
















Monthly bulletin: 26 March 2025

| Latest data: Cost of living | | | | Snapshot trend analysis | Next data update |
|-----------------------------|--|--------|---|--|------------------|
| Inflation | <i>CPI inflation</i> | 2.8% |  | UK CPI Inflation was 2.8% in Feb 2025, down from 3% in Jan 2025. The largest downward contribution to the monthly change in CPI annual rates came from clothing. | 16/04/2025 |
| | <i>Food inflation</i> | 3.3% |  | Food inflation was 3.3% in the 12 months to Feb 2025, unchanged from the previous month. Increases and decreases in prices for food categories offset each other leading to no change in the rate. | 16/04/2025 |
| | <i>Bank Rate</i> | 4.50% |  | Bank rate was 4.5% in March 2025, the same as February 2025. | 08/05/2025 |
| Fuel | <i>Petrol (ppl)</i> | 134.91 |  | Average price of petrol was down by 56p in the week commencing 31 st Mar from its peak in Jul 2022. | Weekly |
| | <i>Diesel (ppl)</i> | 142.26 |  | Average price of diesel was down by 57p in the week commencing 31 st Mar from its peak in Jul 2022. | Weekly |
| | <i>Energy price cap</i> | £1,849 |  | Between 1 April and 30 June 2025, the energy price cap is set at £1,849 per year for a typical household who use electricity and gas and pay by Direct Debit. This is an increase of 6.4% compared to the cap set between 1 January to 31 March 2025 (£1,738). | 27/05/2025 |
| Poverty & Income | <i>Employment (16-64 working age group)</i> | 69.6% |  | In the year to Sept 2024, 358,300 people were estimated to be employed in Leeds, at a rate of 69.6% of the working age population. This was just below the national rate of 75.4%. Employment levels in Leeds have fallen since Apr-Mar 2023 when the rate was 76.4%. | 15/04/2025 |
| | <i>Modelled Unemployment (16+ age group)</i> | 3.2% |  | In the year to Sept 2024, 12,100 people were estimated to be unemployed in Leeds, at a rate of 3.2%. This was below the national rate of 3.7%. This is one of its lowest rates both nationally and locally and is lower than its pre pandemic rate of 4.3% in Dec 2019. | 15/04/2025 |
| | <i>UC claimants</i> | 97,207 |  | 97,207 people claimed UC in Leeds in Jan 2025. The number of UC claimants has increased by 0.83% from the previous month and is up 16.3% since Jan 2024. The provisional figure for Feb 2025 is showing that there were 99,711 UC claimants in Leeds. | 15/04/2025 |
| | <i>UC Claimants in work</i> | 35% | N/A | 65% of claimants to UC were not in work, and 35% - 34,498 Leeds claimants were in-work in Jan 2025. | 15/04/2025 |
| | <i>Real Living Wage</i> | £12.60 |  | From Apr 2025, the Real Living Wage for outside of London is £12.60 per hour. The National Living Wage for people over 21 is £12.21 per hour. In Leeds, the median average wage is £15.43. 51,377 residents earned below the RLW in 2024. | November 2025 |
| Housing | <i>Housing Affordability Ratio</i> | 6.78 |  | With data to Sept 2023, Leeds house prices averaged £230,000 and wages averaged £34k it cost the average full-time Leeds resident almost 7 times their income to afford a house. Although a slight dip from 6.80 in Sept 2022, this is one of the highest ratios for Leeds on record, and an indication of wages not keeping pace with house prices. | April 2025 |
| | <i>Evictions</i> | 222 |  | By Q3 2024 (Jul-Sept) there were 76 more evictions in Leeds, taking the total YTD figure to 222. This is a 46% increase by the same period in 2022. | April 2025 |
| Advice & Support | <i>Welfare Rights Unit</i> | 280 |  | In Feb 2025, 280 benefit checks were made by the WRU, down from 313 in Feb 2024. The annual figures show that queries are up 7% from the same point last year. | April 2025 |
| | <i>CAB enquiries</i> | 72,469 |  | In the YTD to Q3 2024/25, total enquiries increased by 38.1%; from 52,476 by Q3 2023/24 to 72,469 in Q3 2024/25. | April 2025 |
| | <i>Food parcels</i> | 81,959 |  | In 2023/24, 81,959 food parcels were given out informally. This is up 21% on the previous year. | Jun/Jul 2025 |
| | <i>Household Support Fund</i> | 63,710 | N/A | In Q3 2024/25, HSF supported 63,710 households across Leeds. 33% of the support was on food, 33% on energy and 33% on essentials linked to energy and water. YTD households supported is 190,931. | April 2025 |

