



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Chairwoman Betty T. Yee

1st District – San Francisco

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California Gasoline Consumption Increases 1.8% in August 2010

Betty T. Yee, Chairwoman of the Board of Equalization (BOE), today released California gasoline and diesel consumption figures for August 2010. Demand for gasoline increased 1.8 percent compared to last year.

“California gasoline consumption and prices have been unusually stable for most of 2010,” said Chairwoman Betty T. Yee. “Consumption for the first eight months of this year compared to last year shows very little fluctuation.”

In August 2010, gasoline demand rose 1.8 percent when Californians used 1.29 billion gallons of gasoline compared to 1.27 billion gallons the same month last year. The average California gasoline price at the pump in August 2010 was \$3.19 per gallon compared to \$3.06 in August 2009, a 4.2 percent increase.

Diesel fuel sold in California during August 2010 totaled 205 million gallons compared to last year’s August 2009 total of 194 million gallons, which is an increase of 5.8 percent. California diesel prices were \$3.16 per gallon in August 2010 up 10.9 percent compared to August 2009 when the average diesel price was \$2.85 per gallon.

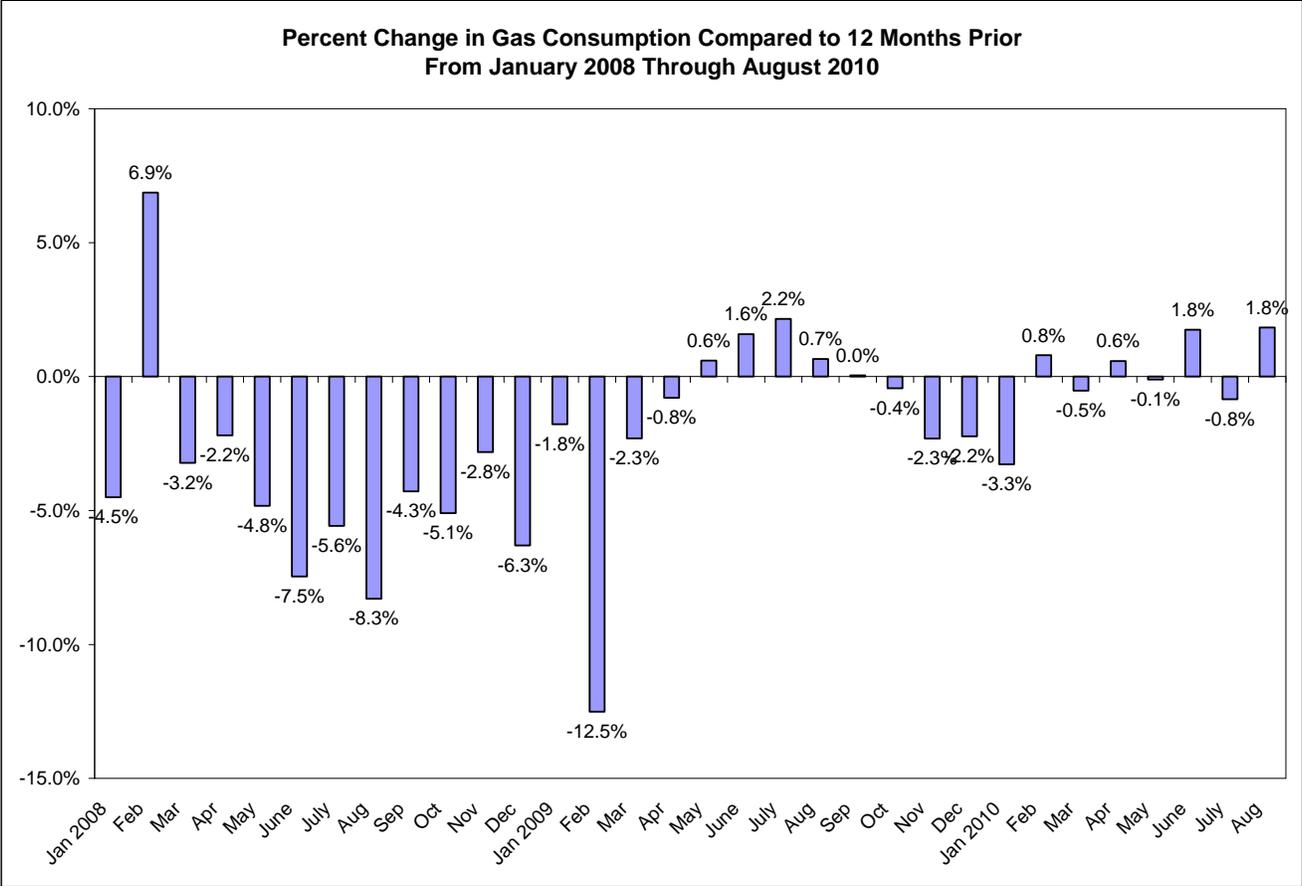
However, while the diesel gallons reflected in the August 2010 numbers are up 11.2 million gallons, indicating an increase of 5.8 percent, the consumption change from last August is likely to be less because the August 2009 figures include a 19.3 million gallon non-recurring credit. The gallons included in the monthly consumption numbers are always net of audit assessments and refunds. The August 2009 credits were larger than most and may have skewed the August 2010 percentage change to a 5.8 percent increase from an actual decline of 3.8 percent.

