



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Vice Chair Michelle Steel

3rd District – Orange County

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NR 42-13-S

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For Immediate Release
April 30, 2013

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California Gasoline and Diesel Consumption Data Declines in Fourth Quarter of 2012

Sacramento – California’s gasoline consumption declined 1.7 percent, while diesel consumption declined 0.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012, according to fuel tax data released by Vice Chair Michelle Steel of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE).

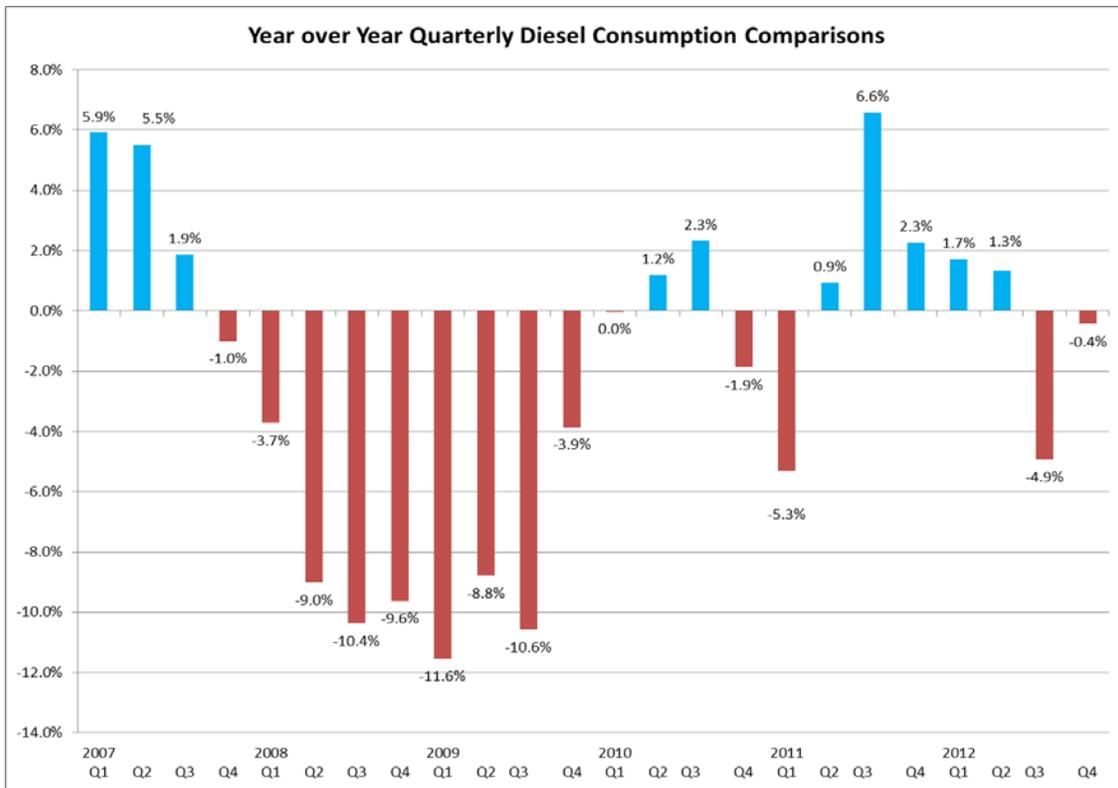
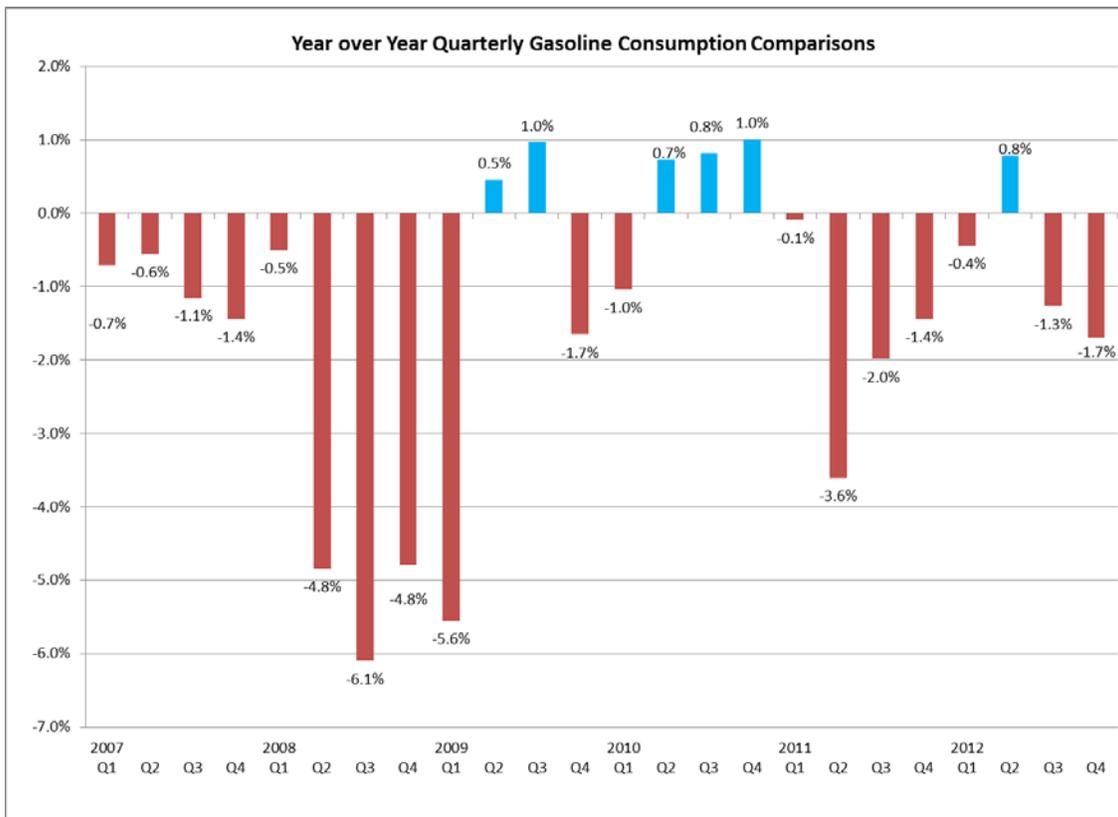
BOE’s [gasoline fuel tax](#) report shows Californians consumed 3.58 billion gallons of gasoline in the fourth quarter of 2012, a 1.7 percent decline from the 3.64 billion gallons consumed during the fourth quarter of 2011. In California, the average price of gasoline in the fourth quarter of 2012 was \$3.99 per gallon, which is a 19 cent increase over the average price of \$3.80 per gallon in the fourth quarter of 2011. Nationally, the average price of gasoline during the fourth quarter of 2012 was \$3.57, according to the [Energy Information Administration](#) (EIA). BOE estimates statewide gasoline tax-related revenues for the fourth quarter of 2012 are \$432 million in sales taxes and \$1.29 billion in excise taxes in California.

California’s [diesel fuel consumption](#) decreased 0.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012 to 653 million gallons, compared to 656 million gallons in the fourth quarter of 2011. In California, the average price of diesel fuel in the fourth quarter of 2012 was \$4.21 per gallon, which is an increase of 8 cents over the average price of \$4.13 in the fourth quarter of 2011. Nationally, the average price of diesel fuel in the fourth quarter of 2012 was \$4.02 according to the EIA. BOE estimates statewide diesel fuel tax-related revenues for the fourth quarter of 2012 are \$248 million in sales taxes and \$76 million in excise tax in California.

Editor’s Note: Please see charts below comparing year-over-year quarterly gasoline and diesel consumption.

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For a more in-depth discussion of gasoline consumption, see the *Economic Perspective* newsletter on the BOE website at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/news/epcont13.htm>

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

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

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

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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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