

Historic inflation is driving up the cost of everything from gas to groceries, and Hillary Scholten is part of the problem. Scholten supported President Biden's reckless spending that sent nearly \$1 billion in stimulus checks to convicted criminals in prison, including the Boston Marathon bomber.

BACKUP:

Historic inflation has been driving up the cost of everything from gas to groceries:

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

- **As of June 2022, inflation reached an annual rate of 9.1%, the highest rate of inflation since 1981.** “Shoppers paid sharply higher prices for a variety of goods in June as inflation kept its hold on a slowing U.S. economy, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Wednesday. The consumer price index, a broad measure of everyday goods and services related to the cost of living, soared 9.1% from a year ago, above the 8.8% Dow Jones estimate. That marked the fastest pace for inflation going back to November 1981.” (Jeff Cox, “Inflation rose 9.1% in June, even more than expected, as consumer pressures intensify,” [CNBC](#), 7/13/22)
- **HEADLINE from *The Associated Press*: “US inflation at new 40-year high as price increases spread”** (Christopher Rugaber, “US inflation at new 40-year high as price increases spread,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/10/22)



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

- **HEADLINE from *Detroit Free Press*: “Michigan’s price hikes some of the worst in the country”** (Susan Tompor, “Michigan’s price hikes some of the worst in the country,” [Detroit Free Press](#), 11/17/21)
- **Between October 2020 and October 2021, the consumer price index increased by 6.6% in the Midwest, including Michigan.** “The shock effect in the Midwest is even worse for consumers when they head to restaurants, the supermarket and the gas station. In the Midwest, including Michigan, the consumer price index jumped by 6.6% in October from a year ago.” (Susan Tompor, “Michigan’s price hikes some of the worst in the country,” [Detroit Free Press](#), 11/17/21)
- **Consumer goods companies have charged more for household basics like toilet paper, peanut butter, and soft drinks.** “Gas prices are rising. Auto prices are soaring. Consumer goods companies are charging more for household basics like toilet paper, peanut butter and soft drinks.” (Christopher Rugaber, “EXPLAINER: Why are fears of high inflation getting worse?,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/12/21)
- **Inflation was “heating up” as prices climbed for things like bacon, chicken wings, and gas at the pump.** “Inflation is heating up in the headlines as prices climb higher for things like bacon, rent, chicken wings, gas at the pump and both new and used cars and trucks.” (Susan Tompor, “Michigan’s price hikes some of the worst in the country,” [Detroit Free Press](#), 11/17/21)

- **In Michigan, gas prices increased by an average of \$1.33 per gallon between November 2020 and November 2021.** “In Michigan, the average price for a gallon of gas was \$3.39 as of Nov. 15, according to GasBuddy.com. That was down 5.2 cents on average from the week earlier when gas was nearly \$3.45 a gallon. In the past year, the average price of gas went up \$1.33 a gallon from an average of \$2.06 in Michigan in mid-November.” (Susan Tompor, “Michigan’s price hikes some of the worst in the country,” [Detroit Free Press](#), 11/17/21)
  - **The rising price of gasoline has put pressure on some Michiganders’ household budgets.** “Walberg said he's increasingly hearing from constituents that the rising price of gasoline is putting a lot of pressure on their household budgets.” (Kalea Hall and Riley Beggin, “Get ready for high energy costs this winter in Michigan, especially propane users,” [The Detroit News](#), 11/11/21)
- **According to AAA, the Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland metro area reached its highest recorded average gas price – \$5.185 for regular unleaded gasoline – in June 2022.** (AAA, “[Michigan Average Gas Prices](#),” Accessed: 8/22/22)

MICHIGAN METRO AVERAGE PRICES				
Expand all   Collapse all				
Ann Arbor				
Benton Harbor				
Flint				
Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland				
	Regular	Mid	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.764	\$4.152	\$4.495	\$5.161
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.775	\$4.155	\$4.506	\$5.166
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.863	\$4.244	\$4.592	\$5.257
Month Ago Avg.	\$4.420	\$4.866	\$5.195	\$5.674
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.082	\$3.417	\$3.742	\$3.242
HIGHEST RECORDED AVERAGE PRICE				
	Price		Date	
Regular Unleaded	\$5.185		6/8/22	
Diesel	\$5.981		6/22/22	

(AAA, “[Michigan Average Gas Prices](#),” Accessed: 8/22/22)

