

The Big Picture



TABLE 1

Number of regulated child care spaces by age group and type, percent of children 0-12 years for whom a regulated space was available, and percent of children 0-5 years for whom a part or full day centre space was available. Provinces/territories/Canada total (2016).

P/T	Number of centre-based full and part day child care spaces for children 0-5 years ¹	Number of school-age child care spaces ²	Number of regulated family child care spaces ³	Total number of regulated spaces for children 0-12 years	Percent of children 0-12 years for whom a regulated space was available ⁴	Percent of children 0-5 years for whom a regulated part or full day centre space was available ⁵
NL	6,355	942	862	8,159	12.9	24.3
PE	3,313	1,322	7	4,642	23.2	39.4
NS	13,203	4,297	1,645	19,145	17.0	26.7
NB	12,085	13,623	1,143	26,851	29.2	28.9
QC	193,711	330,002 ⁶	94,151	617,864	55.1	38.4
ON	242,786 ⁷	146,500	16,284	405,570	21.3	29.1
MB	20,877	10,327	3,057	34,261	17.9	23.8
SK	11,057	1,501	1,988	14,546	8.4	13.7
AB	69,603	28,063	11,816	109,482	16.0	22.0
BC	61,022	32,720	12,160	105,902	18.4	24.1
NT	1,022	434	320	1,776	22.2	26.9
NU	899	137	8	1,044	10.9	18.4
YT	784	154	207	1,145	22.0	31.4
CA ⁸	636,157	570,022	143,648	1,350,387	27.2	28.7

1 These figures are not separated into part and full day, as some provinces/territories cannot separate them.

2 At one time, school-age child care was for 6-12 year olds. In recent years, school-age now may include four and five year olds in some provinces; the age categories are not consistent across provinces/territories.

3 Note regulated family child care (FCC) does not use the concept of “spaces” in the same way centres do. The FCC figures usually represent enrolment, not licensed capacity.

4 This calculation uses all regulated child care spaces—centre-based and family child care.

5 The total number of regulated spaces including regulated family child care cannot be used here as most provinces/territories cannot provide age breakdowns in family child care.

6 Data on school-age child care in Quebec was not available in 2010 and 2012; the 2008 figure was used. This means the differences between 2016 and 2014 and earlier years is overly exaggerated and should be used cautiously.

7 This figure in Ontario includes kindergarten-aged children in centres. Although the kindergarten-age child care program in Ontario has changed in recent years (is an identifiable category), kindergarten is included here in the 0-5 category to keep numbers consistent with previous years. Of the 242,786 spaces, 85,014 are identified as kindergarten-age (3.8 yrs-5 yrs).

8 Note inconsistencies in definitions and missing data means the total number of spaces in this table is slightly different from totals in the provincial/territorial sections.

TABLE 2

Selected characteristics of kindergarten programs. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Program title/Age Compulsory? School day	Curriculum framework/s	Workforce requirements
NL	Dept Education and Early Childhood Development	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds Non-compulsory Full school day	Completely Kindergarten: Kindergarten Curriculum Guide – Interim Edition	B. Ed. or a B.A. + 1 yr post degree study in education
PE	Dept of Education, Early Learning and Culture	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds Compulsory Full school day	Kindergarten Integrated Curriculum Document	B. Ed. with a specialization in early years (as of 2016)
NS	Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development	<i>Grade Primary</i> : 5-yr-olds Compulsory <i>Pre-primary</i> : 4-yr-olds Non-compulsory Both full school day	Learning Outcomes Framework: Grades Primary-6	<i>Grade Primary</i> : Bachelor’s degree from recognized university with 3 yrs approved content studies, 2 yrs of approved program of professional studies <i>Pre-primary</i> : Team of early childhood educators; 2 yr diploma or university degree required for lead staff, diploma required for 2nd staff.
NB	Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds Compulsory Full school day	K-12 Anglophone Sector Curriculum K-12 Francophone Sector Curriculum	B. Ed
QC	Ministère de l’Éducation et de l’Enseignement supérieur (MEES)	<i>Maternelle</i> : 5 yr-olds Full school day <i>Pre-maternelle</i> : vulnerable 4-yr-olds Part or full school day Non-compulsory	The Quebec Preschool Education Program (EN , FR) Preschool Education Program for 4-year-olds (EN , FR)	Bachelor of Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education
ON	Ministry of Education	<i>Senior kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds <i>Junior kindergarten</i> : 4-yr-olds Both non-compulsory Both full school day	The Kindergarten Program	Team of 2: Blended model <i>Teacher</i> : B. Ed. Registered with Ontario College of Teachers <i>ECE</i> : RECE with 2 yr ECE diploma

TABLE 2 *continued*. Selected characteristics of kindergarten programs. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Program title/Age Compulsory? School day	Curriculum framework/s	Workforce requirements
MB	Manitoba Education	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds, some vulnerable 4-year-olds Both non-compulsory Both part day	Manitoba Kindergarten Curriculum	B. Ed. + training in education
SK	Ministry of Education	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds <i>Pre-kindergarten</i> : vulnerable 3, 4 yr-olds Both non-compulsory Both part school day	SK Curriculum: Kindergarten Better beginnings, better futures: Effective practices policy and guidelines for pre-kindergarten in SK	B. Ed., prefer teacher with early childhood for pre-K
AB	Ministry of Education and Children's Services	<i>Early Childhood Services Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds, <i>ECS</i> : 3-4 yr-olds with disabilities Both non-compulsory Both part school day	Alberta Kindergarten Curriculum	B. Ed. or undergraduate degree with basic teacher preparation program (2 year post-degree)
BC	Ministry of Education	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds Non-compulsory Full school day	British Columbia Kindergarten Curriculum	B. Ed. or Bachelor's degree + post-graduate teacher training
NT	Dept of Education, Culture and Employment	<i>Senior kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds <i>Junior kindergarten</i> : 4-yr-olds Non-compulsory Part and full school day	NWT Junior Kindergarten/ Kindergarten Curriculum	B. Ed. for kindergarten B. Ed. or 2 year ECE diploma for junior kindergarten
NU	Dept of Education	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds Non-compulsory Part school day	Kindergarten curriculum	B. Ed. or Kindergarten Teacher Certificate or Letter of Authority (ECE + 1 year teacher training)
YT	Dept of Education	<i>Kindergarten</i> : 5-yr-olds, some 4-yr-olds Non-compulsory Full school day	YT has adapted the BC Kindergarten Curriculum	B. Ed. or bachelor's degree + approved teacher prep program of 1 academic year

