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Clouding the issue



A sailboat has the Hyannisport mooring field to itself, riding the horizon line between advancing clouds and a brief glimmer of sunshine on Nov. 13. PROVIDED BY STEVE HEASLIP

Two grocery stores in Massachusetts named 'standouts' for price, quality

Rin Velasco
USA TODAY NETWORK - New England

The problem with high groceries costs is that you don't feel it until you're already at checkout.

With the average price of rent in Massachusetts already breaking \$2,500 in 2025, according to Apartments.com, adding high grocery prices to the mix just feels soul-crushing.

Luckily, a Consumers' Checkbook report found the two best grocery store chains with the best prices in the Commonwealth.

"Consumers' Checkbook researchers shopped stores using a 150-item list to compare prices," the website said. "To evaluate stores on quality of products and service, we surveyed our members."

Here are the most cost-effective grocery stores in Massachusetts and why:

Market Basket

The Consumers' Checkbook website said that Market Basket, despite its be-



Wegmans is offering full Thanksgiving dinners for carryout only from Nov. 22-27. PROVIDED BY WEGMANS

hind-the-scenes corporate conflict, is still one of the cheapest grocery stores in Massachusetts.

"Market Basket also remains one of the area's least expensive chains: Its prices were 15% lower than the average at all stores we shopped," the publication said.

However, the Consumers' Checkbook said it did not rank very high for

having high quality food.

Wegmans

Wegmans is the second best grocery place in the Bay State overall, the report said.

"Since opening its first Massachusetts location in 2011, the Rochester-based chain has consistently earned high ratings from its customers for quality," Consumers' Checkbook said. "In our latest survey, 81% of its surveyed customers judged it 'superior' overall."

However it did not rank very high on affordability, resembling prices at Shaw's or Star Market.

"On average, its prices were about the same as Shaw's, 3% lower than Stop & Shop, and 17% lower than Whole Foods, but 10% higher than Walmart, 15% higher than Market Basket, and 17% higher than Price Rite," the website said.

Rin Velasco is a trending reporter. She can be reached at rvelasco@usatoday.com.

'Not one decent cell in his body'

Epstein trashed former friend Trump in emails

Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON - "Dirty." "(Expletive) crazy." "Borderline insane." A Mafia don but with the "great dangerous power" of being America's president and commander-in-chief.

That's how the late Jeffrey Epstein described his former longtime friend and confidant Donald Trump, according to a trove of the convicted sex offender's texts and emails released Nov. 12 by the House Oversight Committee.

But perhaps the most intriguing thing Epstein said about Trump in the 20,000-plus pages of emails provided by his estate was this:

"I am the one able to take him down."

The White House and Trump himself tried to spin the document release

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Proposed rule to restrict students, media visas

BrieAnna J. Frank
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump this week ignited a wave of criticism from conservatives when he suggested the United States needed a path for highly skilled foreign workers to enter the country.

Trump's comments on the H-1B visa program echo the perspective of business leaders but have been controversial among members of his base who want a more hard-line approach to immigration.

At the same time, the Trump administration has been quietly pushing a series of new restrictions on other visas targeting students and foreign journalists, raising a different set of concerns for some over the future of academic and press freedom.

A proposed Department of Homeland Security rule would change existing policy by granting visa holders

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