



Crude Oil Rises, Gas Prices May Follow



Illinoisans are bracing for higher prices at the pump after the United States resumed military action against Iran, but a AAA spokesperson says the situation is too volatile to know how much gas prices might rise.

President Donald Trump said the U.S. launched the latest strikes after Iran attacked three tankers in the Strait of Hormuz.

“It’s the denuclearization of Iran. We’re going to de-nuke it. We’re not gonna let them because they’re crazy, and they can’t have a nuclear weapon,” Trump said at a NATO summit in Turkey.

AAA spokesperson Molly Hart said it’s too early to know how much prices could increase.

“The situation is just too volatile to predict where the prices might go, but what we do know is gas prices rise like a rocket and fall like

a feather,” Hart told The Center Square.

The average Illinois price for regular unleaded was \$3.99 on Wednesday, up from \$3.975 the day before.

The national average was up less than a penny at \$3.80.

Hart said geopolitical events can make the price of gas jump.

“What a lot of people don’t know is a lot of what we pay at the pump is due to the price of a barrel of crude oil. If it’s around \$70, we’re not paying the high prices, but once it goes \$80 and above, that’s where we see a lot more pain at the pump,” Hart said.

U.S. crude oil jumped more than 6.5% to \$75 per barrel on Wednesday.

To save gas, Hart recommended removing excess weight from vehicles and combining errands whenever possible.

Flash Index Show Rising Tax Receipts In Illinois

By Jim Talamonti | The Center Square

Illinois income tax and sales tax receipts are up for the fiscal year that ended on June 30.

The Illinois Flash Economic Index based on major Illinois tax revenues rose from 101.1 in May to 101.4 for June, with numbers more than 100 reflecting growth.

Fred Giertz, emeritus professor of economics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, said the increase comes during a long-term period of gradual decline.

“Now, decline doesn’t mean the economy is getting worse. It means that the economy is not

going ahead as fast as it otherwise would. So where we are right now is a period of modest growth, but slower than we have been the last several years,” Giertz told The Center Square.

Giertz said Illinois has a low unemployment rate by historic standards, but it’s still above the national average.

“Illinois, as most people know, even though we’re growing here, we’re not growing as fast as the rest of the country,” Giertz said.

Major components of the flash index for June 2026 showed year-

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Marshall Co. Sheriff’s Dept. Works With IDOT And State Police To Ensure Safe Driving

The Marshall County Sheriff’s Office announced it is partnering with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois State Police and more than 200 local law enforcement agencies to step up enforcement efforts across the state in an effort to reduce speeding.

Throughout the month of July, motorists can expect increased patrols looking for speeding, as well as other traffic violations.

“Speeding causes unnecessary danger on our roads,” said Sheriff Wayne Strawn II. “Speed greatly reduces a driver’s ability to steer safely around another vehicle, a hazardous object or an unexpected curve. Speeding drivers put themselves, their passengers and other motorists at tremendous risk.”

During the speeding enforcement blitz, officers will intensify enforcement of posted speed limits.

The speed enforcement effort is made possible by federal traffic safety funds administered by IDOT.

Carnival Mega Passes Available For Purchase

(Corrected Version)

Mega Passes for the Carnival will be available for purchase on Tuesday nights at the Toluca Farmers Market beginning started on Tuesday June 30th - Tuesday, September 1st.

The price for a pre purchased MegaPass will be \$70 for a 4 day pass. The Mega Pass will be good for all 4 days.

Mega Passes bought at the carnival will be \$80 instead of the \$70 pre sale price.

Cash or Check only at this time.

If you miss purchasing in the coming weeks - - We will also be selling them the week prior (August 30-September 3rd) at locations in uptown Toluca.

Other same day purchase ticket options @ ticket booths:

- ♦ 1 day Wristbands (\$40 per day)
- ♦ Paper tickets (\$1.25 per ticket takes 3-4 tickets for most rides)

If you have questions - please, reach out to any member of the Labor Day Future committee.

U.S. House Of Representatives To Vote This Week On Daylight Savings Time

The United States House of Representatives is expected to vote this week on the Sunshine Protection Act which would make daylight savigns time permanent nationwide.

In May, the bill cleared the House energy and Commerce Committee by a 48-1 bi-partisan vote allowing it to advance to the House floor.

If the House passes the bill, it still must pass the Senate before it can be sent to President Donald Trimp for his signature. Although the Senate unanimously approved a similar version in 2022, that bill never received a house vote. Because this is a new Congress the Senate would need to vote again.

If passed, the bill would eliminate the twice-a-year clock changes and keep daylight savings time (DDST) in effect all year around. That would mean more evening daylight in the winter and later sunrises during the winter months.

Supporters argue it reduces sle-

ep disruption cause by changing the clocks. It would also lower the risk of traffic accidents and workplace injuries after time changes and increase evening shopping, recreation and other economic activity.

Opponents argue that winter sunrises would occur much later in many parts of the country which would make for darker mornings and could make commuting and children traveling to school less safe.

Some sleep and health experts prefer permanent standard time instead of permanent daylight savings time because it aligns better with natural circadian rhythms.

The residents of Central Illinois residents, one of the biggest practical differences would e that sunrise would be after 8:00 a.m. for several winder weeks, while sunset would be pushed back to around 5:30 p.m. May people find the evening benefit appealing, while other dislike the darker mornings.

Pritzker Signs Landmark AI Regulation Bill That Aims To Mitigate Risks



Pritzker signs landmark AI regulation bill that aims to mitigate risks

by Maggie Dougherty, Capital News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker signed artificial intelligence legislation modeled after similar bills in California and New York on Monday, furthering a push for a state-driven national framework in lieu of federal regulations.

