

Childcare providers and inspections

This release contains:

- numbers of registered childcare providers, places and most recent inspection outcomes as at 31 March 2016
- movement in the childcare sector between 31 December 2015 and 31 March 2016
- provisional data for inspections completed between 1 January 2016 and 31 March 2016
- revised data for inspections completed between 1 September 2015 and 31 December 2015

The number of childcare providers registered with Ofsted has decreased slightly

Since 31 December 2015, the number of non-domestic providers registered with Ofsted has decreased by almost 1%. The number of childminders has decreased by 1.6%; a continuing trend that has seen a decrease of over 11,000 childminders since the end of the previous inspection cycle (31 August 2012).

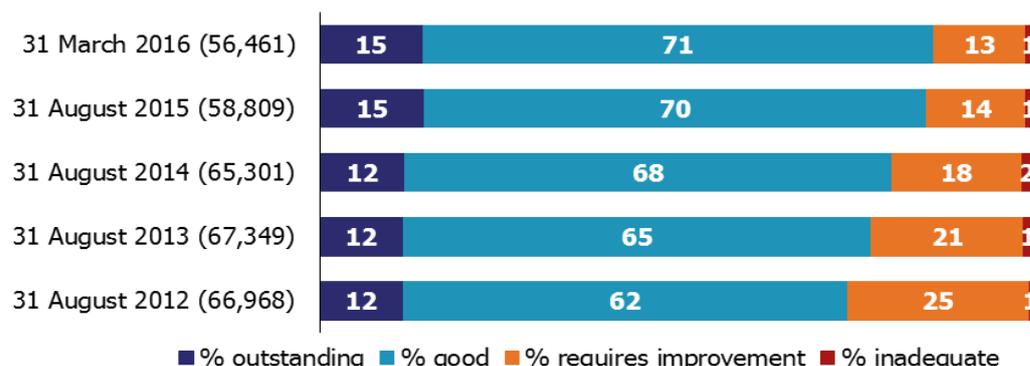
The number of places offered by providers on the Early Years Register has remained stable

Despite the decrease in the number of providers, the number of early years places offered by providers registered with Ofsted has remained stable, since 31 December 2015. Nevertheless, the number of places offered by childminders is 8% (almost 23,000) lower than it was in August 2012.

The proportion of providers judged good or outstanding is at its highest ever

As at 31 March 2016, 86% of providers on the Early Years Register (EYR) were judged to be good or outstanding. The proportion of good or outstanding providers is continuing an upward trend since August 2012 and is currently at its highest ever (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection



Contents

Number of providers.....	3
Providers and places on the Early Years Register.....	4
Inspection outcomes of providers on the Early Years Register.....	5
Regional outcomes of providers on the Early Years Register	7
Childminder agencies.....	8
Revisions to previous release	8
Notes	8
Glossary	9

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this statistical release: Tristan Browne, Stuart Lloyd, Aspasia Papa, Nathan Hook and Kieran Rudge.

