

STUDENT PRICE INDEX (SPI) UPDATE

The April 2025 Central Washington University Student Price Index shows a 5.1 percent increase in the cost of living compared to April 2024, with the most significant changes again being in school supplies and beer, along with groceries as the latest contributor. The changes to beer prices is now one of the top contributors to the SPI monthly for the sixth month in a row. The new grocery increase may be due to the continuous tariffs leading to increased costs of food. The SPI estimate this month is higher than the estimated price changes for the Pacific Northwest and the CPI (the average American), which saw an increases of 2.5 percent, and 2.3 percentage, respectively.

INFLATION RATES

ANNUAL

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)

5.1 %

Pacific Region (CPI)¹

2.5 %

United States (CPI)²

2.3 %

MONTHLY

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)

0.9 %

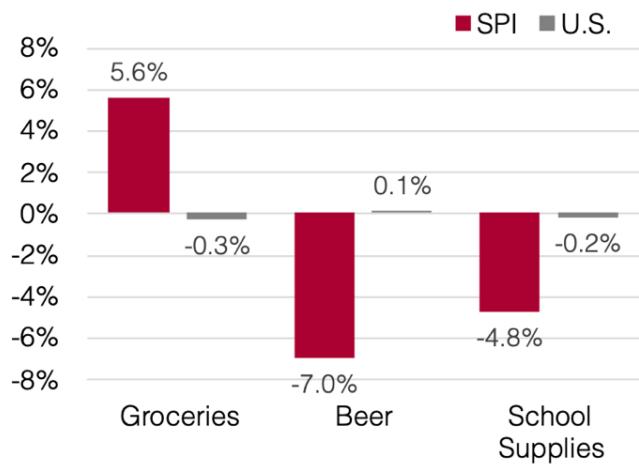
Pacific Region (CPI)¹

0.5 %

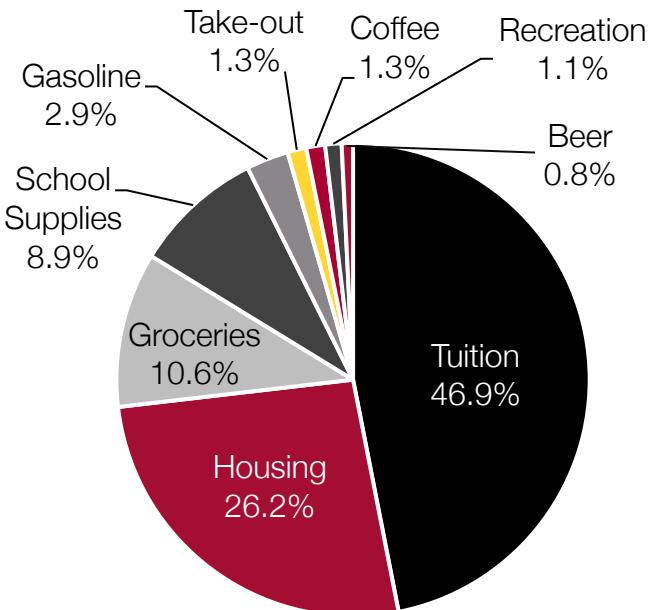
United States (CPI)²

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.



Contributors

Erdenetuya Batgerel, Aiden Blanco, Jocelyn Cruz, Morgan Holman, Doan Le, Ryder Moss, Cole Smith, Ian Seibel, Lilly Thomas (Price Collectors), Amneet Pawar (Report Writer), and Dr. Yurim Lee (Faculty Advisor)