

Tom O'Halleran voted for Joe Biden's nearly \$2 trillion spending bill that drove inflation to its highest point in over four decades, raising the prices on everything from gas to groceries to diapers.

BACKUP:

Tom O'Halleran voted for Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan, a nearly \$2 trillion bill:

- **In March 2021, O'Halleran voted for H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act.** (H.R. 1319, [Roll Call #72](#), Passed 220-211: R 0-210, D 220-1, O'Halleran Voted Yea, 3/10/21)
 - **President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into law in March 2021.** "President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act into law on Thursday, finalizing an early policy victory that will send much-needed aid to millions of Americans still struggling from the COVID-19 pandemic." (Grace Segers, "Biden signs \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan into law," [CBS News](#), 3/12/21)
 - **The White House describes the American Rescue Plan as "President Biden's plan."**



("American Rescue Plan," [The White House](#), Accessed 8/10/22)

- **The American Rescue Plan is a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package.** "President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package on Thursday. The colossal bill, known as the American Rescue Plan, allocates money for vaccines, schools, small businesses and anti-poverty programs such as an expanded child tax credit that will mean new monthly payments to many parents." (Barbara Sprunt, "Here's What's In The American Rescue Plan," [NPR](#), 3/11/21)
- **The American Rescue Plan passed through Congress with only Democratic support.** "The American Rescue plan made it through Congress with only Democratic support, making it stand out from the bipartisan COVID relief plans Congress passed over the last year." (Savannah Behrmann, "Takeaways from the COVID-19 stimulus bill passing Congress: Weeks of partisan fighting comes to an end with a win for Biden," [USA Today](#), 3/10/21)

The American Rescue Plan exacerbated inflation, causing it to reach its highest point in forty years:

Editor's Note: To see most recent inflation numbers, please see the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly [data](#).

- As of May 2022, inflation rose to a new four-decade high, reaching its highest mark since 1981. “The prices of gas, food and most other goods and services jumped in May, raising inflation to a new four-decade high and giving American households no respite from rising costs. Consumer prices surged 8.6% last month from a year earlier, faster than April’s year-over-year increase of 8.3%, the Labor Department said Friday. The new inflation figure, the highest since 1981, will heighten pressure on the Federal Reserve to continue raising interest rates aggressively.” (Christopher Rugaber, “US inflation at new 40-year high as price increases spread,” [Associated Press](#), 6/10/22)
- **Headline: “US inflation at new 40-year high as price increases spread”**

US inflation at new 40-year high as price increases spread

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER June 10, 2022

(Christopher Rugaber, “US inflation at new 40-year high as price increases spread,” [Associated Press](#), 6/10/22)

- **Headline: “. . . Biden’s stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.”**

The New York Times

A regional Fed analysis suggests Biden’s stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.

(Jeanna Smialek, “A regional Fed analysis suggests Biden’s stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.,” [The New York Times](#), 10/18/21)

- **According to a regional Federal Reserve Bank analysis, the American Rescue Plan boosted inflation.** “Inflation is likely getting a temporary boost from the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package that the Biden administration ushered in early this year, new Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco research released on Monday suggested.” (Jeanna Smialek, “A regional Fed analysis suggests Biden’s stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.,” [The New York Times](#), 10/18/21)
- **Researchers found that the American Rescue Plan might raise the vacancy-to-unemployment ratio close to its historical peak in 1968, fueling inflation.** “Based on the package’s size and using historical evidence on how fiscal spending affects the labor market, the researchers found that the American Rescue Plan might raise the vacancy-to-unemployment ratio close to its historical peak in 1968, fueling some inflation – but that the price impact would be small and short-lived.” (Jeanna Smialek, “A regional Fed analysis suggests Biden’s stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.,” [The New York Times](#), 10/18/21)
- **The American Rescue Plan extended supplemental unemployment benefits.** “The American Rescue Plan extended unemployment benefits until September 6 with a weekly supplemental benefit of \$300 on top of the regular \$400 benefit.” (The White House, “[American Rescue Plan](#),” Accessed 11/1/21)

