

Childcare providers and inspections

This release contains:

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

The number of childminders and non-domestic childcare providers has decreased

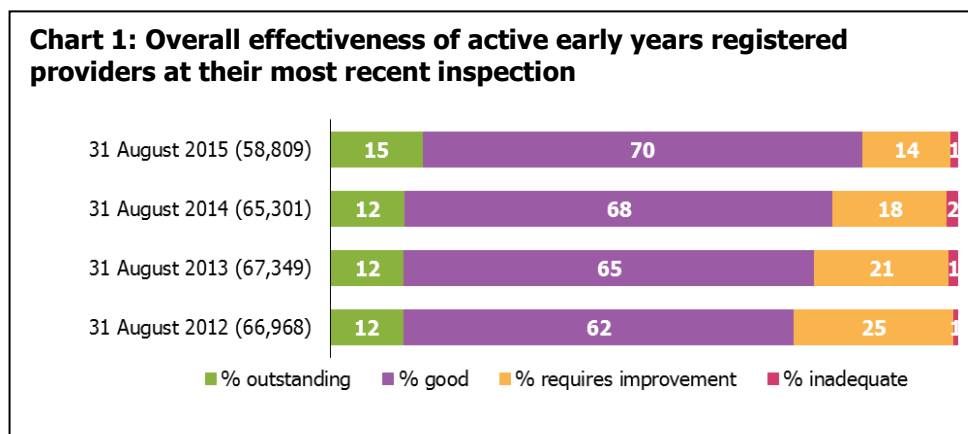
Since 31 March 2015, the number of childminders has decreased by 1,449 (3%); a continuing trend that has seen numbers decrease for the last three years. The number of providers of childcare on non-domestic premises has also decreased by 629 (2%) since 31 March 2015.

The number of early years places has decreased

The number of places offered by providers on the Early Years Register (EYR) – those registered to care for children up to five years old – has decreased by 1% to 1.29 million since 31 March 2015. This reduction in places is a result of the decrease in non-domestic childcare providers.

The proportion of providers judged good or outstanding has increased each year of this inspection cycle

The proportion of providers on the EYR judged to be good or outstanding has increased from 80% as at 31 August 2014 to 85% as at 31 August 2015, continuing a trend of improvement. However, there has been no change in the proportion judged to be good or outstanding since 31 March 2015.



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Acknowledgements

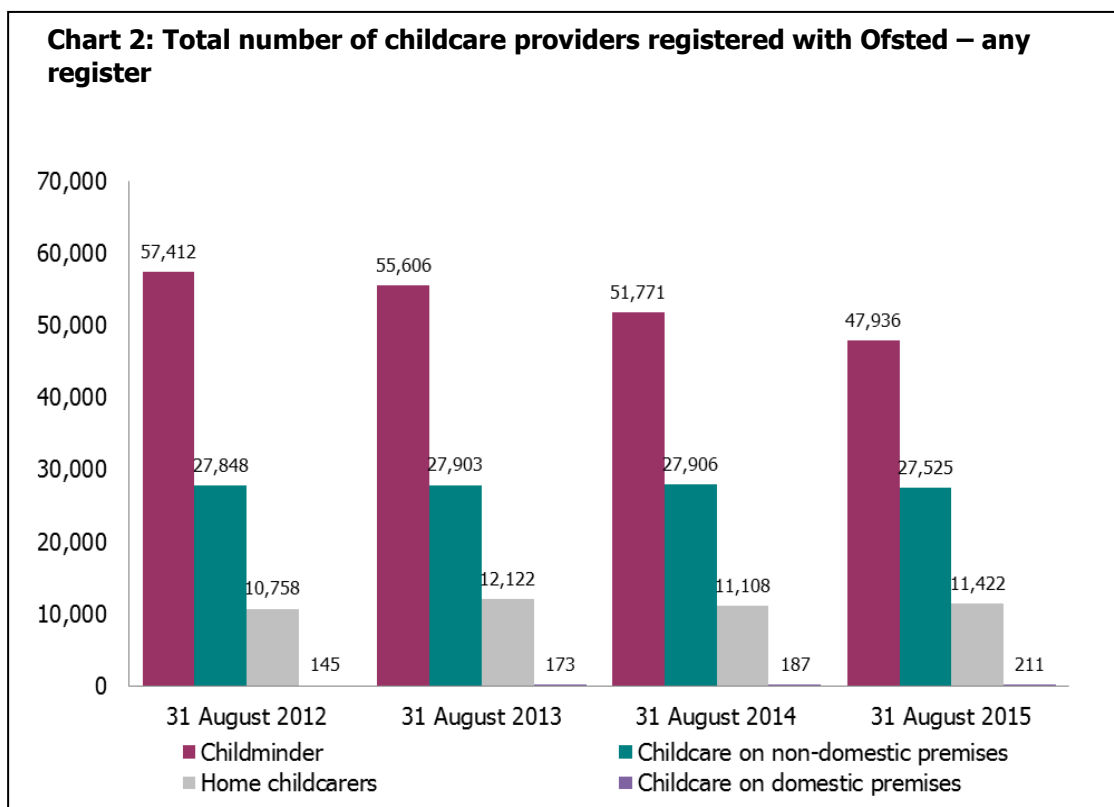
Thanks to the following for their contribution to this statistical release: Martin Griffiths, Stuart Lloyd, Antoinette Ponniah and Kieran Rudge.

