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You'll dig deeper in your pocket to get your gobble on this Thanksgiving

Grain prices, fewer turkeys up dinner cost

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BY **CHERYL V. JACKSON** cjackson@suntimes.com

It'll cost more to stuff yourself this Thanksgiving.

The price of the traditional holiday dinner is going up this year, boosted by the cost of the bird.

The cost of a tom turkey is up 32.9 percent to about \$1.05 per pound this year, according to the Food Institute. So a 16-pound turkey would cost \$16.80, compared with \$12.64 a year ago, according to its statistics.

That's because of a whopping 56 percent increase in the cost of bird feed, according to the institute. Also factoring into the increase is there are 2 percent fewer turkeys being produced -- 242 million.

Pecan prices are up 41.2 percent, mostly due to increased demand from China.

Also costing more to put on the table this year will be fresh yellow onions, up 22.7 percent; fresh sweet potatoes, up 22.6 percent; and white potatoes, up by about 17 percent. Meanwhile, other staples are costing less: fresh celery, canned apples are down 12.3 percent, and canned green beans and corn and fresh cranberries decreased.

With the prices of staples -- including milk, beef, coffee, cocoa and sugar - having risen sharply in recent months, grocery stores and restaurants are preparing to pass the higher costs on to consumers, according to a Thursday Wall Street Journal report.

Kraft Foods, Sara Lee and General Mills in August said prices would be going up. Starbucks is raising the prices of some of its drinks, McDonald's expects a 2 percent price increase in the U.S., and Morton's steakhouse increased prices in July. Kellogg's is hinting it'll also go that route.

Demand for meat in China, India and other markets and a drought in Russia are driving up prices for grain, leading to higher prices for chicken, steak, bread and pasta.

Prices for Thanksgiving staples

Item	Size	2010	2009	% Change
Turkey	Per lb.	\$1.05	\$0.79	32.9%
Frozen Carrots	12/16-oz.	\$11.00-11.30	\$11.72-11.76	-5.0%
Canned Apples	24/14-oz.	\$15.00-15.50	\$17.25-17.50	-12.3%
Canned Green Beans	24/14-oz.	\$10.75-11.00	\$11.57-11.67	-6.4%
Canned Corn	24/14-oz.	\$10.50-11.00	\$11.55-11.70	-7.6%
Canned Pumpkin	24/14-oz.	\$14.75-14.90	\$13.85-14.00	6.5%
Potatoes	5/10-lb. bags	\$4.00-4.50	\$3.50-3.75	17.1%
Celery	2 1/2 doz.	\$10.00	\$15.48	-35.4%
Onions (Sweet Yellow)	50-lb.	\$6.75	\$5.50	22.7%
Sweet Potatoes	40-lb. carton	\$20.00	\$16.00	22.6%
Cranberries	24/12-oz.	\$34.00-36.00	\$35.00-37.00	-2.8%
Red Delicious Apples	Tray Pack	\$17.00	\$17.00	-0.0%
Pecans	Per lb.	\$6.00	\$4.25	41.2%

SOURCE: The Food Institute

Gobble Up Some Green this Thanksgiving

From Pink Lemonade

What to eat BEFORE Thanksgiving Dinner

From Wine & Dine

The views expressed in these blog posts are those of the author and not of the Chicago Sun-Times.

plainfield guy wrote:

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wulei wrote:

consider taking it to a professional <http://www.goshops.org>. Shoe cobblers will usually do coach wallet and bag restoration.Go to the thrift store <http://www.goshops.org>. Believe it or not, some thrift stores sell fake Coach Purses.Most coach outlet stores have to sign a form for the newsletter <http://www.goshops.org>

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plainfield guy wrote:

An increase in Social Security Benefits cost of living adjustment(C.O.L.A.) is a prime example of the Obama Administration not completing a single task.The above food prices shows in black and white that food costs have risen. But when you talk with people, all they can say is the consumer price index has fallen. Tell this to a senior citizen putting food on their table.

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