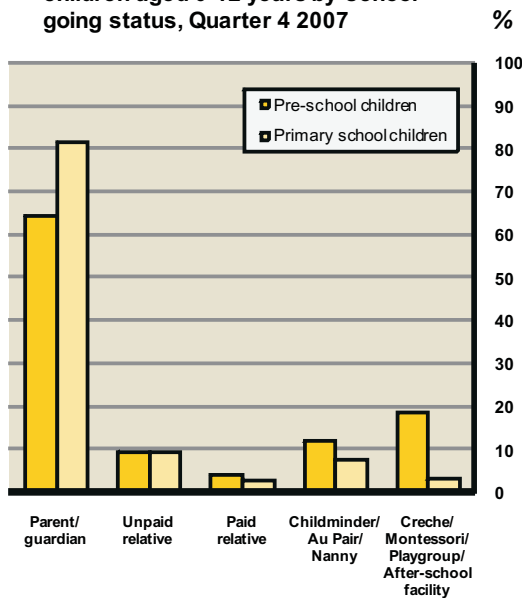




Figure 1a Type of childcare used by children aged 0-12 years by school going status, Quarter 4 2007



Quarterly National Household Survey Childcare Quarter 4 2007

Summary of main findings

- ◆ 30% of children aged 12 years and under used non-parental childcare.
- ◆ Pre-school children (64%) were less likely to be cared for by their parents during the working day than primary school children (81%).
- ◆ Between 2002 and 2007 the proportion of households using non-parental childcare for pre-school children increased from 42% to 48%, while the proportion using non-parental childcare for their primary school children remained unchanged at 25%.
- ◆ Children aged 12 years and under who used non-parental childcare spent an average of 19 hours per week in childcare.
- ◆ 58% of children who lived in couple households where both parents were working used non-parental childcare.
- ◆ Almost two thirds (65%) of children who lived in lone parent households where the parent worked full-time used non-parental childcare.
- ◆ The main types of non-parental childcare used by children aged 12 years and under were Unpaid relatives, Creche/Montessori/Playgroup/After-school facility and Childminder/Au pair/Nanny, with the same proportion of children (9%) using each type.
- ◆ Creche/Montessori/Playgroup was the most widely used form of non-parental childcare by pre-school children (19%), while the most widely used type of childcare by primary school children was Unpaid relatives (9%).
- ◆ Households who used paid childcare for children 12 years and under spent an average of €144 per week on childcare.
- ◆ Average hourly expenditure on childcare was €4.90 per child for pre-school children and €6.00 per child for primary school children.
- ◆ At a regional level the highest average weekly expenditure on childcare was reported in the Dublin region (€192 per week, compared with a national average of €144).
- ◆ Just over 20% of households wanted an alternative type of childcare for their pre-school children and 15% wanted an alternative type for their primary school children.
- ◆ 60% of households disagreed with the statement 'I have access to high quality, affordable childcare in my community'.

Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

Ardee Road
Dublin 6
Ireland

Shehard Road
Cork
Ireland

LoCall: 1890 313 414 (ROI)
0870 8760256 (UK/NI)

Tel: +353 1 498 4000
Fax: +353 1 498 4229

Tel: +353 21 453 5000
Fax: +353 21 453 5492

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: www.cso.ie
and go to

Labour Market and Earnings: Labour Market

Director General: Gerard O'Hanlon

Enquiries:

Labour Market Statistics Direct Dial (021) 453 5491
Email: labour@cso.ie
Queries and Sales Information Section, ext 5021
information@cso.ie

© Central Statistics Office

The contents of this release may be quoted provided the source is given clearly and accurately. Reproduction for own or internal use is permitted.

Ref 135/2009

For more information contact Eithne Tiernan at 021 453 5327 or Martina O'Callaghan at 021 453 5491.

Background to the childcare module

Childcare fulfils a critically important role for society. Most obviously and directly it impacts upon children and their parents. For children it plays a crucial role in their development. For parents, the *National Childcare Strategy 2006-2010*, noted that the provision of quality, affordable and accessible childcare facilitates the attainment of equality between men and women. Beyond children and their parents it is also acknowledged that quality childcare benefits employers, the community and society as a whole.

The focus on childcare has grown as labour force participation (in particular among women) has increased, creating a greater demand for non-parental childcare.

A childcare module was first included on the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in 2002. This was repeated in 2005. Both of these modules asked households for information on the childcare usage of the household. The results of the 2002 and 2005 surveys are available on the CSO website at http://www.cso.ie/qnhs/spe_mod_qnhs.htm.

Given the importance of the subject it was decided to again include it on the QNHS in Q4 2007. Following extensive liaison with interested parties it was decided to further develop the childcare modules used in 2002 and 2005. The previous modules collected childcare information at a broad household level. However, the 2007 module allows a greater depth of analysis as it collected information for each individual child in the household. As a result, the majority of estimates in this release do not have a direct comparator from the 2002 and 2005 modules. The only exception relates to childcare type where a comparison between 2002 and 2007 estimates is presented in Section 1.

The 2007 survey was answered by parents/guardians about each child in the household aged 12 years and under. The questionnaire covered 3 different aspects of childcare usage:

- ◆ Type of childcare used during the working day for children aged 12 years and under
- ◆ Number of hours children spent in non-parental childcare
- ◆ Cost of childcare for each child.

In addition, each household was asked if there was any other type of childcare service that they would like for their children and why they were not using it.

This report presents the results of the module. The term 'Childcare' refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day. Across the report a distinction is drawn between pre-school and primary school children. The category 'pre-school' refers to children aged between 0 and 5 years not attending primary school. The category 'Primary school' refers to children aged between 4 and 12 attending primary school. This categorisation was chosen rather than an age based grouping as the profile of childcare needs and usage are very different for primary and pre-school children. See *background notes for more detail*.

Section 1 Childcare type

Parents/guardians were asked to indicate all types of childcare used during the working day for each child in their household. As multiple forms of childcare could be used for any child, estimates refer to the proportion of children making any usage of that form of childcare (i.e. not just full-time).

Three quarters of all children aged 12 years and under were cared for by their parents/guardians during the working day. Non-parental childcare was used by 30% of children in this age group. *See table 1.1 and figure 1a.*

Logistic regression was used to identify which characteristics were associated with using non-parental childcare. The model indicated that there was a statistically significant relationship between the likelihood of using non-parental childcare and the following characteristics:

- ◆ Whether a child was at pre-school or primary school stage
- ◆ Whether the child was living in a couple or a lone parent household
- ◆ Whether a child was living in a household where their mother or lone parent was working
- ◆ Number of children aged 12 years or under in the household
- ◆ Education level of the mother/lone parent
- ◆ The age of the mother/lone parent
- ◆ Whether the child was living in an urban or rural location
- ◆ Whether the child was living in the West region.

The tables presented in this report are based on the results of the logistic regression. Further details are available in the background notes.

At pre-school stage, 42% of children used at least some non-parental childcare during the working day. However, children in primary school were almost half as likely to use non-parental childcare (22%).

Unpaid relatives were as widely used as Creches/Montessori/Playgroups/After-school facilities and Childminders/Au pairs/Nannies by children aged 12 years and under. Almost one in ten (9%) used these forms of childcare. However, differences in the most prevalent forms of childcare could be seen for pre-school children as compared with primary school children.

- ◆ The most prevalent form of non-parental childcare for pre-school children was Creche/Montessori/Playgroup (19%), followed by Childminder/Au pair/Nanny (12%).
- ◆ Unpaid relatives were the most commonly used type of non-parental childcare for primary school children (9%), followed by Childminder/Au pair/Nanny (7%).

Table 1.1 Types of childcare used by children aged 0-12 years by school going status, Quarter 4 2007

Type of care	% of children		
	Pre-school children	Primary school children	All children aged 0-12
Parent/guardian	64	81	75
Unpaid relative	9	9	9
Paid relative	4	3	3
Childminder/Au Pair/Nanny	12	7	9
Creche/Montessori/Playgroup/After-school facility	19	3	9
Other	1	1	1
Total children using non-parental childcare	42	22	30
<i>Unweighted sample (number of children)</i>	<i>5,095</i>	<i>8,767</i>	<i>13,862</i>

Percentages add to more than 100% because some children used more than one type of childcare.

Table 1.2 Number of types of non-parental childcare used by children aged 0-12 years, by school going status, Quarter 4 2007

	% of children who use non-parental childcare		
	Pre-school children	Primary school children	All children aged 0-12
One type of non-parental childcare used	93	98	95
Two ¹ types of non-parental childcare used	7	2	5
<i>Unweighted sample (number of children)</i>	<i>2,116</i>	<i>1,973</i>	<i>4,089</i>

¹ Includes a very small proportion of children using three types of care.

In the main, the profile of childcare usage was very similar across regions. See table 1.3.

- ◆ Parental childcare was by far the most commonly used form of childcare in all regions with the proportion of children cared for by their parents varying between 72% in the Mid-East region and 77% in the Border, Midland and West regions.
- ◆ The highest proportion of children using non-parental childcare was in the South-East region (34%). The lowest was in the Border region (27%).
- ◆ In all regions the three most common forms of non-parental childcare were Unpaid relative, Childminder/Au pair/Nanny and Creche/Montessori/Playgroup/After-school facility.
- ◆ Among pre-school children Dublin and the Midland regions had the highest proportion using Creche/Montessori/Playgroup with 23% and 22% respectively.
- ◆ Among primary school children the Midland region had the lowest proportion using any non-parental childcare (18%), while the South-East and Mid-West regions had the highest with 28% and 27% respectively.

Table 1.3 Types of childcare used by children aged 0-12 years, by school going status and region, Quarter 4 2007

<i>% of children</i>									
Pre-school children									
Type of care	Border	Midland	West	Dublin	Mid-East	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	State
Parent/guardian	66	65	67	63	61	64	69	65	64
Unpaid relative	10	8	7	7	10	9	11	12	9
Paid relative	5	4	3	3	5	4	6	3	4
Childminder/Au pair/Nanny	10	13	15	9	12	15	13	11	12
Creche/Montessori/ Playgroup/After-school facility	15	22	19	23	18	16	16	16	19
Other	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Total pre-school children using non-parental childcare	38	44	43	41	43	41	44	41	42
<i>Unweighted sample (number of pre-school children)</i>	<i>645</i>	<i>344</i>	<i>453</i>	<i>1,083</i>	<i>558</i>	<i>559</i>	<i>583</i>	<i>870</i>	<i>5,095</i>
Primary school children									
Type of care	Border	Midland	West	Dublin	Mid-East	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	State
Parent/guardian	83	84	83	82	79	79	79	82	81
Unpaid relative	10	8	8	8	7	13	13	9	9
Paid relative	3	2	2	3	3	2	4	1	3
Childminder/Au pair/Nanny	5	6	6	7	10	8	8	8	7
Creche/Montessori/ Playgroup/After-school facility	2	2	4	3	3	4	3	3	3
Other	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
Total primary school children using non-parental childcare	20	18	20	21	24	27	28	21	22
<i>Unweighted sample (number of primary school children)</i>	<i>1,068</i>	<i>597</i>	<i>758</i>	<i>1,791</i>	<i>1,067</i>	<i>965</i>	<i>1,097</i>	<i>1,424</i>	<i>8,767</i>
All children aged 0-12 years									
Type of care	Border	Midland	West	Dublin	Mid-East	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	State
Parent/guardian	77	77	77	75	72	73	75	75	75
Unpaid relative	10	8	7	7	8	11	12	10	9
Paid relative	3	3	2	3	4	3	5	2	3
Childminder/Au pair/Nanny	7	8	10	8	11	11	10	9	9
Creche/Montessori/ Playgroup/After-school facility	7	10	10	11	9	8	8	8	9
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total children aged 0-12 years using non-parental childcare	27	28	28	29	31	32	34	28	30
<i>Unweighted sample (number of children aged 0-12 years)</i>	<i>1,713</i>	<i>941</i>	<i>1,211</i>	<i>2,874</i>	<i>1,625</i>	<i>1,524</i>	<i>1,680</i>	<i>2,294</i>	<i>13,862</i>

Percentages add to more than 100% because some children used more than one type of childcare.

Comparison of 2002 and 2007

The table below provides a broad comparison between the main household level results from 2002 and 2007. One of the main differences that can be seen over the five years is the increased use of non-parental childcare for pre-school children from 42% to 48%, while the proportion of households using non-parental childcare for primary school children remained unchanged at 25%.

The use of 'Creche/Montessori/Playgroup' for pre-school children increased from 14% of households in 2002 to 24% in 2007. However, there was no significant change in the use of the other childcare types for pre-school or for primary school children.

Table 1.4 Types of childcare used by households for children aged 0-12 years, by school going status, Quarter 4 2002 and Quarter 4 2007

Childcare type ¹	% of households			
	Care used for pre-school children ²		Care used for primary school children ²	
	2002	2007	2002	2007
Parent/guardian	65	62	79	79
Unpaid relative	12	10	11	10
Paid relative	5	5	4	3
Childminder/Au Pair/Nanny	13	13	8	8
Creche/Montessori/Playschool/After-school facility	14	24	2	4
Other	0	1	0	1
Total households using non-parental childcare	42	48	25	25
<i>Unweighted sample (number of households)</i>	<i>4,049</i>	<i>2,681</i>	<i>6,809</i>	<i>4,512</i>

¹ See background notes for details of childcare types included in questionnaires for 2002 and 2007.

² 'Pre-school' and 'primary school' categories were derived differently in 2002 and 2007. See background notes.

Percentages add to more than 100% because some children used more than one type of childcare.

