

PART II.
Potential
Economic
Impacts of
Selected Reform
Approaches

Introduction to Part II

As noted in chapter 1, available analyses were reviewed for their insight into the anticipated impact of the selected reform approaches on:

- national health care spending and savings (see ch. 2);
- Federal, State and local budgets (see ch. 3);
- employers (see ch. 4);
- employment (see ch. 5);
- households (see ch. 6);
- other costs in the economy (see ch. 7); and
- administrative costs (see ch. 8).

Each of the following chapters provides an introduction to the impact of current health care spending on the area of the economy being examined in that chapter. Then, the chapter provides, for each of the four major approaches to health care reform addressed in this report, a summary of the range of available estimates of the impact of the approach on the area of the economy. Selected key assumptions made in the estimates are also noted.

The chapters in this section are not equal in scope or depth for several reasons. First, some health care reform approaches (e.g., Canadian-style system, employment-based expansions) have been discussed in depth over a period of time and have been the subject of many more studies than others (e.g., Managed Competition). Second, the potential impact of health care reform on some areas of the economy (e.g., national health care spending and savings) has been examined in greater depth than others. Third, the analyses reviewed varied markedly with respect to the level of detail provided regarding the assumptions they made.

Appendix B provides considerable additional detail on assumptions underlying specific analyses.