

Child Care in State Economies Report Series, Part 3: Child Care and Regional Economic Growth

FACT SHEET

United States

Part 3 of the 2024 Child Care in State Economies Report series focuses on the economic impact of the child care industry across regions. The economic benefits of child care extend beyond individual households to the broader economy. Child care access enables more parents, especially mothers, to participate in the workforce and supports overall economic growth.

Child Care Businesses

There were 624,300 child care businesses in 2022.

- 76,850 child care centers
- 547,465 home-based child care businesses
- Between 2019 and 2022, the number of child care centers increased by 3,900
- Between 2019 and 2022, the number of home-based child care businesses decreased by 17,235

Child Care Employment & Wages

Wages for individuals working in child care centers in the United States have increased by 25.3% since 2019.

- Median annual wages have increased from \$24,230 to \$30,370 in 2023, an increase of \$6,140.
- The median hourly wage increased from \$11.65 to \$14.60 in 2023.
- 2021 average annual revenue for home-based child care businesses was \$17,472 (net earnings of \$10,382 after operational costs)
- The average child care center had 12.5 employees in 2023.

Trends in the Use of Paid Child Care in the United States

- The overall share of children age 14 and younger averaged 19.1% in paid care from 2011 to 2022 and 17.5% from 2000 to 2010.
- Among children under age 5, use of paid child care averaged 27.2% between 2011 to 2022 and 24.9% from 2000 to 2010.
- Among school-age children, use of paid child care averaged 15.3% between 2011 to 2022 and 13.8% from 2000 to 2010.

Families Not Using Paid Care in the U.S.

- It is unclear whether families with children not using paid care prefer other arrangements, cannot afford child care amidst other household expenses, or the supply of child care in their community falls short of meeting the need.

SIZE OF THE MARKET-BASED CHILD CARE INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES



Total ECONOMIC impact (2022)

\$152 billion

\$68.5 billion
child care revenue
PLUS
\$83.78 billion spillover
in other industries



Total EARNINGS impact (2022)

\$57.15 billion

\$32.67 billion
employee compensation and
sole proprietors' earnings
PLUS
\$24.48 billion spillover
earnings in other industries



Total JOBS impact (2022)

2,156,595 jobs

1,504,990
sole proprietors and wage
and salaried employees
PLUS
651,605 spillover
jobs in other industries

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and RegionTrack calculations. The Current Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) sponsored jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau: Quarterly Services Survey; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW); U.S. Census Bureau – Economic Census, Non-employer Statistics; NAICS industry 6244, Child Care Services.