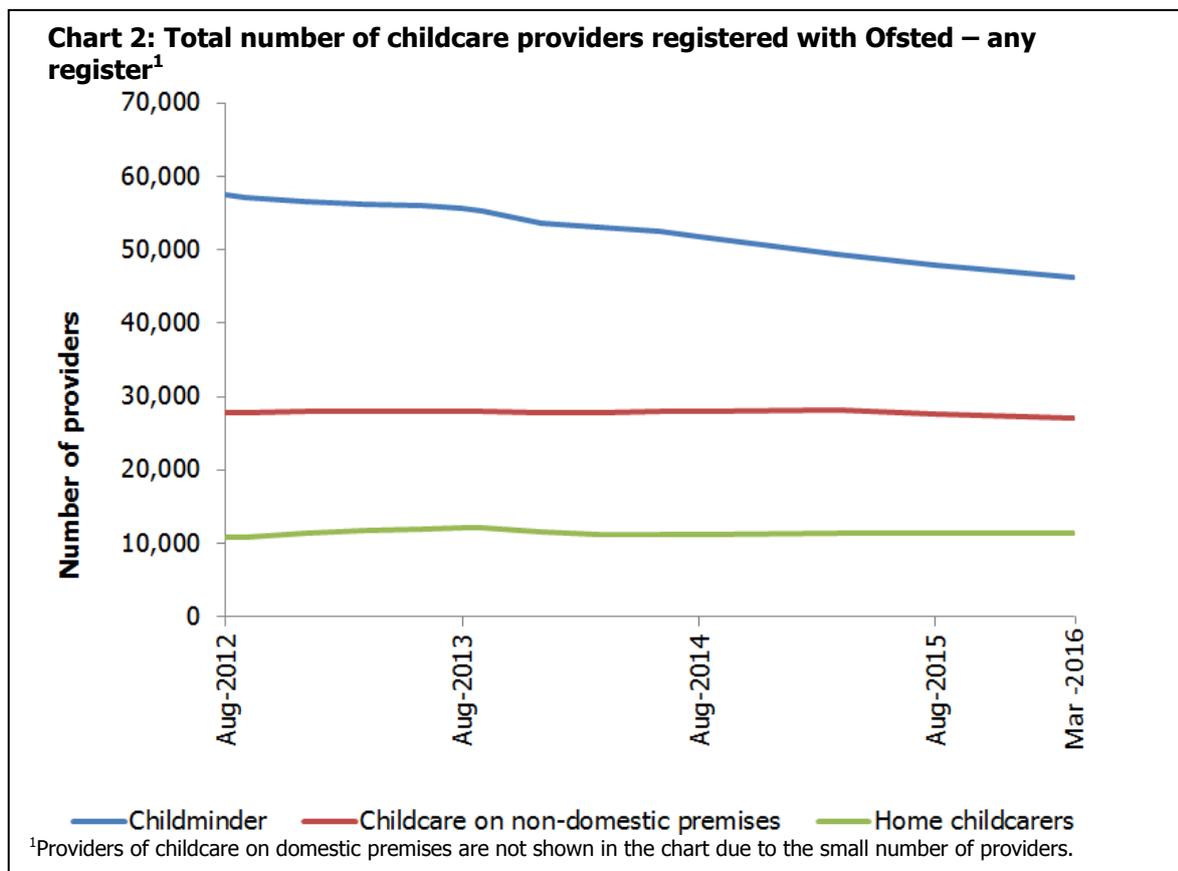
Key findings

Number of providers

There were 84,970 childcare providers registered with Ofsted as at 31 March 2016¹. This is a decrease of 1.2% since 31 December 2015. The number of childminders has fallen by 1.6% (770) and the number of providers of childcare on non-domestic premises has fallen by 0.8% (207).

The decrease in registered non-domestic providers is due in part to a change in legislation in May 2015 whereby schools are no longer required to register their early years provision for two-year-olds with Ofsted.

The longer-term trend, since the end of the previous inspection cycle (31 August 2012), is a continuing decrease in childminders while childcare on non-domestic premises and home childcarers have remained fairly stable (Chart 2).



¹ Under the Childcare Act 2006, childcare providers register on either or both of two registers: the Early Years Register and the Childcare Register. See the glossary for further details.

Providers and places on the Early Years Register

As at 31 March 2016, 81% of all registered providers were on the Early Years Register (EYR). These providers care for children in the early years age range, from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday. Data on places are only collected for providers registered on the EYR.

Non-domestic childcare providers offered over a million places which represented 79% of all registered places; childminders offered a total of 260,417 places, (20%) and providers of childcare on domestic premises accounted for less than 1% of places on the EYR.

Despite the decrease in the number of providers, the total number of places offered has remained relatively stable, decreasing by just 0.1% (1,292 places) between 1 January 2016 and 31 March 2016. However, since August 2012, the number of places offered by childminders has decreased by 8% (almost 23,000) compared with a decrease of 0.7% (over 7,000 places) for childcare on non-domestic premises.

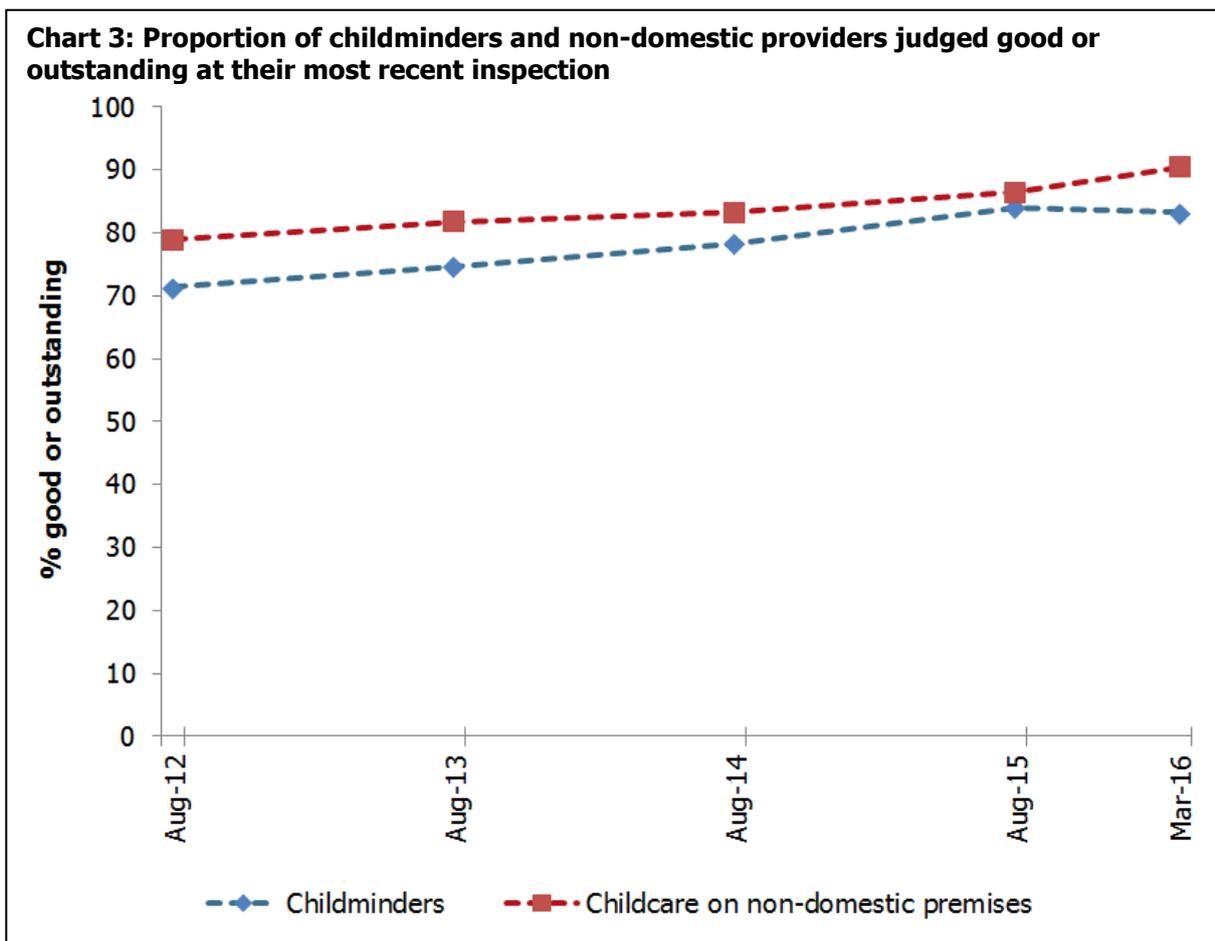
Since May 2015, schools have been exempt from registering their early years provision for two year olds. Therefore, these schools may not be registered on the EYR. This legislative change means that Ofsted is not able to report on the total number of early years places available nationally, it is only able to report on places offered by providers registered on the EYR.

Inspection outcomes of providers on the Early Years Register

Ofsted had inspected 82% of active providers on the EYR as at 31 March 2016. This included 85% of providers of childcare on non-domestic premises and 80% of childminders.

Of the 56,461 active providers that had been inspected by Ofsted, 86% were judged good or outstanding. This is the highest ever level and is a small increase from what was reported at the end of December 2015.

The proportion of active providers judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection was higher for non-domestic providers (90%) than childminders (83%). The trend, since the end of the previous inspection cycle (31 August 2012), is a rise in the proportion of childminders and childcare on non-domestic premises judged good or outstanding. However, since August 2015, while the proportion of non-domestic providers has continued to rise, the proportion of childminders judged good or outstanding has fallen (Chart 3).



The difference in the proportion of childminders and non-domestic childcare providers judged good or outstanding is due in part to a difference in the inspection policy between the two types of providers. From 4 November 2013, childcare on non-domestic premises judged requires improvement are required to be re-inspected within 12 months, while this is not the case for childminders.² This means that non-domestic providers will have more opportunity to demonstrate improvement than childminders. This effect is particularly pertinent towards the end of the inspection cycle; the current inspection cycle ends 31 July 2016.

