



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Vice Chair Michelle Steel

3rd District – Rolling Hills Estates

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www.boe.ca.gov

For Immediate Release
June 29, 2012

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California Gasoline Consumption Declining for Five Quarters **Gasoline Prices Increased 10.9% in the First Quarter**

Sacramento – Gasoline consumption in California fell for the fifth consecutive quarter, declining 0.4 percent, as gasoline prices went up 10.9 percent in the first quarter of 2012, according to a report released today by Michelle Steel, Vice Chair of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE). *Editor's note: See chart of year-over-year quarterly gasoline consumption comparisons.*

First quarter average gasoline prices were up 40 cents to \$4.06—a 10.9 percent increase—while the average price in March was up 41 cents to \$4.41. Total [gasoline consumption](#) for the first quarter declined 15.7 million gallons compared to the first quarter last year, for a total of 3.6 billion gallons used.

[Diesel fuel consumption](#) increased 1.7 percent compared to a year ago, as California consumed an additional 10.1 million gallons, for a total of 597 million gallons in the first quarter. In California, diesel averaged \$4.28 a gallon, up 43 cents—an 11.2 percent increase—from last year's first quarter. Both gasoline and diesel fuel prices in California continued to be higher than the national average price.

Nationally, regular gasoline averaged \$3.66 a gallon, up 32 cents from last year's first quarter according to the U.S. [Energy Information Administration](#) (EIA). The EIA diesel retail prices reported the national average price of diesel was up 34 cents to \$3.97—an increase of 9.4 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier.

In March, a survey and resulting [graphic](#) from AAA identified how drivers are changing their behavior to help offset higher prices at the pump. AAA concluded: “As a result of current gas price increases, 84 percent of (AAA) respondents have already changed their driving habits or lifestyle in some way. Combining trips and errands was the most commonly reported cost-cutting measure with 60 percent of respondents reporting having already made this adjustment.”

BOE monitors gasoline consumption using tax receipts paid by fuel distributors in California. BOE updates the fuel reports at the end of each month.

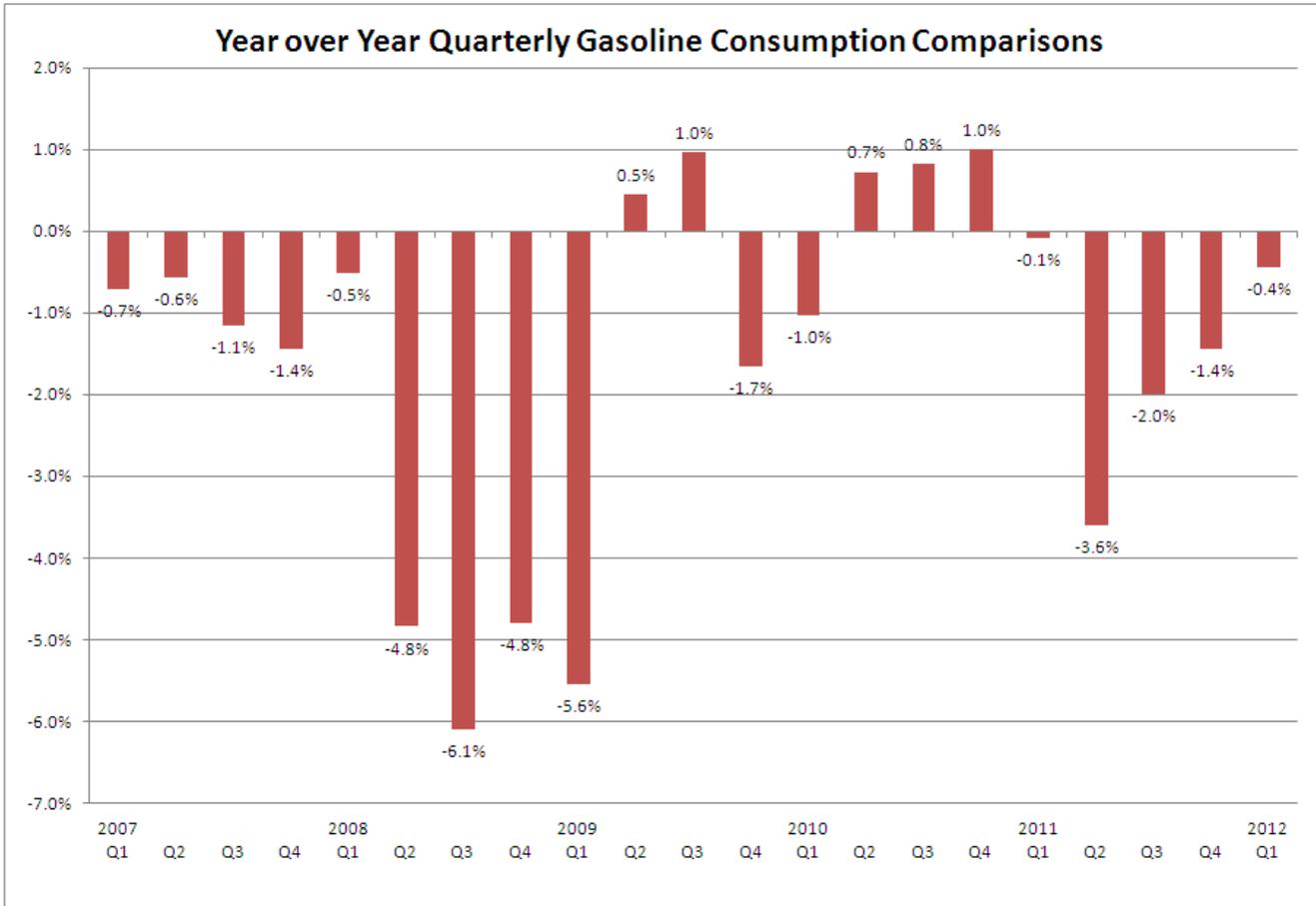
California Fuel Statistics and Reports www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm

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

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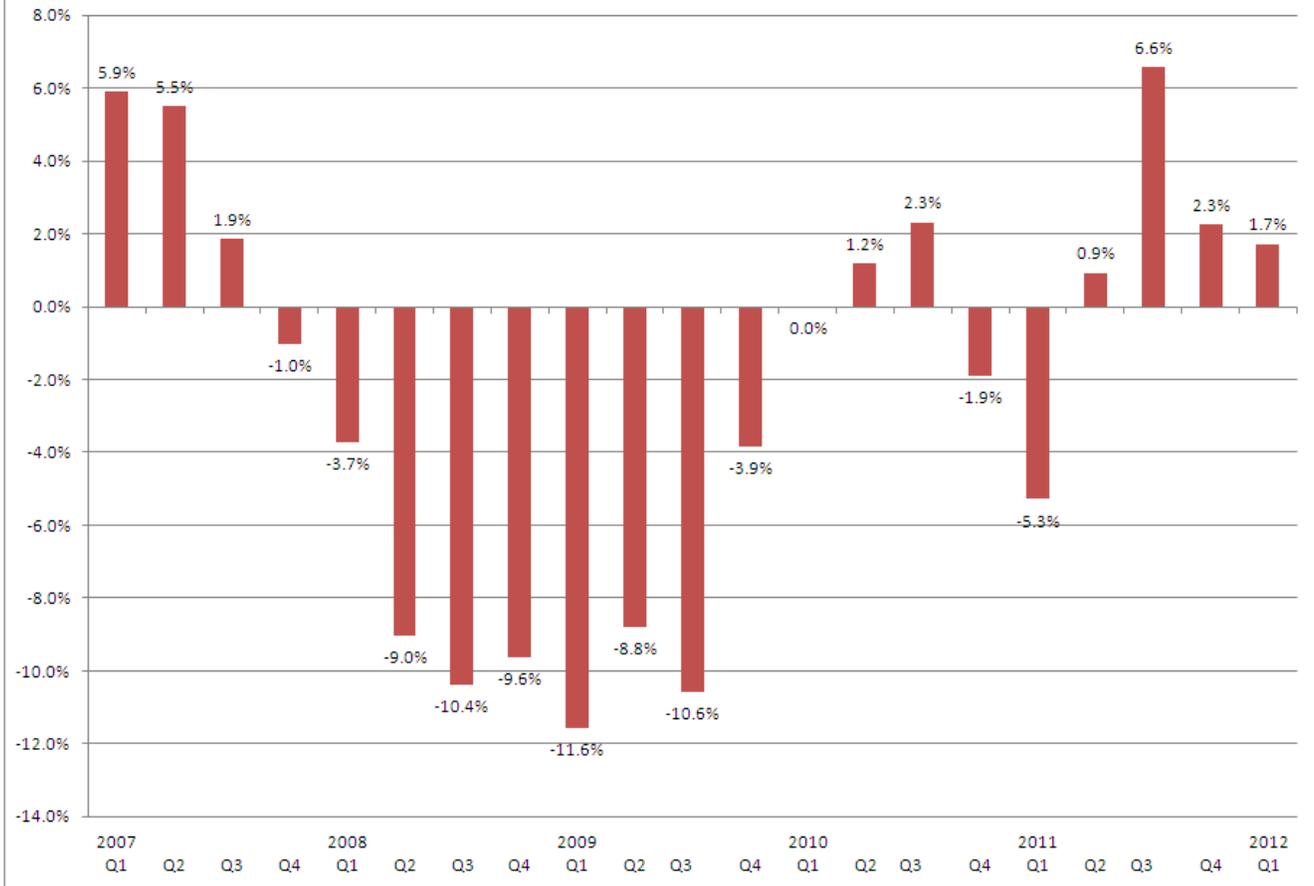




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Year over Year Quarterly Diesel Consumption Comparison



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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.

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