



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**. In addition, there is an update of quarterly statistics on the Regular Reserve Forces and the number of applications to the UK Armed Forces.

The recent trends in personnel numbers in this report relate to the targets outlined in the **Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) 2010**, the **Three Month Exercise (3ME)**, **Army 2020 (A2020)** and the **Future Reserves 2020 (FR20)** programme.

This publication forms part of a new series of bulletins following the outcome of a public consultation on **Changes to Ministry of Defence Armed Forces Personnel Statistics**.

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

▲ 196 500	Strength of UK Forces Service Personnel at 1 October 2015 <i>a slight increase of 480 (0.2 per cent) since 1 October 2014</i>
▼ 141 390	Full-time Trained Strength at 1 October 2015 <i>a decrease of 5 580 (3.8 per cent) since 1 October 2014</i>
▲ - 4.1%	Surplus/Deficit against the planned number of personnel needed (Liability) at 1 October 2015 <i>an increase in the deficit from -3.9 per cent, as at 1 October 2014</i>
▲ 25 970	Strength of the Trained FR20 Volunteer Reserve at 1 October 2015 <i>an increase of 2 550 (10.9 per cent) since 1 October 2014</i>
▲ 13 580	People joined the Regular Armed Forces in the past 12 months (1 October 2014 – 30 September 2015) <i>an increase of 1 540 (12.8 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▲ 8 520	People joined the FR20 Volunteer Reserve in the past 12 months (1 October 2014 – 30 September 2015) <i>an increase of 3 360 (65.1 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▼ 18 080	Regular personnel left the Armed Forces in the past 12 months (1 October 2014 – 30 September 2015) <i>a decrease of 3 840 (17.5 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▼ 3 710	FR20 Volunteer Reserve personnel left the Armed Forces in the past 12 months (1 October 2014 – 30 September 2015) <i>a decrease of 1 330 (26.4 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.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-2015>

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)**. In addition, there is an update of quarterly statistics on the Regular Reserve Forces and the number of applications to the UK Armed Forces.

Detailed statistics and historic time series can be found in the **Excel tables**. These include statistics on **separated service** (the proportion of personnel breaching **harmony** guidelines), **rank structure, military salaries** and the number of **applications** to each of the Services. Additional historic statistics have been added to the Excel tables this month; further statistics will be added in due course. In the meantime, historic statistics can be found in the previous publications outlined below. The **glossary** contains definitions of terminology used in this publication.

The next edition of this publication will be published on GOV.UK at 9:30am on 10 December 2015. A calendar of upcoming MOD statistical releases can be found on **GOV.UK**.

Changes to Armed Forces personnel statistics

The Ministry of Defence is implementing changes to Armed Forces personnel statistics. Previous Tri-Service publications have been reviewed, including: **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**.

Following the consultation on **Changes to Ministry of Defence Armed Forces Personnel Statistics**, the above nine publications are being amalgamated into four new publications. The consultation response includes further detail on the changes we are making during 2015-16, including the introduction of this publication. For information on where updates to statistics in previous MOD Tri-Service publications are now located please see the **tables matrix**.

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 relate to the planned Future Force 2020, as set out in the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). SDSR 2010 set out reductions of 17,000 Full-time Armed Forces personnel by 2015. A 'Three Month Exercise' (3ME) and Army 2020 White Paper announced a further 12,000 reductions to the Army, to be fully implemented by 2020, bringing the total number of reductions to the Full-time Armed Forces, from the 2010 position, to approximately 29,000. Furthermore, Army 2020 states the reductions in the size of the Regular Army and the implementation of the Army 2020 structure will be achieved by 2018. In parallel, the Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme, which aims to increase the size of the Reserve Forces, targets the Volunteer Reserve.

Full-time Armed Forces personnel:

In order to meet the targets set out in SDSR 2010 and 3ME, a redundancy programme coupled with adjusted recruiting (intake) and contract extensions was set. This combination of measures enabled the Armed Forces to maintain the right balance of skills across the rank structures into the future. With the redundancy programme now complete, the Services continue to draw on a variety of measures to balance force levels against their 2020 targets.

Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) Programme

2010 The 2010 **Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR)** identified the future Armed Forces that the UK would need over the next ten years and beyond. It identified that the Reserve Forces should be an integral part of this Future Force; providing additional capacity as well as certain specialists whom it would not be practical or cost effective to maintain in the UK Regular Forces.

2011 The **2011 Independent Commission to Review the UK's Reserve Forces**, [available here](#), reported against this context and recommended:

Maritime Reserve should increase to **3,100** trained personnel.

Army Reserve should increase to **30,000** trained personnel.

Royal Air Force Reserves should increase to **1,800** trained personnel.

These became the FR20 Programme trained strength targets.

2013 Information on measures the MOD planned to take in order to achieve these targets is in the **FR20 White Paper "Reserves in the Future Force 2020: Valuable and Valued"** published in July 2013, [available here](#).

Subsequently to this, details of the planned growth of the FR20 over the next 5 years were placed in the House of Commons Library on 19 December 2013. This statement included annual trained strength targets along with intake targets to support the planned growth, and can be viewed in full [here](#).

UK Service Personnel

UK Service Personnel comprise the total **strength** of the military personnel employed by the Ministry of Defence. The current strength of the UK Service Personnel is 196,500, which includes:

- All **UK Regular** personnel and all **Gurkha** personnel (which at 1 October 2015 comprised 78.8 per cent of UK Service Personnel);
- **Volunteer Reserve** personnel (which at 1 October 2015 comprised 17.1 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 FTRS (comprised 4.1 per cent of UK Service Personnel at 1 October 2015).

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 strength of the UK Forces has increased slightly between 1 October 2014 and 1 October 2015, by 0.2 per cent (480 personnel). Over the same period, there has been a decrease in the strength of UK Regular personnel and Gurkhas, driven by planned reductions in the numbers of personnel under SDSR 2010, the 3ME and A2020, and there have been increases in the Reserves populations.

Table 1: UK Forces Strength by Service

Strength	1 Oct 14	1 Oct 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Naval Service	38 020	38 220	+200	0.5%
Army	120 830	121 360	+530	0.4%
Royal Air Force	37 170	36 920	-240	-0.7%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

- The Maritime Reserve has increased by 460 (15.6 per cent) since 1 October 2014, the Army Volunteer Reserve has increased by 3,510 (14.4 per cent) since 1 October 2014 and the RAF Volunteer Reserve has increased by 580 (31.4 per cent) since 1 October 2014.

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

	1 Apr 13	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	1 Jul 15	1 Aug 15	1 Sep 15	1 Oct 15
UK Forces Personnel	211 340	198 810	195 690	195 600	195 600	195 670	196 500
UK Regulars	170 710	159 630	153 720	152 380	152 020	151 700	152 150
Gurkhas	3 510	3 050	2 870	2 720	2 710	2 700	2 690
Volunteer Reserve	30 360	28 860	31 260	32 560	32 920	33 290	33 630
Other Personnel	6 760	7 280	7 840	7 940	7 950	7 980	8 030

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Full-time Trained Strength and Liability

The **Full-time Trained Strength** (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.

- The Strength of the Full-time Trained UK Armed Forces is 141,390, a decrease of 3.8 per cent (5,580 personnel) since 1 October 2014. The Full Time Trained Strength is 29,710 for the RN/RM, 80,430 for the Army and 31,250 for the RAF.
- The Full-time Trained Strength (FTTS) comprises: 138,590 Regular personnel (98.0 per cent); 2,410 Gurkhas (1.7 per cent); and 390 Full Time Reserve Service personnel (0.3 per cent) who can fill Regular posts and are deployable.

Full-time Trained Strength includes all trained UK Regular personnel, Gurkhas and a number of Reserve Forces personnel filling Regular posts whilst serving on Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS).

Liability is the number of Service personnel needed, based on the Defence Planning Round, set for each of the three Services.