TABLE 3

Selected characteristics of regulated child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Types of regulated child care	Curriculum framework	Governance
NL	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	<p><i>Centre-based care:</i> Full or part day for <13-year-olds</p> <p><i>School-age centre-based care:</i> Provided outside school hours for children <13 yrs.</p> <p><i>Family child care:</i> In provider's home</p>	Early Childhood Learning Framework (in development)	Most regulated child care is for-profit, with some non-profit centres.
PEI	Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture	<p><i>Early learning and child care centres:</i> Full day for children < 13 yrs. Some ELCC centres are designated Early Years Centres by the provincial government.</p> <p><i>Pre-school centres:</i> Centre-based < 4 consecutive hours for children 3 yrs-school-age.</p> <p><i>School-age centres:</i> Centre-based for 5-12 year-olds outside regular school hours.</p> <p><i>Family home centres:</i> In a private residence; up to 6 children, up to full day.</p>	PEI Early Learning Framework: Relationships, Environments, Experiences (2011)	<p>Early Years Centres have additional provincially-defined requirements such as set fees, a salary scale and operational funding.</p> <p>Predominantly for-profit with some non-profits.</p>
NS	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	<p><i>Child care centres:</i> Centre-based part day and full day for 0-12 yr-olds.</p> <p><i>Family home day care:</i> In provider's home; max 7 children, depending on age.</p>	Nova Scotia Early Learning Curriculum Framework (in development)	Mix of non-profit and for-profit.
NB	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	<p><i>Day care centres:</i> Part or full time, 0-12 yrs.</p> <p><i>Nursery school:</i> Part day for preschool-aged children.</p> <p><i>School-age child care centres:</i> Centre-based outside school hours <13 yrs.</p> <p><i>Community day care homes:</i> Child care in private residence for 0-12 yrs-old, "approved".</p>	New Brunswick Curriculum Framework for Early Learning and Child Care, EN & FR (2008)	Predominantly for-profit, with some non-profit centres.

TABLE 3 *continued*. Selected characteristics of regulated child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Types of regulated child care	Curriculum framework	Governance
QC	Ministère de la Famille Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MEES)	<i>Centre de la petite enfance (CPE):</i> Non-profit centres providing educational care for 0-4 yr-olds <i>Garderies (For-profit centres, 2 types):</i> a) Funded centres with “reduced contribution spaces” (set fees); b) Unfunded centres (no set fees) for which parents can claim tax credits. <i>Service de garde en milieu familial:</i> Care in private residence; up to 6 children to 9-yrs-old (9 children with 2 providers), licensed agency model. <i>Services de garde en milieu scolaire:</i> Child care provided by school boards from pré-maternelle (4 yrs) to 13 yrs <i>Jardins d’enfants:</i> Part day for 2-5 yr-olds	Accueillir la petite enfance (2007)	Preschool-age child care under Ministère de la Famille; school-age is under MEES. For 0-4-yr-olds: approximately half for-profit, half non-profit centres; school-age all publicly operated.
ON	Ministry of Education, Child Care and Early Years Division	<i>Child care centres:</i> Full day for 0-3 yrs <i>Nursery schools:</i> Part day for < kindergarten-age children <i>Licensed home child care:</i> 6 children max., 0-12 yrs, licensed agency <i>Before and after-school programs for K-Grade 6 (4-12 yrs):</i> Provided by licensed program, school board or by third party (licensed centre or authorized recreation program - Grade 1+	How Does Learning Happen? Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years (2015)	Municipal-level govt plays key mandated roles in administration, planning, funding. Mix of for-profit, non-profit, small number of public services; non-profit predominates.

TABLE 3 *continued*. Selected characteristics of regulated child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Types of regulated child care	Curriculum framework	Governance
MB	Department of Families	<p><i>Child care centre:</i> Full day for 0-12 yrs</p> <p><i>Nursery school:</i> Part day centre-based, infants-preschool-age</p> <p><i>School-age child care:</i> Before and after school, children in K-Grade 6</p> <p><i>Family child care home:</i> Care in private residence</p> <p><i>Group child care homes:</i> Care in private residence by 2 or more caregivers, 0-12 yrs</p> <p><i>Occasional child care centres:</i> Child care on casual basis</p>	<p>Early Returns: Manitoba's ELCC Curriculum Framework (2010)</p> <p>Early Returns: Manitoba's ELCC Curriculum Framework for Infant Programs (2012)</p>	Primarily non-profit; small number of for-profit services.
SK	Ministry of Education	<p><i>Child care centre:</i> Group care, up to 90 children, 6 wks-12 yrs</p> <p><i>Teen student support centres:</i> Child care near a high school, for high school students</p> <p><i>School-age child care:</i> Group care outside school hours not in a school; to 13-yrs-old</p> <p><i>Family child care home:</i> In private residence, up to eight children, depending on ages</p> <p><i>Group family child care home:</i> In private residence, caregiver has assistant adult caregiver; up to 12 children</p> <p><i>Teen student support family child care home:</i> Up to six children in private residence. high school student parents</p>	<p>Play and Exploration: Early learning Program Guide (2008)</p> <p>Jouer et explorer, Guide du programme d'apprentissage, Pour la petite enfance (2008)</p> <p>Play and Exploration for Infants and Toddlers (2010)</p>	<p>Part day preschools not required to be regulated.</p> <p>Almost all regulated services are non-profit, with a few for-profits and a few publicly operated, predominantly in rural areas.</p>

