

July 4th BARBECUE BREAKDOWN

Despite higher food prices in 2022, families can rest assured that they can still enjoy their July 4th barbecue this summer.

Food prices are higher due to on-going supply chain challenges and labor shortages as well as higher input, manufacturing, packaging, and transportation costs.

As a highly competitive industry operating on razor thin profit margins, grocers continue to do everything possible to avoid passing increased costs on to their customers. While current household grocery spending is below its peak at the height of the pandemic, some items on your barbecue menu may cost more. Here's why:

Hamburger Buns

Bread prices are up 8.7% over the last year. The global wheat supply is under pressure due to the war in Ukraine—which is responsible for nearly a third of global wheat production, driving prices higher.

Chicken

An outbreak of avian influenza has impacted more than 40 million birds, prompting mass culling and supply shortages. It's one of the many reasons why the price of chicken is up 17.4% this year.

Watermelon

Due to increased fuel prices, it costs more to transport produce from farms to stores. That's driving the price of fresh fruits, like watermelon, up 8.5% over the last year.

Chips

Snacks cost 13.6% more this year due to a variety of cost increases to the inputs that go into each product. The price of a bag of potato chips, for example, is influenced not only by the price of key ingredients but transportation, packaging materials and warehousing.

Cheese

Higher milk prices due to increased costs for cattle and animal feed combined with farm labor shortages are impacting a variety of dairy products, including cheese (up 8.7% this year).

Corn on the Cob

Fresh vegetables like corn are up 6.4% this year due in part to a global fertilizer shortage and extreme weather events that impact planting and harvesting.

Burgers

The price of ground beef is up 13.6% since 2021. Rising input costs and smaller than normal herd sizes are driving prices higher. Feed costs alone, which account for 24% of total production, are up 22% from 2021.

Plan Your July 4th BBQ On Any Budget

- Plan your meals as far in advance as possible so you don't overspend
- Sign up for your grocer's loyalty program and app for sales, deals & coupons
- Try store brands that offer more product at a lower price
- Consider frozen produce and meat instead of fresh
- Connect with your in-store dietitians to find suitable substitutes for your favorite recipes

