

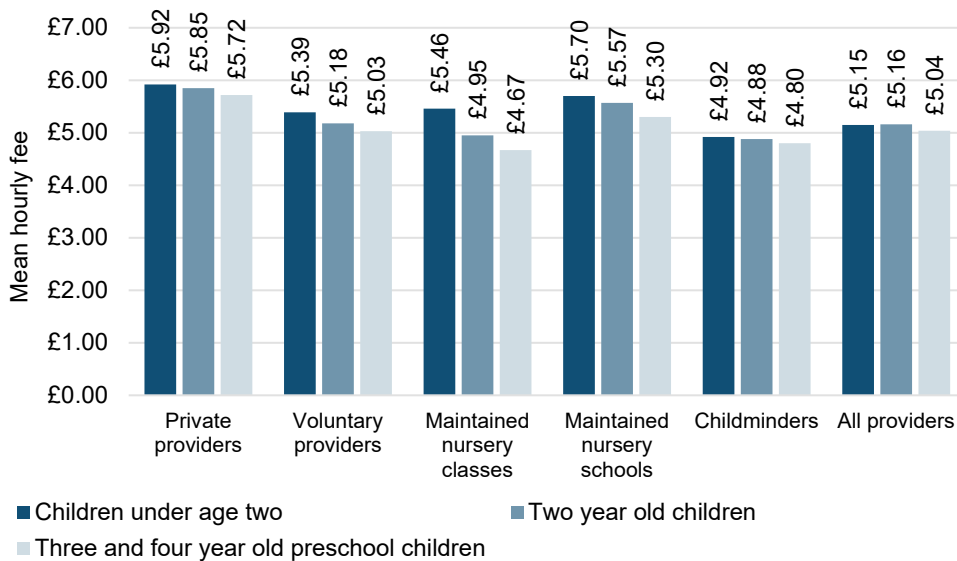


Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers: Local Authority Fees Statistics, England, 2019

7th November 2019, fieldwork March - July 2019

The mean hourly fee charged by providers in England in Spring 2019 was estimated to be £5.15 for children under age two, £5.16 for children aged two and £5.04 for three and four year old preschool children

Mean hourly fee by child age and provider type



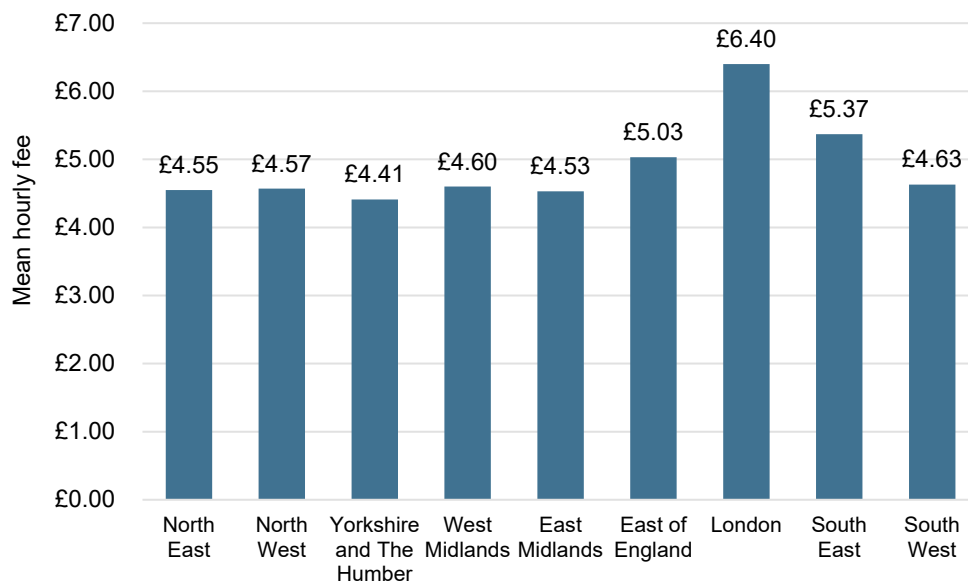
Based on representative survey estimates, the mean hourly fee was:

- Highest for private providers and lowest for maintained nursery classes and childminders
- Higher in 2019 than in 2018 by £0.13 for children under the age of two, by £0.15 for two year old children and by £0.12 for three and four year old preschool children.

Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

The mean hourly fee was higher in London, the South East and the East of England than in other regions

Mean hourly fee by region for three and four year old preschool children



Across all provider types, the mean hourly fee for three and four year old preschool children was highest in London (£6.40), the South East (£5.37) and the East of England (£5.03) and ranged from £4.41 to £4.63 across the remaining English regions.

The mean fee within each Local Authority ranged from £4.00 to £9.25 (rounded to the nearest 25p). More than half of Local Authorities (79 of 150) had mean fees in the £4.25, £4.50 or £4.75 bands.

Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

Contents

1.	Hourly fees by child age and provider type	4
2.	Hourly fees by region	7
3.	Hourly fees by Local Authority	10
4.	Accompanying tables.....	15
5.	Further information is available.....	15
6.	Official Statistics.....	15
7.	Technical information.....	16
8.	Get in touch.....	17
	Media enquiries	17
	Other enquiries/feedback.....	17

About this release

This bulletin provides important information on childcare and early years provision in England from the Department for Education (DfE)'s Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP). This includes representative survey data on: attendance and spare capacity within childcare settings; use of funded places; staff qualifications and pay; and the reported costs of providing childcare.

The 2019 Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers included a mixed mode (telephone and online) main survey and a mixed mode (online and paper questionnaire) short survey. Fieldwork took place between March and July 2019 and covered: group-based providers (childcare providers who operate on non-domestic premises); school-based providers; and childminders (practicing childminders on the Ofsted register of childminders; not including those registered with an agency). The sample was drawn from two sample frames: group-based providers and childminders registered with Ofsted as of July 2018 (the sampling was conducted in July 2018 to be consistent with the timing of sampling for previous years' surveys) and school-based providers from the January 2018 Schools Census, which was the most up-to-date sample frame for school-based providers available at the time of the survey in 2019.

The surveys were administered by NatCen Social Research and this bulletin prepared by Frontier Economics.

Defining childcare providers

The study included:

Group-based providers (identified from the Ofsted register): childcare providers registered with Ofsted and operating in non-domestic premises. Eligible group-based provision included full day and sessional care for children below school age.

The two main types of group-based providers included in this report are:

- Private group-based providers: These are private companies (both for profit and not for profit) that include employer-run childcare for employees. This group also includes independent schools offering nursery provision which were identified from the School Census.
- Voluntary group-based providers: These are voluntary organisations, including community groups, charities, churches or religious groups.

School-based providers (identified from the School Census). The two types of school-based providers are:

- Maintained schools offering nursery provision.
- Maintained nursery schools.

Childminders (identified from the Ofsted register): Ofsted-registered childminders providing early years care and operating in domestic settings, not including those registered with an agency.

More information is provided in the technical report published alongside this release.

Testing for statistical significance

Comparisons between the 2018 and 2019 survey years in Figures 1 to 6 were tested for statistical significance at the 95 percent confidence level. Any differences which are statistically significant indicate that the underlying means were sufficiently precisely estimated that there is a 95 percent probability that there was a genuine difference in the underlying populations. The comparisons across provider type and across region for 2019 described in the text were not tested for statistically significant differences.

