NOVEMBER 2025

STUDENT PRICE INDEX (SPI) UPDATE

The November 2025 Central Washington University Student Price Index shows a 0.7% decrease in the cost of living compared to October 2025. The largest changes were in beer, gasoline, and housing. These contributors differ from the previous month and are understandable after the start of the academic year. Beer prices increased due to higher student demand, a pattern seen in past years. Gasoline prices likely fell because of lower travel demand, while housing costs decreased slightly as short-term leases ended and rental demand stabilized. Since the October U.S. and Pacific regional CPI data were not reported due to the government shutdown, monthly comparisons between the SPI and broader inflation trends could not be made this month as well.

INFLATION RATES

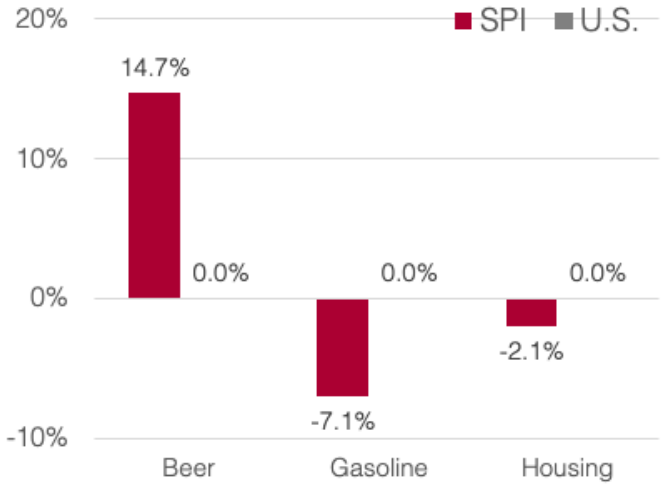
ANNUAL

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)	**-0.8 %**
Pacific Region (CPI)[1]	**3.2 %**
United States (CPI)[2]	**2.7 %**

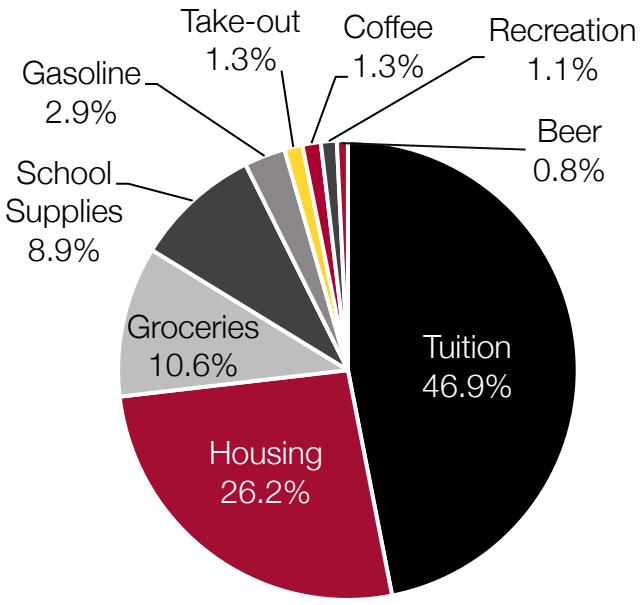
MONTHLY

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)	**-0.7 %**
Pacific Region (CPI)[1]	-
United States (CPI)[2]	-

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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