

UDC 330.567.2

THE RISING COST OF TEENAGE LIVING: HOW INFLATION AFFECTS STUDENT BUDGETS IN KAZAKHSTAN

Kali Ansar

11 Grade, Nazarbayev Intellectual School of Physical and Mathematical
Direction, Kazakhstan

Constant inflation in today's world has a strong impact on budgets of Kazakhstani teenagers. Through a survey conducted among students aged 14-17, inflation affected their financial behavior and daily expenses. The findings underline that a substantial number of teenagers have become more cautious with their money, adjusting their spending priorities in response to increased costs. This paper explores influence of inflation on spending habits of high – school students and recommends integration of personal finance literacy programs in schools.

Keywords: inflation, students, budget, economy, youth.

Introduction

Inflation is the rise in prices over time, which reduces the buying power of money. While it mostly affects adults, teenagers in Kazakhstan are also impacted — especially those who rely on fixed pocket money or small allowances. In 2023, Kazakhstan's inflation rate reached **9.5%**, with food and transport costs rising even more, according to the National Bank of Kazakhstan. These price increases affect students' everyday expenses such as school lunches, bus rides, and mobile internet. Many teenagers are now forced to adjust how they spend money and what they can afford.

This paper aims to explore how high school students are reacting to inflation and whether it influences the way they manage their money. To gather insight, a short survey was used to examine their spending habits, price awareness, and financial decisions in the current economic climate.

Economic Context

In recent years, inflation has become a serious economic concern in Kazakhstan. Prices for everyday items such as food, transportation, and household goods have continued to rise. According to the National Bank of Kazakhstan, the country's inflation rate reached **9.5% in 2023**, with food prices increasing even more — a trend that affects all age groups.

While much of the public discussion around inflation focuses on adults, young people also feel its effects. Teenagers, who usually receive a fixed amount of pocket money or financial support from parents, are especially vulnerable to changes in prices. The cost of school lunches, snacks, mobile services, and public transportation

are just a few examples of where teens now spend more for the same items. According to a 2025 video report by “7 channel” news channel on Youtube, In Kazakhstan, the cost of school meals has increased by an average of 15%, whereas public transport fares have gone up by 20%, according to *Azattyq*, 2025.

This underlines that rising prices are directly impacting the daily routines and food affordability for high – school students. That’s why it is important to understand how it affects teenagers — especially in terms of money habits, awareness, and decision-making.

Methodology

To explore how inflation affects the spending habits of teenagers in Kazakhstan, an original survey was created using Google Forms. The survey included multiple-choice and short-answer questions related to personal budgeting, price awareness, and daily expenses

The form was distributed among high school students aged 14–17 via school groups. In total, *14 students* completed the survey. While the sample size is limited, the responses provide real insight into how teenagers experience and adapt to the rising cost of living. The collected data was analyzed to identify common trends in spending habits and financial awareness among the participants.

Data Analysis

A total of *14 high school students* participated in the survey. The aim of the survey was to explore how inflation affects the spending habits and personal budgets of teenagers in Kazakhstan. The data collected revealed several key trends in how students manage their money in the current economic climate.

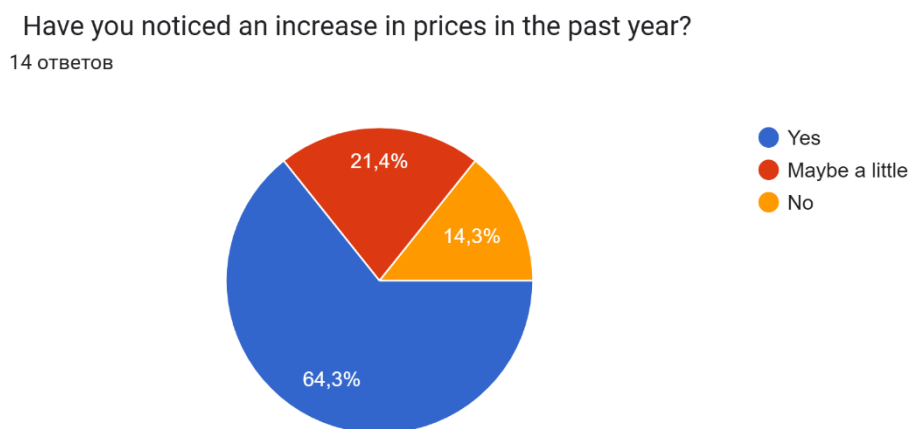


Fig.1

This result shows that the majority of teenagers are aware of price increases and feel that inflation has a real impact on their lives

The majority of respondents, to be more precise, 64,3% have noticed the impact of inflation on their spending habits. Also, 21,4% mentioned that they felt the minor change and others reported no noticeable change.

Have you changed your spending because of rising prices?

