



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Vice Chair Michelle Steel

3rd District – Rolling Hills Estates

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California Gasoline Consumption Down 4% in April, Diesel Up 3% *California Gas Prices Jumped to \$4.21 per Gallon in April, Diesel Prices Hit \$4.40*

Michelle Steel, Vice Chair of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), today announced gasoline and diesel consumption figures for April 2011. California gasoline consumption declined 4 percent in April compared to April 2010, while diesel consumption increased 3 percent in April compared to April last year.

In California, gasoline consumption in April 2011 was down 4 percent to 1.20 billion gallons compared to April 2010's total 1.25 billion gallons. The California average price for a gallon of gasoline rose \$1.07 to \$4.21 in April 2011, a 34 percent increase over April 2010's average price of \$3.14 per gallon. The national average price of a gallon of gasoline rose 95 cents to \$3.85 in April 2011, a 33 percent increase over April 2010's national average price of \$2.90 for a gallon of gasoline.

California's diesel fuel consumption in April 2011 was up 3 percent to 210 million gallons over April 2010's total of 204 million gallons. The California average price for a gallon of diesel rose \$1.19 to \$4.40 in April 2011, a 37 percent increase over April 2010's average price of \$3.21 for a gallon of diesel. Nationally, the average price for a gallon of diesel rose \$1.00 to \$4.06, a 33 percent increase over April 2010's national average price of \$3.06 per gallon of diesel.

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

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

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

Editor's note – Figure 1 and Figure 2 below show percent change in consumption for California gasoline and diesel compared to 12 months prior from January 2009 through April 2011.

Figure 1: Percent Change in Gas Consumption Compared to 12 Months Prior from January 2009 through April 2011

