JUNE 2026

STUDENT PRICE INDEX (SPI) UPDATE

The June 2026 Central Washington University Student Price Index (CWU SPI) shows a -5.4% increase (5.4% decrease) in the cost of living compared to May 2026. The most notable price changes were observed in gasoline, groceries, and beer. Grocery prices decreased by 30%, making it the largest contributor to the decrease in student living costs this month. This drop was also far lower than the 0.1% increase reported in the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI), suggesting that local fuel prices increased more rapidly than the national average. Gasoline prices also fell by 17.2%, plummeting students' everyday expenses. In contrast, beer prices rose by 4.8%, making it the main counter to the increased quality of life for students. Overall, the CWU SPI decreased by 5.4% this month, while the Pacific Region CPI and the U.S. CPI decreased by 0.2% and 0.4%, respectively.

INFLATION RATES

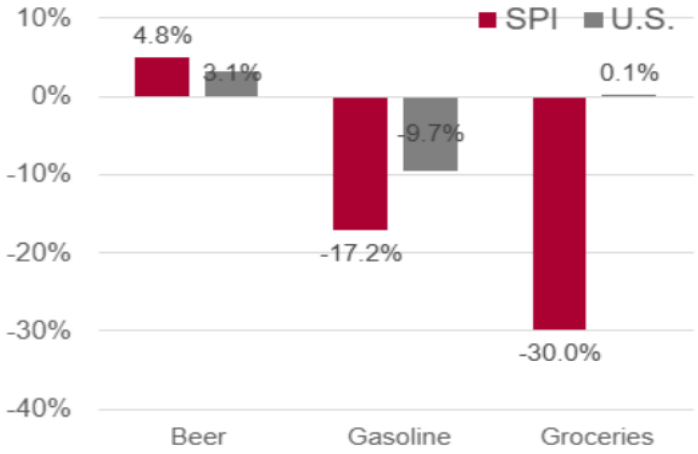
ANNUAL

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)	**-0.9 %**
Pacific Region (CPI)[1]	**3.3 %**
United States (CPI)[2]	**3.5 %**

MONTHLY

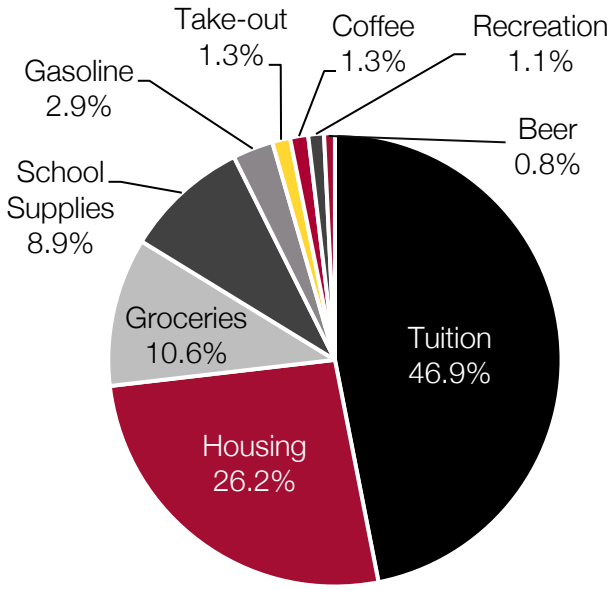
Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)	**-5.4 %**
Pacific Region (CPI)[1]	**-0.2 %**
United States (CPI)[2]	**-0.8 %**

MAIN CONTRIBUTORS (MONTHLY)



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

CATEGORIES AND WEIGHTS



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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