



Interim Space Statistics 2024

Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada

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Interim space statistics 2024: Early childhood education and care in Canada

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■ LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Childcare Resource and Research Unit (CRRU) team lives and works across Turtle Island, on the land now known as Canada. The CRRU is located in downtown Toronto, the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. This territory is covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, a treaty between the Anishinaabeg, the Haudenosaunee, and allied nations, which outlines a commitment to peacefully share and care for the land and resources around the Great Lakes.

A universally accessible, publicly funded, and inclusive early learning and child care system across Canada must be shaped in partnership with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, ensuring it is responsive to the needs, values, and priorities of Indigenous children, families, and communities. As a Canada-wide policy research organization, CRRU is committed to working proactively with Indigenous partners to address systemic barriers and improve access to early childhood education and care services rooted in their knowledge, cultures, and ways of living.

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■ ABOUT THE CHILDCARE RESOURCE AND RESEARCH UNIT

The Childcare Resource and Research Unit (CRRU) is an independent, non-partisan policy research institute that conducts, curates, and disseminates research on early childhood education and care and on related social and family policy issues. CRRU's mandate is to work toward a universal, high-quality, publicly funded, and inclusive early childhood education and care system. The CRRU team uses the best available evidence about policy and practice, drawn from multidisciplinary research and policy analysis, to inform public policy, advocacy, and early learning and child care system building across Canada. We collaborate with researchers, non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups, the early childhood education community, and government policy makers across multiple levels of government. All CRRU publications may be downloaded at no cost from the [CRRU website](#).

■ ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada series

The Childcare Resource and Research Unit has been publishing *Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada* about every two years since 1992. These reports have served as Canada's sole source of consistent, reliably collected, cross-jurisdictional, and longitudinal data and policy information about regulated child care, kindergarten, and parental leave. The publications provide relevant demographic information, profiles of early childhood education and care services and policies in each province and territory, and information on kindergarten and child care including funding, regulations, the workforce, governance, and spaces by age, type, and auspice. Summary tables present longitudinal and cross-Canada data, providing a retrospective view of trends from 1992 to the present. [The Backgrounder](#) provides further details.

This interim report

This interim report provides timely space statistics in response to Canada's rapidly evolving child care landscape. It includes data about spaces in regulated child care for 2024, during the period in which the [Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care plan](#) (known as CWELCC or \$10 a day child care) had begun to make a significant impact.

Introduced in the 2021 federal budget, \$10 a day child care is being implemented through a series of bilateral agreements between the federal government and each province and territory, executed between July 2021 and March 2022. The baseline year for agreed-upon targets is 2019, however Ontario's baseline year is 2020 because its agreement was not completed until March 2022. This report uses the 2019 baseline year for all jurisdictions for consistency. The new data collected for this report represent the snapshot date March 31, 2024, and the Canada-wide tables, figures, and calculations use data for 2019, 2021, 2023, and 2024.



The next regular version of *ECEC in Canada* will be published in the fall of 2025. It will include 2025 data, a full longitudinal perspective, and policy and program details including staff:child ratios, staff qualifications and certifications, descriptions of funding programs and related criteria, the introduction of new programs or funding, and recent developments such as policy, program, and regulatory changes.

■ DATA SOURCES

Provincial and territorial officials provided the provincial and territorial data in this report. Two Statistics Canada sources were also used:

Number of children 0 – 12 years

Special tabulation based on the Labour Force Survey, 2024 annual average. Conducted by Statistics Canada.

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child

Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2024 annual), Table 14-10-0396-01.



The state of Canadian early childhood education and care in 2024

The period between 2019 and 2024 was unusual in Canadian child care as it included both a child care crisis induced by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the initial phase of Canada's first early learning and child care program. In response to the pandemic, most of Canada's non-emergency child care was temporarily closed as public health authorities closed schools, many businesses, public services, and public spaces. The closures created a crisis for child care service providers who could no longer rely on parent fees to cover costs. This crisis was closely followed by the introduction of \$10 a day child care in April 2021.

■ CONTRACTION OF SPACES (2019 – 2021)

As a result of the pandemic's complex events and circumstances, Canada's child care provision not only failed to expand as it had year after year, but at the height of the pandemic, [spaces decreased](#) somewhat for the first time since the Childcare Resource and Research Unit (CRRU) began collecting Canada-wide data in 1992. To put this in perspective, there were 477 fewer centres and 3,673 fewer active family child care homes for 0 – 12 year olds in 2021 than in 2019. Breaking the data down by service types, age categories, and provinces/territories shows that 14,706 spaces in before- and after-school care (BASC) and 33,130 spaces in family child care were lost, but 30,721 spaces in full- and part-day centres for 0 – 5 year olds were gained; altogether 16,914 spaces were lost. Two jurisdictions (Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories) lost spaces for preschool-age children, and four (Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Alberta) lost BASC spaces. Family child care provision had been shrinking since at least 2012, but its drop in the peak pandemic period was considerably more precipitous.

The pandemic continued to affect child care provision even after services reopened in the summer of 2020. [Enrolment](#) remained low, as many parents did not return to their workplaces. Many child care centres reported not being able [to hire qualified staff](#) – a factor that continues to be a challenge.

In its April 2021 budget, [the federal government announced](#) its intention to help finance and develop a universal Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care system (CWELCC or \$10 a day child care). It pledged almost \$30 billion through 2026, committing to affordable parental fees and expanding the supply of licensed child care to eventually serve all children aged 0 – 5

years. Provinces and territories began implementing the \$10 a day plan between July 2021 and March 2022, as each bilateral agreement was completed.

In the first phase of implementation, [parent fees were reduced](#) by an average of approximately 50%, making child care much more affordable for parents who had historically been unable to access regulated child care because of prohibitively high fees. As a result, many more parents started seeking out licensed child care. Demand for affordable licensed child care quickly outpaced availability, even though licensed [child care spaces began to increase again](#) by 2023 after the modest slump in 2021. In 2023, there were 969 more centres, 2,381 more family child care homes, and 50,843 additional licensed centre spaces for 0 – 5 year olds than in 2021. Overall, 138,593 more licensed spaces for 0 – 12 year olds were available in 2023 than in 2021.

■ CONTINUED EXPANSION (2023 – 2024)

By 2024, parent fees had dropped dramatically in all provinces and territories, with parents in six provinces and territories paying fees set at \$10 a day or less. Other elements of [the \\$10 a day plan](#) – such as set fees, wage grids and other workforce measures, additional training schemes, and capital funding – [were developing](#) across jurisdictions. Expansion of all types of child care continued to increase in 2024.

The March 2024 space statistics collected for this interim report show an overall increase in licensed child care spaces since 2019. Data have been adjusted in several instances to account for changes in the way spaces are tracked in several provinces and territories. Notes in the comparative tables provide further information.

Expansion

Full- and part-day centre spaces for 0 – 5 year olds increased from 596,612 spaces in 2019 (CWELCC’s baseline year) to 709,684 spaces in 2024, an increase of 113,072 spaces since 2019. Part-day centre spaces (nursery school/preschool) account for a relatively small number of spaces in most provinces and territories.

Family child care spaces totaled 135,008 in 2024. This total is 6,696 spaces below the 2019 baseline of 141,704, but it is considerably higher than the low of 108,574 in 2021 following the pandemic closures. Age breakdowns to ascertain the number of children under age six in family child care are not consistently available.

