

# Prices in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Oregon

The chart below, inspired by the American Enterprise Institute’s “Chart of the Century,” displays changes in wages, inflation, and the prices of consumer goods and services in Oregon since the beginning of the 21st century.

Despite wages outpacing inflation, several of the largest areas of consumer spending including housing, rent, higher education tuition, and medical care have all grown at a faster rate, thereby crowding out more and more of every dollar of spending. Given the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) discontinued an Oregon specific price index in 2017, the West Region was used for several price data series.

While this chart offers no explanation of the reasons behind the variations in price growth between items, we hope it serves as a common starting point and inspires discussion and more informed questions.

## Key Insights

### Trends Over Past 20 Year

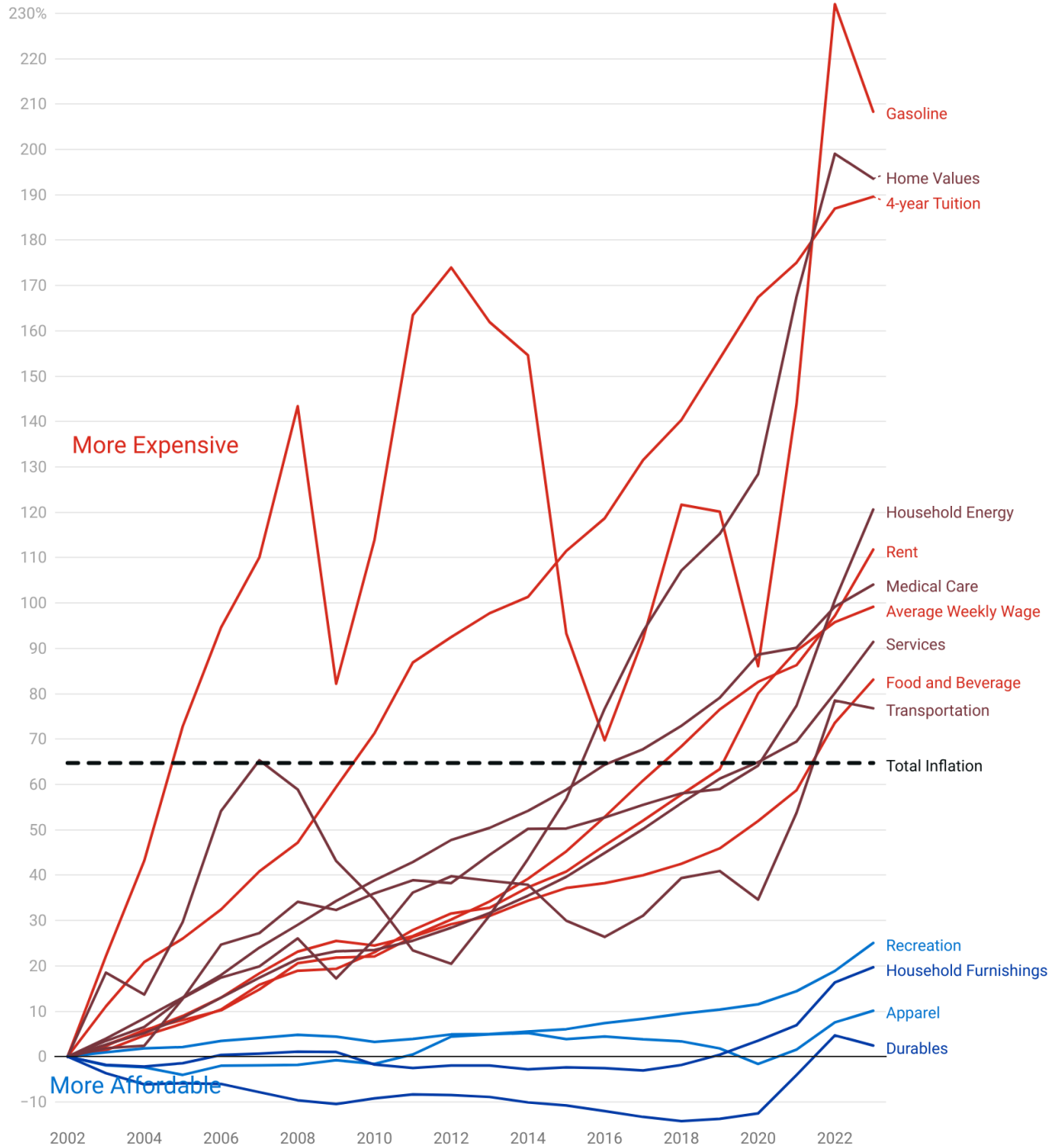
- With the price of gas spiking in 2020, it remains the most expensive item relative to two decades ago. (+208%)
- Home ownership costs have increased by more than 2 times the rate of inflation and the average weekly wage. Since 2002 the price of housing has increased by 190% while inflation has increased by 64% and the average weekly wage has increased by 99%.
- Apparel, recreation, household furnishing, and durables remain well below total inflation rates. Durables are goods generally purchased infrequently given they are expected to last such as vehicles, appliances, and consumer electronics.

### Changes in the Last Year

- In the last year four items: housing, gasoline, transportation, and durables, saw their price level decline, while the 10 other items increased.
- Home values decreased 2% in 2023 after rapid increases of 17% in 2021 and 12% 2022. This is the first decrease in housing prices since 2012. At the same time, rent increased 7% in 2023 following a 2% increase in 2021 and a 5% increase in 2022.

## Oregon Prices in the 21st Century (through 2023)

This chart, inspired by AEI's "Chart of the Century," tracks the change in the prices of different goods and services in Oregon and the West region from 2002 through 2023. Items the prices of which have grown faster than inflation, depicted in red lines, are now more expensive in real dollars than they were in 2002. Those in blue lines are less expensive now than they were in 2002.



See the table below for a full list of sources. View AEI's "Chart of the Century" here: <https://www.aei.org/carpe-diem/chart-of-the-day-or-century-5/>  
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## "Oregon Prices in the 21st Century" Chart Sources

Data	Source	Region
In-state Tuition and Fees (Public 4-year)	Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), Oregon Public University Tuition and Fees by Institution Over Time	Oregon
Gasoline	All Formulations Retail Gasoline Prices (EIA)	West Coast (PADD 5) Except California
Home Values	Zillow Home Value Index All Homes (SFR, Condo/Co-op)	Oregon
Medical Care	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Medical Care in West	West Region
Household Energy	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Household Energy in West	West Region
Rent	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Rent in West	West Region
Services	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Services in West	West Region
Recreation	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Recreation in West	West Region
Overall Inflation	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items in West	West Region
Food and Beverage	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Food and Beverage in West	West Region
Transportation	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Transportation in West	West Region
Apparel	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Apparel in West	West Region
Durables	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Durables in West	West Region
Household Furnishings	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Household Furnishings in West	West Region
Average Weekly Wage	Average Weekly Wages for Employees in Total Covered Establishments in Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA (MSA)	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA (MSA)

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