

## Sound Professional When Talking About Increases and Decreases

If something is increasing very quickly, we can say that it is **soaring**.

If something is decreasing very quickly, we can say that it is **plummeting**.

If something is increasing very slowly, especially in a way that people might not notice, we can say that it is **creeping up**.

If something is decreasing very slowly, we can say that it is **dwindling**.

When something cannot go any higher, it will **hit a peak** before decreasing again.

If something cannot go any lower, we can say that it has **bottomed out**.

If something is increasing and it stops, we can say that it has **hit a plateau**.

If something is decreasing and it stops decreasing, we can say that it has **stabilised**.

If something has a quick increase, we can say that it **spiked**.

If something has a quick decrease, we can say that it **dipped**. We can also say that it has **slumped**.

Here, we can also use a noun to say that there has been an economic **slump**.

If something starts to speed up or recover after it has bottomed out, we can say that it is **picking up**. If this happens at the end it **rallies**.

If something is going up and down consistently, we can say that it is **fluctuating**. This is often in a volatile market.

### A) Key Words in Context

Can you fill in the gaps in the paragraph with the verbs from the box below? You may need to change the form of some of the verbs in order for them to fit into the sentence.

to soar	to creep up	to pick up	to hit a peak
to dwindle	to plummet	to stabilise	

### Covid-19 and Inflation

In normal times, inflation is quite gradual. The process normally happens so slowly that the average person hardly notices when the price of bread \_\_\_\_\_ by just a few cents. However, in the current economic crisis, inflation \_\_\_\_\_ at a rate which most people have never experienced. Most people are hoping that inflation will soon slow down, or at least \_\_\_\_\_ before decreasing.

The current inflation began with the Covid 19 crisis, during which economic output \_\_\_\_\_, because many people couldn't go to work, and the hospitality and travel sectors almost collapsed. Governments printed a lot of money in order to \_\_\_\_\_ the situation. As soon as the strength of the covid virus started to

\_\_\_\_\_, the world began to open up and the hospitality sector started to \_\_\_\_\_ . All of this was good news for the world economy. However, we are now seeing high inflation as a result of governments' rescue packages during the pandemic.

## B) More Uses of Selected Key Words

### Dwindling

The verb 'to dwindle' means to decrease gradually in size, amount or strength. Here are some potential collocations with 'dwindle':

Profits are dwindling  
 My energy is dwindling  
 Our enthusiasm is dwindling  
 Her popularity is dwindling  
 A dwindling economy  
 Visitors to the website are dwindling  
 My patience is dwindling  
 Dwindling resources

### To pick up

The phrasal verb 'to pick up' is very useful. It means to become better or to improve.

Our profits are picking up  
 The weather is picking up  
 The popularity of our site is picking up

In this way, it can also mean that something is becoming faster or more busy:

Visitors to the restaurant pick up around dinner time  
 Things normally pick up around 9am

When something slows down or becomes less busy, we can use the phrasal verb 'to wind down'

The work day normally winds down at around 5pm  
 Things are winding down now, so you can go home

## C) Glossary of words for sounding professional when talking about increases or decreases

to soar	to stabilise
to plummet	to spike
to creep up	to dip
to dwindle	to slump/a slump
to hit a peak	to pick up
to bottom out	to rally
to hit a plateau	to fluctuate