- **Consumers have faced higher prices in grocery store aisles, including price hikes on items such as soup, macaroni and cheese, crackers, and cookies.** “The price increases can also be seen in the grocery store aisles, with food companies including Campbell Soup, Kraft Heinz and Mondelez all announcing higher prices on items such as soup, macaroni and cheese, crackers and cookies.” (Rachel Siegel, “Prices Climbed 6.8% In November Compared With Last Year, Largest Rise In Nearly Four Decades, As Inflation Spreads Through Economy,” [The Washington Post](#), 12/10/21)
- **In November 2021, the *Detroit Free Press* reported that the prices of meats, poultry, fish, and eggs had increased by 10.9% in the Midwest over the past year.** “Food – which includes items you buy at the supermarket as well as what you spend at restaurants and takeout – was up 6% in the Midwest over the year. In that category, there was a 10.9% spike in the prices of meats, poultry, fish and eggs.” (Susan Tompor, “Michigan’s price hikes some of the worst in the country,” [Detroit Free Press](#), 11/17/21)

**Hillary Scholten supported Joe Biden’s American Rescue Plan, which exacerbated inflation, causing it to reach its highest point in four decades:**

- **Hillary Scholten supported Joe Biden’s American Rescue Plan.** “Happy Presidents’ Day @potus! Thanks for 1. The American Rescue Plan (I ❤️ my vaccine) 2. The infrastructure bill (I ❤️ new jobs in MI) 3. Decreasing unemployment! There’s more work to do - for everything from voting integrity to getting kids back to school safely. Let’s go!” (Hillary Scholten, [Twitter](#), 2/21/22)



(Hillary Scholten, [Twitter](#), 2/21/22)

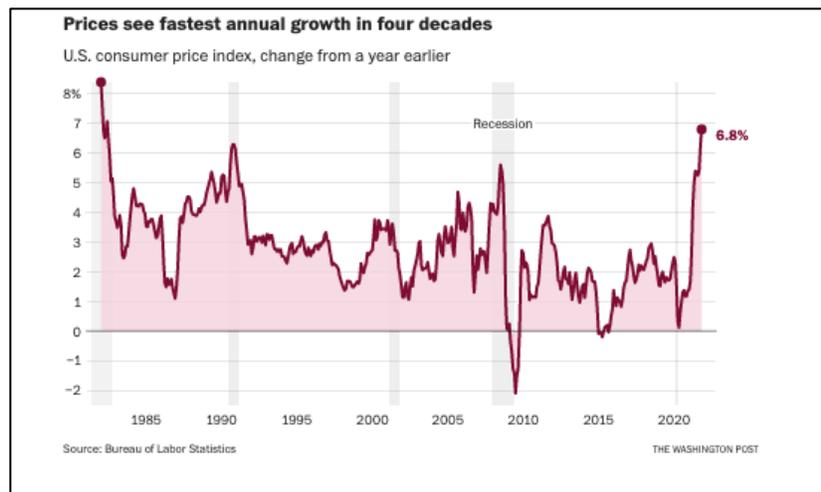
- **According to a regional Federal Reserve Bank analysis, the American Rescue Plan boosted inflation.** “Inflation is likely getting a temporary boost from the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package that the Biden administration ushered in early this year, new Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco 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)

*Editor’s Note:* The Biden administration’s \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package mentioned above [is the American Rescue Plan](#).

- **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 contributed 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)

- **HEADLINE from *CNN Business*: “All that stimulus is sending inflation higher”** (Anneken Tappe, “All that stimulus is sending inflation higher,” [CNN Business](#), 4/9/21)
- **Stimulus checks caused additional spending, decreasing supply and driving up prices.** “Supply bottlenecks have occurred because companies were caught flat-footed by the speed of the economic recovery from the pandemic, with most consumers flush with cash, after multiple stimulus checks, and spending freely. With everyone now ramping up at once, manufacturers, shipping firms, miners and agricultural companies can’t keep up.” (Christopher Rugaber, “EXPLAINER: Why are fears of high inflation getting worse?,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/12/21)
- **Consumer prices surged at the fastest pace in nearly four decades in November 2021.** “Consumer prices surged at the fastest pace in nearly four decades in November as Americans paid more for practically everything from groceries to cars to gasoline, solidifying hot inflation as a key trait of the economic recovery.” (Megan Henney, “US Inflation Surges To 39-Year High As Consumer Prices Soar,” [Fox News](#), 12/10/21)

