**Access to childcare in Great Britain**

Childcare is the single most important driver of the gender pay and labour market participation gap. The current childcare system in the UK is expensive and formal provision is patchy.

**Availability**

Across Great Britain, the level of childcare available varies by region and the type of childcare required, heavily depending on the age of the child. For example, in [England], [72%] of local authorities report that there is enough childcare for children under two, and in [Scotland] [81%] of local authorities have enough free-entitlement childcare for 3-4 year olds, but things are much harder for the parents of disabled children with only [25%] of local authorities reporting sufficient childcare for disabled children. [41%] of local authorities in [Wales] also report that that there is not enough childcare for children of parents working atypical hours.

**Affordability**

Childcare is more expensive for younger children: part-time and full-time childcare for under 2-year-olds absorbs [at least half] of women’s median earnings in [Great Britain]. State support for 3- and 4-year-olds makes a huge difference to affordability but childcare for this age group is still between [a fifth] and [a quarter] of women’s salaries.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Childcare costs in [Great Britain] for children in Nursery (per year)** | **Women's Median earnings (per year)** | **% of women’s earnings absorbed by childcare** |
| < 2-year-olds (part-time) | [£7,160]  | [£11,324]  | [63%] |
| < 2-year-olds (full-time) | [£13,718]  | [£28,021]  | [49%] |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Childcare costs in [England] for children in Nursery (per year)** | **Women's Median earnings (per year)** | **% of women’s earnings absorbed by childcare** |
| 3-4-year-olds (part-time) | [£2,727]  | [£11,226]  | [24%] |
| 3-4-year-olds (full-time) | [£5,282]  | [£28,077]  | [19%] |

**Impact of Covid-19 and closures**

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, childcare reform was urgently needed. In the period August 2020-March 2021, Ofsted data showed a net [loss of 4.4%] of childcare providers and a net [loss of 1.1%] of childcare places in [England]. [This decrease in places was largely driven by childminders leaving the market.] There were [64,173] [fewer childcare places], and [7,566] [childcare providers left] the sector in March 2021 compared to August 2020.

**[Contact details of your organisation]**



This analysis was carried out with the support from the [Local Data Project led by Women’s Budget Group](https://wbg.org.uk/ldp/). The Local Data Project provides organisations with training to analyse local data. Women’s Budget Group does not accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy, content, completeness, legality or reliability of this data and information. Furthermore, use of our logo is not an endorsement of the content published.