TABLE 3 *continued*. Selected characteristics of regulated child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Types of regulated child care	Curriculum framework	Governance
AB	Ministry of Education & Children's Services	<p><i>Day care program:</i> Centre for 7 + children up to 5-yrs of age for 4 or more hrs/ day</p> <p><i>Preschool program:</i> Centre, up to 5 yrs of age, no more than 4 hrs/day</p> <p><i>Innovative program:</i> Child care program designed to meet unique needs of community</p> <p><i>Out-of-school care program:</i> For 5-12-yr-olds during out-of-school hrs;</p> <p><i>Family day home:</i> Care in private residence under an agreement with an approved agency to meet provincial guidelines</p> <p><i>Group family child care program:</i> Care in private residence by at least 2 caregivers, no more than 10 children; licensed</p>	<p>Play, participation and possibilities: An early learning and child care curriculum framework for Alberta</p>	<p>Family day homes and agencies are not licensed but approved, group family child care homes are licensed.</p> <p>Mix of for-profit and non-profit services, a few publicly operated or supported programs.</p>
BC	<p>Ministry of Children and Family Development</p> <p>Ministry of Health</p>	<p><i>Centre-based child care:</i> Group care for 0-12 yrs, defined by age groups</p> <p><i>Multi-age child care:</i> Centre care, eight children of mixed ages</p> <p><i>Preschool:</i> Part day (no more than 4 hrs/day; 30 months to school-age, no more than 20 children</p> <p><i>Family child care:</i> In a private residence, up to 7 children 0-12 yrs aged birth to 12</p> <p><i>Occasional child care:</i> Short-term care, at least 18 mths, no more than 40 hours in calendar month</p> <p><i>In home multi-age care:</i> In provider's residence, up to 8 children, 0-12 yrs</p>	<p>British Columbia Early Learning Framework (ELF)</p> <p>EN/FR</p>	<p>Ministry of Health licenses; other functions are under Children and Family Development.</p> <p>Fee subsidies are available in unregulated care.</p> <p>Mix of non-profit and for-profit, for-profit predominating.</p>

TABLE 3 *continued*. Selected characteristics of regulated child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Administration	Types of regulated child care	Curriculum framework	Governance
NT	Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Early Childhood Development and Learning division	<p><i>Centre day care facility:</i> Group care not in a private residence</p> <p><i>Preschool day care:</i> Part day for children 2-yr-olds+ not enrolled in full day school</p> <p><i>Family home day care facility:</i> Care in caregiver's private residence, up to eight children under 12 yrs</p> <p><i>Out-of-school day care:</i> Care outside school hours for children in school</p>	In development, expected completion: March 2019	All regulated child care programs are non-profit.
NU	Department of Education	<p><i>Day care centre:</i> Group care, five or more children 0-12 yrs of age</p> <p><i>Nursery school/preschool:</i> Groups care up to 4 hrs/day for children up to 6 yrs</p> <p><i>Family day home:</i> In private residence for up to eight children <12 yrs</p> <p><i>After school care:</i> Care outside school hours for school-age to 12 yrs</p>	NA	All child care programs are non-profit.
YK	Yukon Health and Social Services	<p><i>Child care centre:</i> Children 0-12 yrs-old in a centre in groups of four or more</p> <p><i>School-age child care:</i> Child care during out-of-school hours for school-aged children up to 13 yrs</p> <p><i>Family day homes:</i> In a private residence for mixed age groups</p>	NA	<p>Part day preschools are not required to be licensed.</p> <p>Mix of non-profit and for-profit services, for-profit predominating.</p>

TABLE 4

Minimum post-secondary education (PSE) credentials for kindergarten teachers and staff in full day child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Kindergarten	Full day child care centres		
	Teacher	Director/supervisor	Educators/staff	Comments
NL	B. Ed. or B.A. + 1 year post-degree study in education.	2 year ECE diploma.	Trainee Certification minimum (30-60 hour course), must upgrade to the next level in 5 years. All infant staff require 1 year ECE certificate. Other ages: 1, 1 year ECE per group.	Age group specialization for PSE trained staff Level 1 and above. 30 hrs/yr professional development required to maintain any level of certification.
PE	B. Ed. with early years specialization (required for K-Grade 2)	2 year ECE diploma or degree in ECE or child and family studies.	1 full time staff member in each centre with 1 year ECE certificate.	
NS	<i>Primary:</i> Bachelor's degree from recognized university with 3 yrs approved content studies, 2 yrs of approved program of professional studies. <i>Pre-primary:</i> Team of early childhood educators; 2 yr diploma or university degree required for lead staff, diploma required for 2nd staff.	Approved post-secondary ECE program.	None	2/3 staff in each centre require child care orientation and PSE coursework in specified early childhood area.
NB	B. Ed.	None specified	1/4 staff with 1 year ECE certificate	Director or 1/4 of staff must have 1 year ECE certificate.
QC	Bachelor of Early Childhood and Elementary Education	None specified	2/3 of staff in centre with ECE diploma or 1 year attestation d'études collégiales	Attestation: college study program other than ECE.