Senate Bill 315, also known as the Artificial Intelligence Safety Measures Act, increases transparency and accountability requirements for the largest artificial intelligence models - those that generate more than \$500 million in annual revenue and are trained using massive computing power.

The bill mirrors California’s SB-53 and New York’s Responsible AI Safety and Education Act, which were each signed in late 2025. It establishes new reporting standards for the possibility that the AI model could be used for large-scale harms, such as by providing users assistance in creating a chemical, biological or nuclear weapon or committing cyber-attacks.

Senate sponsor Sen. Mary Edly-Allen, D-Libertyville, said there is an urgency for states to protect against those potential harms.

Though the three states only account for roughly 20% of the national populus, lawmakers estimate that they represent roughly 40% of the U.S. AI market, effectively creating a de facto national standard.

New guardrails

The new law requires model developers to publish an AI framework outlining how the developer identifies and assesses

“catastrophic risk,” defined as the likelihood that incidents that could cause death or serious injury to more than 50 people or more than \$1 million in property damage.

Developers will also be required to report any incidents that could cause harm to the state within 72 hours of identifying the incident, or 24 hours if it poses an imminent risk for death or serious physical injury.

The bill’s House sponsor, Rep. Daniel Didech, D-Buffalo Grove, said the harms the bill will regulate are not theoretical.

“We have already seen the first AI-inspired mass shooting. We have already seen AI systems utilized to attack a municipal water and drainage utility,” Didech said.

He also alluded to the example of Anthropic’s Mythos model, which the company said was too powerful a cyberweapon to release to the public. Anthropic supported Illinois’ bill and had representatives present at the signing on Monday.

Illinois’ version, similar in most ways to the standards set in New York and California, adds a first-in-the-nation requirement for mandatory annual third-party audits; New York’s version only required a single independent audit at the time when developers became large enough to qualify under the law.

During debate in the General Assembly, the third-party audit provision was a point of contention for some industry stakeholders,

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Marshall County Court News

FINES LEVIED

Rayna J. Bickett 5/30/26 by County Traffic “driving 21-25 mp above limit” 7/7/26 fine \$164.

Patrik L Curtin 6/9/26 by County Traffic “driving 21-25 mph above limit” 7/8/26 fine \$164.

Brice D. Brummitt 6/19/26 by County Traffic “driving 15-20 mph above limit” 7/3/26 fine \$164.

Anh N. Hua 6/27/26 by County Traffic “driving 21-25 mph above limit” 7/7/26 fine \$164.

Belinda S. Novy 7/1/26 by County Traffic “disregard Stop Sign” 7/7/26 fine \$164.

LAND TRANSFERS

Grantor: Aaron W. Shofner, Aron W. Shofner. Grantee: Gary L. Shofner. Lombards Railroad Add, Lot 187, Notes S 1/2. Lot 189, Notes S 1/2. Quit Claim Deed.

Grantor: Landers Farm LLC. Grantee: Agatha M. Morey. Section 9, Township 13N, Range 10E, Govt Lot --SW, Notes Lot 4. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Marjorie R. Spangler. Grantee: Rebecca L. Schlosser. Davis Add, Lot 44. Lot 45. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Genevieve N. Mitchell. Grantee: Margaret M. Kerrins, Lawrence A. Mitchell. Shorewood Park Allard Add, Lot 32. Quit Claim.

Grantor: Jaclyn Koll, Jeremy Koll. Grantee: Jacqueline Michaels. Section 4, Township 30N, Range 2W, Govt Lot -SW-SW, Warranty Deed.

Grantor Cassandra Marie Wehrle, Mason Ray Wehrle. Grantee: Cassandra M. Wehrle, Mason Wehrle. Hoyts wnd Add to Varna, Block 6, Lot 12, Notes Ex N 55’, Quit Claim.

Grantor: Keith Zeller, Grantee: Keith Zeller Tr. Section 19, Township 30N, Range 1W, Govt Lot --SW, Notes PT, 8.76 A. Deed Trust.

Grantor: James W. Higdon, Sandra K. Higdon. Grantee: James W. Higdon Co. Tr., Sandra K. Higdon Co Tr. Hopewell Estates Lot 69; Lot 70; Lot 71; Deed Trust.

Grantor: Joseph Watson. Grantee: Jaclyn L. Koll, Jeremy M. Koll. Davis Add, Lot 90; Lot 91 Notes NW 1/2. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Michael T. Gaskins. Grantee: Michael T. Gaskins, Wendy S. Gaskins. Section 30, Town-

ship 12N, Range 9E, Govt Lot --NE, Notes Pt., Subj to Ease. Quit Claim Deed.

Grantor: Cynthia L. Rhodes. Grantee: Cynthia Lynette Rhodes Tr. Henry (Original Town) Lot 150, Quit Claim Deed.

Illinois: Quick Hits

Merchants Coalition Urges Withdrawal Of Credit Union Swipe Fee Rule

The Merchants Payments Coalition is urging the National Credit Union Administration to withdraw a rule aimed at blocking Illinois’ ban on swipe fees on sales tax and tips, saying the rule is flawed and will drive up prices in Illinois.

The MPC said in a statement that the rule does not provide a sound legal basis for blocking the Illinois law and was adopted without completing the required public notice and comment period.

The Illinois Interchange Fee Prohibition Act was scheduled to take effect Wednesday, but lawmakers delayed it to July 1, 2027.