



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**George Runner, Member**

**2<sup>nd</sup> District – Lancaster**

Kristine Cazadd  
Executive Director  
[www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov)

**For Immediate Release**  
**July 31, 2012**

**Contact:** NR 76-12-R  
**Jaime Garza**  
**916-327-8988**

## **California Gasoline: Prices Up, Consumption Down** **Prices Reach \$4.29 a Gallon in April, Gasoline Use Drops 1.7%**

**Sacramento** –California’s average gasoline price reached \$4.29 in April as gasoline consumption in California declined 1.7 percent, according to a report released today by George Runner, Second District Member of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE). (*See chart for year-over-year monthly gasoline consumption comparisons.*)

In California, average gasoline prices were up 9 cents to \$4.29 in April. Total [gasoline consumption](#) for April was 1.18 billion gallons compared to April of last year, when it was 1.20 billion gallons.

Nationally, regular gasoline averaged \$3.96 a gallon, up 11 cents from April of last year according to the U.S. [Energy Information Administration](#) (EIA). The [EIA](#) diesel retail prices reported the national average price of diesel was up 5 cents to \$4.12 in April from a year earlier.

High gasoline prices might be causing a shift in driving and auto ownership patterns. Declines in both cars per licensed driver and licensed drivers per driving-age population were cited in a February report, [North America – U.S. Economics – Motor Vehicles](#), *State of the U.S. Motor Vehicle Industry: 2012*, by Briefing Research, a group based in Chicago and Burlingame. According to the report, “For the past several years, the recession and the economic uncertainty in the immediate aftermath caused motor vehicle sales to fall to their lowest point since data became available in 1976.”

The upcoming BOE [Economic Perspective](#) newsletter (August 2012) reports that spending on gasoline increased greatly for all households, a minimum of \$378 for the lowest-earning, and up to a maximum of \$1,187 for the top-earning households during the 10-year period of 2000 through 2010. These increases are not surprising with an 86 percent increase in gas prices during the same period.

The *Economic Perspective* also reports that households are buying cars less frequently today than they were a decade ago, as spending on new and used cars declined for all households from

**Connect with Us:**



2000 to 2010. The average age of cars owned by households rose from 8.9 years in 2000 to 10.6 years in 2010. The average age of cars has been rising since the mid-1990s.

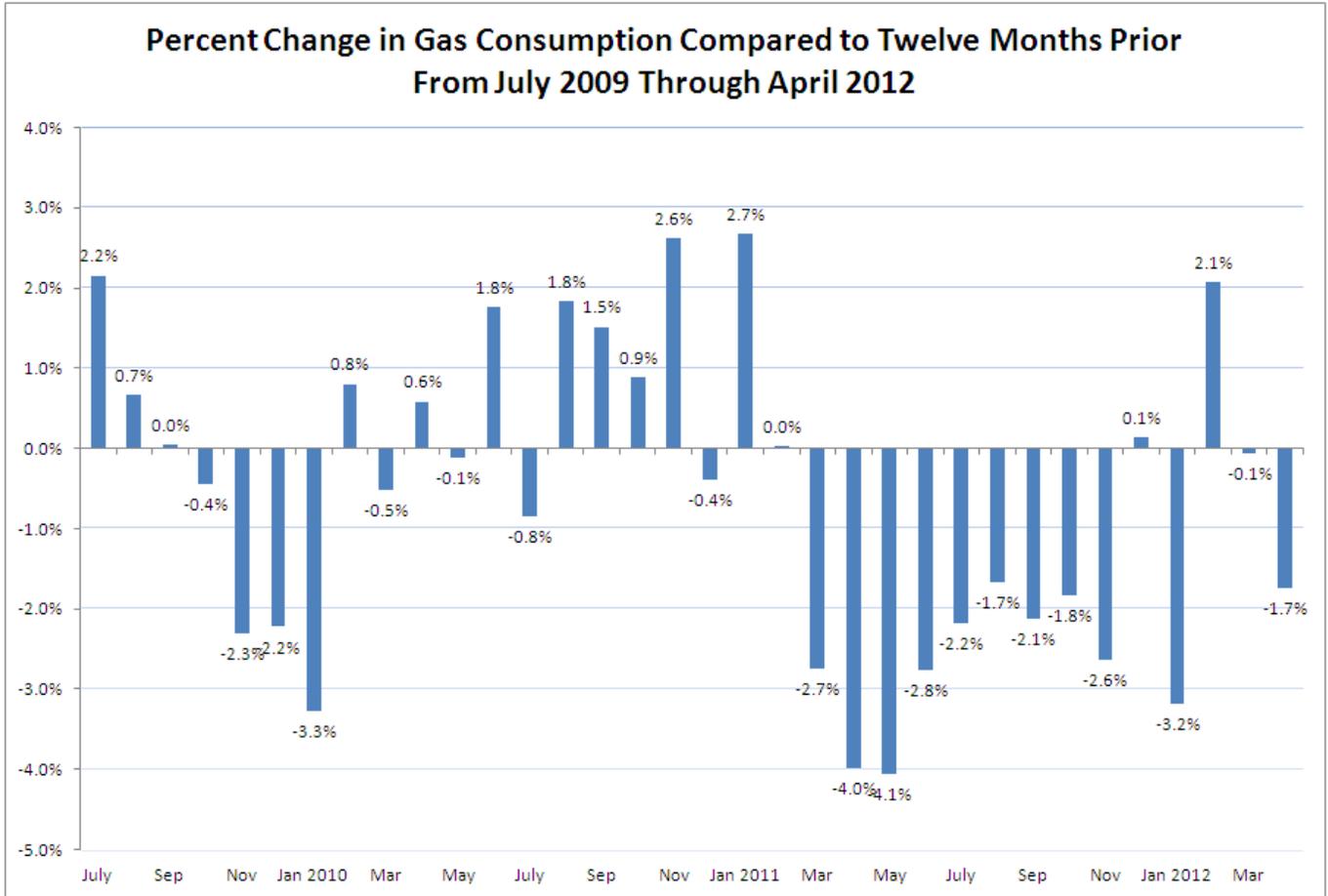
BOE monitors gasoline consumption using tax receipts paid by fuel distributors in California. BOE updates the fuel reports at the end of each month.