TABLE 4 continued. Minimum post-secondary education (PSE) credentials for kindergarten teachers and staff in full day child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Kindergarten	Full day child care centres		
	Teacher	Director/supervisor	Educators/staff	Comments
ON	“Team” model: <i>Teacher:</i> undergraduate degree+ 2 year teacher education with primary/junior specialization; <i>RECE:</i> 2 year ECE diploma.	2 year ECE diploma or have the approval of a director (Ministry of Education).	1 staff with each group of children with 2 year ECE diploma, or the approval of a director of the Ministry of Education.	
MB	B. Ed.	BA from University of Winnipeg with Developmental Studies major or 2 year ECE diploma + recognized degree or specialization.	2/3 of staff with 2 year ECE diploma.	
SK	University degree or equivalent + teacher education (48 semester hours).	2 year ECE diploma or equivalent.	30 percent of staff with 1 year ECE certificate; 20 percent of staff with 2 year ECE diploma or equivalent.	
AB	B. Ed. or undergraduate degree that includes teacher preparation program.	2 year ELCC diploma from a public college or equivalent.	1/4 staff with 1 year ECE certificate or equivalent.	Staff working directly with children 8:30 AM-4:30 PM.
BC	4 year degree + 30 hours course work related to BC elementary curriculum	None specified	For 3 yr olds: 1 staff per group with 1 year certificate + post-basic infant toddler specialization. For groups of 4-12 children: 1 additional staff with 1 year certificate. For 3-5 yr olds: 1staff per group with 1 year certificate.	Infant specialization required w/ infants, toddlers.
NT	B. Ed. or 1 year ECE diploma.	None specified	None	
NU	B. Ed., or 1 year post degree bachelor of education or 2 year ECE + 1 year of teacher training.	None specified	None	

TABLE 4 *continued*. Minimum post-secondary education (PSE) credentials for kindergarten teachers and staff in full day child care centres. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Kindergarten	Full day child care centres		Comments
	Teacher	Director/supervisor	Educators/staff	
YT	B. Ed., or B.A. + 1 year teacher preparation program.	None specified	30 percent of staff with 1 year ECD certificate or equivalent; 20 percent of staff with 2 year ECD diploma or equivalent.	

Note both these professions have additional experience, practice and certification requirements in addition to these minimum post-secondary education credentials. Refer to each provincial/territorial section for further details.

TABLE 5

Regulated family (home) child care: Required ECE training and administrative model. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Required ECE training	Administrative model	Comment
NL	30-60 hour course (Trainee Certification) required; 30 hours professional development required every 3 years.	Both agency model and individual licence.	
PE	30 hour course related to care/ education of infants/preschoolers; 45 hours of approved on-going training required every 3 years.	Individual licence	
NS	Level 1 of Canadian Child Care Federation family child care training.	Agency model	
NB	None	Individual (approved)	Approved, not licensed.
QC	45 hour orientation course; 6 hours per year professional development required.	Agency model includes 2-provider model.	<i>Agencies:</i> Child Care Coordinating Offices (CCCCO) usually part of a centre de la petite enfance. Agencies, not providers, are licensed.
ON	None	Agency model	Agencies, not providers, are licensed.
MB	40 hour approved community college course in family child care or ECE within the 1 year.	Individual licence, includes group family child care.	
SK	40 hour course within first year; 6 hour workshops each licensing year. Group family child care providers require 120 hour ECE course.	Individual licence, includes group family child care.	
AB	<i>Agency:</i> must develop training in specified areas. <i>Group family child care:</i> minimum 45 hour course.	<i>2 models:</i> Agencies and group family child care.	Agencies approved, not licensed. Group family child care homes are licensed.
BC	Minimum course or combination of courses in child development, guidance, health, safety, nutrition (20 hours).	Individual licence	
NT	None	Individual licence	
NU	None	Individual licence	
YT	60 hour course in early childhood development and family day home course or equivalent.	Individual licence	

TABLE 6 Characteristics of unregulated child care. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Maximum number of children	Caregiver's own children included?	Additional age limitations?	Are there circumstances under which centre-based programs for 0-5 year olds are exempt from regulation?	Other
NL	4	Including caregiver's own children <13 years.	If all children < 24 months, 3 is maximum	Care for up to 6 children < 9 hours/week or any number of children up to 6 hrs/day for < 8 weeks in a 12 week period exempt.	
PE	6	Including caregiver's own preschool-aged children.	Maximum 2 children if they are < 2 years. Maximum 4 children if they are between 2-4 years. A maximum of 6 children between 5-12 years is allowed.	5 children allowed in mixed-age groupings; 1 child can be < 22 months and 3 children can be between 2-4 years.	
NS	6	Including caregiver's own preschool-age.	Maximum 9 if all children are school-aged (5-years-old as of 12/31 of the school year).	Public school-provided before and after-school programs for children 4-years-old by 12/31 are exempt.	
NB	8	Including caregiver's own children <12 years.	Maximum 5 children 0-12 years; maximum 4 children if all are 2-5 years; max 8 children if all are 6-12 years.		
QC	6	Not including caregiver's own children.		Jardins d'enfants (seven children 2-5 years up to 4 hours/day) operating before October 2005. Haltes garderies (Temporary or occasional group child care).	

TABLE 6 continued. Characteristics of unregulated child care. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Maximum number of children	Caregiver's own children included?	Additional age limitations?	Are there circumstances under which centre-based programs for 0-5 year olds are exempt from regulation?	Other
ON	5 children aged < 13 years	Including caregiver's own children < 6 years. Own children in FDK/Grade 1 included only during summer vacation, March break or PD days if care occurs between 6am-7pm but only 1 child can be < 2 years.	No more than 2 children < 2 years.		An unlicensed care provider cannot operate in more than 1 location.
MB	4	Including caregiver's own children 0-12 years.	No more than 2 children < 2 years.		
SK	8	Including caregiver's own children < 13 years.	Of the 8, no more than 5 may be < 6 years. Of the 5, no more than 2 may be < 30 months.	Preschools operating < 3 hours/day or 3 days/week are regulation-exempt.	Programs for school-aged children operating in schools are exempt.
AB	6	Not including caregiver's own children < 13 years.			
BC	2 (or 1 sibling group of any age)	Not including children related to the caregiver.		A program operating up to 2 hours/day, operated/funded by a municipality.	Care is for 2 children termed "license-not-required". Fee subsidies available in unregulated child care. Child care for immigrant families attending settlement/language programs, where family can be reached during the care for maximum 24 children is permitted (children < 12 months counted as 2.5 children) is exempt.

TABLE 6 *continued*. Characteristics of unregulated child care. Provinces/territories (2016).

