



This Little-Known Inflation Index May Predict the 2026 Election Winner

Right now, pundits give Democrats roughly a **75% chance of winning the House in the 2026 midterms**. But let's be honest: elections aren't decided by polls taken months in advance.

They're decided at the kitchen table.

They're decided when voters swipe their card at the grocery store... fill up at the pump... open their insurance bill... and quietly think, *"This is getting harder."*

That's why investors should be watching a powerful — and largely overlooked — measure called the ***Everyday Consumer Price Index***, developed by Strategas Securities.

Most people focus on the government's CPI report. But CPI includes categories that consumers can postpone or substitute. The ***Everyday CPI*** zeroes in on the things households **can't avoid buying**: food, energy, shelter, clothing, insurance, and other essentials.

In other words, it measures **financial stress in real time**.

And that's where the political and market implications collide.

When the *Everyday CPI* rises, consumers don't just complain — they **change behavior**. They cut discretionary spending. They delay big purchases. They shift brands. They lean defensively. That slowdown ripples through corporate earnings, sector performance, and ultimately market leadership.

At the same time, rising everyday costs hit voter psychology hard. A family that feels squeezed doesn't vote based on GDP or stock indexes. They vote based on **how**

expensive life feels. If this index accelerates into late summer and fall of 2026, it could trigger a voter backlash and change the current dynamic in Washington.

That's not political theory. That's wallet math.

Because the index is proprietary, I do not have access to the most recent data. However, here's what the index was showing back in September:

Strategas' Everyday Person CPI Changes vs CPI Components						
	Apr y/y	May y/y	Jun y/y	Jul y/y	Aug y/y	Cumulative June 2020 - Present %
CPI	2.3%	2.4%	2.7%	2.7%	2.9%	25.8%
Everyday Person CPI	2.5%	2.5%	2.8%	2.8%	3.1%	27.0%
Average Hourly Earnings	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%	3.9%	3.7%	24.3%
Everyday Person Take-Home Pay	1.4%	1.4%	0.9%	1.0%	0.6%	-2.6%
CPI / Everyday Person Subsectors						
Food	2.7%	2.9%	3.0%	2.9%	3.2%	26.6%
Energy	-3.5%	-3.1%	-0.6%	-1.3%	0.4%	46.7%
Shelter	4.0%	3.9%	3.8%	3.7%	3.6%	28.3%
Motor Vehicle Insurance	6.4%	7.0%	6.1%	5.3%	4.7%	74.7%
Apparel	-0.7%	-0.9%	-0.5%	-0.1%	0.3%	14.0%
Fuels & Utilities	5.4%	6.0%	6.8%	6.5%	6.9%	38.1%

Source: Strategas Securities LLC (2025.09.12)

As we all know, prices exploded after COVID. In August 2025, prices ticked up from the prior periods year-over-year

Not good for incumbents.

EVERYDAY PERSON PRICES TICKED LOWER MONTH OVER MONTH IN AUGUST

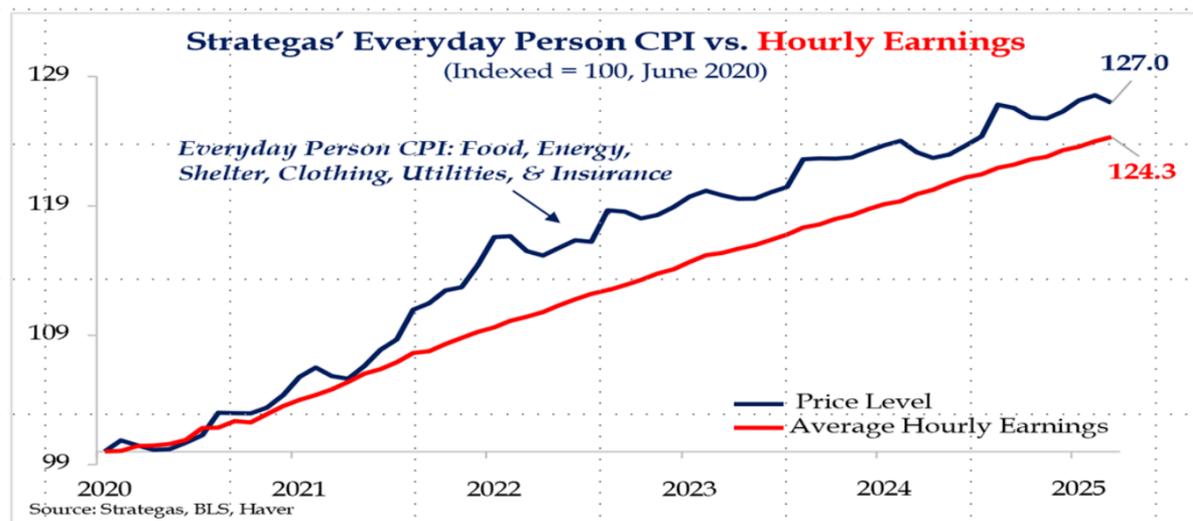


Chart As of August 2025

Month-over-month, prices improved back in August. Notice, though, since 2020, wages haven't kept pace with price increases. Also, not good for incumbents.

