

Inflation, Living Costs, and Support for Far-Right Parties in Europe

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Abstract

The resurgence of far-right parties across Europe has renewed attention to the economic drivers of political polarisation. This study examines whether inflation in essential goods and housing contributes to increased support for far-right parties within the European Union. Using individual-level data from the European Election Study matched with macroeconomic indicators from Eurostat, I estimate probit models to assess how inflationary pressures affect the likelihood of supporting far-right parties. Multilevel regressions and alternative specifications of the dependent variable are employed to ensure robustness.

The results indicate that overall inflation is positively associated with far-right support. Disaggregated estimates show that food, particularly bread, inflation is especially salient, whereas energy prices have no significant effect. In contrast, increases in housing prices and rents significantly raise the probability of supporting far-right parties, while unemployment is negatively associated with such support. These findings suggest that cost-of-living pressures, rather than joblessness, constitute the primary economic driver of far-right mobilisation in recent years. Nevertheless, political attitudes, especially toward immigration, remain the strongest predictor of far-right affiliation.
