

Timothy B. Lee DISRUPTIVE ECONOMICS

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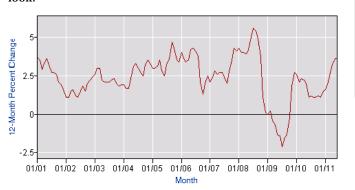
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Why Are Libertarians Inflation Hawks?

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Two years ago, my friend Matt Yglesias wrote this post about what he sarcastically dubbed "the inflation people," including some of my colleagues at the Cato Institute, who worried about the dangers of future inflation even as the economy was in the depths of a recession. I was irritated by the post and made a note to myself to check back in a few years and see how things turned out. Two years later, here's how things look:



I don't think we have enough data yet to reach a decisive verdict. It's possible that that the most recent measurement of 3.6 percent inflation portends a major price rise over the next few months—though the <u>"core" inflation rate</u> of just 1.6 percent suggests otherwise. At a minimum, we can say that Ben Bernanke's most hawkish critics haven't been proven

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right so far. And I'm becoming increasingly skeptical that they will be.

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