

# Natural Gas Prices

The role of the Missouri Public Service Commission is limited when it comes to rate changes associated with the actual cost of natural gas. The Commission does not regulate wholesale supplier prices. These prices are subject to wide variations depending on a number of factors including supply, demand and weather. A prolonged cold spell or brief episode of severe winter weather would increase demand in the high-consumption winter months.

What the wholesale supplier charges your local natural gas company is determined in an unregulated market. Congress deregulated natural gas several years ago. Today, prices are determined in an open, competition-based market.

Your local natural gas company must make a filing with the Public Service Commission in order to increase or decrease your natural gas rates to reflect changes in wholesale supplier prices.

## What You Can Do To Manage Your Bill

- Consider contacting the local natural gas company to ask about budget billing, which spreads total energy costs over a 12-month period. Budget billing amounts may be adjusted at various times during the 12-month period.
- Some consumers may be eligible for weatherization assistance.
- Have the furnace checked and tuned-up, if needed, and replace furnace filters each month when dirty.

- Add attic insulation if necessary. Heat rises and without adequate home insulation that heat will quickly leak outdoors into the atmosphere.
- Place weather stripping around doors, use plastic film covering and caulk windows to keep heat from escaping from your home. Close fireplace dampers when the fireplace is not being used. Have the chimney checked for blockage.
- Place an approved insulated cover-jacket around your hot water heater. Set your water heater temperature to 115 degrees.
- Assess whether it is time to replace your furnace with a more efficient model.

## For More Information

The Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates investor-owned water, sewer, natural gas, electric and steam utilities. The PSC also has limited jurisdiction over telecommunications providers in Missouri. The PSC works to ensure Missouri citizens receive safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services. If you have an inquiry, billing question or service-related issue that your utility provider cannot answer, please call the PSC at **1-800-392-4211** or visit our website at **[psc.mo.gov](http://psc.mo.gov)**.



## Missouri Public Service Commission

200 Madison Street • P.O. Box 360 • Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360  
**Website:** [psc.mo.gov](http://psc.mo.gov) **Email:** [pscinfo@psc.mo.gov](mailto:pscinfo@psc.mo.gov) **Phone:** 1-800-392-4211