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

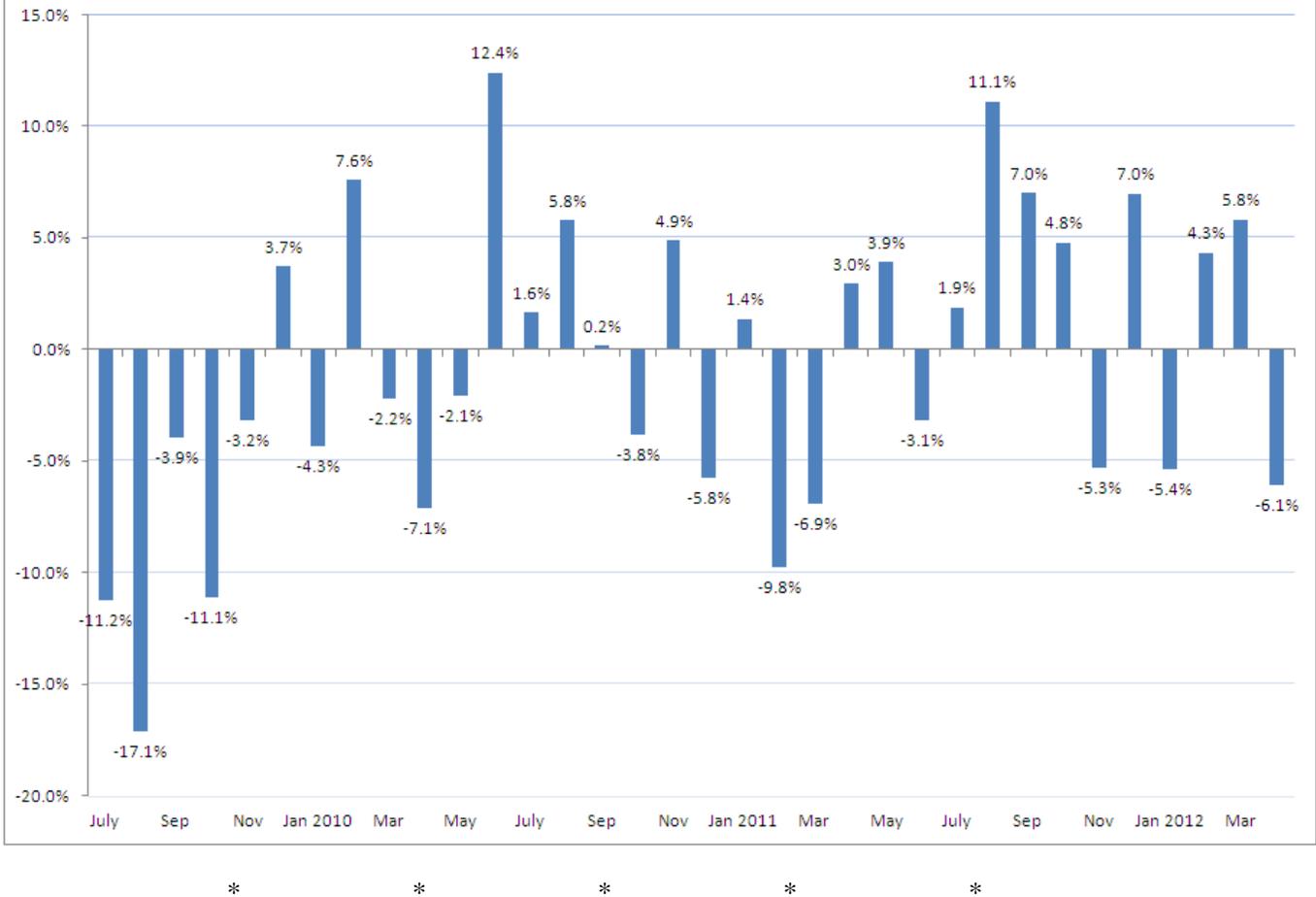
Taxable Diesel Gallons Report: [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel\\_10\\_Year\\_Report.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel_10_Year_Report.pdf)



Connect with Us:



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



Elected in November 2010, George Runner represents the State Board of Equalization's Second District. He is a leading advocate for California taxpayers. Runner has worked to improve California's tax policies and practices and to create and retain more private sector jobs in our state. Prior to his election to the Board, Runner served twelve years in the State Legislature, authoring the well-known California Amber Alert and California's Blue Alert. As a thoughtful conservative, his legislative priorities included improving the economy, business growth, education excellence, and public safety for all Californians. As a member of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, Runner consistently led the fight against tax increases and supported tax relief for families and businesses.

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).

###

**Connect with Us:**

