

Primerica Household Budget Index™: Middle-Income Households Saw Improving Financial Conditions in October

Increased earnings, slowing inflation drove an increase in purchasing power

DULUTH, Ga.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Primerica, Inc. (NYSE: PRI), a leading provider of financial services and products in the United States and Canada, announced today the release of the Primerica Household Budget Index™ (HBI™), a monthly index illustrating the purchasing power of middle-income households with incomes between \$30,000 and \$130,000. In October 2023, the average purchasing power for middle-income households was 99.1%, up from 98.1% in September. A year ago, the index stood at 92.4%.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20231129111859/en/>



Primerica Household Budget Index™ (HBI™) – In October 2023, the average purchasing power for middle-income households was 99.1%, up from 98.1% in September. A year ago, the index stood at 92.4%. Increased earnings and slowing inflation drove an increase in middle-income households' purchasing power. (Graphic: Business Wire)

“Price levels remain higher for important necessity items, although middle-income families are feeling some relief from the falling price of gasoline and increasing household incomes,” said Glenn J. Williams, CEO of Primerica. “Even with this, going into the holiday season, we expect there will be increased hesitation around spending as a result of the cumulative impact of inflation on monthly budgets.”

“Middle-income households are gaining traction financially, but still have a ways to go before they will feel like they are getting ahead,” said Amy Crews Cutts, Ph.D., CBE® an economic consultant to Primerica. “We are seeing income gains, yet it can be hard for middle-income households to get used to the higher prices for basic necessities and this has the potential to impact future spending patterns for these items.”

HBI HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The index baseline is set at January 2019 and can be thought of as when middle-income households set a budget based on their earned income at that time. Between 2014 and 2020, the HBI™ results recorded steady gains in purchasing power for middle-income families, with a peak of 105.1% in November 2020. This means that relative to January 2019, households were in a stronger financial position to pay their monthly bills because wage growth outpaced the cost of everyday goods. Increasing inflation then caused the index to plummet. In June 2022, it reached a post-pandemic low of 86.7%.

Since the baseline of January 2019, the average middle-income household has cumulatively spent around \$1,095 more than budget on basic necessities. In line with this, if the pandemic and ensuing inflation would not have been a factor, the HBI™ today would be closer to 110%.

For more information on the Primerica Household Budget Index, visit www.householdbudgetindex.com.

About the Primerica Household Budget Index™ (HBI™)

The Primerica Household Budget Index™ (HBI™) is constructed monthly on behalf of Primerica by its chief economic consultant Amy Crews Cutts, PhD, CBE®. The index measures the purchasing power of middle-income families with household incomes from \$30,000 to \$130,000 and is developed using data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the US Bureau of the Census, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. The index looks at the cost of necessities including food, gas, utilities, and health care and earned income to track differences in inflation and wage growth.

The HBI™ is presented as a percentage. If the index above 100%, the purchasing power of middle-income families is stronger than in the baseline period and they may have extra money left over at the end of the month that can be applied to things like entertainment, extra savings, or debt reduction. If it is under 100%, households may have to reduce overall spending to levels below budget, reduce their savings or increase debt to cover expenses. The HBI™ uses January 2019 as its baseline. This point in time reflects a recent “normal” economic time prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Periodically, prior HBI™ values may be revised due to revisions in the CPI series and Consumer Expenditure Survey releases by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Beginning with the October 2023 release of the HBI™ data, health insurance costs will no longer be included in the calculation of the HBI™ data as part of the healthcare component because of some newly acknowledged methodology that has been used by the BLS to calculate the health insurance CPI. The health insurance CPI, as calculated by BLS, does not measure consumer costs of health insurance such as the cost of premiums paid or a combination of premiums and deductibles, but rather premium values retained by health insurers we do not believe it accurately reflects consumer experiences. The healthcare component will continue to include medical services, prescription drugs and equipment. Prior published values have been adjusted to reflect this change.

About Primerica, Inc.

Primerica, Inc., is a leading provider of financial services and products to middle-income households in North America. Independent licensed representatives educate Primerica clients about how to better prepare for a more secure financial future by assessing their needs and providing appropriate solutions through term life insurance, which we underwrite, and mutual funds, annuities and other financial products, which we distribute primarily on behalf of third parties. We insured over 5.7 million lives and had over 2.8 million client investment accounts on December 31, 2022. Primerica, through its insurance company subsidiaries, was the #3 issuer of Term Life insurance coverage in the United States and Canada in 2022. Primerica stock is included in the S&P MidCap 400 and the Russell 1000 stock indices and is traded on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "PRI."

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