

Childcare providers and inspections

This release contains:

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

The proportion of providers on the Early Years Register (EYR) judged good or outstanding is at its highest ever

As at 31 August 2016, the proportion of providers on the EYR judged to be good or outstanding was 91%. This is up from 86% as at 31 March 2016 and up from 74% since 31 August 2012 (Chart 1).

The number of places offered by childcare providers on the EYR has decreased slightly

The number of childcare places offered by non-domestic providers on the EYR has shown little change since 31 March 2016, while the number of childminder places has decreased by 1%.

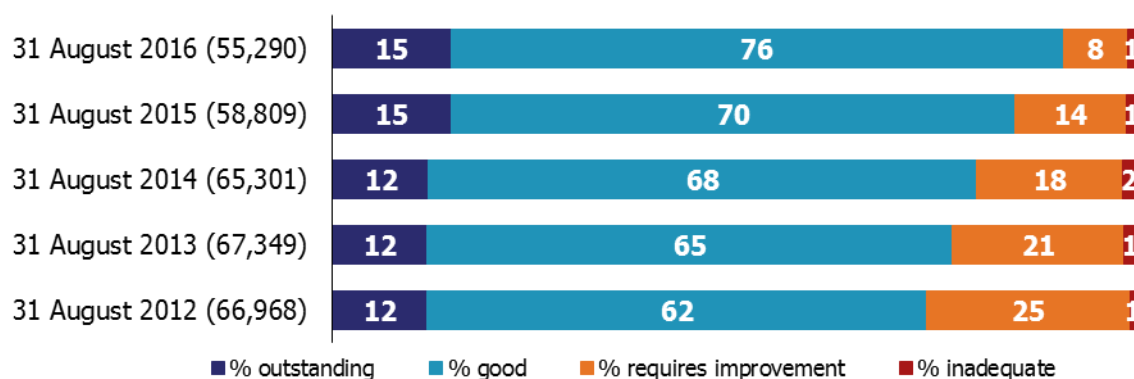
Since 31 August 2012, the number of places offered by non-domestic providers has remained relatively stable, however, childminder places have decreased by 9%.

The number of childminders registered with Ofsted has continued to decrease

Since 31 March 2016, the number of childminders registered with Ofsted either on the EYR or the Childcare Register (CR) has decreased by 3%, while the number of non-domestic providers has decreased by less than 1%.

Since 31 August 2012, the number of childminders has decreased by more than a fifth (22%).

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



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Acknowledgements

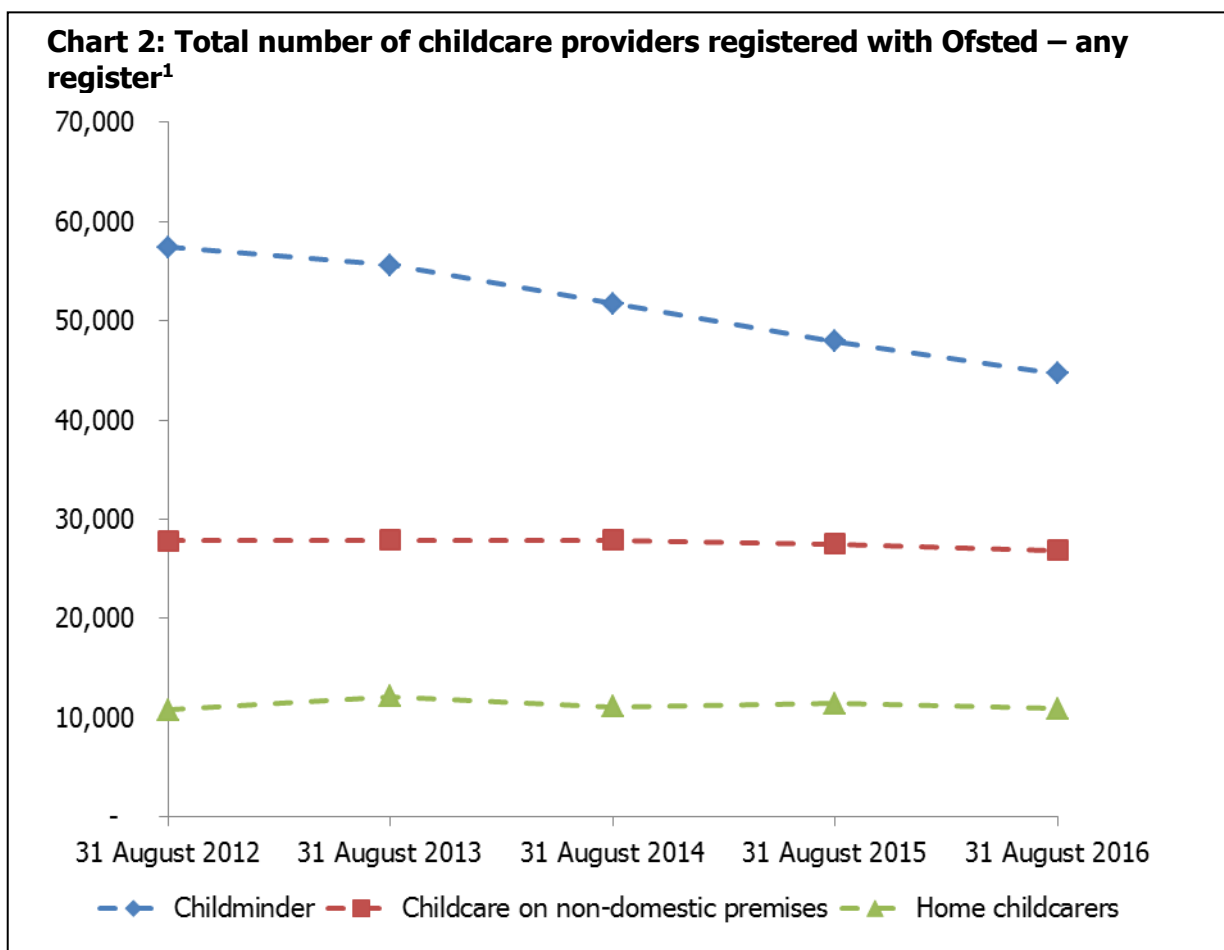
Thanks to the following for their contribution to this statistical release: Tristan Browne, Stuart Lloyd, Nathan Hook, Katherine Potts, Jacob Williams and Zsolt Puskás.

Key findings

Number of providers

There were 82,696 childcare providers registered with Ofsted as at 31 August 2016.¹ This is a decrease of 2.7% since 31 March 2016. The number of childminders has fallen by 3.5% (1,601) and the number of providers of childcare on non-domestic premises has fallen by 0.9% (246).

Since 31 August 2012, the number of childminders has decreased by more than a fifth (22%) from 57,400 to 44,700.² By contrast, the number of providers on non-domestic premises has decreased more modestly, falling by 3.5% since August 2012, from 27,800 to 26,900 (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.

² To the nearest 100 providers.

The decrease in the number of childminders registered with Ofsted over time is considerable. However, we don't know all of the reasons for this and it is likely to be due to a combination of factors. Childminders can now register with childminder agencies rather than register directly with Ofsted, which means that we cannot report on their individual registrations. However, only eight childminder agencies were active as at the end of August 2016, therefore the effect of this is likely to be minimal.

For non-domestic providers, a legislation change in May 2015 means that schools are no longer required to register their early years provision for two-year-olds with Ofsted. This could account for some of the decrease in the number of non-domestic providers.

Providers and places on the Early Years Register

As at 31 August 2016, 81% of all registered providers were on the Early Years Register (EYR).³ This is the same proportion as at 31 March 2016.

Some 80% of childcare places on the EYR were offered by childcare on non-domestic premises, with over 1 million places. The remaining 20% were offered by childminders (257,500 places) with less than 1% offered by childcare on domestic premises.⁴ This was a small shift since 31 August 2012, when a slightly lower proportion of places were offered by non-domestic providers (78%), and childminders offered over a fifth (22%).

Despite the decrease in the number of providers, the total number of places offered as at 31 August 2016 has shown a modest decline of 0.3% since 31 March 2016. This is a continuation of a longer term trend of a 2.5% decline in places since 31 August 2012. However, this was different for different types of early years provider: The number of places offered by childminders has decreased 9% compared with a relatively modest decrease of 0.8% of places offered by childcare on non-domestic premises.

Since May 2015, schools have been exempt from registering their early years provision for two year olds. Therefore, some schools continue to provide early years provision but are no longer registered with Ofsted. This legislative change means that Ofsted is not able to report on the total number of early years places available nationally, as only places on the EYR are included in Ofsted data.

³ 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 Early Years Register (EYR).

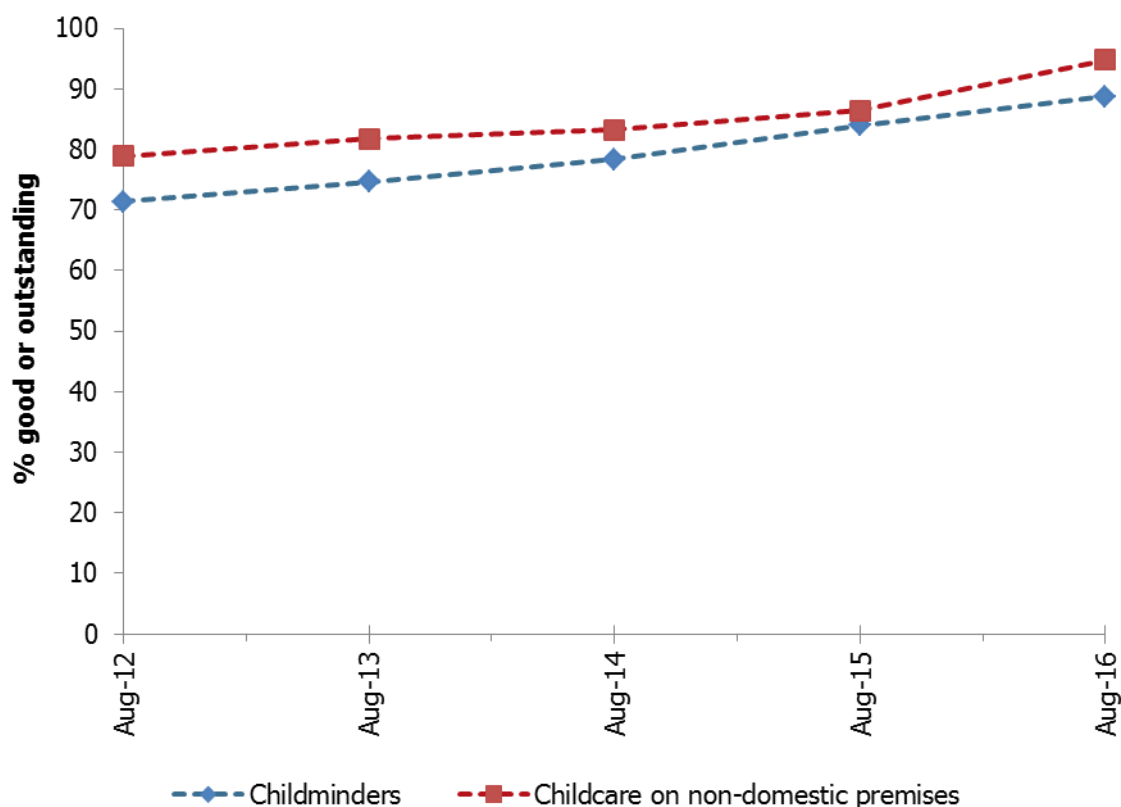
⁴ Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Inspection outcomes of providers on the Early Years Register

Ofsted had inspected 82% of active providers on the Early Years Register (EYR) as at 31 August 2016. This included 85% of providers of childcare on non-domestic premises and 81% of childminders. Providers joining the EYR are inspected within 30 months of registration.⁵ Therefore, the childminders and childcare providers on non-domestic premises that remain to be inspected are mainly providers who have joined the sector within the last 30 months.

