Maine

Impact of the Child Care Industry in Maine

- There are 2,640 market-based child care providers with revenue of $204 million in Maine. This includes 1,999 sole proprietors (family child care home-based providers) and 641 child care centers.

- $204 million in direct revenue generated within the market-based child care industry is estimated to support about $183 million in spillover or related productivity in other industry sectors for an estimated combined total economic impact of about $387 million in Maine.

- In terms of jobs, 6,348 sole proprietors and wage and salary employees in the child care sector are estimated to support about 2,230 workers in other industries for a total jobs impact of 8,578.

- The $111 million in employee compensation and proprietors’ earnings generated directly within the child care industry is estimated to support about $62 million in additional earnings across the state for a total earnings impact of $172.6 million.

Child Care Usage in Maine

- There are 206,402 children under age 15 (64,502 under age 5 and 141,900 between ages 5 and 14) in Maine who may require paid child care services.

- About 54,715 children under age 15 are in paid care – 23,175 (35.9%) under age 5 and 31,540 (22.2%) between the ages of 5 and 14.

- About 56.7% of children birth to age 5 in Maine are in non-parental care for at least 10 hours every week.

Cost of Child Care & Labor Force Participation

The cost of care in Maine remains a hurdle for many parents seeking to enter or stay in the labor force.

- The average annual cost of child care for an infant is $9,224 in a child care center and $8,045 in a family child care home.

- The average annual cost of infant center-based care is 92.6% of the cost of tuition and fees at a 4-year Maine college.

- Center-based infant care is 18.1% of state median income.

- Since 2010, family child care homes have declined from 2,759 to 1,999 in 2016 – a decline of 27.5%. For working families, the decline in home-based care reduces the availability of the least expensive care option for families.

The Link Between the Paid Child Care Sector and the State Economy

- Access to affordable child care can increase labor force participation and support state and regional economic growth.

- Access to affordable child care can support parents seeking additional education and training, which contribute to higher earnings over an individual’s lifetime.

- Increased subsidy payments trigger state level responses in wage rates, the mix of low- and high-skilled labor used in the state, prices of goods and services, and trade flows.

Note: Regulations for child care licensing vary by state. The economic information provided through the U.S. Census Bureau Economic Census includes employers and sole proprietors who report child care business income. This does not mean such entities are regulated by the state or are in compliance with state law. Therefore, state regulatory lists may vary from child care business data reflected in the Census Bureau data.