



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Vice Chair Michelle Steel

3rd District – Rolling Hills Estates

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www.boe.ca.gov

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California Gasoline Consumption Up 2.7%, Diesel Up 1.4%

Michelle Steel, Vice Chair of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today released California gasoline and diesel consumption figures for January 2011. California gasoline consumption was up 2.7 percent in January, and diesel consumption rose 1.4 percent, compared with last year.

California's gasoline consumption increased 2.7 percent in January when Californians used 1.20 billion gallons of gasoline, compared to 1.17 billion gallons the same month last year. California's average price of gasoline rose 10.4 percent in January to \$3.39 a gallon, up 32 cents compared to January last year when California gasoline prices averaged \$3.07 per gallon. The U.S. average price for a gallon of gasoline jumped 13.7 percent in January to \$3.15 per gallon, up 38 cents compared to a year earlier when the U.S. average price for gasoline was \$2.77.

Diesel sold in California during January totaled 191 million gallons or 1.4 percent more than the previous January when Californian's used 189 million gallons. Diesel prices rose 56 cents higher to \$3.56 per gallon in California during January, or 18.7 percent higher than the previous January when diesel was averaging \$3.00 per gallon. The U.S. average price for a gallon of diesel rose 18.9 percent in January to \$3.39 per gallon, up 54 cents compared to a year earlier when the U.S. average price for diesel was \$2.85.

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 the California State Controller's Office refunds. Figures for February 2011 are scheduled to be available at the end of May 2011.

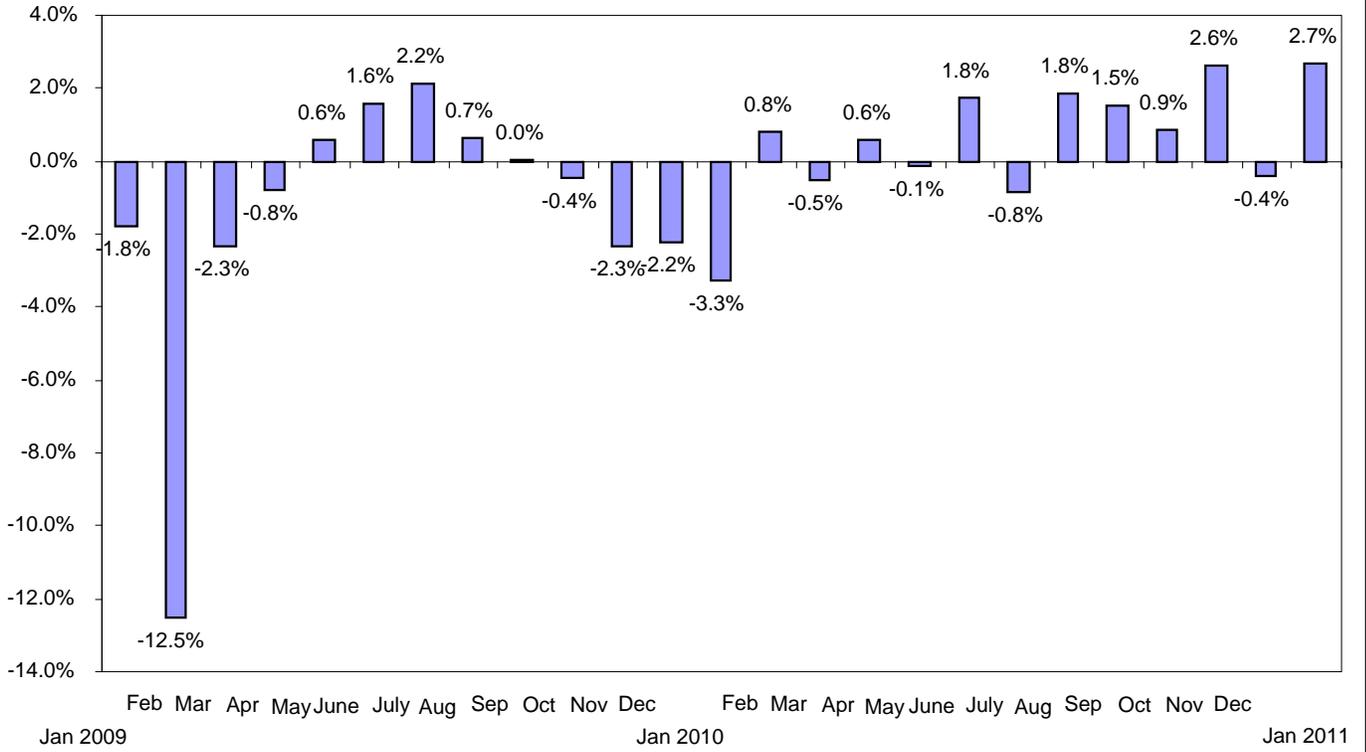
All monthly, quarterly, and annual figures can be viewed at: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm.

