

Press Release

Zurich, 13 June 2017, 2.00 p.m.

KOF Health Expenditure Forecast: Per Capita Health Expenditure Set to Climb to More than CHF 10,000 in 2018

Last year, according to KOF estimates, nominal expenditure on health grew further by 3.8%. This year the rate of growth is expected to increase to 4.1%. This is due to the improved economic situation and the ageing population. Growth in 2018 is expected to reach 3.9%. Per capita expenditure will thus increase next year to more than CHF 10,000.

The Federal Statistics Office (FSO) published provisional figures in April 2017 concerning health care expenditure in 2015. This was the first publication based on the new revised methodology. According to the FSO, overall health expenditure in 2015 amounted to CHF 77,834.8 million, up 4.3% compared to the previous year.

As a result of the revision, the trend path of health expenditure within public statistics has changed. The effect of the change in hospital funding in 2012 is no longer evident to the same extent. Growth in health expenditure thus amounted to 3.5%. On the other hand, expenditure in 2013 grew strongly by 4.2%. Expenditure growth slowed somewhat in 2014 (3.4%). In spite of the weak economic climate, overall health expenditure increased above average in 2015 by 4.3%, rising to a 12.1% share of gross domestic product (up from 11.7%).

The economy recovered somewhat in 2016, resulting in moderate growth in the Swiss economy. Alongside economic factors such as wage growth, demographic factors including the age distribution of the population also play an important role in health expenditure growth. In 2016 the proportion of elderly people out of the Swiss population as a whole increased further. Against the backdrop of higher economic growth and further ageing, according to current KOF forecasts health expenditure was expected to rise by 3.8% last year.

This year, the overall economic recovery is expected to continue. The number of elderly persons as a proportion of the overall population is also set to increase. It is expected that the savings resulting from the review of drug prices will hold back health expenditure growth only slightly. The KOF is therefore expecting health expenditure to grow more strongly in 2017 by 4.1%. Given continuing stable macro-economic framework conditions and the political measures that are being adopted in parallel, the KOF is forecasting health expenditure to grow by 3.9% in 2018.

This therefore results in per capita health expenditure of CHF 9,600.80 (2016), CHF 9,898.40 (2017) and CHF 10,188.60 (2018).

About the study

The forecast of ETH Zurich's KOF Swiss Economic Institute on the development of Swiss health 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 Prognose der Gesundheitsausgaben Frühjahr 2017" by Marko Köthenbürger and Pauliina Sandqvist is available on our website:

<https://www.kof.ethz.ch/en/news-and-events/media/press-releases/2017/06.html> →

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

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

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