



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Judy Chu, Ph.D.
Chair

4th District – Los Angeles

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Judy Chu Announces May California Gasoline Consumption Data

Gasoline Data Continues to Show Downward Trend from Previous Year; Diesel Also Down

Judy Chu, Ph.D., Chair of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today released gasoline consumption figures for May 2008 that show a continuing downward trend. Californians used 4.8 percent less gasoline in May than they did a year ago.

Total gallons of gasoline used were 65.0 million fewer in May this year over last. A month to month comparison shows that in May 2008, Californians used 26.2 million gallons (2.1%) more gasoline than in April 2008. Historically, May shows an increase over April, in part because of the Memorial Day holiday, which traditionally is the start of the summer when people travel more and consume more fuel.

The average California gas price at the pump rose from \$3.85 per gallon in April to \$4.02 in May 2008, which was 15.2 percent above the average price of May 2007 when it was \$3.49. The BOE estimates that nearly twice as much sales tax is generated annually by higher gasoline prices than five years ago. Those higher prices generated approximately \$3.6 billion in sales tax during 2007 when the average price was \$3.12. In contrast, 2003's gasoline sales generated \$2.1 billion when the average pump price was \$1.88.

May 2008 diesel fuel sold for use on California roads totaled 225 million gallons, which was 11.0 percent below that of May 2007. A month to month comparison shows that in May 2008 Californians used 4.9 million (2.1%) gallons less diesel than April 2008. The decreased consumption reflects both the impacts of higher diesel prices and the slowing economy, which is associated with less freight movement on California roads and highways. California diesel prices were up 58 percent compared to May of 2007.

The BOE is able to monitor gallons through tax receipts paid by fuel distributors. Figures for June 2008 are scheduled to be available near the end of September. All monthly, quarterly, and annual figures can be viewed on the BOE website at: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm>

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

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

Chair Judy Chu represents the Fourth Board of Equalization District, which includes Los Angeles County. She won election to the BOE in November 2006 and was elected Chair of the Board of Equalization in January 2008. Chair Judy Chu is also a voting member of the Franchise Tax Board.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$53 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.

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