

Planned changes to official statistics

Childcare providers and places

Age group: 0–8

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Introduction

1. At present, Ofsted publishes quarterly statistics on the number of childcare providers registered with Ofsted on the Early Years Register (EYR) and the Childcare Register (CCR), and the number of places provided by those registered on the EYR.
2. From the next publication of these statistics, showing the number of childcare providers and places as at the end of June 2011, we intend to make changes to the published statistics. In accordance with Principle 2, Practice 4 of the UK Statistics Authority *Code of practice for official statistics*, this paper describes in full the changes to be made. The changes are part of Ofsted's strategy to make more data and analysis available to the public, and to improve the relevance of the statistics. At the same time, Ofsted will increase compliance with the UK Statistics Authority code of practice¹ and the public data principles².

Coverage and presentation

3. The statistics will be presented with key findings and commentary to help users understand the main messages arising from the information. In response to a common request from users, some information on trends over time will also be included.
4. The data and analysis presented in the official statistics publication will remain largely the same. Two methodological changes will be introduced, but it is expected that the overall impact of these changes will be small.

Leavers and joiners at the local authority level

5. At the local authority level, leavers and joiners will include providers that have moved out of, and into, the local authority, as well as providers that have resigned their registration, or been suspended or cancelled by Ofsted.
6. The current official statistics movement in the childcare sector analyses the number of providers that leave and join the EYR and the CCR. At the national level, there is always a clear reconciliation where the number of providers registered with Ofsted at the end of the previous quarter, less the number who left, plus the number who joined, results in the number of providers registered with Ofsted at the end of the quarter. However, childcare providers may move from one local authority to another and still retain the same registration with Ofsted. This means that at the regional and local authority level, the figures do not always reconcile the way they do at the national level. This has caused confusion for users.

¹ *Code of practice for official statistics*, UK Statistics Authority, 2009;
www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html.

² http://data.gov.uk/wiki/Public_Data_Principles

7. We have now developed the methodology so that, while at the national level the number of leavers and joiners will reflect those who have left and joined the sector, at the regional and local authority levels the statistics will reflect those providers who have relocated as well.

Individual data on providers and places

8. In line with government transparency, the dataset underpinning the summary statistics will be released. This will allow users to carry out their own analysis on the data as they wish.

Frequency

9. Ofsted will continue to release official statistics on childcare providers and places four times a year.

Periodicity

10. Data will be presented on a monthly basis.
11. At present, the statistics show the position at the end of the quarter for all active providers. From the next release, the position at the end of each month of the quarter will be presented, so that users can choose the most relevant point in time for their analysis and aggregate the data as they wish.

Timing

12. The official statistics will be released, as now, on the last Thursday of the month following the end of the quarter.

Feedback

13. If you have any questions or comments about the planned changes to official statistics outlined in this document, please contact the Childcare Data team by email at childcaredataqueries@ofsted.gov.uk or by writing to the Childcare Data team, Inspection Data and Insight, at:

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