



Inflation: The Invisible Threat to Your Retirement

T. BRIAN HAYES

There are two words that start with the letter "I" that every retirement plan needs to account for. The first is invisible. The second is inflation. Put them together, and you have what I believe is the single most overlooked threat to a secure retirement.

The cost of living goes up every year. Sometimes gradually, sometimes dramatically. We all felt it firsthand when the Labor Department reported that consumer prices jumped 5% in May 2021, the biggest single-month spike in 13 years. A lot of people assumed that was the worst of it. It wasn't. Inflation kept climbing, and while it has cooled somewhat since its peak, prices on goods and services are still rising. That means your dollars buy less than they did last year, and less the year before that.

Now here's the problem nobody talks about at the kitchen table: most retirement income sources do not automatically adjust for inflation. If your pension pays you \$2,000 a month today, it will likely pay you \$2,000 a month ten years from now, even though that same \$2,000 will cover significantly less by then. Social Security does include a cost-of-living adjustment, but once you factor in rising Medicare premiums, that increase often shrinks to almost nothing.

So, what does that leave you with? A gap. A slow, steady gap between what your income is and what your life actually costs. The good news is that gap is plannable. There are specific tools and strategies you can build into your retirement plan right now to protect yourself against inflation and keep your income growing alongside your expenses.

Join me this weekend on The Retirement Money Matters Radio Show where I will walk you through exactly what those tools are and how to put them to work for you.

The show airs Saturday morning at 6 on WIBC (93.1 FM), Saturday morning at 8 on 930 AM The Answer in Sarasota, Sunday morning at 8:00 on WWKI (100.5 FM) or anytime online at www.theretirementmoneymattersshow.com. You can also obtain this information by reaching out to us at Hayes Advisory Group at 452-PLAN (7526), 800-939-1603 or brian@hayesadvisorygroup.com.

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

T. Brian Hayes is the Founder, Owner, and CEO of Hayes Advisory Group, boasting over 30 years of experience in guiding clients towards their retirement goals. Specializing in pre-retirees and retirees, he ensures clients understand their planning options and tailor's strategies to their unique needs. A strong advocate for education, Hayes regularly writes and speaks on financial topics, hosts a weekly radio show on retirement, and instructs for The Prepare Institute, a 501-3 non-profit educational institution. He holds memberships in prestigious financial organizations like The Indiana Network of Estate Planning Professionals and The National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. Hayes is a distinguished member of the Million Dollar Roundtable (MDRT), with multiple honors recognizing his professional expertise and ethical standards. Based in Central Indiana, he serves clients across the U.S. and Canada, residing with his wife and three children.

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