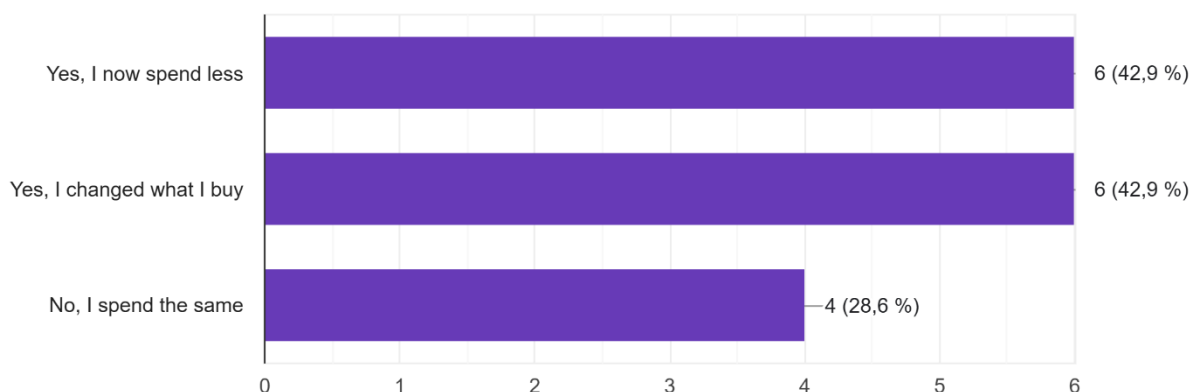


Fig.2

In a multiple-choice question about changes in spending habits due to rising prices, 6 students (42.9%) said they now spend less money overall, while another 6 (42.9%) selected that they have changed what they buy — choosing cheaper items or avoiding non-essential purchases. Only 4 (28.6%) students said that their spending habits have remained the same. These responses show that most teenagers are actively adapting to inflation, either by limiting how much they spend or by making more careful choices.

Do you think teenagers should learn more about money and budgeting in school?

14 ОТВЕТОВ

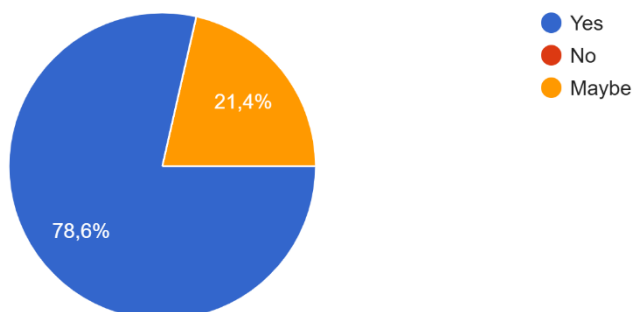


Fig.3

When asked whether teenagers should learn more about money and budgeting in school, 78,6% of students answered “Yes,” while 21,4% chose “Maybe.” None of the respondents answered “No.” This result clearly shows that most teenagers recognize the importance of financial education, especially in the context of rising prices and economic uncertainty. In Kazakhstan, financial literacy is not a mandatory part of the school curriculum, and many students graduate without basic knowledge of budgeting, saving, or managing personal expenses. Although Kazakhstan did not participate in the financial literacy section of the PISA 2022 assessment, the report highlights that many countries are introducing financial education due to growing concerns about youth money management. This supports the idea that schools in Kazakhstan could also benefit from adding personal finance topics to the curriculum.” The survey responses suggest that students are aware of this gap and believe that schools should play a bigger role in teaching real-world financial skills.

Discussion

This research set out to examine how inflation affects the spending habits and financial awareness of teenagers in Kazakhstan. As shown in national economic reports, Kazakhstan’s consumer price index (CPI) has experienced significant growth in recent years, with inflation reaching over **14.52% in 2023**, especially impacting food, transportation, and everyday essentials.