- **COVID-related unemployment benefits contribute to inflation.** “5) Low-wage workers are finally getting raises. Full-service restaurants saw no inflation in April, but fast-food establishments jacked up prices significantly. ... With their savings buttressed by stimulus checks – and, for the previously laid off, their sustenance assured by \$300-a-week federal unemployment benefits – many American workers have become newly empowered to turn down lousy job offers. This, combined with resurgent demand, has produced a shortage of labor in some sectors, forcing firms to raise wages to attract new hires.” (Eric Levitz, “THE ECONOMY JUNE 8, 2021 The Case for (and Against) Worrying About Inflation,” [NY Mag](#), 6/8/21)

Higher prices for groceries, gas, diapers, and everyday items have skyrocketed, hurting American families:

- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, all six major grocery store food group indexes increased over the last 12 months, with five of the six rising more than 10%. “The food at home index rose 11.9 percent over the last 12 months, the largest 12-month increase since the period ending April 1979. All six major grocery store food group indexes increased over the span, with five of the six rising more than 10 percent.” (“Consumer Price Index - May 2022,” [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), 6/10/22)
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs increased the most, rising 14.2%, with the index for eggs increasing 32.2%. “The index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs increased the most, rising 14.2 percent, with the index for eggs increasing 32.2 percent. The remaining groups saw increases ranging from 8.2 percent (fruits and vegetables) to 12.6 percent (other food at home).” (“Consumer Price Index - May 2022,” [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), 6/10/22)
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, gasoline prices rose 48.7% between May 2021 and May 2022.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by expenditure category, May 2022
[1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted]

Expenditure category	Relative importance Apr. 2022	Unadjusted indexes			Unadjusted percent change		Seasonally adjusted percent change		
		May 2021	Apr. 2022	May 2022	May 2021-May 2022	Apr. 2022-May 2022	Feb. 2022-Mar. 2022	Mar. 2022-Apr. 2022	Apr. 2022-May 2022
All items.....	100.000	269.195	289.109	292.296	8.6	1.1	1.2	0.3	1.0
Food.....	13.421	274.212	298.711	302.038	10.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.2
Food at home.....	8.304	255.516	282.161	285.953	11.9	1.3	1.5	1.0	1.4
Cereals and bakery products.....	1.052	286.649	314.787	319.930	11.6	1.6	1.5	1.1	1.5
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	1.899	275.776	310.399	314.929	14.2	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.1
Dairy and related products.....	0.773	230.380	251.030	257.678	11.8	2.6	1.2	2.5	2.9
Fruits and vegetables.....	1.432	315.748	339.385	341.594	8.2	0.7	1.5	-0.3	0.6
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	0.950	177.814	197.138	199.166	12.0	1.0	1.2	2.0	1.7
Other food at home.....	2.198	219.664	244.282	247.300	12.6	1.2	2.0	0.7	1.6
Food away from home ¹	5.117	303.481	323.559	325.952	7.4	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.7
Energy.....	8.255	235.339	298.469	316.761	34.6	6.1	11.0	-2.7	3.9
Energy commodities.....	4.862	267.532	372.220	402.040	50.3	8.0	18.1	-5.4	4.5
Fuel oil ¹	0.165	272.990	482.516	564.147	106.7	16.9	22.3	2.7	16.9
Motor fuel.....	4.619	264.135	365.314	393.950	49.1	7.8	18.3	-5.8	4.1
Gasoline (all types).....	4.519	263.170	362.802	391.262	48.7	7.8	18.3	-6.1	4.1

(“Consumer Price Index - May 2022,” [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), 6/10/22)

