



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 SDRS 2015, publications reported against SDRS 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

▼ 195 730	Strength of UK Forces Service Personnel at 1 October 2017 <i>a decrease of 1 380 (0.7 per cent) since 1 October 2016</i>
▼ 137 280	Full-time Trained Strength (RN/RM & RAF) and Full-time Trade Trained Strength (Army) at 1 October 2017 <i>a decrease of 2 200 (1.6 per cent) since 1 October 2016</i>
▲ - 5.6%	Deficit against the planned number of personnel needed (Liability) at 1 October 2017 <i>an increase in the deficit from -4.3 per cent as at 1 October 2016</i>
▲ 32 080	Strength of the Trained Future Reserves 2020 at 1 October 2017 <i>An increase of 1 510 (4.9 per cent) since 1 October 2016</i>
▼ 12 270	People joined the UK Regular Armed Forces in the past 12 months (1 October 2016 – 30 September 2017) <i>a decrease of 1 380 (10.1 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▼ 15 010	People left the UK Regular Armed Forces in the past 12 months (1 October 2016 – 30 September 2017) <i>a decrease of 570 (3.7 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▼ 6 340	People joined the Future Reserves 2020 in the past 12 months (1 October 2016 – 30 September 2017) <i>a decrease of 950 (13.1 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▼ 4 990	People left the Future Reserves 2020 in the past 12 months (1 October 2016 – 30 September 2017) <i>a decrease of 40 (0.8 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>

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Background quality report: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tri-service-personnel-bulletin-background-quality-reports

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

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Supplementary tables containing further statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-2017>

A glossary and other supporting documents are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-supplementary-documents>

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 October 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.

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.

Following a public consultation, it was decided that the frequency of this publication will be reduced to quarterly henceforth. This edition is therefore the final monthly publication, with the next edition scheduled to be published on GOV.UK at 9:30am on **Thursday 15 February 2018**. 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 195,730, which includes:

- All **UK Regular** personnel and all **Gurkha** personnel (which at 1 October 2017 comprised 76.9 per cent of UK Service Personnel);
- **Volunteer Reserve** personnel (which at 1 October 2017 comprised 19.0 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 October 2017 comprised 4.1 per cent of UK Service Personnel).

Strength is the number of personnel.

Volunteer Reserves voluntarily accept an annual training commitment and are liable to be mobilised to deploy on operations. They can be utilised on a part-time or full-time basis to provide support to the Regular Forces at home and overseas.

The total strength of the UK Forces¹ has decreased between 1 October 2016 and 1 October 2017, by 0.7 per cent (1 380 personnel). Over the same period, there have been increases across the Reserves populations and Gurkhas, which have been offset by a reduction in the UK Regular Forces, shown in Table 1. This is also part of a long term trend shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Comparison of Total Strength of the UK Forces¹ for the period of October 2016 to October 2017

	1 Oct 16	Nominal Change	% Change
UK Regular Forces	150 250	-2 720	1.8%
Gurkhas	2 800	130	4.7%
Volunteer Reserve	35 810	1 280	3.6%
Other personnel	8 250	- 70	0.9%

Table 2: Recent Trends in the Strength of the UK Forces¹

	1 Apr 15	1 Apr 16	1 Apr 17	1 Jul 17	1 Aug 17	1 Sep 17	1 Oct 17
UK Forces Personnel	195 690	197 090	197 040	196 000	195 880	195 390	195 730
UK Regular Forces	153 720	151 000	149 370	148 080	147 890	147 280	147 520
Gurkhas	2 870	2 860	2 990	2 960	2 950	2 940	2 940
Volunteer Reserve	31 260	35 070	36 460	36 710	36 800	36 960	37 090
Other Personnel	7 840	8 170	8 220	8 250	8 240	8 200	8 180

Table 3: UK Forces¹ Strength by Service

Strength	1 Oct 15	1 Oct 16	1 Oct 17	Nominal Change	
				1 Oct 16 - 1 Oct 17	% Change
Naval Service	38 220	38 300	38 490	+190	0.5%
Army	121 370	121 860	120 350	-1510	-1.2%
Royal Air Force	36 920	36 950	36 890	-60	-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.

