

Not a subscriber? [Click here to learn more.](#)

Subscriber Login

DailyWealth Premium DailyWealth Trader

Steve Sjoggerud's **DAILY WEALTH**

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Resources](#)

[Archive](#)

[Free Reports](#)

[Market Window](#)

Rushed to the Hospital in Bangkok

By [Dr. Steve Sjoggerud](#)
Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Less than 24 hours after landing in Bangkok, I was rushed to the hospital...

I was having trouble breathing. The problem came out of nowhere. And it was getting worse.

I had no idea what a hospital in Bangkok would be like... but I was about to find out.

I'm sure the average American thinks a hospital in Bangkok would be an incredibly risky place to go... But when I was having trouble breathing, what were my alternatives?

The mental picture most Americans probably have of a Bangkok hospital is an old, overcrowded, extremely unsanitary place... In short, a place where you could easily die from some sort of mistake or poor care.

The reality is completely different...

Consider the case of the [Bumrungrad International Hospital](#) in Bangkok. It's more like a five-star hotel with world-class medical facilities...

My friend Peter Churchouse – who lives in Hong Kong – says that many of his friends travel to Bumrungrad for their yearly checkups and medical procedures. They make a vacation out of it...

"Go to Thailand for a few days, get the medical stuff out of the way, and hit the beach. Adding it all up, including the flights and everything, the price still comes out at less than half of doing that at home."

For Americans, the deal is much better... Heart bypass surgery in the U.S. costs \$113,000... while the same surgery in Thailand costs just \$13,000. A knee replacement in the U.S. costs \$48,000. In Thailand, it's nearly \$40,000 less – at just \$8,500. (These numbers come from a 2011 report from the OECD. You can find more cost comparisons on page 12 of the report [here](#).)

But what about the quality of care? Who are the people taking care of you?

Bumrungrad is run by a top-notch team of hospital administrators from the U.S., the U.K., Australia, Singapore, and Thailand. It serves a half-million international patients from 200 countries a year.

The friend that took me to the hospital in Thailand is from Norway. His father has cancer. And he actually flies from Norway – one of the world's wealthiest countries – to Thailand for his cancer treatment.

Why do half a million people go to Thailand for medical care? It's simple... Service is excellent, fast, and inexpensive. And English is widely spoken.

I don't have time to go into all the details of the hospital... But here's a great [overview](#) of what happens at Bumrungrad. It really is an impressive place.

My experience was darn impressive... Within 30 seconds of entering the hospital, I was on a table. Blood pressure was taken on one arm, while the other arm was being prepped for a shot. The whole time, the doctors were asking me questions, making their diagnosis. Simultaneously, a staffer was checking me in, filling out information from my passport. (It turns out, I have a somewhat rare allergy to lemongrass. Who knew? Not me!) After a shot, I was feeling better in no time.

My entire experience in the hospital – from walking in the door to paying and leaving – lasted about 20 minutes. I've never had an experience like that in the U.S...

My typical U.S. experience is multiple rounds of 20-minute waits – if you're lucky – even when you have an appointment. First, it takes 20 minutes to check in and

Search

[Advanced Search](#)

Inside Today's
DailyWealth Premium



Our in-house physician's thoughts on medical tourism...

As the quality of care here starts to plummet, I suspect medical tourism may become an increasingly attractive option for middle-class Americans...

[Click here to get immediate access.](#)

THE INFLATION SURVIVAL GUIDE

Five Steps You Must Take to Preserve and Grow Your Wealth in Inflationary Times

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

In The Daily Crux

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

[This could be the real reason the U.S. made a nuclear deal with Iran](#)

"Over the weekend, the world changed..."

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

[Porter Stansberry: Why I'm scared about the markets today](#)

"We are in the very late innings..."

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

[Porter Stansberry: The U.S. stock market could now fall by half](#)

"You can see for yourself..."

Monday, December 2, 2013

[Porter Stansberry: What to do with your best stocks in a market crash](#)

What to do with blue chips in a market crash...

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

[This common household product could become the next "anti-aging" breakthrough](#)

"While people spend billions on anti-aging creams, a new study reveals a surprising secret weapon..."

fill out the paperwork. Then you spend at least 20 minutes in the waiting room. Next, you get taken to the back, where you sit in a room. After 20 minutes, someone comes to ask what your symptoms are again, and takes your blood pressure. Then you wait another 20 minutes for a doctor to see you.

The doctor spends less than five minutes with you. Then you check out, spending more time figuring out payment. A five-minute doctor visit turns into half a day of burning time.

Before this trip to Asia, I never would have considered going to a hospital in Bangkok. Now, I have no problem with it.

And it's not just me. Thailand, it turns out, is the planet's top destination for what's known as "medical tourism." And Bumrungrad is the top medical tourism hospital on the planet.

Thailand had 1.2 million "medical tourists" in 2012. Mexico was in second place, with about 1 million. The U.S. was in third, with foreigners coming here to have medical procedures done and spend some time here.

The bigger lesson from this experience (and my trip to Asia) was learning just how far Asia has come...

Ten years ago, Asian countries looked up to the U.S. – they aspired to have our technology, our infrastructure, and our efficiency.

Now, many places in Asia – in particular [Hong Kong and Singapore](#) – have passed us by. China's big cities are not that far behind – and in some cases, are already more advanced.

