


Thanksgiving grocery bills on the rise

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Business First by Ed Green, News integration editor
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Whether shopping at **Kroger Co.** (NYSE: KR), **Walmart** (NYSE: WMT) or **Trader Joe's**, consumers likely are spending more for their Thanksgiving meals this year.

According to **The Food Institute**, many of the wholesale prices for ingredients used to make a traditional Thanksgiving dinners have risen this year from last.

The Upper Saddle Ridge, N.J.-based organization reported that food prices are a mixed bag compared with prices in 2010.

While prices of some foods used to make Thanksgiving dishes have fallen nearly 30 percent over the past year, most rose.

And the average price of the main component of traditional dinners on the holiday — the turkey — has increased significantly.

The Consumer Price Index for all food, including pumpkin, potatoes and pecans, is estimated to be 3.5 percent to 4.5 percent higher than a year ago, the institute reported.

The report noted that wholesale food price increases outpaced retail price increases for the fourth straight month in September, as retailers slowly continued to pass along food price increases that began last year.

[The Food Institute](#) projected that retail food prices will be about 7 percent higher than 2010 by the end of this year. Price increases are being fueled by higher prices for feed corn, soybeans and fuel.

Meanwhile, [the American Farm Bureau Federation](#) estimated that the overall cost of the meal is expected to rise 13 percent. The average cost for a feast to feed 10 is \$49.20, up from \$43.47 last year.

[To see a slide show of how the prices of more than a dozen Thanksgiving staples have changed in the past year, click here or see the image gallery at right.](#)

Ed Green manages day-to-day operations of Business First's Web site.



Turkey
Change: 9.5%
Source | *The Food Institute*