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To access the live data, visit our dashboard: <https://observatory.leeds.gov.uk/home/cost-of-living/>

Key:

Red arrow – negative trend

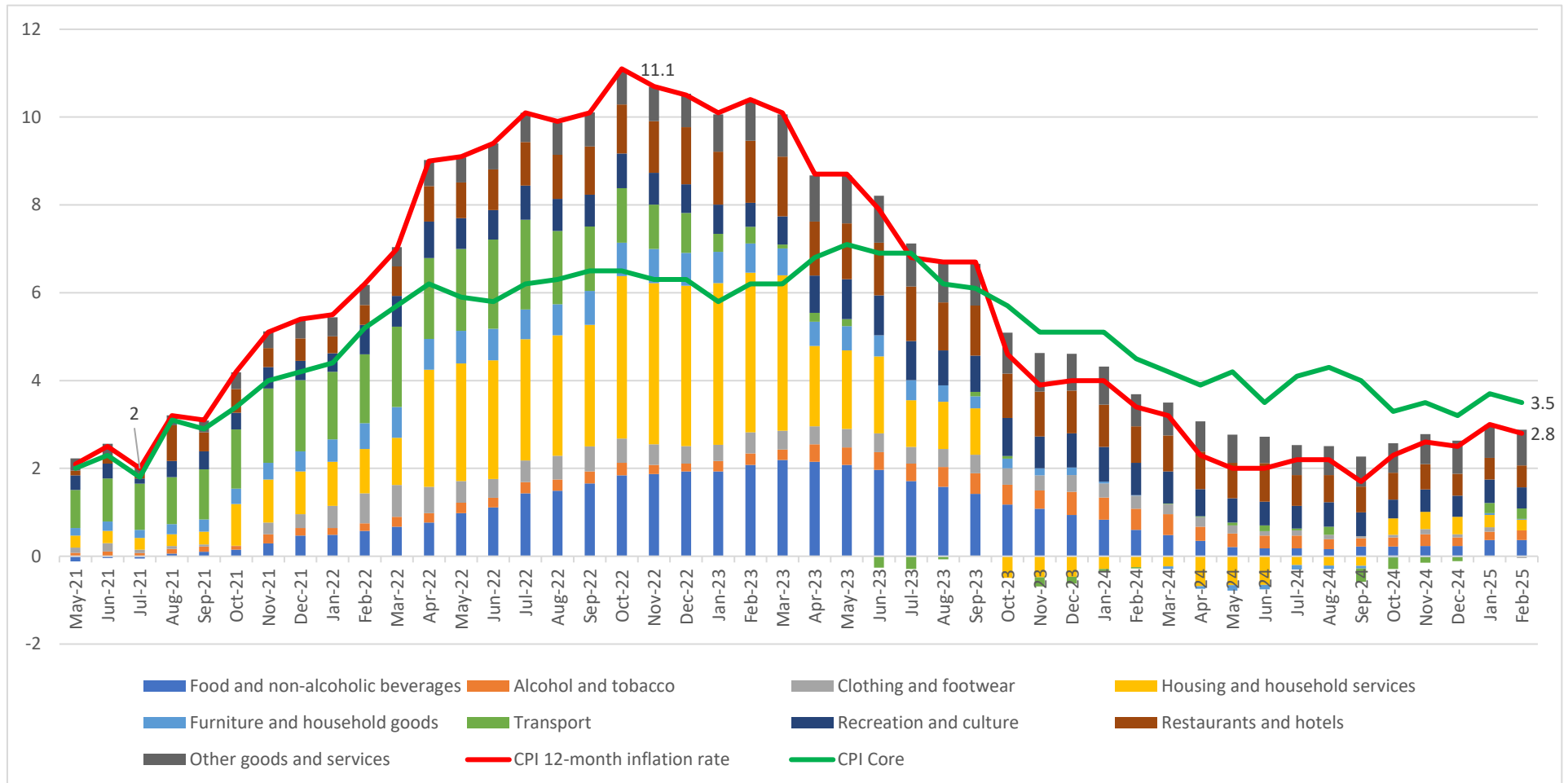
Amber arrow – trend remains the same

Green arrow – positive trend

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Timeline of the Cost-of-Living Crisis

The Government target is to maintain inflation at 2%. This timeline graph displays key impacts on prices during the cost-of-living crisis. July 2021 coincides with Covid Lockdown rules easing and more spaces starting to reopen. From that point, supply and demand issues in the global economy, affecting fuel prices and food supplies started to push up prices and the cost-of-living crisis began to take effect, with inflation exceeding 2% and peaking at 11.1% in October 2022.



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| Trend analysis | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <i>The arrow direction reflects whether an indicator has gone up, down or remained the same. The RAG rating provides a visual analysis of whether a trend is positive, negative or remains unchanged.</i> | | | | |
| RAG | Green arrow | Amber arrow | Red arrow | Further information |
| <i>CPI inflation</i> | Below 4% | Remains the same | Above 4% | Government target is 2%, however this bulletin is measuring performance since its peak in October 2022 |
| <i>Food inflation</i> | Below 4% | Remains the same | Above 4% | Government target is 2%, however this bulletin is measuring performance since its peak in October 2022 |
| <i>Bank Rate</i> | Below 5.25% | Remains the same | Above 5.25% | 5.25% was the most recent peak for Bank Rate |
| <i>Petrol (ppl)</i> | Below 191.55 | Remains the same | Above 191.55 | 191.55p is the peak price seen in July 2022 |
| <i>Diesel (ppl)</i> | Below 199.22 | Remains the same | Above 199.22 | 199.22p is the peak price seen in July 2022 |
