



ON SMALL BUSINESS

The Fed Is Curbing Inflation, But Consumers Say They're Still Paying Too Much

By Mark Niquette, Jarrell Dillard and Michael Sasso | Bloomberg

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Inflation has cooled down from a year ago, but that's failing to allay the pain of Americans who are still paying up at gas pumps and grocery aisles.

As a result, there's a growing disconnect between policymakers, who point to cooling inflation indicators as a sign of progress, and people who are struggling to make ends meet. Even as the Federal Reserve's favored measure of price gains eases, the cost of food, gasoline, car insurance and other essentials is still elevated after two years of persistent increases. The rate of core inflation stands at 4.3%.

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It costs \$734 more each month to buy the same goods and services as two years ago for households who earn the median income, according to Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics.