

**Table 8.—Forecasted Annual Percent Change in the Current  
and Proposed Revised and Rebased Medicare Economic Index,  
2004**

	Proposed 2000-Based MEI	1996-Based MEI
2004	2.5	2.4

**Table 9.—Forecasted Annual Percent Change in the Proposed Revised  
and Rebased Medicare Economic Index, 2004-All Categories<sup>1</sup>**

Cost Categories and Price Measures	2000 Weights <sup>2</sup>	Forecasted 2004 Percent Changes
Medicare Economic Index Total, productivity adjusted	n/a	2.5
Productivity: 10-year moving average of Multifactor productivity, private nonfarm business sector	n/a	0.9
Medicare Economic Index Total, without productivity adjustment	100.0	3.4
1. Physician's Own Time <sup>3</sup>	52.466	3.5
a. Wages and Salaries: Average Hourly Earnings, private Nonfarm	42.730	3.2
b. Fringe Benefits: Employment Cost Index, benefits, private nonfarm	9.735	5.3
2. Physician's Practice Expense <sup>3</sup>	47.534	3.2
a. Nonphysician Employee Compensation	18.654	3.4
1. Wages and Salaries: Employment Cost Index, wages and salaries, weighted by occupation	13.809	2.8