P/T	Maximum number of children	Caregiver's own children included?	Additional age limitations?	Are there circumstances under which centre-based programs for 0-5 year olds are exempt from regulation?	Other
NT	4	Including caregiver's own children < 12 years.			.
NU	4	Including caregiver's own children < 12 years.			
YT	3	Not including caregiver's own children.		Preschools for 3-6 year-olds < 3 consecutive hours.	Program whose primary purpose is not "care" operating < 12 consecutive weeks is exempt.

TABLE 7

Median full time monthly parent fees by age group in Canada's largest cities (2016–2017)^{1,2}.

P/T	Infants (\$)		Toddlers (\$)		Preschoolers (\$)	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
NL						
St. John's	1,085	1,085	868	955	890	868
PE						
Charlottetown	738	738	608	608	586	586
NS						
Halifax	902	910	820	825	803	823
NB						
Saint John	864	868	738	716	681	694
QC						
Gatineau	179	183	179	183	179	183
Laval	179	183	179	183	179	183
Montreal	164	168	164	168	164	168
Longueuil	179	183	179	183	179	183
Quebec City	179	183	179	183	179	183
ON						
Windsor	977	998	846	879	749	781
London	1,128	1,217	1,075	1,120	977	1,010
Kitchener	1,320	1,325	1,140	1,085	1,031	975
Hamilton	1,150	1,062	1,020	1,052	900	931
Brampton	994	955	1,085	1,128	955	1,050
Mississauga	1,330	1,452	1,111	1,200	986	1,052
Toronto	1,649	1,758	1,375	1,354	1,150	1,212
Ottawa	990	998	1,074	1,109	990	1,009
Markham	1,454	1,150	1,137	1,120	996	1,017
Vaughan	1,363	1,415	1,130	1,150	1,005	1,031
MB						
Winnipeg	651	651	451	451	451	451
SK						
Saskatoon	850	900	750	790	695	710
Regina	785	875	620	635	570	575
AB						
Calgary	1,102	1,250	1,050	1,050	1,010	1,000
Edmonton	835	990	835	891	825	885
BC						
Vancouver	1,321	1,360	1,325	1,292	950	950
Burnaby	1,200	1,250	1,200	1,200	850	840
Richmond	1,200	1,200	1,210	1,200	875	980
Surrey	995	1,050	950	920	750	800

1 These figures include both centres and regulated home child care.

2 See the SOURCES section for the source of the data in this table.

TABLE 8

Percent and number of centre-based spaces by full day and part day that are for-profit. Provinces/territories (2016)¹.

P/T	Number of full day non-profit centre spaces	Number of full day for-profit centre spaces	Total number of full day centre spaces	Number of part day non-profit centre spaces	Number of part day for-profit centre spaces	Total number of part day centre spaces	Total number of centre spaces	Total number of full and part day for-profit centre spaces	% of full day centre spaces that are for-profit	% of part day centre spaces that are for-profit	% of total centre spaces that are for-profit
NL	1,257	4,708	5,965	821	511	1,332	7,297	5,219	79	38	72
PE	859	1,855	2,714	1,049	851	1,900	4,614	2,706	68	45	59
NS ²	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17,500 ³	9,684	NA	NA	55
NB ⁴	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	25,708	15,962	NA	NA	62
QC ⁵	92,398	101,313	193,711	305,743	NA	305,743	499,454	101,313	52	0	20
ON ^{6,8}	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	389,286 ⁷	83,969	NA	NA	22
MB	26,339	1,247	27,586	3,375	267	3,642	31,228	1,514	5	7	5
SK ^{9,10}	NA	NA	11,057	NA	NA	1,501	12,558	233	NA	NA	2
AB	11,788	30,183	41,971	29,010	26,125	55,135	97,106	56,308	72	47	58
BC	17,308	24,292	41,600	31,162	21,475	52,637	94,237	45,767	58	41	49
NT ¹¹	NA	NA	1,456	NA	NA	NA	1,456	0	0	0	0
NU ¹²	623	NA	623	413	NA	413	1,036	0	0	0	0
YT	431	802	1,233	NA	NA	154	1,387	NA	65	NA	65

1 Note this information is not available (NA) for all provinces/territories; some do not have a breakdown of part and full day, while in several instances there are no for profit spaces.

2 NS does not breakdown part and full day spaces by auspice. Of NS's 17,500 centre-based spaces, 1,867 for 3-5 year olds and 4,297 for school-age 6-12 years are identified.

3 Of total spaces, NS identifies 7,816 as non-profit and 9,684 as for-profit.

4 NB does not breakdown full and part day spaces by auspice or as a share of total spaces. NB provides an estimate of 9,746 non-profit and 15,962 for-profit spaces,

5 QC does not identify part day spaces for 0-4-year-olds. Part day centre programs (jardins d'enfants) are now required to apply to be licensed). All school-age programs (part day) are operated by schools, thus are not-for-profit.

6 ON does not break down centre spaces for 0-4 year olds by part day/full day operation. Of the 389,286 centre spaces, however, 231,514 spaces are identified as kindergarten-age

and school-age—thus, part day. There would be—in addition—some nursery school (part day) spaces among the remaining 157,772 spaces for 0-4 year-olds.

7 Of ON's non-profit spaces, 5,305 are identified as publicly-operated (municipal).

8 Of ON's total centre-based spaces, 305,317 are identified by the province as not-for-profit, while 83,969 are for profit.

9 SK does not require part day programs for preschool-age children to be licensed, thus all spaces for preschool-age children are full day, while school-age is considered part day.

10 Of SK's total 12,228 centre spaces, 12,325 are identified as non-profit spaces (including 116 spaces identified as municipally operated) and 233 for-profit.

11 All centre-based child care in NT is non-profit and considered to be full day.

12 All centre-based child care in NU is non-profit.

The Long View



TABLE 9
Number of children 0-12 years (rounded estimates in 1000s). Provinces/territories/Canada (1992–2016).

