



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.

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** /ɪˈkɒnəˌmɪsts/ (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

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL3

Date Created

2025/05/22

Author

aimeeyoung99