As at 31 August 2012, nearly three quarters of active providers were judged to be good or outstanding. However, as at 31 August 2016, of the 55,300 active providers that had been inspected by Ofsted, 91% were judged good or outstanding. This is the highest ever level. This is a substantial increase from 2012, and is a marked increase from the figure of 86% as at the end of March 2016.

Chart 3: Proportion of childminders and non-domestic providers judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection



⁵ Please see <https://www.gov.uk/ofsted-inspection-childcare-provider> for more information on the process of being inspected as a childminder or childcare provider.

The proportion of active providers judged good or outstanding has increased for both childminders and childcare on non-domestic premises (Chart 3). As has been the case since 31 August 2012, the proportion of providers judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection was higher for non-domestic providers (95%) than for childminders (89%). However, the difference between these two provider types, while wider than at the end of August 2015, has decreased from seven percentage points as at 31 March 2016 to six percentage points as at 31 August 2016.

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 must be re-inspected within 12 months, whereas this is not the case for childminders.⁶ This means that non-domestic providers will have more opportunity to demonstrate improvement than childminders.

Childminder agencies

Childminder agencies were introduced in September 2014; childminders can now register with childminder agencies that are registered with Ofsted, rather than registering with Ofsted directly.

As at 31 August 2016, eight active childminder agencies were registered with Ofsted. One of these has been inspected and was judged as “Effective”.

Childminder agencies data is available on the provider level data file on the Official Statistics releases page as at 31 August 2016:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-statistics>

⁶ Announcement of update in Early Years inspection policy from Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector (August 2013): <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-calls-for-swift-improvement-in-pre-schools-and-nurseries>

Regional and local authority area inspection outcomes of providers on the Early Years Register

All regions demonstrated improvement in the proportion of childcare providers judged good or outstanding since 31 March 2016, improving between one percentage point (in North East) and seven percentage points (in London). Similarly, childminders demonstrated improvement in all regions, with the proportions judged good or outstanding rising between four percentage points (in East of England) and eight percentage points (in North East).

In all regions in England, both childcare on non-domestic premises and childminders demonstrated their highest recorded proportions of providers judged good or outstanding (Chart 4). London had the largest difference (nine percentage points) between proportions of childcare on non-domestic premises judged good or outstanding compared with childminders judged good or outstanding, with South West having the smallest difference (three percentage points).

