
















# Monthly bulletin: 17 September 2025

Latest data: Cost of living				Snapshot trend analysis	Next data update
Inflation	CPI inflation	3.8%		UK CPI Inflation was 3.8% in August, remaining the same as July. Air fares made the largest downward contribution to the monthly change in annual rates. Restaurants and hotels, and motor fuels made large, partially offsetting, upward contributions.	22/10/2025
	Food inflation	5.1%		Food inflation was 5.1% in August, up from 4.9% in the 12 months to July. This was the fifth consecutive increase in the annual rate and the highest recorded since January 2024.	22/10/2025
	Bank Rate	4%		Bank rate was 4% in Sept 2025, the same as the previous month.	06/11/2025
Fuel	Petrol (ppl)	134p		Average price of petrol was down by 58p in the week commencing 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept from its peak in Jul 2022.	Weekly
	Diesel (ppl)	142p		Average price of diesel was down by 58p in the week commencing 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept from its peak in Jul 2022.	Weekly
	Energy price cap	£1,755		Between 1 October and 31 December 2025, the energy price cap is set at £1,755 per year for a typical household who use electricity and gas and pay by Direct Debit. This is an increase of 2% compared to the cap set between 1 July to 30 September 2025 (£1,720).	25/11/2025
Poverty & Income	Employment (16-64 working age group)	69.3%		In the year to Mar 2025, 358,200 people were estimated to be employed in Leeds, at a rate of 69.3% of the working age population. This was down from 69.5% in the previous quarter (Dec 2024) and below the national rate of 75.4%. Employment levels in Leeds have fallen since Apr-Mar 2023 when the rate was 76.4%.	Nov 2025
	Modelled Unemployment (16+ age group)	3.8%		In the year to Mar 2025, 14,400 people were estimated to be unemployed in Leeds, at a rate of 3.8%. This was below the national rate of 3.9%. 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.	Nov 2025
	UC claimants	104,839		104,839 people claimed UC in Leeds in July 2025. The number of UC claimants has increased by 16.6% since Jul 2024.	14/10/2025
	UC Claimants in work	33%	N/A	67.3% of claimants to UC were not in work, and 32.7% - 34,271 Leeds claimants were in-work in July 2025.	14/10/2025
	Real Living Wage	£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.	Nov 2025
Housing	Housing Affordability Ratio	6.46		With data to Sept 2024, Leeds house prices averaged £234,500 and wages averaged £36k, it cost the average full-time Leeds resident almost 6.5 times their income to afford a house. This is the lowest ratio recorded in the last 3 years.	Mar 2026
	Evictions	181		In Q2 2025, there were 98 evictions in Leeds. This is up from Q2 2024, when there were 68 evictions. YTD there have been 181 evictions, up from 146 the same time last year.	Dec 2025
Advice & Support	Welfare Rights Unit	187		In Aug 2025, 187 benefit checks were made by the WRU, down from 265 in Aug 2024. The annual figures show that queries are down 3% from the same point last year. Numbers are lower than previous years as contact over summer holidays has reduced.	Oct 2025
	CAB enquiries	22,296		In Q1 2025/26, there were 22,296 total enquiries. Enquiries on Benefits & tax credits, Universal Credit, Debt, Utilities, Housing and Consumer were the most sought areas of advice.	Oct 2025
	Food parcels	81,959		In 2023/24, 81,959 food parcels were given out informally. This is up 21% on the previous year.	Oct 2025
	Household Support Fund	74,496	N/A	In Q4 2024/25, HSF supported 74,496 households across Leeds. 78% of the support was on food and 13% on energy and water. YTD households supported is 265,427.	Oct 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