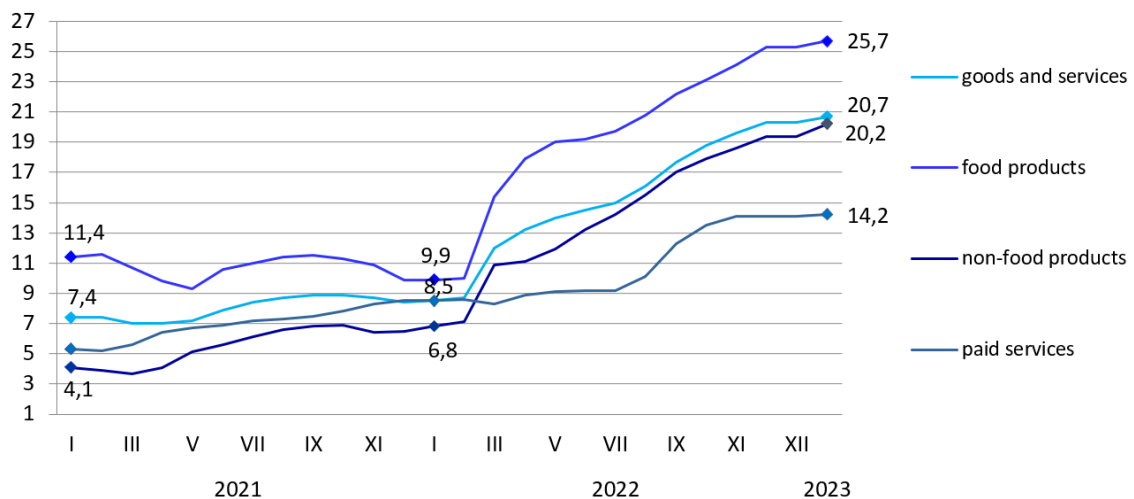


Fig.4

These rising prices are not just affecting adults — they are noticeably shaping teenage behavior as well.

According to the survey conducted, 64,3% of students reported directly feeling the effects of inflation, and 85,8% stated they had either reduced their spending or changed what they buy. Perhaps most notably, 78,6% of respondents believe that schools should teach more about money and budgeting, signaling a growing demand

for financial education at the high school level. These findings suggest that inflation is creating a shift in mindset among young people, encouraging more cautious financial behavior even before they reach adulthood. While the sample size was small, the consistency in responses shows a clear pattern — Kazakhstan's economic situation is influencing how its youngest citizens think about money.

Conclusion

In this paper, i estimated the impact of inflation on Kazakhstani teenagers life, using a survey methodology. The results show that most high school students are aware of rising prices and have already changed their financial habits, either by spending less or being more careful with their purchases. Many students also expressed the need for schools to include lessons on money management and budgeting. These findings highlight that inflation is not only an adult issue — it also impacts young people, shaping how they view and handle money. This suggests that introducing financial literacy into the school curriculum could help prepare teenagers for real-world economic challenges.

REFERENCES

1. Google Forms survey
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3R2HBLZq0AMtnBySSpDW0RR9o_2imgAHUiU6UXXadoaWiA/viewform?usp=header
2. Kazakhstan Annual CPI Inflation
<https://stat.gov.kz/en/industries/economy/prices/publications/38575/>
3. Public Transport Fares Have Gone Up <https://rus.azattyq.org/a/33062361.html>
4. PISA 2022 Results (Volume IV) https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/pisa-2022-results-volume-iv_5a849c2a-en.html
5. School meals in Kazakhstan have become more expensive.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdjGSJ6ySyc>
6. Inflation Trend : National Bank of Kazakhstan
<https://nationalbank.kz/en/news/inflyacionnye-tendencii/rubrics/2315>

РОСТ СТОИМОСТИ ЖИЗНИ ПОДРОСТКОВ: КАК ИНФЛЯЦИЯ ВЛИЯЕТ НА БЮДЖЕТЫ УЧАЩИХСЯ В КАЗАХСТАНЕ

Кали Ансар

Постоянная инфляция в современном мире значительно влияет на бюджеты казахстанских подростков. На основе опроса, проведённого среди учащихся в возрасте от 14 до 17 лет, выявлено, что инфляция оказывает влияние на их финансовое поведение и ежедневные расходы. Результаты

показывают, что значительная часть подростков стала более осторожно относиться к деньгам, пересматривая свои приоритеты в расходах в ответ на рост цен. В работе рассматривается влияние инфляции на структуру потребления старшеклассников и предлагается интеграция программ по финансовой грамотности в школьное образование.

Ключевые слова: инфляция, студенты, бюджет, экономика, молодеж.

ЖАСӨСПІРІМДЕРДІҢ ӨМІР СҮРУ ҚҰНЫНЫҢ ӨСУІ: ИНФЛЯЦИЯНЫҢ ҚАЗАҚСТАНДАҒЫ ОҚУШЫЛАР БЮДЖЕТІНЕ ӘСЕРІ

Қали Ансар

Қазіргі әлемдегі тұрақты инфляция қазақстандық жасөспірімдердің бюджетін едәуір әсерге ұшыратады. 14–17 жас аралығындағы оқушылар арасында жүргізілген сауалнама нәтижесінде инфляцияның олардың қаржылық тәртібіне және күнделікті шығындарына ықпал ететіні анықталды. Зерттеу нәтижелері көптеген жасөспірімдердің өз ақшасына ұқыптырақ қарап, бағаның өсуіне байланысты шығын басымдықтарын өзгерткенін көрсетеді. Мақалада инфляцияның жоғары сынып оқушыларының тұтыну әдеттеріне әсері қарастырылып, мектеп бағдарламасына қаржылық сауаттылық сабақтарын енгізу ұсынылады.

Кілт сөздері: инфляция, оқушылар, бюджет, экономика, жастар.