This publication provides information on the number of Military Personnel in (defined as the strength), joining (intake) and leaving (outflow) the UK Armed Forces. Detail is provided for both the Full-time Armed Forces and Reserves. Further statistics can be found in the Excel tables.

The recent trends in personnel numbers in this report relate to the targets outlined in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) 2015 and the Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme. Prior to SDSR 2015, publications reported against SDSR 2010, the Three Month Exercise (3ME), Army 2020 and the Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme.

Some of the statistics previously published in the following publications can now be found in this release: Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Personnel Reports, UK Reserve Forces and Cadets, Service Personnel Bulletin 2.01 and Service and Civilian Bulletin 2.03.

Key Points and Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▼ 196 000</td>
<td>Strength of UK Forces Service Personnel at 1 July 2017</td>
<td>a decrease of 690 (0.4% per cent) since 1 July 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▼ 138 050</td>
<td>Full-time Trained Strength (RN/RM &amp; RAF) and Full-time Trade Trained Strength (Army) at 1 July 2017</td>
<td>a decrease of 1 860 (1.3 per cent) since 1 July 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▲ - 5.0%</td>
<td>Deficit against the planned number of personnel needed (Liability) at 1 July 2017</td>
<td>an increase in the deficit from –4.1 per cent as at 1 July 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 650</td>
<td>Strength of the Trained Future Reserves 2020 at 1 July 2017</td>
<td>a comparison is not currently available (for more information see page 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▼ 12 800</td>
<td>People joined the UK Regular Armed Forces in the past 12 months (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017)</td>
<td>a decrease of 1 110 (8.0 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▼ 14 980</td>
<td>People left the UK Regular Armed Forces in the past 12 months (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017)</td>
<td>a decrease of 1 100 (6.8 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▼ 6 400</td>
<td>People joined the Future Reserves 2020 in the past 12 months (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017)</td>
<td>a decrease of 1 260 (16.5 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▲ 5 180</td>
<td>People left the Future Reserves 2020 in the past 12 months (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017)</td>
<td>an increase of 420 (8.9 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responsible statistician: Tri-Service Head of Branch 0207 807 8896 DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Hdl@mod.gov.uk
Further information/mailing list: DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to these statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk
Introduction

This publication contains information on the strength, intake and outflow for the UK Armed Forces overall and each of the Services; Royal Navy/Royal Marines (RN/RM), Army and Royal Air Force (RAF).

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) announced on 29 June 2016 that it was changing the Army trained, disciplined manpower by changing the definition of trained strength to include those in the Army who have completed Phase 1 training. This affects some Tri-Service totals. This does not affect the Naval Service or the RAF in any way. The MOD held a public consultation on SDSR Resilience: Trained strength definition for the Army and resultant changes to Ministry of Defence Armed Forces personnel statistics, between 11 July and 21 August 2016. A consultation response was published on 7 November 2016. The changes outlined in the consultation and response have been incorporated into this publication from the 1 October 2016 edition onwards. This affects statistics in some of the accompanying Excel tables, specifically tables: 3a, 3e, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b and 7c. Terminology has also been updated in Excel tables 3c and 4.

The methodology used to produce Reserves statistics was changed from 1 April 2017. This aligned the methodology with that used to produce Regulars statistics by including individuals who join and leave within the same month. For example, if an individual joins on 3 March and leaves on 29 March they are now counted as an intake and an outflow, whereas previously they would have been excluded. The net effect of this change is negligible - seldom affecting greater than ten personnel in a month - but it does improve both the accuracy and efficiency of our processes. The historic back-series of Reserves data affected was revised to reflect this in 1 May 2017’s edition.

