

Childcare inspections and outcomes

This release contains:

- numbers of registered childcare providers, places and most recent inspection outcomes as at 31 March 2015
- movement in the childcare sector between 31 August 2014 and 31 March 2015
- provisional data for inspections completed between 1 January 2015 and 31 March 2015
- revised data for inspections completed between 1 September 2014 and 31 December 2014

Number of childminders continues to decrease but non-domestic childcare providers increase

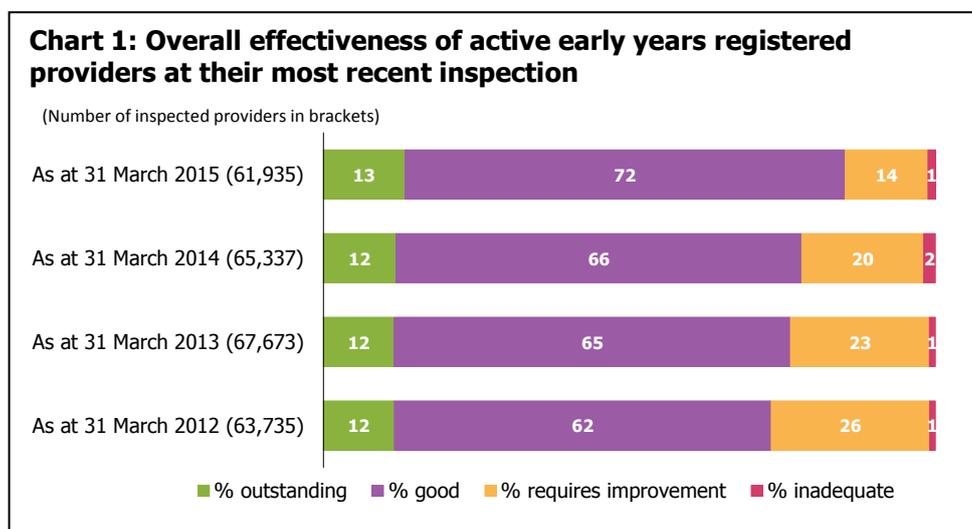
Since 31 March 2014, the number of childminders has decreased by 3,615 (7%); a continuing trend that has seen numbers decrease for the last 3 years. However, the number of providers of childcare on non-domestic premises has increased by 297 (1%) since March 2014.

The number of early years places has increased despite an overall decrease in the number of providers.

The number of places offered by providers on the Early Years Register (EYR) – those registered to care for children up to 5 years old – has increased by less than 1% to 1.3 million, despite a decrease of 4,017 providers on the EYR since 31 March 2014. Childminders leaving the EYR has contributed to this decrease in providers.

The proportion of providers judged good or outstanding has continued to increase

The proportion of providers on the Early Years Register judged to be good or outstanding has increased from 78% in 31 March 2014 to 85% in 31 March 2015. This is an acceleration of an ongoing trend.



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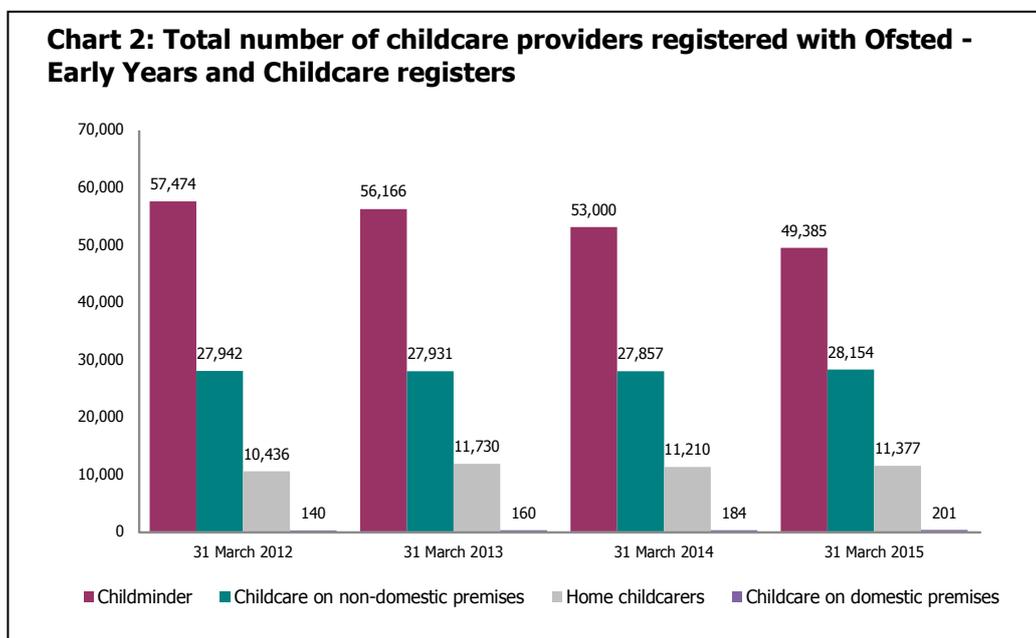
Acknowledgements

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this statistical release: Chris Foley and Nathan Hook.

Key findings

Number of providers and places

There were 89,117 childcare providers registered with Ofsted on any register as at 31 March 2015. There has been an overall decrease of 3,134 providers since 31 March 2014. The number of providers of childcare on non-domestic premises, childcare on domestic premises and home childcarers has increased, but the number of childminders has fallen.



Providers on the Early Years Register

Over 80% (73,492) of all registered providers were on the Early Years Register (EYR); these providers care for children within the early years age range.

Data on places are only collected for providers registered on the EYR. Looking at the two largest provider types in more detail, there were 47,558 childminders on the EYR, offering a maximum of 259,699 places; this is 20% of the total number of places available. There were 25,741 providers of childcare on non-domestic premises on the EYR with up to 1,036,457 (80%) registered places. Providers of childcare on domestic premises account for less than 1% of places on the EYR.

The number of places offered by providers on the EYR has increased since March 2014 by 8,597 to a current total of 1,299,713 places despite a decrease of 4,017 providers on the register¹. This is because 4,231 childminders, who generally offer fewer places, have left the EYR whereas 194 childcare on non-domestic premises, which tend to offer more places, have joined. This has resulted in a small overall increase in available places.

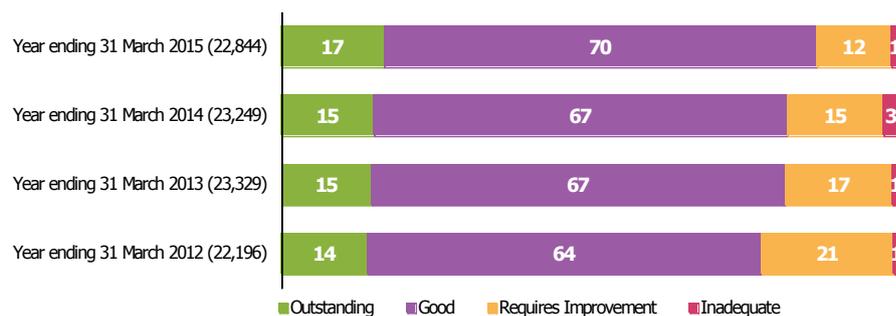
Inspection outcomes of providers on the Early Years Register

Ofsted had inspected nearly 85% of providers registered on the EYR and active as at 31 March 2015 (61,935 of 73,492 providers); this included 22,844 of 25,741 childcare on non-domestic premises providers and 38,943 of 47,558 childminders.

Chart 3: Overall effectiveness of childminders at their most recent inspection



Chart 4: Overall effectiveness of non domestic providers at their most recent inspection



¹ The total number of providers on the EYR as at 31 March 2014 was 77,509 (including 51,789 childminders and 25,547 non-domestic childcare providers and they offered 1,291,116 places:
www.gov.uk/government/statistics/early-years-and-childcare-registered-providers-inspections-and-outcomes-july-to-august-2014

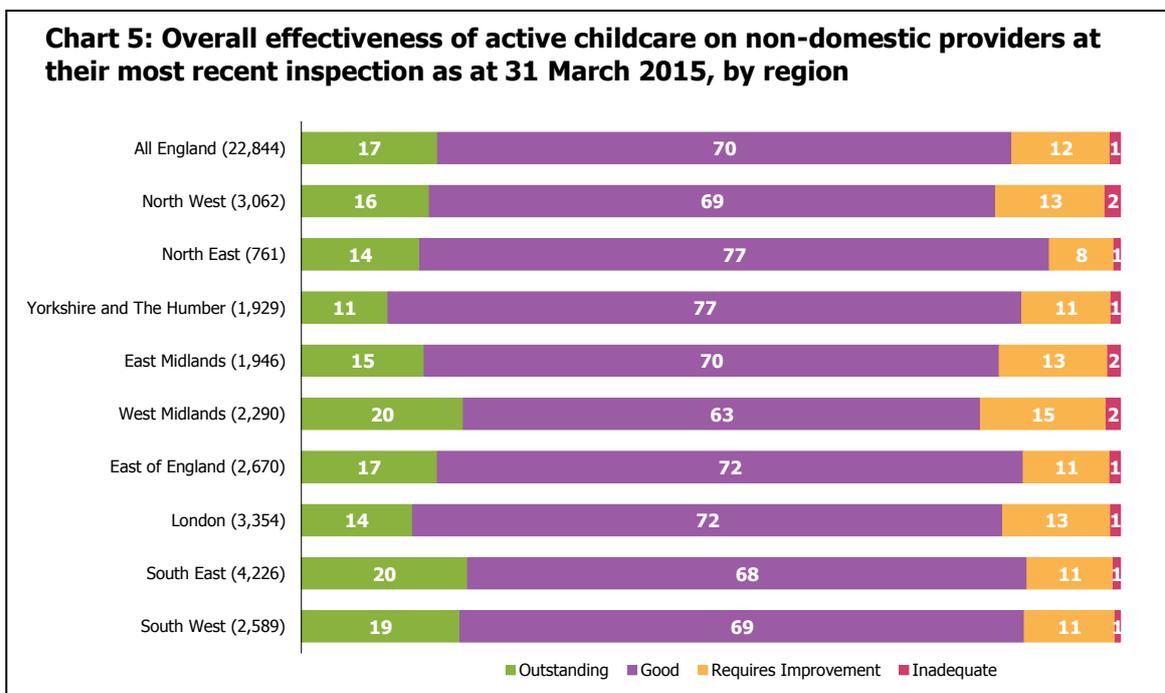
At their most recent inspection 84% of active childminders were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. This is an increase of eight percentage points since 31 March 2014 and continues the upward trend of recent years. At their most recent inspection 87% of active non-domestic providers were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. This is an increase of five percentage points since 31 March 2014 and continues the upward trend of recent years.

