

Child Care and the Economy

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January 29, 2024



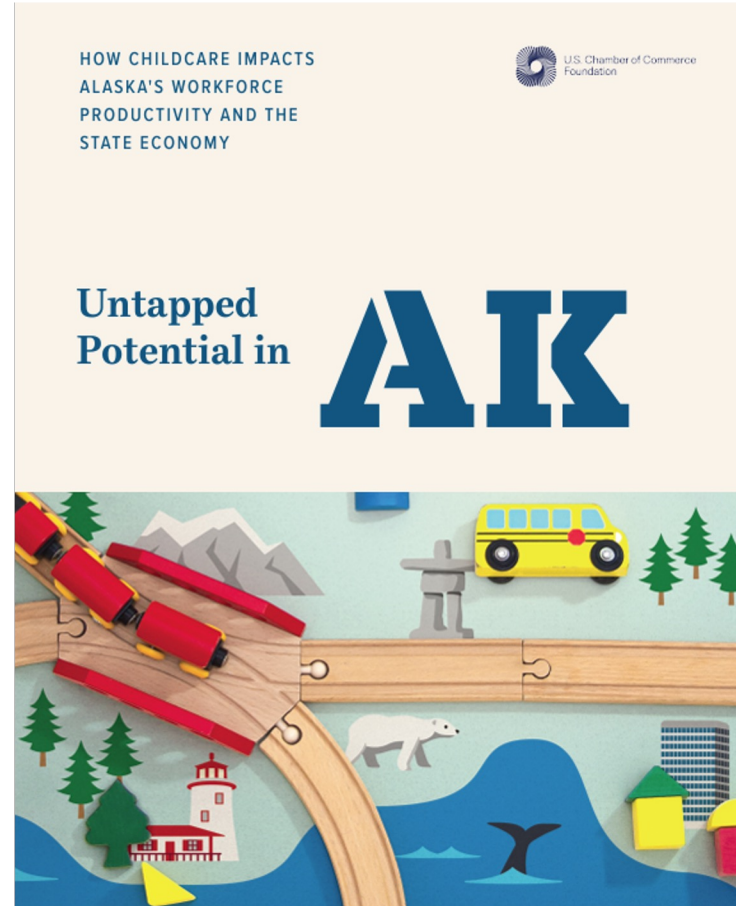
University of Alaska Center for Economic Development
A program of the UAA Business Enterprise Institute



58%

...of **private employers** say child care services are a “very important” issue for the Anchorage economy.

- 61% of Alaskans live in a “**child care desert**”
- 36% of parents **postponed school/training** due to child care challenges
- 77% of parents have **missed work** due to child care issues in past 3 months



Employers are facing significant child care related challenges:



Absenteeism
related to child care issues



Loss of productivity
related to child care issues



Turnover
related to child care issues

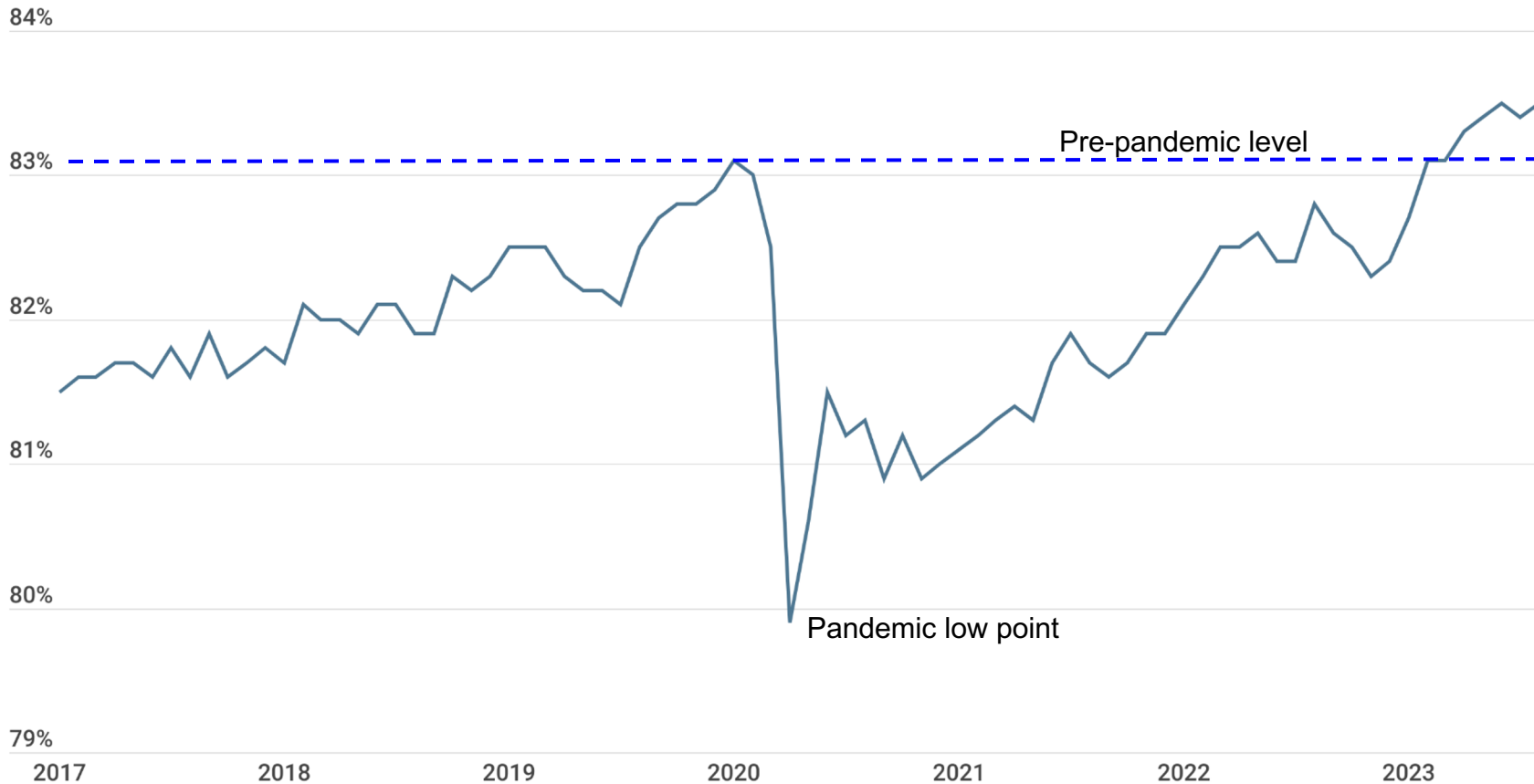
Two job openings per unemployed person! Reasons include:

- Aging of population
- Out-migration trend
- Pandemic disruptions
- Lack of child care



Prime age population is back to work

Labor force participation in the US, ages 25-54.



79%

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

Source: BLS

Before kids:

After kids:

Men: 84%

Men: 96%

Women: 79%

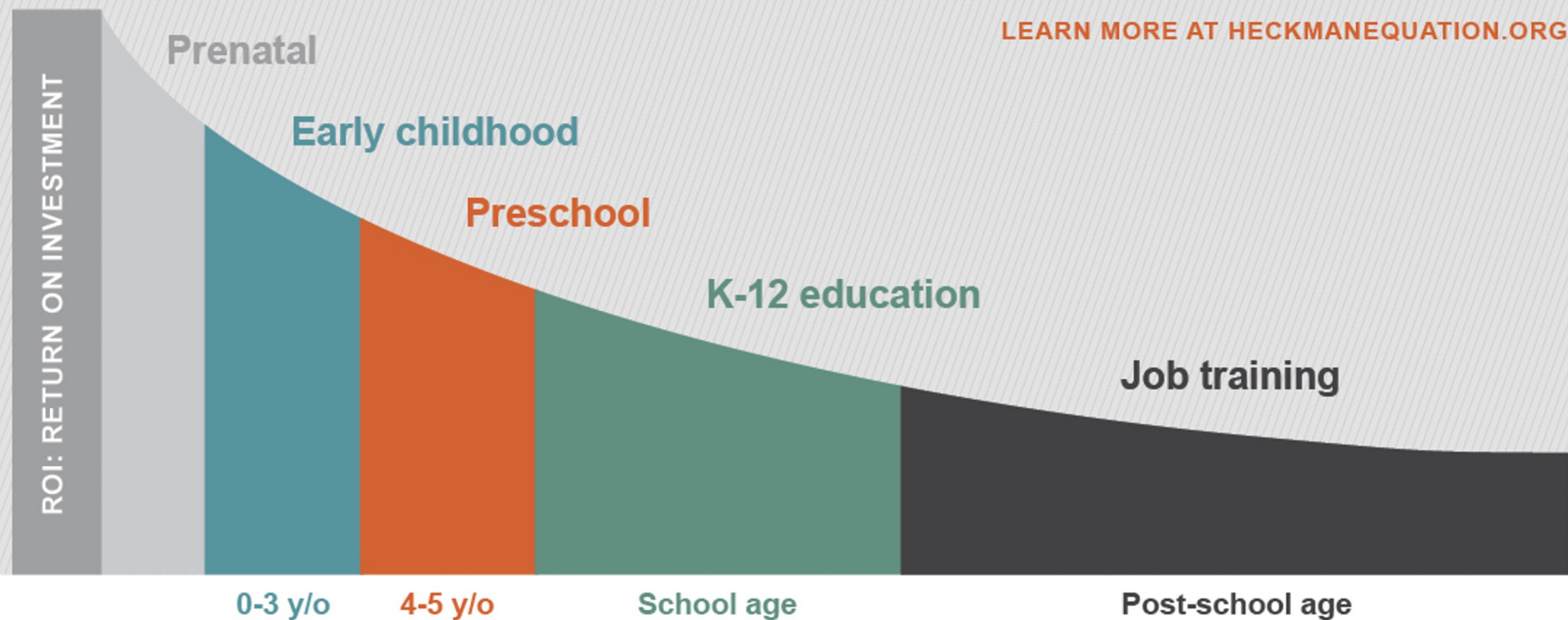
Women: 67%

Source: St. Louis Federal Reserve, 2021



Return on Investment

Economic impact of investing in early childhood learning.



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