JULY 2026

STUDENT PRICE INDEX (SPI) UPDATE

The July 2026 Central Washington University Student Price Index (CWU SPI) shows a 2.0% increase in the cost of living compared to June 2026. The most notable price changes were observed in school supplies and tuition. School supply prices decreased by 24.5%, making it the largest contributor to the decrease in student living costs this month. The local drop in school supply prices is an annual occurrence every July (July 2024 and 2025 saw a 27.8% and 20.4% decrease respectively) because July is when the *Wildcat Shop* school supplies (which skew prices upwards) cannot be collected. Gasoline prices recovered from last month's 17.2% drop, with a monthly price increase of 4.9%. On the other hand, summer tuition prices are lower this year than last year, seeing a 18.8% drop in prices. Overall, the CWU SPI increased by 2.0% this month, while the Pacific Region CPI and the U.S. CPI decreased by 0.1% and increased by 0.1%, respectively.

INFLATION RATES

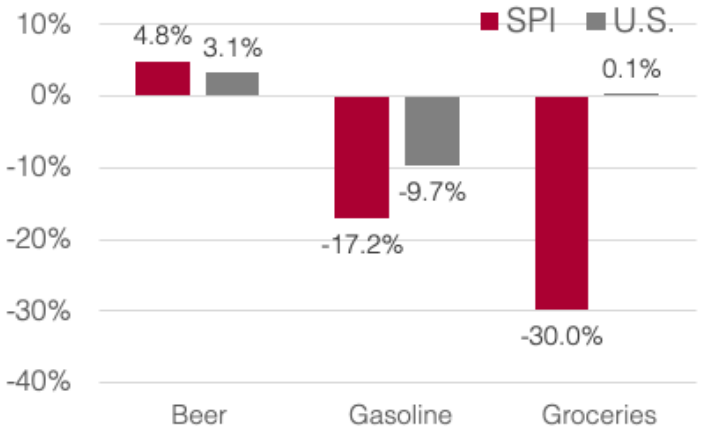
ANNUAL

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)	**-11.5 %**
Pacific Region (CPI)[1]	**3.1 %**
United States (CPI)[2]	**3.4 %**

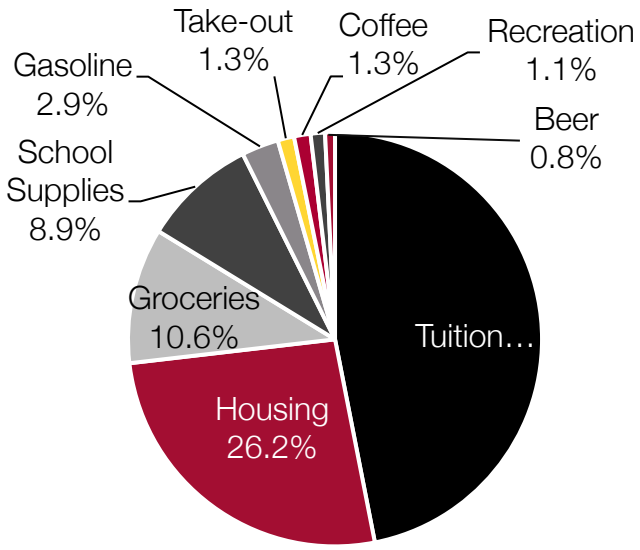
MONTHLY

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)	**2.0 %**
Pacific Region (CPI)[1]	**-0.1 %**
United States (CPI)[2]	**0.1 %**

MAIN CONTRIBUTORS (MONTHLY)



CATEGORIES AND WEIGHTS



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

Last update: Fall 2022

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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