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Introduction

Ofsted publishes quarterly statistics on the number of childcare providers registered with Ofsted on the Early Years Register and the Childcare Register, and the number of places offered by those registered on the Early Years Register. The analysis of movement in the childcare sector shows the number of providers that leave and join the sector and, at the local authority level, providers that remain active but move to another local authority.

Providers and places statistics show the position at the end of the quarter for all active providers. In the interactive publication, users may also select the end position at each month within the quarter. Charts show the number of providers by provision type, trends over time.

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Key findings

The number of early years registered childcare places reached 1,310,738 at 31 March 2012. Places have increased by 0.8% over a 12 month period; a net increase of 9,809 places on number registered at 31 March 2011.

There are 95,992 childcare providers registered with Ofsted at 31 March 2012, a small net decrease of 292 providers since 31 December 2011. However, total provider numbers are still 1.1% higher compared with the number registered at 31 March 2011.

Current quarter:

- Since 31 December 2011, there has been a 0.3% decrease in the total number of childcare providers. The number of registered childminders decreased by 408 providers, Childcare on non-domestic decreased by 65 providers and the overall sector decrease was offset by a 186 increase in home childcarer provider numbers.
- The total number of registered early years places at 31 March 2012 is 1,310,738; a net increase of 1,334 places since 31 December 2011. Registered early years places for Childminders decreased by 0.4%, 1,012 places
- The early years sector is fluid with many providers joining and leaving. The net decrease of 292 providers during this quarter has arisen because 3,814 providers joined the sector and 4,106 left.

Provider trends:

- The majority (60%) of childcare providers registered with Ofsted are childminders and almost a third (29%) of providers offer childcare on non-domestic premises. Although fewer in number, childcare on non-domestic premises are larger providers, accounting for 78.3% of the early years registered places. Childminders account for 21.5% of early years registered places.
- There has been a 0.7% decrease in the number of childminders during this quarter. Total provider numbers are 246 higher than 31 March 2011, currently 57,474.
- Provider numbers for childcare on non-domestic premises has been declining since December 2008. There was a net fall of 65 providers during this quarter, a 0.2% reduction since December 2011.
- Childcare on domestic premises accounts for less than 1% of registered childcare providers. These relatively small numbers have decreased by five providers this quarter.
- Home childcarer numbers have been increasing since December 2008. This quarter there was a net increase of 186 providers, a 1.8% increase since December 2011. The number of these providers has now reached 10,436. The percentage increase in home childcarer provider numbers shows a consistent slowing trend since 30 June 2011.

Methodology

1. 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.
2. Providers are the number of providers registered on the database at the end of the relevant period. These include providers on the Early Years and Childcare Registers.
3. Averages are used for a very small number of providers whose place numbers are not available at the time of the analysis. There may be small discrepancies in totals due to rounding.
4. Joiners are the number of providers that have been added to Ofsted's registration database during the period selected in the report. Most of these are new registrations, but figures also include providers that have re-activated registration or changed provider type or register. At the local authority or government office region, this may also include providers that have relocated into a new geographical area.
5. Leavers are the number of providers that have been edited in Ofsted's registration database to 'inactive' status during the period selected in the report. Most of these are resignations, but figures also include providers that have had registration cancelled or changed provider type or register. At the local authority or government office region, this may also include providers that have relocated out of a geographical area.
6. At the national level, the number of leavers and joiners reflect those who have left and joined the sector, while at the regional and local authority levels the statistics reflect those providers who have relocated as well. In order to capture geographical changes of providers, the joiners and leavers data are now extracted and postcodes compared to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) database on a daily basis.
7. Providers with no geographical match. Some providers have a protected status regarding their location, therefore no postcodes are extracted through the database. The geographical location of all providers is assigned according to the ONS database based on postcode data, rather than, for example, the local authority as recorded in the registration data. A small number of providers, less than 1%, have postcodes that are not recognised for other reasons, such as partial data or new postcode area not yet updated in the database. These providers are recorded under the heading 'no region' and are included in national figures.

