



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Betty T. Yee, Member

1st District – San Francisco

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www.boe.ca.gov

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Gasoline Consumption Increases First Time in a Year as Prices Spike **Gasoline Consumption Up 2.1%; Prices Jumped 12.6%**

Sacramento – For the first time in a year, gasoline consumption rose 2.1 percent despite a hefty 12.6 percent increase in California gasoline prices, according to a report released today by Betty T. Yee, First District Member of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE). Gasoline prices jumped 12.6% to an average of \$4.03 a gallon in February 2012, while consumption increased 2.1% compared to a year ago.

“Rising gasoline prices give people more incentive to reduce consumption by driving fuel-efficient vehicles or using alternative transportation,” said Ms. Yee. “This recent increase shows individuals may not be able to reduce their demand when prices increase rapidly.”

In California, diesel fuel prices were up 11.8% to \$4.25 as consumption increased 4.3% in February from a year earlier. Diesel consumption 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.

Gasoline and diesel fuel prices in California were higher than the nation as a whole. Nationally, the U.S. [Energy Information Administration](#) (EIA) reports that the average price of a gallon of gasoline was up 11.5% to \$3.64 in February from a year ago. The [EIA](#) also reported that the national average price of a gallon of diesel was up 10.3% to \$3.95 in February 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 February 2012 that its consumer price index rose 2.9% in February 2012 from a year earlier.

Consistent with using more gasoline, the [Federal Highway Administration](#) data show a 1.0% increase in vehicle miles traveled by Californians in February 2012 from a year earlier.

BOE monitors gasoline consumption using 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

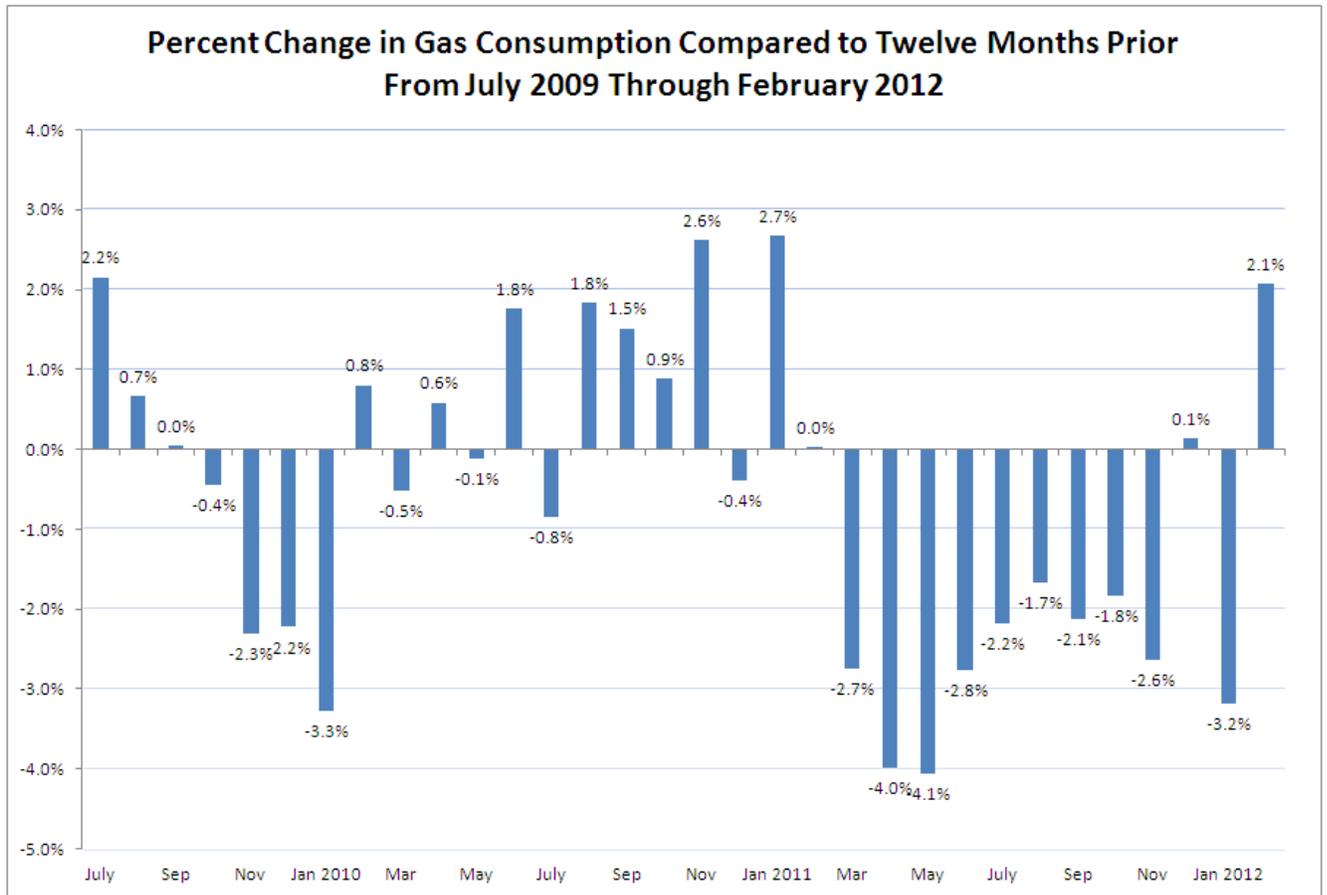
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Taxable Gasoline Gallons Report: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF_10_Year_Report.pdf

