

UK inflation

UK inflation hits 9.1% as food prices jump

Figure forecast to hit double digits by the autumn



Bread, cereals and meat are rising the fastest in price © Matthew Horwood/Getty Images

Chris Giles in London 5 HOURS AGO

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The UK's inflation rate hit another 40-year high in May, reaching 9.1 per cent, its highest level since 1982.

Fuelled by higher food prices last month, the rise from the 9 per cent rate [in April](#) was in line with economists' expectations that [inflation](#) will hit double digits by the autumn.

The Bank of England expects the inflation rate [to exceed 11 per cent](#) in October, significantly higher than other similar countries in the G7.

The rise in inflation will add to cost of living pressure on households, intensify demands for wage rises to offset higher prices and make it more difficult to resolve industrial disputes such as [this week's rail strike](#).

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Prices rose at high rates across a broad group of categories. For a quarter of all individual items measured by the Office for National Statistics, prices were 10 per cent higher than last May, and for half of the categories measured, they rose by 7 per cent or more.

The biggest contributor to the increase in inflation [came from food prices](#), which increased 1.5 per cent in May, with bread, cereals and meat rising fastest.

UK inflation rose to a fresh 40-year high in May

CPI inflation (% , year on year)



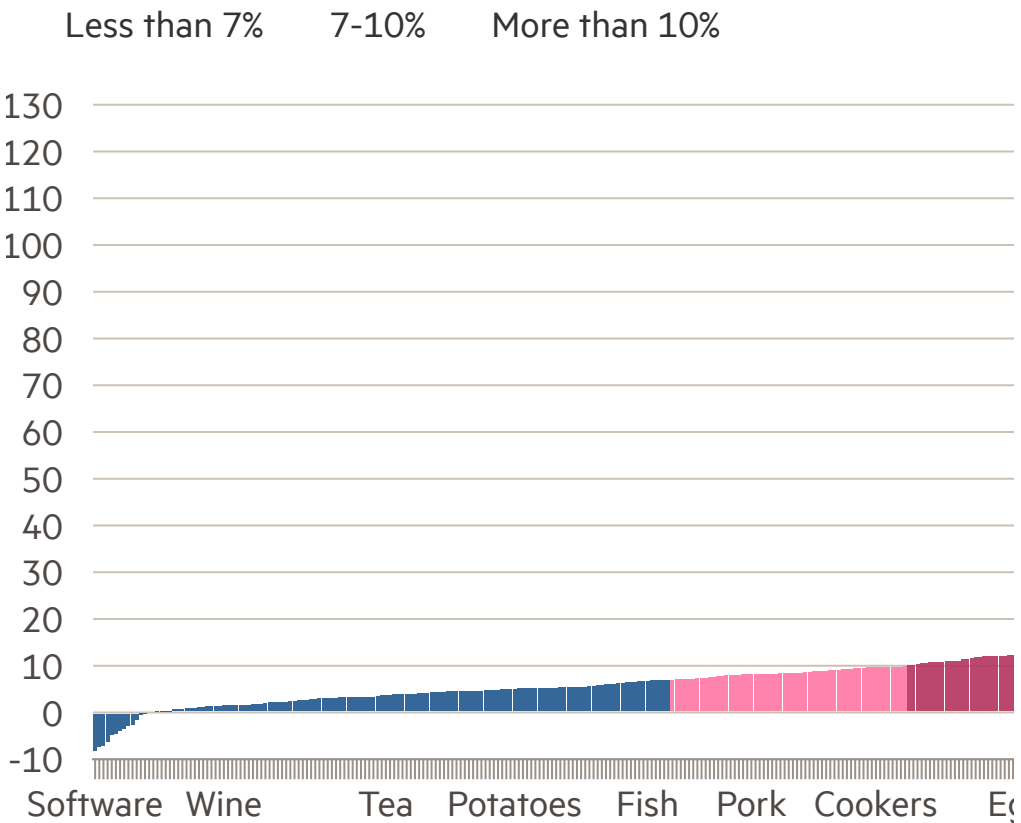
The Office for National Statistics said that road fuel prices were 32.8 per cent higher in May than a year earlier, the largest annual jump in prices in the category since detailed indices were first compiled in 1989.

Next month, the inflation rate is likely to rise strongly again, the Resolution Foundation said, because it would take into account the recent rise in fuel prices at the pumps. In May, the average price of a litre of petrol was recorded at £1.66 and has risen about 20p a litre since then.

Yael Selfin, chief UK economist at KPMG, said there were “no signs yet of inflation [receding](#)” and that while the largest increases were in energy and road fuels, “price rises spread widely across the economy”.

Half of items in the UK inflation basket have risen by more than 7% in the past year

Annual change in consumer prices, May 2022 (%)



FINANCIAL TIMES

Source: ONS

Paul Dales, chief UK economist at Capital Economics, said the pattern of inflation justified further interest rate rises, but not a half-point rise at the Bank of England’s next meeting in August. “It is not obvious in this release that there are signs of the ‘more persistent inflationary pressures’ that last week the Bank said would prompt it to ‘act forcefully’.”

One worrying sign indicated by Grant Fitzner, ONS chief economist, however, was that price pressures were still bubbling away in factories across the UK.

widespread food price rises, while the cost of raw materials **leapt** at their fastest rate on record,” he said. **跳跃**

In a statement, chancellor Rishi Sunak said: “We are using all the tools at our disposal to bring inflation down and combat rising prices — we can build a stronger economy through independent monetary policy, responsible **fiscal policy** **财政政策** which doesn’t add to inflationary pressures and by boosting our long-term productivity and growth.”

In the latest figures, the retail prices index, used to calculate the uplift on index-linked bonds, rose to 11.7 per cent in May from 11.1 per cent in April, marking the highest reading for the measure since October 1981.

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