- **Cost inflation for U.S. shale producers could have consequences for global oil markets.** “The supply bottlenecks and labour shortages felt across the US economy are driving up the cost of shale oil production, a trend that is helping to underpin

the price of crude. Expenses including steel, wages and contracts to hire drilling rigs are on the increase. Cost inflation in the oil patch is likely to run at 10 to 15 per cent next year, much faster than the broader US price indices, forecasts Artem Abramov, head of shale research at Rystad Energy. This could have consequences for global oil markets. Moody's, the debt rating agency, recently raised its expected oil price range for the next two years by \$5 a barrel, to \$50 to \$70 a barrel, noting that 'production costs started to rise in step with oil demand and a broader economic recovery.'" (Justin Jacobs and Derek Brower, "Inflation drives up drillers' costs in US shale oil patch," [Financial Times](#), 10/14/21)

- **The recent spike in inflation has made diapers even more expensive; disposable diaper prices have jumped 20% over the past year, according to reporting from July 2022.** "The recent spike in inflation has made diapers even more expensive, and demand at diaper banks has surged since the start of the pandemic. Disposable diaper prices have jumped 20% over the past year, according to the latest data from NielsenIQ. Cloth diaper prices increased 13%." (Nathaniel Meyersohn, "Diapers cost families a fortune, but now some states will stop taxing them," [CNN](#), 7/5/22)
- **According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, prices for apparel rose 5% between May 2021 and May 2022, and prices for men's suits, sport coats, outerwear, shirts, and sweatpants have risen by more than 11% during that time period.**

Expenditure category	Relative importance Apr. 2022	Unadjusted percent change		Seasonally adjusted percent change		
		May 2021- May 2022	Apr. 2022- May 2022	Feb. 2022- Mar. 2022	Mar. 2022- Apr. 2022	Apr. 2022- May 2022
Housekeeping supplies ¹	0.933	9.2	1.0	0.6	1.3	1.0
Household cleaning products ^{1, 2}	0.346	9.9	0.3	1.2	1.7	0.3
Household paper products ^{1, 2}	0.214	7.3	-0.1	1.3	0.5	-0.1
Miscellaneous household products ^{1, 2}	0.373	9.7	2.4	-0.3	1.3	2.4
Apparel.....	2.489	5.0	-0.1	0.6	-0.8	0.7
Men's and boys' apparel.....	0.632	7.3	0.0	1.1	0.3	0.2
Men's apparel.....	0.487	7.8	0.1	1.1	0.3	0.2
Men's suits, sport coats, and outerwear.....	0.078	22.3	1.9	0.7	6.6	1.5
Men's underwear, nightwear, swimwear, and accessories ¹	0.161	6.0	0.2	0.3	-1.3	0.2
Men's shirts and sweaters ²	0.119	11.2	-0.6	-0.7	-0.9	1.8
Men's pants and shorts.....	0.123	-1.6	-0.4	3.6	-1.9	-1.2
Boys' apparel.....	0.145	5.9	-0.3	-0.5	0.2	0.2
Women's and girls' apparel.....	0.981	4.1	-1.0	0.4	-0.9	0.6
Women's apparel.....	0.821	4.9	-0.7	0.0	-1.0	0.7
Women's outerwear.....	0.059	8.0	1.0	-1.3	0.4	2.0

("Consumer Price Index - May 2022," [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), 6/10/22)

- **In May 2022, President Biden said inflation is hurting American families.** "President Joe Biden blamed high inflation on pandemic disruptions to the economy and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, acknowledging that rising prices are 'hurting' American families ahead of the November midterms." (Nancy Cook, "Biden Says Inflation Is 'Hurting' US Families, Blames Pandemic," [Washington Post](#), 5/11/22)
- **In 2021, a survey found that inflation is inflicting financial pain on millions of U.S households, and nearly half of respondents said higher prices are causing some sort of hardship.** "Inflation is inflicting financial pain on millions of U.S. households, with almost half reporting that higher prices are causing some form of hardship, according to a new survey from Gallup." (Aimee Picchi, "Inflation causing hardship for almost half of American households," [CBS News](#), 12/2/21)