

The September 2025 Central Washington University Student Price Index shows a 0.9 percent increase in the cost of living compared to August 2025, with the most significant changes being in school supplies, gasoline, and housing. These rises are expected because students return in September, creating higher demand. School supplies increase as students buy materials for classes, gasoline goes up as commuting resumes, and housing costs rise as students secure rentals for the year. Overall, September's SPI is higher than both the Pacific CPI and the U.S. CPI, which each rose by only 0.3 percent, showing that student-specific costs grew faster than general price levels.

INFLATION RATES

ANNUAL

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)

0.3 %

Pacific Region (CPI)¹

3.5 %

United States (CPI)²

3.0 %

MONTHLY

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)

0.9 %

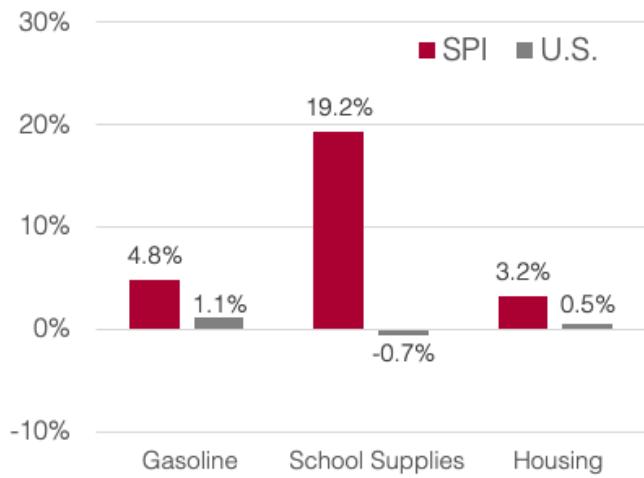
Pacific Region (CPI)¹

0.3 %

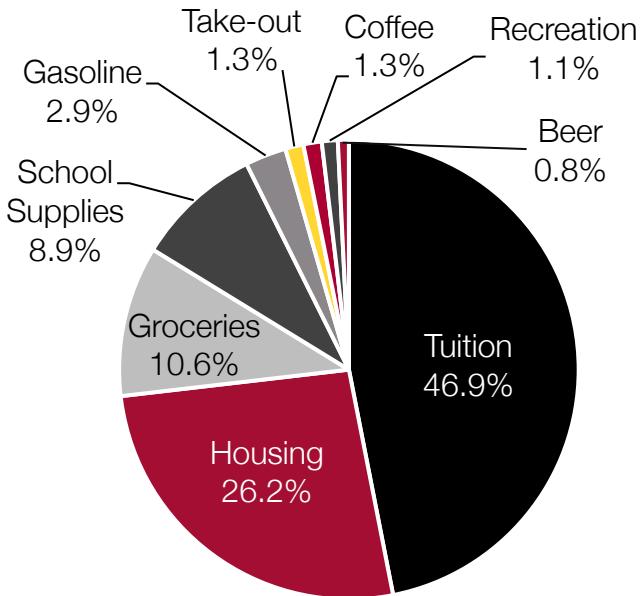
United States (CPI)²

0.3 %

MAIN CONTRIBUTORS (MONTHLY)



CATEGORIES AND WEIGHTS



Last update: Fall 2022

- Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, Pacific Division (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA).
- 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.