

# Child Care By The Numbers

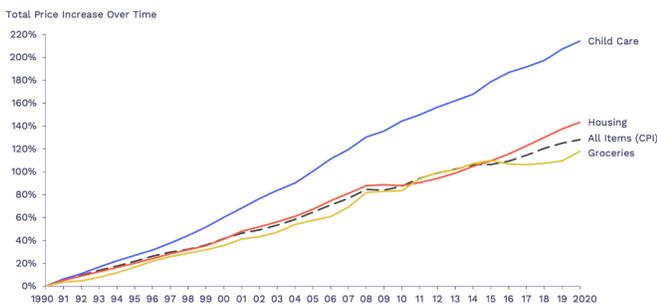


As Congress considers child care and early learning proposals, it is important to understand the economic impacts of child care on American families and the realities facing child care providers and early educators. The latest economic data underscores the need for significant, sustained investment in child care and early learning.

## Child Care Costs Have Increased Nearly Twice as Fast as Other Family Expenses

Since 1990, average child care costs have risen 214%, far outpacing the 143% increase in average family income and increases in other major household expenses.

### Since 1990, Growth in Child Care Costs Has Considerably Outpaced Other Family Expenses



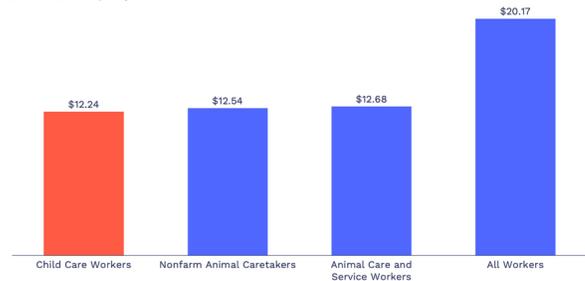
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey

## Wages for Child Care Workers Remain Low

In 2020, the median pay for child care workers was \$12.24 per hour, 40% less than an average worker.

### The Low Wages of Child Care Workers

May 2020 Median Hourly Wage



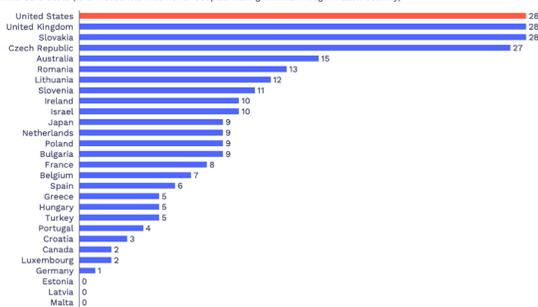
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics

## Americans Pay More for Child Care than Other Countries

Child care costs are more burdensome for parents in the United States than in other parts of the world. For families with lower income especially, the share of household income spent on child care in the U.S. is among the highest in highly-developed economies.

### The U.S. Leads in Child Care Costs Among Developed Economies

2020 Net Child Care Costs (% of Household Income for Couples Making Minimum Wage in Each Country)



Source: OECD

## There Is No Market-Based Solution to America's Child Care Crisis

Providers can't charge families more because prices are already higher than what most families can afford. And because child care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers is a specialized, labor-intensive service, there is no outsourcing or automating this work. As a result, providers are often paid near-poverty wages for child care programs to remain solvent. These jarringly low wages contribute to high turnover among providers and would eventually lead to lower quality care and education for children.

**This is why sustained, significant investment is needed to rebuild America's child care system.**