



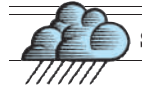
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# The Washington Post

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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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## Senate confirms Warsh as Fed chair

But Trump's hoped-for rate cuts seen as unlikely with inflation on march

BY ANDREW ACKERMAN

President Donald Trump finally got a new Federal Reserve chair. His allies aren't so sure he'll get his interest rate cuts any time soon, though.

The Senate confirmed Kevin Warsh as the central bank's next chair in a 54-45 vote Wednesday, handing Trump a long-sought victory. Sen. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania was the only Democrat to support Warsh.

Ahead of the vote, Trump ally Stephen K. Bannon used his "War Room" podcast to prepare supporters for disappointment. The former Trump strategist said fresh inflation data made it "highly unlikely" that Warsh would have "the flexibility to cut rates in June," when he will chair the central bank's policy meeting for the first time.

"This makes it very difficult for Warsh," Bannon said Tuesday, hours after the Labor Department reported that April inflation had jumped to 3.8 percent.

His guest, conservative commentator Eric Bolling, projected no rate cuts through the end of the year and ventured that the Warsh-led Fed may even need a modest rate hike to curb inflation.

The notable expectation setting for Trump's base signaled that dramatic action on rates may not be coming, regardless of who runs the Fed.

Warsh, 56, inherits a central bank Trump has been seeking to

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KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES

People gather Wednesday in Beijing to see President Donald Trump's motorcade, the first visit to China by a U.S. president since 2017.

## Trump signals a zeal to cut deals at China summit

Openness to rethinking U.S. support for Taiwan alarms island's backers

BY MICHAEL BIRNBAUM AND ISAAC ARNSDORF

BEIJING — President Donald Trump came into office 16 months ago promising to take a hard line against Chinese trade policies that he said were stealing jobs and opportunities from Americans. But as he arrived Wednesday

in Beijing on his first visit in nearly a decade, he wasn't coming seeking a fight.

Instead, Trump appears ready to reveal in the grandeur of a state visit with the strongman leader of one of the most populous countries in the world, as centuries-old monuments, including the Temple of Heaven and the Forbidden City, are thrown open for his visiting pleasure.

"We're going to be talking with President Xi [Jinping] about a lot of different things. I would say more than anything else will be trade," Trump told reporters at the White House on Tuesday before

leaving Washington.

"We're the strongest nation on Earth in terms of military. China's considered second, who knows," he said. "I have a great relationship with President Xi, and I think it's going to remain that way. We have a lot of things to discuss."

The trip comes as each side seeks to manage its most consequential relationship, in a moment when Trump is struggling politically because of his decision to attack Iran in February. The war has sent energy prices soaring, weighing down the U.S. economy with no end in sight. It has

infuriated many of the president's supporters, who say they voted for a leader who would get the cost of living under control, not one who would make them wince every time they fill their gas tanks.

Those factors have combined to limit the administration's ambitions for the two-day China trip.

Trump arrived Wednesday to a sea of U.S. and Chinese flags waved in rhythmic precision by Chinese greeters in white uniforms. He

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**Phalanx of leaders:** Trump brings CEOs in bid to open markets. A14

## Price shocks from Iran war have reached grocery shelves

Costs are up especially for some key staples such as fresh produce and beef

BY RACHEL LERMAN AND FEDERICA COCCO

Grocery prices climbed at their fastest rate in nearly four years, putting increased pressure on Americans' wallets at a time when many are already feeling pessimistic about the economy.

Prices for groceries spiked in April, according to data released Tuesday by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, while broader inflation reached its highest level in nearly three years, as the effects of the war in Iran start to weigh on the U.S. economy.

Relentlessly climbing energy costs, coupled with tariffs and ongoing agricultural and farming

issues, mean grocery bills are rising quickly and might continue for months. Costs spiked especially for a few key staples of Americans' diets, including fresh produce and beef.

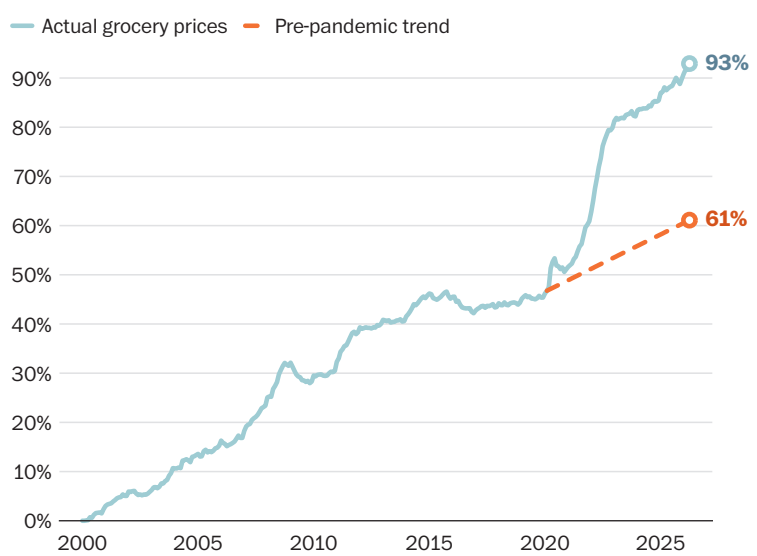
Tomato prices soared 15 percent in April compared with a month ago and are up nearly 40 percent in the last year. The red fruit is facing a barrage of hits, including the rising price of diesel caused by energy shocks from the war in Iran. With the Strait of Hormuz still closed, the global oil market is in turmoil, and prices for refined products, including gasoline and diesel, are sharply rising.

Tomatoes, as well as other produce, are often transported in refrigerated trucks powered by diesel. Tomatoes from Mexico are also subject to a tariff of about 17 percent, making prices rise in the United States especially fast in the winter months of imported tomatoes.

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Grocery prices are far above the slow, steady rise shoppers had come to expect

% change in "food at home" consumer prices since 2000



The red line extends the average monthly rate of grocery price increases from 2000 to 2020 forward, to show how far prices have diverged from their historical path.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via FRED

FEDERICA COCCO / THE WASHINGTON POST

**Federal gas tax:** Trump is pushing for a pause. How would it work? A14

## White House to host prayer event on U.S. Christian roots

Critics say all-day jubilee on the National Mall has no modern precedent

BY MICHELLE BOORSTEIN, LAURA MECKLER AND NATALIE ALLISON

The Trump administration is hosting an all-day prayer festival on the National Mall on Sunday that organizers say will reflect the country's Christian origins and, they hope, spark "a movement of renewal" in America.

"Rededicate 250: National Jubilee of Prayer, Praise & Thanksgiving" is partly funded by millions in public dollars earmarked for the nation's 250th birthday celebration, organizers said. It will feature mostly evangelical Protestant leaders and members of the Trump administration, many of whom

have embraced the message that America's founders wanted the country to be explicitly Christian.

In a webinar last month, the Rev. Paula White-Cain, a senior faith adviser to the White House, said the event "is about the history and the foundations of our nation, which was built on Christian values, on the Bible . . . This is really truly rededicating the country to God."

While U.S. presidents through history have typically marked major commemorations with generic prayers of thanks to God, scholars of American religious history say the national jubilee is unprecedented in the modern era.

They say that's because of its scope — nine hours and dozens of Christian speakers, including top U.S. officials such as Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) — and its focus on American

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