

## WellPoint's 3Q profit falls 5 pct, forecast climbs

October 23 2013

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This July 17, 2012, file photo, shows the corporate headquarters of WellPoint in Indianapolis. WellPoint Inc.'s third-quarter earnings fell 5 percent, but the nation's second-largest health insurer's results topped Wall Street expectations. Shares of the Indianapolis company jumped in premarket trading Wednesday Oct. 23, 2013 about three hours before the market opening. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy, File)

WellPoint says its third-quarter earnings fell 5 percent, but the nation's second-largest health insurer raised its forecast for 2013, citing in part gains it expects from the health care overhaul.

The Indianapolis company says it earned \$656.2 million, or \$2.16 per [share](#), in the quarter. That compares to \$691.2 million, or \$2.15 per share, last year, when the company had more shares outstanding. Earnings excluding one-time items totaled \$2.10 per share.

Operating revenue soared 17 percent to \$17.73 billion. That excludes investment gains or losses.

Analysts forecast earnings of \$1.81 per share on \$17.66 billion in revenue.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield insurer now expects full-year adjusted [earnings](#) of at least \$8.40 per share, up from a previous forecast for at least \$8.

WellPoint shares are rising in premarket trading.

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