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

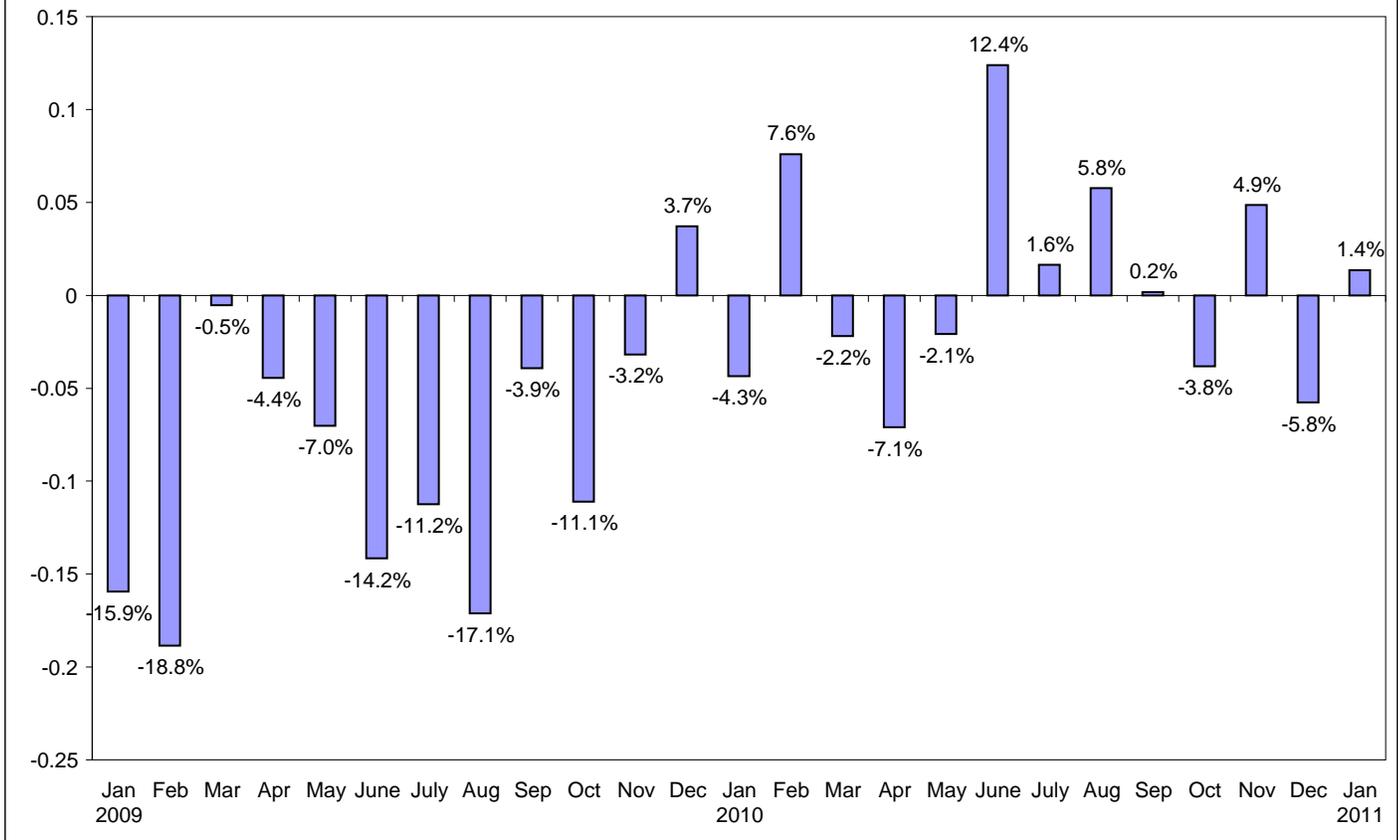
Taxable Diesel Gallons: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel_10_Year_Report.pdf

Editor's note – please see the two attached charts showing percent change in gasoline and diesel gallons consumption compared to 12 months prior from January 2009 through January 2011.

**Percent Change in California Gasoline Consumption Compared to 12 Months Prior
From January 2009 through January 2011**



**Percent Change in Diesel Gallons Compared to 12 Months Prior
From January 2009 through January 2011**



Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, 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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