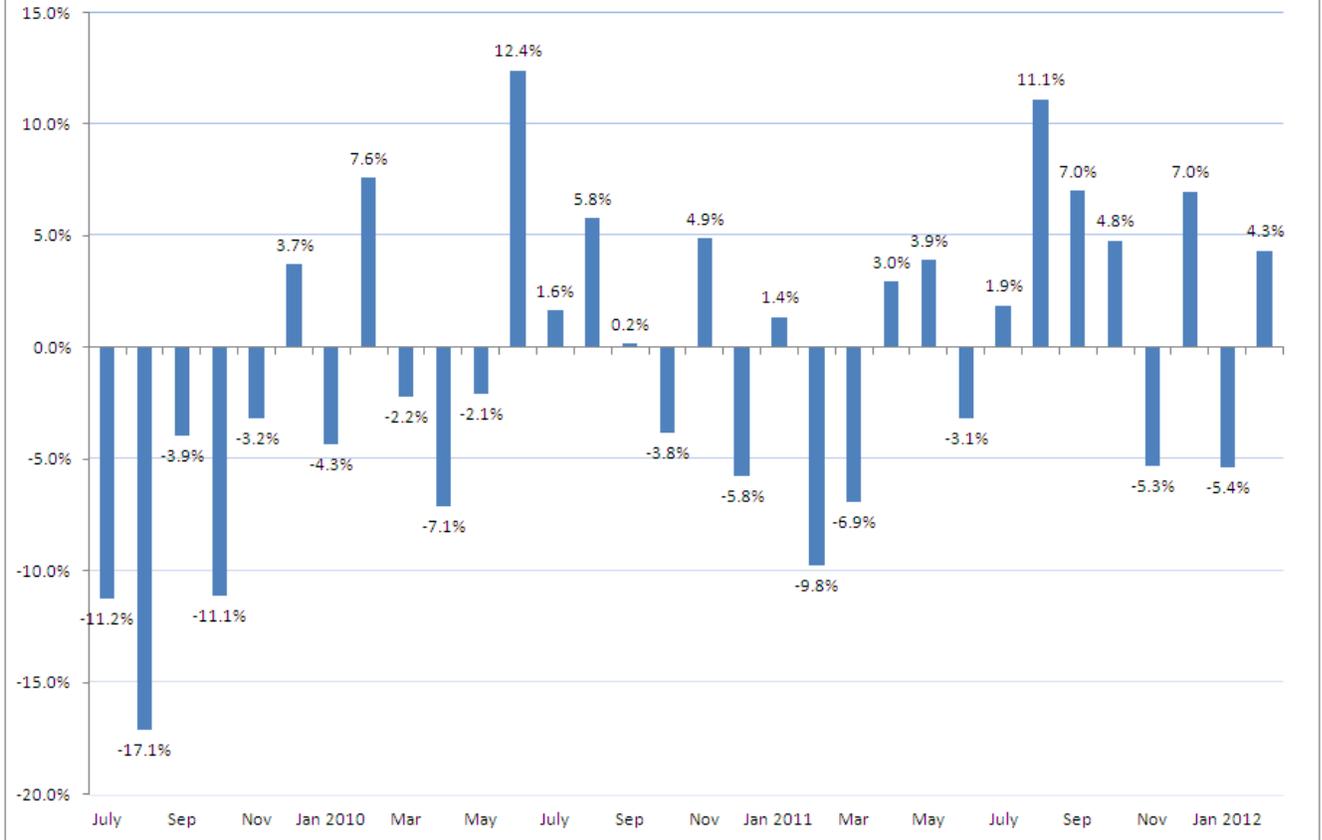
Taxable Diesel Gallons Report: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel_10_Year_Report.pdf



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



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Board Member 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. Ms. Yee previously served as Chief Deputy Director for Budget at the California Department of Finance, covering a wide array of state and local finance policy matters.

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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