

Press release

Zurich, 7 November 2023, 10am

Healthcare expenditure as a share of gross domestic product stabilises at 11.5 per cent

Healthcare expenditure in Switzerland will continue to grow over the forecasting period (2022 to 2025). However, its share of gross domestic product will stabilise at around 11.5 per cent. These are the key findings of KOF's healthcare expenditure forecast, which was prepared with the help of a research contribution from comparis.ch.

Healthcare spending set to rise by 4.1 per cent in 2023 and 3.6 per cent in 2024

KOF expects healthcare expenditure to have grown by 2.4 per cent in 2022. It is forecasting that the growth rate will increase to 4.1 per cent for the current year 2023 as a whole. Growth will be somewhat lower at 3.6 per cent in 2024 and come to 3.2 per cent in 2025. The average annual increase is 3.3 per cent over the forecasting period (2022 to 2025) compared with 3.1 per cent over the previous ten years and 3.5 per cent over the period 2002 to 2011. KOF expects healthcare expenditure over the forecasting period to amount to CHF 88.4 billion in 2022, CHF 92.0 billion in 2023, CHF 95.3 billion in 2024 and CHF 98.4 billion in 2025, as shown in Table 1.

Healthcare expenditure as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) was 11.3 per cent in 2022, according to KOF's forecast, compared with 11.6 per cent in the previous year, according to the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO). This share should rise slightly to 11.5 per cent in the current year and then remain at this level in 2024 and 2025. Healthcare expenditure as a share of GDP also averages 11.5 per cent over the entire forecasting period (2022 to 2025) compared with 10.9 per cent over the previous ten years and 9.8 per cent over the period 2002 to 2011.

Costs of prevention and administration will rise above average

According to KOF's forecast, the costs of prevention, administration and rehabilitation are likely to rise at well above average rates over the forecasting period (2022 to 2025) (the first-mentioned category growing the most and then in descending order). They will increase at below-average rates in auxiliary services, inpatient treatment and long-term care (the first category rising the least and then in ascending order). The categories of outpatient treatment and healthcare goods are in the middle of the range in terms of cost increases.

Table 1: KOF forecast of healthcare expenditure (November 2023)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Expenditure (CHF million)	86,344*	88,385	92,014	95,338	98,422
Growth rate	5.9%*	2.4%	4.1%	3.6%	3.2%

* FSO; provisional data

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About this study

The forecast compiled by the KOF Swiss Economic Institute at ETH Zurich on Switzerland's healthcare expenditure is published annually and supported by a research contribution from the online comparison service comparis.ch.

The full study is available on our website:

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

Further information on KOF's healthcare expenditure forecast is available here:

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

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