Detailed statistics, including unrounded figures, and historic time series can be found in the Excel tables. These include quarterly statistics on the number of Applications to each of the Services, Service and Civilian Personnel, Separated Service (the proportion of personnel breaching harmony guidelines), Applications to each of the Services and Military Salaries. Further historic statistics will be added in due course; in the meantime, historic statistics can be found in the following archived publications: Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Personnel Reports, UK Reserve Forces and Cadets, Service Personnel Bulletin 2.01, Service and Civilian Bulletin 2.03, UK Armed Forces Maternity Report, Diversity Dashboard and Quarterly Location Statistics. The glossary contains definitions of terminology used in this publication.

The next edition of this publication is scheduled to be published on GOV.UK at 9:30am on 14 September 2017. Defence Statistics have recently held a public consultation proposing to reduce the frequency of this publication, however, and are currently analysing feedback to these proposals. This can be found at the following link. Pending the outcome of this consultation, a confirmed release date for the next edition of Service Personnel Statistics will be published in due course. A calendar of upcoming MOD statistical releases can be found on GOV.UK.

A National Statistics publication

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.
Policy background

The main factors affecting decisions about the size of the Armed Forces required by the MOD to achieve success in its military tasks include:

- An assessment of current and future threats to UK national security;
- The need for contingent / reactive capability – the requirement to be able to respond immediately to domestic or international crisis;
- Current operational and international obligations (e.g. NATO, UN);
- Changes in technology, the introduction of new equipment and restructuring that leads to equipment becoming obsolete or surplus to requirements;
- The need to deliver against the military tasks as efficiently as possible, maintaining a balanced, affordable defence budget.

The Service personnel statistics in this publication are reported against the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), released in November 2015. Prior to SDSR 2015, publications reported against the planned Future Force 2020, as set out in the SDSR 2010 which planned to reduce the size of the Armed Forces.

Army Trained Strength

On 29 June 2016, the MOD announced that the Army planned to use Regular and Reserve Phase 1 trained personnel in response to crises within the UK. Following this, the term ‘Trained Strength’ would include all Army personnel trained in the core function of their Service (i.e. those who have completed Phase 1 training). The MOD has consulted on these changes and the resultant impact it will have on this publication and a consultation response were published on 7 October 2016.

From the 1 October 2016 edition onwards, Army personnel who have completed Phase 1 training (basic Service training) but not Phase 2 training (trade training), are considered Trained personnel. This change will enable the Army to meet the SDSR 15 commitment to improve support to UK resilience. The Trained Strength definition for the Royal Navy, RAF, Maritime Reserve and RAF Reserves has not changed, reflecting the requirement for their personnel to complete Phase 2 training to be able to fulfil the core function of their respective Services.

Army personnel who have completed Phase 2 training are now called ‘Trade Trained’. This population aligns with the old definition of trained personnel, therefore maintaining the continuity of the statistical time series and will continue to be counted against the liability and SDSR target for 2020.

Full-time Armed Forces personnel

In order to meet the manpower reduction targets set out in SDSR 2010, the Three Month Exercise (3ME) and Army 2020 (A2020), a redundancy programme coupled with adjusted recruiting (intake) and contract extensions were set. The redundancy programme is now complete.

On 23 November 2015, the Ministry of Defence published the National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015. SDSR 2015 outlines plans to uplift the size of the Regular Armed Forces, setting targets for a strength of 82,000 for the Army, and increasing the Royal Navy/Royal Marines and Royal Air Force by a total of 700 personnel. The SDSR 2015 Defence Key Facts booklet announced new targets for 2020 for each of the Services.

Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) Programme

The Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme aims to increase the size of the Reserve Forces. Further information on the growth of the Reserves can be found in the Policy Background section of previous Monthly Service Personnel Statistics publications.

As a result of the changes to Army Trained Strength (referred to above) and their impact on the Army Reserve, the MOD released a Written Ministerial Statement containing revised Future Reserves 2020 strength growth profiles on 8 November 2016. Reporting of the growth of the Reserves will be based on strength profiles only.