In this publication

The following documents are included in the statistical release:

- Main statistical release
- Main Tables
- LA fees Tables
- Technical report.

Feedback

We welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at: EY.AnalysisANDResearch@education.gov.uk

1. Hourly fees by child age and provider type

In 2019, the mean hourly childcare fee charged by providers was estimated to be £5.15 for children under the age of two, £5.16 for two year old children, £5.04 for three and four year old preschool children and £4.86 for school age children (cared for by providers also caring for preschool children¹). The median values (the middle observations) were £5.00, £4.95, £4.67 and £4.50 for the four age groups respectively and lower than the mean value for each age group. This indicates a number of providers with unusually high fees.

Within each provider type, both the mean and median hourly fees were generally lower for older age groups, particularly for children aged three or older compared to those aged under three (Table A, Excel Table 1). This pattern was weaker for childminders, with no difference in the median hourly fees across the age groups.

Table A: Mean and median hourly fee by child age and provider type

England, 2019

	Children under age two	Two year old children	Three and four year old preschool children	School age children
Mean hourly fee				
Private providers	£5.92	£5.85	£5.72	£5.49
Voluntary providers	£5.39	£5.18	£5.03	£4.69
Maintained nursery classes	£5.46	£4.95	£4.67	£3.84
Maintained nursery schools	£5.70	£5.57	£5.30	£5.19
Childminders	£4.92	£4.88	£4.80	£4.84
All providers	£5.15	£5.16	£5.04	£4.86
Median hourly fee				
Private providers	£5.50	£5.30	£5.10	£5.00
Voluntary providers	£5.00	£4.75	£4.50	£4.50
Maintained nursery classes	£4.80	£4.66	£4.20	£4.00
Maintained nursery schools	£5.53	£5.15	£5.00	£5.00
Childminders	£4.50	£4.50	£4.50	£4.50
All providers	£5.00	£4.95	£4.67	£4.50
Unweighted sample sizes				
Private providers	2,124	3,050	3,376	1,564
Voluntary providers	374	1,957	2,141	637
Maintained nursery classes	41	399	1,259	1,103
Maintained nursery schools	22	115	142	64
Childminders	5,391	5,333	5,624	5,371
All providers	8,090	11,129	12,849	8,843

Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

Notes: Emboldened italics highlight cells where the sample size is fewer than 30 and the mean and median fees should be treated as indicative. Private providers include independent schools. All providers include a small number of group-based providers who were either Local Authority run nurseries (but not schools) or whose management status (private or voluntary) was not reported and hence the sample size for all providers exceeds the column total. Average fees for school age children are not directly comparable to those in the 2018 Fees Report because fees were not collected for this age group for school-based providers in 2018.

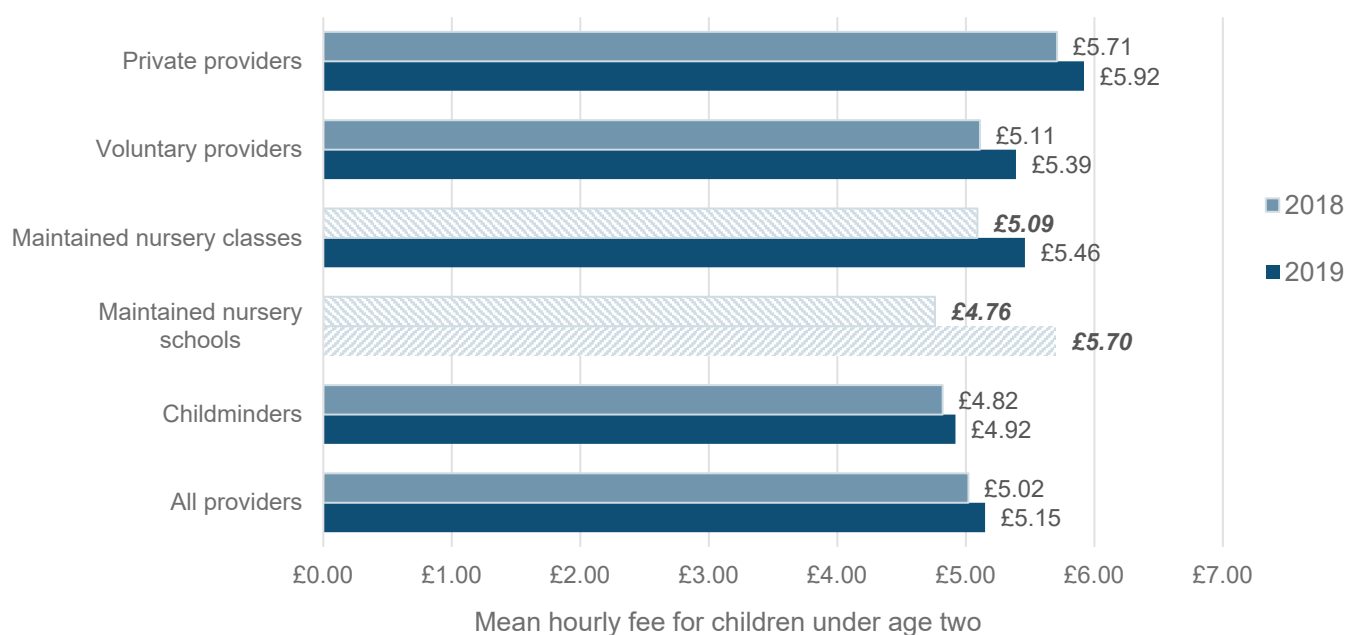
¹ The survey only included providers with preschool children which means that the mean fee for school age children does not include providers who offer provision only for this group.

In 2019, the estimated mean hourly childcare fee charged by providers was £0.13 higher than in 2018 (£5.15 compared to £5.02) for children under the age of two, £0.15 higher (£5.16 compared to £5.01) for two year old children and £0.12 higher (£5.04 compared to £4.92) for three and four year old preschool children.² These differences correspond to increases of 2.6 percent, 3.0 percent and 2.4 percent for the three age groups respectively and are statistically significant (that is, different from zero) at the 95 percent confidence levels. However, the differences are not statistically different from the annual inflation rate of 2.0 percent (CPI inflation for 2019 Quarter 2).³

For the provider types with a statistically significant difference in mean hourly fees between 2018 and 2019, the largest differences were for private and voluntary providers, with smaller, but still significant, differences for childminders (Figures 1 to 3, Excel Tables 2 to 4).⁴

Figure 1: Mean hourly fee for children under age two by provider type

England, 2018 and 2019



Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2018 and 2019

Notes: Emboldened italics and a patterned fill highlight cells where the sample size is fewer than 30 and the mean fee should be treated as indicative. Private providers include independent schools. All providers include a small number of group-based providers who were either Local Authority run nurseries (but not schools) or whose management status (private or voluntary) was not reported. Differences between 2018 and 2019 are statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level for private providers, maintained nursery schools, childminders and all providers.

