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## Surging Bills Drive Inflation to Yearly Highs

### Description

Recent data shows that the cost of living in the UK is rising sharply. In April, the inflation rate reached 3.5%. This is up from 2.6% in March and is higher than many experts predicted.

The rise in prices is mainly due to increases in household bills, such as water and energy. These bills went up significantly on April 1, adding pressure on families and pushing inflation past the Bank of England's target of 2%.

Experts explain that rising costs for housing, transport, and leisure activities are contributing to inflation. The Bank of England had expected inflation to be around 3.3% this month.

Some economists believe there might be only one interest rate cut this year instead of two, as prices are increasing faster than expected. Huw Pill, a top economist at the Bank, expressed concern about lowering rates too quickly.

'Supermarket shopping is getting more expensive', Tracy McGuigan-Haigh, a mother from Dewsbury, says she struggles with rising grocery prices. "I used to fill a trolley for £40. Now, I barely fill a basket," she says, showing the challenges many families face today.

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### Vocabulary List:

1. **Inflation** /ɪnˈfleɪʃən/ (noun): The rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services is rising.
2. **Significantly** /sɪɡˈnɪfɪkəntli/ (adverb): In a sufficiently great amount to be noticed or have an effect.
3. **Contributing** /kənˈtrɪbjʊːtɪŋ/ (verb): Helping to cause something or resulting in something.
4. **Economists** /ɪˈkɒnəmɪsts/ (noun): Experts in the science of economics dealing with the production distribution and consumption of goods and services.
5. **Pressure** /ˈpreʃər/ (noun): The use of persuasion or influence to make someone do something.
6. **Accelerating** /əkˈseləˌreɪtɪŋ/ (verb): Increasing in speed or rate.

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. What was the inflation rate in the UK in April?



- Option: 3.5%
- Option: 2.6%
- Option: 3.3%
- Option: 2%

2. What is mainly causing the rise in prices according to the text?

- Option: Increases in household bills
- Option: Decrease in housing costs
- Option: Lower transportation fees
- Option: Less consumer spending

3. Which economist expressed concern about lowering rates too quickly?

- Option: Huw Pill
- Option: Tracy McGuigan-Haigh
- Option: Charlotte Edwards
- Option: Ratan Naval Tata

4. What is one item mentioned by Tracy McGuigan-Haigh that has gotten more expensive?

- Option: Groceries
- Option: Electronics
- Option: Clothing
- Option: Toys

5. What is the Bank of England's target inflation rate?

- Option: 2%
- Option: 3%
- Option: 4%
- Option: 5%

6. In what month did household bills increase significantly?

- Option: April
- Option: May
- Option: March
- Option: February

### True-False

7. Supermarket shopping has become cheaper according to Tracy McGuigan-Haigh.



8. The inflation rate in March was higher than in April.
9. The rising costs contributing to inflation include housing, transport, and leisure activities.
10. Tracy McGuigan-Haigh is a business reporter for BBC News.
11. The Bank of England expected inflation to be around 3.5% this month.
12. One interest rate cut is expected this year according to some economists.

### Gap-Fill

13. The inflation rate in April was \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The Bank of England had expected inflation to be around \_\_\_\_\_ this month.
15. Tracy McGuigan-Haigh struggles with rising \_\_\_\_\_ prices.
16. Some economists believe there might be only one interest rate cut this year instead of \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Rising costs for housing, transport, and leisure activities are contributing to \_\_\_\_\_.
18. The rise in prices is mainly due to increases in household \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. 3.5% 2. Increases in household bills 3. Huw Pill 4. Groceries 5. 2% 6. April

**True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. 3.5% 14. 3.3% 15. grocery 16. two 17. inflation 18. bills

### Vocabulary quizzes

**Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )**



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1. Which term is used to describe products or services that are only available during specific times of the year?
    - Option: Flights
    - Option: Nonstop
    - Option: Carcinogen
    - Option: Seasonal
  2. What is a term for the state of relying on something or someone else?
    - Option: Additive
    - Option: Reliability
    - Option: Dependency
    - Option: Initiative
  3. Which term refers to something that is produced or created through human effort?
    - Option: Purity
    - Option: Carcinogen
    - Option: Manufactured
    - Option: Semiconductor
  4. What term describes a general direction in which something is developing or changing?
    - Option: Purity
    - Option: Trend
    - Option: Reliability
    - Option: Scrutiny
  5. What term refers to the rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services is rising?
    - Option: Pressure
    - Option: Inflation
    - Option: Decade
    - Option: Tensions
  6. Which term describes something that is making a contribution or adding to a cause or effect?
    - Option: Accelerating
    - Option: Contributing
    - Option: Resilience
    - Option: Routes
  7. What term is used to describe feelings of anxiety or concern about actual or potential problems?
    - Option: Enhance
    - Option: Worries
    - Option: Pressure
    - Option: Routes



8. Which term describes the action or process of increasing in speed or rate?

Option: Manufactured

Option: Dependency

Option: Accelerating

Option: Purity

9. What term refers to the continuous physical force exerted on or against an object by something in contact with it?

Option: Seasonal

Option: Pressure

Option: Trend

Option: Decade

10. Which term describes the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness?

Option: Routes

Option: Resilience

Option: Initiative

Option: Flights

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. The gold necklace was made of 24 \_\_\_\_\_ gold.

12. The company will conduct a thorough \_\_\_\_\_ of its financial performance.

13. The new iPhone release is highly \_\_\_\_\_ by tech enthusiasts.

14. The government's actions are under close \_\_\_\_\_ from the public.

15. The national park has vast natural \_\_\_\_\_ of wildlife.

16. The company's profits have \_\_\_\_\_ increased over the past year.

17. The airline added new international \_\_\_\_\_ to its schedule.

18. The mayor launched a new environmental \_\_\_\_\_ to reduce plastic waste.

19. The political debate created high \_\_\_\_\_ among the candidates.

20. The company celebrated its 50th anniversary marking half a \_\_\_\_\_ in business.



**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. The new software aims to improve and the user experience.
22. The airline offers direct flights to popular destinations.
23. Some food manufacturers use artificial to enhance flavor and preservation.
24. Exposure to this chemical has been linked to an increased risk of cancer due to its properties.
25. Customers value the company's products for their consistent quality and .
26. The laboratory test confirmed the substance's high level of .
27. The new public transportation system will include additional bus to improve connectivity.
28. predict that the upcoming tax changes will impact consumer spending.
29. The country's oil are being depleted due to increased demand.
30. The company's success is closely tied to its on foreign markets.

**Answer**

- Multiple Choice:** 1. Seasonal 2. Dependency 3. Manufactured 4. Trend 5. Inflation 6. Contributing 7. Worries 8. Accelerating 9. Pressure 10. Resilience
- Gap-Fill:** 11. Karats 12. Review 13. Anticipated 14. Scrutiny 15. Reserves 16. Significantly 17. Flights 18. Initiative 19. Tensions 20. Decade
- Matching sentence:** 1. Enhance 2. Nonstop 3. Additive 4. Carcinogen 5. Reliability 6. Purity 7. Routes 8. Economists 9. Reserves 10. Dependency

**CATEGORY**

1. Business - LEVEL3

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**Author**

aimeeyoung99