



# DECEMBER 2022

## STUDENT PRICE INDEX (SPI) UPDATE

The December 2022 Central Washington University Student Price Index shows a 6.8 percent increase in the cost of living compared to November 2021, with the most significant increases being in groceries, school, and housing. The grocery prices experienced in December were notably larger than the changes experienced on the national scale. Overall, the SPI estimate is higher than the price increase for the Pacific Region which saw an increase of 5.8 percent, and the CPI (the average American), which saw an increase of 6.5 percent.

### INFLATION RATES

#### ANNUAL

Central Washington University  
Student Price Index (SPI)<sup>1</sup>

**6.8 %**

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

**5.8 %**

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

**6.5 %**

#### MONTHLY

Central Washington University  
Student Price Index (SPI)

**-1.6 %**

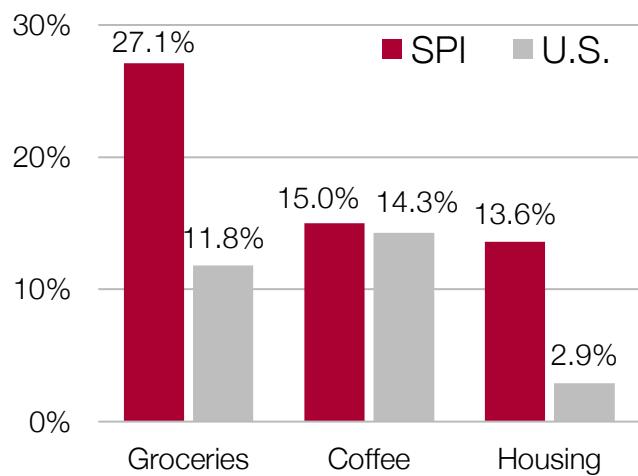
Pacific Region (CPI)<sup>2</sup>

**-0.5 %**

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

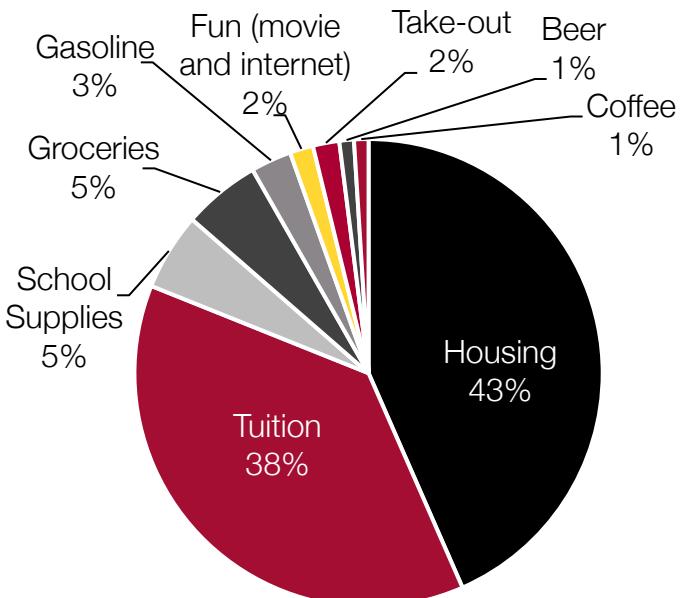
**-0.1 %**

### MAIN CONTRIBUTORS (ANNUAL)



1. Annual SPI data for December was calculated using prices from November 2021.
2. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, Pacific Division (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA).
3. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers.

### 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.



#### Contributors

Sophia Apostolides, Joel Antush, Jocelyn Cruz, Marissa Harrison, Landen Hashimura (Vice President), Daizie Jones, Caden McNair (Report Writer), Jeremy Rexus, Mia Young (President), Dr. Tennecia Dacass, Dr. Yurim Lee (Faculty Advisor).