

## **Middle class**

**In 1985, an American man working the typical full-time job could support a family of four on 48 weeks of income, and be able to afford a range of nutritious foods, a three-bedroom house, a comprehensive health insurance plan, a family car, even saving to put both kids through the state university.**

**In 2022, paying for all that would require 62 weeks of his income, which is a problem, there being only 52 weeks in a year.**

**These figures come from the Cost-of-Thriving Index (Coti), which compares the rate at which wages are rising to the rate of cost increases for middle-class staples.**

**Oren Cass, Financial Times, February 13, 2023**