



# Manitoba

## ■ OVERVIEW

In Manitoba, kindergarten, child care centres, family child care, and before- and after-school programs are the responsibility of Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning.

Manitoba offers part-day kindergarten programming for all five-year-olds which may be extended to full-day in some school divisions and independent schools. School divisions and independent schools may offer part-day kindergarten for four-year-olds (termed nursery programs) to children prior to enrolment in kindergarten, however provincial funding is not provided for nursery programs in schools.

Child care centres, nursery schools, family child care, and group family child care are licensed and regulated by the province, as are some before- and after-school child care programs. Before- and after-school programs operated by schools are not required to be licensed.

Programs are delivered by non-profit and for-profit operators, with non-profits making up most child care provision in the province. Fee subsidies may be used in for-profit centres but they do not receive public operating funding. There are no publicly operated child care programs in Manitoba.

Family child care and group family child care are individually licensed.

Manitoba began setting parent fees and operationally funding child care in 2000, with non-profit centres and family child care eligible for operating funding. Since April 2023, parent fees for infants and preschool-age children in child care facilities receiving operating grants are set at a maximum fee of \$10/day per child for regular full-time hours.

Manitoba introduced a [salary guide](#) with minimum starting and target wages for various child care positions in 2022. It was updated for the 2024 – 2025 fiscal year.

Manitoba signed the Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (Multilateral Framework Agreement) on December 14, 2017. This agreement allocated nearly \$47 million over three years; it was extended on August 24, 2020 with another \$15.6 million allocated to the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year, and renewed on February 16, 2022, allocating another \$78.8 million over four years.

The Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement was signed by Manitoba on August 6, 2021. The agreement allocated \$1.2 billion over five years. The Canada-wide agreement does not replace but runs parallel to the Multilateral Framework Agreement.

<b>Net growth in full-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years since CWELCC</b>			
	2021	2023	<i>Increase (decrease) 2021 – 2023</i>
For-profit	1,349	1,583	+234
Non-profit	19,372	20,488	+1,116
<b>Total full-day spaces</b>	<b>20,721</b>	<b>22,071</b>	<b>+1,350</b>
Percentage of full-day spaces that were for-profit	6.5%	7.2%	+0.7%
Percentage of growth of full-day spaces that was for-profit			17%

<b>Family child care spaces (2021, 2023)</b>		
	2021	2023
Family child care spaces (licensed capacity)	3,312	3,049

## ■ PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

### **Number of children 0 – 12 years (2023 rounded estimate)**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2023)</i>
0	13,300
1	13,900
2	15,200
3	16,300
4	14,900
5	18,500
6	16,400
7	15,600
8	17,100
9	15,900
10	16,100
11	16,600
12	16,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>206,700</b>

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**Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2023 rounded estimate)**

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<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2023)</i>
0 – 2	42,400
3 – 5	49,700
6 – 12	114,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>206,700</b>

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**Number of children 0 – 12 years with employed mothers (2023 rounded estimate)**

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<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2023)</i>
0	8,000
1	9,000
2	9,200
3	9,600
4	9,100
5	11,900
6	11,000
7	10,300
8	11,500
9	10,600
10	11,200
11	11,700
12	12,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,200</b>

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**Number of children 0 – 12 years with employed mothers (aggregated) (2023 rounded estimate)**

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<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2023)</i>
0 – 2	26,200
3 – 5	30,600
6 – 12	78,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,200</b>

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**Number of children 0 – 14 years identifying with an Indigenous group (2021)**

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<i>Age</i>	<i>First Nations</i>	<i>Métis</i>	<i>Inuk (Inuit)</i>	<i>Multiple</i>	<i>Other</i>
0 – 4	14,855	7,425	60	360	220
5 – 9	15,500	8,160	60	345	170
10 – 14	15,935	8,300	70	355	175
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,290</b>	<b>23,885</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>565</b>

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**Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2023 rounded estimate)**

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<i>Age of youngest child</i>	<i>Number of mothers</i>	<i>Participation rate (%)</i>
0 – 3	30,200	74.0
4 – 5	13,200	77.6
0 – 5	43,400	75.1
6 – 12	41,100	87.8

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### Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2021)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0 – 4	62,355	14,390	11,915	2,480
5 – 9	63,630	17,780	14,085	3,695
10 – 14	60,875	19,485	15,235	4,245

### Languages spoken most often at home (2021)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0 – 4	65,260	1,000	10,955	3,170
5 – 9	72,325	1,105	8,945	3,845
10 – 14	73,495	1,005	7,810	3,835
<b>Total</b>	<b>211,075</b>	<b>3,105</b>	<b>27,705</b>	<b>10,855</b>

### Median after-tax income among families with children 0 – 5 years (2020)

Two-parent families	Male lone parent	Female lone parent
\$90,000	\$46,000	\$42,000