P/T	1992		1995		1998		2001		2003		2005		2007		2009		2012		2014		2016	
	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12
YRS	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12
NL	45	63	41	57	34	52	30	46	31	41	29	39	28	37	28	36	30	34	28	37	26	37
PE	12	14	11	14	10	14	10	13	9	13	8	12	9	12	8	11	8	11	9	11	8	12
NS	74	86	70	86	64	89	61	80	55	77	51	75	49	69	53	65	54	61	50	61	49	64
NB	57	72	56	70	51	68	49	63	46	63	44	58	40	56	44	52	44	51	41	50	42	50
QC	502	655	565	627	527	646	460	656	443	634	435	604	468	554	455	560	513	560	516	579	504	618
ON	848	964	899	1,024	875	1,098	844	1,100	832	1,097	822	1,097	812	1,071	828	1,032	846	1,047	868	1,011	834	1,072
MB	98	111	92	106	87	108	79	107	76	104	77	102	78	97	77	98	89	98	87	98	88	104
SK	94	112	85	107	77	106	76	93	69	91	67	81	64	81	71	80	77	84	77	86	81	92
AB	250	279	242	289	231	301	233	289	218	298	228	284	246	295	260	299	291	307	308	329	317	364
BC	266	312	286	338	289	351	248	353	255	329	233	341	244	324	257	314	268	302	262	309	253	322
NT	9	8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
NU	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4	5	4	5	4	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
YT	2	3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3
CA	2,257	2,680	2,347	2,719	2,245	2,832	2,090	2,801	2,048	2,764	2,004	2,705	2,049	2,608	2,093	2,558	2,230	2,566	2,257	2,581	2,202	2,734

TABLE 10 Number of children 0-12 years with employed mothers¹ (rounded estimate in 1000s)². Provinces/territories/Canada (1995–2016).

P/T	1995		1998		2001		2004		2006		2008		2010		2012		2014		2016	
YRS	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	0-5	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12	0-5	6-12
NL	22	33	19	30	18	31	17	25	16	16	16	23	15	23	17	22	16	24	16	23
PE	8	10	8	11	7	10	6	10	7	7	6	8	6	8	6	8	7	8	5.4	8.3
NS	40	53	38	59	40	57	35	51	32	32	30	47	32	44	34	41	32	42	32	45
NB	30	43	31	44	32	45	28	41	26	26	26	39	30	37	27	35	26	34	28	36
QC	325	400	325	424	304	469	286	424	358	358	320	395	305	389	356	391	358	418	367	453
ON	539	711	546	774	538	787	495	730	530	530	504	725	500	688	524	694	530	671	508	722
MB	55	76	54	79	49	79	46	72	49	49	47	67	42	63	49	63	49	62	50	66
SK	55	80	47	77	47	66	43	64	50	50	39	57	45	58	47	57	50	61	49	61
AB	154	211	138	207	135	206	118	198	137	137	140	202	141	198	160	199	137	238	181	224
BC	162	245	168	234	147	241	148	210	161	161	144	215	151	200	151	201	161	203	153	211
NT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.4	3.2	2.4	2.4	2.6	3	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.8	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.9
NU	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.6	2.2	1.7	2.5	1.9	2.2
YT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.7	2	1.8	2.1
CA ³	1,390	1,862	1,375	1,939	1,317	1,991	1,224	1,829	1,370	1,370	1,275	1,783	1,268	1,711	1,376	1,720	1,370	1,768	1,389	1,848

1 The term “Mothers in the paid labour force” was used in versions of *ECEC in Canada* until 2014 when the term “Employed mothers” began to be used. The terms are comparable.

2 Further age breakdowns are available in provincial/territorial chapters in *ECEC in Canada 1992-2016*.

3 Totals may not add up due to rounding.

4 Canada total figures did not include NT or YT until 2003, while figures for NU were not available until 2012 (NU was officially created in 1999).

TABLE 11**Employment rate of mothers by age of youngest child¹ (rounded estimate). Provinces²/territories/Canada (1998–2016).**

P/T	1998 (%)		2001 (%)		2004 (%)		2006 (%)		2008 (%)		2010 (%)		2012 (%)		2014 (%)		2016 (%)	
	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5	0-2	3-5
NL	58	63	64	66	71	67	66	71	66	74	68	73	68	78	70	69	68	79
PE	81	83	77	79	78	82	81	84	78	85	76	83	78	82	85	85	76	76
NS	63	70	71	72	71	77	76	77	70	78	68	83	74	77	75	78	73	84
NB	64	69	67	74	70	75	71	80	76	77	76	81	73	80	71	81	70	84
QC	65	67	67	75	73	77	74	79	74	80	73	78	77	81	77	82	80	81
ON	65	72	67	74	68	74	69	76	68	79	69	75	71	75	70	77	69	77
MB	62	76	66	75	68	77	64	76	66	76	62	71	66	74	65	74	67	75
SK	65	73	65	74	67	77	67	77	69	77	70	77	65	80	71	76	69	76
AB	64	71	60	71	59	71	63	69	61	73	63	70	60	73	60	72	63	73
BC	62	67	63	69	67	74	64	76	65	71	66	75	64	75	70	76	68	74
CA	65	71	66	73	69	75	69	76	69	77	69	75	70	77	70	77	71	77

1 A similar table including mothers' employment rates with youngest child aged 6-15 years was available in previous editions of this document. The columns for 6-15 year-olds have not been included here; the information is available in the DEMOGRAPHIC section for each province/territory.

2 Comparable figures for mothers' employment rate are not available for the territories.

TABLE 12

Total number of regulated child care spaces for children 0-12 years¹. Provinces/territories/Canada (1992-2016).

P/T	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2006	2007	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016
NL	3,568	4,202	4,275	4,226	4,921	5,642	5,868	5,972	6,200	7,200	7,200	8,159
PE ²	4,123	3,888	3,717	4,270	4,100	4,051	4,293	4,424	5,084	4,051	4,262	4,642
NS	10,826	10,645	11,163	11,464	12,759	12,982	13,247	13,711	15,295	17,321	17,899	19,145
NB	7,162	7,952	9,204	11,086	11,897	13,163	14,170	15,506	18,785	21,695	25,491	26,851
QC	78,388	111,452	175,002	234,905	321,732	361,533 ³	364,572	368,909	379,386	401,568	556,447	617,864
ON	145,545	147,853	167,090 ³	173,135 ⁵	206,743	229,875	242,488	256,748	276,410	292,997	334,010	405,570
MB	18,977	18,846	20,490	23,022	25,634	25,984	26,375	27,189	29,382	30,614	32,531	34,261
SK	6,418	7,266	7,124	7,166	7,910	8,712	8,850	9,173	10,848	12,275	13,314	14,546
AB	51,656	51,088	47,033	47,693	63,351 ⁴ (46,238)	66,288 (47,587)	71,177 (52,528)	73,981 (54,499)	82,050 (62,980)	91,884 (69,610)	99,009	109,482
BC	42,927	59,794	68,978	72,949	80,230	79,190	82,386	87,538	97,170	102,908	106,719	105,902
NT	963	1,286	1,351	1,234	1,219	1,525	1,703	1,768	1,785	NA	1,872	1,776
NU	NA	NA	NA	932	1,014	987	970	1,013	1,015	1,104	1,140	1,044
YT	1,020	1,060	1,307	1,348	1,369	1,330	1,293	1,262	1,431	1,440	1,114	1,145
CA	371,573	425,332	516,734	593,430	745,925	811,262	837,392	867,194	921,841	986,842	1,201,008	1,350,387

1 These figures include full day and part day (nursery schools or preschools) centres for children under compulsory school-age, regulated family child care and school-age centre-based care. In most cases, these figures represent licensed capacity, not enrolment. Refer to provincial/territorial sections for further information.

2 Publicly funded kindergarten was part of the regulated child care system in PEI between 2000 and September 2010. At this time, for the purpose of comparison with other provinces, part day kindergarten spaces in child care centres were not included in these space figures.

3 In 2006 a figure for school-age spaces in Quebec was not available. At that time, we calculated an estimate based on the *ECEC in Canada* 2004 figure of 141,977 school-age spaces, and expanded using the same percentage increase in total centre-based spaces for children aged 0-4 from 2004-2006 (13.7%). Quebec school-age figures were available in 2006 and 2008 but not in 2010 or 2012. The 2008 school-age space figure was used in the 2012 calculations.

4 School-age child care in Alberta became regulated for the first time in 2004. For the purpose of comparison with previous years, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012 figures include total number of spaces with and without school-age care.

TABLE 13

Total allocations¹ for regulated child care (unadjusted dollars, rounded). Provinces/territories/Canada (1992–2015/2016).

P/T	1992 (\$ millions)	1995 (\$ millions)	1998 (\$ millions)	2001 (\$ millions)	2003/04 (\$ millions)	2005/06 (\$ millions)	2007/08 (\$ millions)	2009/10 (\$ millions)	2011/2012 (\$ millions)	2013/2014 (\$ millions)	2015/2016 (\$ millions)
NL	1.67	2.98	3.3	7.75	9.64	12.32	19.84	20.52	21.22	21.22 ²	39.31
PE ⁴	2.77	1.68	2.58	4.23	4.68	4.73	6.23	6.43	12.47	12.12	11.82
NS	11.42	11.84	15.69	12.89	19.77	23.70	37.15	39.03	43.22	46.23	42.89
NB	3.65	3.20	5.52	11.82	13.90	22.48	26.24	28.94	35.00	38.74	42.21
QC	140.73	203.70	299.86	1,092.43	1,560.00	1,678.88	1,730.57	1,998.72 ³	1,998.72 ³	2,485.41	2,559.07
ON	420.14	541.8	470.5	451.5	497.4	534.10	780.40	801.80	865.10	960.10	1,169.78
MB	42.15	45.2	45.19	62.88	73.00	86.33	105.98	116.55	134.35	139.44	156.64
SK	12.31	12.71	15.75	16.39	19.64	22.77	47.13	53.72	62.65	64.84	64.49
AB	66.61	67.62	54.30	57.50	53.6	72.47	105.73	190.63	257.55	263.09	263.84
BC ⁵	55.80	98.68	128.87	164.56	140.73	176.11	216.74	227.51	227.15	227.43	231.40
NT	2.29	1.71	2.27	1.60	2.54	2.54	2.54	2.54	2.54 ⁶	4.48	4.50
NU	NA	NA	NA	1.87	1.79	2.32	2.47	2.78	3.03	2.61	3.66
YT	2.44	4.15	4.76	4.44	5.20	5.41	6.41	7.36	7.66	7.66	6.26
CA	761.96	995.28	1,048.58	1,889.80	2,401.88	2,940.14	3,087.44	3,496.53	3,670.67	4,273.37	4,595.88

1 These figures are budgeted allocations, not spending.

2 Figures for NL were not available in 2014; the 2011/2012 figures were used in this table for 2013/2014.

3 This figure includes spending on school-age child care from 2008, as more recent information was not available

4 Between 2000 and September 2010, PEI's kindergartens were part of the child care system. For the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions, these figures do not include PEI's spending on part day kindergarten between 2000 and 2010.

5 Subsidies in British Columbia may be used in both regulated and unregulated care. At one time, no breakdown was available. At the suggestion of provincial officials, these figures were estimated using 60% of the subsidy allocation in 1992, 55% in 1995, and 50% in 1998–2007/08.

6 Figures for NT were not available in 2012; the 2010 figures were used in this table for 2012.

TABLE 14

Allocation for each regulated child care space¹ (unadjusted dollars). Provinces/territories/Canada (1992–2016).