In 2024, 736,949 BASC spaces were available, compared to 651,886 in 2019 – an increase of 85,063. Age breakdowns to ascertain the number of children under age six attending before- and after-school child care are not consistently available. The 2024 figure includes approximately 1,700 spaces in Newfoundland and Labrador that are the result of a change to the province’s counting process in 2021 which reallocated preschool-age spaces to before- and after-school spaces.

Overall, all types of licensed spaces for children 0 – 12 years increased by 191,771 spaces between 2019 and 2024 (from 1,390,202 in 2019 to 1,581,973 in 2024).

Coverage

When the CRRU began collecting child care data in 1992, the Canada-wide coverage rate (the percent of children for whom there is a regulated space) was 12% for 0 – 5 year olds (in full- and part-day child care centres) and 8% for 0 – 12 year olds (in full- and part-day centres, BASC, and family child care).

From 2019 to 2024, with the implementation of CWELCC, coverage for 0 – 5 year olds in full- or part-day centres increased from 27% to 32%; the coverage rate in 2024 was 32%, ranging by province/territory from 21% to 69%. The Canada-wide coverage rate for all varieties of licensed child care for 0 – 12 year olds in 2024 was 30%, ranging by province/territory from 12% to 49%.

Auspice

The percent of full-day centre-based child care spaces for 0 – 5 year olds provided by for-profit operators in 2024 remained the same Canada-wide; 52% of full-day spaces were for-profit in 2021, 2023, and again in 2024.

In four jurisdictions, the percent of full-day centre-based child care that was for-profit decreased from 2023 to 2024. It increased in two jurisdictions and remained the same in six (at 0% in two cases). In one province, a data breakdown by auspice was not available. However, all these changes were negligible, with Newfoundland and Labrador's 4% decrease in the for-profit share being the largest.

2025 and beyond

Throughout 2024 and into 2025, as Canada headed toward a federal election, child care regularly appeared on the public agenda. Following the election of Donald Trump in the United States in November 2024 and the deterioration of the relationship between Canada and the United States, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced on January 6 that he would step down as prime minister. Mr. Trudeau offered all provinces and territories the opportunity to extend their existing child care agreements through 2031, with a 3% annual escalator on current annual funding after 2026. In early March, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that ten jurisdictions had accepted the offer, Ontario had agreed in principle, and Alberta and Saskatchewan had not yet renewed.

After a very short leadership race, Mark Carney was elected leader of the federal Liberal Party. He became prime minister on March 14, 2025, quickly called a federal election, and formed a minority government on April 28, 2025. In the [Liberals' election platform](#), they promised to



protect, continue, and strengthen the \$10 a day program. The platform noted that, “in just a few short years, this program has become a core part of Canada’s social infrastructure.”

The Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care plan is now moving into a second phase, which will focus on expansion of services, as well as critical child care workforce issues, funding, and governance issues. The period from 2025 to 2026 will be critical for making this transition.

Newfoundland and Labrador

OVERVIEW

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the Department of Education is responsible for regulated child care centres, family child care, prekindergarten, and kindergarten.

Centre-based child care is provided by for-profit and non-profit operators.

Family child care is agency-based; there is one province-wide non-profit family child care agency.

Prekindergarten is delivered in selected schools as licensed child care for four-year-olds. Launched as a pilot project in 2022, prekindergarten is a non-profit, year-round, full-day, fee-based program being phased in across the province. Newfoundland and Labrador offers full school-day kindergarten for all five-year-olds as part of the K – 12 education system. It is not compulsory.

In March 2025, Newfoundland and Labrador’s Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the federal government was extended until 2031.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures.

Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (2024 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	3,200
1	3,500
2	3,400
3	4,000
4	3,500
5	3,500
6	4,600
7	5,200
8	4,900
9	5,100
10	5,200
11	4,700
12	5,200
Total	56,000

Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2024 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0 – 2	10,100
3 – 5	11,000
6 – 12	34,900
Total	56,000

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0 – 3	9,400	83.9
4 – 5	3,800	90.5
6 – 12	13,200	85.7
Total	15,100	87.8

REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 31, 2024)

Number of spaces

Full-day centre spaces

Infant (0 – 24 months)	135
Toddler (18 – 36 months)	1,403
Preschool-age (2 years and 9 months – 5 years and 9 months, not yet in kindergarten or school)	3,771
Prekindergarten (3 years and 8 months – 5 years and 9 months)	477

Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 5,786

Part-day centre spaces

Preschool-age (2 years and 9 months – 5 years and 9 months, not yet in kindergarten or school)	113
--	-----

Total centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 5,899

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

Kindergarten-age and Grades 1 – 6	2,681
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Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years) 8,580

Family child care licensed capacity

Total family child care spaces 792

TOTAL REGULATED SPACES (centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity) 9,372

Auspice

Centre spaces by auspice

Auspice	Full-day	Part-day ¹	BASC ²	Total
For-profit	3,836	70	1,604	5,510
Non-profit and public	1,950	43	1,077	3,070

¹ Nursery/preschool.

² Before- and after-school care (children 5 – 12 years).

Prince Edward Island

OVERVIEW

In Prince Edward Island, the Department of Education and Early Years is responsible for regulated child care centres, family child care, prekindergarten, kindergarten, and before- and after-school child care. Licensed centres include designated Early Years Centres, non-designated early childhood centres, preschool centres, and school-age centres.

Centre-based child care is primarily provided by for-profit and non-profit operators, with a small number of centres operated by public entities. All designated Early Years Centres are part of the publicly managed system and must meet an additional set of criteria pertaining to quality, inclusion, staff compensation, and curriculum, among others.

There are a small number of individually licensed family child care homes (termed family home centres).

Child care centres offer non-compulsory part-day prekindergarten for all four-year-olds as licensed child care. There are no parent fees. Full school-day kindergarten is part of the K – 12 education system; it is compulsory for all five-year-olds but may be delayed by one year.

In March 2025, Prince Edward Island’s Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the federal government was extended until 2031.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (2024 rounded estimate)		Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2024 rounded estimate)		
Age	Number of children	Age	Number of children	
0	1,200	0 – 2	4,600	
1	1,500	3 – 5	4,600	
2	1,900	6 – 12	12,100	
3	1,500	Total	21,300	
4	1,700	Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)		
5	1,400	<i>Age of youngest child</i>	<i>Number of mothers</i>	<i>Participation rate (%)</i>
6	1,600	0 – 3	3,800	84.4
7	1,600	4 – 5	1,300	86.7
8	1,800	0 – 5	5,200	86.7
9	1,700	6 – 12	4,600	88.5
10	1,800			
11	1,700			
12	1,900			
Total	21,300			

REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 31, 2024)

Number of spaces

Full-day centre spaces

Designated Early Years Centres

Infant (0 – <22 months) 558

Toddler (22 months – <3 years) and preschool-age (3 – 5 years) 3,267

Non-designated centres

Infant (0 – <22 months) 15

Toddler (22 months – <3 years) and preschool-age (3 – 5 years) 226

Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 4,066

Part-day centre spaces

Toddler (22 months – <3 years) and preschool-age (3 – 5 years) 192

Note: In ECEC in Canada 2023, Prince Edward Island reported 152 part-day centre spaces. However, each half-day space was counted as 0.5 spaces. The actual number of part-day spaces was 304 in 2023, and 192 in 2024.

Total centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 4,258

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

Kindergarten-age and Grades 1 – 6 2,640

Note: Before- and after-school spaces include 174 school-age spaces in early childhood centres.

Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years) 6,898

Family child care licensed capacity

Total family child care spaces 134

TOTAL REGULATED SPACES (centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity) 7,032

Auspice

Centre spaces by auspice

Auspice	Full-day	Part-day ¹	BASC ²	Total
For-profit	2,730	112	1,589	4,431
Non-profit	1,239	80	916	2,235
Public	97	0	135	232

Note: For-profit spaces include those in designated Early Years Centres (EYCs) and non-designated early childhood centres. For-profit spaces in EYCs include 2,610 full-day spaces and 93 BASC spaces. For-profit spaces in non-designated early childhood centres include 120 full-day spaces, 112 part-day spaces, and 1,496 BASC spaces.

¹ Nursery/preschool.

² Before- and after-school care (children 5 – 12 years).



Nova Scotia

OVERVIEW

In Nova Scotia, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is responsible for licensed child care centres, family child care (termed family home child care), kindergarten for five-year-olds (termed Grade Primary), kindergarten for four-year-olds (termed Pre-primary), and licensed before- and after-school child care.

In April 2025, administration of the Nova Scotia Before and After Program (NS-BAP) moved from the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. NS-BAPs may serve children up to age 12 but prioritize kindergarten-age children. NS-BAPs are not required to be licensed.

Non-profit and for-profit operators provide all licensed centre-based care. Nova Scotia does not have publicly operated licensed child care.

Family child care is delivered through an agency model that includes both non-profit and for-profit agencies.

Nova Scotia provides full school-day kindergarten for all five-year-olds and all four-year-olds. Kindergarten is voluntary for four-year-olds and compulsory for five-year-olds, but it may be delayed by one year.

In March 2025, Nova Scotia's Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the federal government was extended until 2031.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

**Number of children 0 – 12 years
(2024 rounded estimate)**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0	7,300
1	8,200
2	8,500
3	9,200
4	7,000
5	8,400
6	9,100
7	11,100
8	10,800
9	9,800
10	11,200
11	10,800
12	10,400
Total	121,800

**Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated)
(2024 rounded estimate)**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0 – 2	24,000
3 – 5	24,600
6 – 12	73,200
Total	121,800

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age of youngest child</i>	<i>Number of mothers</i>	<i>Participation rate (%)</i>
0 – 3	19,000	77.6
4 – 5	7,200	84.7
0 – 5	26,200	79.4
6 – 12	29,300	86.9

**REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS
(MARCH 31, 2024)**

Number of spaces

Centre spaces

Total centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years)	13,608
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Note: Nova Scotia did not report on licensed spaces for children 0 – 5 by age group or by full-day and part-day spaces. As a result, further breakdowns are not available.

Before- and after-school care centre spaces

Kindergarten-age and Grades 1 – 6	4,445
Nova Scotia Before and After Program (NS-BAP)	2,952

Note: NS-BAPs are regulated but not licensed. They may serve children up to age 12; however, priority is given to kindergarten-age children.

Total before- and after-school care centre spaces	7,397
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Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years)	21,005
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Family child care licensed capacity

Total family child care spaces	1,728
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TOTAL REGULATED SPACES (centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity)	22,773
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Auspice

Centre spaces by auspice

<i>Auspice</i>	<i>Total</i>
For-profit	9,715
Non-profit	11,290

Note: Totals include full-day, part-day, before- and after-school care, and NS-BAP spaces.



New Brunswick

OVERVIEW

In New Brunswick, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is responsible for regulated child care centres, family child care, kindergarten, and before- and after-school child care. Licensed child care includes designated Early Learning and Childcare Centres, designated Early Learning and Childcare Homes, and undesignated child care centres and family child care homes. Most eligible programs are “designated.”

Centre-based child care is primarily delivered by for-profit and non-profit operators, with a small number of publicly operated centres.

Family child care (termed Early Learning and Childcare Homes) is individually licensed. Family child care spaces in New Brunswick are called licensed spaces.

New Brunswick is officially a bilingual province with parallel English and French public education sectors. Attendance in full school-day kindergarten is compulsory for five-year-olds. There is no kindergarten for four-year-olds.

In March 2025, New Brunswick’s Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the federal government was extended until 2031.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

**Number of children 0 – 12 years
(2024 rounded estimate)**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0	5,700
1	5,900
2	6,800
3	6,900
4	8,200
5	8,500
6	8,200
7	7,500
8	7,600
9	9,200
10	8,500
11	9,500
12	9,000
Total	101,400

**Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated)
(2024 rounded estimate)**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0 – 2	18,400
3 – 5	23,600
6 – 12	59,500
Total	101,400

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0 – 3	14,600	81.1
4 – 5	7,700	81.1
0 – 5	22,300	81.1
6 – 12	23,700	87.5

REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 31, 2024)

Number of spaces

Full-day centre spaces

	Anglophone	Francophone	Total
Infant (0 – <2 years)	1,484	845	2,329
Preschool-age (2 – <5 years, not yet in kindergarten or school)	8,981	4,803	13,784

Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years)

	10,465	5,648	16,113
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Part-day centre spaces

	Anglophone	Francophone	Total
Infant (0 – <2 years)	6	0	6
Preschool-age (2 – <5 years, not yet in kindergarten or school)	537	104	641

Total part-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years)

	543	104	647
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Total centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years)

	11,008	5,752	16,760
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Total anglophone and francophone centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years)

16,760

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

	Anglophone	Francophone	Total
Kindergarten-age and Grades 1 – 6	10,375	6,718	17,093

Total anglophone and francophone centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years)

33,853

Family child care licensed capacity

	Anglophone	Francophone	Total
Full-day (children not yet in kindergarten or school)	327	226	553
Part-day (children attending kindergarten or school)	176	98	274

Total family child care spaces

503 324 827

TOTAL REGULATED SPACES

(centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity) 34,680

Auspice

Centre spaces by auspice

Auspice	Full-day	Part-day ¹	BASC ²	Total
For-profit	11,414	255	10,761	22,430
Non-profit	4,469	392	6,228	11,089
Public	230	0	104	334

¹ Nursery/preschool.

² Before- and after-school care (children 5 – 12 years).

Quebec

OVERVIEW

In Quebec, the Ministère de la Famille is responsible for regulated child care centres for children not yet in school and family child care. This includes Centres de la petite enfance (CPEs), subsidized and unsubsidized garderies (day cares in English), and subsidized and unsubsidized educational home child care. The Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) is responsible for before- and after-school child care, which is delivered by school authorities. Part-day centres (preschools) that opened before 2005 are not required to be licensed.

CPEs receive government funding for infrastructure and operational costs; they function as non-profit organizations. Garderies are almost always for-profit; some are operationally funded and some are not.

Licensed (termed recognized) family child care operates under an agency model. Agencies are called bureau coordonnateurs de la garde éducative en milieu familial (home child care coordinating offices in English). Licensed homes with one provider assisted by another person can accommodate a larger number of children.

The MEQ is responsible for kindergarten (termed maternelle). Full school-day kindergarten is offered for all five-year-olds and many four-year-olds, but it is not compulsory.

In March 2025, Quebec's asymmetrical Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the federal government was extended until 2031.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0	66,800
1	83,400
2	79,500
3	94,300
4	83,100
5	91,700
6	88,400
7	98,900
8	97,700
9	100,800
10	98,000
11	98,800
12	89,800
Total	1,171,200

**Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated)
(2024 rounded estimate)**

Age	Number of children
0 – 2	229,700
3 – 5	269,100
6 – 12	672,400
Total	1,171,200

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0 – 3	212,600	84.2
4 – 5	86,000	87.4
0 – 5	298,600	85.1
6 – 12	262,800	90.3

**REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS
(MARCH 31, 2024)**

Number of spaces

Centre spaces

Centres de la petite enfance (CPEs)	107,078
Publicly funded garderies	64,632
Unfunded garderies	59,931

Note: CPEs are non-profit child care centres. Both publicly funded and unfunded garderies are primarily for-profit.

