

Express Scripts profit up 21%

Express Scripts reported a profit of \$214.4 million for the three months ended March 31, up from \$177.2 million for the same period a year ago.

The company recorded revenue of \$5.42 billion in the first quarter, down from \$5.49 billion during the same quarter a year earlier.

Express Scripts expects its \$4.67 billion acquisition of the drug benefits division of health insurer WellPoint Inc. to provide a billion-dollar boost.

The deal could make Express Scripts the largest public company in the St. Louis region, with annual revenue estimated to be \$39 billion. With Anheuser-Busch's sale to InBev complete, Emerson currently ranks as the region's top public company with \$24.8 billion in 2008 revenue.

Bel-Ridge, Mo.-based Express Scripts Inc. (Nasdaq: ESRX), led by President, Chief Executive and Chairman George Paz, is one of the largest pharmacy benefit managers in the country providing services to more than 50 million members.