

Shortage Risk Reality Check

Documented U.S. Shortage Events by Category

Food

- Great Depression Food Shortages (1931–1933)
- World War II Rationing (1942–1945)
- 1954–1957 Produce Shortages (post-freeze losses)
- 1972–1974 Fruit & Vegetable Shortages
- 2007–2008 Baby Formula Shortage
- 2020 Meat & Poultry Processing Disruptions

Water

- Drought in the Southwest (1950s)
- 1963–1964 California Water Shortage
- 1976–1977 Drought (Western U.S.)
- 1999–2002 California Drought
- 2011–2017 California Drought
- 2021 Water Crisis in Jackson, Mississippi

Fuel

- 1973–1974 Oil Embargo & Gasoline Shortages
- 1979–1980 Second Oil Crisis
- 1990–1991 Persian Gulf War Fuel Shortages
- 2000 East Coast Heating Oil Shortage
- 2005 Hurricane Katrina Fuel Disruptions
- 2021 Colonial Pipeline Shutdown

Medicine

- 1940s Penicillin Shortages (WWII)
- 1950s–1960s Polio Vaccine Shortages
- 1980s–1990s HIV/AIDS Drug Shortages
- 2001–2002 Anthrax Antibiotic Shortage
- 2011 IV Fluid Shortage
- 2022–2023 ADHD Medication Shortage

Household Goods

- 1942–1945 Wartime Consumer Goods Rationing
- 1973–1974 Toilet Paper Shortage
- 1986–1987 Laundry Detergent Shortage
- 1998 Tampon Shortage
- 2020 Toilet Paper Shortage
- 2021–2022 Supply Chain Disruptions (Multiple Goods)

Other

- 1968–1971 Copper Shortage
- 1974–1975 Natural Gas Shortages
- 1982 Silver Shortage
- 1995–1996 Ephedrine Shortage
- 2009–2010 Rare Earth Elements Concern
- 2021 Semiconductor Chip Shortage

Sources: FEMA, CDC, USDA, news records.