

British inflation eases to 2.5 pct in August

LONDON, Sept. 18 (Xinhua) -- Britain's annual Consumer Prices Index (CPI) inflation rate slowed down slightly to 2.5 percent in August, showed official data released on Tuesday.

The CPI inflation rate was 2.6 percent in July.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said the slowdown reflected smaller price increases for clothing and household goods and services compared with in August 2011.

"These were partially offset by an upward pressure from transport -- particularly motor fuels," it added.

The inflation dip provides room for the central bank, the Bank of England, with more leeway to inject additional cash into the weak economy.

Meanwhile, the CPI advanced by 0.5 percent in August on a month-on-month basis, the ONS said.

At the same time, the retail prices index (RPI) annual inflation rate stood at 2.9 percent in August, down from 3.2 percent in July.

The largest RPI downward pressures came from household goods, clothing and footwear and food, said the ONS.

"The only significant upward pressure was from fares and other travel costs."