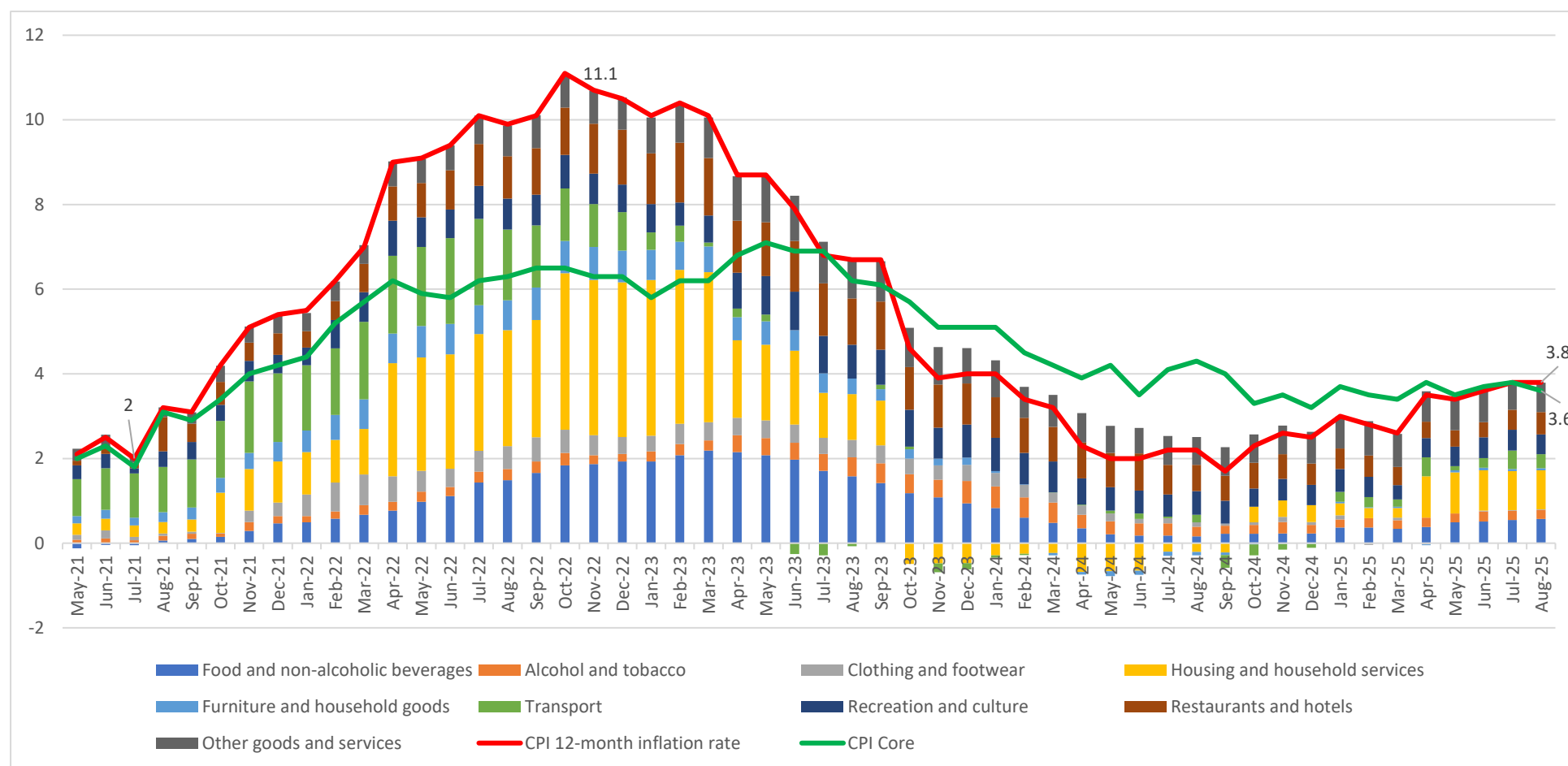
Amber arrow – trend remains the same

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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<b>Trend analysis</b> <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 previous year	Remains the same	Above previous year	RAG rating compares year to date evictions in Leeds to the same period the previous year as its baseline
<i>Welfare Rights Unit</i>	Below previous year	Remains the same/minimal change	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/minimal change	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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