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UK Food Prices Climb Again as FTSE 100 Slips Despite Strong Year-to-Date Performance

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– Categories: Uncategorized



Food inflation in the United Kingdom has risen once more, while the FTSE 100, the UK's primary stock market index, closed lower on Monday despite a broadly positive performance so far this year. Major companies, including Greggs, AstraZeneca, and Unilever, have delivered earnings updates, setting the tone for this week's market activity.

Although the European Union (EU) and the United States (US) reached a basic trade agreement on Monday, investor sentiment appeared to falter shortly thereafter. The FTSE 100 ended the day down by more than half a per cent, although it remains over 10 per cent higher since the start of the year and just shy of record highs, suggesting underlying strength in the broader market.

Greggs, the popular high street bakery chain, reported steady performance but acknowledged facing “near-term hurdles”, such as rising input costs and changes in consumer spending driven by persistent inflation. Pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca and consumer goods multinational Unilever also shared their financial results, which are expected to draw further investor analysis during Tuesday’s earnings calls.

Beyond the equities market, fresh data is anticipated on mortgage lending, with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) due to release figures on UK mortgage approvals. Additionally, the Nationwide Building Society is expected to publish its latest House Price Index on Wednesday, offering a snapshot of housing market trends amid continued economic uncertainty.

In a cautionary note on Britain’s fiscal direction, renowned hedge fund manager Ray Dalio warned of a “debt doom loop” affecting the UK. As reported by *The Financial Times*, Dalio highlighted the combination of increasing tax pressures and sluggish economic growth as a potentially dangerous mix for long-term financial health.

As investors digest earnings reports and await new economic data, attention remains fixed on inflation, market resilience, and the broader impact of ongoing trade developments. Despite some setbacks, the overall trajectory of the FTSE 100 this year continues to offer a measure of optimism.