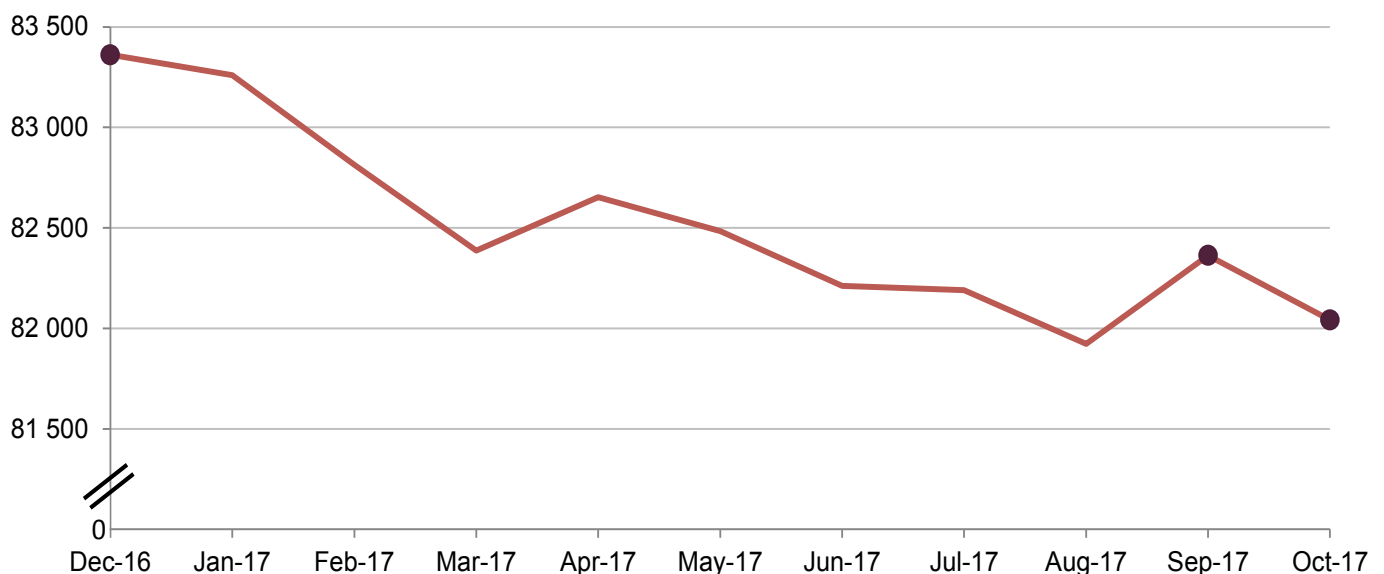
This change was implemented in the 1 October 2016 edition of this publication.

As at 1 October 2017, the Tri-Service Full-time Trained Strength was 141,880. A Service breakdown is shown below in Table 4. This has decreased by 2,300 (1.6%) since 1 October 2016.

	1 Jun 17	1 Jul 17	1 Aug 17	1 Sep 17	1 Oct 17
All Services	142 340	142 300	142 100	142 400	141 880
Royal Navy / Royal Marines	29 440	29 460	29 500	29 420	29 280
Army	82 210	82 190	81 920	82 360	82 040
Royal Air Force	30 690	30 650	30 680	30 620	30 560

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Figure 1: FTTS in the Army since Trained Strength definition change (Oct 16)



While overall regular Army strength and Trade Trained Strength (FTTTS) reduced between Aug-17 and Sep-17, the Trained Strength (FTTS) of the Army increased due to a large number of personnel completing their Phase 1 Training. This is seasonal and is driven by last year's junior entry intake completing their Phase 1 Training.

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 October 2017, the FTTS (RN/RM & RAF) and FTTTS (Army) is 137,280, a decrease of 1.6 per cent (2,200 personnel) since 1 October 2016. Of this, the FTTS for the RN/RM is 29,280, 30,560 for the RAF and the FTTTS is 77,440 for the Army. The FTTS (RN/RM & RAF) and FTTTS (Army) comprises: 134,070 Regular personnel (97.7 per cent), 2,580 Gurkhas (1.9 per cent); and 630 Full Time Reserve Service personnel (0.4 per cent) who are filling Regular posts and count against the liability.

Table 5: FTTS (RN/RM & RAF) & FTTTS (Army) against the Liability

	1 Apr 15	1 Apr 16	1 Apr 17	1 Aug 17	1 Sep 17	1 Oct 17
FTTS (RN/RM & RAF) & FTTTS (Army)	144 120	140 430	138 840	137 990	137 720	137 280
Liability	150 700	146 190	145 300	145 390	145 410	145 440
<i>Surplus/Deficit</i>	<i>-6 580</i>	<i>-5 750</i>	<i>-6 460</i>	<i>-7 400</i>	<i>-7 690</i>	<i>-8 160</i>
<i>% Surplus/Deficit</i>	<i>-4.4</i>	<i>-3.9</i>	<i>-4.4</i>	<i>-5.1</i>	<i>-5.3</i>	<i>-5.6</i>

