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Contact: Jaime Garza
1-916-327-8988

California Gasoline and Diesel Consumption Down in August, Fuel Tax Data Says

Sacramento – California’s gasoline demand declined 1.1 percent while average prices were \$4.11 per gallon in August 2012 according to fuel tax data released today by Michelle Steel, Third District Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE). Diesel consumption declined 2.1 percent while diesel fuel prices averaged \$4.24 per gallon in August.

California’s gasoline consumption was 1.26 billion gallons in August 2012, down 14 million gallons or a 1.1 percent decline from last August. [California average gasoline prices](#) were up 29 cents to \$4.11 in August or 7.5 percent higher than August 2011, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA). The EIA also reported that U.S. retail gasoline prices averaged \$3.78 a gallon in August 2012, up 8 cents from August 2011.

California’s diesel consumption was 223 million gallons in August 2012, down 5 million gallons or a 2.1 percent decline from August 2011. [California’s average diesel](#) prices went up 23 cents to \$4.24 per gallon this August compared to August 2011. The EIA reported the U.S. average diesel prices in August was up 12 cents to \$3.98.

“Increased diesel prices should concern consumers, as they could lead to higher prices for all products that are shipped to California stores,” said Steel. “This problem will be compounded in January as the sales tax rate goes up for diesel and other taxable items because of Proposition 30.”

For more information on California fuel statistics reports based on fuel tax receipts paid by distributors in California, visit: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm.

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

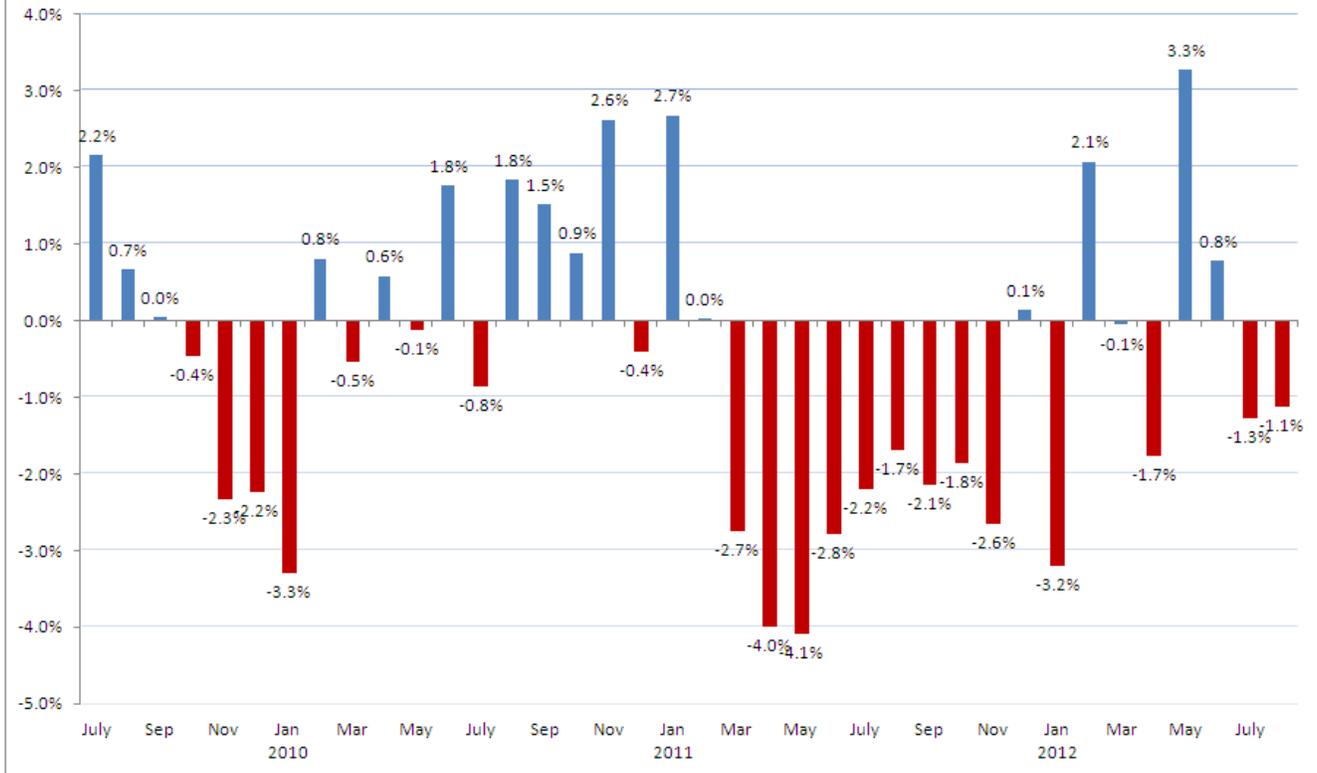
Taxable Diesel Gallons Report: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel_10_Year_Report.pdf.