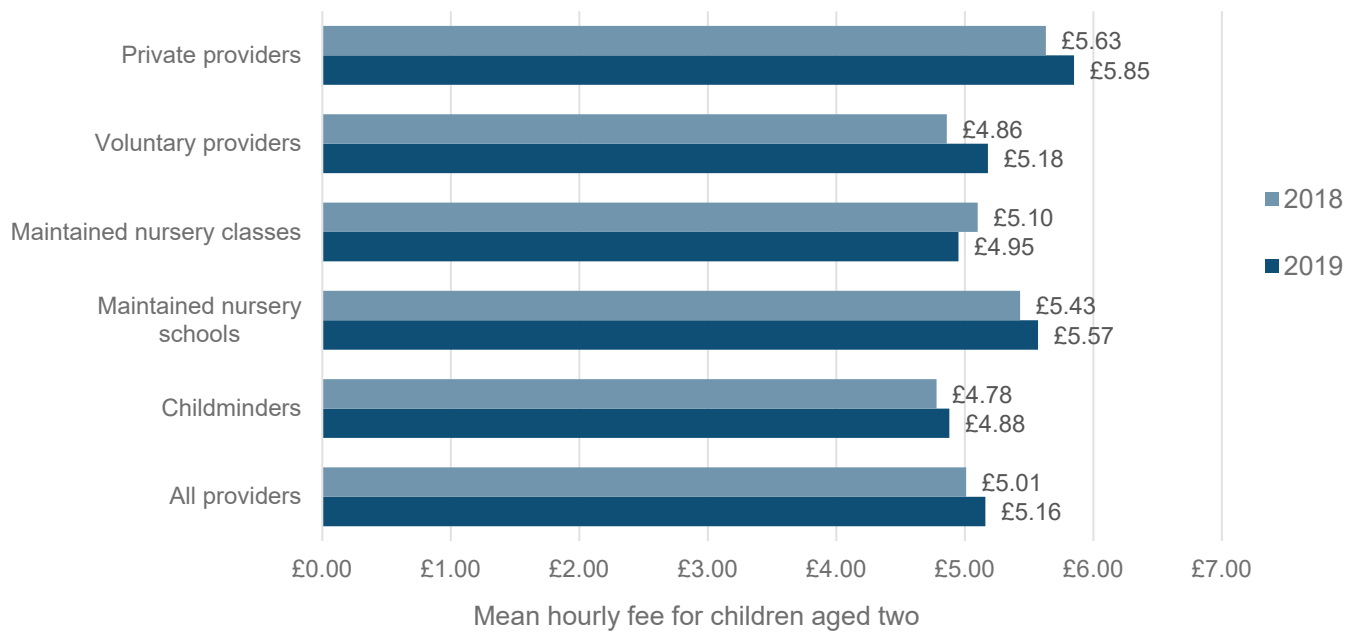
² Average fees for school age children were not directly comparable to those for 2018 because fees were not collected for this age group for school-based providers in 2018.

³ The differences with CPI were tested at the 95 percent confidence level using changes of £0.10 for children under age two and two year olds and of £0.098 for three and four year old preschool children which correspond to the 2 percent increase in the CPI measure.

⁴ The differences between 2018 and 2019 are statistically significant at the 95 percent level for private providers, voluntary providers and childminders for all three age groups with the exception that the difference for children under age two is only statistically significantly different for voluntary providers at the 90 percent confidence level. The differences for maintained nursery classes and maintained nursery schools were not statistically significantly different at the 95 percent confidence level other than for children under age two for maintained nursery schools but this was based on unweighted sample sizes of 10 in 2018 and 22 in 2019.

Figure 2: Mean hourly fee for two year old children by provider type

England, 2018 and 2019

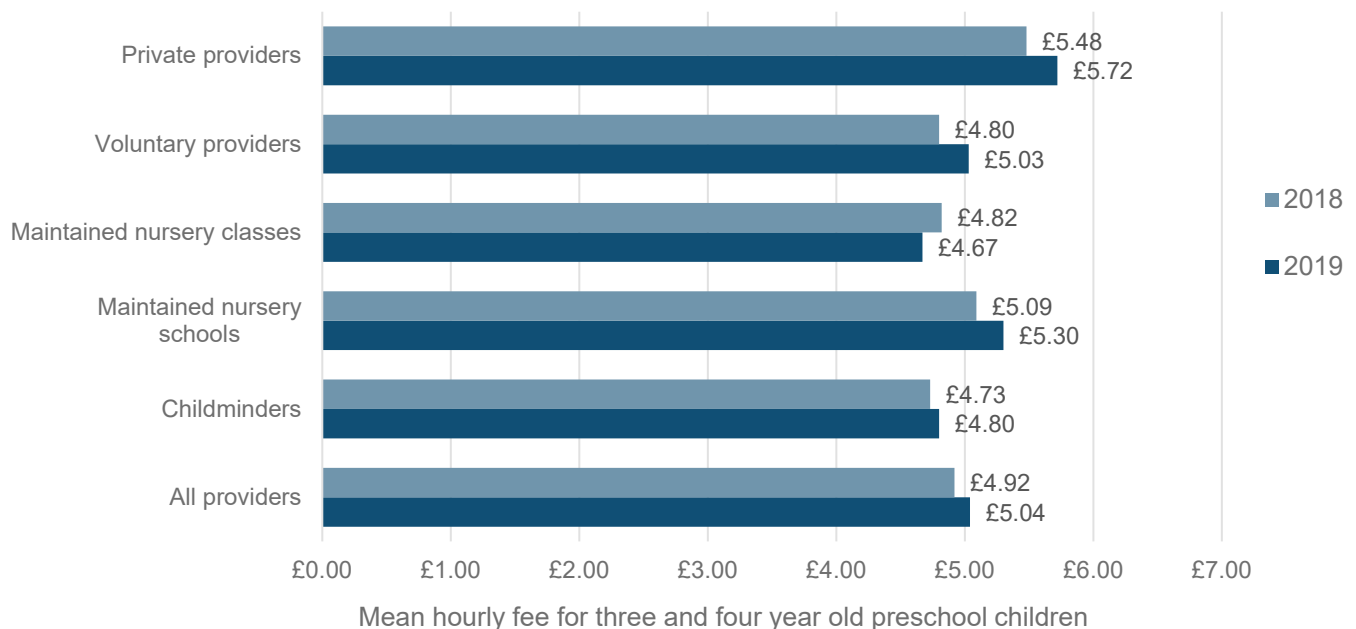


Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2018 and 2019

Notes: Private providers include independent schools. All providers include a small number of group-based providers who were either Local Authority run nurseries (but not schools) or whose management status (private or voluntary) was not reported. Differences between 2018 and 2019 are statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level for private providers, voluntary providers, childminders and all providers.

Figure 3: Mean hourly fee for three and four year old preschool children by provider type

England, 2018 and 2019



Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2018 and 2019

Notes: Private providers include independent schools. All providers include a small number of group-based providers who were either Local Authority run nurseries (but not schools) or whose management status (private or voluntary) was not reported. Differences between 2018 and 2019 are statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level for private providers, voluntary providers, childminders and all providers.

2. Hourly fees by region

Across all provider types, the mean hourly fee for three and four year old preschool children in 2019 was highest in London (£6.40), in the South East (£5.37) and in the East of England (£5.03) and ranged from £4.41 to £4.63 across the remaining English regions (Table B, Excel Table 5). The same pattern held for all four age groups of children, with the lowest mean hourly fees for preschool children in the East Midlands and in the Yorkshire and the Humber regions.