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

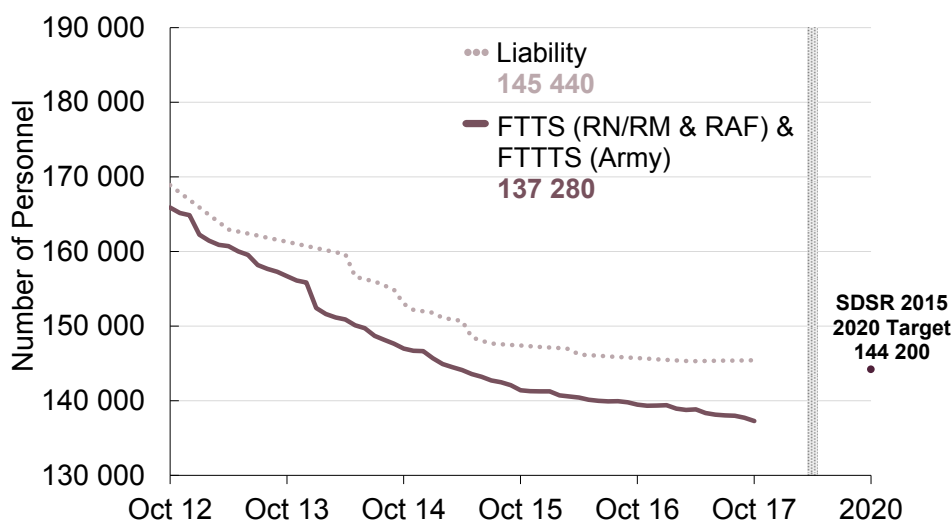
The current deficit against the Liability is 5.6 per cent for the UK Armed Forces. There is a deficit of 3.5 per cent in the Royal Navy/Royal Marines (RN/RM), 6.3 per cent in the Army and 5.8 per cent in the Royal Air Force (RAF).

Table 6: FTTS (RN/RM & RAF) & FTTTS (Army) against SDRS2015 Targets for 2020

	1 Apr 16	1 Apr 17	1 Jul 17	1 Aug 17	1 Sep 17	1 Oct 17	2020 Target
All Services	140 430	138 840	138 050	137 990	137 720	137 280	144 200
Royal Navy / Royal Marines	29 700	29 580	29 460	29 500	29 420	29 280	30 450
Army	79 750	78 410	77 940	77 810	77 680	77 440	82 000
Royal Air Force	30 980	30 850	30 650	30 680	30 620	30 560	31 750

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

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

UK Regular Personnel

As at 1 October 2017, the trained and untrained strength of the UK Regular Forces (which excludes Gurkhas) was 147,520.

There are 8,940 untrained personnel in the UK Regular Forces, of which 3,100 are in the Army. The untrained strength reflects the number of personnel who can potentially join the trained strength.

Table 7: UK Regular Forces Strength by Service

Strength	1 Oct 16		1 Oct 17
RN/RM	32 500		32 430
Of which trained	29 200	89.9%	28 930
Army	84 490		82 210
Of which trained	80 780	95.6%	79 110
Of which trade trained	76 370	90.4%	74 590
RAF	33 270		32 890
Of which trained	30 880	92.8%	30 540

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.

Intake and Outflow since 2011

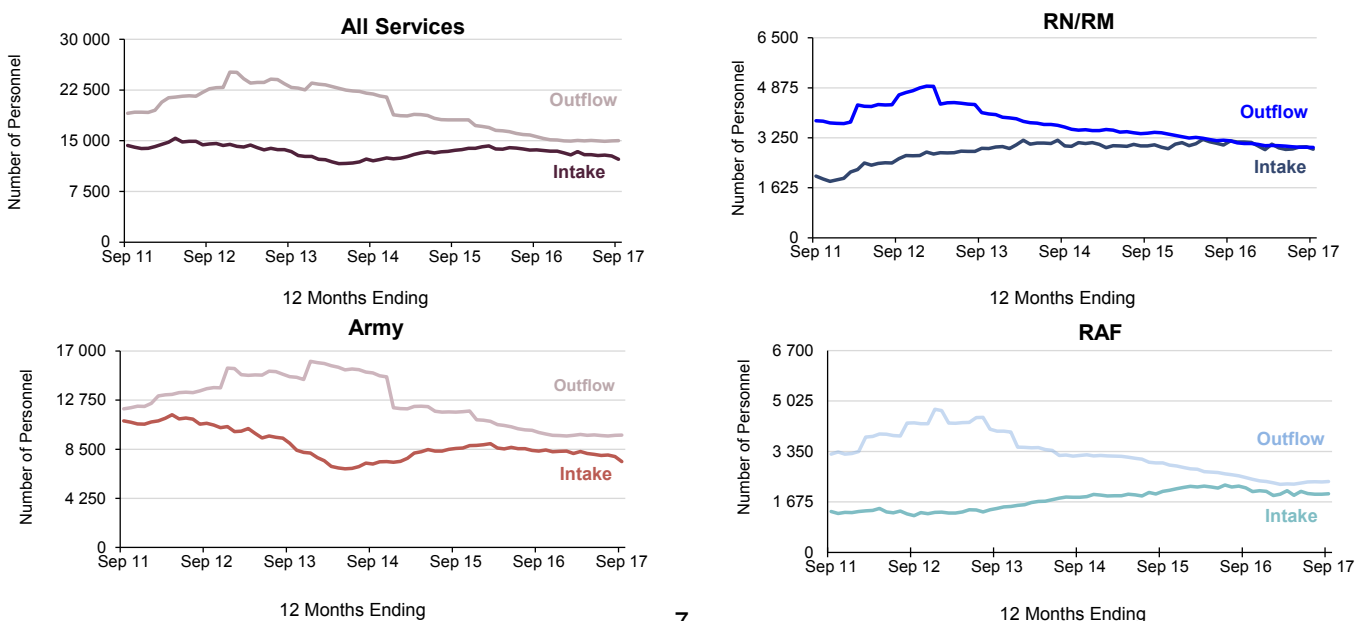
Intake and Outflow over the past six years are presented in Figure 3. For the period shown below Tri-Service outflow has exceeded intake for each 12 month period.