This improvement is the accumulation of many factors: primarily it is the impact of weaker providers leaving the sector, but providers improving at reinspection and the strength of new registrations, such as childminders who have benefitted from pre-registration mandatory training, are also contributing factors. In addition, Ofsted’s intervention work, such as how we reinspect provision judged as inadequate, was initiated to drive improvement.

Regional analysis

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

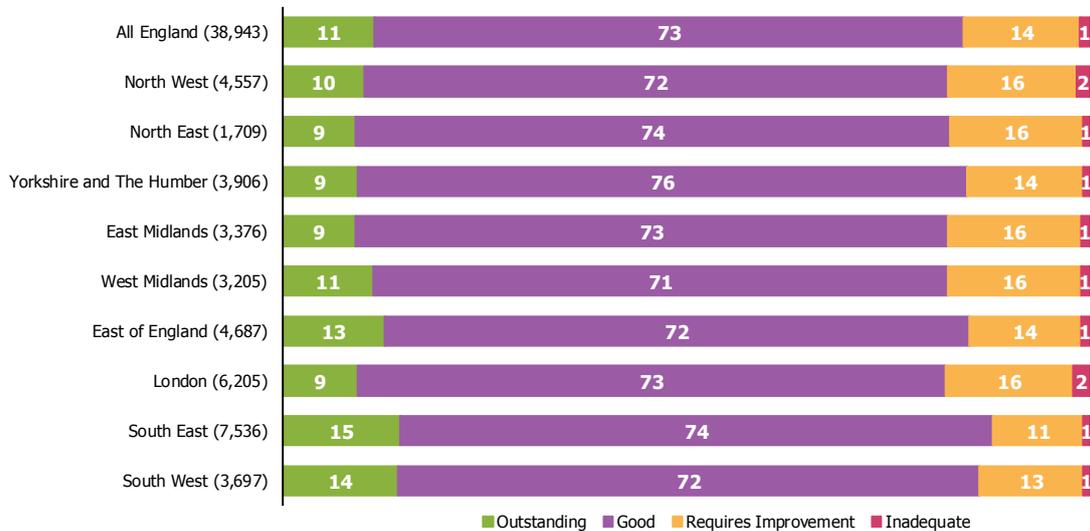
- the North East has the highest proportion (91%) of providers judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness
- the West Midlands has the lowest proportion (83%).



For the most recent inspection of active providers of childminders:

- the South East has the highest proportion (88%) of childminders judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness
- London, the North West, the East Midlands and the West Midlands jointly have the lowest proportion of childminders judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness with 82%.

Chart 6: Overall effectiveness of active childminders at their most recent inspection as at 31 March 2015, by region



Childminder agencies

Childminder agencies were introduced in September 2014 and currently there are five 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 September 2014 and 31 December 2014. Nine inspections were carried out in this period but were not published in time to be included in the provisional data. A revised list of inspections in this period, including these nine inspections is included in the data for this publication (tables 14-19).

Six of these inspections were of providers of childcare on non-domestic premises and three were of childminders. Of the nine, three were judged to be good for overall effectiveness; three were requires improvement, two were judged inadequate, one had a judgement of 'not met (actions)' at an inspection where there were no children on roll

Two inspections of childminders included in the provisional data have been excluded from the revised data as the inspection reports have been withdrawn from publication. One had an outcome of good, the other required improvement. This has no impact on percentages of providers judged outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate nationally and no impact on previously published key findings.

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 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.

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

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/early-years-and-childcare-inspections-and-outcomes-september-2014-to-december-2014

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

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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