Table B: Mean and median hourly fee by child age and region

England, 2019

	Children under age two	Two year old children	Three and four year old preschool children	School age children
Mean hourly fee				
North East	£4.75	£4.70	£4.55	£4.24
North West	£4.69	£4.65	£4.57	£4.35
Yorkshire and The Humber	£4.55	£4.49	£4.41	£4.23
West Midlands	£4.62	£4.66	£4.60	£4.37
East Midlands	£4.46	£4.57	£4.53	£4.31
East of England	£5.15	£5.11	£5.03	£4.88
London	£6.67	£6.65	£6.40	£6.30
South East	£5.34	£5.44	£5.37	£5.20
South West	£4.75	£4.75	£4.63	£4.49
Median hourly fee				
North East	£4.25	£4.25	£4.20	£4.00
North West	£4.30	£4.33	£4.20	£4.00
Yorkshire and The Humber	£4.20	£4.20	£4.05	£4.00
West Midlands	£4.42	£4.50	£4.33	£4.10
East Midlands	£4.10	£4.20	£4.08	£4.00
East of England	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00
London	£6.27	£6.00	£6.00	£6.00
South East	£5.10	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00
South West	£4.50	£4.50	£4.50	£4.50
Unweighted sample sizes				
North East	361	456	554	503
North West	1,053	1,307	1,609	1,127
Yorkshire and The Humber	913	1,146	1,363	1,026
West Midlands	804	1,034	1,223	911
East Midlands	560	835	1,000	658
East of England	835	1,297	1,473	979
London	1,288	1,589	1,824	1,326
South East	1,267	1,984	2,164	1,321
South West	1,009	1,481	1,639	992

Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

Notes: Average fees for school age children are not directly comparable to those in the 2018 Fees Report because fees were not collected for this age group for school-based providers in 2018.

A similar regional pattern was also present within each provider type (Table C, Excel Table 6). For each provider type, mean hourly fees for three and four year old preschool children were generally highest in London, in the South East (highest and second highest for all provider types) and in the East of England (third highest for three provider types and fourth highest for two provider types), suggesting that the higher mean hourly fees in these regions was not due to a difference in the mix of providers across regions. However, there were no consistent patterns within provider type for the remaining regions, suggesting that the lower mean hourly fees observed for preschool children in the East Midlands and in the Yorkshire and the Humber regions in Table B may be due to a different mix of provider types in these regions.

Table C: Mean hourly fee for three and four year old preschool children by region and provider type
England, 2019

	Private providers	Voluntary providers	Maintained nursery classes	Maintained nursery schools	Childminders
Mean hourly fee					
North East	£5.72	£4.76	£4.15	£4.65	£4.22
North West	£5.08	£4.66	£4.63	£4.28	£4.26
Yorkshire and The Humber	£5.08	£4.79	£4.15	£4.42	£4.14
West Midlands	£5.27	£4.80	£4.13	£4.83	£4.26
East Midlands	£5.39	£4.86	£4.46	£5.42	£4.08
East of England	£5.70	£4.97	£4.82	£5.28	£4.85
London	£6.90	£6.30	£5.61	£6.51	£6.24
South East	£5.87	£5.40	£5.43	£5.52	£5.17
South West	£5.28	£4.43	£4.40	***	£4.48
Unweighted sample sizes					
North East	95	61	64	11	308
North West	428	187	248	23	678
Yorkshire and The Humber	275	182	153	13	710
West Midlands	365	148	166	13	510
East Midlands	302	219	94	14	347
East of England	378	341	125	15	575
London	572	157	155	31	871
South East	631	479	119	17	856
South West	330	367	135	5	769

Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

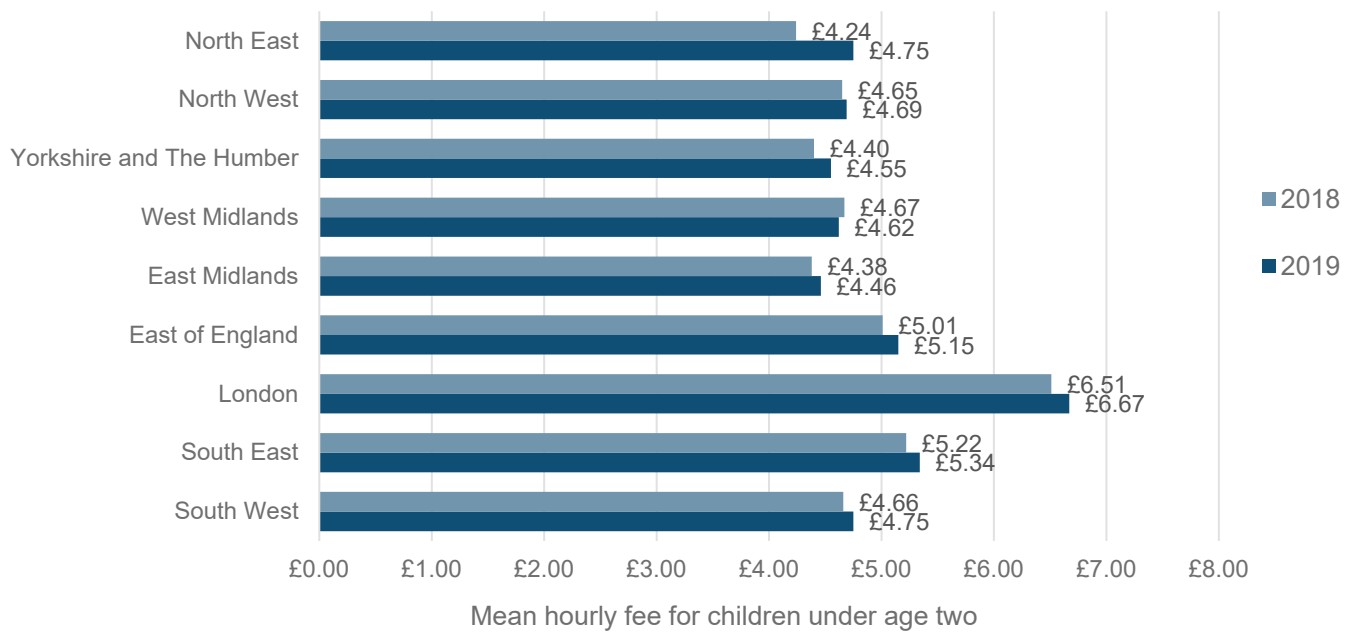
Notes: Emboldened italics highlight cells where the sample size is fewer than 30 and the mean fee should be treated as indicative. The mean hourly fee has been suppressed (indicated by ***) for maintained nursery schools in the South West due to a sample size of less than 10.

The estimated mean hourly fee was higher in 2019 than in 2018 in almost all regions for all three age groups (Figures 4 to 6, Excel Tables 8 to 10).⁵ The differences between 2018 and 2019 are statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level for all three age groups in the North East, East of England and South East regions. The differences are also statistically significant for two year old children in London and the South West and for three and four year old preschool children in the West Midlands and the East Midlands.

⁵ The three exceptions were a lower mean fee in 2019 than in 2018 for children under age two in the West Midlands, children aged two in Yorkshire and the Humber and preschool children aged three and four in the North West.