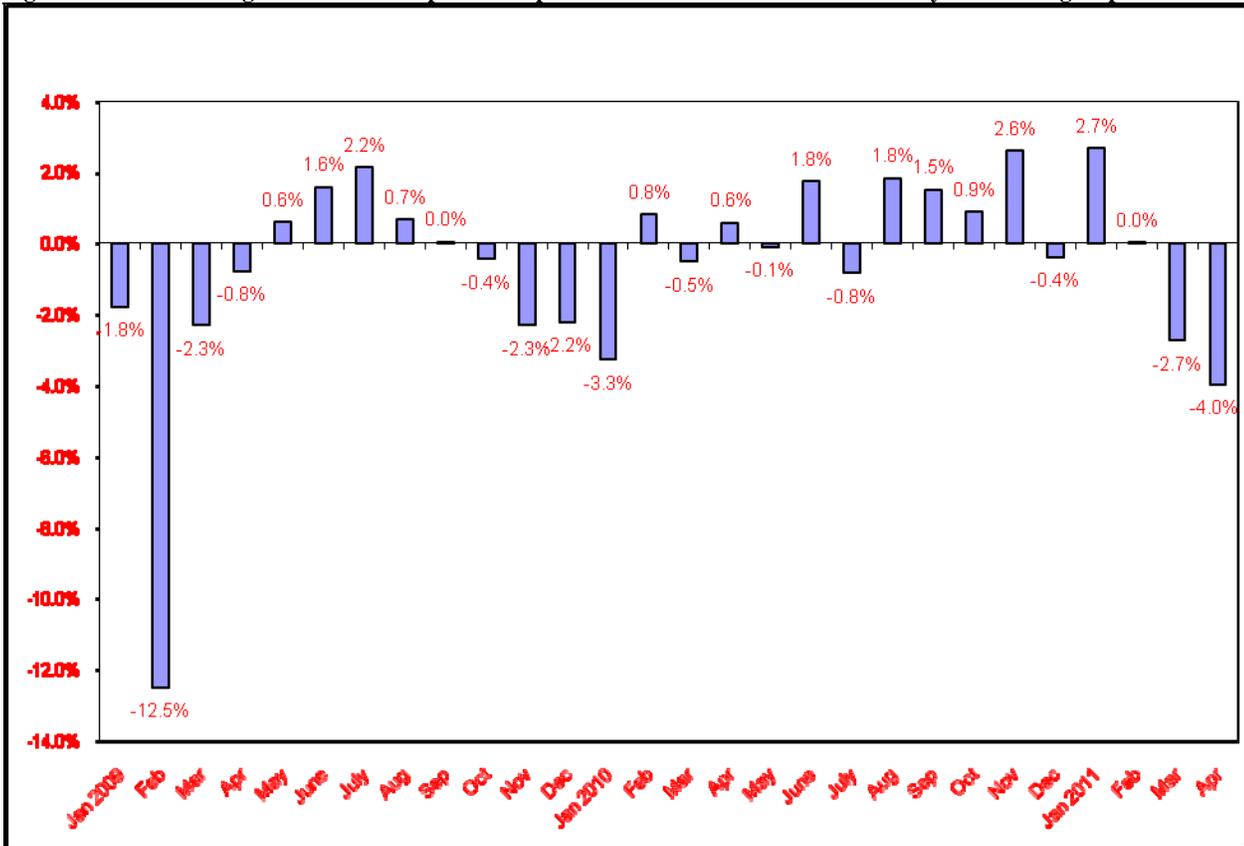
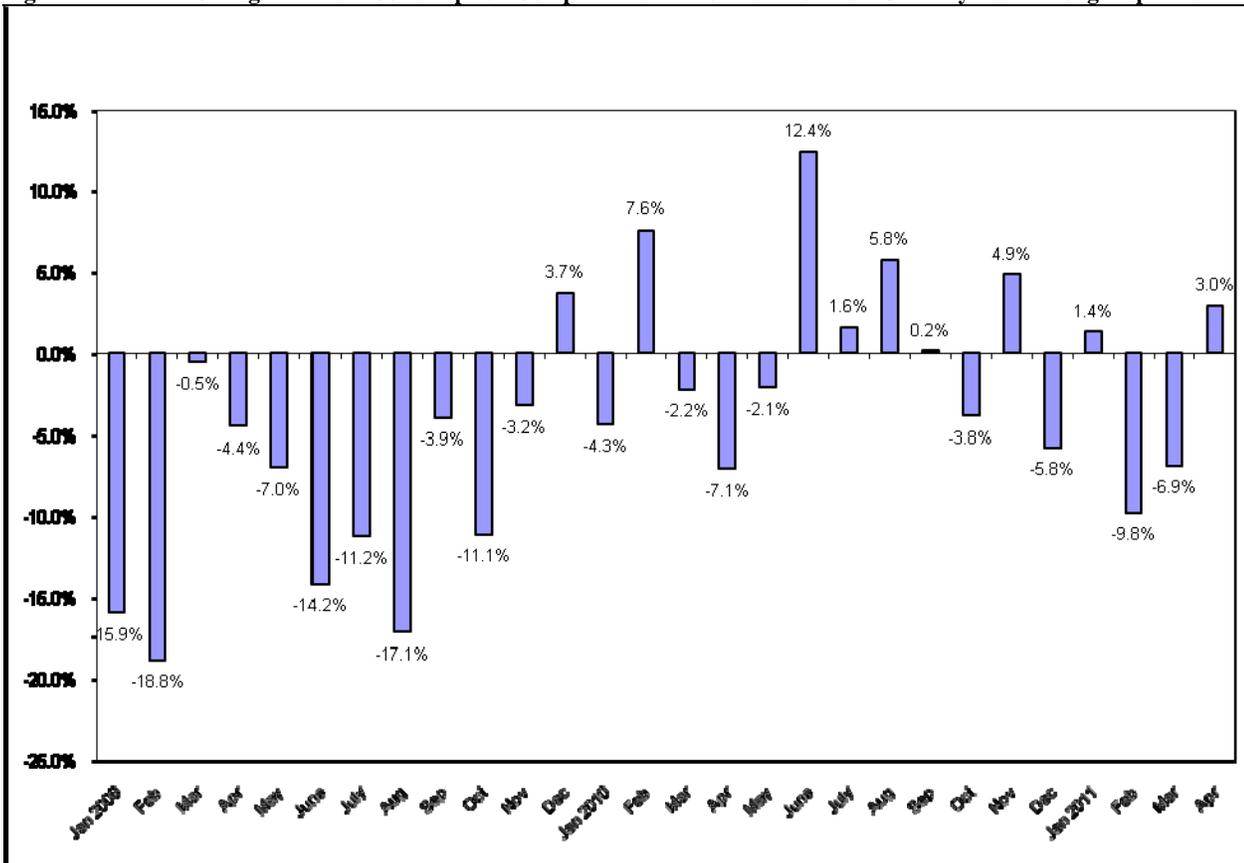


Figure 2: Percent Change in Diesel Consumption Compared to 12 Months Prior from January 2009 through April 2011



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 \$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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