You might not want to hear it – as an American I hate to admit it – but it's true.

Meanwhile, stocks in many Asian countries are cheaper than U.S. stocks... with better growth prospects.

I suggest allocating some of your investment dollars outside of U.S. stocks and into Asia.

Good investing,

Steve


Editor's note: If you'd like more insight and actionable advice from Dr. Steve Sjuggerud, consider a free subscription to *DailyWealth*. [Sign up for DailyWealth here](#) and receive a report on the top ways to protect your money, your family, your health, and your privacy. This report will show you the best "common sense" solutions to help you protect yourself from some of the worst elements in America today. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Further Reading:

Last week, Brett Eversole wrote about another popular destination in Asia that's attracting tourists and money from all over the world. "Most Americans have never heard of it," Brett tells us. "But it's one of the most remarkable places I've ever seen." [Learn more here.](#)

And although Steve sees higher growth and better value in Asian stocks right now, he still doesn't think the gains are over for U.S. stocks. "The market is up big over the last few years," Steve writes. "But I strongly believe stocks could soar another 63% in the next two years." [Find out why here.](#)

enter your e-mail address
subscribe now

Like { 3 } Tweet { 1 } Share  Share

Market Notes

A BIG YEAR FOR U.S. MANUFACTURING

Big U.S. manufacturers are booming in 2013... and that's good news for America.

Regular readers know we keep tabs on the price action in critical sectors of the market – like [financials](#), [transports](#), and even [casinos](#). When these stocks are booming, we know America is doing better than the pessimists would have you believe.

Recent Articles

[Rushed to the Hospital in Bangkok](#)

By Dr. Steve Sjuggerud
Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Less than 24 hours after landing in Bangkok, I was rushed to the hospital. I had no idea what a hospital in Bangkok would be like... but I was about to find out.

[U.S. Stocks Could Still Soar 63%, Starting Now](#)

By Dr. Steve Sjuggerud
Monday, December 2, 2013

I know this sounds crazy. But it's absolutely possible. The S&P 500 is up in the nine months since I first wrote about this idea. Yet stocks are still incredibly cheap.

[How to Buy Happiness](#)

By Mark Ford
Friday, November 29, 2013

Many times, the things that give us the greatest joy are free. But oftentimes, money is involved. And when that's the case, we have to weigh the cost of the thing against the pleasure we will get from it...

[An Easy Guide to Shareholder Letters: Look for These 3 Things](#)

By Dan Ferris
Wednesday, November 27, 2013

Reading the shareholder letters of the companies you invest in is invaluable when it comes to understanding the business, the industry, and what you can expect from your management team...

[The Shocking View from Inside a Chinese Factory](#)

By Dr. Steve Sjuggerud
Tuesday, November 26, 2013

I highly recommend that you add some exposure to China to your portfolio... now.

YOUR PRIVACY UNDER ATTACK

Three powerful forces have come together to dismantle our privacy...

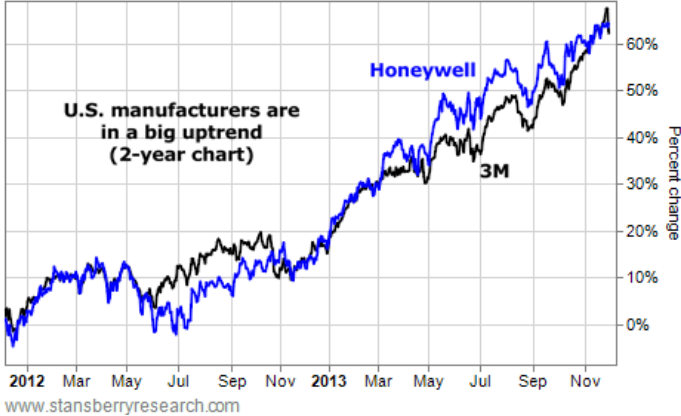
CLICK HERE TO

Two key companies to track this idea are 3M (MMM) and Honeywell (HON). These manufacturing giants are "bellwethers" of the U.S. economy. Together, they employ nearly 100,000 people in the U.S. Each brings in more than \$30 billion in annual sales... making everything from Post-it Notes to aircraft control systems.



Below, you can see that both companies are in a massive, multiyear uptrend. They've spent most of the year setting new all-time highs. So far in 2013, these big manufacturers have easily outperformed big indexes like the S&P 500. Both stocks are up 40%-plus this year, including dividends. It's another sign that, contrary to the "gloom and doom" folks, America's manufacturing sector is doing well.

U.S. Manufacturing Companies



Stansberry Research
DailyWealth
 Growth Stock Wire
 Stansberry Radio
 The Daily Crux

DailyWealth
 DailyWealth Premium
 DailyWealth Trader

About Us
 Resources
 Archive
 Free Reports
 Market Window



© 2013 Stansberry & Associates Investment Research, LLC. | Privacy Policy | Customer Service



Stansberry & Associates Investment Research. All Rights Reserved. Protected by copyright laws of the United States and international treaties. This website may only be used pursuant to the subscription agreement and any reproduction, copying, or redistribution (electronic or otherwise, including on the world wide web), in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited without the express written permission of Stansberry & Associates Investment Research, LLC. 1217 Saint Paul Street, Baltimore MD 21202.