

Press release

Zurich, 14 November 2017, 10.00am

KOF Forecast of Health Care Expenditures: Shift From Inpatient to Outpatient Treatment Continues

The growing proportion of elderly people and the stable economic situation result in an increase in health care expenditure this year by 4.1 per cent. Far-reaching political measures on the one hand and rising salaries and incomes on the other hand will result in growth rates of 3.9 per cent in 2018 and 4 per cent in 2019. Expenditure is being shifted increasingly to the outpatient sector. These are the results of the half-yearly KOF Forecast for Health Care Expenditure, which has been carried out thanks to a research contribution from [comparis.ch](#).

The economy recovered somewhat in 2016, resulting in moderate growth of the Swiss economy. Since the health care sector is a staff-intensive sector, salary dynamics are particularly important in the development of overall health care expenditure. Alongside these economic factors, the age distribution of the population is also decisive. In 2016, the proportion of elderly people out of the Swiss population increased further. Thus, according to the current KOF forecast, health care expenditure for 2016 is expected to be 3.8 per cent higher.

This year, the overall economic situation has stabilised. Since the trend towards an increasing proportion of elderly people is continuing, health care expenditure has increased by 4.1 per cent. It is expected that the savings resulting from the review of drug prices will hold back health care expenditure growth only slightly. Costs in the outpatient area will rise more than for inpatient treatment.

Over the coming two years, the prospects for the Swiss economy will improve and both salaries and incomes are expected to rise moderately. At the same time, the political action taken in order to hold back cost increases in the health care sector will start to kick in. For this reason, the KOF is expecting health care expenditure to increase by 3.9 per cent in 2018 and by 4 per cent in 2019. This means that the forecast for 2016-2018 remains unchanged compared to the spring forecast. Health care expenditure for 2019 was estimated for the first time in this forecast.

The increasing economic significance of "health" is also reflected in spending by private consumers. Whilst in 1993 the share of health care spending out of a representative basket of spending by private households was only 10 per cent, almost 20 years later the proportion has increased to 15 per cent.

KOF Health Care Expenditure Forecast	2016	2017	2018	2019
Growth compared to the previous year	3.8 per cent	4.1 per cent	3.9 per cent	4.0 per cent
Per capita in CHF	9,590	9,884	10,176	10,484

About the study

The forecast of ETH Zurich's KOF Swiss Economic Institute on the development of Swiss health care expenditure is published twice each year. The spring forecast is supported by the company **TopPharm** with a research contribution, whilst the autumn forecast is supported by the internet comparison service **comparis.ch**.

The detailed KOF study "KOF Health Care Expenditure Forecast, autumn 2017" by Marko Köthenbürger and Pauliina Sandqvist is available on our website:

<https://www.kof.ethz.ch/en/news-and-events/media/press-releases.html> →

<https://www.kof.ethz.ch/en/publications/kof-studies.html> →

Further information concerning the KOF Health Care Expenditure Forecast may be found at:

<https://www.kof.ethz.ch/en/forecasts-and-indicators/forecasts/kof-forecasts-of-swiss-health-care-expenditures.html> →

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