

Abstract

This thesis aims to identify socioeconomic determinants of the availability of places in kindergartens in the Czech Republic which is for the purpose of this thesis expressed as the percentage of rejected kindergarten applications. Additionally, district-level characteristics related to the perceived shortage of places in kindergartens for children from distinct age groups, which indicates whether a child has a legal right to attend a kindergarten and whether pre-primary education is compulsory for them, are inspected. A balanced panel dataset of 76 Czech districts and the Capital City of Prague for the school years 2017/2018, 2018/2019, and 2019/2020 is analysed utilizing panel data estimation methods. The results suggest that an increase in the male unemployment rate and the growth of the average monthly wage correspond to the deterioration of the availability of places in kindergartens. The results are similar for children aged three to four years. On the contrary, the results are substantially different for children from other age groups and imply that an increase in the percentage of the urban population is associated with a lower percentage of rejected kindergarten applications. The population density, the net migration, the percentage of foreigners in the population, the share of young children in the population, and the number of newborn children lagged by three years are other district-level characteristics related to the share of rejected kindergarten applications.

Keywords

preschool education, early childhood care, kindergarten, availability of kindergartens, rejected applications

Title

Socioeconomic Determinants of the Availability of Kindergartens in the Czech Republic