Section 2 Childcare hours

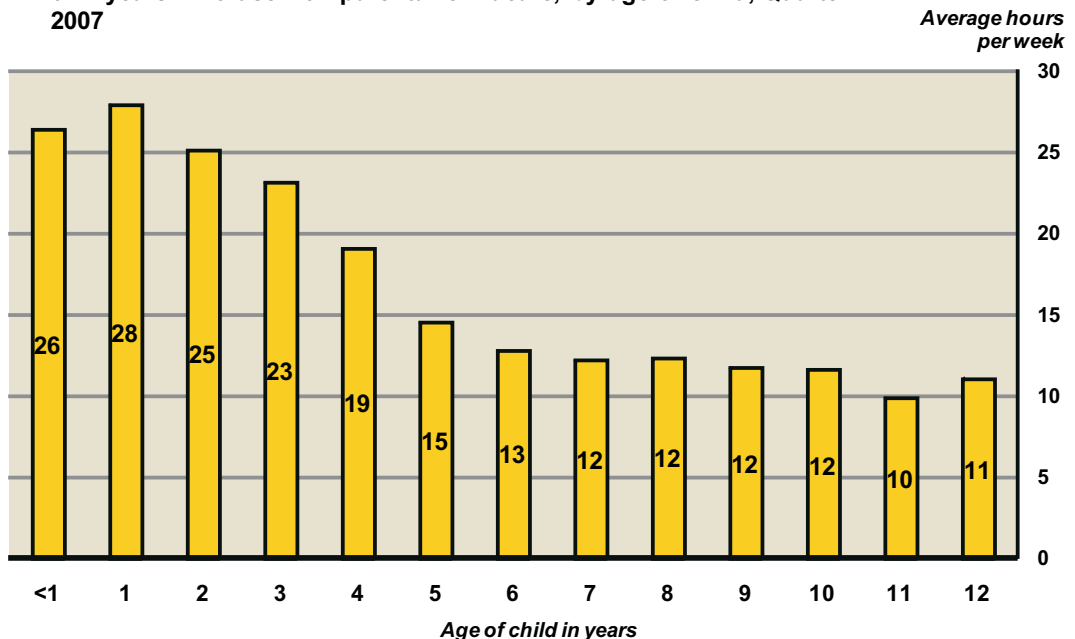
Parents were asked to indicate the number of hours each child aged 12 years and under spent in non-parental childcare per week. The estimates presented in this section were calculated based only on those children who used non-parental childcare.

Children who used non-parental childcare spent an average of 19 hours per week in childcare. The average number of hours spent in childcare clearly decreased with age. One year old children spent an average of 28 hours per week in childcare, compared with an average of 10 hours for 11 year olds. This decrease was particularly evident between four and six years of age, coinciding with the beginning of primary school. Overall, pre-school children spent an average of 24 hours per week in non-parental childcare, while primary school children spent an average of 12 hours. See *table 2.1 and figure 2a*.

Table 2.1 Average number of hours per week spent in childcare by children aged 0-12 years who use non-parental childcare, by school going status and type of care, Quarter 4 2007

<i>Children who use non-parental childcare</i>	<i>Average number of hours per week, per child</i>		
	<u>Pre-school children</u>	<u>Primary school children</u>	<u>All children aged 0-12 years</u>
Average number of hours per week spent in non-parental childcare	24	12	19
Type of care			
Unpaid relative	21	12	15
Paid relative	26	12	19
Childminder/Au pair/Nanny	26	13	20
Creche/Montessori/Playgroup/After-school facility	21	11	19
<i>Unweighted sample (number of children)</i>	<i>2,116</i>	<i>1,973</i>	<i>4,089</i>

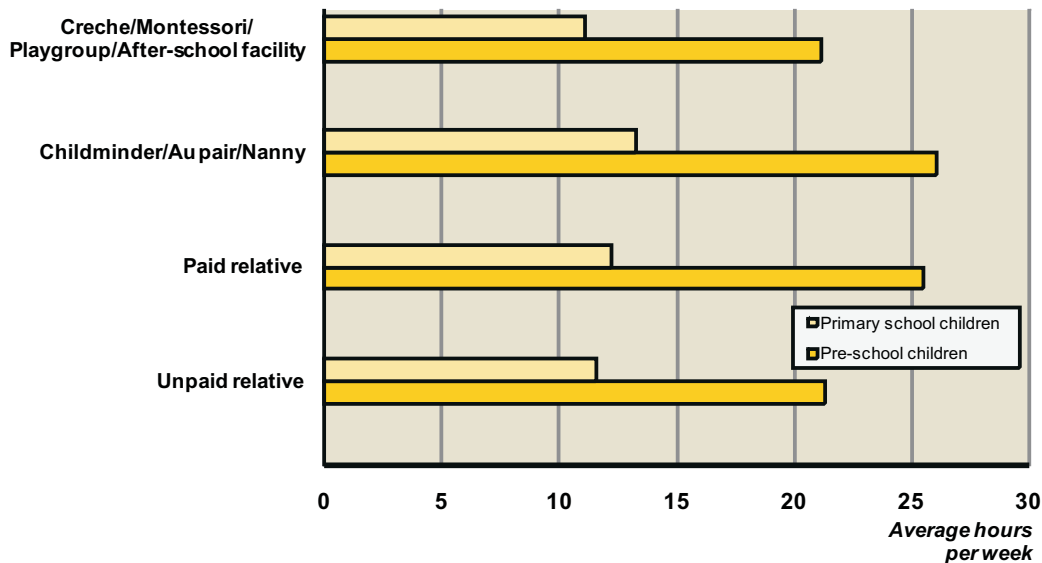
Figure 2a Average hours per week spent in childcare by children aged 0-12 years who use non-parental childcare, by age of child, Quarter 4 2007



The hours children spent in childcare varied by the type of childcare used. See figure 2b.

- ◆ Pre-school children cared for by Paid relatives or a Childminder/Au pair/Nanny spent an average of 26 hours per week in childcare. This compares with an average of 21 hours per week spent in childcare by pre-school children cared for by an Unpaid relative or in a Creche/Montessori/Playgroup.
- ◆ Primary school children cared for by a Childminder/Au pair/Nanny spent an average of 13 hours per week in childcare, those cared for by Unpaid relatives or Paid relatives spent an average of 12 hours and those in creches spent an average of 11 hours.

Figure 2b Average hours per week spent in different types of non-parental childcare by children aged 0-12 years, by school going status, Quarter 4 2007



Looking in more detail at the hours spent in different types of childcare it can be seen that across all types of childcare the majority of children spent a total of 20 hours or less per week in any particular type. See table 2.2. This was particularly the case for primary school children where over 85% of children had 20 hours or less usage in any particular type, although children could have more than one type.

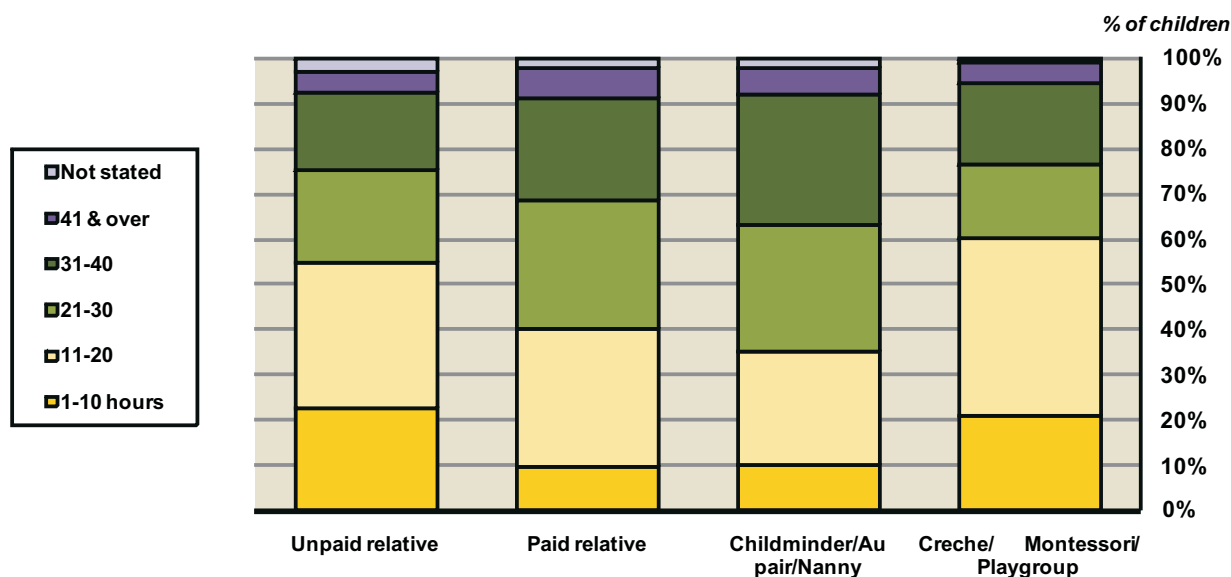
- ◆ Across all childcare types over 20% of pre-school children used more than 30 hours childcare.
- ◆ Pre-school children cared for by Childminders/Au pairs/Nannies spent the longest hours in childcare, as almost 35% were in childcare for 31 hours or more per week.
- ◆ Pre-school children cared for by Unpaid relatives or in a Creche/Montessori/Playgroup were the most likely to spend less than 10 hours per week in childcare.

Table 2.2 Number of hours per week spent in different types of non-parental childcare by children aged 0-12 years, by school going status, Quarter 4 2007

Type of care	Average number of hours per week, per child		% of children
	Pre-school children	Primary school children	All children aged 0-12 years
Unpaid relative			
1-10 hours	23	59	45
11-20	32	28	29
21-30	20	5	11
31-40	17	3	9
41 & over	5	1	2
Not stated	3	4	4
<i>Unweighted sample (number of children)</i>	478	822	1,300
Paid relative			
1-10 hours	10	50	30
11-20	31	42	36
21-30	29	5	16
31-40	22	2	12
41 & over	7	0	3
Not stated	2	1	1
<i>Unweighted sample (number of children)</i>	205	224	429
Childminder/Au pair/Nanny			
1-10 hours	10	48	29
11-20	25	40	33
21-30	28	7	17
31-40	29	3	15
41 & over	6	1	4
Not stated	2	1	1
<i>Unweighted sample (number of children)</i>	602	659	1,261
Creche/Montessori/Playgroup/After-school facility			
1-10 hours	21	50	27
11-20	40	48	41
21-30	16	1	13
31-40	18	1	15
41 & over	5	0	4
Not stated	1	0	1
<i>Unweighted sample (number of children)</i>	928	266	1,194

Percentages add to more than 100% because some children used more than one type of childcare.

Figure 2c Pre-school children by number of hours per week spent in different types of non-parental childcare, Quarter 4 2007



Section 3 Childcare usage by household characteristics

This section presents a profile of the type of childcare used by children aged 12 years and under, analysed by certain characteristics of the household. In particular, the section focuses on the differences in childcare usage between children living with both parents and those living in lone parent households. The section also looks at type of childcare usage by employment status of the parents. With regard to lone parent households, where the child spent time in childcare with the parent with whom they did not live this was counted as parental childcare.

The proportion of children using at least some non-parental childcare living in a household with both parents was 30%. A similar proportion of children in lone parent households used non-parental childcare (28%). See *table 3.1*.

- ◆ Use of non-parental childcare was more common for pre-school children (42%) than for primary school children (22%). This was more evident where the child lived with both parents. Non-parental childcare was used by 44% of pre-school children who lived with both parents, compared with 21% of primary school children who lived with both parents.
- ◆ Among children in lone parent households one third of pre-school children used non-parental childcare compared with one quarter of primary school children.

Children of mothers with third level education were more likely to use non-parental childcare (42%) than children of mothers with lower levels of education. This was true for both pre-school and primary school children. Just over half (53%) of pre-school and a third of primary school children whose mother had third level education used non-parental childcare.

Table 3.1 Use of non-parental childcare by children aged 0-12 years, by school going status, family type and employment status (ILO) of parent/guardian, Quarter 4 2007

	% of children									
	Pre-school children			Primary school children			All children aged 0-12 years			
	Use non-parental childcare	Do not	Unweighted sample (number of children)	Use non-parental childcare	Do not	Unweighted sample (number of children)	Use non-parental childcare	Do not	Unweighted sample (number of children)	
	%	%		%	%		%	%		
All children aged 0-12 years	42	58	5,095	22	78	8,767	30	70	13,682	
Family type and employment status (ILO) of parent/guardian										
Couple	44	56	4,724	21	79	7,220	30	70	11,494	
Both at work full-time	68	32	1,475	50	50	1,851	58	42	3,326	
Mum at work part-time Dad at work full-time	59	41	986	25	75	1,962	37	63	2,948	
Mum at work full-time Dad not working	29	71	97	19	81	139	23	77	236	
Mum not working & Dad at work full-time	14	86	1,357	2	98	2,546	6	94	3,903	
Other	13	87	359	7	93	722	9	91	1,081	
Lone parent	33	67	821	25	75	1,548	28	72	2,369	
At work full-time	60	40	135	68	32	316	65	35	451	
At work part-time	61	39	170	29	71	435	38	62	605	
Unemployed	[21]	[79]	40	9	91	83	[13]	87	123	
Not economically active	17	83	476	7	93	714	11	89	1,190	
Highest education level attained by mother/lone parent										
Primary or below	13	87	240	6	94	731	8	92	971	
Lower secondary	28	72	616	13	87	1,361	18	82	1,977	
Higher secondary	37	63	1,417	20	80	2,561	26	74	3,978	
Post leaving cert	45	55	628	22	78	1,115	31	69	1,743	
Third level	53	47	2,048	33	67	2,802	42	58	4,850	
Not stated	23	77	146	16	84	197	19	81	343	

Figures in parentheses [] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error. Percentages add to more than 100% because some children used more than one type of childcare.

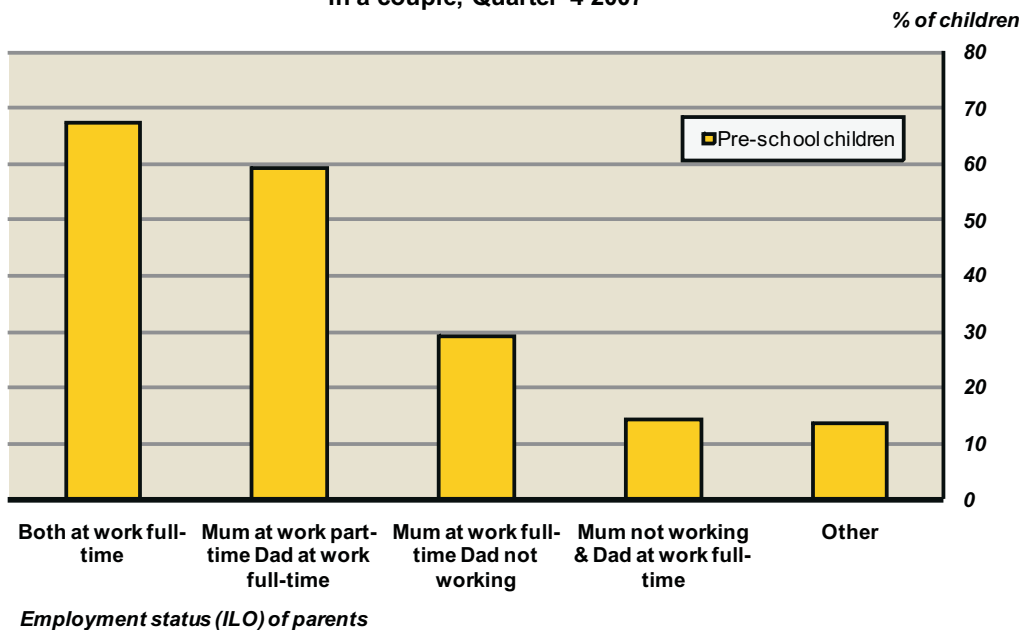
The working patterns of parents had a significant effect on whether children used non-parental childcare. In particular, where at least one parent was not at work the proportion using non-parental childcare dropped significantly.

Pre-school Children

Among pre-school children living with both parents the proportion using childcare was:

- ◆ 68% when both parents worked full time
- ◆ 59% when the mother worked part-time and the father worked full-time
- ◆ 29% when the father was not working and the mother was working full-time
- ◆ 14% when the mother was not in employment and the father was working full-time.

Fig 3a Use of non-parental childcare by pre-school children of parents in a couple, Quarter 4 2007



Among pre-school children living in lone parent households, three in five (60%) used non-parental childcare if their parent/guardian was working either full-time or part-time. See table 3.1.

Primary School Children

As previously stated, non-parental childcare was less commonly used by primary school children than pre-school children. However, the working arrangements of the parents still had a significant impact on the usage of non-parental childcare. See *table 3.1*.

- ◆ Childcare was used by half of all primary school children who lived with both parents where both worked full-time. This dropped to one quarter where the father was working full-time but the mother was working part-time.
- ◆ Where the father worked full-time but the mother was not at work only 2% of primary school children used non-parental childcare.
- ◆ 68% of primary school children living in lone parent households where their parent worked full-time used non-parental childcare.

The likelihood of using non-parental childcare clearly fell as the number of children in the household increased. See *table 3.2*.

- ◆ Half of pre-school children who were the only child aged 12 years or under living in their household used childcare. However, when the pre-school child was one of three or more children aged 12 years or under, this proportion fell to just under one third (32%).
- ◆ Among primary school children who were the only child aged 12 years or under in the household 27% used childcare. This compares with 17% of children who were one of three or more children aged 12 years or under living in the household.

Table 3.2 Percentage of children aged 0-12 years who use non-parental childcare, by number of children aged 0-12 years in the household and by school going status, Quarter 4 2007

				<i>% of children</i>
				<i>Unweighted sample (number of children)</i>
Pre-school children				
	Use non-parental childcare	Do not		
Number of children aged 0-12 years in household				
One	50	50	1,417	
Two	44	56	2,074	
Three or more	32	68	1,604	
Primary school children				
	Use non-parental childcare	Do not		
Number of children aged 0-12 years in household				
One	27	73	2,299	
Two	23	77	3,442	
Three or more	17	83	3,026	
All children aged 0-12 years				
	Use non-parental childcare	Do not		
Number of children aged 0-12 years in household				
One	36	64	3,716	
Two	31	69	5,516	
Three or more	22	78	4,630	

Section 4. Expenditure on childcare

This section presents estimates of expenditure on childcare. Households with children aged 12 years or under were asked to indicate the weekly cost of childcare and the number of hours spent in childcare for each child, for each type of childcare they used. From this information it was possible to estimate the total cost to the household and the average hourly cost per child by different types of childcare.

Hourly childcare costs

Hourly cost for childcare is on average higher for primary school children than for pre-school children. The average hourly cost of childcare was €6.00 per hour, per child, for primary school children, compared with €4.90 for pre-school children. See *table 4.1* and *figure 4a*.

- ◆ Cost per hour was higher for primary school children across all types of paid childcare.
- ◆ The lowest hourly cost of all childcare types was for Paid relatives for both pre-school (€4.00 per hour) and primary school children (€5.40 per hour).

At a regional level the highest hourly costs for both pre-school and primary school children were recorded in Dublin (€6.10 per hour and €7.90 per hour respectively).

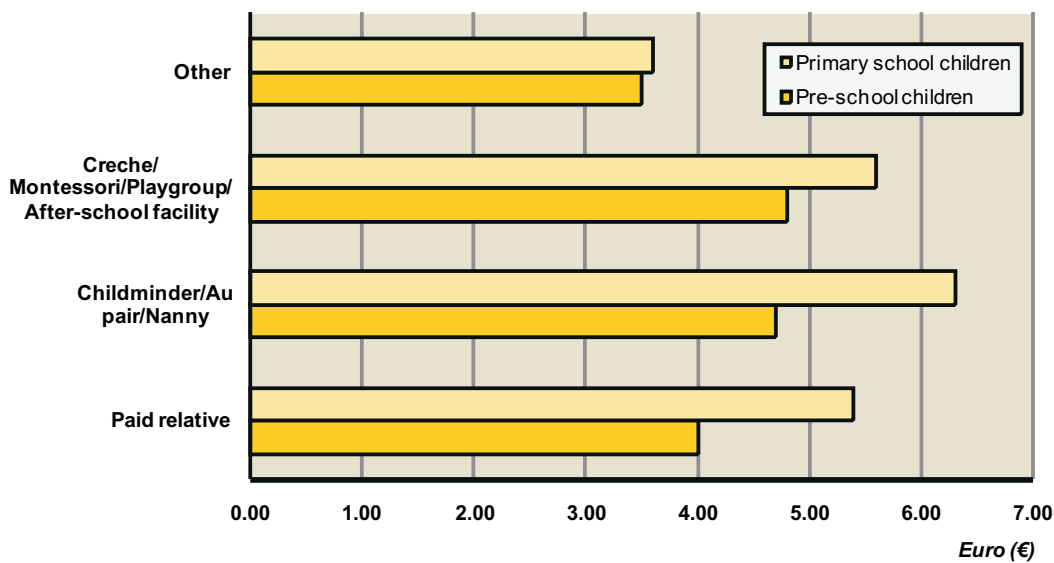
- ◆ The next highest cost per hour was recorded in the Mid-East region for pre-school children (€5.30 per hour) and the South-West region for primary school children (€6.00 per hour).
- ◆ In the Dublin region the highest estimated hourly expenditure was for Childminder/Au pair/Nanny, at a cost of €8.80 per hour for primary school children and €6.60 per hour for pre-school children.

Table 4.1 Average hourly expenditure per child on paid childcare by school going status, by type of childcare and region, Quarter 4 2007

Average € per child, per hour

Type of care	Pre-school children					Primary school children					
	Paid relative	Childminder/ Au pair/Nanny	Creche/ Montessori	Other	Total	Paid relative	Childminder/ Au pair/Nanny	Creche/ Montessori	Other	Total	
State	4.00	4.70	4.80	3.50	4.90	5.40	6.30	5.60	3.60	6.00	
Region											
Border	3.60	4.10	3.80	3.00	4.00	4.00	4.70	3.60	2.30	4.30	
Midland	3.50	3.80	4.00	2.50	4.10	5.50	5.00	4.40	3.60	4.90	
West	3.10	4.30	4.20	2.10	4.20	4.70	6.50	5.30	2.70	5.80	
Dublin	4.60	6.60	5.90	4.70	6.10	6.40	8.80	7.30	6.10	7.90	
Mid-East	5.00	4.40	5.30	1.00	5.30	6.10	5.60	6.30	1.00	5.90	
Mid-West	2.90	3.50	3.90	3.20	3.90	4.80	5.40	5.00	4.20	5.20	
South-East	3.30	4.10	4.10	4.20	4.30	4.10	5.30	3.90	2.40	4.60	
South-West	4.60	5.10	4.60	4.10	4.90	6.20	6.40	5.60	3.10	6.00	
										<i>Average € per child, per week</i>	
Average weekly expenditure on paid childcare					123.20						72.40

Fig 4a Average hourly expenditure by type of childcare, Quarter 4 2007



Average weekly household expenditure on childcare

Household level estimates have been worked out only using the 26% of households who used paid childcare. As such estimates of cost at household level are the average among those households who paid for childcare and not an average for all households.

The average weekly expenditure by households who used paid childcare for their children aged 12 years and under was €144. As would be expected, factors affecting the volume of paid childcare usage had a strong impact on household expenditure. See *table 4.2*.

- ◆ Weekly household expenditure on childcare was higher per child for pre-school children than for primary school children, despite lower hourly costs as reported above. See *table 4.1*.
- ◆ Households using 41 hours or more of paid childcare paid an average of €285 per week for childcare compared with €44 per week for households with 1 to 10 hours paid childcare.
- ◆ Households with three or more children aged 12 years and under paid an average of €183 a week on childcare compared with €117 for households with one child aged 12 years and under.
- ◆ In couple households the highest expenditure was among those where both parents were working, with an average of €186 per week, falling to €70 per week where the father was working full-time but the mother was not working.

Table 4.2 Average weekly household expenditure on paid childcare for children aged 0-12 years by hours of paid childcare, family composition and employment status of parents (ILO), Quarter 4 2007

Households using paid childcare	Average € per household, per week
All households using paid childcare for children aged 0-12 years	144
Hours of paid childcare per week	
1-10 hours	44
11-20	84
21-30	137
31-40	186
41 & over	285
Total children aged 0-12 years	
One	117
Two	153
Three or more	183
Family composition and ILO status of parents	
Child living with both parents	151
Both at work full-time	186
Mum at work part-time, Dad at work full-time	128
Mum not working, Dad at work full-time	70
Other	95
Lone parent	105
At work full-time	128
At work part-time	99
Unemployed/Not economically active	76

Similar proportions of households used paid childcare across regions, varying between 24% of households and 29% of households with a national average of 26%.

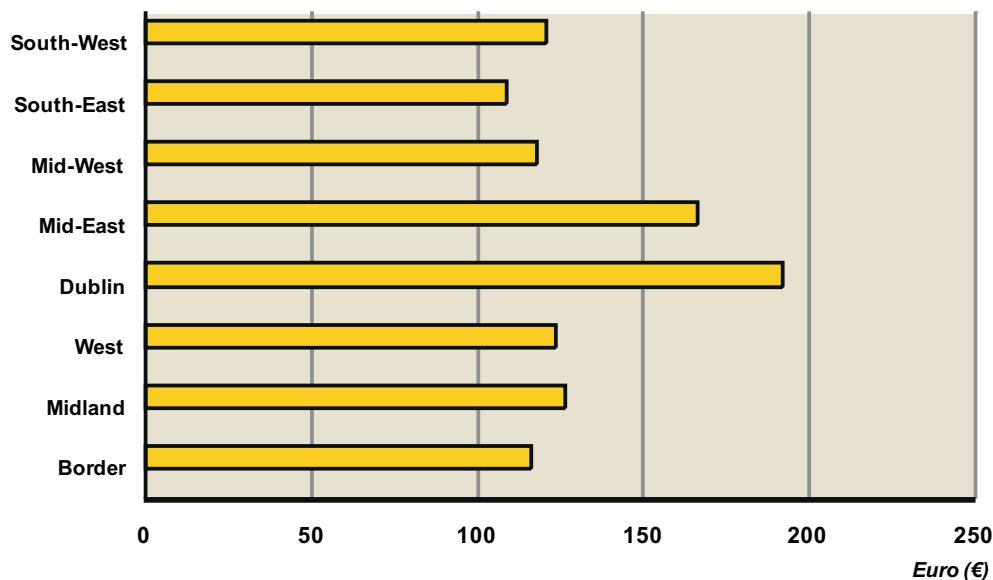
The Dublin region had the highest childcare expenditure per household with an average spend of €192 per week among those households who used paid childcare. The next highest level was recorded in the Mid-East region (€166 per week), compared with less than €120 per week in three of the eight regions (Border, South-East, Mid-West). See table 4.3 and figure 4b.

Table 4.3 Percentage of households using paid childcare for children aged 0-12 years, by average weekly expenditure on childcare, by region, Quarter 4 2007

	% of households using non-parental childcare for pre-school or primary school children	% of households using paid childcare for pre-school or primary school children	Average Weekly Household Expenditure¹	<i>Unweighted sample (number of households)</i>
	%	%	€	
State	36	26	144	5,839
Region				
Border	36	25	116	717
Midland	36	28	126	335
West	36	29	123	496
Dublin	36	27	192	1,262
Mid-East	37	27	166	690
Mid-West	41	27	118	644
South-East	38	26	109	717
South-West	34	24	121	978

¹ Average expenditure for households who paid for childcare, does not include households who did not use paid childcare.

Fig 4b Average household weekly expenditure on paid childcare for children aged 0-12 years, Quarter 4 2007



Section 5. Childcare needs and satisfaction with services

Parents/guardians were asked if there was a type of childcare they would like to use for their children that they were not using at the time of the interview. The results are presented at a household level.

Just over 20% of households wanted an alternative type of childcare for their pre-school children and 15% wanted an alternative type for their primary school children. See *table 5.1*.

Creche/Montessori/Playgroup/After-school facility was the most popular alternative, chosen by 35% of households for their pre-school children and 39% for their primary school children.

The most common reasons given by parents for not using an alternative form of childcare varied depending on whether the children were pre-school or primary school.

- ◆ For pre-school children the most common reason for not using an alternative form of childcare was Cost/Financial (41% of those who desired an alternative form of childcare).
- ◆ Notably this was highest where the desired alternative was parental childcare (70%) suggesting that the cost of not working was seen as prohibitive for those parents rather than the direct cost of the childcare itself.
- ◆ Of the households who wanted to use Creche/Montessori/Playgroup for their pre-school children, the most common reason given for not doing so was also Cost/Financial reasons (54%).

For primary school children the most commonly stated reason for not using an alternative form of childcare was lack of availability (48%) while 30% cited Cost/Financial reasons.

- ◆ This varied by type of childcare with lack of availability being stated as the main reason for not using Unpaid relatives (41%), Work based creche (71%) and Creche/After-school facility (58%).
- ◆ Cost was stated as the main reason for not using Parental childcare (47%) and Paid carer (57%).

Table 5.1 Types of alternative childcare desired by households for their pre-school or primary school children, by childcare type and reason for non-usage, Quarter 4 2007

<i>% of households</i>								
	Parent/ guardian	Unpaid/ Paid relative	Paid carer	Work- based creche	Creche/ Montessori	Creche/ After- school facility	Other	Total Households
Care desired for pre-school children	9	7	14	14	35	n/a	22	21
Reason not using								
Cost/Financial Reasons	[70]	[41]	44	24	54	n/a	15	41
Service not available	[6]	[32]	32	71	30	n/a	23	32
Other ¹	[24]	[28]	30	11	19	n/a	63	30
<i>Unweighted sample (number of households)</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>552</i>
	Parent/ guardian	Unpaid/ Paid relative	Paid carer	Work- based creche	Creche/ Montessori	Creche/ After- school facility	Other	Total Households
Care desired for primary school children	6	8	11	8	n/a	39	28	15
Reason not using								
Cost/Financial Reasons	[47]	31	57	34	n/a	33	9	30
Service not available	[11]	41	29	71	n/a	58	44	48
Other ¹	[45]	30	20	4	n/a	13	46	25
<i>Unweighted sample (number of households)</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>257</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>650</i>

¹ Includes 'not stated'

Figures in parentheses [] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Percentages add to more than 100% because some children used more than one type of childcare.

Parents/guardians were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement 'I have access to high quality, affordable childcare in my community'. The results are presented at a household level. Less than one third of respondents agreed with the statement, while 60% disagreed and 11% didn't express an opinion.

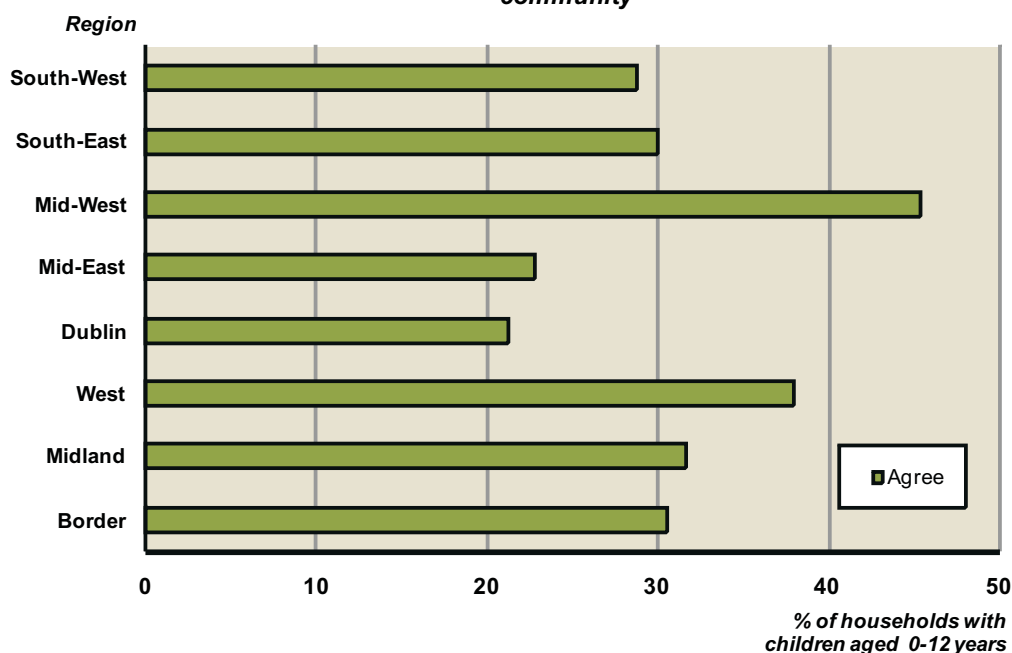
Responses varied across regions. The highest proportion of households agreeing with the statement was in the Mid-West region (45%), while the highest proportion of households disagreeing with the statement was recorded in the Dublin region (69%). See table 5.2 and figure 5a.

Table 5.2 Agreement with statement 'I have access to high quality, affordable childcare in my community', by region, Quarter 4 2007

'I have access to high quality, affordable childcare in my community'	% of households with children aged 0-12 years			Unweighted sample (number of households)
	Agree	Disagree	Not stated	
State	29	60	11	5,839
Region				
Border	31	54	16	717
Midland	32	53	15	335
West	38	53	9	496
Dublin	21	69	9	1,262
Mid-East	23	66	11	690
Mid-West	45	48	6	644
South-East	30	62	8	717
South-West	29	58	14	978

Percentages add to more than 100% because some children used more than one type of childcare.

Figure 5a 'I have access to high quality, affordable childcare in my community'



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 2007.
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.
Definitions	<p>‘Childcare’ refers to types of childcare arrangements usually made by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day.</p> <p>‘Pre-school’ refers to children aged up to five years who are not attending primary school and a small number who have not stated if they are attending primary school.</p> <p>‘Primary school’ refers to children aged between 4 and 12 years who are attending primary school and a small number aged 6 to 12 years who have not stated if they are attending primary school or who have stated that they are not attending primary school.</p>
Childcare type	<p>In 2007 the childcare types listed in the questionnaire were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Child minded at home by me/my partner 2 Unpaid relative or family friend 3 Paid relative or family friend 4 Paid childminder/au pair/nanny 5 Work-based creche 6 Creche/Montessori/playgroup/after-school facility 7 Special needs facility 8 Other <p>In 2002 the types listed were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Children minded at home by me 2 Children minded at home by partner 3 Unpaid relative (or family friend) in your own home 4 Unpaid relative (or family friend) in his/her own home 5 Paid relative (or family friend) in your own home 6 Paid relative (or family friend) in his/her own home 7 Paid childminder in your own home 8 Paid childminder in his/her own home 9 Au pair/Nanny 10 Creche/Nursery 11 Naionra 12 Work-based creche 13 Montessori school 14 Playgroup/pre-school/sessional childcare 15 Homework club 16 After-school activity-based facility 17 Special needs facility 18 Activity Camps (Sports, recreation, arts & crafts etc.) 19 Other
Grossing effect	The QNHS grossing procedure aligns the distribution of persons covered in the survey with independently determined population estimates at the level of sex, five-year age group and region.

Statistical significance

All estimates based on sample surveys are subject to error, some of which is measurable. Where an estimate is statistically significantly different from another estimate it means that we can be 95% confident that differences between those two estimates are not due to sampling error.

Logistic Regression

The characteristics of children that are associated with the likelihood of a child using non-parental childcare were explored by constructing a logistic regression model.

The model produced odds ratios indicating the relative likelihood of children with different characteristics using non-parental childcare. Odds are expressed relative to a reference category which has a given value of 1. Odds ratios greater than 1 indicate higher odds (increased likelihood), and odds ratios less than 1 indicate lower odds (reduced likelihood) of the child using non-parental childcare based on the characteristic in question.

The variables included in the model:

The model included a range of variables, all of which were categorical variables. The variables included are listed below:

- Whether a child was at pre-school or primary school stage
- Whether a child was living in a couple or lone parent household
- Whether a child was living in a household where their mother or lone parent was working
- The number of children aged 12 years or under that were living in the household
- The region the child was living in
- Whether the child was living in an urban or rural location
- The age of the mother/lone parent
- The occupation of the mother/lone parent
- The highest educational attainment of the mother/lone parent.

The table below shows the odds ratios output by the model for those variables which were found to have a statistically significant relationship to the likelihood of the child using non-parental childcare. As mentioned odds ratios greater than 1 indicate higher odds or increased likelihood of using care. For example, the model indicates that a pre-school child is 2.609 times more likely to use care than a primary school child.

Max-rescaled R-Square	0.3458
Characteristic	Odds Ratio
Pre-school vs. primary school child	2.609
Child living with lone parent vs. couple	1.69
Mother or lone parent at work full-time vs. not working	15.697
Mother/lone parent at work part-time vs. not working	7.716
One child vs. two or more children aged 12 or under in household	1.237
Region child was living in:	
West vs. Border	0.807
Urban vs. rural location	1.142
Age of mother/lone parent:	
35-44 vs. 25-34	0.877
45-54 vs. 25-34	0.589
Occupation of mother/lone parent	
Personal and Protective Service vs. Plant and Machine Operatives	0.623
Highest Education Attainment of mother/lone parent:	
Third level vs. No formal education/primary	2.838
Post leaving cert vs. No formal education/primary	2.653
Higher secondary vs. f. No formal education/primary	2.221
Lower secondary vs. No formal education/primary	1.961

ILO Labour Force Classification

The primary classification used for the QNHS results is the ILO (International Labour Office) labour force classification. Labour Force Survey data on this basis have been published since 1988. The ILO classification distinguishes the following main subgroups of the population aged 15 or over:

In Employment: Persons who worked in the week before the survey for one hour or more for payment or profit, including work on the family farm or business and all persons who had a job but were not at work because of illness, holidays etc. in the week.

Unemployed: Persons who, in the week before the survey, were without work and available for work within the next two weeks, and had taken specific steps, in the preceding four weeks, to find work.

Inactive Population (not in labour force): All other persons.

The labour force comprises persons employed plus unemployed.

Occupations The classification system used is based on the UK Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) with some modifications to reflect the Irish labour market.

Highest level of education attained

This classification is derived from a single question and refers to educational standards that have been attained and can be compared in some measurable way. Questions on educational attainment are included in the core QNHS on an ongoing basis.

Urban or rural location The country is divided up into 8 strata based on population density. These areas are further classified into urban and rural areas as follows:

Urban

- Cities
- Suburbs of cities
- Mixed urban or rural areas bordering on the suburbs of cities
- Towns and their environs with populations of 5,000 or over (large urban)
- Mixed urban or rural areas bordering on the environs of larger towns
- Towns and their environs with a population of 1,000 to 5,000 (other urban)

Rural

- Mixed urban or rural areas
- Rural areas

NUTS2 and NUTS3 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		Southern and Eastern NUTS2 Region	
Border	Cavan Donegal Leitrim Louth Monaghan Sligo	Dublin	Dublin City Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Fingal South Dublin
Midland	Laoighis Longford Offaly Westmeath	Mid-East	Kildare Meath Wicklow
West	Galway City Galway County Mayo Roscommon	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

QHNS Social Modules

While the main purpose of the QNHS is the production of quarterly labour force estimates, there is also a provision for the collection of data on social topics through the inclusion of special survey modules. The selection of the major national modules undertaken to date has been largely based on the results of a canvas of users (over 100 organisations) that was conducted by the CSO in 1996, 2002, 2006 and most recently 2008. The results of the canvas are presented to the National Statistics Board and they are asked to indicate their priorities for the years ahead.

The schedule for social modules in any given year is based on the following structure:

Quarter 1 Accidents and Illness module, Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Survey.

Quarter 2 EU module (always covered under EU legislation).

Quarter 3 National module.

Quarter 4 National module.

The table below outlines the most recent social modules published in the QNHS:

Reference Quarter	Social Module
Q2 2008	Educational Attainment
Q1 2008	Pension provision
Q4 2007	Childcare
Q3 2007	Health
Q2 2007	Union Membership
Q1 2007	Work-related Accidents and Illness (Q1 2003-Q1 2007)
Q1 2007	ICT household survey
Q4 2006	Crime and Victimisation
Q3 2006	Sport and physical exercise
Q3 2006	Social capital
Q1 2006	ICT household survey
Q4 2005	Pension provision
Q4 2005	Special Saving Incentive Accounts (SSIAs)
Q3 2005	ICT household survey
Q3 2005	Recycling and energy conservation
Q2 2005	Reconciliation between work and family life
Q4 2004	Equality
Q1 2005	Childcare
Q3 2004	ICT household survey
Q2 2004	Union Membership
Q2 2004	Work organisation and working time
Q4 2003	Crime and Victimisation
Q3 2003	Housing
Q3 2003	ICT household survey
Q2 2003	Life long learning

Social modules yet to be published:

Reference Quarter	Social Module
Q1 2008	Working conditions and agency work
Q2 2008	Migrants and their descendants
Q3 2008	Life long learning
Q4 2008	Travel to work