Figure 4: Mean hourly fee for children under the age of two by region

England, 2018 and 2019

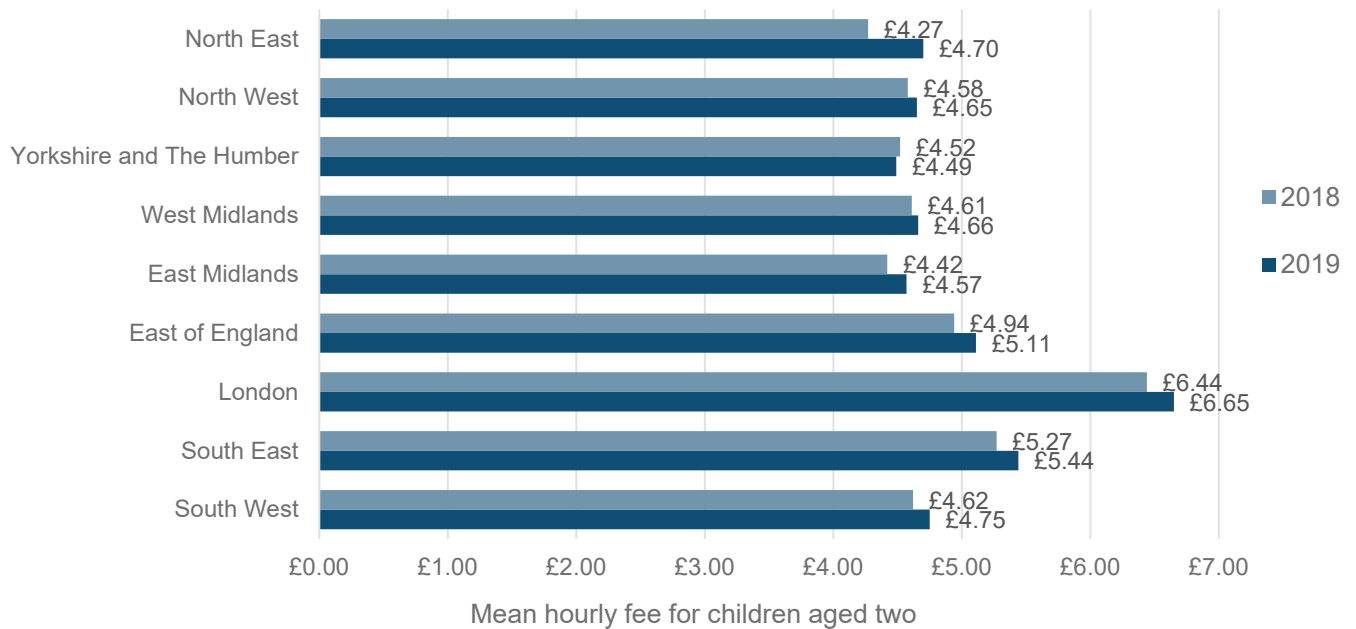


Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2018 and 2019

Notes: Differences between 2018 and 2019 are statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level for the North East, East of England and South East regions.

Figure 5: Mean hourly fee for two year old children by region

England, 2018 and 2019

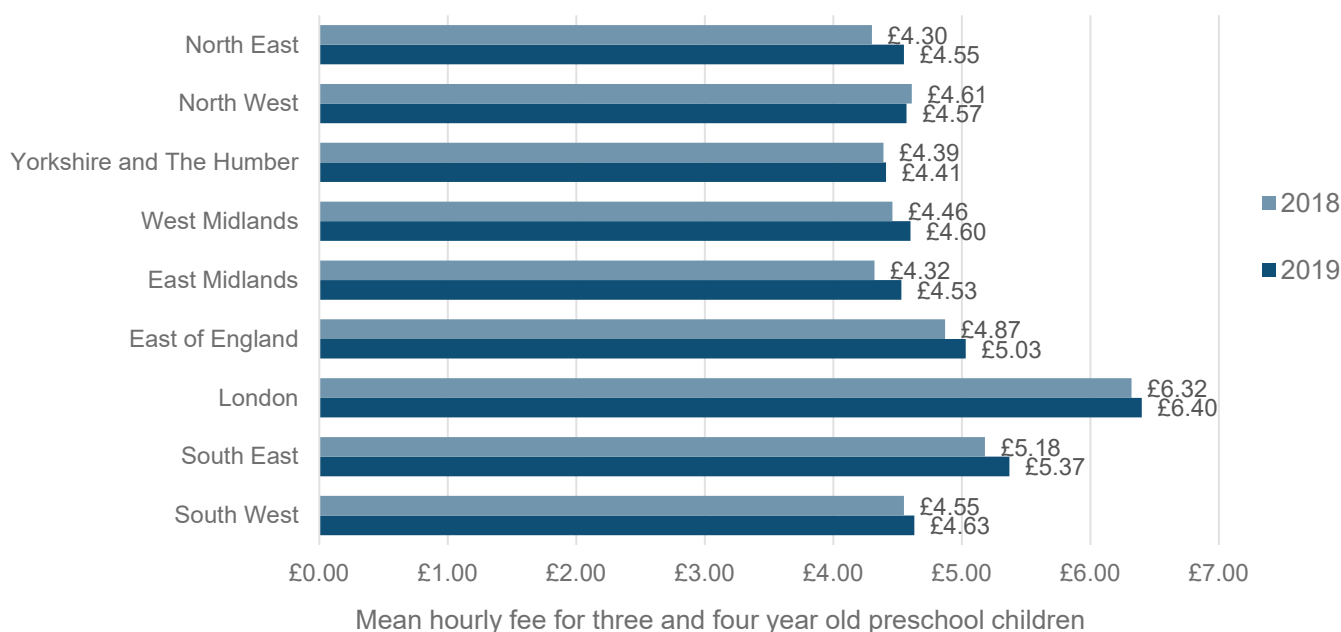


Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2018 and 2019

Notes: Differences between 2018 and 2019 are statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level for the North East, East of England, London, South East and South West regions.

Figure 6: Mean hourly fee for three and four year old preschool children by region

England, 2018 and 2019



Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2018 and 2019

Notes: Differences between 2018 and 2019 are statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level for the North East, West Midlands, East Midlands, East of England and South East regions.

3. Hourly fees by Local Authority

In order to present statistics for as many Local Authorities (LAs) as possible (including some LAs where the number of providers reporting hourly fees was particularly low), the mean hourly fee is reported only for all types of providers for three and four year old preschool children in bands rounded to the nearest 25p.⁶ For example, the £5.00 band would include all LAs with mean hourly fees in the range of £4.875 to £5.125 and the £5.25 include all LAs with mean hourly fees in the range of £5.125 to £5.375. The mean across provider types within each LA was weighted according to the numbers of registered providers of each type in the LA to help ensure the mean was representative of the mix of provider types in the LA.⁷ The mean for each LA was then rounded to the nearest 25p. It should be noted that the banded fee for LAs with low numbers of providers reporting an hourly fee (particularly those below 30 highlighted in emboldened italics in Tables D and E) should be treated with caution and only indicative of the mean fee level within the LA.