In the 12 months to 30 September 2017, there was a net outflow of 2,740 personnel from the UK Regular Forces. This difference has increased compared with the 12 months to 30 September 2016, where there was a net outflow of 1,930.

Intake

- Intake into the trained and untrained UK Regular Forces was 12,270 in the 12 months to 30 September 2017. This has decreased from 13,650 in the 12 months to 30 September 2016.
- Of the current intake, 11.5 per cent was into Officers and 88.5 per cent was into Other Ranks.
- Compared to the 12 months to 30 September 2016, intake to the RN/RM, Army and RAF has decreased by 8.8 per cent, 10.9 per cent and 9.1 per cent respectively.

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



UK Regular Personnel

Outflow

- Outflow from the trained and untrained UK Regular Forces was 15,010 in the 12 months to 30 September 2017; down from 15,580 in the 12 months to 30 September 2016.
- Across all services, VO was the most common reason for outflow of Trained and Trade-Trained personnel, accounting for 59.6% of outflow in the 12 months to 30 September 2017.
- The RAF had the highest percentage of outflow accounted for by VO (67.4%) while the Army had the lowest (57.5%) in the 12 months to 30 September 2017.
- In the 12 months to 30 September 2017, 7,430 trained (RN/RM & RAF) and trade trained (Army) personnel left through VO; the VO rate was 5.5 per cent. This is a decrease from 7,540 in the 12 months to 30 September 2016 but the VO rate remains stable at 5.5 per cent.
- In the 12 months to 30 September 2017, the VO rate amongst Other Ranks (5.7 per cent) is higher when compared to Officers (4.4 per cent).

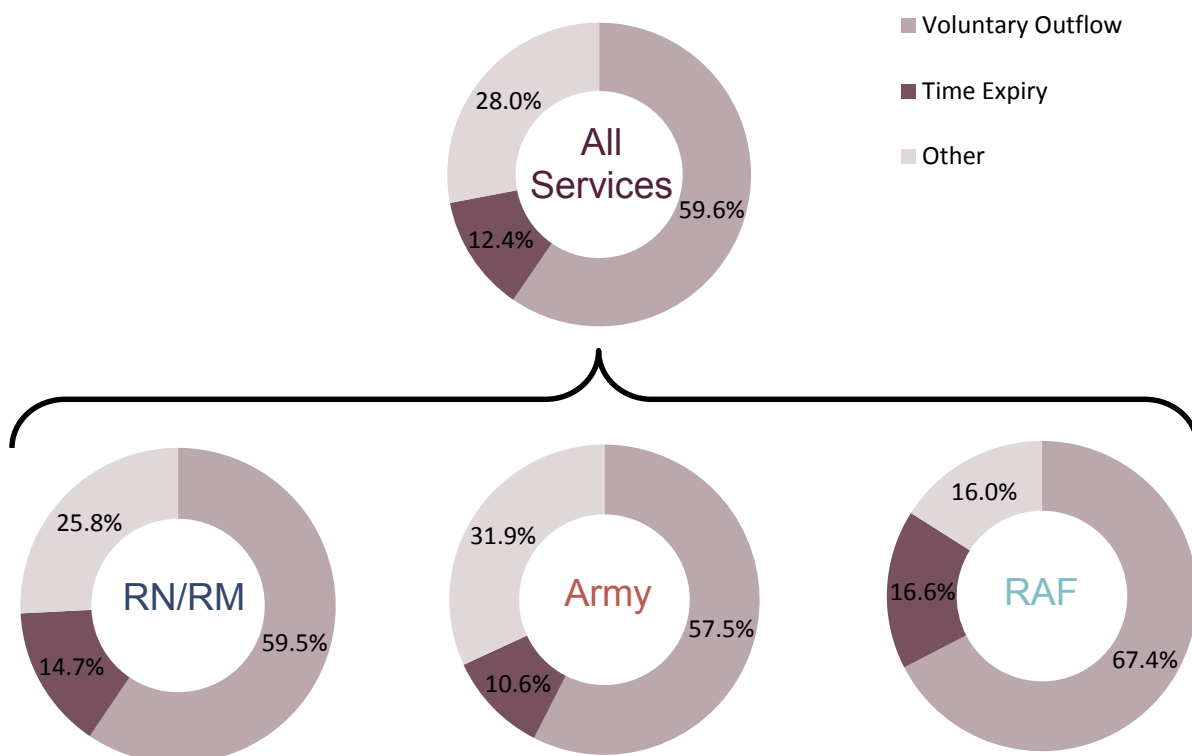
Voluntary Outflow encompasses all trained (RN/RM & RAF) and Trade Trained (Army) personnel who voluntarily exit before the end of their agreed engagement or commission period.

Time Expiry 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.

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 the impact of Service life on family and personal life and opportunities outside the Armed Forces.

Figure 4: Outflow of trained (RN/RM & RAF) and trade trained (Army) UK Regulars by exit reason (12 months to 30 September 2017)



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

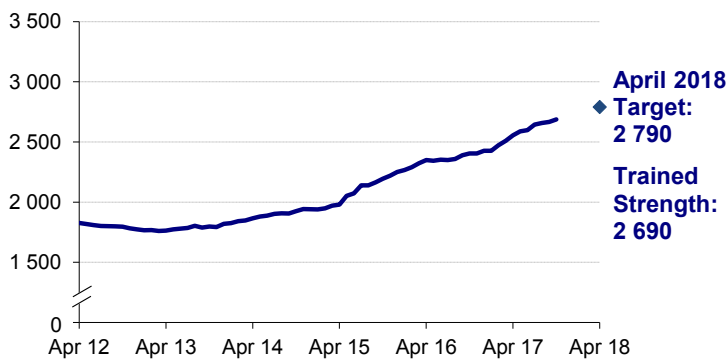
Following this, progress against FR20 population trained strength targets are reported in table 6a of the [Excel tables](#).

The total **trained and untrained strength** of the Tri-Service Future Reserves 2020 at 1 October 2017 was 36,880, an increase of 1,350 personnel or 3.8 per cent since 1 October 2016.

Future Reserves 2020

includes volunteer reserves who are mobilised, High Readiness Reserves and those volunteer reserves serving on Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) and Additional Duties Commitment (ADC). Sponsored Reserves who provide a more cost effective solution than volunteer reserve are also included in the Army Reserve FR20.

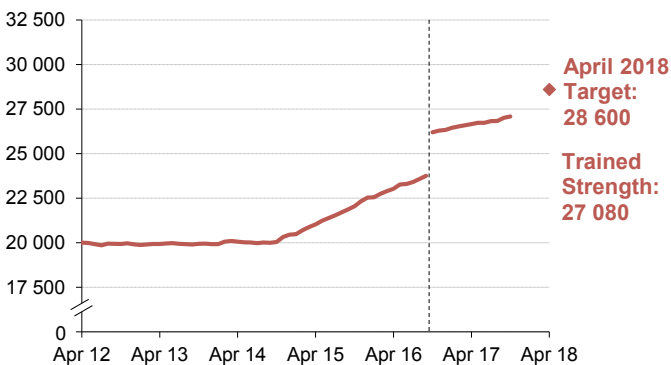
Figure 5: Maritime Reserve trained strength



The Maritime Reserve total strength as at 1 October 2017 was 3,680. This is an increase of 210 personnel (6.0 per cent) since 1 October 2016.

Figure 5 shows that the Maritime Reserve trained strength was 2,690 as at 1 October 2017. This is an increase of 280 personnel (11.8 per cent) since 1 October 2016.

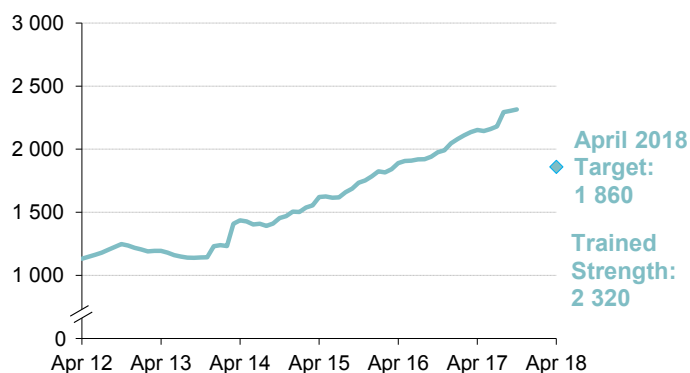
Figure 6: Army Reserve FR20 trained strength



The Army Reserve total strength as at 1 October 2017 was 30,330. This is an increase of 920 personnel (3.1 per cent) since 1 October 2016.

Figure 6 shows that the Army Reserve trained strength was 27,080 as at 1 October 2017. This is an increase of 890 (3.4%) since 1 October 2016.