Key findings

Number of providers

There were 87,094 childcare providers registered with Ofsted as at 31 August 2015.¹ This is a decrease of 2,023 providers since 31 March 2015. While the number of home childcarers and providers of childcare on domestic premises has increased slightly, the number of childminders has fallen by 1,449 and the number of providers of childcare on non-domestic premises has fallen by 629. The decrease in non-domestic providers is partly due to a change in legislation in May 2015 whereby schools are no longer required to register their early years provision for two-year-olds separately with Ofsted.

The longer-term trend is a continuing decrease in childminders, while childcare on non-domestic premises has remained fairly stable, as seen in 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

Over 80% (71,312) of all registered providers were on the Early Years Register (EYR). These providers care for children in the early years age group, from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday. Data on places are only collected for providers registered on the EYR.

Childminders are the most common provider type, with 46,044 childminders on the EYR offering a total of 259,754 places. However, this is only 20% of the total number of registered places. The 25,065 non-domestic childcare providers on the EYR offer 80% (1,024,446) of registered places. Providers of childcare on domestic premises account for less than 1% of places on the EYR.

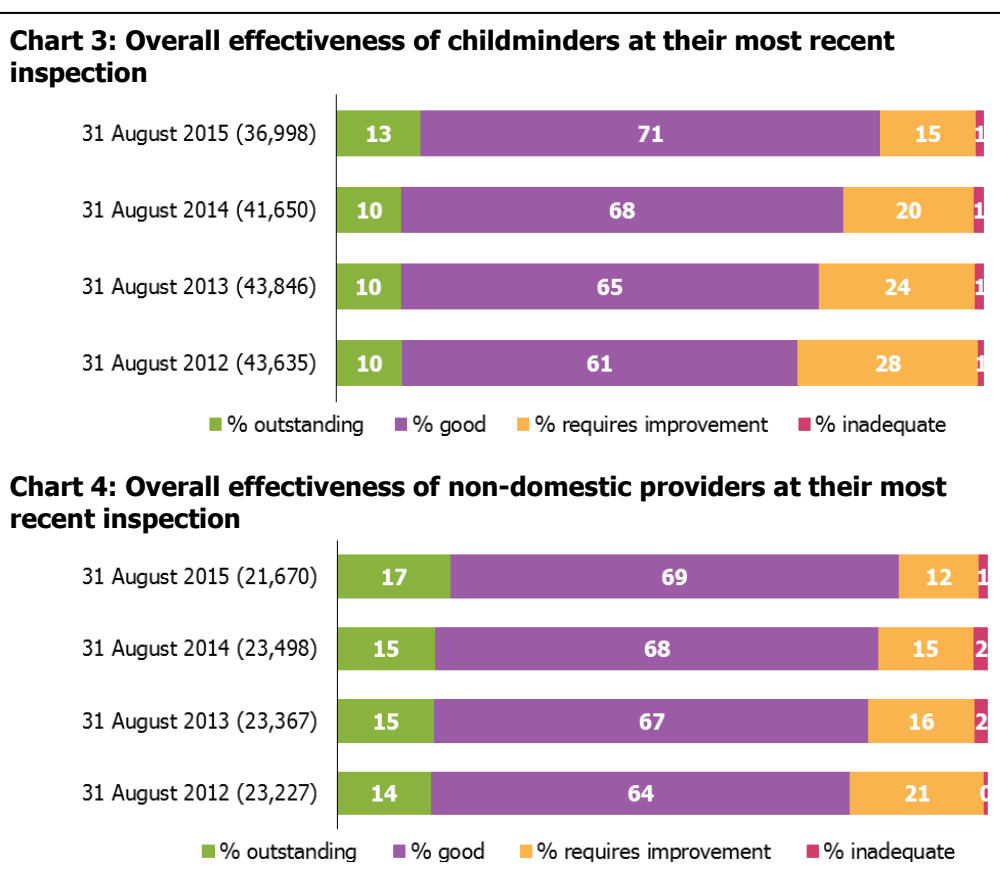
The total number of places offered by providers on the EYR has decreased by 11,529 (1%) since 31 March 2015 to 1,288,184 places at 31 August 2015. This decrease has resulted from the number of non-domestic childcare places falling by 12,011 (1%), partly due to the introduction of the exemption for schools from registering their early years provision for two-year-olds.