Total centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 231,641

Centre spaces by age

	CPEs	Publicly funded garderies	Unfunded garderies	Total
<18 months	15,218	9,359	9,787	34,364
18 months – 5 years (not yet in kindergarten or school)	91,860	55,273	50,144	197,277

Note: CPEs are non-profit child care centres. Both publicly funded and unfunded garderies are primarily for-profit.

Before- and after-school care centre enrolment

Kindergarten-age	61,911
Grades 1 – 6	209,744

Total before- and after-school care centre enrolment 271,655

Note: Before- and after-school programs in Quebec are regulated but not licensed for a particular number of children. These numbers reflect the number of children enrolled in before- and after-school programs in public schools only, and were collected in January 2025 for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years) 503,296

Family child care licensed capacity

Total family child care spaces 71,781

**TOTAL REGULATED SPACES
(centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity) 575,077**

Auspice

Centre spaces by auspice

Auspice	Full-day	Part-day	BASC ¹	Total
For-profit	124,563	Not available		124,563
Non-profit and public	107,078	Not available		107,078
School authority	Not applicable	Not applicable	271,655	271,655

¹ Before- and after-school care (children 4 – 12 years).

Ontario

OVERVIEW

In Ontario, the Ministry of Education is responsible for regulated child care centres, nursery schools, family child care, kindergarten, licensed before- and after-school child care, and unlicensed Extended Day and Authorized Recreation and Skill Building before- and after-school programs.

Ontario is the sole jurisdiction with a mandated role for municipal level government entities. Ontario's 47 Service System Managers have administrative responsibility for child care provision within provincial policy; they administer public funding, play a planning role, develop local initiatives, and manage expansion.

Child care may be delivered by non-profit, for-profit, and public operators. Public operators include Indigenous governing bodies, school authorities, and municipalities.

Family child care (termed home child care) is agency-based. The majority of agencies are non-profit.

Ontario offers full school-day kindergarten for all four- and five-year-olds (termed junior and senior kindergarten). Attendance is not compulsory in either year.

In March 2025, Ontario and the federal government came to an agreement in principle to extend Ontario's Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement until 2031. Discussions to finalize the agreement are ongoing.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0	132,200
1	131,700
2	144,100
3	131,500
4	149,900
5	152,400
6	159,500
7	157,800
8	167,000
9	162,800
10	172,800
11	176,900
12	165,000
Total	2,003,600

**Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated)
(2024 rounded estimate)**

Age	Number of children
0 – 2	408,000
3 – 5	433,800
6 – 12	1,161,800
Total	2,003,600

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0 – 3	330,300	78.5
4 – 5	130,500	78.8
0 – 5	460,700	78.5
6 – 12	432,900	82.3

**REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS
(MARCH 31, 2024)**

Number of spaces

Full-day centre spaces

Infant (<18 months)	16,142
Toddler (18 – <30 months)	56,314
Preschool-age (30 months – <6 years)	127,860

Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 200,316

Note: Full-day spaces include a relatively small number of part-day nursery school/preschool spaces.

Part-day centre spaces

Nursery school/preschool	Not applicable
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Other centre spaces

Family-age (multi-age grouping 0 – 12 years)	1,012
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Before- and after-school care centre spaces (licensed, regulated, approved, or authorized)

Kindergarten-age (44 months – <7 years)	125,118
Grades 1 – 6	190,009

Total before- and after-school care centre spaces 315,127

Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years) 516,455

Family child care enrolment

Full-day (children not yet in kindergarten or school)	18,960
Part-day (children attending kindergarten or school)	2,406

Total family child care enrolment 21,366

Note: Data for family child care is as of December 31, 2023.

**TOTAL REGULATED SPACES
(centre spaces and family child care enrolment) 537,821**

Auspice

Centre spaces by auspice

Auspice	Full-day ¹	BASC ²	Total
For-profit	88,122	23,430	111,552
Non-profit	103,889	261,291	365,180
Public	9,317	30,406	39,723

¹ Includes a relatively small number of part-day nursery school/preschool spaces.

² Before- and after-school care (children 4 – 12 years).

Manitoba

OVERVIEW

In Manitoba, the Ministry of Education and Early Childhood Learning is responsible for regulated child care centres, nursery schools, family child care, group family child care, kindergarten, and before- and after-school child care.

Child care centres are non-profit and for-profit, with non-profits making up most child care provision.

Family child care and group family child care (more than one provider) are individually licensed.

Manitoba offers non-compulsory part-day kindergarten for all five-year-olds. The provincial government does not provide kindergarten for four-year-olds. Some Manitoba school divisions operate full school-day kindergarten and part-day programs for four-year-olds (termed nursery programs), but these programs are not provincially funded.

In March 2025, Manitoba's Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the federal government was extended until 2031.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (2024 rounded estimate)	
Age	Number of children
0	13,900
1	14,900
2	15,400
3	14,500
4	17,400
5	15,500
6	18,900
7	17,400
8	17,100
9	17,600
10	16,000
11	16,100
12	15,800
Total	210,500

Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2024 rounded estimate)		
Age	Number of children	
0 – 2	44,200	
3 – 5	47,400	
6 – 12	118,900	
Total	210,500	

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0 – 3	32,300	76.0
4 – 5	14,000	81.4
0 – 5	46,300	77.6
6 – 12	41,900	85.5

REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 31, 2024)

Number of spaces

Full-day centre spaces

Infant (<2 years)	3,452
Preschool-age (2 – 5 years)	19,413

Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 22,865

Part-day centre spaces

Nursery schools (2 – 5 years)	2,734
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Total centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 25,599

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

Grade 1 – <13 years	13,221
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Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years) 38,820

Family child care licensed capacity

Family child care

Full-day (children 0 – <6 years not yet in school)	1,723
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Part-day (children 6 – <13 years attending school)	933
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Group child care (more than one provider)

Full-day (children 0 – <6 years not yet in school)	380
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Part-day (children 6 – <13 years attending school)	14
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Total family child care spaces 3,050

TOTAL REGULATED SPACES

(centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity) **41,870**

Auspice

Centre spaces by auspice

Auspice	Full-day ¹	Part-day ²	BASC ³	Total
For-profit	1,657	136	230	2,023
Non-profit and public	21,208	2,598	12,991	36,797

¹ Includes kindergarten-age.

² Nursery school.

³ Before- and after-school care (Grades 1 – 6).

Saskatchewan

OVERVIEW

In Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Education is responsible for regulated full-day child care centres, family child care, group family child care, prekindergarten, kindergarten, and before- and after-school child care. Part-day preschools and stand-alone school-age programs in schools are not required to be licensed.

Most Saskatchewan child care is provided by non-profit operators, with a small number of publicly operated and for-profit programs.

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

Part-day prekindergarten is offered as a targeted program for three- and four-year-olds in vulnerable communities. Part-day kindergarten for five-year-olds is provided in most schools. Some schools offer full school-day kindergarten, but it is not provincially funded beyond the half day. Attendance is not compulsory for prekindergarten or kindergarten.

