

Affordable Child Care Benefit – Number of Children and Families Over time (Seasonally Adjusted)

DATA DICTIONARY
Last Updated: July 2024

This table provides the monthly data on the seasonally adjusted number of families and children who are recipients of the Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB), beginning from September 2018.

Background: The [Affordable Child Care Benefit](#) is a monthly payment made to eligible families to help them with the cost of child care. Eligibility is determined by factors such as income, family size, and type of child care.

Seasonality refers to recurring patterns that happen at regular intervals. The Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) data has regular seasonal patterns due to factors like school holidays. For example, ACCB use is lower in the summer months and the last few weeks of December every year. Seasonal adjustment is used to remove these predictable fluctuations, providing a clearer view of the trends in ACCB usage.

To learn more about how to work with this dataset, please refer to the document "[Working with Affordable Child Care Benefit data.docx](#)".

Key References: [Affordable Child Care Benefit](#)

Technical Notes:

- (i) The seasonally adjusted number of families and children who are recipients of the Affordable Child Care Benefit have been estimated at the province and school district (SD) levels. By mapping each child care facility's postal code to the geographic area, facilities were assigned to school districts. However, given that SD 93 (Conseil scolaire francophone) represents all Francophone schools located across the province of British Columbia, it is not possible to assign a child care facility to SD 93 using the postal code, as SD 93 is not defined by specific geographic boundary like other school districts. Instead, SD 93 child care facilities are included within the school district where the facility is located.
- (ii) Because seasonal adjustment involves applying a month-specific seasonality index to the actual number of families and children receiving the ACCB, the school district-level data for the '**Seasonally Adjusted Number of Children**' and '**Seasonally Adjusted Number of Families**' columns (defined below) may not sum to the provincial estimates.

VARIABLE NAME	VARIABLE DESCRIPTION
Year_Month	<p>This variable is a numeric representation of the year and month in the format YYYYMM. For example, "202311" corresponds to November 2023.</p> <p>The variable represents the service date of the program. In the table, earliest month of data available is '201809'.</p>
Month_Year_Label	<p>This variable displays the date in the format 'Month YYYY' (e.g., 'Nov2023'), offering a more descriptive and easily interpretable alternative to the Year_Month variable column.</p> <p>The earliest date in the datasets is 'Sep2018' – the launch date of ACCB program.</p>

VARIABLE NAME	VARIABLE DESCRIPTION
Fiscal_Year	<p>The fiscal year commences on April 1 and ends on March 31 of the following year.</p> <p>For this data set, the earliest fiscal year corresponds to '2018/2019'.</p>
Data_Level	<p>An indicator to reflect the grouping of data for which estimates are presented. Use this column to view results at the province or school district level.</p> <p>Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Province' that reflects data at the province level. • 'District' that reflects data at the school district level. Select from the SD_Number (or SD_Name) column to observe results for a particular school district.
Region	<p>This reflects the name of the Chapter according to the BC School Superintendents Association (BCSSA). As of 2023-2024, there are six Chapters associated with school districts.</p> <p>The mapping of school districts to BCSSA Chapters can be found here: https://bcssa.org/about-us/chapters/</p>
SD_Number	<p>This column is the geographic school district number assigned to each care location based on its corresponding postal code/physical location. These are facilities where children receiving ACCB are enrolled.</p> <p>For the name of the district, see the column SD_Name.</p> <p><i>(Note: Missing or NA values indicate results shown at the province level).</i></p>
SD_Name	<p>The name of the geographic school district.</p> <p>For the number of the district, see the column SD_Number.</p>
Seasonally Adjusted Number Of Children	<p>This represents the count of children who are recipients of the Affordable Child Care Benefit, adjusted to account for regular seasonal fluctuations.</p> <p>If the number of children at the school district level is less than 10, the value is "masked" (suppressed) to protect privacy, and the notation 'Msk' is displayed.</p>
Seasonally Adjusted Number Of Families	<p>This represents the count of families who are recipients of the Affordable Child Care Benefit, adjusted to account for regular seasonal fluctuations.</p> <p>If the count of families at the school district level is less than 10, the value is "masked" (suppressed) to protect privacy, and the notation 'Msk' is displayed.</p>