



# APRIL 2023

## STUDENT PRICE INDEX (SPI) UPDATE

The April 2023 Central Washington University Student Price Index shows a 0.7 percent decrease in the cost of living compared to April 2022, with the most significant increases being in coffee, take-out, and housing. This is the second month in a row that housing has been one of the most significant contributors to both the CPI and the SPI with each increasing approximately 8% annually. The SPI estimate is significantly lower than the estimated price increases for Pacific Northwest and CPI (the average American), which saw increases of 4.6 percent, and 4.9 percent, respectively.

### INFLATION RATES

#### ANNUAL

Central Washington University  
Student Price Index (SPI)  
Pacific Region (CPI)<sup>1</sup>  
United States (CPI)<sup>2</sup>

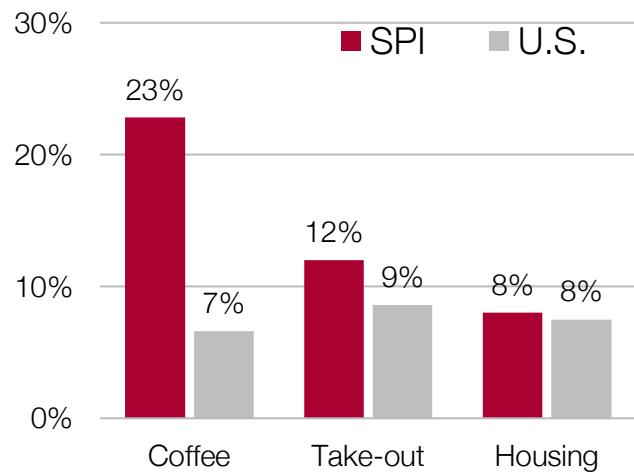
**-0.7 %**  
**4.6 %**  
**4.9 %**

#### MONTHLY

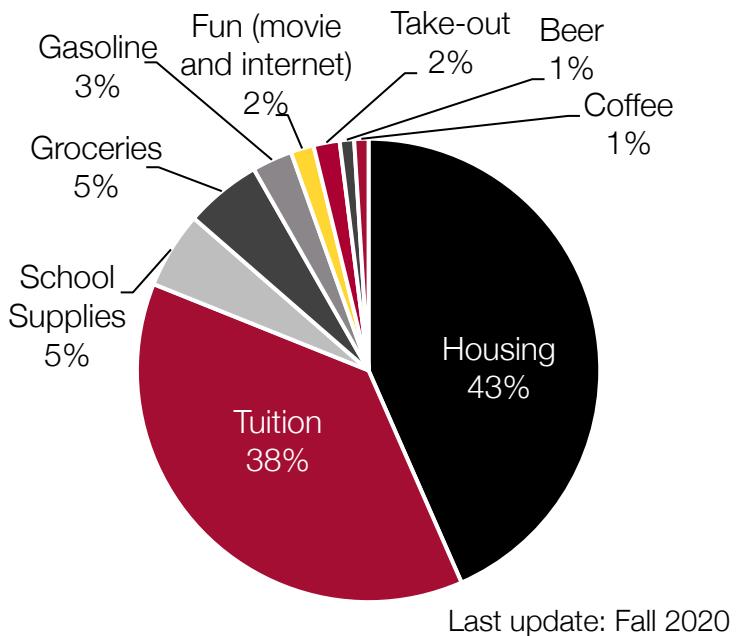
Central Washington University  
Student Price Index (SPI)  
Pacific Region (CPI)<sup>1</sup>  
United States (CPI)<sup>2</sup>

**-2.0 %**  
**0.5 %**  
**0.4 %**

### MAIN CONTRIBUTORS (Annual)



### 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.



#### Contributors

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