

The October 2025 Central Washington University Student Price Index shows a 15.3% decrease in the cost of living compared to September 2025. The largest changes were in school supplies, tuition, and recreation. These shifts are expected because late September marks the start of the academic year, and October reflects updated fall pricing. Tuition dropped significantly since fall classes are cheaper than summer classes and school supply costs also declined because of the quarter change. However, recreation prices increased due to higher student demand after returning to campus. Additionally, U.S. and Pacific regional CPI data were not reported due to the government shutdown, so comparisons between the SPI and broader inflation trends could not be made this month.

INFLATION RATES

ANNUAL

Central Washington University
Student Price Index (SPI)

-1.2 %

Pacific Region (CPI)¹

-

United States (CPI)²

-

MONTHLY

Central Washington University
Student Price Index (SPI)

-15.3 %

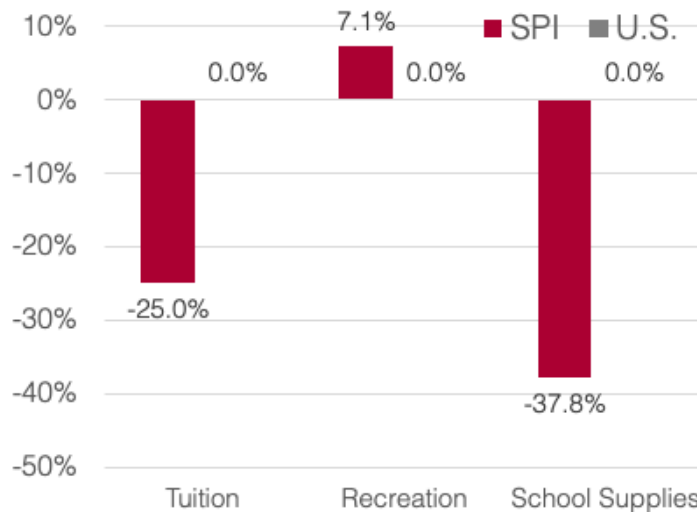
Pacific Region (CPI)¹

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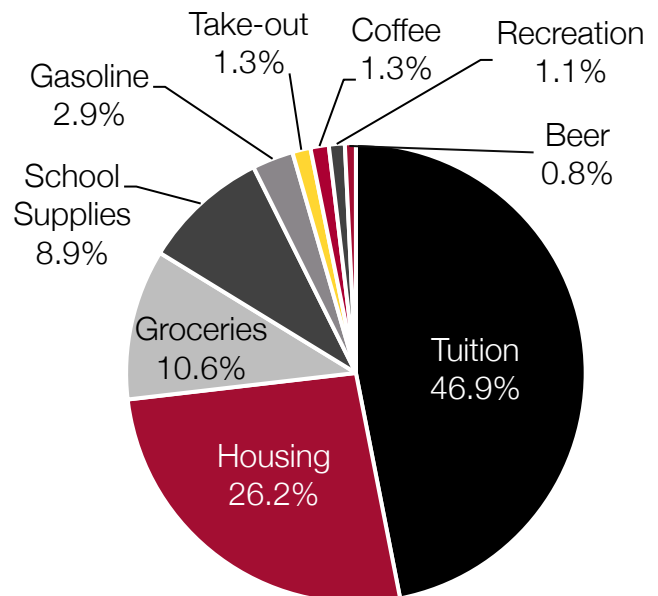
United States (CPI)²

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MAIN CONTRIBUTORS (MONTHLY)



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.