APRIL 2026

STUDENT PRICE INDEX (SPI) UPDATE

The April 2026 Central Washington University Student Price Index (CWU SPI) shows a 1.5% increase in the cost of living compared to March 2026. The most notable price changes were observed in gasoline, school supplies, and groceries. Gasoline prices increased by 12.4% which is higher increase than last month too, continuing an upward trend seen over the past few months. However, this rise is also notably higher than the 5.6% increase in the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI), suggesting that local fuel costs are rising more sharply than the national average. At the same time, school supplies prices declined significantly and grocery prices increased. Overall, the CWU SPI shows increase this month, as well as the Pacific Region CPI and the National CPI increased by 0.8% and 0.6%, respectively.

INFLATION RATES

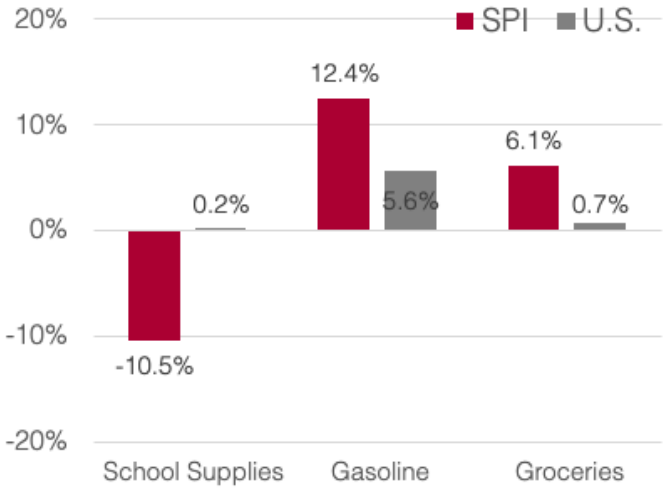
ANNUAL

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)	**1.5 %**
Pacific Region (CPI)[1]	**3.5 %**
United States (CPI)[2]	**3.8 %**

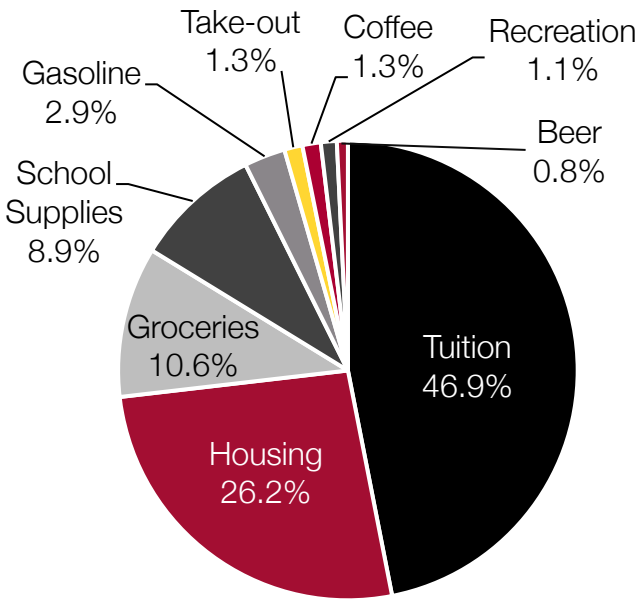
MONTHLY

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)	**1.5 %**
Pacific Region (CPI)[1]	**0.8 %**
United States (CPI)[2]	**0.6 %**

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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