



UK Inflation Soars to 3.5% in April Amid Rising Household Costs

Description

The U.K. has seen its inflation rate rise to 3.5% in April. This is higher than what many experts expected, according to a report from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Before this, the inflation rates were lower, with 2.8% in February and 2.6% in March.

Core inflation, which looks at prices of things like food and energy, went up by 3.8% in April. Housing, transport, and entertainment increased prices the most. However, clothing and shoes saw a drop in prices.

This rise in prices is putting more pressure on families. For example, energy prices went up by 6.7% and water bills increased by 26.1% in April.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves said she is "disappointed" by the news, as many people are still struggling financially.

The Bank of England is watching these changes closely. They recently cut interest rates but may change their plans if inflation continues to rise.

Despite this, some experts believe inflation will decrease over time, which could allow the bank to reduce rates further.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Inflation** /ɪnˈfleɪ.ʃən/ (noun): The rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services is rising.
2. **Statistics** /stəˈtɪs.tɪks/ (noun): The science of collecting analyzing and interpreting data.
3. **Core** /kɔːr/ (adjective): Central or most important.
4. **Pressure** /ˈpreʃər/ (noun): The use of persuasion or intimidation to make someone do something.
5. **Chancellor** /ˈtʃæŋ.səl.ər/ (noun): A senior state or legal official.
6. **Decrease** /dɪˈkriːs/ (verb): To make or become smaller or less in amount degree or size.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice



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1. What was the inflation rate in the U.K. in April?
 - Option: 2.8%
 - Option: 3.5%
 - Option: 3.8%
 - Option: 6.7%

 2. Which sector experienced the highest price increase in April?
 - Option: Clothing and shoes
 - Option: Energy
 - Option: Transport
 - Option: Housing

 3. Who expressed disappointment regarding the rise in inflation?
 - Option: Chancellor Rachel Reeves
 - Option: Bank of England
 - Option: The public
 - Option: Economic experts

 4. What action did the Bank of England recently take regarding interest rates?
 - Option: Increased rates
 - Option: Maintained rates
 - Option: Cut rates
 - Option: Froze rates

 5. Which prices saw a decrease in April?
 - Option: Energy
 - Option: Water bills
 - Option: Transportation
 - Option: Housing

 6. What is the core inflation rate in April?
 - Option: 2.6%
 - Option: 3.5%
 - Option: 3.8%
 - Option: 6.7%

True-False



7. Inflation rates were lower in March compared to February.
8. Some experts predict that inflation will continue to rise.
9. Clothing and shoes had a price increase in April.
10. The Bank of England may adjust its plans if inflation rises.
11. Chancellor Rachel Reeves believes people are financially stable despite inflation.
12. Core inflation mainly focuses on prices of food and energy.

Gap-Fill

13. Energy prices went up by _____ % in April.
14. Water bills increased by _____ % in April.
15. The Bank of England recently cut _____ rates.
16. Core inflation includes prices of food and _____.
17. The rise in prices is causing more _____ on families.
18. Some experts believe inflation will _____ over time.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 3.5% 2. Housing 3. Chancellor Rachel Reeves 4. Cut rates 5. Clothing and shoes 6. 3.8%

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

Gap-Fill: 13. 6.7 14. 26.1 15. interest 16. energy 17. pressure 18. decrease

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL2

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Author

aimeeyoung99