



State Board of Equalization

News Release

George Runner, Member

2nd District – Lancaster

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Gasoline and Diesel Prices Soar in California; Consumption Drops

Sacramento – Gasoline and diesel prices surged in California in January 2012 while consumption dropped. According to a report released today by George Runner, Second District Member of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), gasoline prices jumped 10.6% to an average of \$3.75 a gallon, while consumption declined 3.2 percent compared to a year ago.

“Californians don’t need a government report to tell them that gas prices have soared this year,” said Senator Runner. “They’re feeling the pain each and every time they fill up at the pump.”

In California, diesel fuel prices were up 15.2% to \$4.10 as consumption decreased 5.4% in January from a year earlier. Diesel consumption, used largely by commercial transportation, often reflects the pace of economic activity such as imports and exports through California ports, supply and demand conditions in residential and nonresidential construction, and agriculture.

Nationally, the U.S. [Energy Information Administration](#) (EIA) reports that the average price of a gallon of gasoline was up 9.2% to \$3.44 in January from a year ago. The [EIA](#) also reported that the national average price of a gallon of diesel was up 13.0% to \$3.83 in January from a year earlier.

The high price of gasoline was a primary factor in the rise in consumer prices. The U.S. [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) reported in January 2012 that its consumer price index rose 2.9% in January 2012 from a year earlier.

Consistent with using less gasoline, the [Federal Highway Administration](#) data show a 1.2% decline in vehicle miles traveled by Californians in January 2012 from a year earlier.

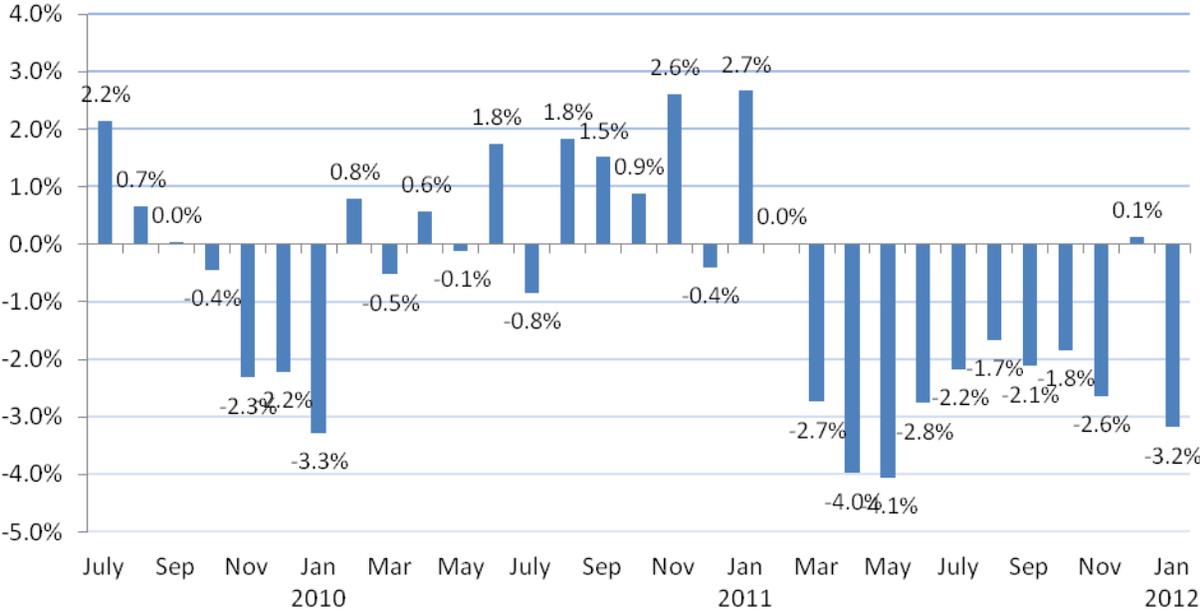
California gasoline and diesel fuel figures are net consumption, including audit assessments, refunds, amended and late tax returns, and the State Controller’s Office refunds. BOE is able to monitor gallons through tax receipts paid by fuel distributors in California. BOE updates the fuel reports at the end of each month.

Fuel Statistics and Reports www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm

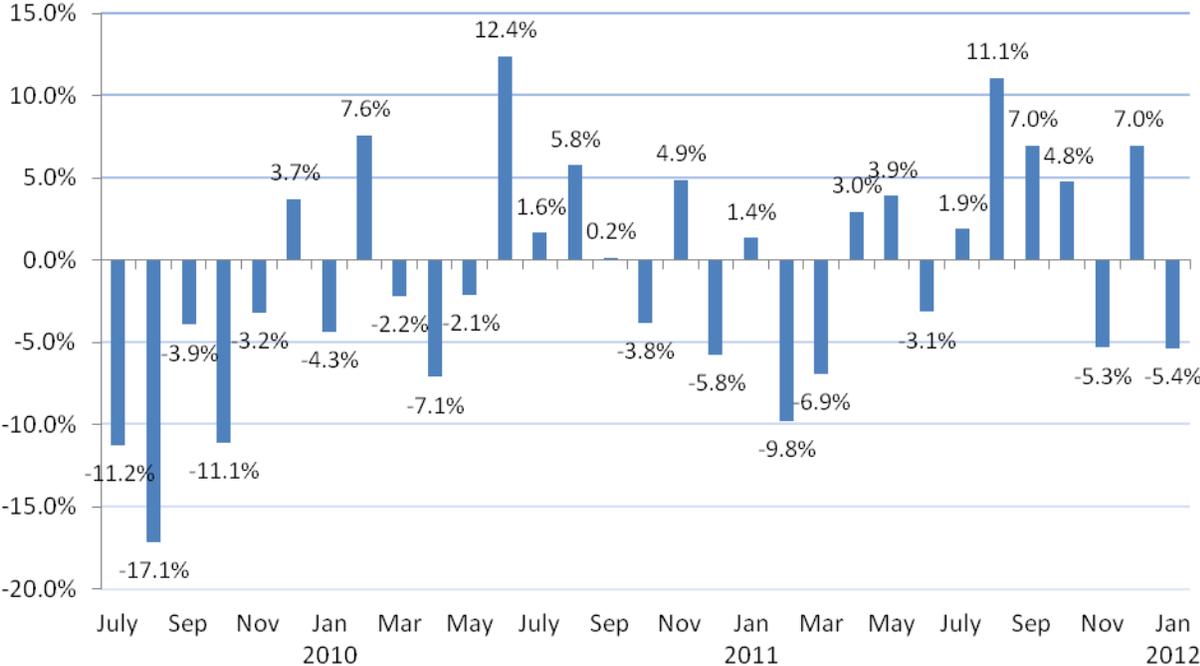
Taxable Gasoline Gallons Report: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF_10_Year_Report.pdf

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

Percent Change in Gas Consumption Compared to Twelve Months Prior From July 2009 Through January 2012



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



Elected in November 2010, taxpayer advocate George Runner represents the Second District of the Board of Equalization. Runner was sworn in as Second District Board Member on January 3, 2011. Prior to his election to the Board, Runner served twelve years in the State Legislature. 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.

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