

# Does Growth Cause Inflation?

*No. Growth is more goods. Inflation is more money.*

## Inflation

Too much money chasing goods. Every price rises because each dollar is worth less.

## Growth

More goods produced. With steady money, each dollar buys more and prices drift DOWN.

## The confusion

Cheap credit creates a spending boom AND rising prices at once. It looks like growth causing inflation. The printing is causing both.

### History ran the experiment:

| Period                      | Real growth                       | Prices                                     | Why                                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1870-1900 industrialization | ~4% per year for 30 years         | <b>FELL ~1% per year</b>                   | Gold standard. Money steady, output soared.           |
| 1984 (after tax cuts)       | +7.2%, best since 1951            | <b>Inflation fell: 13.5% (1980) to ~4%</b> | Volcker kept money tight while output grew.           |
| Late 1990s                  | ~4% per year                      | <b>~2% inflation</b>                       | Productivity boom. More goods per dollar.             |
| 1970s                       | ~3%, slower than all of the above | <b>Double digit inflation</b>              | The printing press ran. Money grew faster than goods. |

*The test is never how fast the economy grows. It is how fast the money grows.*