This statement outlined trained strength targets for FY18/19 as follows: Maritime Reserve 3,100, Army Reserve 30,100 and RAF Reserves 1,860.
UK Service Personnel

UK Service Personnel comprise the total strength of the military personnel employed by the Ministry of Defence (Excel tables, Table1). The current strength of the UK Service Personnel is 196,000, which includes:

- All UK Regular personnel and all Gurkha personnel (which at 1 July 2017 comprised 77.1 per cent of UK Service Personnel);
- Volunteer Reserve personnel (which at 1 July 2017 comprised 18.7 per cent of UK Service Personnel);
- Other Personnel including the Serving Regular Reserve, Sponsored Reserve, Military Provost Guard Service, Locally Engaged Personnel and elements of the Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) (which at 1 July 2017 comprised 4.2 per cent of UK Service Personnel).

The total strength of the UK Forces has decreased between 1 July 2016 and 1 July 2017, by 0.4 per cent (690 personnel). Over the same period, there have been increases across the Reserves populations, Gurkhas and Other Personnel, which have been more than offset by a reduction in the UK Regular Forces.

The total strength of the UK Regular Forces has decreased by 2,140 (1.4 per cent) between 1 July 2016 and 1 July 2017, which is largely offset by increase in the total strength of the Volunteer Reserve and Gurkhas by 1,320 (3.7 per cent) and 130 (4.6 per cent) respectively.

| Table 1: Recent Trends in the Strength of the UK Forces |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                 | 1 Apr 14        | 1 Apr 15        | 1 Apr 16        | 1 Apr 17        | 1 May 17        |
| UK Forces Personnel             | 198 810         | 195 690         | 197 090         | 197 040         | 196 390         |
| UK Regular Forces               | 159 630         | 153 720         | 151 000         | 149 370         | 148 630         |
| Gurkhas                         | 3 050           | 2 870           | 2 860           | 2 990           | 2 980           |
| Volunteer Reserve               | 28 860          | 31 260          | 35 070          | 36 460          | 36 540          |
| Other Personnel                 | 7 280           | 7 840           | 8 170           | 8 220           | 8 230           |
| Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service) |

| Table 2: UK Forces Strength by Service |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Strength                             | 1 Jul 15        | 1 Jul 16        |
| Naval Service                        | 38 230          | 38 340          |
| Army                                 | 120 390         | 121 350         |
| Royal Air Force                      | 36 980          | 36 990          |
| Increase/Decrease                    | 1 Jul 16 - 1 Jul 17 |
| Naval Service                        | +100            |
| Army                                 | -730            |
| Royal Air Force                      | -60             |
| % Increase/Decrease                  | 1 Jul 16 - 1 Jul 17 |
| Naval Service                        | 0.3%            |
| Army                                 | -0.6%           |
| Royal Air Force                      | -0.2%           |
| Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service) |

1. UK Forces comprises all UK Regular, Gurkha, Volunteer Reserve and Other personnel. The constituents of “Other personnel” are reported towards the top of this page.
Full-time Trained Strength

Following public announcement and public consultation the definition of Army Trained Strength has changed. From 1 October 2016, UK Regular Forces and Gurkha personnel in the Army who have completed Phase 1 training (basic Service training) but not Phase 2 training (trade training), are now considered Trained personnel. This change will enable the Army to meet the SDSR 15 commitment to improve support to UK resilience. Previously, only personnel who had completed Phase 2 training were considered trained.

This change does not affect the Royal Navy/Royal Marines (RN/RM) or the Royal Air Force (RAF).

As a result of this change, the Full-time Trained Strength (FTTS) includes:

- UK Regular Forces who have passed Phase 1 and Phase 2 training, in the RN/RM & RAF, and UK Regular Forces and Gurkha personnel who have passed Phase 1 training in the Army;
- Those elements of the Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) who are counted against the liability, for all three Services.

This change was implemented in the 1 October 2016 edition of this publication.

As at 1 July 2017, the Tri-Service Full-time Trained Strength was 142,300. A Service breakdown is shown below in Table 3. Comparisons prior to October 2016 are not available for the Army because it is not possible to identify a split between Phase 1 and Phase 2 training.

### Table 3: Full-time Trained Strength by service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>1 Mar 17</th>
<th>1 Apr 17</th>
<th>1 May 17</th>
<th>1 Jun 17</th>
<th>1 Jul 17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Services</td>
<td>142 720</td>
<td>143 090</td>
<td>142 690</td>
<td>142 340</td>
<td>142 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Navy / Royal Marines</td>
<td>29 480</td>
<td>29 580</td>
<td>29 430</td>
<td>29 440</td>
<td>29 460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>82 390</td>
<td>82 650</td>
<td>82 480</td>
<td>82 210</td>
<td>82 190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Air Force</td>
<td>30 850</td>
<td>30 850</td>
<td>30 770</td>
<td>30 690</td>
<td>30 650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

### Figure 1: FTTS in the Army since Trained Strength definition change (Oct 16)
Full-time Trained Strength (RN/RM & RAF) and Full-time Trade Trained Strength (Army) and Liability

The Full-time Trained Strength (FTTS) (RN/RM & RAF) and Full-time Trade Trained Strength (FTTTS) (Army) (which comprises military personnel who have completed ‘Phase 1’ and ‘Phase 2’ training) is counted against the Liability. The difference between the two is measured as either a surplus or deficit. This is one indicator of the Service’s ability to execute military tasks. Other indicators include the surplus / deficit within key trades or in specific Ranks.

As at 1 July 2017, the FTTS (RN/RM & RAF) and FTTTS (Army) is 138,050, a decrease of 1.3 per cent (1,860 personnel) since 1 July 2016. Of this, the FTTS for the RN/RM is 29,460, 30,650 for the RAF and the FTTTS is 77,940 for the Army. The FTTS (RN/RM & RAF) and FTTTS (Army) comprises: 134,870 Regular personnel (97.7 per cent), 2,590 Gurkhas (1.9 per cent); and 590 Full Time Reserve Service personnel (0.4 per cent) who are filling Regular posts and count against the liability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4: FTTS (RN/RM &amp; RAF) &amp; FTTTS (Army) against the Liability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FTTS (RN/RM &amp; RAF) &amp; FTTTS (Army)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/Deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Surplus/Deficit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

The current deficit against the Liability is 5.0 per cent for the UK Armed Forces. There is a deficit of 2.6 per cent in the Royal Navy/Royal Marines (RN/RM), 5.7 per cent in the Army and 5.5 per cent in the Royal Air Force (RAF).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 5: FTTS (RN/RM &amp; RAF) &amp; FTTTS (Army) against SDSR2015 Targets for 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Services</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Navy / Royal Marines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Air Force</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Figure 2: FTTS (RN/RM & RAF) and FTTTS (Army) against Liability and 2020 target derived from SDSR 2015

Full-time Trained Strength (RN/RM & RAF) and Full-time Trade Trained Strength (Army) includes all UK Regular personnel, Gurkhas and those elements of the Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) who are counted against the liability (see glossary for more detail).

Liability is the number of Service personnel needed, based on the Defence Planning Round, set for each of the three Services.
As at 1 July 2017, the trained and untrained strength of the UK Regular Forces (which excludes Gurkhas) was 148,080.

There are 9,050 untrained personnel in the UK Regular Forces, of which 3,360 are in the Army. The untrained strength reflects the number of personnel who can potentially join the trained strength.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>1 Jul 16</th>
<th>1 Jul 17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RN/RM</td>
<td>32,530</td>
<td>32,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which trained</td>
<td>29,340</td>
<td>29,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>84,330</td>
<td>82,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which trained</td>
<td>76,720</td>
<td>79,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which trade trained</td>
<td>75,100</td>
<td>90,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAF</td>
<td>33,360</td>
<td>33,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which trained</td>
<td>30,860</td>
<td>30,630</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 6: UK Regular Forces Strength by Service**

| Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service) |

**Note:** || Denotes break in series; the definition of ‘Trained’ for Army has changed from the 1 October 2016 edition onwards (see page 5). Hence the 1 July 2017 Army Trained Strength figures cannot be compared to earlier figures. However, the 1 July 2017 Army trade trained figure is comparable to the 1 July 2016 Trained figure.