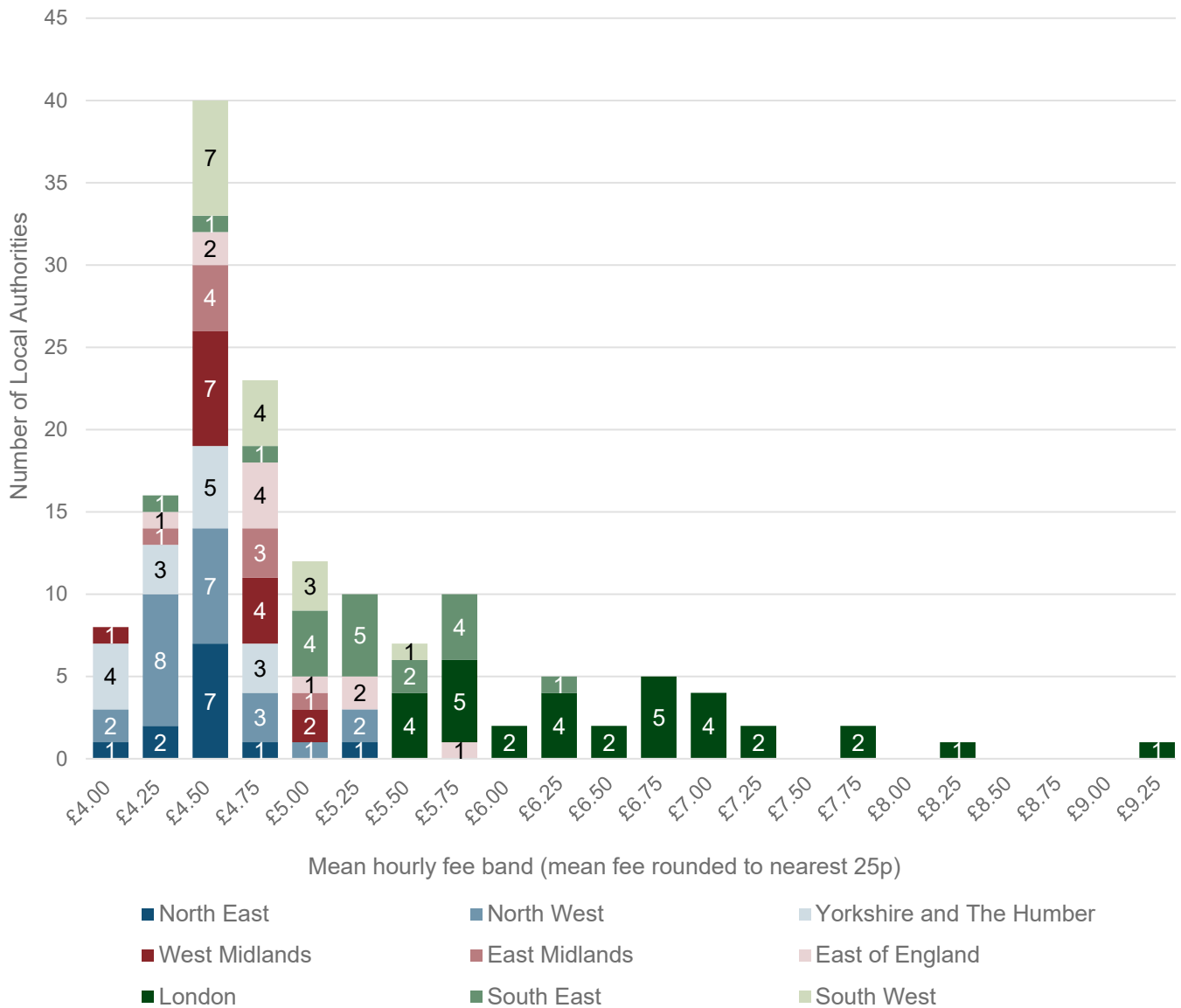
The mean hourly fees at the LA level ranged from the £4.00 band to the £9.25 band (that is, were within the range of £3.875 to £9.375), although over half of the LAs (79 of the 150) were in the £4.25, £4.50 or £4.75 bands (that is, had mean fees within the range £4.125 to £4.875) (Figure 7, Excel Table 11). In line with Table B, LAs in London had mean hourly fees predominantly in the higher bands (none were below £5.50), while LAs in the North and the Midlands were predominantly in the lower and middle bands (none were above £5.25). LAs in London also covered the greatest range of bands (from £5.50 to £9.25) indicating that not only are fees higher in this region but that there is also considerable variation across LAs within the region. Similarly, mean hourly fees in LAs in the South East were both higher and had a wide range (from £4.25 to £6.25). On the other hand, LAs in Yorkshire and the Humber and in the West and East Midlands

⁶ City of London and Isles of Scilly were excluded because they had only had one provider and two providers reporting an hourly fee respectively.

⁷ The weights were constructed on the basis of the three broad provider types (group-based, school-based and childminders) because the sampling frame used for the weighting only contains information across these three categories rather than the five types recorded in the survey and used in the analysis. In one LA there were no observations for school nurseries and the weighting was applied to the two other provider types.

all had mean hourly fees in the £4.00 to £5.00 bands. Tables D and E (Excel Table 15) present the banded mean hourly fee for each LA within each region.

Figure 7: Number of Local Authorities in each hourly fee band for three and four year old preschool children England, 2019



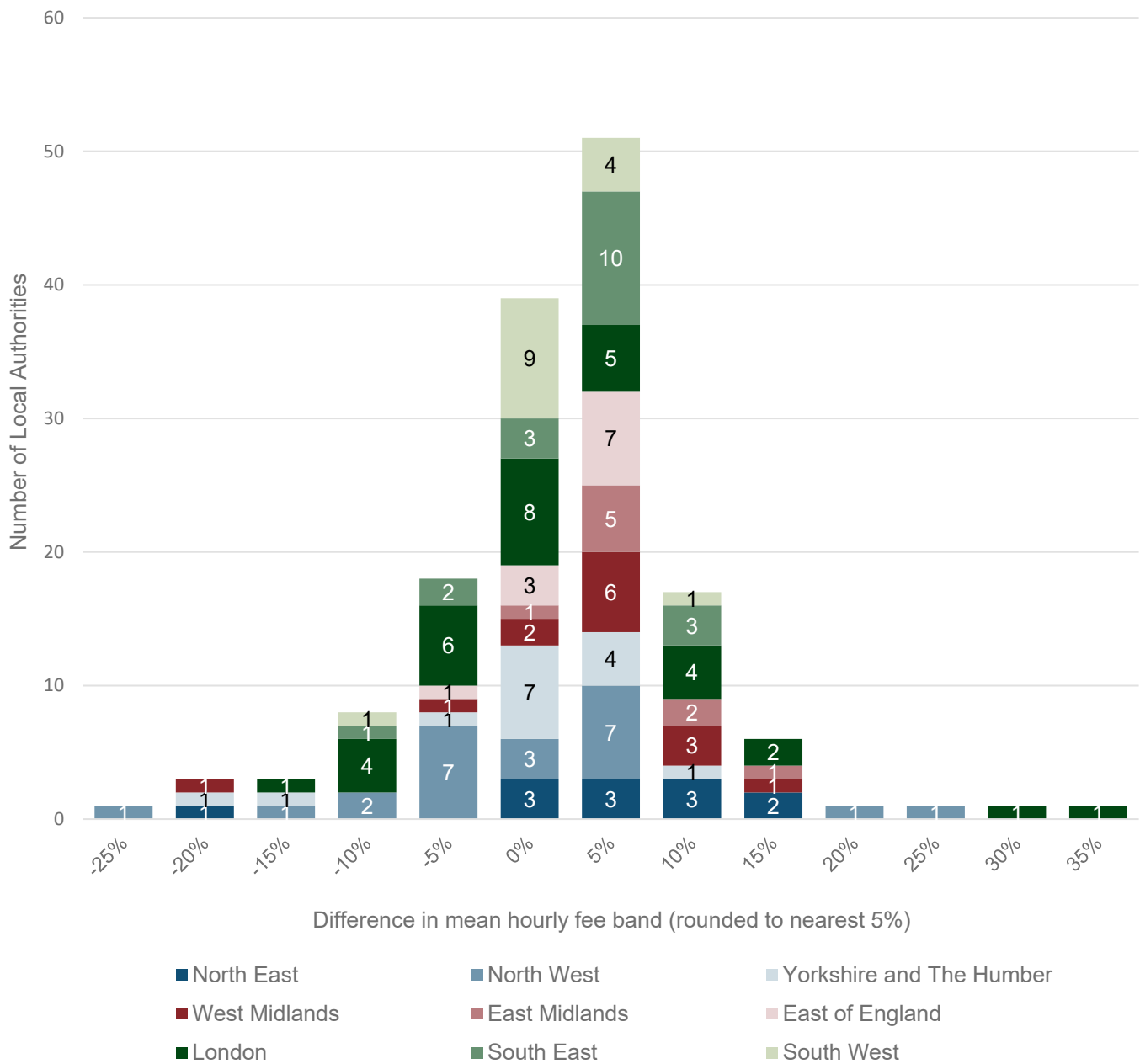
Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

