



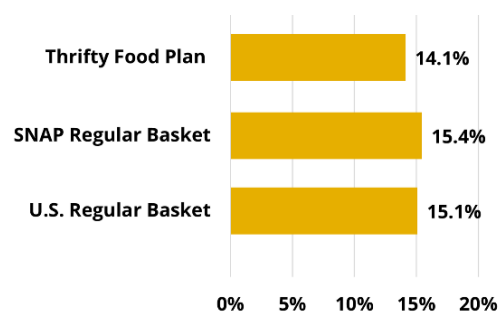
Cost Changes of Different Food Market Baskets

Due to high food price inflation, the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) has recently increased maximum allotments for households who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by 12.5% for a family of four, effective in October 2022. This increase reflected the change in the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) between June 2021 and June 2022, yet costs have continued to rise.

To compare how different shopping patterns and food price inflation could affect a household's food cost in August 2022, we first calculated the cost share for each category in the Market Basket representing SNAP participating households and all U.S. households (see table). Data from the Consumer Expenditure Surveys between 2011 and 2019 showed that the expenditure shares for these two household groups are significantly different from the TFP with vegetables and fruits accounting for less than 20% of total food-at-home expenditures compared to nearly 40% in the 2021 TFP. Meats and miscellaneous foods (everything from vegetable oil to snack foods and soft drinks) make up a much larger share of typical household food baskets than it does of the TFP.

We then calculated the increase in the cost of each Market Basket taking into account the cost share of each Market Basket Category (see graph). If a household's purchases matched those of the TFP, it would have paid an estimated 14.1% more for food in August 2022 than in June 2021. If instead, a household's purchases were the same as for surveyed SNAP households (SNAP Regular Basket), the increase would have been about 15.4%. Finally, for households with purchases that match the average of all surveyed households (U.S. Regular Basket), the increase would have been about 15.1%. One reason the SNAP and U.S. Regular Basket costs increased more rapidly than the TFP cost is that the prices of miscellaneous foods (weighted heavily in the SNAP and U.S. Regular Baskets) increased much more than the prices of fruits and vegetables (weighted more heavily in the TFP Basket).

Food Market Basket Cost Change, August 2022 vs. June 2021



Source: Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute using data from the Bureau Labor of Statistics Consumer Price Index and 2011-2019 Consumer Expenditure Surveys and the USDA Thrifty Food Plan 2021 report.

Market Basket Categories ¹	Price Change ² Jun. 21-Aug. 22	Cost Share for a Market Basket (%)		
		Thrifty Food Plan (2021)	SNAP Regular Basket (2011-2019)	U.S. Regular Basket (2011-2019)
Vegetables	10.1%	23.9	8.9	9.5
Fruits	8.9%	14.0	8.4	9.8
Grains	17.3%	15.9	13.3	13.3
Dairy	16.2%	14.5	9.8	10.5
Protein foods		22.0	21.7	22.1
Meats	8.8%	4.6	11.8	13.2
Poultry	19.7%	9.0	5.1	4.2
Eggs	42.9%	1.7	1.6	1.4
Seafood	10.2%	6.6	3.3	3.2
Miscellaneous	18.1%	9.8	37.8	34.9
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Based on the [Thrifty Food Plan, 2021](#) Market Basket for a representative family of four. To be compatible with [Consumer Expenditure Survey](#) data, we moved category "Nuts, seeds, and soy products" to "Miscellaneous". As a result, our total cost shares for categories "Protein foods" and "Miscellaneous" in the Thrifty Food Plan column are slightly different than those in the Thrifty Food Plan, 2021 report.

² Price change for each Market Basket Category is the change in the corresponding [Consumer Price Index](#) published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics between June 2021 and August 2022. Following [USDA's approach](#) to calculate the monthly changes in the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan, we matched each category or sub-category with one or more CPIs. For categories that matched to more than one CPI (e.g., vegetables and fruits), we calculated a CPI for that category based on a weighted average of the percentage changes in the matched CPIs compared to June 2021, with weights based on the average expenditure shares calculated from the Consumer Expenditure Surveys between 2011 and 2019 for all U.S. households.