



In Union USA Action  
 19176 Hall Rd. Suite 230  
 Clinton Township, MI 48038  
 UNI22010

Paid for by In Union USA Action.

**In Union USA Action** is a project supported by a group of unions. We'll provide you with research on issues that affect working people's lives, examine the records of elected officials on those issues, and give you ways to hold your elected representatives accountable. In Union is not affiliated with, does not take contributions from, and does not make contributions to any candidates or political parties. For more information, please visit [www.inunionusa.com](http://www.inunionusa.com).

## Costs Are Up. What Can You Do To Make Your Dollar Go Further?

Corporate greed is running rampant and big corporations are taking advantage of global supply chain issues to raise prices on us.

Inside you can learn more about how inflation is affecting Michiganders, but there are also things you can do to help manage family budgets. Here are a couple of resources that may help you and your family:

### WorkMoney

**WorkMoney** is a not-for-profit organization that helps people "earn more and pay less." What does that mean? They find direct discounts and proven products that save you money on everyday expenses, like prescription drugs, student loans, and utility bills. **Learn more at [WorkMoney.org](http://WorkMoney.org).**



### AARP

Although they have some great resources for older generations, the AARP isn't just for seniors and retirees. Their website provides tips for saving money on food, gasoline, and much more. **Visit [AARP.org](http://AARP.org) for details.**

Check out AARP's Living on a Budget guide for tips on managing inflation and cost increases: [www.aarp.org/money/budgeting-saving/](http://www.aarp.org/money/budgeting-saving/)

PRSR STD  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 DS



AUGUST 2022

## COMBATING INFLATION AND COST INCREASES IN MICHIGAN

Dear Reader,

Some of the world's biggest corporations are price gouging and raising prices on everything from gas to food to prescription drugs. The *In Union* team has heard many people share frustrations and concerns over rising costs and corporate greed.

Of course, companies are entitled to make a profit. That's what they do. But now some corporations are being greedy and taking advantage of the pandemic to make record profits.

In this month's edition of *In Union*, we'll address the root causes of cost increases, highlight what some elected officials are doing about it, and offer a few ways you can help your family save money.

Sincerely,  
 The *In Union* Team



A newsletter of, by, and for working people

## WHY ARE COSTS RISING? CORPORATE GREED.

Folks across Michigan are concerned about rising costs. It's not surprising: corporations are using economic conditions as an excuse to raise prices and take advantage of us. **Here's what our researchers are seeing as they've studied the issue:**

- 1. Large corporations are being greedy and taking advantage of the pandemic to raise prices unfairly on consumers.** You may have heard about oil companies reaping enormous profits. But it's not just them. Wall Street is getting its biggest payout in a decade. Shipping companies are also seeing record profits, as are companies like Amazon and others. And those record profits, for the most part, are lining the pockets of corporate CEOs.
- 2. Corporate executives are bragging about record profits.** One food company executive recently said, "The longer inflation lasts and the more widespread it is, the more air cover it gives companies to raise prices." A grocery store CEO recently said, "A little bit of inflation is always good in our business." It may be good for corporate CEOs, but certainly not for everyday Michiganders.
- 3. Wage growth isn't keeping up with increased costs.** Unemployment is near an all-time low, but wages still aren't up for most workers. That's partially due to the decline in workers represented by unions. Even if you got a 5% raise, that's not offsetting more considerable increases in the costs of gas or food.

## Some Good News...

### The Detroit News

**U.S. House approves bill to restore lost pension benefits for Delphi employees**

7/27/2022

### Chalkbeat

DETROIT

**Michigan budget boosts special education, teacher recruitment, and mental health**

6/30/2022



**Experts say Michigan in much stronger place compared to Great Recession**

7/27/2022

Read the full articles and learn more at [www.inunionusa.com](http://www.inunionusa.com).

## WHAT HAVE MICHIGAN POLICYMAKERS DONE TO HELP?

- Passed and signed into law three bills to help lower the cost of prescription drugs
- Passed and signed into law the 2023 bipartisan balanced budget with zero tax increases
- Passed and signed into law a bill to spend \$9,150 per student—the highest per-student funding in Michigan history
- Ensured that eligible Michigan vehicle owners received \$400 auto insurance refund checks to offset the cost of gas
- Governor Whitmer's office announced in April that families eligible for food assistance will receive additional monthly payments of \$95 amid rising grocery costs
- Increased spending on mental health and school safety to \$214 per student

**Contact your legislators and tell them to keep fighting for working families.**

- **Find your State Representative:**  
Visit [house.michigan.gov](http://house.michigan.gov) or call 517-373-0135
- **Find your State Senator:**  
Visit [senate.michigan.gov](http://senate.michigan.gov) or call 517-373-2400



### CHECK THE FACTS:

*Detroit Free Press*, 5/19/2022; State of Michigan, Press Release, 4/19/2022; State of Michigan, Press Release, 3/7/2022; Bridge Michigan, 6/3/2021; State of Michigan, Press Release, 2/23/2022.