

Josh Harder is out of touch with reality. He said “I don’t think we’re at any risk of runaway inflation,” and that inflation going up is not a bad thing. The reality is Josh Harder helped cause the highest inflation in over forty years and Central Valley families are paying more for gas, groceries, and housing.

## **BACKUP:**

**Josh Harder said “I don’t think we’re at risk of any runaway inflation” and that inflation going up “...is actually not a bad thing. Part of that is just recognition that our economy is getting back on track”:**

- **HARDER:** “I think inflation is still going up quite slowly. I don’t think we’re at any risk of runaway inflation. Or anything like that. It seems to be ticking up a little bit. And part of that is actually not a bad thing. Part of that is just recognition that our economy is getting back on track.” (Josh Harder Telephone Town Hall, 05/24/21) ([NRCC YouTube](#))

**Harder voted for H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act:**

- **Harder 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, Harder Voted Yea, 3/10/21)

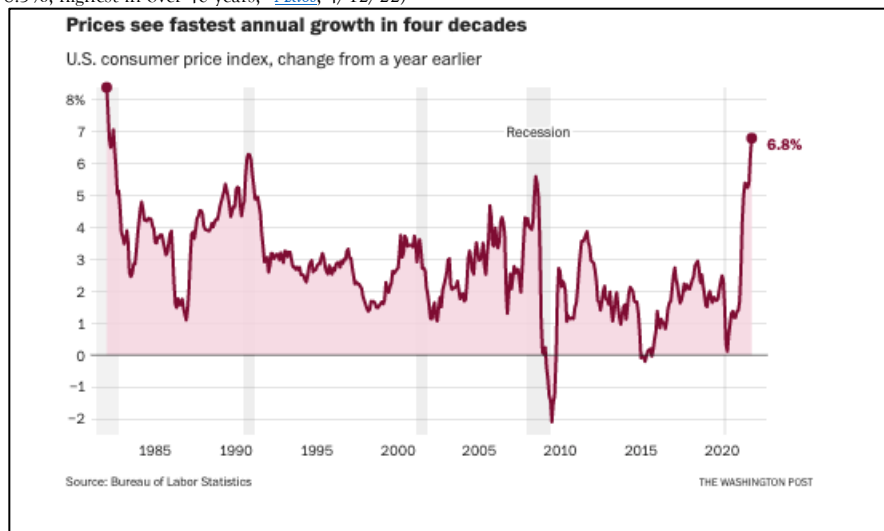
**The American Rescue Plan is a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package:**

- **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 was a Democrat plan that no Republicans voted for.** “This week has been a significant week for the American people, as the House passed the final version of the American Rescue Plan and President Joe Biden signed it into law. House Democrats secured major assistance to the middle class with this legislation, including: \$1,400 in direct payments to most families, \$300 enhanced unemployment benefits through Labor Day, boosting SNAP benefits by 15%, and increasing the child tax credit to up to \$3,600 per child, which will lift half of American children out of poverty. In addition, the American Rescue Plan will establish a national vaccination strategy, ensure schools have the resources to resume in-person learning safely, strengthen the Affordable Care Act, and support small businesses. It is a shame that zero Republicans voted to send this critical relief to families, despite poll after poll reflecting broad, bipartisan support for this bill. Nevertheless, under President Biden’s leadership, Democrats have delivered For The People and now that the American Rescue Plan has been signed into law, direct assistance will be given to Americans immediately around our country.” (Steny Hoyer Majority Leader, “Democrats Deliver Needed Relief to Americans with the American Rescue Plan,” [Press Release](#), 3/12/21)

**The American Rescue Plan exacerbated inflation, causing it to reach its highest point in over four decades:**

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

- **In March 2022, inflation reached its highest levels in over 40 years.** “Inflation surges to 8.5%, highest in over 40 years... Inflation surged again in March, as consumer prices hit yet another fresh peak not seen in a generation. Why it matters: The relentless rise in prices is a challenge for investors, Federal Reserve policy makers and politicians, who are all trying to navigate an inflationary backdrop that hasn't been seen since the early 1980s. Driving the news: The consumer price index rose 1.2% in March compared to February, above economists expectations for 1.1%. Prices were up 8.5% over the last year, higher than the 8.4% rise that economists expected, according to consensus expectations reported by FactSet. That's the highest annual rate of inflation since December 1981.” (Matt Phillips, “Inflation surges to 8.5%, highest in over 40 years,” [Axios](#), 4/12/22)