However, that gap is narrowing.

And this will be the most important statistic to watch as the election cycle unfolds.

Everyone knows what it costs for them to live. They can feel it. There's nothing worse than a politician telling them everything is okay when it's not.

If real wages are up, incumbents will do better. If they're not, they will get smoked in the midterms.

THE CUMULATIVE WAGE PICTURE IMPROVED TOO



Chart As of August 2025

Where This Becomes Actionable for Investors

Here's the part most commentators miss: **consumer stress shows up in markets before it shows up in headlines.**

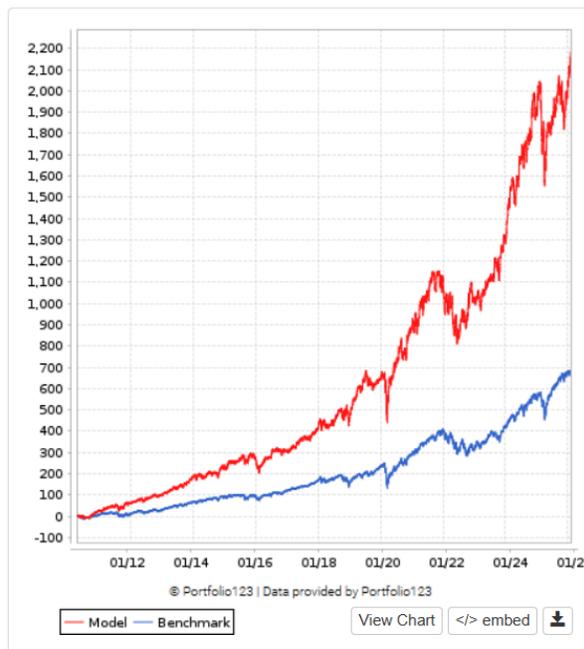
Rising Everyday CPI tends to favor:

- Defensive sectors over cyclical ones
- Value over growth
- Income-producing assets over speculation
- Companies with pricing power over those dependent on volume

Falling or stabilizing, everyday CPI can signal the opposite — renewed risk appetite, stronger consumer activity, and leadership shifts toward growth and discretionary names.

These are not academic observations. They are **allocation signals**.

And this is exactly the type of environment my **FAST Profits** systems are built to navigate. Since 2010, the top 8 stocks in the *FAST Model* have returned 2,181% compared with 678% for the S&P 500.



General Info	
Total Market Value (inc. Cash)	2,281,266.57
Cash	858.72
Number of Positions	8
Last Trades (6)	02/09/26
Period	04/01/10 - 02/06/26
Sizing Method	Static Weight
Next Rebalance (Every Week)	02/14/26 In 7 Days
Mode	Manual
PIT Method - Prelim	Use
Benchmark	S&P 500 (SPY:USA)
Universe	S&P1500 CompositeCap (IVV+IJH+IDR)
Ranking System	FAST Ranking
Quick Stats as of 2/6/2026	
Total Return	2,181.27%
Benchmark Return	678.21%
Active Return	1,503.06%
Annualized Return	21.79%
Annual Turnover	1,311.73%
Max Drawdown	-30.94%
Benchmark Max Drawdown	-33.72%
Overall Winners	(1014/1671) 60.00%
Sharpe Ratio	1.19
Correlation with S&P 500 (SPY:USA)	0.81

As part of a subscription to *FAST Profits*, my **Simple Retirement System** and other proprietary models don't rely on economic predictions or media narratives. They respond to **measurable shifts in market behavior** — shifts often triggered by the same consumer stress that the Everyday CPI captures early.

When conditions tighten, the systems automatically move more defensively.

When pressure eases, they lean back into opportunity.

No guesswork. No political forecasting. Just data-driven adaptation based on formulas developed over decades as a quantitative analyst and hedge fund manager.

So while most investors are watching election odds... and others are glued to lagging CPI reports...

You can monitor a real-time gauge of **consumer financial pressure** — one that may signal not only who wins in November, but **which investments are positioned to win first**.

That's the edge.

And in markets like these, edge is everything.

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