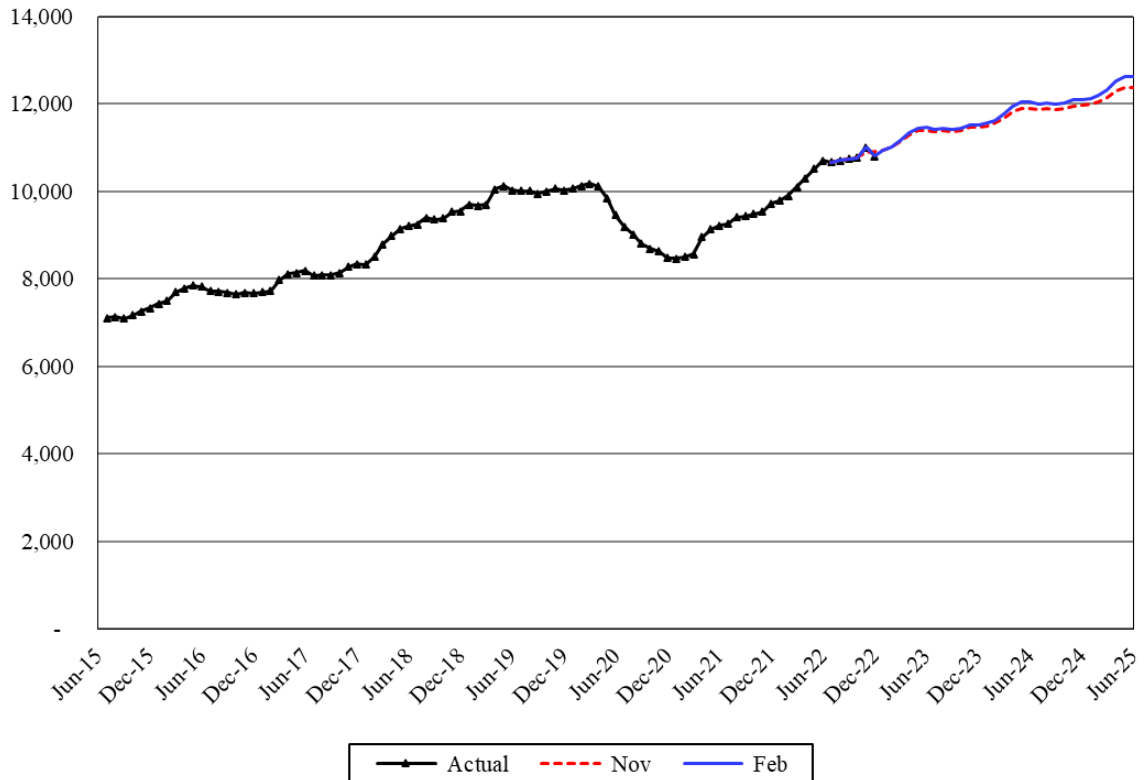


## Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) (Unofficial Courtesy Forecast)



The Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program (ESIT) coordinates and provides services for eligible infants and toddlers and is administered by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). The ESIT caseload is defined as the number of children with active Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs). Children are evaluated and become eligible if found to have specific developmental delays. As of September 1, 2020, ESIT includes state funded services previously provided through Special Education Birth to Age 2.

### Forecast Comparisons (Fiscal Year Averages)

Fiscal Year	Nov-22 Forecast	Feb-23 Forecast	Nov to Feb Difference	Percent Difference
2023	10,996	11,012	16	0.1%
2024	11,571	11,649	78	0.7%
2025	12,059	12,226	167	1.4%

Compared to November, the February 2023 forecast is, on average, 16 or cases or 0.1 percent higher for fiscal year 2023 and 1.0 percent higher for the 2023-25 Biennium.

### Tracking the Current Forecast

	Nov-22 Forecast	Actual	Variance	Percent Variance
Oct-22	10,797	10,778	-19	-0.2%
Nov-22	10,883	11,015	132	1.2%
Dec-22	10,912	10,804	-108	-1.0%

Actuals are tracking, on average, 2 cases or 0.0 percent above the November forecast.

### Fiscal Year Caseload Change

	Fiscal Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual	2016	7,436		
	2017	7,832	396	5.3%
	2018	8,500	668	8.5%
	2019	9,649	1,149	13.5%
	2020	9,991	342	3.5%
	2021	8,808	-1,182	-11.8%
	2022	9,849	1,041	11.8%
Forecast	2023	11,012	1,163	11.8%
	2024	11,649	636	5.8%
	2025	12,226	577	5.0%

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a sharp decline in the ESIT caseload starting in March of 2020. The program experienced reductions in referrals, entries, and active participants. The decline ended starting in January 2021, and growth returned as vaccines became available for providers and adult caregivers. In total, for FY 2021, the ESIT caseload declined by 11.8 percent due to COVID-19. That loss was reversed in FY 2022, with 11.8 percent growth. The ESIT caseload is also forecasted to grow in FY 2023 by 11.8 percent. The forecasted growth averages 5.4 percent per year in the 2023-25 Biennium.

#### *Risks to the Forecast*

Risks to the February 2023 forecast are higher than normal as a result of uncertainty due to provider availability, birth rates, and net in-state migration. Historically, changing birth rates and policy changes have been the largest drivers of this forecast.