

For Immediate Release
July 15, 2013

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Gasoline Consumption Declines, Diesel Consumption Up in First Quarter 2013

Sacramento – California’s gasoline consumption declined 1.5 percent, while diesel consumption increased 3.8 percent in the first quarter of 2013, according to fuel tax data released today by Michelle Steel, Vice Chair of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE).

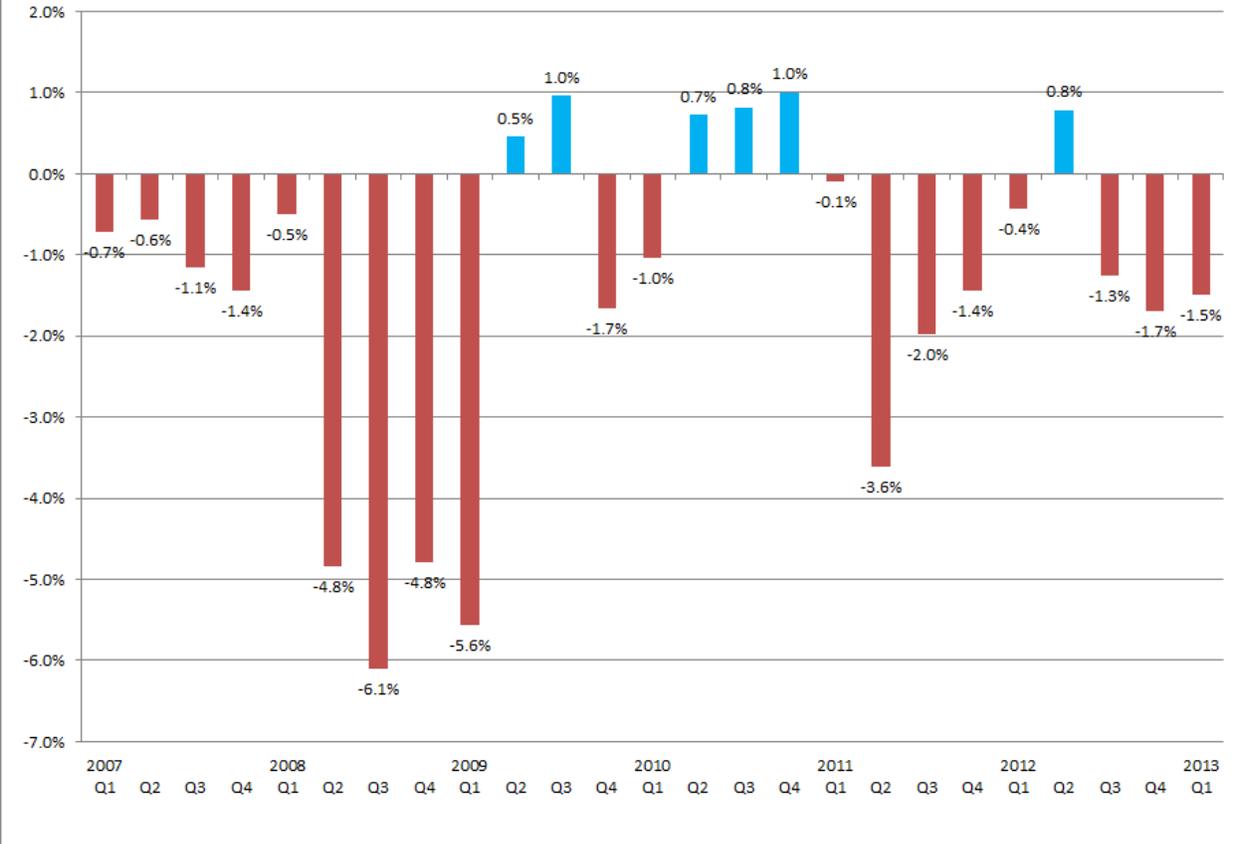
“The decline in the price of gasoline is welcome news to Californians,” commented Ms. Steel. She added, “Unfortunately, laws passed by the Legislature have forced the increase of the per gallon excise tax on gas. This is wrong for all Californians which is why I voted against it. Laws passed by the State Legislature in 2010 require the Board of Equalization to vote on adjustments to gas taxes each year based on a formula that includes estimates of gasoline consumption and price.”

The BOE’s [gasoline fuel tax](#) report shows Californians consumed 3.50 billion gallons of gasoline in the first quarter of 2013, a 1.5 percent decline from the 3.56 billion gallons consumed during the first quarter of 2012. In California, the average price of gasoline in the first quarter of 2013 was \$4.00 per gallon, which is a six cent decrease over the average price of \$4.06 per gallon in the first quarter of 2012. Nationally, the average price of gasoline during the first quarter of 2013 was \$3.64, according to the [Energy Information Administration](#) (EIA). BOE estimates statewide gasoline tax-related revenues for the first quarter of 2013 are \$424 million in sales taxes and \$1.261 billion in excise taxes in California.

California’s [diesel fuel consumption](#) increased 3.8 percent in the first quarter of 2013 to 619 million gallons, compared to 597 million gallons in the first quarter of 2012. In California, the average price of diesel fuel in the first quarter of 2013 was \$4.22 per gallon, which is a decrease of six cents over the average price of \$4.28 in the first quarter of 2012. Nationally, the average price of diesel fuel in the first quarter of 2013 was \$4.03 according to the EIA. BOE estimates statewide diesel fuel tax-related revenues for the first quarter of 2013 are \$235 million in sales taxes and \$77 million in excise tax in California.

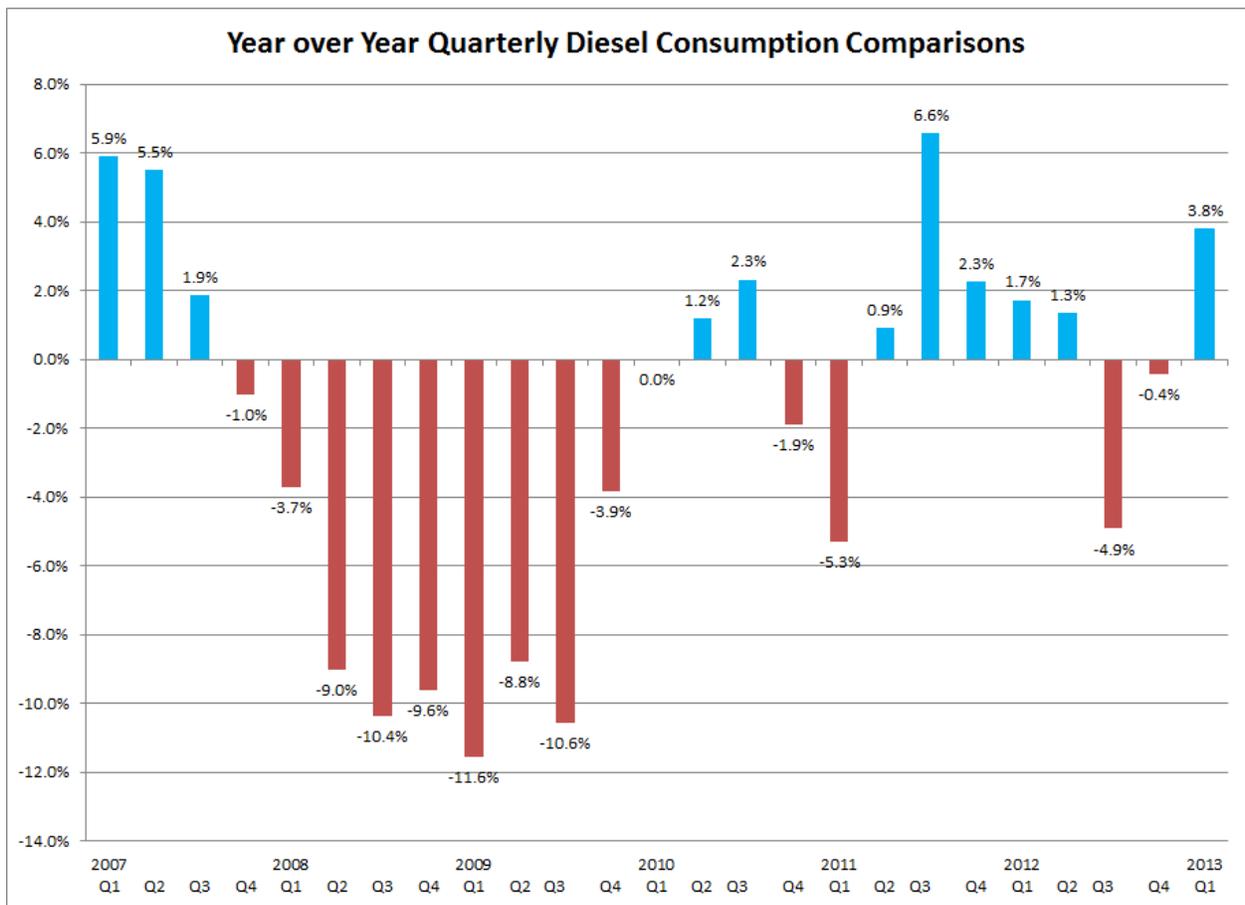
Editor’s Note: Please see charts below comparing year-over-year quarterly gasoline and diesel consumption.

Year over Year Quarterly Gasoline Consumption Comparisons



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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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