P/T	1992 (\$)	1995 (\$)	1998 (\$)	2001 (\$)	2003/04 (\$)	2005/06 (\$)	2007/08 (\$)	2009/10 (\$)	2011/12 (\$)	2013/14 (\$)	2015/16 (\$)
NL	468	709	772	1,835	1,958	2,183	3,323	3,310	2,948	2,948 ²	4,818
PE	671	433	694	1,334 ²	1,137 ³	1,166 ³	1,407 ³	1,265 ³	3,078	2,843	2,547
NS	1,055	1,113	1,405	1,125	1,549	1,825	2,710	2,552	2,495	2,582	2,240
NB	509	402	600	1,066	1,168	1,707	1,692	1,540	1,613	1,519	1,572
QC	1,795	1,828	1,713	4,651	4,849	4,644	4,691	5,268	4,977	4,466	4,142
ON	2,887	3,664	2,816	2,608	2,406	3,611	3,040	2,901	2,952	2,874	2,884
MB	2,221	2,399	2,205	2,731	2,848	3,322	3,898	3,967	4,388	4,286	4,572
SK	1,918	1,750	2,210	2,279	2,483	2,614	5,138	4,952	5,104	4,870	4,433
AB	1,290	1,324	1,154	1,206	846	1,093	1,429	2,323	2,803	2,657	2,422
BC	1,300	1,650	1,868	2,256	1,754	2,224	2,476	2,341	2,207	2,131	2,175
NT	2,374	1,328	1,681	1,298	2,085	1,666	1,438	1,424	NA	2,394	2,534
NU	NA	NA	NA	2,001	1,091	2,345	2,438	2,733	2,742	2,285	3,501
YT	2,390	3,914	3,645	4,086	3,796	4,067	5,079	5,143	5,320	6,877	5,463
CA	2,051	2,340	2,029	3,185	3,223	3,259	3,560	3,792	3,719	3,558	3,405

1 These figures are based on total provincial allocations and total number of regulated child care spaces; they are merely approximations of actual allocation or spending per space.

2 Figures for NL were not available in 2014; the 2012 figures were used in this table.

3 2001, 2003/04, 2005/06, 2007/08 and 2009/10 figures for PEI do not include part day kindergarten expenditure in child care centres or spaces for the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions.

TABLE 15

Percent of children 0-5 years for whom there is a regulated part or full time centre-based child care space. Provinces/territories (1992–2016)¹.

P/T	1992 (%)	1995 (%)	1998 (%)	2001 (%)	2004 (%)	2006 (%)	2008 (%)	2010 (%)	2012 (%)	2014 (%)	2016 (%)
NL	7.0	9.0	10.8	11.9	13.1	16.5	17.3	17.9	18.9	18.9 ²	24.3
PE ³	29.9	29.4	31.0	38.1	38.2	42.2	41.0	41.6	46.5	32.4	39.4
NS	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	25.2	22.1	22.6	23.9	25.5	26.7
NB	NA	NA	NA	11.9	NA	18.1	19.9	21.1	30.7	29.1	28.9
QC	9.2	9.4	11.5	16.8	22.0	25.6	25.0	28.5	36.3	30.3	38.4
ON	12.4	NA	(est.) 12.4	(est.) 14.0	14.9	16.9	19.6	19.7	20.8	23	29.1
MB	12.5	13.6	15.0	17.9	20.2	20.0	20.6	22.8	20.5	22.9	23.8
SK	3.6	4.4	5.2	5.4	6.7	8.1	9.1	10.5	11.5	12.6	13.7
AB	17.5	17.9	17.5	17.6	18.9	17.9	17.4	19.8	19.8	20	21.8
BC	9.9	11.0	12.2	14.6	15.6	17.1	18.3	19.8	23.7	22.7	24.1
NT	10.2	NA	NA	NA	18.7	21.0	23.3	22.9	NA	26.1	26.9
NU	NA	NA	NA	NA	22.8	20.5	20.2	20.5	20.8	22.6	18.3
YT	25.3	NA	NA	NA	35.9	26.4	28.3	27.8	28.6	28.3	31.4
CA	11.5	11.5	12.6	14.9	17.1	19.1	20.3	21.8	22.5	24.1	28.9

1 The figures represented here include only regulated centre-based care for 0–5-year-olds. Regulated home child care is not factored into the calculation as breakdowns by age group are not available.

2 Figures for NL were not available in 2014; the 2012 figures were used in this table for 2014.

3 PEI introduced publicly-funded part day kindergarten in September 2000. At that time, kindergarten in PEI was still part of the regulated child care system, as it was before 2000. In September 2010 kindergarten moved to the public education system. For the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions where kindergarten is under the public education system, the number of children attending part day kindergarten only have not been included in totals; PEI's figures for 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010 are not comparable to those of previous years.

TABLE 16

Percent of regulated part and full day centre-based child care spaces for 0–12 year olds¹ that are for-profit. Provinces/territories/Canada (1992–2016).

P/T	1992 (%)	1995 (%)	1998 (%)	2001 (%)	2004 (%)	2006 (%)	2008 (%)	2010 (%)	2012 (%)	2014 (%)	2016 (%)
NL	78	66	61	64	73	69	70	72	65	65	72
PE	35	32	42	46	70 ²	56 ²	58 ²	58 ²	80	64	59
NS	40	40	43	43	45	46	50	52	53	55	55
NB	43	40	NA	NA	70 ³	64 ³	67 ³	62 ³	62 ³	63 ³	62 ³
QC	18	18	14	14	12	13	14	17	22	19	20
ON	24	20	17	17	22	23	24	25	25	24	22
MB	10	12	13	8	8	6	5	5	5	5	5
SK	6	2	1	1	0	0.6	0	0	0.5	0.6	2
AB	65	62	59	56	54	49	51	50	51	53	58
BC	39	39	40	42	NA	NA	42	43	44	47	49
NT	18	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0	0
NU	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YT	14	25	26	27	26	31	36	44	64	61	65
CA	30	28	24	23	20 ¹	21 ¹	25	28	29.4	30	30

1 Canada-wide percents for 2004 and 2006 did not include British Columbia or New Brunswick, which had substantial for-profit child care sectors.

2 For the purpose of comparison with other jurisdictions where kindergarten is in the public education system, these figures did not include part day kindergarten. As of September 2010, kindergarten moved to the public education system.

3 Percentage estimate provided by provincial officials.

