

WellPoint 4th-quarter net income drops

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The Associated Press

WellPoint says its fourth-quarter net income declined, as the prior-year period included a large gain related to a sale. Its adjusted results beat Wall Street's view.

The largest publicly traded health insurer based on enrollment earned \$548.8 million, or \$1.40 per share, for the three months ended Dec. 31. That's down from \$2.74 billion, or \$5.95 per share, a year earlier.

Adjusted earnings rose to \$1.33 per share from \$1.16 per share.

Analysts forecast a smaller profit of \$1.23 per share.

Revenue was \$14.65 billion, topping analysts' \$14.37 billion.

Medical enrollment surpassed 33.3 million members at quarter's end, down 1 percent from the year-ago period.

The Indianapolis company expects 2011 earnings of at least \$6.30 per share. Analysts forecast \$6.58 per share.

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