

Memorandum

To: Interested Parties

From: Senate Republican Conference

Subject: Inflation spikes as families grapple with Biden's inflation nightmare.

Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Biden-Harris spending has sent prices soaring more than 16.8%.
2. High costs, hollowed out savings, record borrowing, and high Interest rates define Biden's economy.
3. By every measure: working families are feeling the pain of rising prices.
4. "Bidenomics" is failing, and Republicans have solutions to get America back on track.

1. BIDEN-HARRIS SPENDING HAS SENT PRICES SOARING.

Inflation increased 3.2% in July from a year earlier and up from June.

- Since President Biden took office, inflation has soared with prices rising more than [16.8%](#).
- Americans can feel the effects of "Bidenomics":
 - Grocery prices are up [20.36%](#) since Biden took office
 - Gasoline prices are up [54.14%](#) since Biden took office
- [WAPQ](#): "Progress on inflation stalled in July, as prices nudged up."
- No matter how Joe Biden and Democrats spin it, prices are still going up, and Americans are still feeling the pain.

2. HIGH COSTS, HOLLOWED OUT SAVINGS, RECORD BORROWING, AND HIGH INTEREST RATES DEFINE BIDEN'S ECONOMY.

Everything Biden has given with his spending has been taken away by inflation.

- High costs and punishing regulations are lowering Americans' standard of living.
 - Inflation is costing the average household [\\$912](#) more per month.
 - Including [\\$131](#) on food, [\\$126](#) on energy, and [\\$177](#) on shelter per month.
(Source: Joint Economic Committee)
 - The Biden Administration has enacted [671 rules](#) at a cost of \$399 billion.
 - These regulations cost almost [\\$10,000 per household](#).
 - The Biden Administration's regulatory agenda is the [most expensive in modern history](#).
 - The Biden Administration has a regulation for every room in your house.
 - Joe Biden's spending agenda downgraded the US's credit rating.
 - In 2 years, Democrats' \$3 trillion in partisan spending ballooned the federal budget.
 - It's no wonder the deficit in the first nine months of this fiscal year hit \$1.39 trillion, [up 169%](#) from the same period the year before.

- Americans are hollowing out their savings to cover the cost of basics.
 - At 4.3%, the personal savings rate remains near [its lowest since 2008 and far-below the pre-pandemic average of 7.3%](#).
 - Fed economists found that American households' excess savings [were depleted in the first quarter of 2023](#) amid 28 months of punishing inflation.
 - A recent Charles Schwab survey found that 62% of U.S. workers feel [inflation is a primary roadblock](#) to saving for a comfortable retirement, up from 45% last year.
 - According to [Bank of America](#), the number of Americans taking "hardship withdrawals" from their 401ks increased 36% from Q2 2022.
- The effects of high interest rates are leading to record debt and putting the American dream out of reach.
 - American families now owe a [record-high \\$1 trillion](#) in credit card debt. Meanwhile, delinquency rates for credit card debt have reached the [highest level since 2012](#).
 - Credit card interest rates remain at a record-high of 22%, [up over 6% from Biden's first full month in office](#).
 - Mortgage rates are nearing 7%, matching the [highest level since November](#). A year ago, the 30-year fixed-rate was 5.22%.

3. BY EVERY MEASURE: WORKING FAMILIES ARE FEELING THE PAIN OF RISING PRICES.

Back to school costs will soar this year.

- According to the [National Retail Federation](#), families will spend a record-high of \$890 on back to school costs. That's up \$25 compared to last year.

Grocery prices are continuing to increase in 2023.

- Grocery prices rose 11.4% [last year](#), the [biggest annual jump in nearly 50 years](#).
- The USDA has reported that grocery prices have increased an [additional 4.7% this year](#).

Even Halloween candy is likely to cost more this year.

- [Yahoo](#): "Halloween might be more of a trick than a treat this year, especially at your local grocery store. Halloween candy prices are on the rise."

4. BIDENOMICS IS FAILING, AND REPUBLICANS HAVE SOLUTIONS TO GET AMERICA BACK ON TRACK

Americans have poor views of Biden's economy.

- [69%](#) of Americans think prices are continuing to go up. (*CBS News, 07/30*)
- [65%](#) of Americans would rate the condition U.S. economy as bad. (*CBS News, 07/30*)
- [34%](#) of people approve of the way Biden is handling the economy, down from [60%](#) in March 2021 when Democrats began their reckless tax-and-spending spree. (*CBS News, 07/30*)

They know “Bidenomics” is not working.

- Only [28%](#) of Americans approve of Biden’s economic policies. (*IBD/TIPP* poll, 08/07)
- Just [16%](#) of adults say their wages have kept up with inflation, the lowest since at least February 2022. (*IBD/TIPP* poll, 08/07)

They are seeing through Democrats’ smoke and mirrors messaging campaign.

- [38%](#) approve of Biden’s handling of the economy, and only [35%](#) approve Biden’s handling of inflation. (*Harvard-Harris*, 07/21)
- Both have trended down a point since he started his economic spin campaign in June.

Senate Republicans have solutions to spend less, reduce the stranglehold of Washington bureaucrats, and unleash American energy.

- Click [here](#) for the Senate Republican Conference’s solutions to get America back on track.