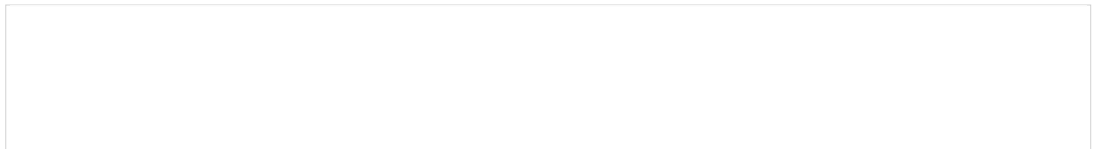


**Business Insurance**

Search BI

[Advanced Search](#)



Welcome!

[Home](#) > [Breaking News](#) > [October 21, 2010](#) > Cost increases for commercial plans outpacing Medicare: Study

- [News & Opinions](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Research Center](#)
- [Multimedia](#)
- [Events & Awards](#)
- [Tools & Resources](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

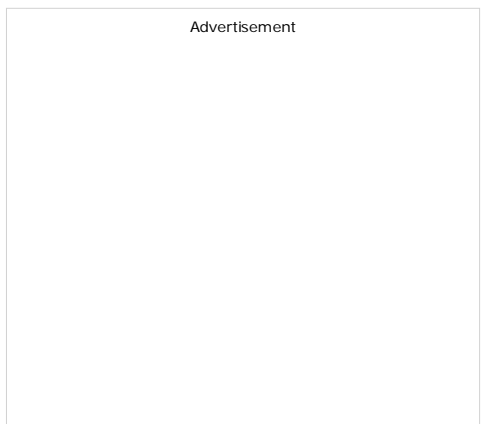
## Cost increases for commercial plans outpacing Medicare: Study

Posted On: Oct. 21, 2010 11:10 AM CENTRAL | [Add a comment](#) | [Reprints](#) |



[Jerry Geisel](#)

The cost of hospital and medical professional services for patients covered by commercial health insurance plans is far outpacing the cost of services for patients covered by Medicare, according to an analysis released Thursday.



For the 12-month period ending in August, the average per-capita cost of health care services covered by commercial health insurance plans, which include self-funded employer plans, climbed 8.66%. That compares with an average increase of 5.08% for patients covered by the traditional Medicare program, according to S&P Healthcare Indices, which Standard & Poor's Corp. developed in consultation with Health Index Advisors, a joint Aon Hewitt Inc. and Milliman Inc. venture.

The biggest difference in cost increases between patients covered by Medicare and commercial health care plans were for hospital services. In that same 12-month measuring period, hospital costs for patients enrolled in commercial health care plans rose an average of 9.66%, nearly double the 4.48% increase for Medicare patients.

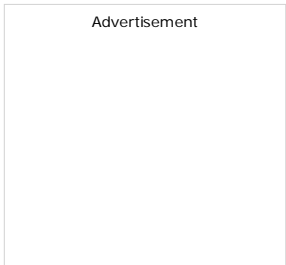
Overall, health care costs increased an average of 7.32% for the

12-month period.



**Related Content:**

- [Hewitt Associates](#)
- [Aon](#)
- [Health Care Benefits](#)
- [Federal Legislation & Regulation](#)
- [Benefits Legislation & Regulation](#)



**Follow Business Insurance**

**Article Toolbox**

Text size: [ - ] [ + ]

- Email this Article
- Order Reprints
- Print the Article
- Send News Tip
- Write the Editor

**Get Email**

Enter your email address for daily news alerts

[View all e-mail alerts »](#)

**News By Topic**

[View all topics »](#)

**BI White Papers**

**HARD MARKET GAME PLAN**

Steps risk managers need to take before rates rise

Business Insurance

New BI White Paper: The best risk managers show their worth in a hard market: It's easy to look good when insurance prices are falling, but it takes skill and planning to excel when

Tell us what you think. Log in below to weigh in on this story.

**Post a comment**

You must be logged in to post a comment. [Log in](#)

You share in the Business Insurance community, so please keep your comments smart and civil; comments that include profanity or personal attacks or other inappropriate comments or material will be removed from the site. Please review the [full rules](#) governing the commenting and community tools. Use the "Report Abuse" button to make a difference.

**Recent Headlines**

- > [Chubb reports higher profit, makes management changes](#)
- > [N.J. school official, insurance broker charged with corruption](#)
- > [Number of nonfatal workplace injuries declined in 2009](#)
- > [Okla. Supreme Court rules in cumulative trauma case](#)
- > [Gulf Coast faces \\$350 billion in climate harm by 2030: Study](#)
- > [Zurich reorganizes insurance operations](#)
- > [View All of Today's Headlines](#)

prices are skyrocketing. Read how.

Advertisement

**News & Opinions**

- [Current News](#)
- [News by Topic](#)
- [News by Country](#)
- [Current Issue](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Commentary](#)
- [Cartoon](#)
- [Perspectives](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Public Documents Archive](#)

**Research & Data**

- [Directory](#)
- [White Papers](#)
- [BI Stock Index](#)
- [Rankings](#)
- [Industry Financials](#)

**Multimedia**

- [Video](#)
- [Audio](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [Webcasts/Webinars](#)

**Careers**

- [Career Center](#)
- [Comings & Goings](#)

**Events & Awards**

- [Benefit Manager of the Year](#)
- [Best Places to Work in Insurance](#)
- [Industry Events](#)
- [Innovation Awards](#)
- [Risk Manager of the Year](#)
- [Risk Management Summit](#)
- [Readers Choice](#)
- [Virtual Advantage](#)
- [Women to Watch](#)

**Tools & Resources**

- [About Business Insurance](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Industry Links](#)
- [RSS Feeds](#)
- [Reprints](#)
- [Services](#)
- [Site Map](#)

**Advertise**

- [Advertise](#)
- [Media Kit](#)
- [Editorial Calendar](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Contact BI](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Back to Top](#)

Copyright © 2010 Crain Communications, Inc.