



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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California First Quarter 2010 Gas Use Declines 1.0%, Diesel Declines 0.01%

Michelle Steel, Third District Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today released California's gasoline and diesel consumption figures for March and the first quarter of 2010. Gasoline consumption declined 0.5 percent in March and declined 1.0 percent in the first quarter. Diesel consumption declined 2.2 percent in March and declined 0.01 percent, essentially unchanged, in the first quarter compared to the same month and quarter in 2009.

Editor's note – please see the two attached charts showing year over year quarterly gasoline and diesel consumption comparisons for the last 17 consecutive quarters from first quarter 2006 through first quarter 2010.

In the first quarter of 2010, Californians used 37.4 million gallons of gasoline less than the first quarter 2009, which is a decline of 1.0 percent.

In March 2010, gasoline consumption declined 0.5 percent when Californians used 1.273 billion gallons of gasoline compared to 1.279 billion gallons the same month in 2009. The average California gasoline price at the pump in March was \$3.10 per gallon compared to \$2.24 in March 2009, a 38.4 percent increase.

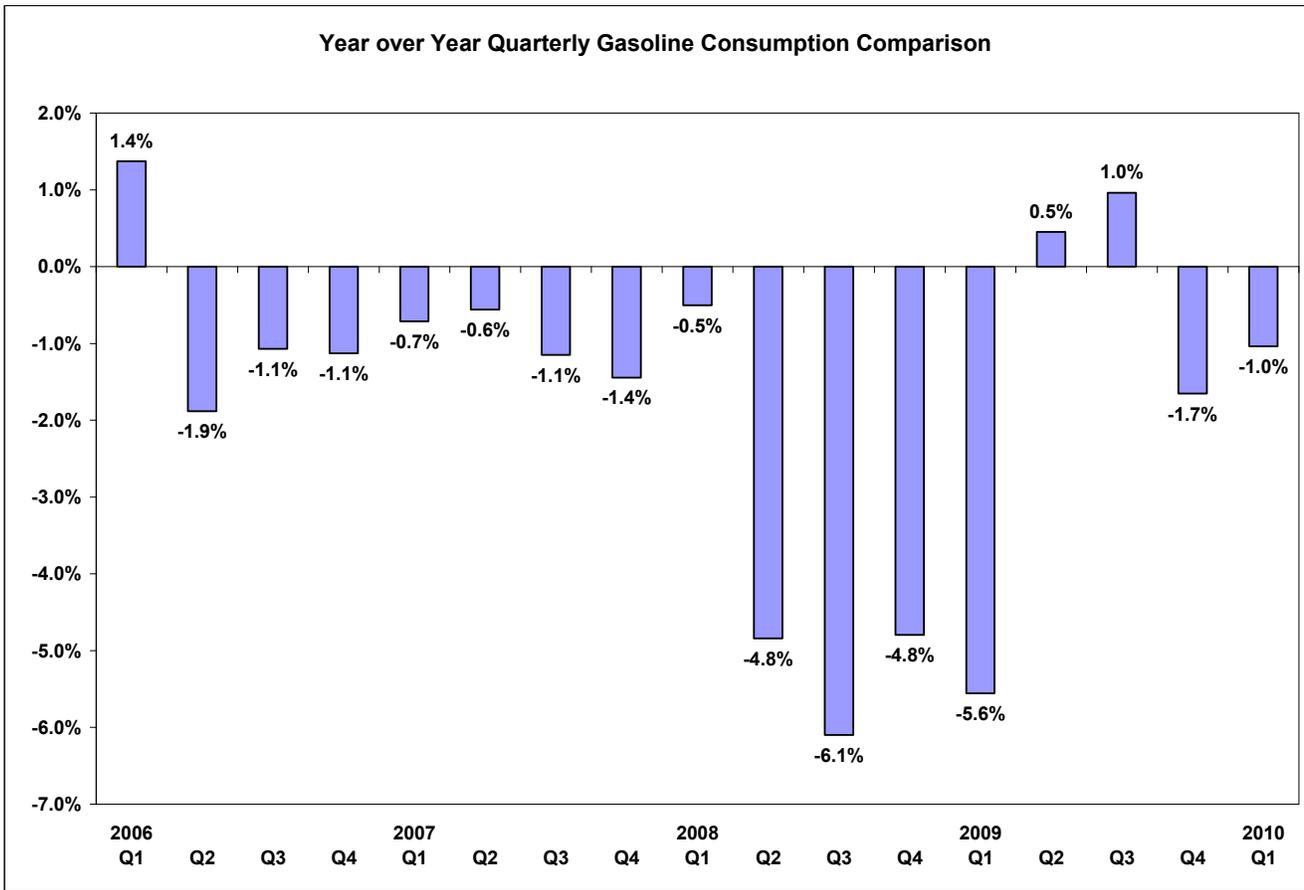
Gasoline sold in March generated approximately \$329 million in sales tax during that month, an estimated \$118 million more than generated last year. March sales and use tax revenues from gasoline would have been about \$36 million less had the state portion of the sales and use tax rate not increased by one percent on April 1, 2009.

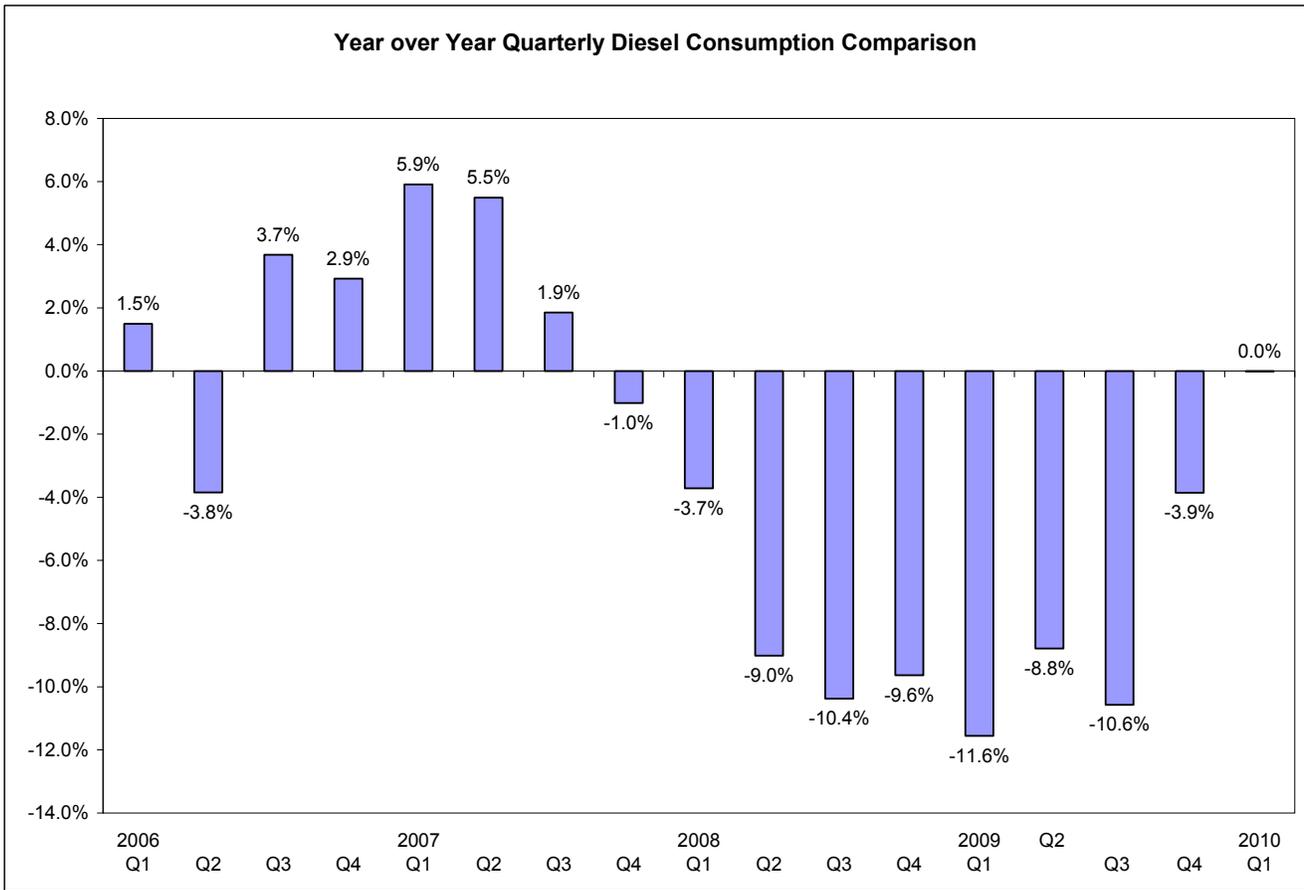
Diesel sold in California during March 2010 totaled 234.9 million gallons compared to the March 2009 total of 240.2 million gallons, which is a decrease of 2.2 percent. California diesel prices were \$3.06 per gallon in March 2010 an increase of 43.0 percent compared to March 2009 when the average diesel price was \$2.14 per gallon.

Diesel consumption in California was essentially unchanged in the first quarter of 2010 when Californians used a total of 619.2 million gallons of diesel.

In March, both the diesel and gas consumption numbers would have been higher were it not for the impacts of unusually large refunds related to audits. 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 April 2010 are scheduled to be available at the end of July 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





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 \$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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