Figure 7: RAF Reserves trained strength



The RAF Reserves total strength as at 1 October 2017 was 2,870. This is an increase of 220 personnel (8.3 per cent) since 1 October 2016.

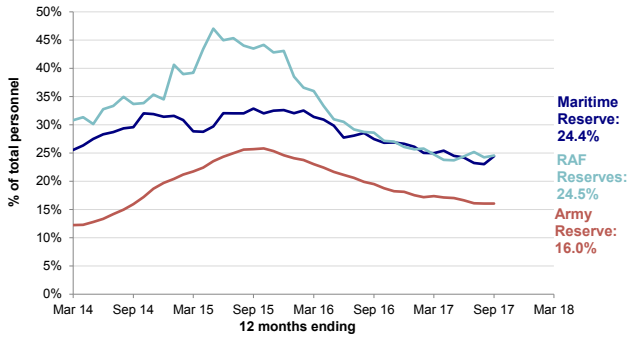
Figure 7 shows that as at 1 October 2017 the RAF Reserves trained strength was 2,320. This is an increase of 340 personnel (17.2 per cent) since 1 October 2016.

Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme monitoring

FR20 Intake and Outflow statistics

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

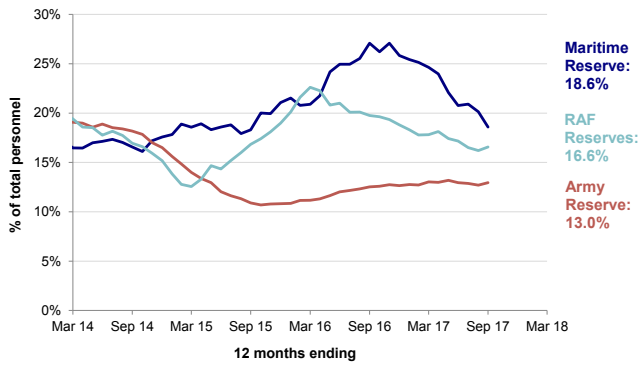
Figure 8: Total intake rate by Service



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

- . The Maritime Reserve total intake rate was **24.4 per cent**; a decrease of 3.0 percentage points since the 12 months to 1 October 2016.
- . The Army Reserve total intake rate was **16.0 per cent**; a decrease of 3.4 percentage points since the 12 months to 1 October 2016.
- . The RAF Reserves total intake rate was **24.5 per cent**; a decrease of 4.0 percentage points since the 12 months to 1 October 2016.

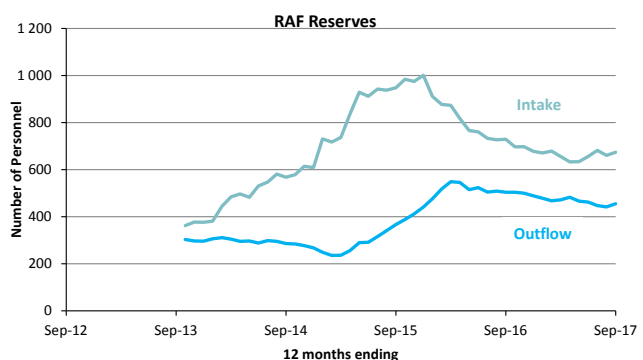
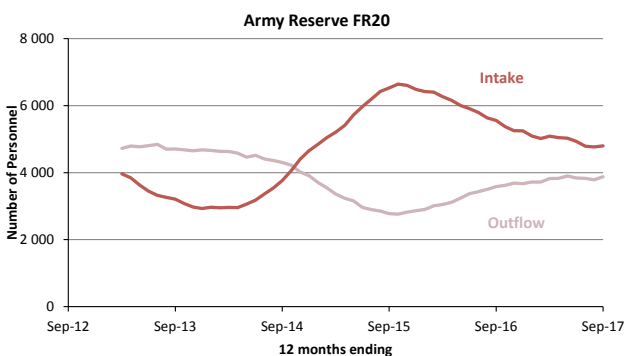
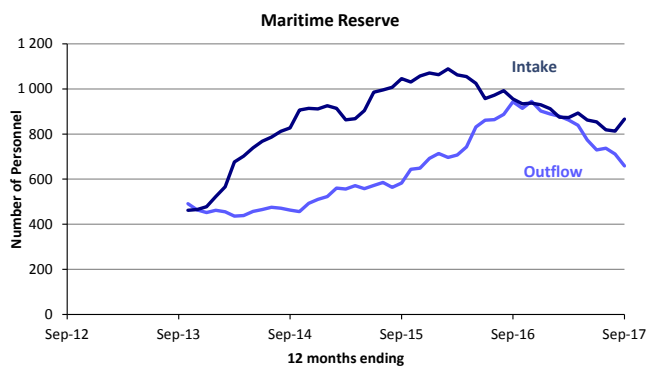
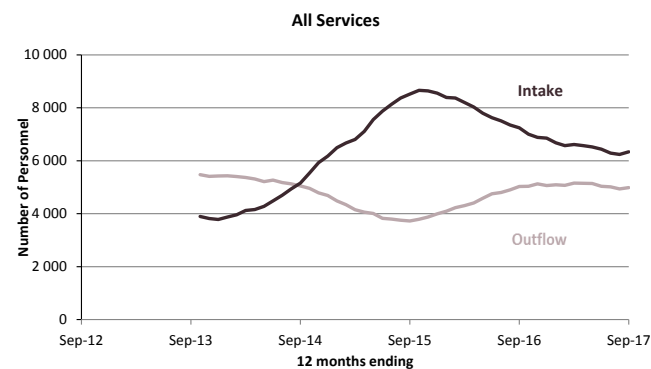
Figure 9: Total outflow rate by Service