Additional information

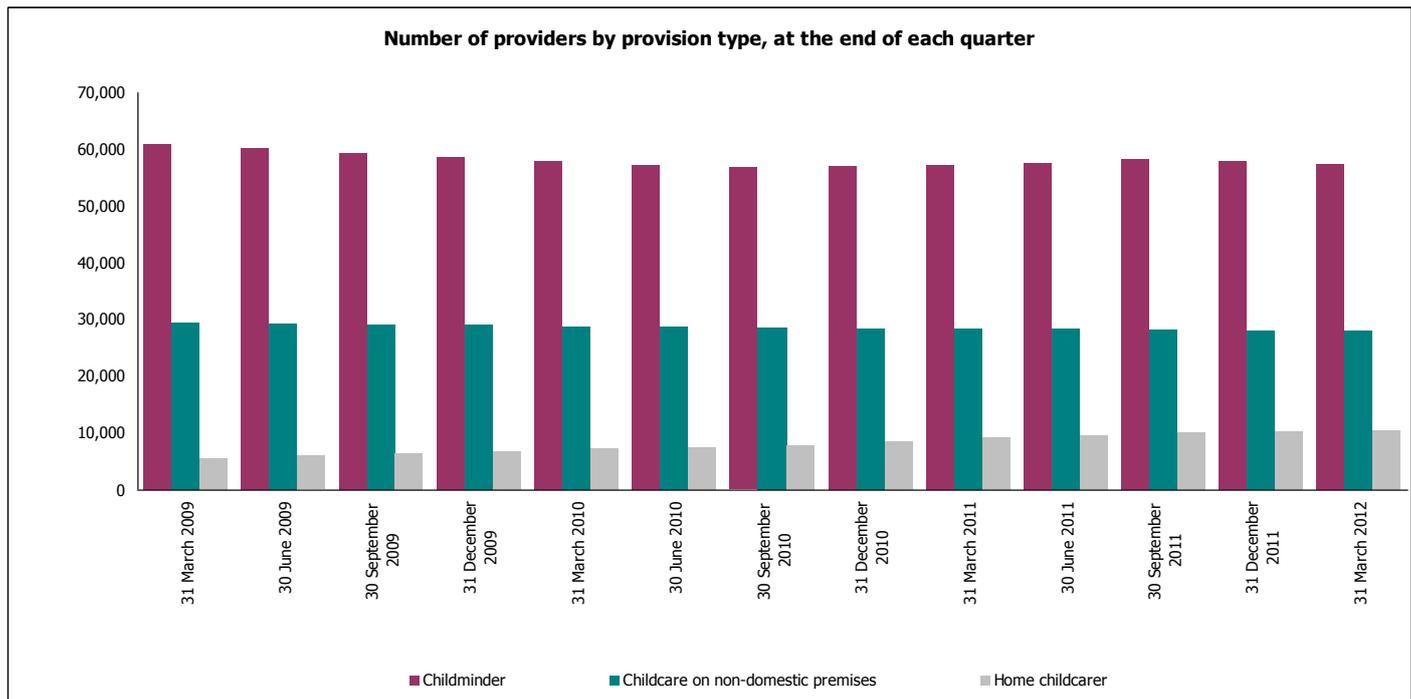
All the information and charts shown in this release, along with additional analysis by month and at regional and local authority level, are available in Excel format on the Ofsted website in the same location as this document.

Chart 1: Total number of childcare providers registered with Ofsted at the end of each quarter

Total number of childcare providers at the end of each quarter

Quarter ending	Provider Type				Total
	Childminder	Childcare on non-domestic premises	Childcare on domestic premises	Home childcarer	
31 March 2009	60,915	29,458	72	5,481	95,926
30 June 2009	60,178	29,228	86	6,042	95,534
30 September 2009	59,323	29,128	95	6,348	94,894
31 December 2009	58,603	29,037	102	6,808	94,550
31 March 2010	57,732	28,820	104	7,214	93,870
30 June 2010	57,204	28,715	111	7,493	93,523
30 September 2010	56,710	28,558	106	7,867	93,241
31 December 2010	56,882	28,478	110	8,452	93,922
31 March 2011	57,228	28,439	119	9,153	94,939
30 June 2011	57,663	28,353	128	9,630	95,774
30 September 2011	58,194	28,168	136	9,998	96,496
31 December 2011	57,882	28,007	145	10,250	96,284
31 March 2012	57,474	27,942	140	10,436	95,992

Source: Regulatory Support Application



Childcare on domestic premises have been excluded in the graph above, because of their small number relative to other childcare provision types.

Chart 2: Total movement in the childcare sector since December 2009

Total number of joiners and leavers at the end of each quarter

Quarter ending	Provider Type		
	Joiners	Leavers	Net change
31 March 2010	3,253	3,933	-680
30 June 2010	3,341	3,688	-347
30 September 2010	3,972	4,254	-282
31 December 2010	3,596	2,915	681
31 March 2011	3,720	2,703	1,017
30 June 2011	3,910	3,042	868
30 September 2011	4,917	4,195	722
31 December 2011	3,657	3,869	-212
31 March 2012	3,814	4,106	-292

Source: Regulatory Support Application

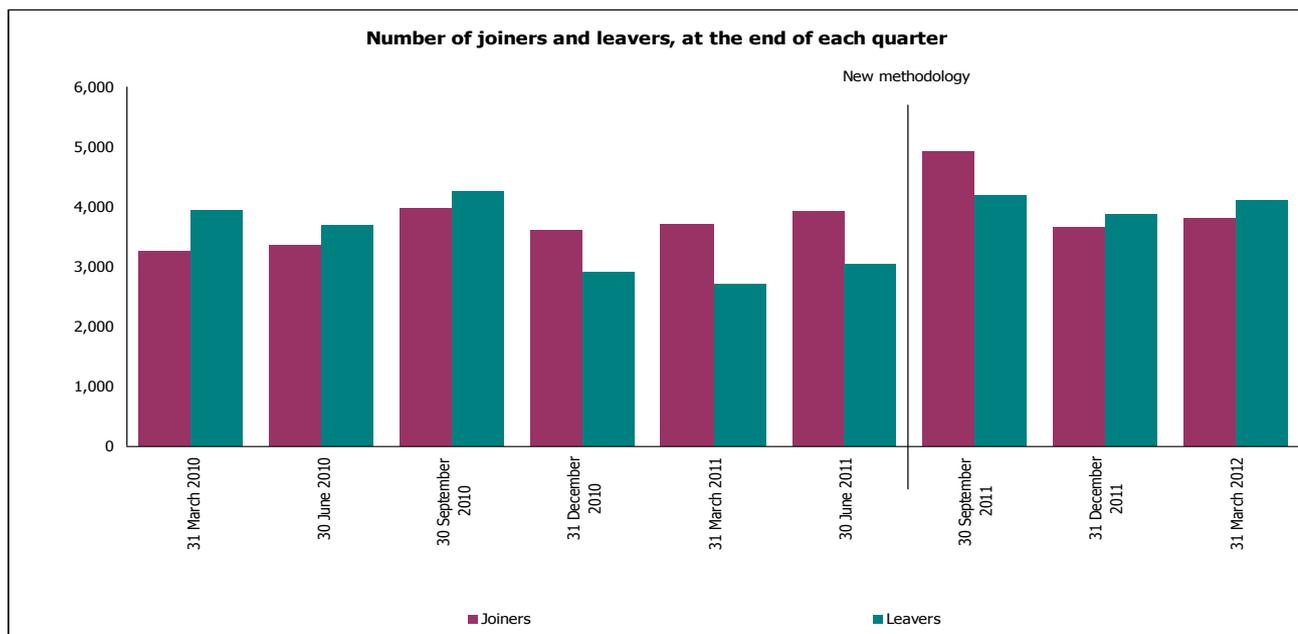


Chart 3: Total movement in the childcare sector between 31 March 2011 and 31 March 2012, by provider type

Total number of joiners and leavers by provider type

	Provider Type				Total
	Childminder	Childcare on non-domestic premises	Childcare on domestic premises	Home childcarer	
Joiners	9,474	3,026	69	3,728	16,297
Leavers	9,200	3,524	47	2,440	15,211

Source: Regulatory Support Application

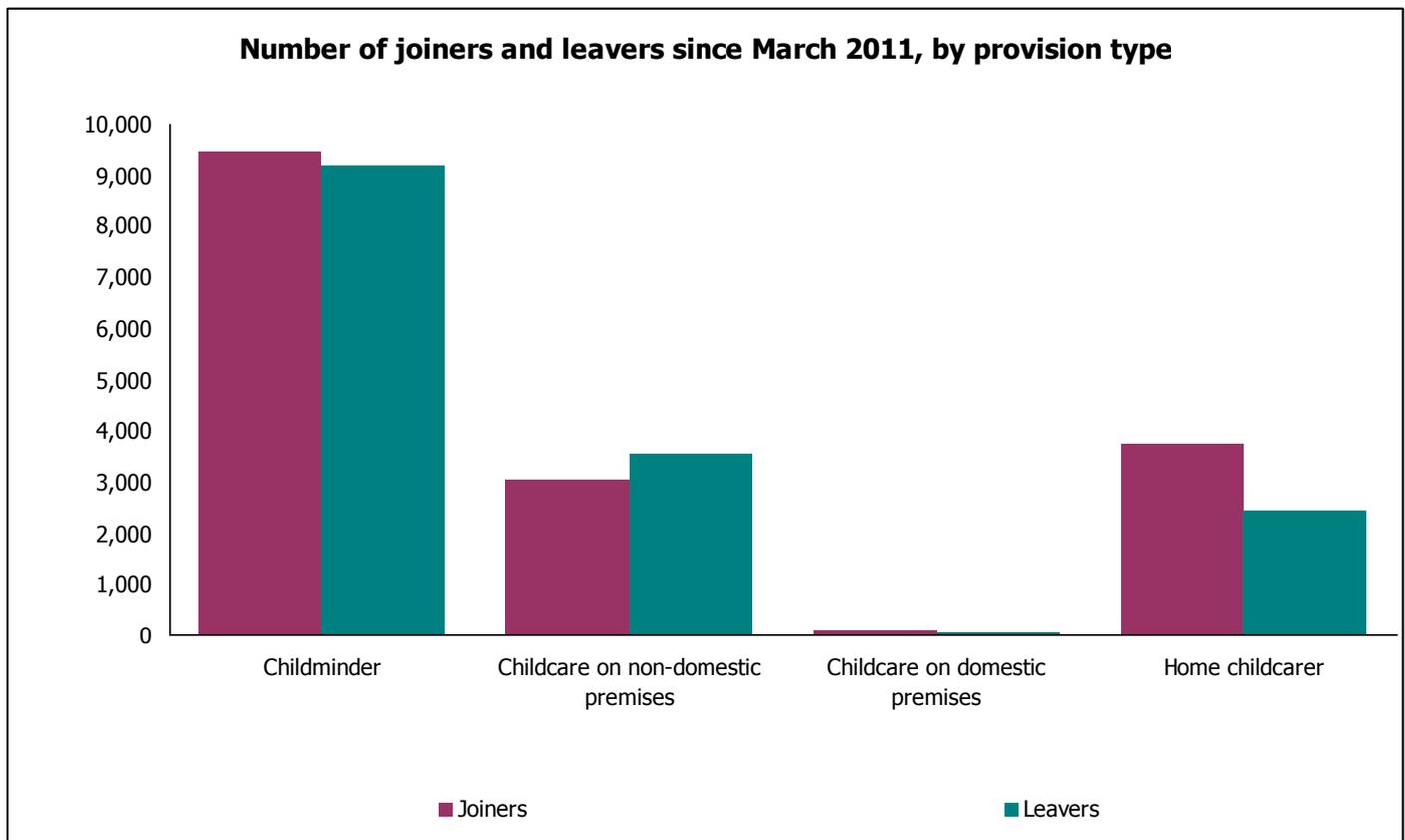


Table 1

Registered childcare providers and places as at 31 March 2012: All England

Provision on: ¹	Childminders		Childcare on:				Home childcarers		All	
	Providers ²	Places ³	non-domestic premises		domestic premises		Providers ²	Places ³	Providers ²	Places ³
			Providers ²	Places ³	Providers ²	Places ³				
All registers	52,964	266,753	16,409	685,284	107	1,763	–	–	69,480	953,800
EYR and CCR	3,158	14,668	1,676	71,660	16	287	–	–	4,850	86,615
EYR and VCR	12	41	152	7,090	0	0	–	–	164	7,131
EYR only	213	696	7,563	262,306	12	190	–	–	7,788	263,192
EYR total	56,347	282,158	25,800	1,026,340	135	2,240	–	–	82,282	1,310,738
CCR and VCR	810	–	446	–	1	–	–	–	1,257	–
CCR only	31	–	64	–	0	–	–	–	95	–
VCR only	286	–	1,632	–	4	–	10,436	–	12,358	–
Total	57,474	–	27,942	–	140	–	10,436	–	95,992	–

¹ Register(s): Ofsted register care provided for children on two registers, the Early Years Register (EYR) and the Childcare Register, which has a compulsory (CCR) and voluntary (VCR) component. People can apply to join one register or both registers at the same time. Most childcare providers caring for children aged under eight must register with Ofsted unless the law says they are not required to do so. If a childcare provider is not required to register with Ofsted, then in some circumstances they may choose to do so by joining the voluntary part of the Childcare Register (VCR). For further information, visit our website at: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Factsheet-childcare-Registration-not-required>

Table 2

Movement in the childcare sector between 31 December 2011 and 31 March 2012: All England

	Childminders		Childcare on:				Home childcarers		All	
	Providers ²	Places ³	non-domestic premises		domestic premises		Providers ²	Places ³	Providers ²	Places ³
			Providers ²	Places ³	Providers ²	Places ³				
Provision on Early Years Register¹										
Position at 31 December 2011	56,939	283,170	25,869	1,023,794	142	2,440	–	–	82,950	1,309,404
Joiners ⁴	1,906	8,888	575	22,987	9	130	–	–	2,490	32,005
Leavers ⁵	-2,498	-11,375	-644	-22,983	-16	-332	–	–	-3,158	-34,690
Changes in place numbers ⁶	–	1,475	–	2,541	–	2	–	–	–	4,018
Net overall change	-592	-1,012	-69	2,546	-7	-200	–	–	-668	1,334
Position at 31 March 2012	56,347	282,158	25,800	1,026,340	135	2,240	–	–	82,282	1,310,738
Provision not on Early Years Register¹										
Position at 31 December 2011	943	–	2,138	–	3	–	10,250	–	13,334	–
Joiners ⁴	287	–	155	–	3	–	879	–	1,324	–
Leavers ⁵	-103	–	-151	–	-1	–	-693	–	-948	–
Net overall change	184	–	4	–	2	–	186	–	376	–
Position at 31 March 2012	1,127	–	2,142	–	5	–	10,436	–	13,710	–
All provision										
Position at 31 December 2011	57,882	–	28,007	–	145	–	10,250	–	96,284	–
Joiners ⁴	2,193	–	730	–	12	–	879	–	3,814	–
Leavers ⁵	-2,601	–	-795	–	-17	–	-693	–	-4,106	–
Net overall change	-408	–	-65	–	-5	–	186	–	-292	–
Position at 31 March 2012	57,474	–	27,942	–	140	–	10,436	–	95,992	–

¹ Register(s): see footnote on Table 1

Places: Averages are used for a very small number of providers whose place numbers are not available at the time of the analysis. There are very small discrepancies in totals due to rounding.

Glossary

Childminder

This is a person who is registered to look after one or more children, to whom they are not related, for reward. Childminders work with no more than two other childminders or assistants.

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 on domestic premises

These are people providing care on domestic premises with at least three other people. They can provide the care directly or employ people to work with them. The difference between childminding and childcare on domestic premises is the number of people involved. If four or more people look after children at any time they are providing childcare on domestic premises, not childminding.

Childcare providers on non-domestic premises

These are people providing care for individual children in premises that are not someone's home. These premises can range from converted houses to purpose built nurseries.

Home childcarers

Home childcarers care for children of any age up to their 18th birthday wholly or mainly in the home of a child being cared for, and care for children from no more than two families. They can only register on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

Registers

Under the Childcare Act 2006, childcare providers register on either or both of two registers:

- The Early Years Register, which is for providers who care for children from birth to the 31 August following their fifth birthday, and who must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage
- The Childcare Register, which has two parts:
 - a compulsory part, for providers who care for children aged from the end of the Foundation Stage up to and including age seven
 - a voluntary part, for providers who care for children aged eight and over and those for whom registration is not compulsory, for example nannies.

Further information about how Ofsted registers childcare providers can be found at:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Childcare/Registration>

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