² Announcement of update in Early Years inspection policy from HMCI:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-calls-for-swift-improvement-in-pre-schools-and-nurseries>

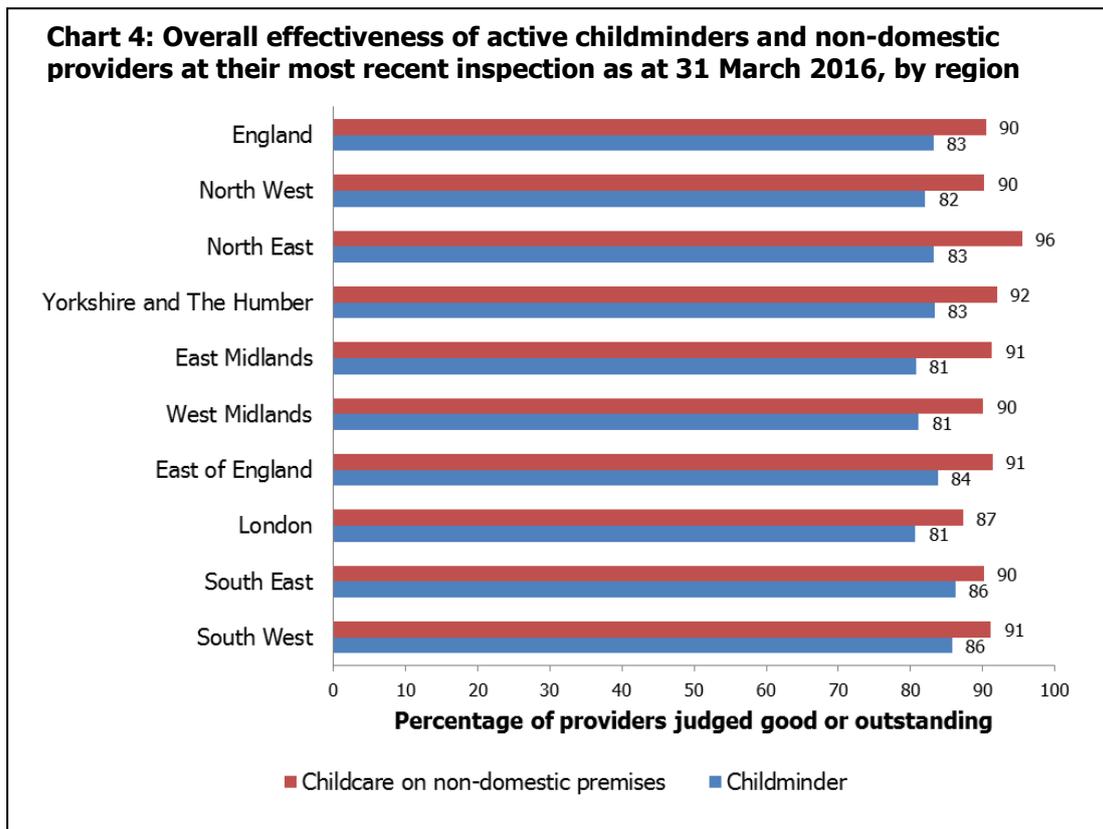
Regional outcomes of providers on the Early Years Register

For the most recent inspection of active providers of childcare on non-domestic premises as at 31 March 2016:

- North East continued to have the highest proportion (96%) of providers judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness.
- London continued to have the lowest proportion (87%) of providers judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness.

For the most recent inspection of active childminders as at 31 March 2016:

- South East and South West had the highest proportions (86%) of childminders judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness, South East also had the highest proportion as at 31 December 2015
- London, West Midlands and East Midlands had the lowest proportion of childminders judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness (81%), East Midlands also had the lowest proportion as at 31 December 2015.



Childminder agencies

Childminder agencies were introduced in September 2014. As at 31 March 2016 there were eight agencies registered with Ofsted, none had been inspected.

Revisions to previous release

The provisional data in the previous release related to inspections between 1 September 2015 and 31 December 2015, published as at 31 January 2016. A revised list of inspections in this period is provided in the data for this publication in Tables 14-19, which include those that were published as at 30 April 2016.

These revisions did not result in any changes to the key findings identified in the previous publication.

Revisions to data in this publication are published in line with Ofsted's revisions policy for official statistics, which can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-standards-for-official-statistics

Notes

An explanation about key uses of these data, further contextual information and the arrangements for quality assurance is provided in the accompanying methodology and quality report: www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-statistics under the heading 'Providers and inspections'.