The BOE is able to monitor gallons through tax receipts paid by fuel distributors. The figures reported monthly are net consumption that includes BOE audit assessments, refunds, amended and late tax returns, and State Controller’s Office refunds. Figures for September 2010 are scheduled to be available at the end of December 2010. All monthly, quarterly, and annual figures can be viewed at: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm.

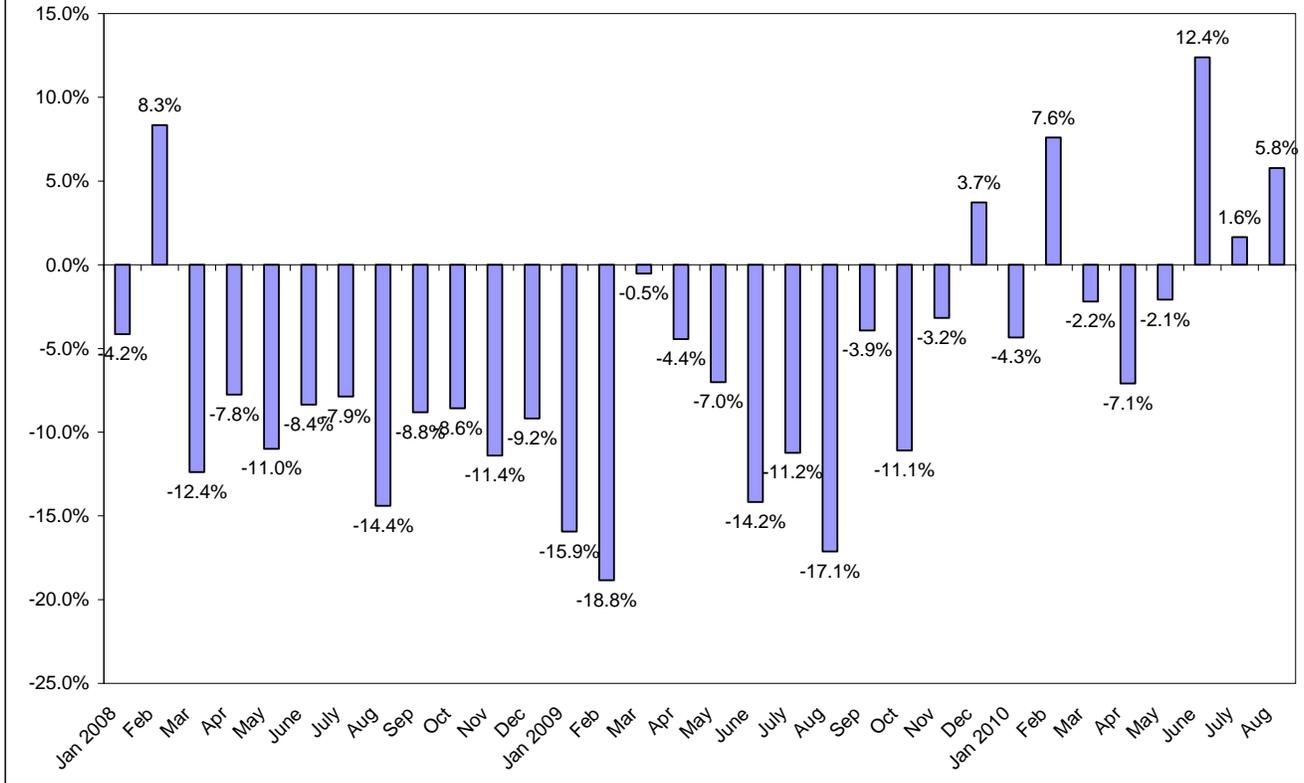
Taxable Gasoline Gallons: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF_10_Year_Report.pdf

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

Editor's note – please see the two attached charts showing gasoline and diesel consumption comparisons from January 2008 through August 2010.



**Percent Change in Diesel Gallons Compared to 12 Months Prior
From January 2008 Through August 2010**



Chairwoman Betty T. Yee was elected to her post in November 2006. Her district includes many of California's coastal counties, from Del Norte to Santa Barbara, and includes the entire San Francisco Bay Area.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$48 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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