Notes: Unweighted sample sizes for each Local Authority are shown in Tables D and E.

The differences in mean hourly fees between 2018 and 2019 for each LA rounded to the nearest 5 percent are presented in Figure 8 (Excel Table 13). These differences should be treated with a high degree of caution as they compound the degree of imprecision from the two surveys. Hence, Figure 8 should be considered as a review of the broad patterns across LAs rather than offering specific insights for any single LA.

Figure 8: Number of Local Authorities in each band for difference in mean hourly fee between 2018 and 2019 for three and four year old preschool children

England, 2018 and 2019



Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2018 and 2019

Notes: Unweighted sample sizes for each Local Authority in 2019 are shown in Tables D and E. Changes were based on the revised mean hourly fee for each Local Authority in 2018 (corresponding to the revised hourly fee bands for 2018 presented in Table 15 in the accompanying tables).

The difference in mean hourly fees at the LA level ranged from the -25% band to the 35% band (that is, were within the range of -27.5% to 37.5%). More than one third of the LAs (51 of the 150) were in the 5% band (that is, the difference in mean fees was within the range 2.5% to 7.5%), while around one quarter (39 of the 150) were in the zero band (that is, the difference was within the range -2.5% to 2.5%). Although there was some tendency for LAs in the North East and East Midlands to be in the higher bands and for LAs in the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber to be in the lower bands (in line with Figure 6 and the associated statistical tests of the differences between years), there is no strong consistent pattern across the regions.

Table D: Mean hourly fee band by Local Authority for three and four year old preschool children

England, 2019

North East			Yorkshire and Humber			East Midlands		
	Fee	#		Fee	#		Fee	#
<i>Darlington</i>	£4.25	24	Barnsley	£4.00	73	Derby	£4.75	66
Durham	£4.50	102	Bradford	£4.50	72	Derbyshire	£4.50	164
Gateshead	£4.25	38	Calderdale	£4.75	59	Leicester	£5.00	66
<i>Hartlepool</i>	£4.50	19	Doncaster	£4.25	90	Leicestershire	£4.50	125
<i>Middlesbrough</i>	£4.50	22	East Riding of Yorkshire	£4.25	112	Lincolnshire	£4.25	166
Newcastle upon Tyne	£4.50	68	Kingston upon Hull	£4.00	39	Northamptonshire	£4.50	180
North Tyneside	£4.50	46	Kirklees	£4.00	107	Nottingham	£4.75	60
Northumberland	£4.75	81	Leeds	£4.50	130	Nottinghamshire	£4.50	159
Redcar and Cleveland	£4.50	38	North East Lincolnshire	£4.50	30	<i>Rutland</i>	£4.75	14
<i>South Tyneside</i>	£5.25	25	North Lincolnshire	£4.50	45	East of England		
Stockton-on-Tees	£4.50	44	North Yorkshire	£4.75	219	Bedford	£4.75	41
Sunderland	£4.00	45	Rotherham	£4.00	74	Cambridgeshire	£4.75	166
North West			Sheffield	£4.75	136	Central Bedfordshire	£5.00	131
<i>Blackburn with Darwen</i>	£4.25	23	Wakefield	£4.50	94	Essex	£5.25	296
Blackpool	£4.00	30	York	£4.25	83	Hertfordshire	£5.75	267
Bolton	£5.25	69	West Midlands			Luton	£4.75	33
Bury	£4.75	43	Birmingham	£5.00	110	Norfolk	£4.50	187
Cheshire East	£5.00	103	Coventry	£4.75	92	Peterborough	£4.50	59
Cheshire West / Chester	£4.50	83	Dudley	£5.00	65	Southend on Sea	£5.25	52
Cumbria	£4.25	143	Herefordshire	£4.75	53	Suffolk	£4.25	203
Halton	£4.50	30	Sandwell	£4.50	52	Thurrock	£4.75	37
<i>Knowsley</i>	£4.50	22	Shropshire	£4.50	105			
Lancashire	£4.50	246	Solihull	£4.75	50			
Liverpool	£4.50	80	Staffordshire	£4.50	195			
Manchester	£5.25	66	Stoke-on-Trent	£4.00	43			
Oldham	£4.25	49	Telford and Wrekin	£4.50	49			
Rochdale	£4.25	70	Walsall	£4.50	38			
Salford	£4.25	52	Warwickshire	£4.75	182			
Sefton	£4.75	40	<i>Wolverhampton</i>	£4.50	28			
<i>St Helens</i>	£4.00	28	Worcestershire	£4.50	161			
Stockport	£4.50	85						
Tameside	£4.25	72						
Trafford	£4.75	80						
Warrington	£4.25	57						
Wigan	£4.25	70						
Wirral	£4.50	68						

Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

Notes: Fee indicates the fee band (mean rounded to nearest 25p) and # indicates the number of providers within the LA reporting an hourly fee for three and four year old preschool children. Emboldened italics highlight LAs where the sample size is fewer than 30 and the fee band should be treated as indicative of the mean fee level in the LA.

Table E: Mean hourly fee band by Local Authority for three and four year old preschool children

England, 2019

London			South East			South West		
	Fee	#		Fee	#		Fee	#
Barking and Dagenham	£6.75	33	Bracknell Forest	£5.25	65	Bath and NE Somerset	£5.00	49
Barnet	£6.75	94	Brighton and Hove	£5.50	51	Bournemouth	£5.00	55
Bexley	£5.50	70	Buckinghamshire	£5.75	120	Bristol	£5.50	105
Brent	£6.25	58	East Sussex	£5.00	120	Cornwall	£4.50	172
Bromley	£6.00	79	Hampshire	£5.00	325	Devon	£4.50	208
<i>Camden</i>	<i>£7.25</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>Isle of Wight</i>	<i>£4.25</i>	<i>28</i>	Dorset	£4.50	122
Croydon	£5.50	86	Kent	£5.25	334	Gloucestershire	£4.75	230
Ealing	£6.75	75	Medway	£4.50	74	North Somerset	£5.00	62
Enfield	£6.25	74	Milton Keynes	£5.25	86	Plymouth	£4.75	65
Greenwich	£5.75	73	Oxfordshire	£5.00	149	Poole	£4.75	44
Hackney	£7.00	52	Portsmouth	£5.00	59	Somerset	£4.50	170
<i>Hammersmith & Fulham</i>	<i>£7.75</i>	<i>25</i>	Reading	£5.75	40	South Gloucestershire	£4.75	99
Haringey	£7.00	62	<i>Slough</i>	<i>£5.50</i>	<i>26</i>	Swindon	£4.50	96
Harrow	£6.50	50	Southampton	£4.75	72	Torbay	£4.50	33
Havering	£5.50	61	Surrey	£6.25	267	Wiltshire	£4.50	125
Hillingdon	£5.75	62	West Berkshire	£5.25	60			
Hounslow	£6.25	54	West Sussex	£5.25	185			
Islington	£7.75	31	Windsor / Maidenhead	£5.75	45			
<i>Kensington and Chelsea</i>	<i>£9.25</i>	<i>25</i>	Wokingham	£5.75	58			
Kingston upon Thames	£6.50	56						
Lambeth	£7.00	58						
Lewisham	£6.00	73						
Merton	£7.00	61						
Newham	£5.75	41						
Redbridge	£5.75	64						
Richmond upon Thames	£8.25	53						
Southwark	£6.25	78						
Sutton	£5.75	68						
Tower Hamlets	£6.75	32						
Waltham Forest	£5.50	57						
Wandsworth	£7.25	66						
<i>Westminster</i>	<i>£6.75</i>	<i>24</i>						

Source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019

Notes: Fee indicates the fee band (mean rounded to nearest 25p) and # indicates the number of providers within the LA reporting an hourly fee for three and four year old preschool children. Emboldened italics highlight LAs where the sample size is fewer than 30 and the fee band should be treated as indicative of the mean fee level in the LA.

4. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the department's statistics website here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-childcare-and-early-years>

Main Tables

Table 1	Mean and median hourly fee by child age and provider type
Table 2	Mean hourly fee for children under age two by provider type in 2018 and 2019
Table 3	Mean hourly fee for two year old children by provider type in 2018 and 2019
Table 4	Mean hourly fee for three and four year old preschool children by provider type in 2018 and 2019

Regional Tables

Table 5	Mean and median hourly fee by child age and region
Table 6	Mean hourly fee for three and four year old preschool children by region and provider type
Table 7	Mean hourly fee for two year old children by region and provider type
Table 8	Mean hourly fee for children under age two by region in 2018 and 2019
Table 9	Mean hourly fee for two year old children by region in 2018 and 2019
Table 10	Mean hourly fee for three and four year old preschool children by region type in 2018 and 2019

Local authority Tables

Table 11	Number of Local Authorities in each hourly fee band for three and four year old preschool children
Table 12	Number of Local Authorities in each hourly fee band for two year old children
Table 13	Number of Local Authorities in each band for difference in mean hourly fee between 2018 and 2019 for three and four year old preschool children
Table 14	Number of Local Authorities in each band for difference in mean hourly fee between 2018 and 2019 for two year old children
Table 15	Mean hourly fee band by Local Authority for three and four year old preschool children in 2018 and 2019
Table 16	Mean hourly fee band by Local Authority for two year old children in 2018 and 2019

5. Further information is available

Previous releases from the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-childcare-and-early-years>

Information on places from the January census collections are also available in the Provision for children under 5 years of age in England statistical release each June here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-childcare-and-early-years>

6. Official Statistics

These are Official Statistics and have been produced in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

This can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;

- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

The Department has a set of statistical [policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

7. Technical information

A technical report accompanies this publication (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-childcare-and-early-years>). This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

The statistics in this document are drawn from a combined dataset of a subsample of respondents from the main SCEYP survey who were asked questions about fees and all respondents to an additional, short SCEYP.

Data for the main SCEYP was collected via a mixed mode survey (respondents could complete either a telephone survey administered by NatCen's telephone unit or online) whilst the mixed mode short SCEYP survey combined online data collection with a paper questionnaire, which was posted to all sampled cases. Fieldwork for both surveys took place between March and July 2019, with surveys sent to a sample of providers from across the three provider types: school-based providers (offering nursery provision), group-based providers (operating on non-domestic premises); and childminders (on the Ofsted register of childminders; not including those registered with an agency). The sample was drawn from two sample frames: group-based providers and childminders registered with Ofsted as of July 2018 (the sampling was conducted in July 2018 to be consistent with the timing of sampling for previous years' surveys) and school-based providers from the January 2018 Schools Census, which was the most up-to-date sample frame for school-based providers available at the time of the survey in 2019. The main survey variants collecting fee information obtained a 39 percent response rate from schools, 44 percent from group-based providers and 34 per cent from childminders; the short SCEYP survey achieved 44 percent from schools; 28 percent from group-based providers and 26 percent from childminders.

The main survey and short SCEYP collected information on the average hourly fee paid by parents for four age groups of children: children aged under two, two years old children, three and four year old preschool children and school aged children. Fees for school age children were not collected from school-based providers in 2018 and the Figures for this age group are not directly comparable with those for 2018 for this reason.

The sample used to analyse hourly fees contained providers which charged fees and reported an average hourly fee for at least one of the age groups. This sample contained 14,746 providers consisting of 5,738 group-based providers (3,170 in the main survey and 2,568 in the short SCEYP), 2,099 school nursery providers (1,059 in the main survey and 1,040 in the short SCEYP) and 6,909 childminders (717 in the main survey and 6,192 in the short SCEYP).

The reported average hourly fees were trimmed to remove average hourly fees of zero or in excess of £40. This removed average fee observations for 1.2 percent of providers reporting an average fee for children under the age of two, for 0.8 percent provider for fees for children aged two, 0.6 percent for fees for three and four year old preschool children and 0.2 percent of fees for school aged children.

The mean hourly fee was statistically significantly lower in the short SCEYP than in the main survey for the youngest three age groups (£5.06 compared to £5.55 for under twos, £5.07 compared to £5.42 for two year olds and £4.95 compared to £5.25 for three and four year old preschool children). But the differences between the two sources were not statistically significant in regressions with controls for provider type and region, indicating that the raw differences were explained by different mixes in provider type and region between the two sources. This indicates that the fee information was collected consistently between the two sources.

All statistics are calculated at the provider level rather than weighted by the number of children with each provider. As childminders have fewer children than the other provider types, the statistics weighted by the number of children would give considerably less weight to childminders and the mean hourly fee for all types would be correspondingly higher. Statistics at the national and regional levels were weighted to be representative at the national and regional levels. Statistics at the LA level were weighted to be representative of the balance of the three broad provider types within each LA with the exception of one LA where there were no observations for school nurseries and the weighting was applied to the two other provider types. The weighting approach for the LA statistics was modified in 2019 to include providers not charging fees in the sample numbers (to match the sampling frame and the approach for the construction of the survey weights) and revised fees for 2018 using the modified approach were used in Figure 6 and revised fee bands for each LA for 2018 are included in Tables 15 and 16 in the accompanying tables.

8. Get in touch

Media enquiries

Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

Tel: 020 7783 8300

Other enquiries/feedback

Laura Hunnikin, Early Years Research Team, Funding and Analysis Directorate, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT

Tel: 0207 654 6001

Email: EY.AnalysisANDResearch@education.gov.uk



Department for Education

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About this publication:

enquiries Laura Hunnikin, Early Years Research Team, Funding and Analysis Directorate, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT. Tel: 0207 654 6001. Email: EY.AnalysisANDResearch@education.gov.uk

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Reference: Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2019