The methodology and quality report also provides information on the strengths and limitations of the statistics.

Common Inspection Framework (CIF)

Inspections from 1 September 2015 were carried out under the Common Inspection Framework (CIF). Grades are now given for overall effectiveness and four key judgements. Two of the new key judgements are equivalent to key judgements recorded in the previous framework. The other two key judgements – outcomes for children and quality of teaching, learning and assessment – are new.

Glossary

Under the Childcare Act 2006 (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/contents) childcare providers register on either or both of two registers:

- **Early Years Register (EYR)**

The EYR is for providers who care for children in the early years age group, from birth to the 31 August following their fifth birthday.

Registration is compulsory for such providers and they must meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

- **Childcare Register**

The Childcare Register is for providers who care for children from birth to 18 years. It has two parts:

- a compulsory part, for providers who care for children aged from the end of the EYFS up to seven years.
- a voluntary part, for providers who care for children aged eight and over and those providing care for children at any age for whom registration is not compulsory, for example nannies.

Inspection

Ofsted will inspect all providers who were on the EYR on 1 September 2012 at least once by 31 July 2016. Providers who have registered after this date will normally be inspected within 30 months of registration.

Ofsted evaluates the overall quality and standards of the early years provision in line with the principles and requirements of the EYFS. Inspectors judge the overall effectiveness of the early years provision, taking into account four key judgements:

- quality of teaching, learning and assessment;
- personal development, behaviour and welfare;
- effectiveness of leadership and management;
- outcomes for children.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The EYFS is the statutory framework for the early education and care of children from birth to the 31 August following their fifth birthday.

Childminder

This is a person who is registered to look after one or more children, to whom they are not related, on a domestic premises for reward. Childminders can work with no more than two other childminders or assistants. They must register if they care for children under the age of eight, and can choose to register if they care for older children. They care for:

- children on domestic premises that are not usually the home of one of the children unless they care for children from more than two families, wholly or mainly in the homes of the families.
- at least one individual child for a total of more than two hours in any day. This is not necessarily a continuous period of time.

Childcare providers

Childcare providers care for at least one individual child for a total of more than two hours in any one day. This is not necessarily a continuous period of time. They must register to care for children under the age of eight, unless under exceptional circumstances; and can choose to register to care for older children.

Childcare providers on domestic and non-domestic premises

If four or more people look after children at any one time in someone's home, they are providing childcare on domestic premises, not childminding. Childcare providers on non-domestic premises are people or organisations providing care for individual children in premises that are not someone's home. These premises can range from converted houses to purpose built nurseries.

Domestic premises

These are any premises which are wholly or mainly used as a private dwelling.

Home childcarers

Home childcarers are usually nannies who care for children of any age up to their 18th birthday wholly or mainly in the child's own home, and care for children from no more than two families. They are not required to register with Ofsted but may choose to do so on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

Childminder agencies

Childminder agencies were introduced in September 2014 as an option for childminders to register with. Childminders who registered with an agency would no longer need to register or be inspected by Ofsted, although the agency itself will receive an inspection. Ofsted will not hold data on the number of childminders registered with an agency.

Number of places

Registered places are the number of children that may attend the provision at any one time. Registered places are not the number of places occupied, nor the number of children who may benefit from receiving places through providers offering sessions at different times of the day. Place numbers are only collected for providers on the EYR. Averages are used to estimate the number of places for a very small number of providers whose place numbers are not available at the time of the analysis. There may also be small discrepancies in totals due to rounding.

Joiners and leavers

Joiners are childcare providers that have registered with Ofsted during this reporting period. Most of these are new registrations, but Charts also include providers with re-activated registrations and those that changed provider type or register. At the local authority or regional level, this may also include providers that have relocated into a new geographical area.

Leavers are mostly childcare providers that have left Ofsted during the reporting period. Most of these are resignations, but Charts also include providers that have had their registration cancelled or have changed provider type or register. At the local authority or regional level, this may also include providers that have relocated out of a geographical area.

Ofsted publishes information on the inspection of early years providers on the gov.uk website:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-statistics

www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-inspection-framework-education-skills-and-early-years-from-september-2015

www.gov.uk/government/publications/framework-for-the-regulation-of-provision-on-the-childcare-register

If you have any comments or feedback on this publication, please contact Selina Gibb on 03000 130 407 or Selina.Gibb@ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU or e-mail: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk