



1.20.11

Shoppers Beware: Clothing Costs To Rise

Cotton Prices Skyrocketing Around World

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PHOENIX -- Manufacturers are paying more for cotton than they have in years, and many retailers are passing those costs on to customers.

Consumer experts are predicting that cotton clothing could cost 10 percent to 30 percent more this year.

"That's an extreme amount of money to go up that quickly in a year," said shopper Lane Grassi. "The economy is not what it used to be and everything has increased. This is just one more thing to add to people's plates in a rough time."

The sudden climb in cotton prices can be directly linked to short supplies and bad weather in China and Pakistan, the world's two largest producers of cotton.

Retailers estimate that a \$60 pair of jeans may cost \$80 next week.

It's the kind of price jump that has Eli Cherki of Glendale re-evaluating where she shops.

"I would do more yard sales and contingency shops to save some money," said Cherki. "That's a lot of money to start paying."

Vintage Valley clothing stores like My Sister's Closet and the Buffalo Exchange could actually benefit from the higher cotton prices, according to consumer experts.

Owners tell CBS 5 News that when clothing prices go up at regular retail stores, their sales shoot up, as well.

"If you can get three to four times as much for your money by shopping at second-hand stores, you're actually going to give it a try," said Ann Siner, owner of My Sister's Closet.

"Everything adds up. Every dollar counts," Grassi said.