



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Vice Chair Michelle Steel**

**3<sup>rd</sup> District – Rolling Hills Estates**

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## **CALIFORNIA GASOLINE CONSUMPTION DOWN 1.8%, DIESEL UP 4.8%** **Gasoline Use Continued Downward Trend as High Gas Prices Rose 23%**

**Sacramento** — Gasoline consumption in California declined 1.8 percent in October 2011 while diesel fuel consumption increased 4.8 percent according to a report released today by California State Board of Equalization (BOE) Vice Chair Michelle Steel.

*Editor's note – see the charts below showing percentage change in monthly gasoline and diesel consumption comparisons*

California used 1.23 billion gallons of gasoline in October 2011 which is a 1.8 percent decline from the previous year when 1.26 gallons were used. In California, the average price of gasoline rose 74 cents to \$3.89 per gallon in October 2011, a 23 percent increase compared to \$ 3.15 per gallon in October 2010. Nationally, the average price of fuel jumped 66 cents to \$3.51 in October 2011, a 23 percent increase over the October 2010 price per gallon of \$2.85.

Diesel fuel consumption in California increased 10.3 million gallons in October to a total of 226 million gallons, which is a 4.8 percent increase compared to the previous year when 216 million gallons were consumed. The average price of diesel in California rose 85 cents to \$4.06 per gallon in October 2011 compared to \$3.21 per gallon in October 2010. Nationally, the average price of diesel rose 75 cents to \$3.80 per gallon which is a 25 percent increase compared to \$3.05 per gallon in October 2010.

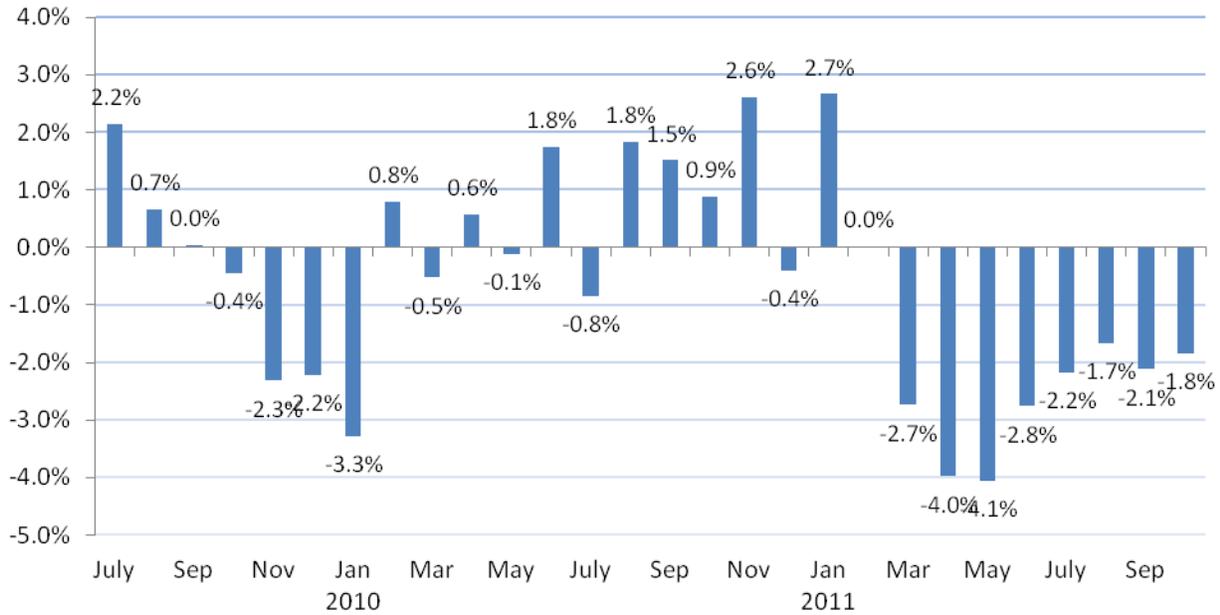
California gasoline and diesel fuel figures are net consumption that includes audit assessments, refunds, amended and late tax returns and the State Controller's Office refunds. BOE is able to monitor gallons through tax receipts paid by fuel distributors in California. BOE updates the reports at the end of each month.

Fuel Statistics and Reports [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm)

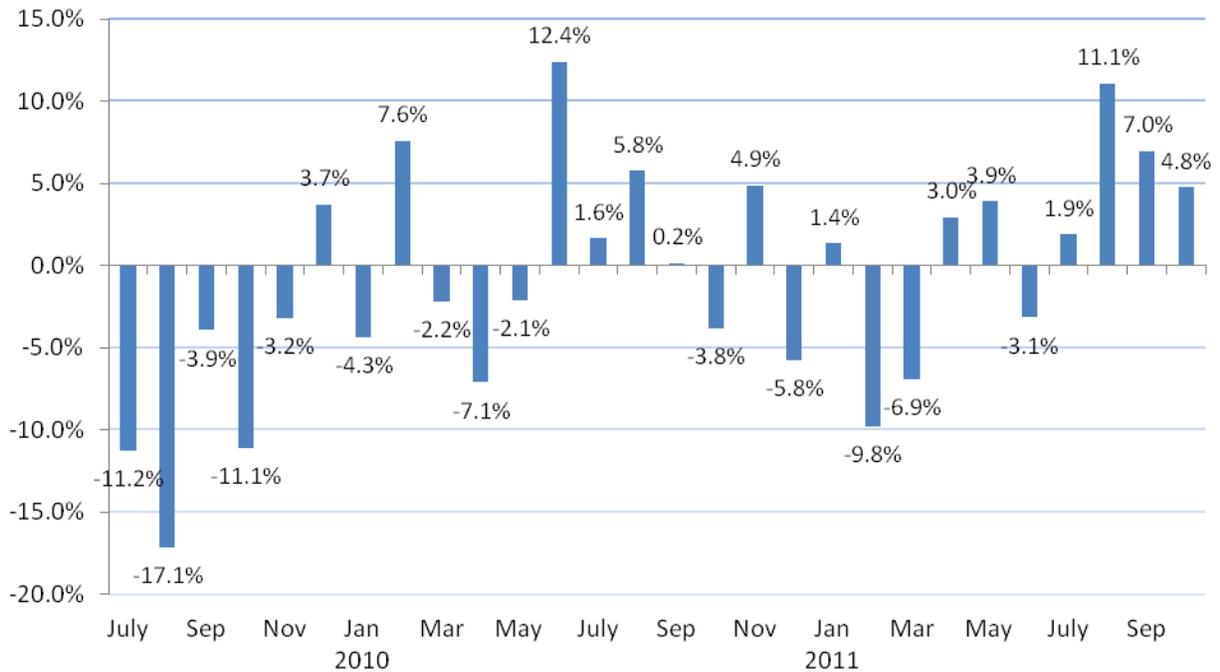
Taxable Gasoline Gallons Report: [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF\\_10\\_Year\\_Report.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF_10_Year_Report.pdf)

Taxable Diesel Gallons Report: [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel\\_10\\_Year\\_Report.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel_10_Year_Report.pdf)

## Percent Change in Gas Consumption Compared to Twelve Months Prior From July 2009 Through October 2011



## Percent Change in Diesel Gallons Compared to Twelve Months Prior From July 2009 Through October 2011



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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 \$50 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](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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