

Surprise Drop in UK Inflation Due to Lower Clothing Prices

Description

Gettyrlmages Woman looking at a pair of jeans in a clothing store

UK inflation dropped more than expected in February. The decrease to 2.8% from 3% in January was mainly because of lower prices for clothing and shoes due to a high number of sales. Grant Fitzner, chief economist at the Office for National Statistics (ONS), highlighted that women's clothing was the main factor behind the decline.

The fall in clothing prices was not fully offset by slight increases in other categories like alcoholic drinks. This marked the first time clothing and footwear prices fell since 2021. Children's clothing and accessories such as hats and scarves were also affected. Economists had predicted a 2.9% inflation rate, but the actual figure, though lower, remained above the Bank of England's target of 2%.

Lingechart showingether likr Consumer Price Index annual inflation rate, from February 2016 to February 20

Looking ahead, prices are expected to rise further in the coming months due to increases in council tax, energy, water bills, and other factors. Stay tuned for the Chancellor's Spring Statement, where more economic plans will be revealed.

Vocabulary List:

- 1. Inflation /In'fleIJən/ (noun): The rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services is rising.
- 2. Decrease /dɪˈkri:s/ (verb): To make or become smaller or fewer in size amount intensity or degree.
- 3. **Economist** /ɪˈkɒnəmɪst/ (noun): An expert in economics; a social scientist who studies the production distribution and consumption of goods and services.
- 4. Accessory /ək'sɛsəri/ (noun): A supplementary item that enhances or complements something else.
- 5. **Predicted** /prɪˈdɪktɪd/ (verb): To declare or indicate in advance; to make an educated guess about a future event.
- 6. **Economic** /ˌiːkəˈnɒmɪk/ (adjective): Relating to economics or the economy; concerned with the production and management of resources.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice



1. What was the main factor behind the drop in UK inflation in February?

Option: Decrease in alcoholic drinks prices Option: Increase in clothing and shoes prices

Option: High number of sales in clothing and shoes

Option: Decrease in council tax

2. Which category saw a decrease in prices in February for the first time since 2021?

Option: Alcoholic drinks
Option: Healthcare products
Option: Clothing and footwear
Option: Home appliances

3. What was the actual inflation rate in February, compared to the predicted rate of 2.9%?

Option: 2.8% Option: 3.1% Option: 2.5% Option: 2.7%

4. Which entity highlighted that women's clothing played a significant role in the decline of clothing prices?

Option: Bank of England

Option: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Option: BBC News

Option: Chancellor's Spring Statement

5. What is expected to rise in the coming months according to the content?

Option: Clothing prices
Option: Council tax
Option: Water bills

Option: Home appliance prices

6. Which economic plan is mentioned to be revealed in the Chancellor's Spring Statement?

Option: Inflation forecast
Option: Interest rate changes

Option: Tax policies

Option: Budget deficit reduction plan

True-False



UK inflation increased in Februa	ary.
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- 8. Clothing and footwear prices fell for the first time since 2021 in February.
- 9. The actual inflation rate in February was below the Bank of England's target.
- 10. Economists accurately predicted the inflation rate in February.
- 11. The Chancellor's Spring Statement will include economic plans.
- 12. The fall in clothing prices was fully offset by increases in other categories.

Gap-Fill

13. UK inflation dropped to	in February from 3% in January.	
14. The Bank of England's inflation target is set at	NS.COM	
15. Prices are expected to rise due to increases in co	ouncil tax, energy, water bills, and other	factors in the
coming		
16. Grant Fitzner is the chief	at the Office for National Statistics (C	NS).
17. Stay tuned for the Chancellor's Spring Statemen	t, where more	plans will be
revealed.		
18. Children's clothing and accessories like hats and	scarves were also	by the fall
in clothing prices		

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. High number of sales in clothing and shoes 2. Clothing and footwear 3. 2.8% 4. Office for National Statistics (ONS) 5. Council tax 6. Tax policies

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

Gap-Fill: 13. 2.8% 14. 2% 15. months 16. economist 17. economic 18. affected



Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What are taxes on imported or exported goods called?

Option: Opportunities

Option: Tariffs

Option: Fluctuations Option: Retirement

2. What is the effect or influence of one thing on another?

Option: Inflation Option: Retaliation Option: Tariff Option: Impact

3. What is the general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money? ESL-NEWS

Option: Decrease Option: Economist Option: Accessory Option: Inflation

4. What are difficult situations or obstacles that test someone's abilities?

Option: Statistics Option: Retirement Option: Challenges Option: Growth

5. What are discussions aimed at reaching agreements?

Option: Tariff

Option: Negotiations Option: Accessories Option: Fluctuate

6. What is the act of putting a decision plan or system into effect?

Option: Controversies Option: Strengthen Option: Implementing Option: Conerns

7. What is the action of revising or altering something?



Option: Surety
Option: Revised
Option: Economic
Option: Growth

8. What are irregular changes or variations in something?

Option: Invested Option: Retirement Option: Borrowing Option: Fluctuations

9. Who studies the production distribution and consumption of goods and services?

Option: Economist Option: Accessories Option: Predicted Option: Inactivity

ESL-NEWS.COM 10. What is the process of increasing in size or developing?

Option: Challenge Option: Growth **Option: Statistics** Option: Tariff

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

11. A	is a tax or duty to be paid on a	a particular class of imp	orts or exports.
12. Currency exchange rates to	end to	sometimes leading to	gains and other times
resulting in losses.			
13. He	_ a significant amount of mone	ey into the startup hopin	ng for a good return on
investment.			
14. After many years of hard w	ork she decided to enjoy her $_$		and relax.
15. Taking out a loan is a form	of mo	oney.	
16. With change comes new	for grow	wth and development.	



17. She provided a guarantee of payment as	for the loan.				
18. Rapid price increases can lead to high	rates.				
19. The company its marketing strategy	y to better target a younger audience.				
20. To be successful a business must continuously	its position in the market.				
Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)					
21. When one country imposes tariffs on another the second co	untry might respond with its own tariffs.				
22. The new handbag she bought was the perfect to complement her outfit.					
23. Despite the uncertainties the weather forecaster accurately heavy rain for the weekend.					
24. The government's primary focus is on improving the country's situation.					
25. During the holidays he preferred moments of and relaxation over constant activity.					
26. Social media platforms often generate heated debates and over various topics.					
27. By analyzing relevant the researchers were able to draw meaningful conclusions.					
28. The safety raised by the parents prompted a review of the school's security measures.					
29. The company's success led to a period of rapid and increased market share.					
30. In times of economic change new business often arise for bold entrepreneurs.					

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Tariffs 2. Impact 3. Inflation 4. Challenges 5. Negotiations 6. Implementing 7. Revised 8. Fluctuations 9. Economist 10. Growth

Gap-Fill: 11. tariff 12. fluctuate 13. invested 14. retirement 15. borrowing 16. opportunities 17. surety 18. inflation 19. revised 20. strengthen

Matching sentence: 1. retaliation 2. accessory 3. predicted 4. economic 5. inactivity 6. controversies 7. statistics 8. concerns 9. growth 10. opportunities

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL3



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