

# Homeowners Insurance Cost Increases Explained

*Increasing severe weather plays a significant role, but inflation, population shifts, legal system abuse, and regulatory constraints are key cost drivers.*



## Increasing Severe Natural Disasters

The increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters in the U.S. plays a significant role in rising insurance costs. In 2023 alone, the U.S. experienced 28 separate billion-dollar-plus weather events, which surpassed the previous record of 22 events seen in 2020.<sup>1</sup> According to Aon, insurers incurred a record \$381 billion in natural catastrophe losses over the last four years, the highest ever four-year total for U.S. insurers.



## Inflation Driving Up Home Repair & Replacement Costs

Inflation reached a 40-year record high in 2022. While price increases have slowed, the cumulative increase in the costs of most goods and services including building materials and labor to repair and rebuild homes has been very high. In the last five years, construction labor has increased 38.4 percent while building materials are up nearly 37.8 percent.<sup>2</sup>



## Population Shifts Into High-Risk Areas

More people are living and building homes in areas that are at high-risk for natural disasters. The number of Americans directly exposed to wildfire doubled over the past two decades.<sup>3</sup> The hurricane-exposed states of Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, and Delaware all experienced double-digit percentage population growth between 2010 - 2020.<sup>4</sup>



## Legal System Abuse

Legal system abuse is a major cost driver as insurers face rapidly increasing legal costs and jackpot mega verdicts. The National Law Journal's Top 100 Verdicts average increased 350% from \$64 million in 2015 to \$225 million in 2020.



## Regulatory Constraints

In some states, regulatory coverage mandates and long delays in regulatory rate approvals have created a significant gap between escalating covered losses and the prices charged. If insurers cannot appropriately price business in a timely manner, markets rapidly deteriorate, as they are doing now in several states.



## What is the industry doing to help policyholders?

Insurers are developing affordable environmental mitigation and resiliency standards to better protect individuals, families, and businesses from weather losses. Through the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, insurers are funding and promoting new building and landscaping design standards that can reduce fire risk, hail damage, and wind losses. Many insurers also offer premium discounts for certain mitigation measures that policyholders take to reduce the risk of damage to their home.

Learn more at [www.apci.org/HOcostdrivers](http://www.apci.org/HOcostdrivers)

1 <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/>.

2 APCA analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Data

3 <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/risk-of-wildfires-near-homes-doubled-why/>.

4 <https://www.iii.org/press-release/triple-i-population-growth-drives-hurricane-loss-trends-071422>.