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12 Days of Christmas 2021 Annual Price Index

With Christmas just under a month away, the classic holiday carol “The 12 Days of Christmas” is likely on repeat in retail shops and consumer’s homes across the Silver State. The traditional 12 gifts in the song may not be what your friends or loved ones are expecting to receive this year, but if your true love insists, they can all be had for a price.

How much? Financial services company PNC has the answer with its annual Christmas Price Index, which for 38 years has calculated the prices of the 12 gifts from the Christmas carol.

Bringing home all of the gifts in 2021 would cost \$41,205.58, up 5.7 percent from 2019, according to the PNC Christmas Price Index. Due to the lack of live performances last year, the cost the 12 days of Christmas saw a 58.5 percent decline in 2020 to \$16,168.00. This year the cost of six geese-a-laying increased the most (+57.1 percent), followed by two turtle doves appreciating by 50.0 percent. Other gifts that saw a jump in cost include three French hens (+40.5 percent), 10 lords-a-leaping (+12.6 percent), five gold rings (+8.5 percent), 11 pipers piping (+7.1 percent), 12 drummers drumming (+7.1 percent) and a partridge in a pear tree (+6.0 percent). The most expensive gift this year are the seven swans-a-swimming at \$13,125, while eight maids-a-milking are the most affordable gift at a mere \$58.00.

Overall, the rising cost the items for the 12 Days of Christmas are in line with inflation trends. As over October 2021 (latest data available), the inflation rate in the United States reached 6.2 percent, the highest rate since November 1990. Much of the rise in inflation can be accredited to supply chain stressors coupled with rising energy prices, which are now up 30.0 percent on the year.

Full details of the PNC Christmas Price Index are below, with the 2021 cost of each gift along with the two-year percentage growth in parentheses.

Day 1: Partridge in a Pear Tree - \$222.68 (+6.0 percent)

The partridge saw no change from 2019 to 2020 but has since seen a significant jump in cost due to the rising cost of the tree this year.

Day 2: Two Turtle Doves - \$450.00 (+50.0 percent)

These birds saw one of the biggest increases over the past two years, doubling in price from 2019 to 2020 but holding still this year.

Day 3: Three French Hens - \$255.00 (+40.5 percent)

While still the most cost-friendly bird on the list, the hens saw two years of significant growth. The 15.7 percent price growth into 2020 was followed up by a 21.4 percent increase in 2021.

Day 4: Four Calling Birds - \$599.96 (+0.0 percent)

For three years in a row, these four calling birds saw no change in price.

Day 5: Five Gold Rings - \$895.00 (+8.5 percent)

The fluctuation in the price of gold throughout the pandemic has resulted in mixed change for the cost of rings. After a 14.5 percent jump in price last year, the rings fell in cost by 5.3 percent this year.

Day 6: Six Geese-a-Laying - \$660.00 (+57.1 percent)

The cost of geese continues grow each and every year. After jumping 35.7 percent in price in 2020, the price of geese climbed another 15.8 percent this year.

Day 7: Seven Swans-a-Swimming - \$13,125.00 (+0.0 percent)

These brilliant birds keep paddling at an expensive yet consistent pace. Their price is unchanged for the sixth straight year.

Day 8: Eight Maids-a-Milking - \$58.00 (+0.0 percent)

With their cost tied to the federal minimum wage, the price for eight Maids-A-Milking hasn't changed in over a decade.

Day 9: Nine Ladies Dancing - \$7,552.84 (+0.0 percent)

Reflective of the cost of a dance company, the Nine Ladies Dancing held steady again in 2021. Ignoring the removal of this item from the 2020 index due to a lack of live performances, this marks the ninth straight year with no price increase.

Day 10: 10 Lords-a-Leaping - \$11,260.00 (+12.6 percent)

These lords leapt to a 12.6 percent price increase from 2019, which was heavily influenced by increased wages to performers.

Day 11: 11 Pipers Piping - \$2,943.93 (+7.1 percent)

With a wide range of live musical performances ready for consumers to attend again, the pipers saw a two-year upward growth in cost.

Day 12: 12 Drummers Drumming - \$3,183.17 (+7.1 percent)

Similar to the pipers, pent up demand for in-person entertainment is helping drum up the cost of the drummers up in 2021.

Total Cost: \$41,205.58 (+5.7 percent)

For more information about the PNC Christmas Price Index, visit www.pnc.com/ChristmasPriceIndex

History of the Christmas Price Index (PNC CPI): Since 1984, The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (PNC) uses gathers pricing data from a variety of sources including retailers, hatcheries, the Philadelphia-based PHILADANCO and the Pennsylvania Ballet Company in an effort to put a cost on the gifts described in the 12 Days of Christmas originally composed in 1780.

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