



**Brian P. Kemp**  
Governor

**Amy M. Jacobs**  
Commissioner

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Media Contact: Reg Griffin  
404-656-0239 office  
404-309-8131 mobile  
[reg.griffin@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:reg.griffin@dec.al.ga.gov)



## **Georgia's Early Care and Education Industry Generated \$6 Billion in Economic Activity**

### ***New Study Shows Role of Child Care in Georgia's Economy & Workforce***

**ATLANTA, Ga., (May 19, 2025)** – The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has released a new Economic Impact Study analyzing the short-term economic contributions of Georgia's early care and education (ECE) industry in 2021. Conducted by Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government, the report finds that the ECE industry generated \$6.04 billion in total economic activity.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Georgia's child care sector proved remarkably resilient. In 2021, more than 5,300 licensed or regulated providers served more than 309,000 children and employed more than 64,000 individuals, supporting an additional 16,500 jobs in other industries. The industry also enabled parents across the state to work, supporting an estimated \$36.5 billion in parent earnings.

Key highlights from this study include:

- \$2.95 billion in gross receipts from parent fees and state/federal funding in 2021
- Every \$1 of direct spending on child care generated an additional \$1.05 in economic activity.
- Federal pandemic relief funding prevented a sharper decline in services—without it, the industry's impact would have been 12.5% lower in 2021.

“This recently released report reveals how child care and early education providers in Georgia stepped up to the plate during one of the most devastating public health crises in our country,” said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. “Among other contributions, providers’ dedication and commitment to children and families made it possible for essential front-line workers to support other sectors of the economy like healthcare, education, food services, and public safety.”

The full report, Short-Term Economic Impact of Georgia’s Early Care and Education Industry in 2021, as well as the executive summary and previous reports are available at:

<https://www.decal.ga.gov/BftS/ResearchEconomicImpact.aspx>

### **About Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia’s children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia’s Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages Quality Rated, Georgia’s community powered child care rating system.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to [www.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov).