



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Michelle Steel, Member

3rd District – Rolling Hills Estates

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Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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Michele Steel Says California Gasoline Use Down 0.4%, Diesel Down 11.1%

Michelle Steel, Third District Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today released California gasoline and diesel consumption figures for October 2009. The demand for gasoline decreased 0.4 percent and diesel declined 11.1 percent compared to the same month last year.

Through October 2009 California gasoline consumption had declined 1.3 percent compared to January through October of 2008.

Editors: Please see attached chart showing percentage change in consumption compared to 12 months prior from January 2008 through October 2009.

In October 2009, gasoline demand declined 0.4 percent when Californians used 1.246 billion gallons of gasoline compared to 1.252 billion gallons the same month last year. The average California gasoline price at the pump in October was \$3.06 per gallon compared to \$3.44 in October 2008, an 11.0 percent decrease. The October decrease in consumption is the first decline in six months. The previous five months showed small increases in consumption when compared to last year.

Gasoline sold in October generated approximately \$318 million in sales tax during that month, an estimated \$27 million less than generated last year. October sales tax revenues from gasoline would have been about \$62 million less had the state portion of the sales and use tax rate not increased by one percent on April 1, 2009.

Diesel fuel sold in California during October totaled 224 million gallons compared to last year's October total of 252 million gallons, which is a decline of 11.1 percent. California diesel prices were \$2.86 per gallon in October 2009 down 19.9 percent compared to October 2008 when the average diesel price was \$3.57 per gallon.

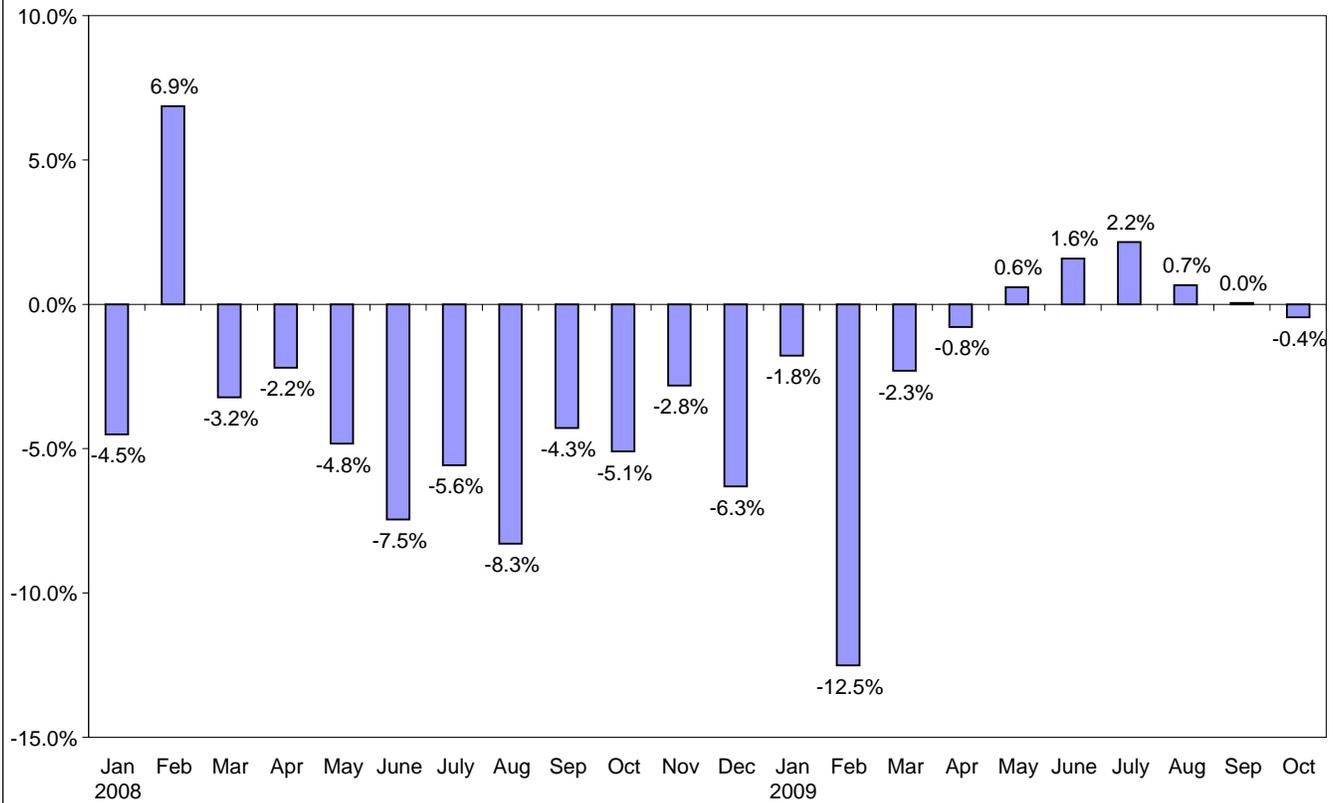
Diesel consumption generally follows economic activity during a recession.

The BOE is able to monitor gallons through tax receipts paid by fuel distributors. Figures for November 2009 are scheduled to be available at the end of February 2010. All monthly, quarterly, and annual figures can be viewed at: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm.

Taxable Gasoline Gallons: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF_10_Year_Report.pdf.

Taxable Diesel Gallons: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel_10_Year_Report.pdf.

**Percent Change in Gasoline Consumption Compared to 12 Months Prior
From January 2008 through October 2009**



Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006, Michelle Steel serves as Southern California’s elected taxpayer advocate. In 2008, Steel uncovered a \$42 million mistake in the agency’s sales tax refund procedures. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$53 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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