**Intake and Outflow since 2011**

Intake and Outflow over the past six years are presented in Figure 3. Since 2011 Tri–Service outflow has exceeded intake for each 12 month period.

Excluding personnel who left on redundancy, in the 12 months to 30 June 2017, there was a net outflow of 2,180 personnel from the UK Regular Forces. This difference has remained broadly flat compared with the 12 months to 30 June 2016, where there was a net outflow of 2,170.

**Intake**

- Intake into the trained and untrained UK Regular Forces was 12,800 in the 12 months to 30 June 2017. This has decreased from 13,900 in the 12 months to 30 June 2016.
- Of the current intake, 11.0 per cent was into Officers and 89.0 per cent was into Other Ranks.
- Compared to the 12 months to 30 June 2016, intake to the RN/RM, Army and RAF has decreased by 7.7 per cent, 6.8 per cent and 12.8 per cent respectively.

**Figure 3: Net Flow, Intake to and Outflow from the UK Regular Forces over a 12-month period**

**UK Regulars** are full time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, excluding FTRS personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guarding Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), and Non Regular Permanent Service (NRPS).

**Intake** is defined as the number joining the Strength, whereas **Outflow** is the number leaving.
UK Regular Personnel

**Outflow**

- Outflow from the trained and untrained UK Regular Forces was 14,980 in the 12 months to 30 June 2017; down from 16,080 in the 12 months to 30 June 2016.
- In the 12 months to 30 June 2017, no trained or untrained personnel left the UK Regular Forces as part of the UK Armed Forces Redundancy Programme. This compares to less than five in the 12 months to 30 June 2016.

In the 12 months to 30 June 2017, the proportion of personnel that left the UK Regulars by Voluntary Outflow (VO) is higher in the trained (RAF) than the trade trained (Army) and trained (RN/RM) in comparison to any other reason.

In the 12 months to 30 June 2017

- 7,410 trained (RN/RM & RAF) and trade trained (Army) personnel left through VO; the VO rate was 5.4 per cent. This is a decrease from 7,780 in the 12 months to 30 June 2016 and a VO rate of 5.6 per cent.
- The overall VO rate is higher amongst Other Ranks (5.7 per cent), compared to Officers (4.5 per cent).

In the 12 months to 30 June 2017, VO rates have dropped by 0.2 percentage points for the RN/RM. Army have dropped by 0.1 percentage points. RAF have seen decrease of 0.3 percentage points compared to the previous 12 month period.

There is no single reason why personnel leave on Voluntary Outflow, but the personnel who completed the **Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey** indicated reasons for leaving the Armed Forces included:

- 15.5% Time Expiry
- 10.2% Other
- 15.6% Other
- 26.1% Other
- 15.7% RAF
- 15.6% RAF
- 10.2% Army
- 15.5% Army
- 31.6% RN/RM

**Voluntary Outflow** encompasses all trained (RN/RM & RAF) and Trade Trained (Army) personnel who voluntarily exit before the end of their agreed engagement or commission period.

**Time Expire** is a term used to describe those in the Armed Services who reach the end of their engagement or commission and then leave.

**Other** includes outflow from the trained (RN/RM & RAF) and trade trained (Army) strength due to, amongst others, medical reasons, misconduct, compassionate, dismissals and death.

In the 12 months to 30 June 2017, Outflow by Time Expire as a proportion of total outflow has decreased across the three services with the largest being in the RAF (15.6 per cent) a decrease of 5.9 percentage points. The low Time Expire for the Army reflects lower recruitment numbers in the mid 1990s.

Outflow by ‘Other’ as percentage of total outflow has increased across all services with the largest increase in the Army (31.6 per cent) with an increase of 4.1 percentage points.