| <i>Energy price cap</i> | Below previous quarter | Remains the same | Up from previous quarter | This indicator is rated on a quarterly basis |
| <i>Employment (16-64 working age group)</i> | Up from previous quarter | Remains the same | Below previous quarter | This indicator is rated on a quarterly basis |
| <i>Modelled Unemployment (16+ age group)</i> | Below 4.3% | Remains the same | Above 4.3% | 4.3% is the pre pandemic rate reached in Dec 2019 |
| <i>UC Claimants</i> | - | - | - | This indicator is not RAG rated as UC claimants will continue to increase as more legacy benefits move to UC |
| <i>Real Living Wage</i> | - | - | - | This indicator is not RAG rated as RLW will continue to increase in line with the Cost of Living |
| <i>Housing Affordability Ratio</i> | Below previous year | Remains the same | Up from previous year | If this indicator increases, it shows that house prices are not affordable on current income levels |
| <i>Evictions</i> | Below 152 | Remains the same | Above 152 | 152 is the figure seen in 2022 in Leeds which forms the baseline for this indicator |
| <i>Welfare Rights Unit</i> | Below previous year | Remains the same | Up from previous year | This RAG rating and arrow is based on the annual/YTD figures, as monthly/quarterly changes can be due to lack of resource rather than demand |
| <i>CAB enquiries</i> | Below previous year | Remains the same | Up from previous year | This RAG rating and arrow is based on the annual/YTD figures, as monthly/quarterly changes can be due to lack of resource rather than demand |
| <i>Food parcels</i> | Below previous year | Remains the same | Up from previous year | This indicator is rated annually |
| <i>Household Support Fund</i> | - | - | - | This indicator is not RAG rated as the data details the breakdown of how funding has been allocated |

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