

The December 2025 Central Washington University Student Price Index indicates a 0.6% increase in the cost of living compared to November 2025. The most notable price changes occurred in beer, gasoline, and groceries. While prices for beer and gasoline declined during the month, grocery prices increased substantially. This rise in grocery costs is likely driven by higher seasonal demand during the holidays in December. Overall, the CWU SPI increased more than both the Pacific Northwest CPI and the national CPI, which recorded a decrease of 0.1% and an increase of 0.3%, respectively.

INFLATION RATES

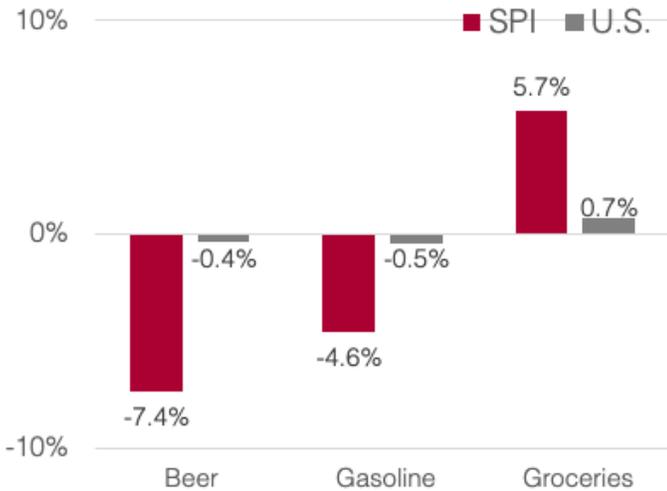
ANNUAL

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)	-3.7 %
Pacific Region (CPI) ¹	3.1 %
United States (CPI) ²	2.7 %

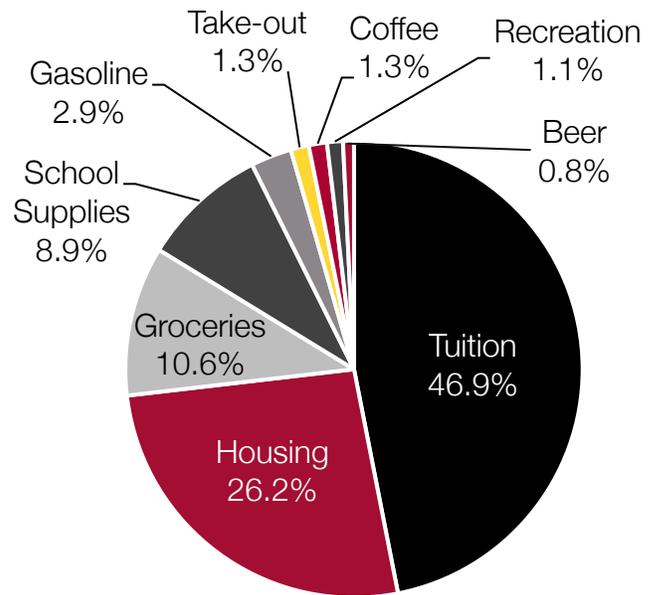
MONTHLY

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)	0.6 %
Pacific Region (CPI) ¹	-0.1 %
United States (CPI) ²	0.3 %

MAIN CONTRIBUTORS (MONTHLY)



CATEGORIES AND WEIGHTS



Last update: Fall 2022

1. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, Pacific Division (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA).
2. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers

THE SPI PROJECT

This project, led jointly by the Economics Association and the Department of Economics at CWU, develops a price index of the cost of college living in Ellensburg, Washington. Based on the campus-wide survey, each month the members of the Economic Association collect prices of items typically consumed by CWU students from various stores in Ellensburg to calculate the SPI index and inflation rates. This index's strength lies in identifying the change in prices students in Ellensburg face.



Contributors

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