In the 12 months to 30 June 2017, Time Expire rates have decreased across all three services with the largest decrease being in the RAF (1.1 per cent) by 0.6 percentage points. Other outflow rates have increased in the RN/RM (2.1 per cent) and Army (3.3 per cent) by 0.2 and 0.4 percentage points respectively but a slight decrease of 0.1 percentage points in the RAF (1.1 per cent).
Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme monitoring

Following consultation on changes to the Army trained strength definition and the removal of the FR20 intake targets, the MOD released Future Reserves 2020 trained strength growth profiles in a Written Ministerial Statement on 8 November 2016. Reporting of the growth of the Reserves will be based on trained strength profiles only.

Future Reserves 2020 Strength

Following this, progress against FR20 population trained strength targets are reported in table 6a of the Excel tables.

The total trained and untrained strength of the Tri-Service Future Reserves 2020 was 36,500, an increase of 1,400 personnel or 4.0 per cent since 1 July 2016.

Figure 6: Maritime Reserve trained strength

The Maritime Reserve total strength as at 1 July 2017 was 3,600. This is an increase of 120 personnel (3.6 per cent) since 1 July 2016.

Figure 4 shows that the Maritime Reserve trained strength was 2,640 as at 1 July 2017. This is an increase of 290 personnel (12.5 per cent) since 1 July 2016.

Figure 7: Army Reserve FR20 trained strength

The Army Reserve total strength as at 1 July 2017 was 30,090. This is an increase of 1,090 personnel (3.7 per cent) since 1 July 2016.

The Army changed its definition of trained strength to include phase 1 trained personnel from 1 October 2016 (see Policy Background for more information). Figure 5 shows that the Army Reserve trained strength was 26,820 as at 1 July 2017.

Figure 8: RAF Reserves trained strength

The RAF Reserves total strength as at 1 July 2017 was 2,810. This is an increase of 190 personnel (7.4 per cent) since 1 July 2016.

Figure 6 shows that as at 1 July 2017 the RAF Reserves trained strength was 2,180. This is an increase of 260 personnel (13.7 per cent) since 1 July 2016.
Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme monitoring

FR20 Intake

Intake statistics report how many people have joined the trained or untrained strengths. As well as new recruits, this can include personnel transferring from the Regular Forces, other Reserve populations, or Reserve re-joiners.

In the 12 months between 1 July 2016 and 1 July 2017, intake to the Tri-Service Future Reserves 2020 population was 6,440 people, a 16.0 per cent decrease on the same 12 month period in the previous year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intake</th>
<th>1 Jul 15</th>
<th>1 Jul 16</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>% Increase/Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maritime Reserve</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>-130</td>
<td>-13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army Reserve FR20</td>
<td>5,920</td>
<td>4,930</td>
<td>-990</td>
<td>-16.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAF Reserves</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>-13.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Figure 9: Total Intake rate by Service

Total intake rate

12 months total intake divided by the mean average strength.

Intake includes personnel moving from any other part of the Armed Forces including the UK Regulars or another Reserve population not in the FR20.
Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme monitoring

FR20 Outflow

Outflow statistics report how many personnel have left the trained or untrained strengths. The majority of outflow is personnel leaving the Armed Forces, though around 15 per cent do transfer to another part of the Armed Forces, such as the Regulars or another Reserve Force.

In the 12 months between 1 July 2016 and 1 July 2017 outflow from the Tri-Service Future Reserves 2020 population was **5,030 people**, a **5.9 per cent increase** compared with the same 12 month period in the previous year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Outflow</th>
<th>1 Jul 15</th>
<th>1 Jul 16</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>% Increase/Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maritime Reserve</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>-130</td>
<td>-15.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army Reserve FR20</td>
<td>3,370</td>
<td>3,840</td>
<td>+470</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAF Reserves</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>-60</td>
<td>-11.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Figure 10 shows the total outflow rate which takes into account the growth of total strength.

