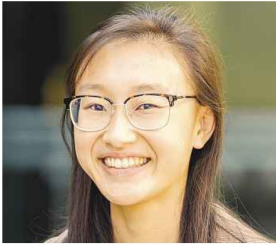


LI People ON THE MOVE



LONG ISLAND CARES, INC.

Katrina Hill of Farmingville has been hired as vice president for network relations and capacity building at **Long Island Cares, Inc.** in Hauppauge. She was division director of care coordination for Federation of Organizations in Medford.



ANTHONY DAVIS

Chelsea Zhao of Copiague has been hired as a staff engineer at **H2M architects + engineers** in Melville. She is a recent graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y.



ANTHONY DAVIS

Brittany L. Coughlin of Stony Brook has been hired as an HR coordinator at **H2M architects + engineers** in Melville. She was an HR recruiting specialist at Nikon Instruments in Melville.

— DIANE DANIELS

Send submissions to
peopleonthemove
@newsday.com

READ MORE
See who else
has a new position
newsday.com/onthemove

MAYBE TRAVELING ISN'T SO EXPENSIVE

Lower cost of domestic flights is relief to wallet

NerdWallet

Dining out is more expensive than ever. The cost of gas is rising again. And the price of travel — including airfare and hotels — has kept pace. Right?

Not exactly. Airfare costs declined by 13% between September 2022 and September 2023, according to September 2023 Consumer Price Index data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Far from being an inflationary force, travel prices have actually helped cool overall prices this year. Yet this seems to fly in the face of many travelers' expectations.

"I keep hearing the narrative that it's so expensive to travel," says Hayley Berg, lead economist at Hopper, a travel booking platform. "In reality we're seeing lower prices, for domestic trips especially."

Travel prices have fluctuated so often since 2019 that it makes sense if recent price drops haven't registered for many travelers. And while airfare has decreased in recent months below 2019 levels, other expenses such as dining out and renting a car



NEWSDAY / STEVE PROST

Travelers like these at MacArthur Airport may find less sticker shock when flying within the U.S.

remain above their pre-pandemic baseline.

Part of this complication comes from the divergence in price swings for domestic and international airfare. Overseas travelers have seen starkly higher relative prices than those flying within the United States.

Typical round-trip fares from the United States to Europe hit nearly \$1,200 this summer, according to Hopper, the highest price in six years. Tickets to Asia reached almost \$1,600. And while Berg says

prices have moderated since then, they remain high by historical standards. On the flip side, domestic prices are down compared with 2022.

What's driving this difference in price trends? The supply of aircraft seats is one issue. Although airlines are now operating at 2019 capacity domestically, they have been slower to add international flights.

Indeed, American Airlines added only 11% more international capacity in the first half of 2023 compared with the

same period in 2022, according to its second-quarter financial results, yet revenue increased on those routes by 41%.

Another reason airlines have been able to keep international prices high: a relative lack of competition from low-cost airlines.

"If you think back to 2019, it was the heyday of flying to London for \$300 with a stopover in Iceland," Berg says. "Fast forward to today, many of those airlines are not operating or operating at lower capacity."

Thanksgiving dinner is going to cost you

Bloomberg News

Inflation is slowing, turkey prices are dropping and yet, somehow, Thanksgiving dinners will still cost more than they did last year.

"Don't expect tremendous savings," a new report from Wells Fargo's Agri-Food Institute warns, noting that food-at-home prices are still up 2.4% compared with last October. "This year's celebration will not be less expensive."

Still, not all Thanksgiving mainstays are going to cost more, and the price of the traditional roasted-turkey centerpiece is falling. Retail prices for whole fresh turkeys were down 9% the week of Oct. 23, when the report was written, but have dropped even more since then, down 13% as of Oct. 30, said



BUSINESS WIRE

Cost of turkey is dropping, but everything else on Thanksgiving table is pricey this year.

Michael Swanson, the institute's chief agricultural economist. "We expect those prices to fall even more."

While turkey prices are falling, consumers aren't getting the full benefit of the lower price tag retailers are seeing: Wholesale prices are down

30%, according to the report. "The retailer has more expenses," said Swanson, one of the report's authors, citing high labor costs as an example.

Not everyone is so optimistic on the cost of gobblers. Lower turkey stocks as a result of avian flu could hurt supply and support prices, said Justin Barlup, an analyst at Bloomberg's Green Markets.

Ham prices, meanwhile, have gone up 5.2% since last year, according to the report. Canned foods are way up, too, Swanson said, with canned pumpkin up 30% and green beans rising 9% compared with a year ago. Canned cranberries are up 60%, but those willing to spend more time cooking can save some money: Fresh cranberries are down 20%, year over year.

Cream supplies are tight

across the country, pressuring milk and dairy prices, according to the latest U.S. Foods Farmer's Report. The report, from Oct. 27, also says that green beans from Georgia have seen crop damage due to hurricanes and rains over the past couple of months — crimping supplies headed into the Thanksgiving holiday.

Swanson attributes the variability to a range of factors: Farmers put a lot of turkeys into their barns over the summer, so supply is high and retailers are competing with each other to bring down prices. Packaging and transportation costs are still making canned items more expensive. Finally, the COVID-19 supply-chain impacts have subsided, and retailers can go back to forcing competition between suppliers, rather than simply hoping to keep shelves stocked.