Saskatchewan has not yet extended its Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the federal government after the current agreement's end in 2026.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (2024 rounded estimate)		Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2024 rounded estimate)	
Age	Number of children	Age	Number of children
0	11,000	0 – 2	35,500
1	10,900	3 – 5	40,500
2	13,600	6 – 12	107,400
3	12,800	Total	183,500
4	13,100	Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)	
5	14,600	<i>Age of youngest child</i>	<i>Number of mothers</i>
6	14,000		<i>Participation rate (%)</i>
7	16,100	0 – 3	26,700
8	15,700	4 – 5	11,500
9	15,100	0 – 5	38,200
10	15,500	6 – 12	39,000
11	15,800		
12	15,200		
Total	183,500		

REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 31, 2024)

Number of spaces

Full-day centre spaces

Infant (6 weeks – <18 months)	1,629
Toddler (18 – <30 months)	4,499
Preschool-age (30 months – 5 years, not yet in Grade 1)	10,053

Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 16,181

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

Kindergarten-age and Grades 1 – 6	1,645
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Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years) 17,826

Family child care licensed capacity

Family child care	912
Group family child care (more than one provider)	3,996

Total family child care spaces 4,908

**TOTAL REGULATED SPACES
(centre spaces and family child care
licensed capacity) 22,734**

Auspice

Centre spaces by auspice

<i>Auspice</i>	<i>Full-day</i>	<i>BASC¹</i>	<i>Total</i>
For-profit	711	26	737
Non-profit and public	15,470	1,619	17,089

¹ Before- and after-school care (Grades 1 – 6).

Alberta

OVERVIEW

In May 2025, Alberta's Ministry of Education became the Ministry of Education and Childcare. Prior to this change, child care was the responsibility of the Ministry of Jobs, Economy, and Trade. The Ministry of Education and Childcare is now responsible for licensed child care centres, preschools, family child care (termed family day homes), group family child care, before- and after-school child care (termed out of school care), kindergarten, and other Early Childhood Services (ECS) programs, including prekindergarten.

Centre-based (facility-based) child care is provided by for-profit and non-profit operators, with a small number of publicly operated programs.

Family child care is agency-based. Licensed agencies may be non-profit or for-profit. Group family child care homes (more than one provider) are individually licensed; new group family child care homes are not being developed.

Prekindergarten is targeted to children who require additional or specialized support prior to entering kindergarten. Kindergarten for five-year-olds is part-day and is not compulsory. Some school divisions offer full school-day kindergarten, but it is not provincially funded beyond the half day.

Alberta has not extended its Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the federal government to continue after the current agreement's end in 2026. Negotiations are ongoing.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0	43,400
1	46,700
2	57,000
3	47,600
4	56,200
5	60,000
6	58,600
7	56,300
8	60,200
9	60,500
10	57,100
11	63,200
12	59,500
Total	726,200

**Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated)
(2024 rounded estimate)**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0 – 2	147,100
3 – 5	163,800
6 – 12	415,400
Total	726,200

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age of youngest child</i>	<i>Number of mothers</i>	<i>Participation rate (%)</i>
0 – 3	105,300	71.2
4 – 5	48,500	79.2
0 – 5	153,800	73.6
6 – 12	147,800	83.0

**REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS
(MARCH 31, 2024)**

Number of spaces

Full-day centre spaces

Infant (<12 months)	2,900
Infant (12 – <19 months)	10,000
Toddler (19 months – <3 years)	23,600
Preschool-age (3 – <4 years)	21,200
Preschool-age (4 – 5 years)	27,900

Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 85,600

Part-day centre spaces

Preschool-age (19 months – <3 years)	1,200
Preschool-age (3 – 5 years)	13,700

Total part-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 14,900

Other centre spaces

Innovative child care (no age grouping)	490
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Total centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 100,990

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

Children in kindergarten and Grades 1 – 6	58,700
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Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years) 159,690

Family child care licensed capacity

Family day homes

Full- and part-day (children 0 – 12 years)	17,100
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Group family child care (more than one provider)

Full-day (children not yet in kindergarten or school)	120
Part-day (children attending kindergarten or school)	35

Total approved family child care spaces 17,255

TOTAL REGULATED SPACES

(centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity) 176,945

Auspice

Centre spaces by auspice

<i>Auspice</i>	<i>Full-day</i>	<i>Part-day¹</i>	<i>BASC²</i>	<i>Total</i>
For-profit	62,600	5,400	35,000	103,000
Non-profit and public	23,000	9,500	23,800	56,300

Note: Alberta's 490 innovative child care spaces are not included in this table.

Note: Numbers in this table have been rounded and may not equal the sum of centre spaces by age groups.

¹ Preschool.

² Before- and after-school care (children 5 – 12 years).

British Columbia

OVERVIEW

In British Columbia, the Ministry of Education and Child Care is responsible for regulated child care centres, preschools, family child care, kindergarten, and before- and after-school child care. The Ministry of Health is responsible for child care licensing.

Centre-based child care is provided by for-profit and non-profit operators, with some publicly operated spaces.

Family child care is individually licensed.

British Columbia offers full school-day kindergarten for all five-year-olds. Kindergarten may be deferred by one year, in which case grade placement is determined at the school level. There is no kindergarten for four-year-olds.

In March 2025, British Columbia's Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the federal government was extended until 2031.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years
(2024 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	39,600
1	37,700
2	42,000
3	43,500
4	48,100
5	48,000
6	48,500
7	55,800
8	51,500
9	55,200
10	51,400
11	50,400
12	53,800
Total	625,500

Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated)
(2024 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0 – 2	119,300
3 – 5	139,600
6 – 12	366,600
Total	625,500

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0 – 3	93,200	74.4
4 – 5	41,900	77.6
0 – 5	135,100	75.3
6 – 12	146,700	82.2

REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 31, 2024)

Number of spaces

Full-day centre spaces

Infant/toddler (<36 months)	20,406
Preschool-age (30 months – 5 years, not yet in kindergarten or school)	48,301

Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 68,707

Part-day centre spaces

Preschool-age (30 months – 5 years, not yet in kindergarten or school)	17,325
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Other centre spaces

Multi-age (0 – 12 years)	4,105
Occasional care (18 months – 5 years, not yet in kindergarten or school)	Not available

Total centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 90,137

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

Kindergarten-age	10,946
Grades 1 – 6	34,491

Note: The split between kindergarten and Grades 1 – 6 spaces is estimated based on Child Care Operating Fund enrolment figures.

Total before- and after-school care centre spaces 45,437

Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years) 135,574

Family child care licensed capacity

Full-day (children not yet in kindergarten or school)	11,857
Part-day (children attending kindergarten or school)	770

Total family child care spaces 12,627

Note: In 2024, British Columbia changed the way full- and part-day spaces in family child care are calculated. As such, these figures are not directly comparable to 2023 data.

TOTAL REGULATED SPACES

(centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity) **148,201**

Auspice

Centre spaces by auspice

Auspice	Full-day ¹	Part-day ²	BASC ³	Total
For-profit	48,655	7,361	16,839	72,855
Non-profit and public	24,157	9,964	28,598	62,719

¹ Includes 4,105 multi-age centre spaces.

² Nursery/preschool.

³ Before- and after-school care (children 5 – 12 years).



The Yukon

■ OVERVIEW

In the Yukon, the Department of Education is responsible for regulated full-day child care centres, family child care, kindergarten, and before- and after-school child care. Part-day preschool programs are not required to be licensed.

Centre-based child care is provided by for-profit and non-profit operators, with a small number of publicly operated spaces.

Family child care (termed family day homes) is individually licensed.

