

UNISON Scotland *Influencers*

General election briefing 2024

WE HAVE A COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

In the real world the cost-of-living crisis is not over. Prices haven't come down – they are just going up more slowly than they have been. Households have basically endured ten years' worth of inflation in three years – with prices up 21.3 per cent on April 2021 (on RPI they are up 27.9 per cent). The cumulative impact of these price rises is not going away.

Food and non-alcoholic drink prices are still 31 per cent higher than they were in April 2021. Electricity is up 42 per cent and gas 66 per cent. At the same time as people struggle to make ends meet supermarkets¹ and energy giants² have seen profits soar.

According to the RPI (the most relevant measure for those who own a home), mortgage interest payments are up 115 per cent – i.e mortgage payments have on average more than doubled between April 2021 and April 2024

TUC research unsecured debt (loans, credit cards, purchase hire agreements) is on course to increase by 9.4% (£1,660) in real terms, on average, per household this year.

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

- What will you do tackle high energy costs and soaring rates?
- What will you do to control rents?
- How will you improve the value of wages

USEFUL RESOURCES

- [UK inflation: How quickly are prices rising?](#)
- [TUC on Inflation](#)
- [TUC analysis of personal debt](#)

¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-68776913>

² <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-68206788>