## KINDERGARTEN

### Kindergarten enrolment (2023)

#### Enrolment in public schools

Kindergarten for 5-year-olds	12,928
Kindergarten for 4-year-olds (nursery)	1,539

#### Enrolment in school division-administered First Nations schools

Kindergarten for 5-year-olds	310
Kindergarten for 4-year-olds (nursery)	249

#### Enrolment in funded and non-funded independent schools

Kindergarten for 5-year-olds	1,228
Kindergarten for 4-year-olds (nursery)	315

**Total kindergarten enrolment for 5-year-olds** 14,466

**Total kindergarten enrolment for 4-year-olds (nursery)** 2,103

Note: Manitoba offers part-day kindergarten programming for all five-year-olds which may be extended to full-day in some school divisions and independent schools. School divisions and independent schools may offer part-day kindergarten for four-year-olds (termed nursery programs) to children prior to enrolment in kindergarten, however provincial funding is not provided for nursery programs in schools.

## FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT CHILD CARE

### First Nations child care on reserves

Manitoba provides early learning and child care consultation and guidance to First Nations communities at their request. Any child care centre in a First Nations community may apply to become licensed. In 2023 there was one licensed centre on reserve, with 32 full-day spaces. There was no licensed family child care on reserve.

The number of unregulated child care centres on reserve is not available.

Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve (AHSOR) may be licensed at their request. There were 42 unlicensed AHSOR programs on reserves.

## Indigenous child care other than on reserves

Licensed child care facilities in Manitoba may self-declare as Indigenous programs. Manitoba reported 14 licensed child care centres not on reserve self-identifying as Indigenous. There are several Métis centres in Manitoba. In total, there were 10 full-day infant and preschool centres, three part-day nursery schools, and one school-age centre.

### Licensed spaces not on reserve

Full-day (infant and preschool-age)	429
Part-day (nursery school)	94
Before- and after-school (school-age)	30
<b>Total licensed spaces</b>	<b>553</b>

There were also three licensed Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) programs with 66 spaces and 18 unlicensed AHSUNC programs.

## CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS

### Number of regulated spaces (March 31, 2023)

#### Full-day centre spaces

Infants (<2 years)	3,294
Preschool-age (2 – 5 years)	18,777

**Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 22,071**

#### Part-day centre spaces

Nursery schools (2 – 5 years)	2,851
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**Total centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 24,922**

#### Before- and after-school care centre spaces (licensed or regulated)

Children in Grade 1 to <13 years	12,942
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**Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years) 37,864**

### Regulated family child care (licensed capacity)

#### Family child care spaces

Full-day (children 0 – <6 years not yet in school)	1,731
Part-day (children 6 – <13 years attending school)	932

#### Group child care homes (more than one provider)

Full-day (children 0 – <6 years not yet in school)	371
Part-day (children 6 – <13 years attending school)	15

**Total regulated family child care spaces 3,049**

### TOTAL REGULATED SPACES

**(centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity) 40,913**

## Number of child care centres and family child care homes (March 31, 2023)

### Centre-based child care

**Total number of centres 753**

#### Centre-based programs

Number of centres providing a full-day program	650
Number of centres providing a part-day (nursery school) program	103

*Note: This is the number of licensed nursery schools. Manitoba does not make a distinction between, or report on, full-day centres that may also offer a part-day nursery school program.*

Number of centres providing a part-day program for children attending school (Grade 1 – 12 years)	363
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Number of centres providing infant care (<2 years)	329
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Number of centres providing preschool-age care (2 – 5 years)	661
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*Note: This number represents the total number of licensed centres and nursery schools with nursery school spaces.*

Number of centres providing non-standard hours care (non-standard hours as defined by the province)	23
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Number of centres in publicly delivered and funded schools (K – 12)	343
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### Regulated family child care

Number of individually licensed family child care homes (active)	370
Number of group family child care homes (active)	34

**Total number of family child care homes 404**

### Participation in CWELCC

Number of centres	620
Number of regulated family child care homes	285
Number of regulated group child care homes	26

Note: Provision for children older than 0 – 5 years in school-age centres is not eligible for CWELCC funding.

### Municipal delivery

Number of municipalities or municipal entities operating child care centres (i.e. are the licence holder)	0
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### Auspice

#### Full-and part-day programs by auspice (2023)

	Number of centres
For-profit	43
Non-profit	710

#### Centre spaces by auspice

	Full-day <sup>1</sup>	Part-day <sup>2</sup>	BASC <sup>3</sup>	Total
For-profit	1,583	147	354	2,084
Non-profit	20,488	2,704	12,588	35,780

<sup>1</sup> Including kindergarten-age.

<sup>2</sup> Nursery school.

<sup>3</sup> Before- and after-school care (Grades 1 – 6).

Note: The number provided for non-profit centres includes both funded and unfunded non-profit centres.

### Fee subsidies

#### Number of children receiving fee subsidies (March 31, 2023)

Number of children	6,541
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Note: This figure represents the average number of children receiving subsidized child care per four week period.

### Disability support

#### Special needs/disability support (March 31, 2023)

Children in licensed child care receiving special needs/disability support funding	1,242
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Note: This figure represents only those children served under the Inclusion Support Program.

