



## **Health Premiums Soar Even as Inflation Is Cooling**

**Average cost of family coverage reached roughly \$25,500 this year**

BY MELANIE EVANS AND JOSH ULICK

Inflation is easing across much of the economy. For healthcare? Not yet.

The cost of employer health insurance rose 7% for a second straight year, maintaining a growth rate not seen in more than a decade, according to an annual survey by the healthcare nonprofit KFF. The back-to-back years of rapid increases have added more than \$3,000 to the average family premium, which reached roughly \$25,500 this year.

Businesses absorbed this year's higher premium costs—one of several signals in recent years that employers are sensitive to the limits of what workers can afford, said Matthew Rae, associate director of the KFF healthcare marketplace program and an author of the survey.

Employers spent about \$1,880 more this year, bringing their average cost for family premiums to \$19,276. Workers' share of the average family premium dropped by roughly \$280 from last year, to \$6,296.

Businesses can't keep that up, said Shawn Gremminger, chief executive of the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, an employer group. And workers ultimately bear those higher costs in other ways, he said, including smaller raises or job cuts. "That's adding real stress to the economy," he said.

---

[Copyright \(c\)2024 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved. 10/15/2024](#)  
[Powered by TECNAVIA](#)

---

The following is a digital replica of content from the print newspaper and is intended for the personal use of our members. For commercial reproduction or distribution of Dow Jones printed content, contact: Dow Jones Reprints & Licensing at (800) 843-0008 or visit [djreprints.com](http://djreprints.com).

---