



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Michelle Steel, Member

3rd District – Rolling Hills Estates

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www.boe.ca.gov

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California Gasoline Consumption Increases 1.8% in August 2010

Michelle Steel, Third District Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today released California gasoline and diesel consumption figures for August 2010. Demand for gasoline increased 1.8 percent compared to last year.

In August 2010, gasoline demand rose 1.8 percent when Californians used 1.29 billion gallons of gasoline compared to 1.27 billion gallons the same month last year. The average California gasoline price at the pump in August 2010 was \$3.19 per gallon compared to \$3.06 in August 2009, a 4.2 percent increase.

Diesel fuel sold in California during August 2010 totaled 205 million gallons compared to last year's August 2009 total of 196 million gallons, which is an increase of 5.8 percent. California diesel prices were \$3.16 per gallon in August 2010 up 10.9 percent compared to August 2009 when the average diesel price was \$2.85 per gallon.

However, while the diesel gallons reflected in the August 2010 numbers are up 11.2 million gallons, indicating an increase of 5.8 percent, the consumption change from last August is likely to be less because the August 2009 figures include a 19.3 million gallon non-recurring credit. The gallons included in the monthly consumption numbers are always net of audit assessments and refunds. The August 2009 credits were larger than most and may have skewed the August 2010 percentage change to a 5.8 percent increase from an actual decline of 3.8 percent.

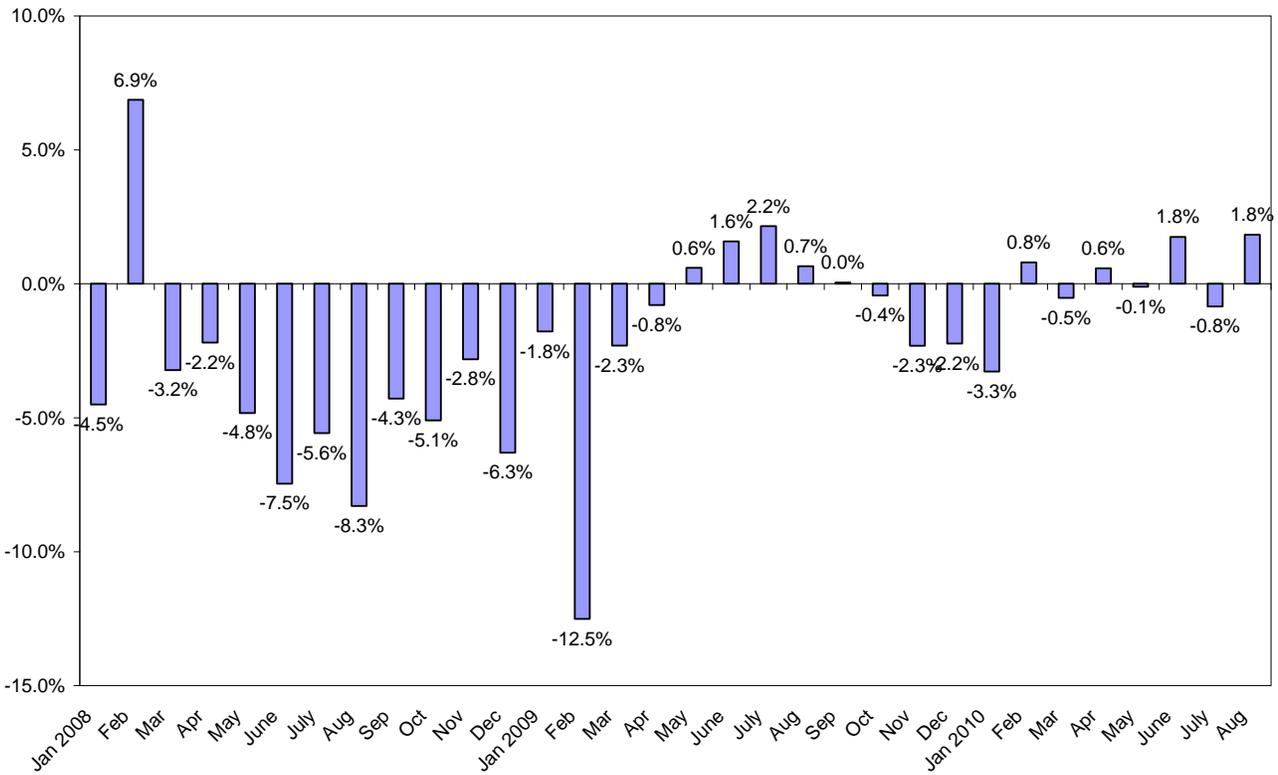
The BOE is able to monitor gallons through tax receipts paid by fuel distributors. The figures reported monthly are net consumption that includes BOE audit assessments, refunds, amended and late tax returns, and State Controller's Office refunds. Figures for September 2010 are scheduled to be available at the end of December 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