The Yukon offers part or full school-day kindergarten for four-year-olds (termed K4) in most rural schools and for all five-year-olds (termed K5). Kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds is not compulsory.

In March 2025, the Yukon's Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the federal government was extended until 2031.

■ TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0 – 2	1,000
3 – 5	1,000
6 – 12	3,600
Total	5,600

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)

Not available

REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 31, 2024)

Number of spaces

Centre spaces

Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years)	2,101
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Family child care licensed capacity

Total family child care spaces	156
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TOTAL REGULATED SPACES (centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity)	2,257
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Note: The Yukon does not license spaces by age group. As a result, further breakdowns for licensed capacity are not available.

Auspice

Centre spaces by auspice

<i>Auspice</i>	<i>Full-day¹</i>	<i>Part-day²</i>	<i>Total</i>
For-profit	1,286	<i>Not applicable</i>	1,286
Non-profit	427	<i>Not applicable</i>	427
Public	388	<i>Not applicable</i>	388

¹ Includes before- and after-school care (children 4 – 12 years).

² The Yukon does not require part-day centres to be licensed.



Northwest Territories

OVERVIEW

In the Northwest Territories, the Department of Education, Culture, and Employment is responsible for regulated child care centres, family child care, kindergarten, and before- and after-school child care.

Centre-based child care is provided by non-profit and public operators, including municipalities, Indigenous governing bodies, and school authorities. There is no for-profit child care.

Family child care (termed family day homes) is individually licensed.

The Northwest Territories offers part or full school-day junior kindergarten for all four-year-olds and full school-day kindergarten for all five-year-olds. Kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds is not compulsory.

In March 2025, the Northwest Territories' Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the federal government was extended until 2031.

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0 – 2	1,200
3 – 5	1,500
6 – 12	4,100
Total	6,900

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)

Not available

REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 31, 2024)

Number of spaces

Full-day centre spaces

Infant (<2 years)	202
Preschool-age (2 – 5 years, not yet in kindergarten or school)	608

Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 810

Part-day centre spaces

Children not yet in kindergarten or school *Not applicable*

Note: All centres for children not yet in school are licensed as full-day; some may offer a part-day program.

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

Kindergarten-age and Grades 1 – 6	798
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Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years) 1,608

Family child care licensed capacity

Full-day (children not yet in kindergarten or school)	246
Part-day (children attending kindergarten or school)	82

Total family child care spaces 328

TOTAL REGULATED SPACES

(centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity) **1,936**

Auspice

Centre spaces by auspice

Auspice	Full-day ¹	BASC ²	Total
For-profit	0	0	0
Non-profit	372	498	870
Public	438	300	738

¹ Children 0 – 5 years, not yet in kindergarten or school.

² Before- and after-school care (children 4 – 12 years).



Nunavut

OVERVIEW

In Nunavut, the Department of Education is responsible for regulated child care centres, family child care, kindergarten, and before- and after-school child care.

Centre-based child care is provided by non-profit and public operators, including hamlets and school authorities. There is no for-profit child care.

Family child care (termed family home day care) is individually licensed.

Nunavut offers part-day kindergarten for all five-year-olds. The Department of Education has begun phasing in full school-day kindergarten across Nunavut, with full school-day programs in five schools in 2023, followed by seven more schools in the 2024 – 2025 school year. Kindergarten for five-year-olds is not compulsory. There is no kindergarten for four-year-olds.

In March 2025, Nunavut’s Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the federal government was extended until 2031.

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0 – 2	1,800
3 – 5	2,600
6 – 12	5,400
Total	9,800

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2024 rounded estimate)

Not available

REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS (MARCH 31, 2024)

Number of spaces

Full-day centre spaces

Infant (<2 years)	223
Preschool-age (2 – 5 years, including kindergarten-age children)	658

Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 881

Part-day centre spaces

Preschool-age (2 – 5 years, including kindergarten-age children)	216
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Total centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years) 1,097

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

Grades 1 – 6	162
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Note: As of March 31, 2024, only five schools in Nunavut offered full school-day kindergarten. As a result, many kindergarten-age children accessed full-day child care.

Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years) 1,259

Family child care licensed capacity

Full-day infant (<2 years)	14
Full-day preschool-age (2 – 5 years, including kindergarten-age children)	28
Part-day (children attending full-day school)	14

Total family child care spaces 56

TOTAL REGULATED SPACES

(centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity) 1,315

Auspice

Centre spaces by auspice

Auspice	Full-day	Part-day ¹	BASC ²	Total
For-profit	0	0	0	0
Non-profit	786	70	122	978
Public	95	146	40	281

¹ Nursery school.

² Before- and after-school care (children 5 – 12 years).



Comparative tables

The big picture

TABLE 1 Percent and number of full-day, part-day, and before- and after-school care (BASC) child care centre spaces for children 0 – 12 years that were for-profit, non-profit, and public. Provinces/territories/Canada (2024). [39](#)

The long view

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TABLE 3 Total number of regulated child care spaces in child care centres, before- and after-school care (BASC) centres, and family child care for children 0 – 12 years. Provinces/territories/Canada (2019 – 2024). [41](#)

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TABLE 5 Total number of regulated child care spaces and percent of children 0 – 12 years for whom a regulated space was available. Provinces/territories/Canada (2019 – 2024). [43](#)

TABLE 6 Percent of regulated full-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years that are for-profit. Provinces/territories/Canada (2021 – 2024). [44](#)

TABLE 1

Percent and number of full-day, part-day, and before- and after-school care (BASC) child care centre spaces for children 0 – 12 years that were for-profit, non-profit, and public. Provinces/territories/Canada (2024).

P/T	Full-day (0 – 5 years)					Part-day and BASC (0 – 12 years)				
	Number of for-profit centre spaces	Number of non-profit and public centre spaces	Percent of centre spaces that were for-profit	Percent of centre spaces that were non-profit and public	Total number of full-day centre spaces	Number of for-profit centre spaces	Number of non-profit and public centre spaces	Percent of centre spaces that were for-profit	Percent of centre spaces that were non-profit and public	Total number of part-day and BASC centre spaces
NL	3,836	1,950	66	34	5,786	1,674	1,120	60	40	2,794
PE	2,730	1,336	67	33	4,066	1,701	1,131	60	40	2,832
NS ¹	7,153	5,620	56	44	12,773	2,428	3,656	40	60	6,084 ²
NB	11,414	4,699	71	29	16,113	11,016	6,724	62	38	17,740
QC	124,563	107,078	54	46	231,641	0	271,655	0	100	271,655 ²
ON ^{3,4}	88,122	113,206	44	56	201,328	23,430	291,697	7	93	315,127 ²
MB	1,657	21,208	7	93	22,865	366	15,589	2	98	15,955
SK	711	15,470	4	96	16,181	26	1,619	2	98	1,645 ²
AB	62,600	23,000	73	27	85,600	40,400	33,300	55	45	73,700
BC ⁴	48,655	24,157	67	33	72,812	24,200	38,562	39	61	62,762
YT ⁵	1,286	815	61	39	2,101	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>
NT ⁶	0	810	0	100	810	0	798	0	100	798 ²
NU	0	881	0	100	881	0	378	0	100	378
CA ⁷	352,727	320,230	52	48	672,957	105,241	666,229	14	86	771,470

Note: In this table, part-day centre spaces include licensed nursery schools/preschools and before- and after-school child care. Full-day centre spaces are for children 0 – 5 years not yet attending kindergarten or school.

