NEWS YOU CAN'T RESIST

INFLATION

Johnson, Jake, Common Dreams, *Under Trump, Inflation Is Costing Average US Family $700 More Per Month,* (November 13, 2025)
Around November 13th, Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for October was due to be issued. However, it was delayed by the government shutdown. Thereafter, the Trump administration said it's likely the CPI figures will never be released. At the same time, Democrats on the congressional Joint Economic Committee (JEC) released a report detailing how much more the average American family in every state is having to spend monthly to cover the rising costs of food, shelter, energy, and other necessities. The Democrats used the same methodology that Republicans used to track cost increases under President Biden. JEC Democrats found that the average US family is spending roughly $700 more per month on basic items.

NPR Podcast Planet Money, *Days of our Tariffs Podcast* (November 19, 2025)
Entertaining 30 minute episode that addresses the question, "Are we, regular US shoppers, feeling the tariffs yet?"

The Economist, *Tracking the Presidency* *(November 19, 2025)*
Businesses are starting to pass on the costs of tariffs to consumers. The annual inflation rate was as follows:
·July 2.7%, August 2.9%, September 3%
With some firms now paying average import duties of around 10%, inflation is likely to keep climbing in the months ahead.

Dale, Daniel, CNN Politics, *Fact check: Trump's lying spree about inflation*
(November 10, 2025)
Trump claims: Prices have fallen since he returned to office in late January. Inflation is down to 2%.
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Dale, Daniel, CNN Politics, *Fact check: Trump's lying spree about inflation* ***continued from page 1***

Truth: According to the most recent figures from the federal Consumer Price Index, during this administration average prices were 1.7% higher in September than they were in January, and 3% higher than they were in September 2024. There was a 0.6% increase in average grocery prices from July 2025 to August 2025, the biggest month-to-month spike in three years – and it was followed by a 0.3% increase from August to September.

Trump claim: The price of beef is the only grocery product whose price has increased.

Truth: The prices of dozens of grocery products increased from January to September. A smattering of products got less expensive over that period, most notably eggs, but a greater number of products got more expensive. You can see a list at https://www.cnn.com/2025/11/07/politics/fact-check-beef-grocery-prices-trump-vis

Trump claim: Drug prices are down by 200%, 300%, 500%, 700%, 1,000%, 1,200%.

Truth: Trump has had some success in pushing drug companies to cut the prices of some medications (e.g., certain blockbuster obesity drugs). But far more medications have not had their prices slashed – and regardless, Trump's professed reductions in excess of 100% make no sense. A price reduction of 100% would make a drug cost $0, so a reduction of 200% or more would mean Americans would be getting paid a substantial amount of money to acquire medications.

Trump claims: "Gasoline prices have plummeted to the lowest in two decades." "We're at almost $2 for gasoline."

Truth: The Automobile Association of America (AAA) provided data showing the national average is $3.08 – higher than it was on various days under Biden in January of this year. "Plummeted" is also a stretch given that the AAA national average was $3.12 per gallon on the day Trump returned to office in January and $3.10 per gallon one year before Wednesday, both just barely higher than Wednesday's $3.08 per gallon.

To the extent Trump was referring to the federal Energy Information Administration's estimate in September that this year drivers will spend "the smallest share of their disposable income on gasoline since 2005[,]" that's simply an estimate, not a certainty.

EMPLOYMENT

The Economist, *Tracking the Presidenc (November 19, 2025)*

America's job market is weakening. Some sectors, such as manufacturing, have started cutting workers. In August the economy overall added just 22,000 jobs; forecasters expected around 75,000 new jobs, about the same as in July. Last month's data contained a similar nasty surprise, and several previous months of strong data were revised down. However, the unemployment rate, at 4.3%, remains low.

Yakubu, Gabriel, rolling out, *US unemployment numbers shock economists nationwide (November 19, 2025)*

The number of Americans receiving unemployment benefits surged between mid-September and mid-October, according to Labor Department data released Tuesday. The increase suggested that October's unemployment rate likely climbed as businesses grew increasingly hesitant to add workers amid economic uncertainty

Cunningham, Mary, CBS News Moneywatch, *Employers added 119,000 jobs in September, blowing past expectation (November 20, 2025)*

U.S. employers added 119,000 jobs in September, marking a pickup after previous employment data had shown a slowdown in hiring. Economists had forecast payroll gains of 50,000 jobs in September, according to a poll by FactSet. The unemployment rate rose 4.4% in September, up from 4.3% in August and the highest level since Oct. 2021. The September number suggests more people are re-entering the workforce to search for a job

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

Kaye, Danielle, BBC, *US economic growth revised up on strong consumer spending* (September 25, 2025)

·GDP, which measures goods and services production, rose at an annualized rate of 3.8% from April through June - up from the previous estimate of 3.3%.

·Consumer spending rose by 2.5% in the year to the end of June, up from a previous estimate of 1.6%.

·Retail sales rose 0.6% in August from the prior month, beating expectations, according to data from the Commerce Department released last week.

Although economists said the economy was doing reasonably well, uncertainties remain.

The continued strength in spending, which has defied worries about a slowdown, is in contrast to recent data showing a weakening labor market. Employers added just 22,000 jobs in August, fewer than expected, while the unemployment rate ticked up from 4.2% to 4.3%, according to the Labor Department. But initial claims for unemployment insurance fell last week to their lowest level since July, a sign that the jobs market might not be in as dire shape as other data have suggested. Economic momentum remained steady in the first half of the year despite mounting policy headwinds, said Lydia Boussour, senior economist at EY-Parthenon. But she cautioned that "with the impact of tariffs and policy uncertainty becoming increasingly visible, slower US growth and higher inflation are still on the horizon."