

The December 2024 Central Washington University Student Price Index shows a 9.1 percent increase in the cost of living compared to December 2023, with the most significant changes being in groceries, beer, and surprisingly gasoline. The changes to beer prices is now one of the top contributors to the SPI annually for the second month in a row. This could be due to the holidays and many new family being in town since most students went home for this month. The SPI estimate this month is higher than the estimated price changes for the Pacific Northwest and the CPI (the average American), which saw no change in percentage points.

## INFLATION RATES

### ANNUAL

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)

**9.1 %**

Pacific Region (CPI)<sup>1</sup>

**2.8 %**

United States (CPI)<sup>2</sup>

**2.9 %**

### MONTHLY

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)

**4.0 %**

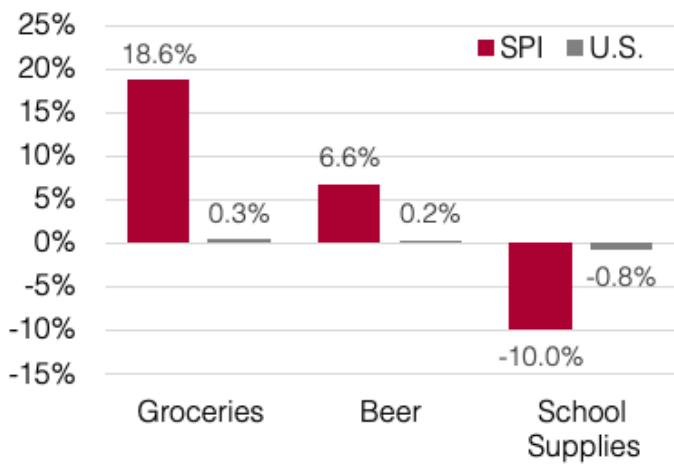
Pacific Region (CPI)<sup>2</sup>

**0.0%**

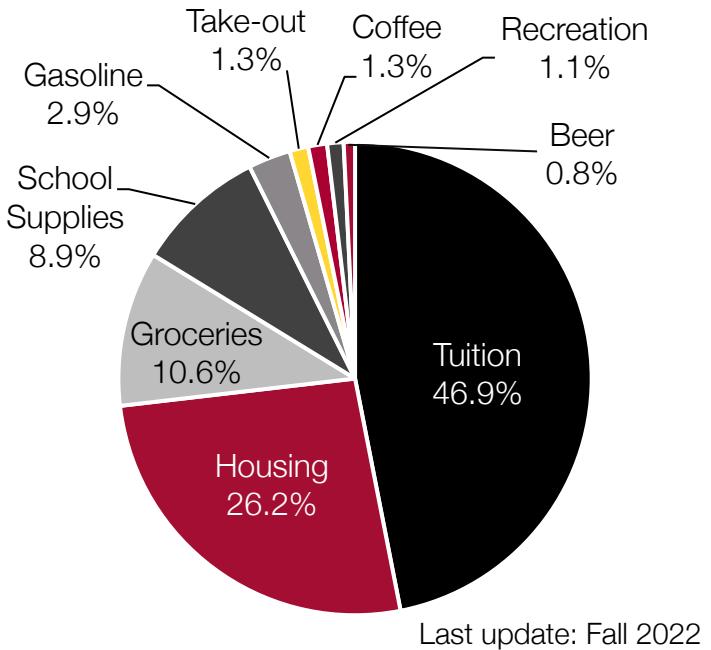
United States (CPI)<sup>3</sup>

**0.0 %**

## 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

## 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.