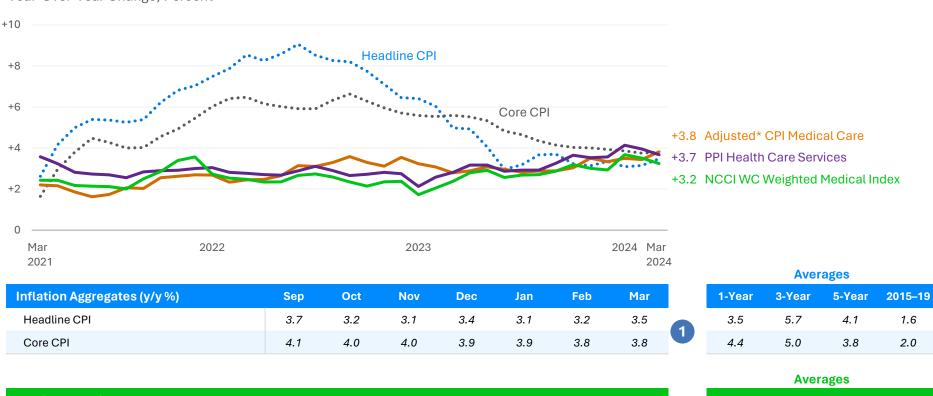


Aggregate Measures of General and Medical Inflation Year-Over-Year Change, Percent



Medical Inflation Aggregates (y/y %)	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	2015–19
Adjusted* CPI Medical Care	2.9	3.0	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.8		3.2	2.8	2.5	2.4
PPI Health Care Services	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.6	4.1	4.0	3.7	2	3.4	3.0	2.8	1.6
NCCI WC Weighted Medical Index	2.9	3.2	3.0	2.9	3.7	3.5	3.2		3.0	2.6	2.3	1.2

\*Adjusted Medical CPI Removes CPI Health Insurance From CPI Medical Care

Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics and NCCI's Medical Data Call; 1-, 3-, and 5-year averages are rolling 12-, 36-, and 60-month averages from the latest data point

Broad economic inflation remained sticky in the first quarter of 2024, with both headline and core CPI showing little change in trend since mid-2023. Both measures of economic inflation remain well above the Fed's 2% target.

Shelter prices continue to make up the largest contribution to core inflation. Price growth in other services, excluding shelter, remained firm in Q1. This growth challenged the Fed's ability to begin lowering interest rates.

Medical inflation aggregates largely saw their pace of growth over the past 12 months increase slightly in Q1 compared to the end of 2023.

2

An emerging trend in the first quarter of 2024 has been a divergence between the adjusted medical care CPI and the PPI.

The rate of price growth in the PPI increased in January as some one-time price changes for Medicare and Medicaid patients pushed up growth. However, price growth softened some in the following months after the one-time increases.

Price growth in the adjusted medical care CPI was more consistent through the quarter, largely coming from hospital inpatient and hospital outpatient price growth, contrasting with the PPI.

## More details on page 2.

© Copyright 2024 National Council on Compensation Insurance, Inc. All Rights Reserved. THE RESEARCH ARTICLES AND CONTENT DISTRIBUTED BY NCCI ARE PROVIDED FOR GENERAL INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE PROVIDED "AS IS." NCCI DOES NOT GUARANTEE THEIR ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS NOR DOES NCCI ASSUME ANY LIABILITY THAT MAY RESULT IN YOUR RELIANCE UPON SUCH INFORMATION. NCCI EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND INCLUDING ALL EXPRESS, STATUTORY, AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES INCLUDING THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.



## NCCI MEDICAL INFLATION INSIGHTS

Workers Compensation Weighted Medical Price Index (WCWMI) Component Contributions to the Year-Over-Year Change, Percent



\*Other is represented as long-term care (PPI Home and Hospice Care and PPI Nursing Home Care)

Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics and NCCI's Medical Data Call; 1-, 3-, and 5-year averages are rolling 12-, 36-, and 60-month averages from the latest data point

The WCWMI saw its pace of price growth increase in January due to price increases in physician services and facilities taking effect on the first of the year. Following those increases, price growth cooled in February and March across every subcategory, bringing the overall index back to growing near its recent trend of 3%.

Physician care prices increased by ~1.5% in Q1. These price changes included a 1% increase for private insurance patients, a 2% decline in prices for Medicare patients, and an 11.4% increase in prices for Medicaid patients.

Fee schedules will likely insulate workers compensation from some of these price increases for physicians led by the change in Medicaid.

3 Facilities saw continued firm price growth in Q1 and remain the largest contributor to the WCWMI overall, accounting for roughly 60% of price increases over the last 12 months.

Hospital outpatient prices increased by 1.6% in Q1 for Medicare patients and 1.5% for private insurance patients with most of the increases coming in January, before price growth softened in February and March.

Hospital inpatient price growth was more subdued, increasing 1.2% in Q1 for private insurance patients while prices for Medicare patients changed little.

© Copyright 2024 National Council on Compensation Insurance, Inc. All Rights Reserved. THE RESEARCH ARTICLES AND CONTENT DISTRIBUTED BY NCCI ARE PROVIDED FOR GENERAL INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE PROVIDED "AS IS." NCCI DOES NOT GUARANTEE THEIR ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS NOR DOES NCCI ASSUME ANY LIABILITY THAT MAY RESULT IN YOUR RELIANCE UPON SUCH INFORMATION. NCCI EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND INCLUDING ALL EXPRESS, STATUTORY, AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES INCLUDING THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.