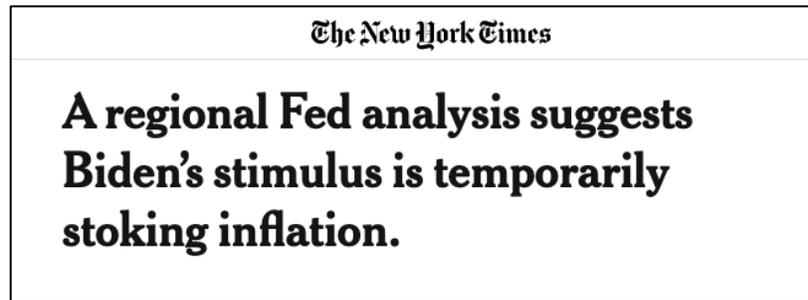


(Rachel Siegel, “Prices Climbed 6.8% In November Compared With Last Year, Largest Rise In Nearly Four Decades, As Inflation Spreads Through Economy,” [The Washington Post](#), 12/10/21)

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- **“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 from *The New York Times*: “...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)



(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 gave nearly one billion dollars in stimulus checks to prison inmates, including convicted criminals and the Boston Marathon bomber terrorist:**

- **The American Rescue Plan sent nearly \$1 billion in stimulus payments to prison inmates in 2021.** “The federal government doled out nearly a billion dollars in stimulus payments to prison inmates in 2021 under President Joe Biden’s American Rescue Plan, according to IRS records obtained by the Washington Examiner. The third-round stimulus payments to prisoners totaled \$924.3 million, which was much greater than previously reported. The checks went out despite efforts by Republican Sens. Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana to bar stimulus funds from going to prisoners. Senate Democrats voted unanimously against the amendment in a 50-49 party-line vote in March 2021.” (Jerry Dunleavy and Andrew Kerr, “Nearly \$1 billion in stimulus funds sent to prisoners in 2021, ‘terrorists and perverts’ got \$1,400 checks,” [Washington Examiner](#), 2/11/22)
  - **The American Rescue Plan sent stimulus checks to approximately 645,000 people who were incarcerated at the start of 2021.** “The IRS reported that the money went to approximately 645,000 people who were incarcerated at the start of the year, according to FOIA records provided to the Washington Examiner by the NRSC.” (Jerry Dunleavy and Andrew Kerr, “Nearly \$1 billion in stimulus funds sent to prisoners in 2021, ‘terrorists and perverts’ got \$1,400 checks,” [Washington Examiner](#), 2/11/22)
- **The stimulus checks went to convicted murders and sex traffickers.** “The federal government is suing convicted murderers and sex traffickers who received COVID-19 stimulus checks, ordering them to use the funds to pay restitution to their victims’ families, according to court documents reviewed by Fox News Digital. Senate Republicans cried foul last week after it was revealed that Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev received a \$1,400 stimulus check under the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill known as the American Rescue Plan of 2021, which was signed by President Biden last March.” (Jessica Chasmar, “Convicted murderers, sex traffickers received COVID stimulus checks while in prison, court docs show,” [Fox News](#), 1/11/22)
- **The Boston Marathon bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, received a \$1,400 stimulus check.** “A U.S. District Court judge agreed to let federal prosecutors use convicted Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev’s \$1,400 COVID-19 stimulus payment, as well as other money held in his inmate trust account, to help pay the millions of dollars he was ordered to pay his victims, The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday. In a filing Wednesday, the U.S.

attorney's office in Boston asked a judge to order the federal Bureau of Prisons to turn the money over to the Clerk of the Court 'as payment towards his outstanding criminal monetary penalties, including unpaid special assessment and restitution.' In addition to the stimulus payment, Tsarnaev, who's being held at a maximum security prison in Florence, Colorado, has received money from dozens of sources during his incarceration, including the federal public defender's office and regular payments from individuals living in Indiana, New Jersey and Maryland, according to the filing by acting U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, Nathaniel Mendell." (Associated Press, "Judge will allow Boston Marathon bomber's \$1,400 stimulus check, other funds to go to victims," [KTLA75](#), 1/6/22)

- **Tsarnaev's actions have been described as a terrorist attack.** "On April 15, 2013, Tamerlan and his younger brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, attacked the Boston Marathon. It was one of the worst terrorist attacks on U.S. soil since 9/11." (Jamie Bologna and Meghna Chakrabarti, "Unanswered Questions About Tamerlan Tsarnaev," [WBUR](#), 7/10/17)