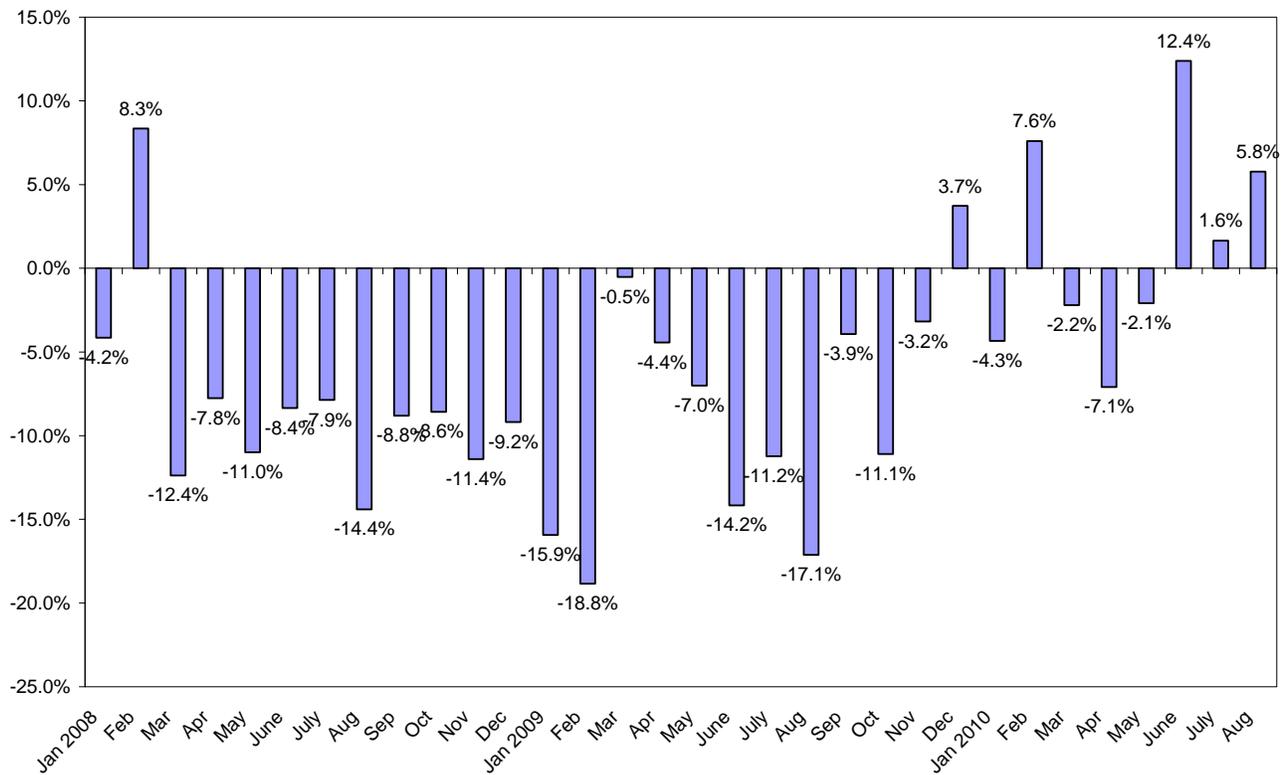
Taxable Diesel Gallons: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel_10_Year_Report.pdf

Editor's note – please see the two attached charts showing gasoline and diesel consumption comparisons from January 2008 through August 2010.

**Percent Change in Gas Consumption Compared to 12 Months Prior
From January 2008 Through August 2010**



**Percent Change in Diesel Gallons Compared to 12 Months Prior
From January 2008 Through August 2010**



Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. 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 \$48 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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