¹ Nova Scotia's auspice data for 2024 were not available; 2023 figures are used here instead. Full-day spaces include part-day nursery school spaces.

² In Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories, BASC spaces account for 100% of the reported part-day spaces. Quebec's BASC data were collected in January 2025.

³ Ontario's full-day figures include a small number of part-day preschool spaces.

⁴ In British Columbia and Ontario, full-day spaces include multi-age group spaces not broken down by age.

⁵ The Yukon's full-day spaces include BASC spaces (children 4 – 12 years). The Yukon does not license part-day centres for children 0 – 5 years (preschools).

⁶ The Northwest Territories license all centres for children not yet in school as full-day; some may offer part-day programs.

⁷ The Canada-wide totals row reflects the proportion and percentage of total spaces across Canada that were for-profit and non-profit/public.

TABLE 2

Number of regulated full- and part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years. Provinces/territories/Canada (2019 – 2024).

P/T	2019	2021			2023			2024		
	Total full- and part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years	Full-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years	Part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years	Total full- and part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years	Full-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years	Part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years	Total full- and part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years	Full-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years	Part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years	Total full- and part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years
NL	6,382	4,627	75	4,702 ¹	5,321	51	5,372	5,786	113	5,899
PE	3,645	3,719	206	3,925	3,851	304 ²	4,155	4,066	192 ²	4,258
NS	12,951	11,084	875	11,959	12,773	Not available ³	12,773	13,608	Not available ³	13,608
NB	14,024	14,341	881	15,222	15,660	716	16,376	16,113	647	16,760
QC	213,119	214,168	Not available ³	214,168	225,251	Not available ³	225,251	231,641	Not available ³	231,641
ON ⁴	172,951	180,758	Not available ³	180,758	194,352	Not available ³	194,352	201,328	Not available ³	201,328
MB	22,495	20,721	2,228	22,949	22,071	2,851	24,922	22,865	2,734	25,599
SK	12,970	13,735	Not applicable ⁵	13,735	15,206	Not applicable ⁵	15,206	16,181	Not applicable ⁵	16,181
AB ⁴	67,610	65,207	15,609	80,816	76,310	15,700	92,010	86,090	14,900	100,990
BC ⁴	67,780	58,466	17,748	76,214	66,485	17,954	84,439	72,812	17,325	90,137
YT ⁶	935	1,070	Not applicable ⁵	1,070	1,440	Not applicable ⁵	1,440	1,376	Not applicable ⁵	1,376
NT	779	763	Not applicable ⁷	763	820	Not applicable ⁷	820	810	Not applicable ⁷	810
NU	971	794	258	1,052	810	250	1,060	881	216	1,097
CA	596,612	589,453	Missing data	627,333	634,885	Missing data	678,176	673,557	Missing data	709,684

Note: 2019 is represented by only one column, as breakdowns of full- and part-day centre spaces for 0 – 5 year olds were not consistently available before 2021.

Note: This table includes only centre-based spaces for children 0 – 5 years (licensed capacity), as family child care data are usually not broken down by age. Part-day centre spaces refer to pre-school or nursery school for 0 – 5 year olds and do not include part-day before- and after-school care (BASC) spaces for children 0 – 5 years.

¹ Before 2021, Newfoundland and Labrador included BASC spaces for kindergarten-age children in the preschool-age category. In 2021, these BASC spaces moved to the before- and after-school care category. Therefore, the apparent drop in spaces for children 0 – 5 years in 2021 is due to the change in categorization rather than an actual drop in spaces. The figures from 2021 and after are, therefore, not comparable to previous years.

² Due to a change in how part-day spaces are counted, Prince Edward Island's 2023 part-day figures have been revised from previous versions of *ECEC in Canada* to allow comparison to 2024's figures. They may not be comparable to previous years.

³ Data on part-day spaces are not available for Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario. Full-day figures include a small number of part-day spaces in Nova Scotia and Ontario.

⁴ In all years, Ontario's, Alberta's, and British Columbia's full-day spaces for children 0 – 5 years include multi-age group spaces not broken down by age.

⁵ Saskatchewan and the Yukon do not license part-day centres for children 0 – 5 years (preschools).

⁶ The Yukon does not license by age group; enrolment figures are used in place of licensed capacity in all years.

⁷ The Northwest Territories license all centres for children not yet in school as full-day; some may offer part-day programs.

TABLE 3 Total number of regulated child care spaces in child care centres, before- and after-school care (BASC) centres, and family child care for children 0 – 12 years. Provinces/territories/Canada (2019 – 2024).

P/T	2019				2021				2023				2024			
	Full- and part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 yrs	BASC spaces for children 4 – 12 yrs	Family child care spaces for children 0 – 12 yrs	Total spaces for children 0 – 12 yrs	Full- and part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 yrs	BASC spaces for children 4 – 12 yrs	Family child care spaces for children 0 – 12 yrs	Total spaces for children 0 – 12 yrs	Full- and part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 yrs	BASC spaces for children 4 – 12 yrs	Family child care spaces for children 0 – 12 yrs	Total spaces for children 0 – 12 yrs	Full- and part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 yrs	BASC spaces for children 4 – 12 yrs	Family child care spaces for children 0 – 12 yrs	Total spaces for children 0 – 12 yrs
NL	6,382	954	774	8,110	4,702	2,717	623	8,042	5,372	2,530	653	8,555	5,899	2,681	792	9,372
PE	3,645	2,029	19	5,693	3,925	2,439	29	6,393	4,155 ¹	2,629	84	6,868	4,258	2,640	134	7,032
NS	12,951	4,098	1,967	19,016	11,959	4,261 ²	1,190	17,410	12,773	6,118	1,100	19,991	13,608	7,397	1,728	22,733
NB	14,024	15,212	1,127	30,363	15,222	16,214	980	32,416	16,376	16,563	582	33,521	16,760	17,093	827	34,680
QC	213,119	246,593 ³	87,433	547,145 ³	214,168	223,253 ³	65,281	502,702 ³	225,251	262,611	65,454	553,316	231,641	271,655	71,781	575,077
ON ⁴	172,951	273,645	20,339	466,935	180,758	283,780	12,734	477,272	194,352	310,703	16,896	521,951	201,328	315,127	21,366	537,821
MB	22,495	11,678	3,286	37,459	22,949	12,136	3,312	38,397	24,922	12,942	3,049	40,913	25,599	13,221	3,050	41,870
SK ⁵	12,970	1,635	2,192	16,797	13,735	1,625	2,306	17,666	15,206	1,620	3,481	20,307	16,181	1,645	4,908	22,734
AB ⁴	67,610	59,360	11,922	138,892	80,816	50,985	8,708	140,509	92,010	55,600	14,390	162,000	100,990	58,700	17,255	176,945
BC ⁴	67,780	35,683	12,024	115,487	76,214	38,419	12,729	127,362	84,439	42,272	12,342	139,053	90,137	45,437	12,627	148,201
YT ^{5,6}	935	165	197	1,297	1,070	388	210	1,869	1,440	395	183	2,228	1,376	393	156	2,257
NT	779	677	408	1,864	763	808	432	2,003	820	792	320	1,932	810	798	328	1,936
NU	971	157	16	1,144	1,052	155	40	1,247	1,060	152	34	1,246	1,097	162	56	1,315
CA	596,612	651,886	141,704	1,390,202	627,333	637,180	108,574	1,373,288	678,176	714,927	118,568	1,511,881	709,684	736,949	135,008	1,581,973

Note: Family child care spaces for children 0 – 12 years may reflect either enrolment or licensed capacity, as consistent data were not available.