## CHILD CARE ENROLMENT STATISTICS

Manitoba does not currently report on enrolment.

## PARENT FEES

As of April 2023, parent fees for infants and preschool-age children in child care facilities receiving operating grants were set at a maximum fee of \$10/day per child for regular full-time hours.

#### Provincially set fees for centres and family child care homes participating in CWELCC (2021, 2023)

	Monthly full-time fee (2021)	Monthly full-time fee (2023)
<b>Centres</b>		
Infant	\$651	\$217
Toddler	\$451	\$217
Preschool-age	\$451	\$217
<b>Family child care homes</b>		
Infant	\$482	\$217
Toddler	\$395	\$217
Preschool-age	\$395	\$217

Sources: Macdonald, D., & Friendly, M. (2023). *Measuring Matters: Assessing Canada's progress toward \$10-a-day child care for all*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Macdonald, D., & Friendly, M. (2022). *Game Changer: Will provinces and territories meet the new federal child care fee targets? Canadian child care fees 2021*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

## WORKFORCE

Manitoba introduced a [salary guide](#) with minimum starting and target wages for various child care positions in 2022. It was updated for the 2024 – 2025 fiscal year.

## ■ FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (Fiscal year 2022 – 2023)

The funding figures in each category represent provincial spending, which may include both provincial funds and federal funds transferred under bilateral agreements, Canada-wide ELCC agreements, or other federal programs intended for early learning and child care.

Fee subsidies	
<b>Total fee subsidies</b>	<b>\$27,763,588</b>

*Note: These are fee subsidies in licensed, regulated, or approved child care. The subsidies are associated with an individual child and family. There are provincial eligibility criteria. Fee subsidies are sent to service providers, not to parents.*

Operational funding	
Program	Amount
Operating grants for child care centres	\$128,673,911
Family/Group Child Care Home Annual Operating Grant	\$6,233,373
Inclusion Support Program grants	\$17,192,714
Wage adjustment	\$4,599
IRCOM ECD Hub	\$91,300
Lord Selkirk Park Child Care Abecedarian	\$362,000
H & E Payroll Tax Reimbursement	\$580,580
Pension Reimbursement	\$7,313,176
Revenue Supplement to Lower Parent Fees	\$17,475,297
Wage Grid Supplement	\$26,377,279
<b>Total operational funding</b>	<b>\$204,304,229</b>

*Note: Operational funding includes regularly paid public funding that contributes to the ongoing operation of the child care service. It may include: operating grants or formula-based funding, family child care agency operating funds, wage grants/enhancement, special needs funding and other grants/funding that is paid on a recurring basis.*

One-time funding – capital (major and minor)	
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Program	Amount
ELCC start-up grants	\$225,206
ELCC capital grants	\$100,219,248
Renovation Expansion Grant	\$3,414,000

One-time funding – other	
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Program	Amount
Staff replacement grant	\$1,524,897
Child Care Sustainability Trust	\$281,572
Quality Early Learning and Environments Grant	\$33,687,375
Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion Grant	\$18,877,500
Innovative Recruitment and Retention Grant	\$7,244,692
Retirement Enhancement and Retention Benefit	\$106,500
Wage Bridge Benefit	\$810,534
Subsidy Threshold Increase	\$306,933
<b>Total one-time funding</b>	<b>\$166,698,457</b>

*Note: One-time funding is paid occasionally or just once to a child care service and is not part of the regular operating budget. It may include: major capital, minor capital, start up, one time equipment, or repair funding.*

<b>TOTAL SPENDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (fee subsidies, operational funding, and one-time funding)</b>	<b>\$398,766,273</b>
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**Other ELCC funding**

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<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Training grants for child care assistants and ECE IIs	\$410,776
Family resource programs	\$241,125
Science of Early Childhood Development (SECD)	\$174,000
Circle of Security International (COSI)	\$83,737
St. Amant ABA Training	\$300,000
Indigenous Programming Grant	\$53,000
New Directions – workshops for ECD educators	\$65,900
Abecedarian Expansion	\$821,825
Shared Space Per Diem	\$2,461,100
Tuition Reimbursement	\$2,738,243
Business Improvement Grant	\$4,832
Manitoba Access Portal	\$300,000
Francophone Program	\$100,000
Tax-Free Savings Account	\$117,950
Emergency Funding	\$30,400
<b>Total other funding</b>	<b>\$7,902,888</b>

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**Federal transfers to Manitoba**

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<i>Federal transfer</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework – Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreements	\$20,040,000
Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care	\$195,934,000

*Note: The federal transfers above represent the funds allocated to Manitoba for fiscal year 2022 – 2023. These funds may be slightly different from those included in the original agreements as they are updated in line with population estimates on an annual basis. They do not represent funds carried over from the previous fiscal year or carried into the next fiscal year.*

Source: Early Learning and Child Care Secretariat, Employment and Social Development Canada (2024).

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