



# US Inflation Rises Amid Iran Conflict Uncertainty

## Description

US inflation rose sharply in March. This is happening during the US-Israel war with Iran. Prices increased by 0.9% from last month and by 3.3% from last year.

The consumer price index (CPI) measures the cost of common goods and services. This rise is the biggest in nearly two years. The conflict is affecting prices because Iran blocked the strait of Hormuz. This strait is an important route for oil and gas.

In March, energy prices rose by 10.9%. Gasoline prices went up by 21.2%. Airfares also increased by 2.7% compared to the previous month.

Core inflation, which excludes food and energy prices, increased by 0.2% for the month. The annual inflation rate has not gone above 3% since mid-2024. Last summer, inflation was very high at 9.1%.

Rising prices are making people worry. A survey showed that consumer confidence fell by 10.7%. Many people blame the conflict for the bad news about the economy. Despite this, the job market remains strong. Employers added 178,000 jobs in March, and the unemployment rate fell to 4.3%.

## Vocabulary List:

1. **inflation** //ɪnˈfleɪʃən// (noun): a general increase in prices over time
2. **consumer** //kənˈsuːmə// (adjective): related to people who buy goods or services
3. **index** //ˈɪndeks// (noun): a number that shows how prices change
4. **strait** //streɪt// (noun): a narrow waterway connecting two larger bodies
5. **core** //kɔːr// (adjective): the most central or important part
6. **confidence** //ˈkɒnfɪdəns// (noun): strong belief or trust in something

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. What was the percentage increase in prices from last month?

Option: 0.9%



- Option: 3.3%
- Option: 10.9%
- Option: 21.2%

2. By how much did energy prices rise in March?

- Option: 0.2%
- Option: 10.9%
- Option: 21.2%
- Option: 3.3%

3. What is the annual inflation rate's maximum since mid-2024?

- Option: 3%
- Option: 9.1%
- Option: 2.7%
- Option: 4.3%

4. What caused the rise in prices according to the document?

- Option: US inflation
- Option: Consumer confidence
- Option: US-Israel war with Iran
- Option: Job market strength

5. How much did gasoline prices increase?

- Option: 10.9%
- Option: 21.2%
- Option: 2.7%
- Option: 0.2%

6. What was the unemployment rate after the job additions in March?

- Option: 4.3%
- Option: 3.3%
- Option: 10.7%
- Option: 9.1%

### True-False

7. US inflation rose sharply in March 2023.



8. The consumer price index (CPI) measures the cost of labor only.
9. Gasoline prices rose by 21.2% in March.
10. Core inflation excludes food and energy prices.
11. Consumer confidence rose by 10.7% due to the conflict.
12. Employers added 178,000 jobs in March.

### Gap-Fill

13. In March, prices increased by \_\_\_\_\_ from last month.
14. The rise in prices is the biggest in nearly \_\_\_\_\_ years.
15. Iran blocked the strait of \_\_\_\_\_, affecting prices.
16. Last summer, inflation was very high at \_\_\_\_\_ %.
17. The unemployment rate fell to \_\_\_\_\_ %.
18. Consumer confidence fell by \_\_\_\_\_ %.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. 0.9% 2. 10.9% 3. 3% 4. US-Israel war with Iran 5. 21.2% 6. 4.3%

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

**Gap-Fill:** 13. 0.9% 14. two 15. Hormuz 16. 9.1 17. 4.3 18. 10.7

### Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What is typically prioritized during an emergency situation?

Option: Profit

Option: Security



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- Option: Efficiency  
Option: Popularity
2. Who is responsible for managing public safety during a crisis?
- Option: Citizens  
Option: Business Owners  
Option: Authorities  
Option: Media
3. What term is used when a company cannot pay its debts?
- Option: Surplus  
Option: Profitability  
Option: Bankruptcy  
Option: Asset
4. What economic term describes the increase in prices and decrease in purchasing power over time?
- Option: Deflation  
Option: Recession  
Option: Inflation  
Option: Stagnation
5. Who is often tasked with communicating on behalf of an organization?
- Option: Surgeon  
Option: Spokesperson  
Option: Lawyer  
Option: Investor
6. What do companies issue when a customer returns a product?
- Option: Invoices  
Option: Refunds  
Option: Credits  
Option: Dividends
7. Who actively buys and sells financial assets in the market?
- Option: Traders  
Option: Investors  
Option: Analysts  
Option: Auditors
8. What type of oil is often referred to in commodity markets?
- Option: Synthetic  
Option: Refined  
Option: Crude



Option: Vegetable

9. What index measures changes in the price level of a basket of consumer goods and services?

Option: Production Index

Option: Consumer Index

Option: Cost Index

Option: Stock Index

10. What is critical for consumers to feel secure about their financial situation?

Option: Doubt

Option: Confidence

Option: Anxiety

Option: Ambivalence

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

11. The team is focused on \_\_\_\_\_ outdated equipment from the campus.

12. The new marketing strategy aims to \_\_\_\_\_ sales significantly.

13. After the financial crisis, many companies struggled to \_\_\_\_\_ from their losses.

14. The service comes with a \_\_\_\_\_ satisfaction policy.

15. The new work arrangement offers \_\_\_\_\_ hours to accommodate employees' needs.

16. After years of managing their \_\_\_\_\_, the company finally saw a turnaround.

17. The financial \_\_\_\_\_ increased due to positive economic news.

18. In case of a major \_\_\_\_\_, the protocol must be followed strictly.

19. The \_\_\_\_\_ is expected to take a year to complete.

20. The design was so \_\_\_\_\_ that it caught everyone's attention at the exhibition.

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

21. The building was evacuated promptly to ensure everyone's safety.

22. The spokesperson provided important updates during the press conference.



23. Managing debt is crucial for both individuals and businesses to maintain financial health.
24. The authorities assessed the threat level before making a decision.
25. Consumer preferences are essential in shaping market trends.
26. Bankruptcy can be a difficult process for any company facing financial difficulties.
27. Building consumer confidence is vital for economic growth.
28. Many businesses were able to recover after implementing new strategies.
29. Inflation affects the purchasing power of consumers over time.
30. The school is renovating its campus to provide better facilities for students.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Security 2. Authorities 3. Bankruptcy 4. Inflation 5. Spokesperson 6. Refunds 7. Traders 8. Crude 9. Consumer Index 10. Confidence

**Gap-Fill:** 11. removing 12. boost 13. recover 14. guaranteed 15. flexible 16. debt 17. index 18. emergency 19. project 20. striking

**Matching sentence:** 1. evacuated 2. spokesperson 3. debt 4. threat 5. consumer 6. bankruptcy 7. confidence 8. recover 9. inflation 10. renovating

## CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL1

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**Author**

aimeeyoung99

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