



The CIBUK Clear Water Partnership Newsletter

Welcome!



From: [Ben Philips](#) Communications Director
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1 July 2022



Economic Crisis & The Cost of Living

‘Brexit’s to Blame’: Exposing the EU Myth

INTRODUCTION

‘A lie can travel halfway round the world before the truth has got its boots on.’

Nowhere is this truer than in the data currently being hurled across the internet to ‘prove’ the UK’s cost of living crisis being down to its decision to leave the European Union.

In this, our eighth newsletter, we scrutinise the evidence and expose the myth that ‘Brexit is to blame’ for the economic pain the country is now undergoing.

Drawing on our own exclusive research and that of the Telegraph’s Economics Editor we give the lie to those who believe we would have been better off remaining inside the European Union, or worse still, deciding now to re-join.

Summary

- ‘Brexit has caused food shortages and empty shelves in UK supermarkets.’ A myth according to latest research which we are pleased to publish below.
- By contrast some shelves in France do indeed appear empty as we reveal in a photograph from one of their own.
- In a related article, we also reveal that average inflation across the EU including food price inflation is HIGHER there than it is in the UK.

- And in a final admonishment to EU propaganda, Ambrose Evans Pritchard exposes the flaws behind the data upon which so many Brexit forecasts have been made.

Britain's shelves are empty 'due to Brexit'? Then how come we're buying 25% MORE?

- Contrary to popular myth, sales of food, drink and tobacco have actually **INCREASED** in the UK by nearly **25%** since the EU Referendum as the figures from the Office for National Statistics indicate in the table below:
- May 2016 : £2,656,261 - just before the EU Referendum
- May 2022 : £3,312,568 - a **24.7% increase since the EU Referendum**



Not all down to Inflation

While inflation has certainly played its part in the recent rise in the price of goods on the shelves, spending in real terms has been rising over the past **six years**, well before the recent spike.

By contrast the photo from our secret shopper indicates real shortages in France

The full article can be read here: <https://cibuk.org/cost-of-living-crisis-uk-myths/>

Food, glorious food - The EU's (and BBC's) cost of living crisis

“Prices are continuing to rise at their fastest rate for 40 years with food costs, particularly for bread, cereal and meat, climbing.”

- BBC, 22 June 2022

Did the BBC tell you that inflation is LOWER in Brexit Britain than in the EU?

The BBC are happy to use EU data in their international comparisons when it suits them.

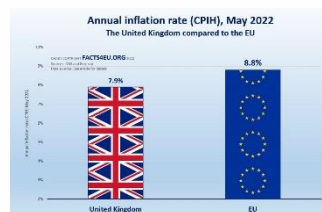
In this case they did not. Why?

Because EU Inflation is HIGHER than in UK

Annual increase – latest figures released for May 2022

Consumer Price Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CBIH)

- ***UK : 7.9%***
- ***EU : 8.8%***

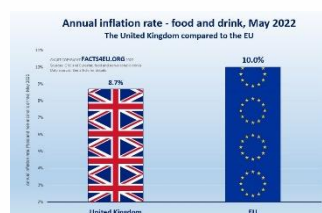


Food inflation in EU also HIGHER than in UK

The price of a loaf of bread – and all other food and non-alcoholic drinks

Annual increase – latest figures released for May 2022

- ***UK : 8.7%***
- ***EU : 10.0%***



Inflation has become a serious issue for many households across the United Kingdom.

That said, if the BBC want to make international comparisons, then we might expect them to compare the UK with the EU, as they so often do.

Not on this occasion. And the basic facts in our report above show why.

The full article can be read here: <https://cibuk.org/bbc-cost-of-living-crisis/>

The pro-Brussels establishment is painting Brexit as an economic disaster to reverse it

– by Ambrose Evans Pritchard for the Telegraph

We conclude our myth-busting bulletin with an in-depth analysis of the UK's economic performance relative to its EU competitors in the years since the Referendum.

“A corrosive and essentially false story of British economic failure is taking hold in the public mind,” according to the Telegraph's Economics Editor.

“It is becoming an article of faith that the UK has underperformed ruinously since the referendum, lagging under every key metric and plagued by a collapse of trade, investment, and sterling.”

This narrative, fostered by assorted think-tanks and the pro-Brussels establishment, has one clear aim: to bounce Britain back into the EU Single Market as a precursor to re-joining in full further down the line.

But the data upon which these pressure groups rely is entirely specious. According to the IMF, the UK's accumulated growth rate in the years 2016-2022 was higher than that of its Big Four EU competitors:

ACCUMULATED GROWTH RATES 2016-2022

- **UK: 6.8%**
- **France: 6.2%**
- **Germany: 5.5%**
- **Spain: 5%**

“What strikes one immediately looking at the IMF tables is that there is no visible effect from Brexit, unlike the eurozone debt crisis, which really did lead to calamitous losses across southern Europe from 2011 to 2014.”

Discredited Data: Centre for European Reform, New York Times, OBR

Furthermore, the methodology that has been gathered by the CER and others to discredit the UK's performance does not stand up to scrutiny either:

*“It uses a *Doppelgänger* algorithm of economies around the world said to match the UK but*

which have done better over the last five years. It then extrapolates the findings to conclude that 5.2pc of GDP has been shaved off UK economic growth since the Referendum (not all due to Brexit anyway, if you read it closely).

In the same genre, the New York Times says Boris Johnson's Britain is "Finally Sinking Giggling into the Sea", though what it describes as chronic failure could equally apply to most of Western democracies facing a cost crisis and broken medical systems. [France's parliamentary elections on Sunday](#) were a primordial scream against just such 'failures'."

Even the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecasts are little more than speculative:

"[It] thinks Brexit might shave 4pc off GDP over a ten-year period. That is plausible but little more than a guess. Roughly half the putative damage comes from trade barriers, but as [Lord Frost told UK](#) in a Changing Europe on Thursday the models used to calculate such gains and losses rely on studies of ex-Communist and autarkic basket cases suddenly enjoying windfall gains from opening up. That is hardly relevant."

But severest criticism is reserved for the OECD which has:

"misread the effects of Brexit and the relative performance of the UK every year with heroic regularity, and to present the claim as a fait accompli.

The OECD now says the UK will be the G7's zero-growth laggard in 2023. Perhaps it will be, given that Rishi Sunak's fiscal austerity leads the pack. But remember that the OECD said the same thing during the pandemic, forecasting that the UK would trail in bottom place as the developed world recovered in 2021."

As for re-joining the Single Market?

"Such a move would scarcely nudge the macroeconomic needle. What it would do is to place this country back under an unaccountable and unsackable government in Brussels, perpetuating Britain's civil war on Brexit. Those Tory ministers toying with such a notion are out of their minds."

The full article can be found [here](#) with a link to the original below:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2022/06/24/pro-brussels-establishment-painting-brexiteconomic-disaster/>

About CIBUK: The Campaign for an Independent Britain ([CIBUK](#)) is a non-party political campaigning organisation of people from all walks of life. It is the UK's longest-running membership organisation for freedom, democracy and independence.

Founded in 1969, for over 50 years the CIBUK has made a significant contribution in campaigning on issues important to the majority of our population and in securing our exit from the European Union. Now it's time for the next chapter.