STATA + PLATYPUS ECONOMICS
WITH JUSTIN WOLFERS

What does Thanksgiving cost this year?

Build your own Thanksgiving price index (the dinner, plus getting there), then fill in what you find.

STEP 1 Write down a budget for a family of four ("." = not in that basket)

```
input str15 table str10 item dinner drive fly
"CUUR0000SEFF02" "Turkey" 35 35 35
"CUUR0000SEFL01" "Potatoes" 6 6 6
"CUUR0000SS0206B" "Pies" 16 16 16
"CUUR0000SS10011" "Butter" 6 6 6
"CUUR0000SEFH" "Eggs" 5 5 5
"CUUR0000SETB01" "Gasoline" . 60 .
"CUUR0000SETG01" "Airfares" . . 1200
"CUUR0000SA0" "All prices" . . .
end
save budget, replace
```

STEP 2 Grab the prices from the BLS (gasoline first: it has no October gap)

```
getbls CUUR0000SETB01, years(2025-2026) clear†
save gas, replace
getbls CUUR0000SA0 CUUR0000SEFF02 CUUR0000SEFH CUUR0000SEFL01 ///
CUUR0000SETG01 CUUR0000SS0206B CUUR0000SS10011, ///
years(2025-2026) clear
destring value, replace force
append using gas
gen date = ym(year, real(substr(monthID, 2, 2)))
```

STEP 3 Fill the October 2025 gap, then measure each price change

```
keep if inrange(date, tm(2025m9), tm(2025m11)) | date == tm(2026m10)
sort table date
by table: gen base = cond(missing(value[2]), sqrt(value[1]*value[3]), value[2])
by table: gen change = 100 * (value[4] / base - 1)
keep if date == tm(2026m10)
```

STEP 4 Attach the budget and compare the items

```
merge 1:1 table using budget, nogenerate
list item change, noobs
```

Item	Turkey	Potatoes	Pies	Butter	Eggs	Gasoline	Airfares	All prices
Change (%)								

STEP 5 Price the three baskets

```
summarize change [aweight=dinner]
summarize change [aweight=drive]
summarize change [aweight=fly]
```

Dinner only (%) _____ Dinner + driving (%) _____ Dinner + flying (%) _____

What do you notice?

1. Which item got cheaper, and which pricier? Is dinner rising faster or slower than all prices?

2. Why does the flying basket track airfares so closely? What's your own Thanksgiving inflation rate?

† getbls needs a free BLS API key: register at data.bls.gov/registrationEngine, then type in Stata:
`net install getbls, from(https://raw.githubusercontent.com/raheem03/getbls/master/)` then `global blskey YOUR_KEY`