Although the number of childminders on the register has decreased, increases in places offered by remaining childminders mean that the total number of places offered by childminders has increased by 55 since 31 March 2015.

Despite this slight increase since March, the trend over the past three years has been a decline in places offered by childminders, while places offered by non-domestic providers have remained more stable.

Inspection outcomes of providers on the Early Years Register

Ofsted had inspected 82% of active providers on the EYR as at 31 August 2015 (58,809 of 71,312 providers). This included 86% of providers of childcare on non-domestic premises and 80% of childminders. These inspections were carried out before the introduction of the Common Inspection Framework on 1 September 2015.



The proportion of providers judged good or outstanding was similar for childminders (84%) and non-domestic providers (86%). Both proportions have increased since 31 August 2014, continuing an upward trend of recent years, as seen in Charts 3 and 4.

However, most of this increase came in the first half of the 2014-15 academic year. There has been no increase in the proportion of good or outstanding providers since 31 March 2015.

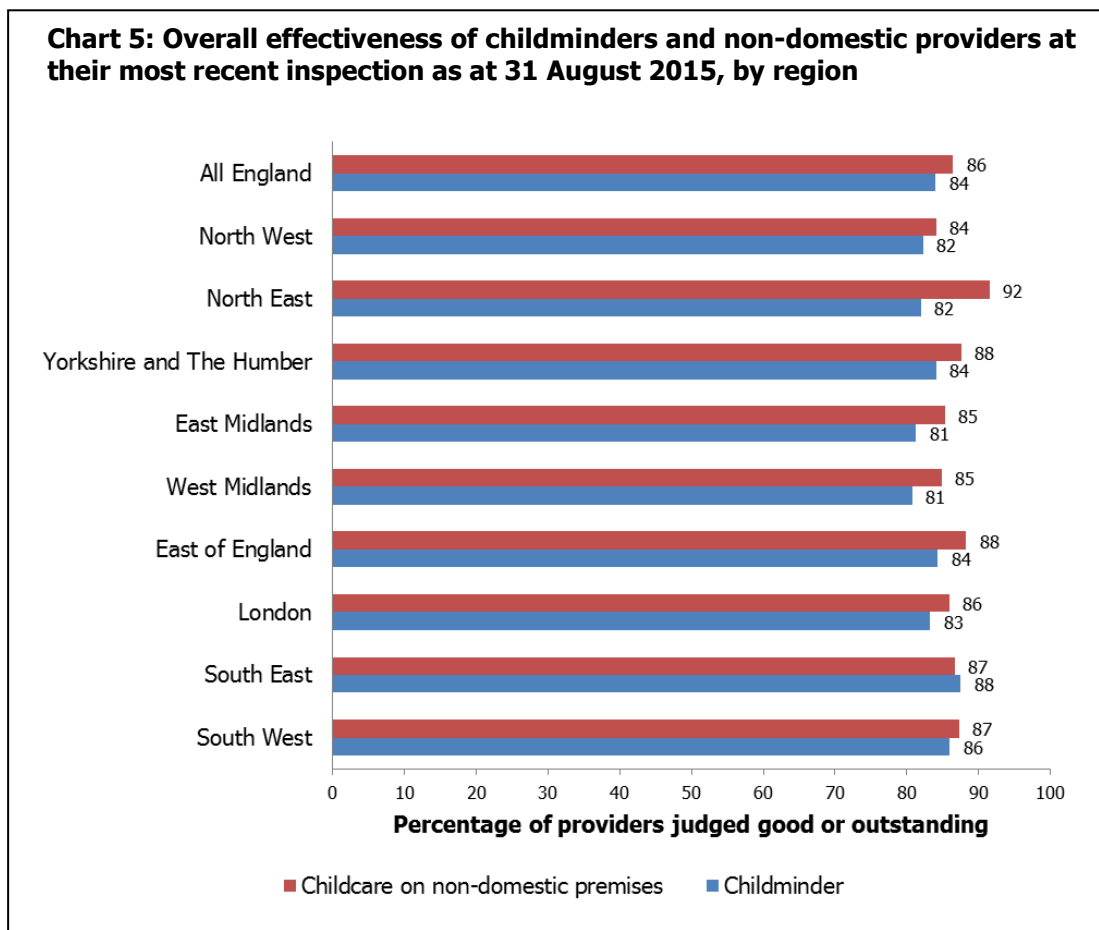
Regional analysis

For the most recent inspection of active childminders:

- the South East had the highest proportion (88%) of childminders judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness
- The East Midlands and the West Midlands jointly had the lowest proportion of childminders judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness (81%).

For the most recent inspection of active providers of childcare on non-domestic premises:

- the North East had the highest proportion (92%) of providers judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness
- the North West had the lowest proportion (84%).



Childminder agencies

Childminder agencies were introduced in September 2014 and currently there are seven agencies registered with Ofsted. None have been inspected yet.

Revisions to previous release

The provisional data in the previous release related to inspections between 1 January 2015 and 31 March 2015. During this period, 25 inspections were carried out that were not published in time to be included in the provisional data. A revised list of the 6,996 inspections in this period, including these 25 inspections, is included in the data for this publication (Tables 14-19).