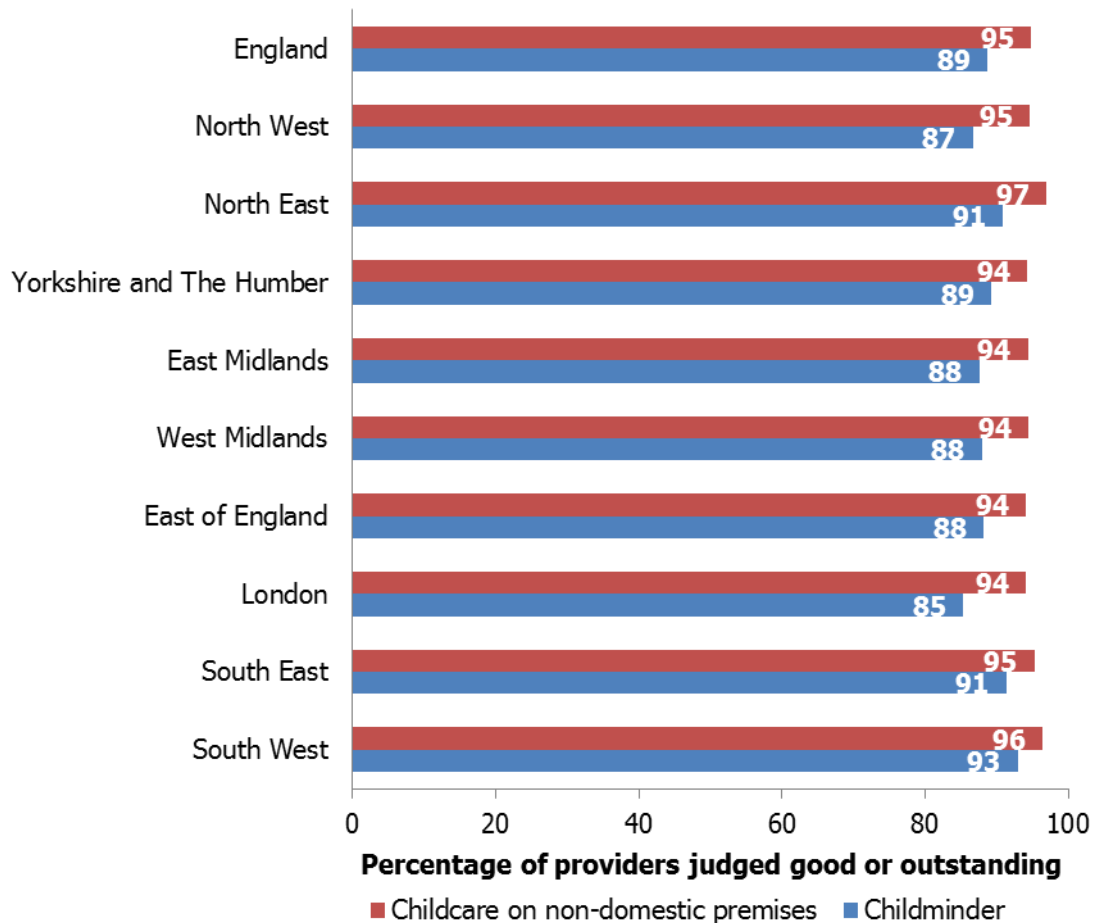
For the most recent inspection of active providers of **childcare on non-domestic premises** as at 31 August 2016:

- North East continued to have the highest proportion (97%) of providers judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness.
- London showed the largest improvement of all the regions. As at 31 March 2016 London had 87% judged good or outstanding, rising up to 94% at the end of August 2016.

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

- South West continued to have the highest proportion (93%) of childminders judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness, rising markedly from 86% as at 31 March 2016. South East had also risen considerably, from 86% in March to 91% in August 2016.
- London continued to have the lowest proportion (85%) of childminders judged good or outstanding, despite improving by five percentage points since 31 March 2016.
- West Midlands and East Midlands showed the largest improvement of seven percentage points to 88%.

Chart 4: Overall effectiveness of childminders and childcare on non-domestic premises at their most recent inspection as at 31 August 2016, by region



Notes

An explanation about key uses of this data, further contextual information and the arrangements for quality assurance is provided in the methodology and quality report under the heading 'Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 August 2016':

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

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

Revisions to previous release

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

Common Inspection Framework (CIF)

Inspections from 1 September 2015 were carried out under the Common Inspection Framework (CIF), such that the inspection judgements are common across the Early Years, Schools and Further Education and Skills remits. 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.

Ofsted were required to inspect all providers who were on the Early Years Register (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.

Glossary

Under the Childcare Act 2006

(<http://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 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 (CR)**

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

- Compulsory Childcare Register (CCR) – for providers caring for children from 1 September after the child's fifth birthday up until their eighth birthday.
- Voluntary Childcare Register (VCR) – for providers for whom registration is not compulsory, for example nannies, or providers who care for children aged eight and over.

Places data is not required for providers registered on either part of the Childcare Register. For providers registered on the Childcare Register, Ofsted inspects a sample of 10% of active providers per year.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The EYFS is the statutory framework for the early education and care of children from birth to 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.

Sometimes providers are not removed from the EYR when changing from other provider types to home childcarers. These cases are routinely cleansed from the EYR.

Childminder agencies

Childminder agencies were introduced in September 2014 as an option for childminders to register with. Childminders who register with an agency no longer need to register or be inspected by Ofsted, although the agency itself will receive an inspection. Ofsted does 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 the joiners and leavers tables and charts also include providers with re-activated registrations and those that have 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 some are also 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.

Further information

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

Contact for comments or feedback

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