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## Ill. residents to pay 30% more for gas

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Illinois gas customers will pay as much as 30 percent more than last year, **Ameren** said Thursday.

Higher worldwide demand for energy has driven up the market prices of petroleum and natural gas, the company said.

An Ameren customer who paid \$100 for gas last January, for example, will now pay \$120 to \$130 this January.

"The price of natural gas fluctuates from one month to the next, but we believe the price paid by our customers will remain significantly higher than last winter," said Scott Glaeser, Ameren's vice president of gas supply and system control, in a statement. "We recognize and are concerned about the impact higher natural gas prices may have on our customers."

**On Monday**, administrative law judges recommended to the Illinois Commerce Commission to raise Ameren's electricity and natural gas rates by \$163.5 million. Ameren had requested a rate hike of \$207 million.

The commission will make its decision next month.