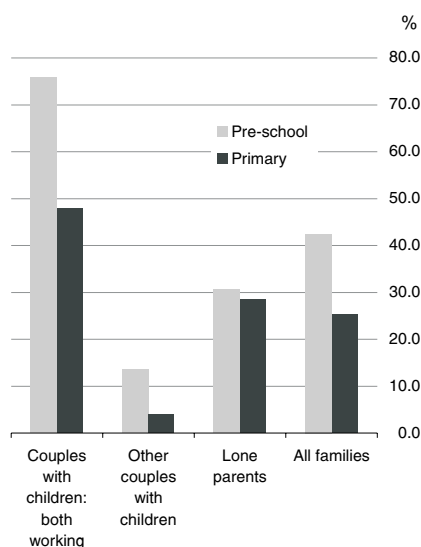


For figures based on the 2002 Census of
Population see revised figures contained in
module Q1 2005

9 July 2003

Quarterly National Household Survey Childcare Fourth Quarter 2002

Use of non-parental childcare



Over 40% of families with pre-school children use non-parental childcare facilities

Over 73,000 families, or 42.5% of all families with pre-school children, regularly rely on non-parental childcare arrangements* for minding these children during normal working hours. Usage of non-parental childcare facilities is less common for minding primary school-going children, with 67,500 (25.3%) of all families availing of it on a regular basis. *See tables 1, 2 & graph.*

These figures are based on a survey module on childcare included in the Quarterly National Household Survey in the fourth quarter of 2002.

Couples where both partners were at work had the greatest need for regular non-parental childcare facilities. Over three-quarters (55,300) had childcare arrangements for their pre-school children and nearly half (50,100) required it for their primary school-going children. Lone parents with pre-school children used non-parental childcare arrangements to a lesser extent than average (42.5%), with just over 30% (7,600) having regular arrangements. The reverse was true in the case of lone parents with primary school-going children with over 28% (12,800) having regular arrangements, compared to the average of 25.3%. *See tables 3 & 4.*

Parents who paid for childcare for their children spent on average €97.47 per week on the main type of childcare used and this varied from €79.42 in the Border region to €118.96 in Dublin. *See table 10.*

Unpaid relatives an important source of childcare

Almost 23,000 families relied on Unpaid Relatives for minding pre-school children on a regular basis and over 19,000 of these indicated that it was their main source of childcare. The reliance on Unpaid Relatives was somewhat greater for minding school-going children with over 31,000 families reporting their use on a regular basis and 25,100 of these indicating that it was their main source of childcare outside of school hours. In proportionate terms, lone parents were more reliant on Unpaid Relatives. *See tables 2 & 5.*

* Throughout this report non-parental childcare means any form of childcare other than that provided directly by the parents or guardians themselves. The scope is restricted to such childcare availed of on a regular weekly basis during the normal working day.

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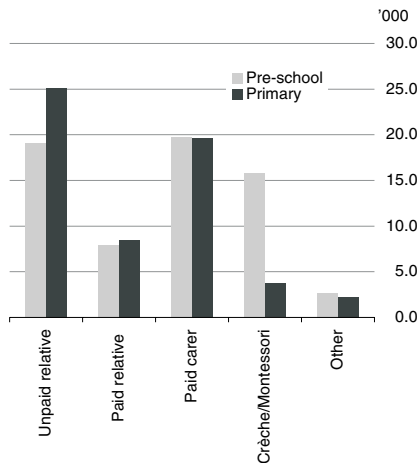
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Ref 135/2003

Use of non-parental childcare as main childcare source



With regard to paid childcare, almost 20,000 families indicated that employing a Paid Carer was the principal arrangement for minding their pre-school children while a further 15,800 indicated that they mainly relied on a Crèche/ Montessori. For school-going children, 19,700 families indicated they used a Paid Carer as their main means of minding their children but less than 4,000 used a Crèche. Around 8,000 families paid a relative to mind their pre-school children and a similar number did so in the case of school-going children.

In general terms use of a Crèche/Montessori was much more prevalent in Dublin whereas employing a Paid Carer was more common in other regions.

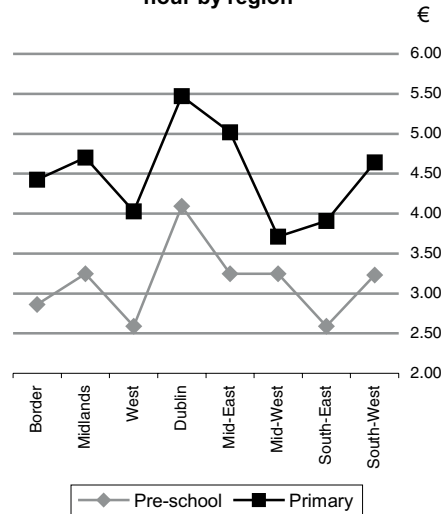
Pre-school children require more childcare

Over 26,000 families with pre-school children, whose principal childcare arrangements were non-parental, required over 30 hours of non-parental care per week on a regular basis. A further 15,800 families regularly require between 21 and 30 hours per week. *See table 8.*

Families with school-going children, on the other hand, require their children to be minded for shorter periods with over 44,000 requiring twenty hours or less and only 6,700 needing over thirty hours.

Paid childcare was more usual where longer hours of childcare were required. Two-thirds of families requiring over thirty hours of non-parental childcare per week paid for the care compared with just 40% of families needing ten hours or less.

Average cost of childcare per child per hour by region



Childcare more expensive in Dublin

The cost of childcare was significantly more expensive in Dublin than in other areas with parents paying on average €4.09 and €5.47 per child per hour for minding pre-school and school-going children respectively. These rates compare with €3.25 and €4.70 for families on average throughout the country. *See table 9.*

In general this reflects the fact that Dublin was more expensive for most types of childcare with particularly large differentials existing in the cost of employing a Paid Carer to mind pre-school children. In the latter case the cost in Dublin, at €4.53 per hour, was over 40% higher than the average for all families.

Table 9 also shows that the cost per hour of childcare tends to decline as the hours required by families increases. The most expensive is the hourly cost (€6.74) of minding school-going children for less than 10 hours a week – this may however be due in part to the additional costs associated with collecting children from school and providing other facilities.

Average childcare expenditure exceeds €97 per week

The average outlay by the 59,800 families whose principal arrangements for minding their children during normal working hours involved paid childcare was €97.47 per week in the last quarter of 2002. *See also table 10 for more detail.*

Number of families relying on paid childcare and average weekly cost involved

	Pre-school only	Primary only	Both	Total
Total no. of families ('000)	86.1	180.6	86.1	352.8
No. families using paid childcare ('000)	24.0	17.1	18.6	59.8
Average cost of paid childcare (€)	€105.36	€75.54	€107.37	€97.47

On a regional basis the average cost ranged from €79.42 in the Border region to €118.96 in Dublin. For families with pre-school children only the cost was €105.36 per week with the average weekly cost in Dublin for these families over €131. Families with primary school-going children only incurred a lower average cost of €75.54 per week and once again families in Dublin paid the most at €91.33 on average. The lower weekly cost for school-going children reflects, of course, the significantly lower hours of childcare required compared with pre-school children.

Families requiring over 40 hours in total of childcare per week for their children incurred a weekly expenditure in excess of €157. There were an estimated 12,500 families in this situation at the end of 2002 and the overwhelming majority had pre-school children.

One fifth of parents with pre-school children seek alternative childcare facilities

Just under 20% (32,400) of families with pre-school children would welcome the availability of alternative childcare arrangements. Almost half of these indicated that they would like a Crèche or Montessori, preferably work-based Crèches. A further 20% mentioned a Paid Carer, while just over one in ten of parents would prefer to mind the children themselves instead of their existing arrangements. Over 45% stated that they were not availing of their desired alternative due to cost or financial reasons, while 33.6% said the option wasn't available and 31.5% cited other reasons*. *See table 11.*

In relative terms there was somewhat less dissatisfaction revealed in relation to existing childcare arrangements for primary children, with just one in eight (33,900) of families stating they would like an alternative type of childcare. The most popular alternatives cited for primary children were an "after-school, activity-based programme" (24.4%) and Paid Carers (21.8%). The most common reason given for not using the desired alternative was its non-availability (45.7%), which was mainly mentioned in relation to the after-school activity-based programme. A further 38% gave 'cost or financial reasons', generally by those seeking a Paid Carer. *See table 11.*

* Other reasons include waiting lists, transport difficulties or lack of age appropriate services, suitable or flexible hours, culturally appropriate services, quality programme/service or informal care by someone known and trusted.

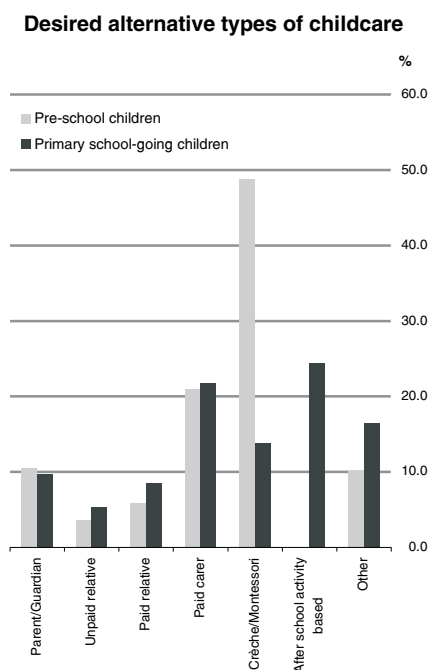


Table 1 Families with pre-school or primary school-going children, September-November 2002

'000

	Pre-school only			Primary only			Both			Total		
	Couple	Lone parent	Total	Couple	Lone parent	Total	Couple	Lone parent	Total	Couple	Lone parent	Total
All families	71.9	14.2	86.1	146.2	34.3	180.6	75.5	10.6	86.1	293.6	59.1	352.8
Age of mother/guardian¹												
15-24	5.9	6.5	12.4	0.8	1.6	2.4	1.3	1.4	2.8	8.1	9.6	17.7
25-34	42.0	5.5	47.5	22.2	14.1	36.4	31.8	6.2	37.9	96.0	25.8	121.8
35-44	18.5	1.6	20.1	88.3	13.4	101.7	40.2	2.7	42.9	147.1	17.6	164.7
45+	5.4	0.6	6.0	34.8	5.2	40.0	2.2	0.3	2.6	42.4	6.1	48.5
PES² of mother/guardian¹												
At work	43.5	4.6	48.1	78.0	19.2	97.2	33.1	3.5	36.6	154.7	27.3	182.0
Unemployed	1.5	1.3	2.7	2.2	1.7	3.9	1.3	0.3	1.6	5.0	3.3	8.2
Student	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.4	0.8	2.2	0.5	0.3	0.8	2.3	1.5	3.7
On home duties	25.2	7.5	32.7	62.6	12.0	74.7	39.8	6.3	46.2	127.7	25.8	153.5
Retired/Other	1.3	0.5	1.8	1.9	0.6	2.5	0.8	*	0.9	4.0	1.3	5.3
Employment of couple-PES²												
Both working	41.5	–	–	73.3	–	–	31.4	–	–	146.2	–	–
One working	24.6	–	–	65.0	–	–	38.6	–	–	128.3	–	–
Other	5.8	–	–	7.9	–	–	5.5	–	–	19.2	–	–
Region												
Border	8.4	1.2	9.6	17.3	4.1	21.4	8.2	0.9	9.1	34.0	6.1	40.1
Midlands	4.0	1.0	5.0	8.3	1.3	9.6	4.2	0.6	4.8	16.6	2.8	19.4
West	8.2	2.7	10.8	15.2	2.5	17.6	7.8	0.7	8.5	31.2	5.8	37.0
Dublin	18.9	3.8	22.7	35.9	11.8	47.6	19.0	4.3	23.3	73.8	19.9	93.6
Mid-East	8.8	1.3	10.0	18.5	3.3	21.7	9.4	1.0	10.4	36.6	5.5	42.2
Mid-West	5.8	1.2	7.0	12.8	3.2	16.0	7.1	0.8	8.0	25.7	5.2	30.9
South-East	6.9	1.3	8.2	16.8	3.1	19.8	7.9	1.2	9.0	31.5	5.6	37.1
South-West	10.9	1.8	12.7	21.5	5.3	26.7	11.9	1.1	13.0	44.3	8.2	52.4
Number of children												
1	50.4	11.4	61.8	75.2	22.7	98.0	–	–	–	125.7	34.1	159.8
2	19.7	2.6	22.3	54.1	9.2	63.3	34.7	6.0	40.7	108.4	17.7	126.2
3	1.7	*	2.0	14.7	2.1	16.8	28.5	3.0	31.6	45.0	5.4	50.3
4+	*	*	*	2.2	0.3	2.5	12.3	1.6	13.9	14.6	1.9	16.4

¹ In the case of couples, the age of the mother is used. In the case of lone parents, the age of the respondent is used.

² See Background notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 2 Families classified by use of non-parental childcare^{1,2} for pre-school or primary school-going children, September-November 2002

'000

	Unpaid relative		Paid relative		Paid carer		Crèche/Montessori		Other		Total ²	
	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary
All families	22.8	31.1	8.8	9.5	21.5	21.5	19.8	4.1	5.4	2.9	73.1	67.5
Age of mother/guardian³												
15-24	2.1	0.8	0.7	*	0.5	0.3	1.1	*	0.5	*	4.5	1.2
25-34	12.1	10.7	5.1	3.4	10.3	4.5	9.5	1.2	2.4	0.7	36.8	20.1
35-44	6.6	15.7	2.8	5.2	10.3	14.4	8.6	2.6	2.3	1.7	28.6	38.6
45+	2.0	3.9	*	0.7	0.4	2.4	0.6	0.3	*	0.4	3.2	7.6
PES⁴ of mother/guardian³												
At work	20.2	28.6	8.5	9.1	20.7	20.5	15.1	3.7	2.7	2.2	62.5	62.6
Unemployed	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	0.7	0.3
Student	0.4	0.6	*	*	*	0.3	0.6	*	*	*	1.1	1.1
On home duties	1.9	1.5	*	0.4	0.6	0.6	3.7	*	2.4	0.6	8.5	3.0
Retired/Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.4	0.4
Region												
Border	3.0	4.2	0.8	1.0	2.2	1.7	1.4	0.4	0.3	*	7.4	7.4
Midlands	0.9	1.2	0.4	0.5	1.6	1.2	0.6	*	0.4	0.4	3.8	3.5
West	2.9	3.5	0.9	0.7	3.1	2.2	1.9	0.3	0.9	*	8.7	6.7
Dublin	5.6	7.7	2.2	2.0	3.2	4.9	8.9	1.9	0.8	1.1	19.8	17.1
Mid-East	2.1	3.2	1.4	1.7	2.6	2.8	1.9	0.5	1.3	*	8.5	8.3
Mid-West	1.7	3.0	0.6	0.8	2.1	1.7	1.6	0.4	*	0.4	5.8	6.0
South-East	2.6	3.8	1.1	1.6	2.7	3.0	1.1	*	0.6	*	7.4	8.6
South-West	4.0	4.5	1.4	1.3	4.2	4.0	2.4	0.3	0.9	0.3	11.7	10.0
Number of children-Total												
1	11.5	14.6	4.2	3.0	7.7	6.3	8.0	1.3	1.5	1.0	31.0	25.7
2	7.4	12.0	3.1	4.4	8.6	9.3	7.8	2.0	2.2	0.9	26.9	27.8
3	3.1	3.8	1.0	1.8	4.4	5.1	3.3	0.7	1.3	0.8	12.3	11.9
4+	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.8	*	0.5	*	2.8	2.1
Family Structure												
Pre-school children only	14.4	—	5.2	—	11.4	—	11.5	—	2.7	—	42.1	—
Primary school-going children only	—	22.7	—	6.0	—	12.6	—	1.8	—	2.1	—	44.2
Both	8.4	8.4	3.5	3.5	10.2	9.0	8.3	2.3	2.8	0.8	31.0	23.3

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household). See background notes.

² This table allows for multiple responses for types of childcare used. Consequently the total does not equal the sum of the childcare types, but rather relates to total number of households availing of childcare outside the home.

³ In the case of couples, the age of the mother is used. In the case of lone parents, the age of the respondent is used.

⁴ See Background notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 3 Couples with children classified by use of non-parental childcare^{1,2} for pre-school or primary school-going children, September-November 2002

'000

	Unpaid relative		Paid relative		Paid carer		Crèche/Montessori		Other		Total ¹	
	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary
All couples with children	19.5	24.1	7.8	7.9	20.5	18.6	17.7	3.4	4.6	2.2	65.4	54.7
Age of mother												
15-24	1.2	0.4	0.6	*	0.3	*	0.6	*	0.3	*	2.7	0.6
25-34	10.7	7.1	4.5	2.7	9.8	3.4	8.6	0.9	2.0	0.5	33.0	14.4
35-44	5.9	13.1	2.6	4.6	10.1	12.9	8.0	2.3	2.2	1.4	26.9	33.5
45+	1.8	3.4	*	0.5	0.4	2.1	0.6	*	*	*	2.9	6.3
PES³ of mother												
At work	17.5	22.2	7.6	7.5	19.8	17.7	13.7	3.0	2.2	1.6	56.6	51.0
Unemployed	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	0.5	*
Student	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.4	*	*	*	0.6	0.6
On home duties	1.7	1.3	*	0.3	0.6	0.5	3.1	*	2.2	0.5	7.5	2.6
Retired/Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	0.3
Employment of couple-PES³												
Both working	16.9	21.6	7.5	7.4	19.7	17.6	13.1	3.0	2.1	1.6	55.3	50.1
One working	2.3	2.2	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.9	4.0	0.3	2.3	0.4	9.0	4.0
Other	0.3	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.5	*	*	*	1.1	0.6
Region												
Border	2.6	3.3	0.8	0.8	2.0	1.4	1.4	0.3	*	*	6.8	5.8
Midlands	0.8	1.0	0.3	0.5	1.6	1.1	0.5	*	0.3	*	3.4	2.9
West	2.4	2.9	0.8	0.6	2.8	2.1	1.6	0.3	0.8	*	7.5	5.8
Dublin	4.5	5.3	1.9	1.5	3.1	4.0	7.9	1.5	0.6	0.8	17.3	12.7
Mid-East	1.9	2.3	1.2	1.4	2.4	2.6	1.8	0.4	1.2	*	7.8	6.8
Mid-West	1.5	2.4	0.6	0.6	2.1	1.2	1.2	0.3	*	0.3	5.2	4.8
South-East	2.2	3.2	0.9	1.3	2.6	2.6	1.1	*	0.5	*	6.6	7.3
South-West	3.5	3.6	1.4	1.1	4.0	3.6	2.2	0.3	0.9	*	10.8	8.5
Number of children-Total												
1	9.6	10.2	3.8	2.2	7.2	4.7	6.8	0.8	1.1	0.6	27.1	18.1
2	6.5	9.8	2.7	3.8	8.1	8.1	7.2	1.8	1.8	0.7	24.2	23.6
3	2.7	3.4	0.9	1.5	4.4	5.0	3.1	0.7	1.3	0.8	11.5	11.1
4+	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.6	*	0.5	*	2.6	2.0
Family Structure												
Pre-school children only	12.3	—	4.8	—	10.7	—	10.2	—	2.1	—	37.5	—
Primary school-going children only	—	16.7	—	4.8	—	10.2	—	1.3	—	1.5	—	33.7
Both	7.2	7.4	3.0	3.1	9.8	8.4	7.5	2.1	2.5	0.7	27.9	21.1

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household). See background notes.

² This table allows for multiple responses for types of childcare used. Consequently the total does not equal the sum of the childcare types, but rather relates to total number of households availing of childcare outside the home.

³ See Background notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 4 Lone parents classified by use of non-parental childcare^{1,2} for pre-school or primary school-going children, September-November 2002

'000

	Unpaid relative		Paid relative		Paid carer		Crèche/Montessori		Other		Total ¹	
	Pre-school	primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary
All lone parents	3.3	7.0	1.0	1.7	1.0	2.9	2.1	0.7	0.8	0.7	7.6	12.8
Age of parent												
15-24	0.9	0.4	*	*	0.3	*	0.5	*	*	*	1.9	0.7
25-34	1.4	3.6	0.7	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.9	0.3	0.5	*	3.7	5.8
35-44	0.7	2.6	*	0.6	*	1.4	0.7	0.3	*	*	1.7	5.0
45+	*	0.5	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.3	1.3
PES³ of parent												
At work	2.7	6.3	0.9	1.6	0.9	2.8	1.3	0.6	0.5	0.6	5.9	11.6
Unemployed	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Student	*	0.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.5	0.5
On home duties	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.5	*	0.3	*	1.0	0.4
Retired/Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Region												
Border	0.4	0.9	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.6	1.5
Midlands	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.4	0.5
West	0.6	0.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1.2	0.9
Dublin	1.0	2.4	0.3	0.5	*	0.9	1.0	0.5	*	0.3	2.5	4.4
Mid-East	*	0.9	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.6	1.5
Mid-West	*	0.6	*	*	*	0.4	0.4	*	*	*	0.6	1.2
South-East	0.4	0.6	*	0.3	*	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.9	1.3
South-West	0.5	0.9	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.8	1.5
Number of children-Total												
1	1.9	4.4	0.4	0.8	0.5	1.6	1.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	4.0	7.6
2	0.9	2.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.2	0.6	*	0.4	0.3	2.7	4.2
3	0.5	0.4	*	0.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.8	0.8
4+	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Family Structure												
Pre-school children only	2.1	—	0.4	—	0.7	—	1.3	—	0.6	—	4.6	—
Primary school-going children only	—	6.1	—	1.2	—	2.4	—	0.5	—	0.6	—	10.6
Both	1.2	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8	*	*	*	3.0	2.2

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household). See background notes.

² This table allows for multiple responses for types of childcare used. Consequently the total does not equal the sum of the childcare types, but rather relates to total number of households availing of childcare outside the home.

³ See Background notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 5 Families classified by main type of childcare arrangement¹ used for pre-school or primary school-going children, September-November 2002

'000

	Parent/guardian		Unpaid relative		Paid relative		Paid carer		Crèche/Montessori		Other		Total	
	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary
All families	106.9	207.4	19.1	25.1	7.9	8.5	19.8	19.7	15.8	3.7	2.7	2.2	172.2	266.6
Age of mother/guardian²														
15-24	11.0	4.0	1.9	0.7	0.7	*	0.5	0.3	0.8	*	*	*	15.2	5.2
25-34	52.6	56.5	10.2	8.8	4.6	3.2	9.5	4.1	7.5	1.2	1.1	0.4	85.4	74.3
35-44	37.4	110.6	5.5	12.6	2.5	4.6	9.4	13.2	7.0	2.2	1.2	1.3	63.0	144.6
45+	5.9	36.2	1.6	3.0	*	0.6	0.4	2.0	0.4	0.3	*	0.4	8.5	42.6
PES³ of mother/guardian²														
At work	26.6	77.8	17.3	23.5	7.6	8.3	19.2	18.9	12.5	3.4	1.5	1.9	84.7	133.8
Unemployed	3.8	5.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	4.3	5.5
Student	0.6	2.0	0.4	0.6	*	*	*	0.3	0.4	*	*	*	1.5	3.0
On home duties	73.5	119.1	1.2	0.8	*	*	0.4	0.4	2.4	*	1.1	0.3	78.8	120.9
Retired/Other	2.4	3.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.8	3.4
Region														
Border	11.6	23.5	2.9	3.8	0.8	1.0	2.1	1.7	1.2	0.4	*	*	18.7	30.6
Midlands	6.0	11.1	0.9	1.2	0.4	0.5	1.6	1.1	0.5	*	0.3	0.3	9.8	14.4
West	11.7	19.9	2.5	3.1	0.9	0.6	2.9	2.1	1.2	0.3	*	*	19.4	26.1
Dublin	27.6	56.0	4.8	6.1	1.9	1.9	3.1	4.5	8.1	1.7	0.5	0.8	46.0	70.9
Mid-East	13.6	24.7	1.5	2.6	1.2	1.6	2.3	2.6	1.5	0.5	0.4	*	20.5	32.1
Mid-West	9.6	18.9	1.3	2.2	0.5	0.6	2.0	1.5	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	15.0	23.9
South-East	10.6	22.0	2.3	2.9	1.1	1.4	2.4	2.5	0.7	*	*	*	17.3	28.9
South-West	16.1	31.5	2.9	3.3	1.1	0.9	3.6	3.6	1.2	*	0.7	*	25.7	39.7
Number of children-Total														
1	33.5	75.1	9.7	11.9	3.9	2.7	7.4	5.8	6.8	1.3	0.6	1.0	61.8	98.0
2	39.0	79.7	6.3	9.5	2.7	3.9	7.8	8.4	6.0	1.6	1.1	0.7	62.9	103.9
3	22.8	37.9	2.6	3.2	1.0	1.6	4.0	4.7	2.5	0.6	0.6	0.3	33.5	48.4
4+	11.6	14.7	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.5	*	0.3	*	13.9	16.4
Family Structure														
Pre-school children only	48.1	—	12.2	—	4.9	—	10.7	—	9.2	—	1.1	—	86.1	—
Primary school-going children only	—	141.7	—	18.4	—	5.6	—	11.5	—	1.8	—	1.7	—	180.6
Both	58.8	65.8	6.9	6.7	3.0	3.0	9.2	8.2	6.5	1.9	1.6	0.5	86.1	86.1

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² In the case of couples, the age of the mother is used. In the case of lone parents, the age of the respondent is used.

³ See Background notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 6 Couples with children classified by main type of childcare arrangement¹ used for pre-school or primary school-going children, September-November 2002

'000

	Parent/guardian		Unpaid relative		Paid relative		Paid carer		Crèche/Montessori		Other		Total ¹	
	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary
All couples with children	89.0	173.7	16.3	19.4	6.9	7.0	18.9	17.0	14.0	3.0	2.3	1.6	147.4	221.7
Age of mother														
15-24	4.8	1.6	1.1	0.4	0.5	*	0.3	*	0.4	*	*	*	7.3	2.2
25-34	44.3	41.2	8.9	5.9	4.0	2.5	9.0	3.2	6.7	0.9	0.8	0.3	73.8	54.0
35-44	34.8	99.1	4.9	10.5	2.3	4.1	9.2	11.9	6.4	1.9	1.2	1.1	58.7	128.5
45+	5.2	31.8	1.4	2.7	*	0.4	0.4	1.7	0.4	*	*	*	7.6	37.0
PES² of mother														
At work	24.1	65.5	14.9	18.3	6.8	6.9	18.4	16.4	11.4	2.8	1.2	1.3	76.7	111.1
Unemployed	2.4	3.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	2.7	3.5
Student	0.4	1.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.8	1.9
On home duties	60.3	101.0	1.1	0.7	*	*	0.4	0.3	2.0	*	1.0	*	65.0	102.5
Retired/Other	1.8	2.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.1	2.7
Employment of couple-PES²														
Both working	21.4	59.7	14.4	18.0	6.7	6.8	18.2	16.3	10.9	2.8	1.2	1.2	72.9	104.7
One working	57.1	101.0	1.7	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.7	2.6	*	0.9	0.3	63.2	103.6
Other	10.4	13.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.4	*	*	*	11.2	13.4
Region														
Border	10.2	19.9	2.6	3.0	0.7	0.8	1.9	1.3	1.2	0.3	*	*	16.7	25.6
Midlands	4.9	9.7	0.8	0.9	0.3	0.4	1.5	1.0	0.5	*	*	*	8.2	12.5
West	9.3	17.5	2.1	2.7	0.8	0.5	2.6	2.0	1.0	0.3	*	*	16.0	23.0
Dublin	21.9	43.9	3.8	4.2	1.6	1.5	3.0	3.7	7.1	1.2	0.4	0.5	37.9	54.9
Mid-East	11.9	21.6	1.3	1.9	1.1	1.4	2.2	2.4	1.4	0.4	0.3	*	18.2	27.8
Mid-West	8.1	16.0	1.2	1.7	0.5	0.5	1.9	1.1	1.0	0.3	*	0.3	12.9	19.9
South-East	8.9	18.8	1.9	2.4	0.9	1.1	2.2	2.2	0.7	*	*	*	14.8	24.6
South-West	13.8	26.4	2.6	2.7	1.1	0.7	3.5	3.3	1.1	*	0.7	*	22.8	33.4
Number of children-Total														
1	25.7	59.1	8.1	8.4	3.5	2.0	6.9	4.4	5.8	0.8	0.5	0.6	50.4	75.2
2	32.8	68.3	5.5	7.7	2.3	3.4	7.3	7.3	5.5	1.4	1.0	0.5	54.3	88.8
3	20.3	33.4	2.3	2.9	0.8	1.4	4.0	4.6	2.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	30.3	43.2
4+	10.3	12.9	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.4	*	0.3	*	12.3	14.5
Family Structure														
Pre-school children only	37.9	—	10.4	—	4.5	—	10.1	—	8.2	—	0.9	—	71.9	—
Primary school-going children only	—	116.6	—	13.5	—	4.5	—	9.3	—	1.2	—	1.1	—	146.2
Both	51.1	57.1	5.9	6.0	2.5	2.6	8.8	7.7	5.8	1.8	1.4	0.5	75.5	75.5

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² See Background Notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 7 Lone parents classified by main type of childcare arrangement¹ used for pre-school or primary school-going children, September-November 2002

'000

	Parent/guardian		Unpaid relative		Paid relative		Paid carer		Crèche/Montessori		Other		Total	
	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary
All lone parents	17.9	33.7	2.8	5.6	0.9	1.5	1.0	2.7	1.8	0.7	0.4	0.7	24.8	44.9
Age of parent														
15-24	6.3	2.4	0.8	0.3	*	*	0.3	*	0.4	*	*	*	8.0	3.0
25-34	8.4	15.3	1.2	2.9	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.3	*	*	11.7	20.3
35-44	2.6	11.6	0.6	2.1	*	0.5	*	1.3	0.6	0.3	*	*	4.3	16.0
45+	0.7	4.4	*	0.4	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.9	5.5
PES² of parent														
At work	2.5	12.3	2.4	5.2	0.8	1.4	0.9	2.5	1.2	0.6	*	0.6	8.1	22.7
Unemployed	1.4	1.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1.6	2.0
Student	*	0.6	*	0.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.7	1.1
On home duties	13.2	18.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.4	*	*	*	13.8	18.4
Retired/Other	0.6	0.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.7	0.7
Region														
Border	1.4	3.6	0.4	0.8	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	*	2.1	5.0
Midlands	1.1	1.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1.6	1.9
West	2.4	2.5	0.4	0.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.4	3.2
Dublin	5.8	12.1	1.0	1.9	0.3	0.4	*	0.8	0.9	0.5	*	0.3	8.1	16.0
Mid-East	1.7	3.0	*	0.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.3	4.3
Mid-West	1.5	2.9	*	0.5	*	*	*	0.4	0.3	*	*	*	2.1	4.0
South-East	1.7	3.2	0.3	0.5	*	0.3	*	0.3	*	*	*	*	2.5	4.3
South-West	2.3	5.1	0.3	0.7	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	*	2.9	6.4
Number of children-Total														
1	7.8	16.1	1.6	3.5	0.3	0.8	0.5	1.4	1.0	0.5	*	0.4	11.4	22.7
2	6.2	11.4	0.8	1.9	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.1	0.5	*	*	*	8.6	15.2
3	2.5	4.5	0.4	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.3	5.2
4+	1.3	1.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1.6	1.9
Family Structure														
Pre-school children only	10.2	—	1.8	—	0.4	—	0.6	—	1.1	—	*	—	14.2	—
Primary school-going children only	—	25.1	—	4.9	—	1.1	—	2.2	—	0.5	—	0.6	—	34.3
Both	7.7	8.7	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	*	*	*	10.6	10.6

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² See Background Notes.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 8 Families mainly dependant on non-parental childcare¹ (distinguishing those using paid childcare), classified by number of hours of childcare required weekly, September-November 2002

Total childcare hours required ²	'000							
	Pre-school only		Primary only		Both ³		Total ³	
	Non-parental	Paid	Non-parental	Paid	Non-parental	Paid	Non-parental	Paid
All children	38.0	24.0	38.8	17.1	28.5	18.6	105.4	59.8
1-10	2.6	1.5	14.9	5.2	3.0	1.6	20.6	8.3
11-20	8.3	4.3	14.0	6.7	5.8	4.0	28.1	15.0
21-30	9.8	6.2	5.5	2.9	4.8	3.0	20.1	12.1
31-40	11.2	7.5	2.8	1.4	4.6	3.0	18.7	11.9
41+	6.0	4.6	1.6	0.9	10.3	7.1	17.9	12.5
Pre-school children	38.0	24.0	–	–	27.1	18.0	65.2	42.1
1-10	2.6	1.5	–	–	3.3	2.0	5.9	3.5
11-20	8.3	4.3	–	–	8.8	6.0	17.2	10.3
21-30	9.8	6.2	–	–	6.0	3.6	15.8	9.8
31-40	11.2	7.5	–	–	6.0	4.2	17.2	11.7
41+	6.0	4.6	–	–	3.0	2.2	9.0	6.8
Primary school-going children	–	–	38.8	17.1	20.3	13.1	59.1	30.1
1-10	–	–	14.9	5.2	7.5	4.6	22.4	9.8
11-20	–	–	14.0	6.7	8.0	5.4	21.9	12.0
21-30	–	–	5.5	2.9	2.5	1.6	8.0	4.5
31-40	–	–	2.8	1.4	1.6	1.0	4.4	2.5
41+	–	–	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.4	2.3	1.3

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² Aggregate hours of non-parental childcare required for all relevant children in the family (e.g. pre-school twins requiring 16 hours of childcare each implies that family needs 32 hours of pre-school childcare).

³ Columns are not additive as double-counting exists for those who have pre-school and primary school-going children.

Table 9 Average cost of paid childcare¹ per child per hour for pre-school or primary school-going children, September-November 2002

	€									
	Paid relative		Paid carer		Crèche/Montessori		Other		Total	
	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary	Pre-school	Primary
All families	2.67	3.56	3.21	5.14	3.63	5.19	2.62	4.01	3.25	4.70
Region										
Border	2.93	3.66	3.12	4.94	2.55	4.27	*	*	2.86	4.42
Midlands	2.47	3.73	3.25	4.99	3.84	*	*	*	3.25	4.70
West	2.17	3.83	2.38	4.29	3.38	*	*	*	2.59	4.03
Dublin	3.34	3.68	4.53	6.07	4.17	6.61	2.67	4.07	4.09	5.47
Mid-East	2.68	3.89	3.43	6.02	3.55	3.75	*	*	3.25	5.02
Mid-West	*	3.40	2.41	3.85	2.45	*	*	*	3.25	3.71
South-East	2.14	3.19	2.75	4.39	2.53	*	*	*	2.59	3.91
South-West	2.73	2.64	3.48	5.03	3.24	*	2.36	*	3.23	4.64
Hours of paid childcare per week										
1-10	*	5.84	6.22	7.01	4.70	8.63	2.64	4.39	4.65	6.74
11-20	3.63	3.12	4.02	4.93	3.23	4.52	2.57	3.82	3.52	4.38
21-30	2.72	2.67	3.30	3.39	4.25	3.25	*	*	3.47	3.11
31-40	2.06	2.41	2.61	3.01	3.40	*	*	*	2.81	3.01
41+	1.93	1.48	2.26	2.29	3.34	*	*	*	2.60	2.14

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Table 10 Average cost of paid childcare¹ per household per week for pre-school and primary school-going children, September-November 2002

	Pre-school only		Primary only		Both		Total	
	No. Families ('000's)	Average (€)	No. Families ('000's)	Average (€)	No. Families ('000's)	Average (€)	No. Families ('000's)	Average (€)
All families	24.0	105.36	17.1	75.54	18.6	107.37	59.8	97.47
Region								
Border	2.2	80.78	1.6	68.32	1.5	89.19	5.3	79.42
Midlands	1.2	94.74	1.1	68.05	1.1	96.47	3.4	87.02
West	3.0	89.62	1.6	63.03	1.9	93.14	6.5	84.21
Dublin	6.9	131.12	4.8	91.33	5.5	127.97	17.3	118.96
Mid-East	3.2	118.93	2.7	74.63	2.2	129.15	8.1	107.16
Mid-West	2.0	95.21	1.3	67.19	1.5	84.89	4.8	84.33
South-East	2.2	85.87	1.8	65.27	2.1	88.98	6.0	80.83
South-West	3.4	92.07	2.2	73.10	2.7	99.02	8.3	89.30
Hours of paid childcare per week								
1-10	1.5	44.34	5.2	53.31	1.6	36.19	8.3	48.41
11-20	4.3	68.02	6.7	72.77	4.0	57.77	15.0	67.40
21-30	6.2	93.78	2.9	86.24	3.0	99.45	12.1	93.38
31-40	7.5	112.18	1.4	114.95	3.0	105.58	11.9	110.84
41+	4.6	165.25	0.9	128.25	7.1	155.55	12.5	157.15

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

Table 11 Families with pre-school or primary school-going children, classified by the type of alternative childcare arrangement desired and why it is not used,^{1,2} September-November 2002

	Parent/ Guardian	Unpaid relative	Paid relative	Paid carer	Crèche/ Montessori	After school activity based	Other	Total
'000								
Pre-school children								
All families²	3.4	1.2	1.9	6.8	15.8	*	3.3	32.4
Cost/Financial Reasons	2.7	*	1.0	4.1	5.9	*	0.6	14.7
Service not available	*	0.4	0.3	1.3	7.3	*	1.2	10.9
Other	0.8	0.7	0.9	2.4	4.0	*	1.5	10.2
Primary school-going children								
All families²	3.3	1.8	2.9	7.4	4.7	8.3	5.6	33.9
Cost/Financial Reasons	2.2	*	1.7	5.2	1.7	1.2	0.8	13.0
Service not available	*	0.8	0.4	1.4	2.6	6.5	3.7	15.5
Other	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.9	0.7	1.5	1.4	8.6

¹ Childcare refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to household).

² This table allows for multiple responses for reasons for not using desired alternative childcare type. Consequently the columns are not additive.

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

Background Notes

Reference period The questions on childcare were included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from September to November 2002.

Purpose of survey While the primary purpose of the QNHS is to collect information on employment and unemployment, it also includes modules on social topics of interest from time to time.

Definitions Childcare was defined as types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Mon-Fri 7am-7pm or similar, as applicable to the household).

Identification of childcare arrangements The questions asked in order to determine the types of childcare arrangements availed of are outlined below. The list of response options is the same for both questions. Similar questions were also asked in relation to younger, non school-going children, with identical response options. Also included below are the categories in which the responses were grouped for analysis.

Questions:

1. Can I ask which of the following types of childcare you usually avail of on a weekly basis for your school-going child(ren), outside of holiday periods and weekends? (**Multiple responses allowed**)
2. You have just mentioned some different types of childcare that you use. Can you say which is the main type of childcare that you use for your school-going child(ren)? (**Multiple responses not allowed**)

Categories	Responses
Parent/ Guardian	Children minded at home by me Children minded at home by partner
Unpaid relative	Unpaid relative (or family friend) in your own home Unpaid relative (or family friend) in his/her own home
Paid relative	Paid relative (or family friend) in your own home Paid relative (or family friend) in his/her own home
Paid carer	Paid childminder in your own home Paid childminder in his/her own home Au Pair/ Nanny
Crèche/ Montessori	Work-based crèche Naíonra Crèche/ Nursery Montessori school Playgroup/ pre-school/ sessional childcare
Other	Homework club After-school activity-based facility Special needs facility Activity Camps (Sports, recreation, arts & craft etc.) Other

- Questionnaire** The childcare module was asked of all households in which there were found to be primary school-going children or younger. One member of each household was asked directly about the details of their childcare arrangements for their primary school-going and/or pre-school children. The questions asked included the different types of childcare used, the main source of childcare, the cost of childcare and the hours involved. Also asked was the respondents' desire for alternative arrangements and the reasons the desired alternatives were not being used.
- Economic status** The Principal Economic Status (PES) classification used in these results is based on a single question in which respondents are asked what is their usual situation with regard to employment and given the following response categories:
- At work
 - Unemployed
 - Student
 - Engaged on home duties
 - Retired
 - Other
- Regions** The regional classifications in this release are based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. The NUTS3 regions correspond to the eight Regional Authorities established under the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment) Order, 1993, which came into operation on 1 January 1994. The NUTS2 regions, which were proposed by Government and agreed by Eurostat in 1999, are groupings of the NUTS3 regions. The composition of the regions is set out below.

**Border, Midlands and
Western NUTS2 Region**

Border Cavan
Donegal
Leitrim
Louth
Monaghan
Sligo

Midland Laoighis
Longford
Offaly
Westmeath

West Galway City
Galway County
Mayo
Roscommon

**Eastern and Southern
NUTS2 Region**

Dublin Dublin
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown
Fingal
South Dublin

Mid-East Kildare
Meath
Wicklow

Mid-West Clare
Limerick City
Limerick County
North Tipperary

South-East Carlow
Kilkenny
South Tipperary
Waterford City
Waterford County
Wexford

South-West Cork City
Cork County
Kerry