

FOR LACK OF CARE

The Economic Impact of Child Care Challenges



A recent study of Georgia families with children ages birth through five reveals that child care challenges have a devastating impact on family finances, employers' balance sheets, and our state's economy. When GEEARS and the Metro Atlanta Chamber first conducted this groundbreaking analysis in 2018, the numbers were alarming. **In 2025, the economic impact is even more dire.**

Child care challenges in Georgia lead to at least **\$2.52 BILLION IN LOSSES** in economic activity annually and an additional **\$131.7 MILLION** in lost tax revenue.

Nearly

1 in **3**



say they or a parent/caregiver in their home has had to leave, not take, or greatly change a job in the last 12 months because of child care challenges.

Parents missed an average of

10.2 days

of work in the 6 months prior due to child care challenges.

Average amount parents spend monthly on child care increased by

77%

relative to 2018, representing a larger portion of parents' overall budget.

Among parents with children ages birth-five:

	2024	2018
Quit (work, school, or work training)	31%	21%
Went from full-time to part time	34%	18%
Unable/unwilling to go from part-time to full-time	30%	21%
Fired from work	13%	5%
Turned down a promotion	26%	18%

...due to child care challenges

53% of Georgians have delayed or decided not to have more children as a result of child care costs.

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METHODOLOGY

In December 2024, Hart Research Associates conducted an online survey on behalf of GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students, interviewing 406 Georgia parents of children ages birth to five years old. This online survey has a margin of error of ± 4.9 percentage points for the full sample of 406, and it is higher for subgroups of the sample. Economic impact analysis conducted by Jerry Parrish, Metro Atlanta Chamber.