(Rachel Siegel, “Prices Climbed 6.8% In November Compared With Last Year, Largest Rise In Nearly Four Decades, As Inflation Spreads Through Economy,” [Washington Post](#), 12/10/21)

- “The Labor Department said the increases for food and energy were the fastest 12-month gains in at least 13 years.” “The Labor Department said the increases for food and energy were the fastest 12-month gains in at least 13 years.” (Megan Henney, “US Inflation Surges To 39-Year High As Consumer Prices Soar,” [Fox News](#), 12/10/21)
- **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)

**Hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of funds from the American Rescue Plan were spent on projects that have “little to do with combating the pandemic,” such as ski slopes, golf courses and a “high-end hotel”:**

- **Hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of federal coronavirus relief money was spent on projects that have “little to do with combating the pandemic.”** “Thanks to a sudden \$140 million cash infusion, officials in Broward County, Florida, recently broke ground on a high-end hotel that will have views of the Atlantic Ocean and an 11,000-square-foot spa. In New York, Dutchess County pledged \$12 million for renovations of a minor league baseball stadium to meet requirements the New York Yankees set for their farm teams. And in Massachusetts, lawmakers delivered \$5 million to pay off debts of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate in Boston, a nonprofit established to honor the late senator that has struggled financially. The three distinctly different outlays have one thing in common: Each is among the scores of projects that state and local governments across the United States are funding with federal coronavirus relief money despite having little to do with combating the pandemic, a review by The Associated Press has found.” (Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)
  - **“An Associated Press review finds state and local governments have spent nearly \$1 billion worth of federal coronavirus aid on projects that have little to do with combating the pandemic.”** (Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)

- **The federal coronavirus relief funds came from the American Rescue Plan.** “The expenditures amount to a fraction of the \$350 billion made available through last year’s American Rescue Plan to help state and local governments weather the crisis.” (Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)
- **Headline: “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes”**

## **Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes**

By BRIAN SLODYSKO March 23, 2022

(Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)

- **More than \$6 million was allocated to replace irrigation systems at two golf courses in Colorado Springs.**

### **—\$6.6 million to replace irrigation systems at two golf courses in Colorado Springs.**

(Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)

- **Palm Beach Gardens, Florida “is building a new golf course” with the money they received from the American Rescue Plan.** “Palm Beach Gardens, Florida – in Palm Beach County, home to 160 golf courses – is building a new golf course. These are among the thousands of ways cities and counties have started spending the first tranche of covid relief money from the American Rescue Plan Act passed by Congress in March. That economic rescue package provides \$130 billion to cities and counties – with few restrictions on how the money can be spent. For many, it was their first economic relief directly received from the federal government.” (Phil Galewitz, “From Sewers to Golf Courses, Cities See Green With New Federal Covid Relief Dollars,” [KHN](#), 10/8/21)
- **An Iowa county acquired a privately owned ski resort.** “The Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors announced Tuesday it has acquired the Mt. Crescent Ski area, previously privately owned by Korby and Samantha Fleischer. The Fleischers will continue to manage the facility as a ski resort through the 2022 ski season. Pottawattamie County will take full control in the summer of 2022.” (“Pottawattamie County buys Mt. Crescent Ski area for \$3.5 million,” [KETV](#), 1/4/22)
  - **Two million dollars from the American Rescue Plan were used to acquire the ski resort.** “The Iowa West Foundation helped make the transfer possible with \$1.5 million and the other \$2 million is coming from the American Rescue Plan Action, COVID-19 federal relief funds.” (“Pottawattamie County buys Mt. Crescent Ski area for \$3.5 million,” [KETV](#), 1/4/22)
- **Officials in Florida used \$140 million in American Rescue Plan funding to help construct a “high-end hotel” that will have ocean views and an 11,000-square-foot spa.** “Thanks to a sudden \$140 million cash infusion, officials in Broward County, Florida, recently broke ground on a high-end hotel that will have views of the Atlantic Ocean and an 11,000-square-foot spa. In New York, Dutchess County pledged \$12 million for renovations of a minor league baseball stadium to meet requirements the New York Yankees set for their farm teams. And in Massachusetts, lawmakers delivered \$5 million to pay off debts of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate in Boston, a

nonprofit established to honor the late senator that has struggled financially. The three distinctly different outlays have one thing in common: Each is among the scores of projects that state and local governments across the United States are funding with federal coronavirus relief money despite having little to do with combating the pandemic, a review by The Associated Press has found.” (Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)

**Per reporting on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Inflation soared 9.1% compared to a year earlier, the biggest yearly increase since 1981 and up from an 8.6% jump in May:**

**Editor’s Note:** *Joe Biden was President at the time.*

- **Inflation soared 9.1% compared to a year earlier, the biggest yearly increase since 1981 and up from an 8.6% jump in May.** “Consumer prices soared 9.1 percent compared with a year earlier, the government said Wednesday, the biggest yearly increase since 1981, and up from an 8.6 percent jump in May.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)
- **On a monthly basis, prices rose 1.3% from May to June, another substantial price increase after prices jumped 1% from April to May.** “On a monthly basis, prices rose 1.3 percent from May to June, another substantial increase, after prices had jumped 1 percent from April to May.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)
- **Grocery prices jumped 12.2% compared with a year ago, the steepest such climb since 1979.** “Grocery prices have jumped 12.2 percent compared with a year ago, the steepest such climb since 1979.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)
- **Rents increased by 5.8%, the most since 1986.** “Rents have risen 5.8 percent, the most since 1986.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)
- **New car prices increased 11.4% from a year earlier.** “New car prices have increased 11.4 percent from a year earlier.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)
- **Airline fares are up 34% from a year earlier.** “And airline fares, one of the few items to post a price decline in June, are nevertheless up 34 percent from a year earlier.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)
- **From May to June, the cost of dental services surged 1.9%, the biggest one-month increase since record-keeping began in 1995.** “From May to June, the cost of dental services surged 1.9 percent, the biggest one-month increase since record-keeping began in 1995.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)

**Nationally process jumped 8.6% in the 12 months ending in May, while increases in California averaged an annualized rate of 9.2% according to an analysis by the UCLA Anderson School of Management analysis:**

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**Anderson School of Management analysis.** “Newsom and legislative leaders call their plan an ‘inflation relief’ package. Nationally, prices jumped 8.6% in the 12 months ending in May. Increases in California averaged an annualized rate of 9.2% this spring, according to the UCLA Anderson School of Management analysis.” (David Lightman, “Experts warn California’s ‘inflation relief’ could actually send high prices even higher,” [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)

- **Food prices went up 10.1% and new car prices were up 12.6% over the last year.** “Food prices have gone up 10.1% in the past year. New car prices nationally were up 12.6% over the last year.” (David Lightman, “Experts warn California’s ‘inflation relief’ could actually send high prices even higher,” [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)
- **Air fares rose 12.6% just in May.** “Air fares rose 12.6% just in May.” (David Lightman, “Experts warn California’s ‘inflation relief’ could actually send high prices even higher,” [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)

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### The average unit price of diapers was up 14% year over year in January:

- **The average unit price of diapers was up 14% year over year in January.** “The average unit price of diapers was up 14% year over year in January and has remained elevated ever since, according to data from Nielsen.” (Gerald Porter Jr., “Diaper Inflation Wrecks Already-Strained Family Budgets in U.S.,” [Bloomberg](#), 07/09/21)
  - **Packages that cost about \$25 last year can now cost \$40 and there are fewer diapers inside.** “Packages that cost about \$25 last year now can cost \$40 – and there are fewer inside.” (Gerald Porter Jr., “Diaper Inflation Wrecks Already-Strained Family Budgets in U.S.,” [Bloomberg](#), 07/09/21)
  - **Baby-care items from rash salves to wipes have seen double-digit increases.** “Indeed, baby-care items from rash salves to wipes have seen double-digit increases, and companies have said prices will rise again.” (Gerald Porter Jr., “Diaper Inflation Wrecks Already-Strained Family Budgets in U.S.,” [Bloomberg](#), 07/09/21)
- **HEADLINE: “Diaper Inflation Wrecks Already-Strained Family Budgets in U.S.”**

