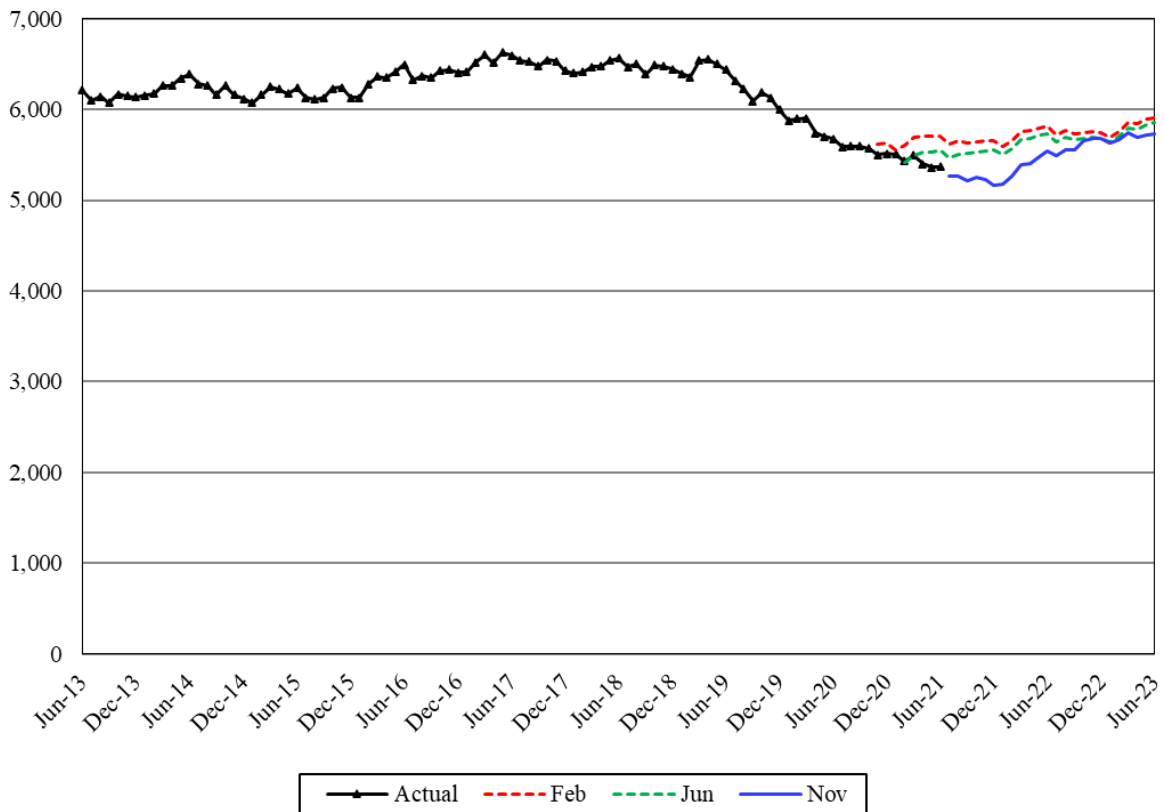


**Licensed Foster Care**



The Licensed Foster Care (LFC) caseload is a forecast of the number of children in licensed foster care during a calendar month. Financial assistance for licensed foster care includes a monthly stipend, medical care, and a variety of additional services. This caseload has two components – Basic Foster Care & Receiving Care (BFCRC) and Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS).

**Forecast Comparisons (Fiscal Year Averages)**

Fiscal Year	Feb-21 Forecast	Jun-21 Forecast	Nov-21 Forecast	Feb to Nov Difference	Percent Difference	Jun to Nov Difference	Percent Difference
2022	5,687	5,581	5,304	-384	-6.7%	-278	-5.0%
2023	5,785	5,723	5,650	-135	-2.3%	-73	-1.3%

The November 2021 forecast is, on average, 259 cases or 4.5 percent lower than the February forecast, and 176 or 3.1 percent lower than the June forecast for the 2021-23 Biennium.

### Tracking the Current Forecast

	Jun-21 Forecast	Actual	Variance	Percent Variance
Feb-21	5,412	5,430	18	0.3%
Mar-21	5,496	5,493	-3	-0.1%
Apr-21	5,526	5,402	-124	-2.2%
May-21	5,535	5,362	-173	-3.1%
Jun-21	5,549	5,369	-180	-3.2%

Actuals are tracking, on average, 92 cases or 1.7 percent lower than the June 2021 forecast.

The BFCRC caseload has been declining since April 2019, and the COVID-19 pandemic amplified the decline. The BRS caseload has experienced a similar trend since 2018. A rate increase in October 2019 resulted in a temporary capacity increase, but the caseload resumed its decline with the onset of the pandemic. The LFC forecast assumes that the impact of the pandemic will begin to ease from January 2022 with increased vaccination, including approval of vaccines for children under 12.

### Fiscal Year Caseload Change

	Fiscal Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
<i>Actual</i>	2014	6,197		
	2015	6,198	0	0.0%
	2016	6,251	53	0.9%
	2017	6,467	216	3.5%
	2018	6,493	25	0.4%
	2019	6,463	-29	-0.5%
	2020	5,980	-484	-7.5%
	2021	5,494	-486	-8.1%
<i>Forecast</i>	2022	5,304	-190	-3.5%
	2023	5,650	346	6.5%

#### *Risks to the Forecast*

Risks to the LFC caseload forecast are high because of the uncertainty associated both with COVID-19 impacts and the reasons for the pre-COVID caseload decline.