(See below charts for gasoline and diesel consumption that compare one month with the same month in a previous year. For example, gasoline consumption in August 2012 was 1.1% less than August 2011.)

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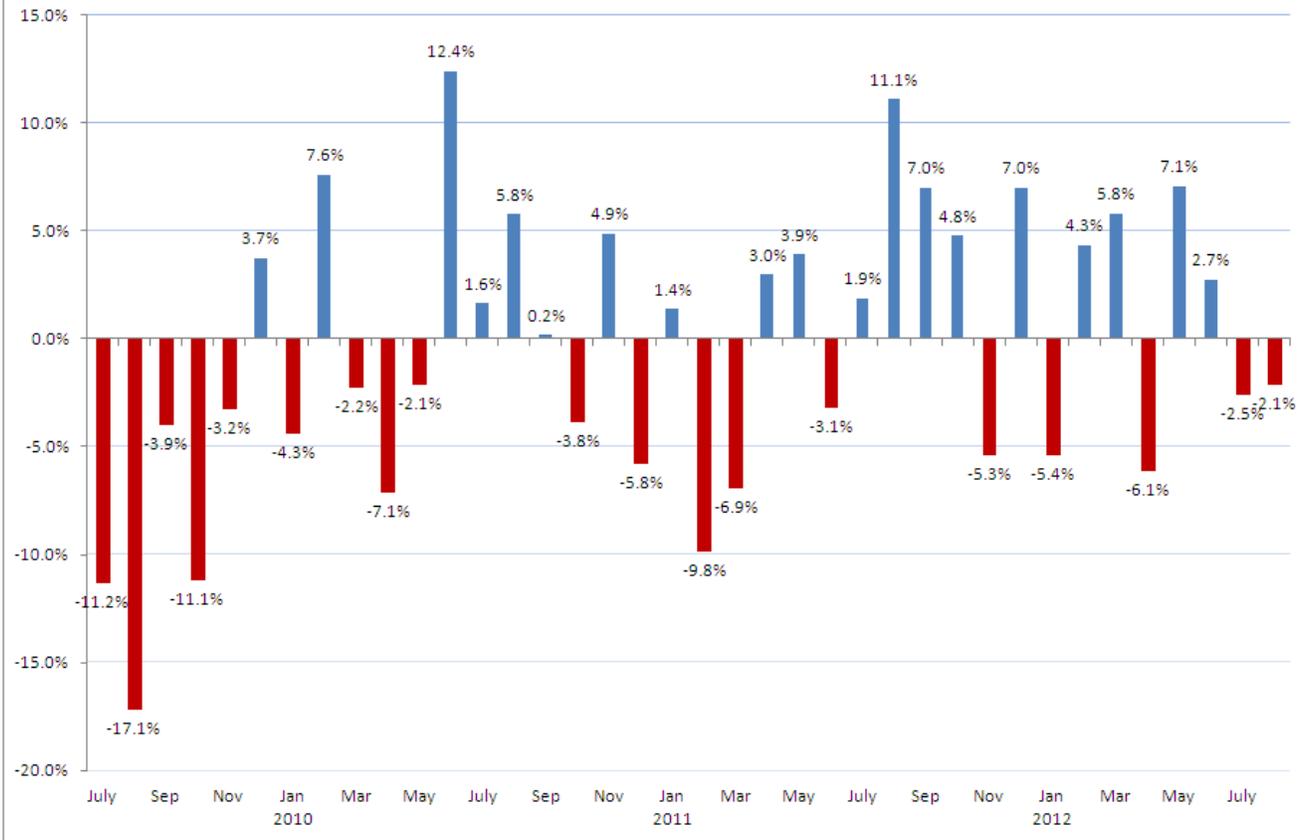
Percent Change in Gas Consumption Compared to Twelve Months Prior From July 2009 Through August 2012



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Percent Change in Diesel Gallons Compared to Twelve Months Prior From July 2009 Through August 2012



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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. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$53.7 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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