**Equality + Businessweek**

## **Diaper Inflation Wrecks Already-Strained Family Budgets in U.S.**

P&G and Kimberly-Clark pass on higher costs to parents

(Gerald Porter Jr., “Diaper Inflation Wrecks Already-Strained Family Budgets in U.S.,” [Bloomberg](#), 07/09/21)

### The ongoing price increases underscores the brutal impact that inflation has inflicted on many families with the cost of necessities in particular rising much faster than average income:

- **Prices have surged for gas, food, and rent as U.S. inflation reached a new peak in June, further pressuring households.** “Surging prices for gas, food and rent catapulted U.S.

inflation to a new four-decade peak in June, further pressuring households and likely sealing the case for another large interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve, with higher borrowing costs to follow.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)

- **The ongoing price increases underscores the brutal impact that inflation has inflicted on many families with the cost of necessities in particular rising much faster than average income.** “The ongoing price increases underscore the brutal impact that inflation has inflicted on many families, with the costs of necessities, in particular, rising much faster than average incomes.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)
- **Gas prices had an average of \$4.63, still far higher than a year ago.** “Gas prices, for example, have fallen from the eye-watering \$5 a gallon reached in mid-June to an average of \$4.63 nationwide Wednesday – still far higher than a year ago but a drop that could help slow inflation for July and possibly August.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)

**California had the highest gas prices in the nation:**

- **California has the highest gas prices in the nation.** “California is once again at the top of the charts, leading the nation in... wait for it... gas and diesel prices. AAA reports today’s national average of \$5.014 per gallon – California comes in at a cool \$6.436 per gallon for Regular, and nearly \$7.00 per gallon for Diesel. California’s prices greatly top the national averages: The average for a gallon of regular gas in California is \$6.436 per gallon, and a gallon of diesel is \$6.991.” (Katy Grimes, “California Tops Nation’s Highest Gas Prices at \$6.43 Per Gallon,” [The California Globe](#), 06/13/22)
- **As of July 18, 2022, California has the highest gas prices in the nation, and a state gas take hike increased prices by about 3 cents per gallon.** “California has consistently reported the highest average gas prices, clocking in at \$5.90 as of Monday, according to AAA. A state gas tax hike took effect on July 1, increasing prices by roughly 3 cents per gallon.” (Zach Schonfeld, “Here are the highest and lowest gas prices in the US today,” [The Hill](#), 07/18/22)
- **Per AAA as of August 2022, the current average price per gallon of regular gas in the Stockton-Lodi metro area was \$5.275, was \$5.287 a week ago, was \$5.956 a month ago, and was \$4.303 a year ago.**

Stockton-Lodi				
	Regular	Mid	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$5.275	\$5.530	\$5.660	\$6.245
Yesterday Avg.	\$5.287	\$5.561	\$5.686	\$6.248
Week Ago Avg.	\$5.434	\$5.676	\$5.808	\$6.373
Month Ago Avg.	\$5.956	\$6.209	\$6.354	\$6.838
Year Ago Avg.	\$4.343	\$4.555	\$4.682	\$4.355

(California Average Gas Prices, [AAA](#), Accessed 08/12/22)

- Per AAA as of August 2022, the current average price per gallon of regular gas in the Modesto metro area was \$5.168, was \$5.290 a week ago, was \$5.921 a month ago, and was \$4.303 a year ago.

Modesto				
	Regular	Mid	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$5.168	\$5.407	\$5.557	\$6.259
Yesterday Avg.	\$5.171	\$5.402	\$5.591	\$6.289
Week Ago Avg.	\$5.290	\$5.537	\$5.700	\$6.383
Month Ago Avg.	\$5.921	\$6.165	\$6.327	\$6.770
Year Ago Avg.	\$4.303	\$4.507	\$4.660	\$4.337

(California Average Gas Prices, [AAA](#), Accessed 08/12/22)