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

- . The Maritime Reserve total outflow rate was **18.6 per cent**; a decrease of 8.5 percentage points since the 12 months to 1 October 2016.
- . The Army Reserve total outflow rate was **13.0 per cent**; an increase of 0.4 percentage points since the 12 months to 1 October 2016.
- . The RAF Reserves total outflow rate was **16.6 per cent**; a decrease of 3.2 percentage points since the 12 months to 1 October 2016.

Figure 10: Intake to and Outflow from the FR20 Reserves over 12 month period



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.

Applications to the Armed Forces

Figure 11: Applications to the RN/RM split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

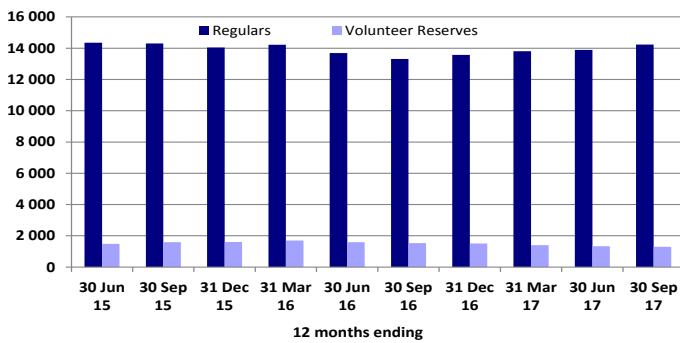


Table 8: RN/RM Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

Applications	1 Oct 15 30 Sep 16	1 Oct 16 30 Sep 17	Change	%
Regulars	13 310	14 230	+ 920	+6.9%
Volunteer Reserves	1 530	1 290	- 240	-15.7%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

The number of applications to join the RN/RM Regular Forces has increased since last quarter. There was an overall **increase of 920** applications in the **12 months to 30 September 2017** compared with the same period last year.

Figure 12: Applications to the Army split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

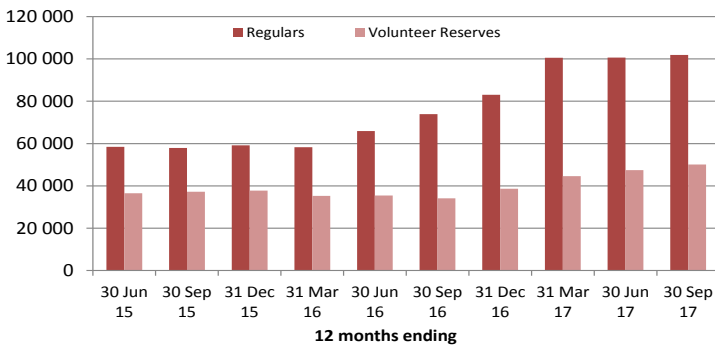


Table 9: Army Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

Applications	1 Oct 15 30 Sep 16	1 Oct 16 30 Sep 17	Change	%
Regulars	73 860	101 850	+27 990	+37.9%
Volunteer Reserves	34 160	50 090	+15 930	+46.6%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

There has been a large increase in the number of applications to join the Army Regular Forces in the last three quarters. The increase is, in part, due to a rise in Commonwealth applicants as a result of the announcement that residency requirements would be waived to allow 200 Commonwealth citizens per annum to be recruited to fill a limited number of roles in the Regular Armed Forces which require specialist skills. In addition to this, the introduction of the Army Quick application process ('Quick App') in November 2016 may have resulted in increases in applications following this period. Since the same period last year, there has been an overall **increase of 27,990 applications** to join the Regular Army.

