

The May 2025 Central Washington University Student Price Index shows a 2.0 percent increase in the cost of living compared to May 2024, with the most significant changes again being in groceries and beer. The changes to beer prices is now one of the top contributors to the SPI monthly for the seventh month in a row. The new grocery decreases may be due to the the lowering of tarrifs leading to decreased costs of food. The SPI estimate this month is lower than the estimated price changes for the Pacific Northwest and the CPI (the average American), which saw an increases of 0.3 percent, and 0.2 percentage, respectively.

INFLATION RATES

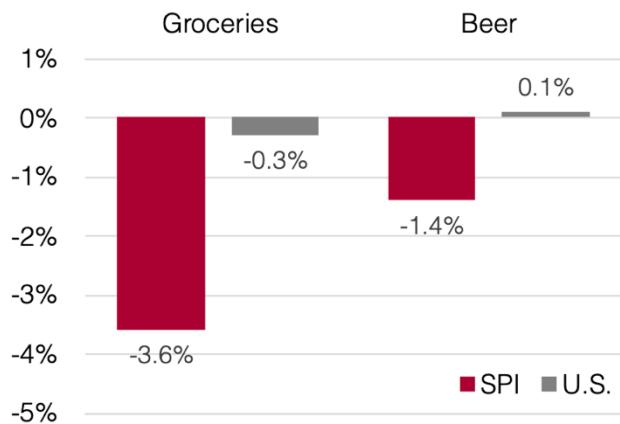
ANNUAL

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)	2.0 %
Pacific Region (CPI) ¹	2.7 %
United States (CPI) ²	2.4 %

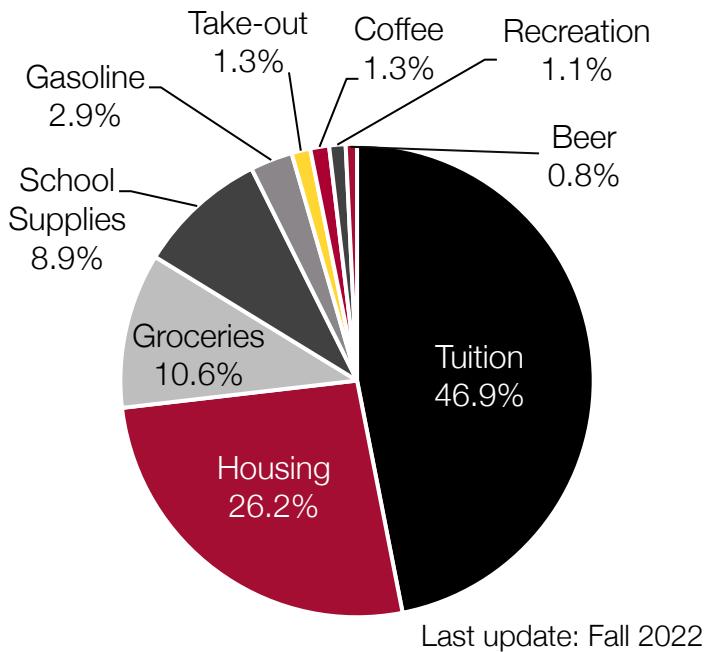
MONTHLY

Central Washington University Student Price Index (SPI)	-0.6 %
Pacific Region (CPI) ¹	0.3 %
United States (CPI) ²	0.2 %

MAIN CONTRIBUTORS (Monthly)



CATEGORIES AND WEIGHTS



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.