¹ Due to a change in how part-day spaces are counted, Prince Edward Island's 2023 part-day figures have been revised from previous versions of *ECEC in Canada* to allow comparison to 2024's figures. They may not be comparable to previous years.

² Nova Scotia's BASC spaces for 2021 have been revised to include spaces in Nova Scotia Before and After Programs (NS-BAP), to allow comparison with 2023 and 2024.

³ In the 2022 – 2023 school year, Quebec changed the way BASC spaces are reported. Quebec's 2019 and

2021 BASC spaces have been revised from previous versions of *ECEC in Canada* in this table to make them comparable to the 2023 and 2024 figures. Quebec's 2024 BASC data were collected in January 2025 for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

⁴ In all years, Ontario's, Alberta's, and British Columbia's centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years include multi-age group spaces not broken down by age.

⁵ Saskatchewan and the Yukon do not license part-day centres for children 0 – 5 years (preschools).

⁶ The Yukon does not license by age group. All 2019 figures are enrolment. In 2021, 2023, and 2024, enrolment figures have been used for full-day, part-day, and BASC spaces, while family child care and total spaces for children 0 – 12 years reflect licensed capacity.

TABLE 4

Total number of regulated child care centre spaces and percent of children 0 – 5 years for whom a centre space was available. Provinces/territories/Canada (2019 – 2024).

P/T	2019		2021		2023		2024	
	Total full- and part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years	Percent of children 0 – 5 years for whom a full- or part-day centre space was available (%)	Total full- and part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years	Percent of children 0 – 5 years for whom a full- or part-day centre space was available (%)	Total full- and part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years	Percent of children 0 – 5 years for whom a full- or part-day centre space was available (%)	Total full- and part-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years	Percent of children 0 – 5 years for whom a full- or part-day centre space was available (%)
NL	6,382	25	4,702 ¹	20	5,372	23	5,899	28
PE	3,645	41	3,925	45	4,155 ²	44	4,258	46
NS	12,951	25	11,959	25	12,773	26	13,608	28
NB	14,024	35	15,222	38	16,376	43	16,760	40
QC	213,119	42	214,168	43	225,251	46	231,641	46
ON ³	172,951	21	180,758	21	194,352	23	201,328	24
MB	22,495	25	22,949	25	24,922	27	25,599	28
SK	12,970	17	13,735	18	15,206	18	16,181	21
AB ³	67,610	22	80,816	26	92,010	32	100,990	32
BC ³	67,780	27	76,214	30	84,439	33	90,137	35
YT ⁴	935	41	1,070	49	1,440	63	1,376	69
NT	779	21	763	22	820	29	810	30
NU	971	22	1,052	25	1,060	22	1,097	25
CA	596,612	27	627,333	28	678,176	31	709,684	32

Note: Percent of children for whom a space was available represents the total number of centre spaces as a percentage of the total number of children 0 – 5 years in the province or territory, or Canada-wide.

Note: This table includes only centre-based spaces for 0 – 5 year olds (licensed capacity), as family child care data are not usually broken down by age. Part-day centre spaces refer to preschool or nursery school for 0 – 5 year olds and do not include part-day before- and after-school care (BASC) spaces for children in the 0 – 5 age category.

¹ Before 2021, Newfoundland and Labrador included BASC spaces for kindergarten-age children in the preschool-age category. In 2021, these BASC spaces moved to the before- and after-

school care category. Therefore, the apparent drop in coverage in 2021 is due to the change in categorization rather than an actual drop in coverage. The figures for 2021 and after are, therefore, not comparable to previous years.

² Due to a change in how part-day spaces are counted, Prince Edward Island's 2023 figures have been revised from previous versions of *ECEC in Canada* to allow comparison with 2024. They may not be comparable to previous years.

³ In all years, Ontario's, Alberta's, and British Columbia's centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years include multi-age group spaces not broken down by age.

⁴ The Yukon does not license by age group; enrolment figures are used in place of licensed capacity.

TABLE 5

Total number of regulated child care spaces and percent of children 0 – 12 years for whom a regulated space was available. Provinces/territories/Canada (2019 – 2024).

P/T	2019		2021		2023		2024	
	Total spaces for children 0 – 12 years	Percent of children 0 – 12 years for whom a full- or part-day space was available (%)	Total spaces for children 0 – 12 years	Percent of children 0 – 12 years for whom a full- or part-day space was available (%)	Total spaces for children 0 – 12 years	Percent of children 0 – 12 years for whom a full- or part-day space was available (%)	Total spaces for children 0 – 12 years	Percent of children 0 – 12 years for whom a full- or part-day space was available (%)
NL	8,110	13	8,042	14	8,555	15	9,372	17
PE	5,693	27	6,393	31	6,868	32	7,032	33
NS ¹	19,016	17	17,410	15	19,991	17	22,733	19
NB	30,363	32	32,416	34	33,521	35	34,680	34
QC	547,145 ²	47	502,702 ²	44	553,316	48	575,077	49
ON	466,935	24	477,272	25	521,951	27	537,821	27
MB	37,459	19	38,397	18	40,913	20	41,870	20
SK	16,797	10	17,666	10	20,307	11	22,734	12
AB	138,892	20	140,509	20	162,000	23	176,945	24
BC	115,487	20	127,362	21	139,053	23	148,201	24
YT	1,297	25	1,869	32	2,228	37	2,257	40
NT	1,864	23	2,003	27	1,932	28	1,936	28
NU	1,144	12	1,247	12	1,246	12	1,315	13
CA	1,390,202	27	1,373,288	27	1,511,881	30	1,581,973	30

Note: Total spaces for children 0 – 12 years include regulated spaces in full-day, part-day, and before- and after-school care centres, and regulated family child care spaces or enrolment.

Note: Percent of children for whom a space was available represents the total number of regulated spaces as a percentage of the total number of children 0 – 12 years in the province or territory, or Canada-wide.

¹ Nova Scotia's total spaces for 2021 have been revised from previous versions of *ECEC in Canada* to include spaces in Nova Scotia Before and After Programs (NS-BAP), to allow comparison with 2023 and 2024.

² Due to a change in how Quebec reports before- and after-school care spaces, Quebec's 2019 and 2021 spaces have been revised from previous versions of *ECEC in Canada* in this table to allow comparison with the 2023 and 2024 figures. Quebec's 2024 BASC data were collected in January 2025 for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

TABLE 6

Percent of regulated full-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years that are for-profit. Provinces/territories/Canada (2021 – 2024).

P/T	2021 (%)	2023 (%)	2024 (%)
NL	74	70	66
PE	69	69	67
NS ¹	57	56	<i>Not available</i>
NB	71	72	71
QC ¹	55	54	54
ON ¹	42	43	44
MB	7	7	7
SK	2	4	4
AB	76	75	73
BC ^{1,2}	65	67	67
YT ³	57	59	61
NT ⁴	0	0	0
NU ⁴	0	0	0
CA ⁵	52	52	52

Note: Breakdowns of full- and part-day spaces by auspice were not consistently available before 2021, so are not included in this table.

¹ In Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario, full-day figures may include a small number of part-day nursery/preschool spaces.

² British Columbia's full-day spaces include some multi-age group care spaces not broken down by age.

³ The Yukon's full-day spaces include before- and after-school care spaces for children 4 – 12 years.

⁴ The Northwest Territories and Nunavut do not have for-profit child care centre spaces.

⁵ The Canada-wide totals row reflects the percent of total spaces across Canada that are for-profit.