Figure 13: Applications to the RAF split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

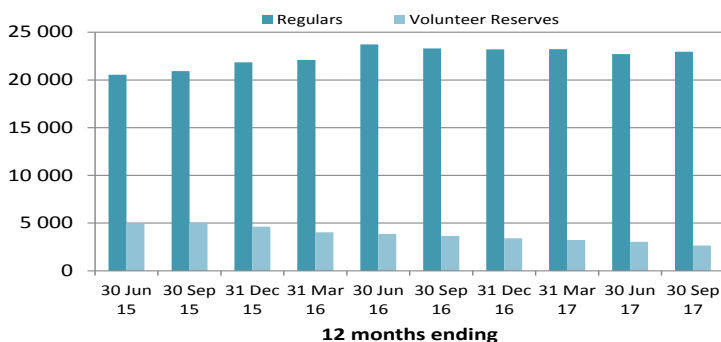


Table 10: RAF Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

Applications	1 Oct 15 30 Sep 16	1 Oct 16 30 Sep 17	Change	%
Regulars	23 300	22 950	- 350	-1.5%
Volunteer Reserves	3 640	2 660	- 980	-27.0%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

There has been a decrease of **350** and **980**, respectively in the UK Regulars and Volunteer Reserves applications in the RAF as a whole in the **12 months to 30 September 2017** compared with the same period last year.

Separated Service

Separated service measures absence from normal place of duty. The time an individual experiences separated service is compared against each Service's "**Individual Harmony**" guidelines to ensure a balance between duty and leisure for all Service Personnel.

A breach of individual harmony guidelines occurs when Service personnel experience separated service for longer than the period outlined in individual harmony guidelines, which are based on the structures and organisation of that Service. The guidelines are measured over a 36 month period and the limits are **660 days** away for the RN/RM; **498 days** for the Army; and **468 days** away for the RAF.

Separated Service concerns personnel who are serving away from their usual place of duty or are unable to enjoy leisure at their normal place of duty or residence at place of duty.

Individual Harmony is the freedom to enjoy leisure at the normal place of duty or residence at place of duty; this includes leave and adventurous training.

Using 1 April 2017 as an example:

Trained UK Regular personnel breaching over 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2017

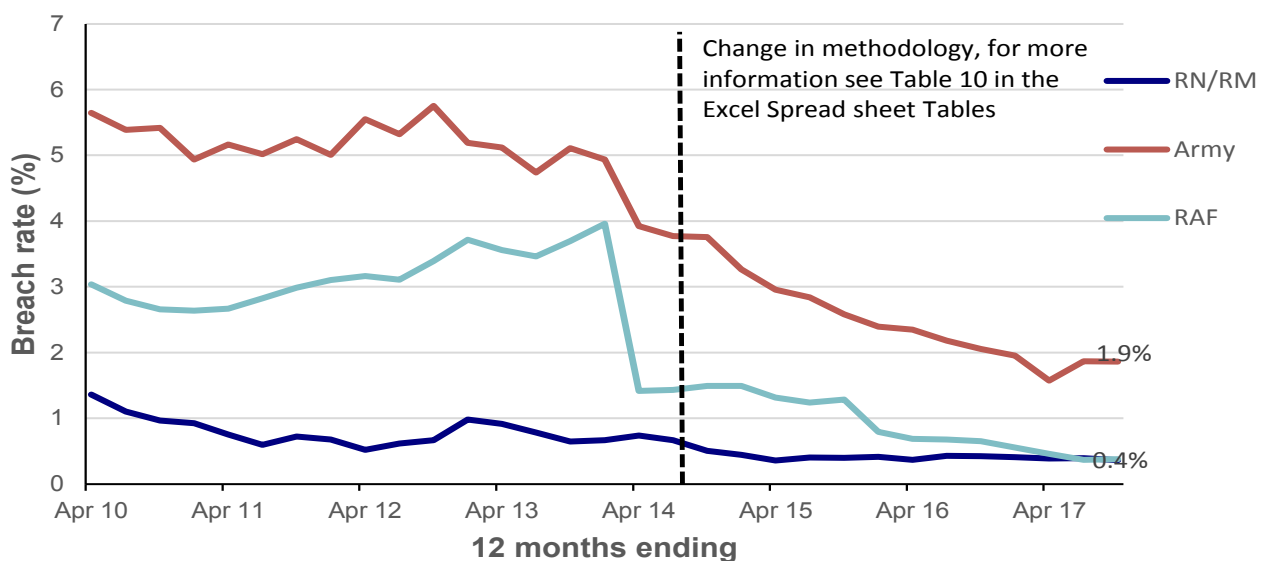
Trained UK Regular personnel as at 1 April 2017

Table 8 shows the rate at which individual harmony guidelines have been breached by Service.

Table 10: Separated Service Comparisons

% Breaching Harmony	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	1 Apr 16	1 Apr 17	1 Apr 17	1 Oct 17
RN/RM	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Army	3.9	3.0	2.3	1.6	1.6	1.9
RAF	1.4	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.4

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)



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.

A revision has been made to the gains to trained strength in the maritime reserves data in Table 7a for the 12 months ending 31 July 2017 and 31 August 2017. This was due to a minor error in compilation.

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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