Sept. 22.

Kansas businesses are suffering.

Trump's tariffs are squeezing Kansas businesses. Andover-based Vornado Air cut more than 70 factory workers in February, and its CEO said the tariffs "impacted virtually everything." "Business has slowed down this year. Our margins aren't where they were a couple years ago," the owner of a Meriden maintenance company said this month.

SECTION 07 · HELP RIPPED AWAY

Help *ripped away* from Kansans.

Trump's budget cuts are ripping away vital assistance for food, health care, and more from tens of thousands of Kansans. Trump and Republicans in Congress cut \$187 billion in food assistance, which helped more than 188,000 Kansans put food on the table. Compared to last July, when Trump and Republicans passed their cuts to food assistance, Kansas has already lost 41,240 SNAP participants, a 22 percent drop, including more than 18,000 children. Trump's law now forces Kansas to cover 75 percent of SNAP administrative costs, which led state lawmakers to add \$12.1 million to next year's budget, and the state's payment error rate could put Kansas on the hook for about \$40 million in benefit costs.

DEFEND AMERICA ACTION

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Working Kansans 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 the Emerson College poll and the Kansas Insurance Department to the Joint Economic Committee, KFF, the Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, and Kansas's independent newsrooms.

DefendAmericaAction.org

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