Nineteen of these inspections were of providers of childcare on non-domestic premises and six were of childminders. Of the 25 providers: one was judged to be outstanding for overall effectiveness; fourteen were judged to be good; five were judged requires improvement; three were judged inadequate; one had a judgement of 'not met (actions)' at an inspection where there were no children on roll; and one had a judgement of 'met' at an inspection where there were no children on roll.

These revisions did not result in any marked changes to the proportions of outcomes reported in the previous publication and all key findings remain unchanged.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-standards-for-official-statistics>

Glossary

The Childcare Act 2006 gives Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (HMCI) responsibility for regulating childminding and childcare on domestic and non-domestic premises in England. It gives HMCI responsibility for the registration and inspection of providers registered on the Early Years Register and the Childcare Register and the responsibility for enforcement where it appears that legal requirements are not being met. Under the Childcare Act 2006, childcare providers register on either or both of two registers:

- **Early Years Register**

The Early Years Register 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.

- **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 Foundation Stage 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 Early Years Register 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 Early Years Foundation Stage. Inspectors judge the overall effectiveness of the early years provision, taking into account three key judgements:

- how well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it is provided;
- the contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children;
- the effectiveness of the leadership and management.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (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 premise 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 Early Years Register. 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.

Ofsted publishes information on the inspection of early years on its website:

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

www.gov.uk/government/publications/framework-for-the-regulation-of-provision-on-the-early-years-register (this framework was used until 31 August 2015 and has since been replaced by the Common Inspection Framework)

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

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