The total outflow rates for each service in the 12 months to 1 July 2017 are as follows:

- The Maritime Reserve total outflow rate was **20.8 per cent**; a decrease of 4.2 percentage points since the 12 months to 1 July 2016.
- The Army Reserve total outflow rate was **13.0 per cent**; an increase of 0.9 percentage points since the 12 months to 1 July 2016.
- The RAF Reserves total outflow rate was **17.2 per cent**; a decrease of 3.8 percentage points since the 12 months to 1 July 2016.
Applications to the Armed Forces

The figures in this publication include applications to the UK Regular and Volunteer Reserve Forces. They are broken down by Service, and by Officers and Other Ranks.

Due to differences in the application process for each Service, the three Services do not currently adopt the same definition of an 'application'. Therefore, application numbers cannot be added together across the Services to show total Armed Forces applications (hence separate tables and graphs are provided).

The number of applications received does not directly relate to intake figures, since:

- Figures relate to the number of applications received and not the number of applicants, as one applicant may submit several applications;
- For successful applicants who accept an offer to join the Services, there is a substantial processing time between their application being received and the applicant joining the Services. Therefore, the intake figures for Dec 15 are not comparable with the number of applications received in Dec 15, as the numbers apply to different cohorts of people;
- Applications will not result in intake if, for example, they are withdrawn by the applicant during the recruitment process, rejected by the Services, or if an offer to join the Services is declined by the applicant. See below for further information.

Applications that do not result in intake

The main causes of applicant failure (i.e. no offer to join the Services given) include:

- Failing security clearance;
- Not having the required residency;
- Not achieving the required recruiting test score for the desired branch/trade;
- Failing the medical scrutiny;
- Not achieving fitness entry standards;
- Applicants withdraw for their own reasons (e.g. change of mind) during the process.

The main causes of application failure (i.e. the applicant declines an offer to join):

- Applicants may have submitted other applications for employment (including multiple applications to join the Armed Forces) and accept another offer;
- Applications may be submitted with no intention to join (e.g. to satisfy the requirements of job seeking).

NOTE: Application numbers cannot be added together across the Services to show total Armed Forces applications due to differences in definitions.
The number of applications to join the RN/RM Regular Forces has increased since last quarter. There was an overall increase of 200 applications in the 12 months to 30 June 2017 compared with the same period last year.

There has been a decrease of 1,010 and 820, respectively in the UK Regulars and Volunteer Reserves applications in the RAF as a whole in the 12 months ending 30 June 2017 compared with the same period last year.
Further Information

Rounding

Figures in this publication have been rounded to the nearest 10, though numbers ending in a “5” have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent the systematic bias caused by always rounding numbers upwards. For example; a value of “25” would be rounded down to “20” and a value of “15” would be rounded up to “20”.

Additionally, totals and sub-totals are rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

Percentages are calculated from unrounded data and presented to one decimal place.

The MOD Disclosure Control and Rounding policy is published on GOV.UK and we have applied this policy to the statistics in the accompanying Excel tables. The policy is available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-statistics-policies.

Revisions

Corrections to the published statistics will be made if errors are found, or if figures change as a result of improvements to methodology or changes to definitions. When making corrections, we will follow the Ministry of Defence Statistics Revisions and Corrections Policy. All corrected figures will be identified by the symbol “r”, and an explanation will be given of the reason for and size of the revision. Corrections which would have a significant impact on the utility of the statistics will be corrected as soon as possible, by reissuing the publication. Minor errors will also be corrected, but for efficient use of resource these corrections may be timed to coincide with the next annual release of the publication.

There are no regular planned revisions of this Bulletin.

Symbols

|| Discontinuity in time series
* not applicable
.. not available
– Zero
~ 5 or fewer
p Provisional
e Estimate
r Revised

Italic figures are used for percentages and other rates, except where otherwise indicated.
Further Information (cont.)

Contact Us
Defence Statistics welcome feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication or about our statistics in general, you can contact us as follows:

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If you require information which is not available within this or other available publications, you may wish to submit a Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Ministry of Defence. For more information, see:

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