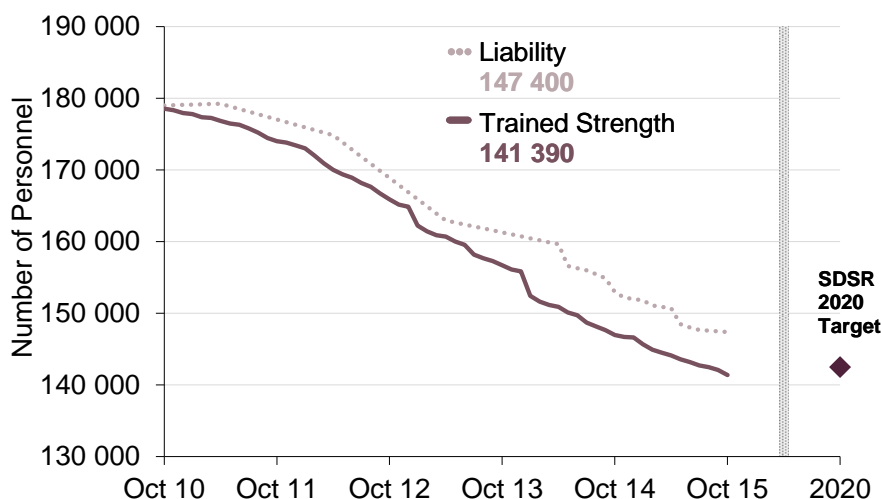
Table 3: Full-Time Trained Strength against the Liability

	1 Apr 13	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	1 Jul 15	1 Aug 15	1 Sep 15	1 Oct 15
Trained Strength	160 710	150 890	144 120	142 730	142 490	142 100	141 390
Liability	162 940	159 640	150 700	147 670	147 580	147 490	147 400
<i>Surplus/Deficit</i>	<i>-2 230</i>	<i>-8 750</i>	<i>-6 580</i>	<i>-4 940</i>	<i>-5 090</i>	<i>-5 390</i>	<i>-6 000</i>
<i>% Surplus/Deficit</i>	<i>-1.4</i>	<i>-5.5</i>	<i>-4.4</i>	<i>-3.3</i>	<i>-3.5</i>	<i>-3.7</i>	<i>-4.1</i>

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

- The current deficit against the Liability is 4.1 per cent for the UK Armed Forces. There is a deficit of 1.8 per cent in the Royal Navy/Royal Marines (RN/RM), 3.9 per cent in the Army and 6.7 per cent in the Royal Air Force (RAF).
- A proportion of the Army deficit (of FTTS against the Liability) is likely to be due to the numbers of Service personnel reducing to meet the targets set out in the SDSR 2010 and 3ME/A2020 and planned Liability reductions not keeping pace. During this transitional drawdown period the published Army Liability will lag behind the number of personnel actually needed due to the way in which it is calculated.
- The SDSR 2010 envisaged that by 2020 the UK Armed Forces will have 142,500 personnel, comprising 29,000 for the RN/RM, 82,000 for the Army (following 3ME/A2020) and 31,500 for the RAF. As at 1 October 2015 the UK Armed Forces as a whole was below the 2020 target announced in 2010 by 1,110 personnel (0.8 per cent) with RN/RM being 710 personnel higher (2.5 per cent), the Army 1,570 personnel lower (1.9 per cent) and the RAF 250 personnel lower (0.8 per cent).

Figure 1: Full-Time Trained Strength against the Liability and SDSR 2020 target



Regular Personnel

As at 1 October 2015, the trained and untrained strength of the UK Regular Forces (which excludes Gurkhas) was 152,150, of which, 138,590 were trained personnel.

- The largest numbers of trained UK Regular Forces personnel are in the Army followed by the RAF and the RN/RM.
- There are 13,560 untrained personnel in the UK Regular Forces with 8,180 of them being in the Army. The untrained strength reflects the number of personnel who can potentially join the trained strength.

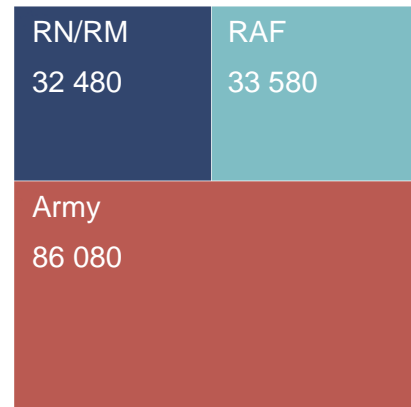


Figure 2: Trained and untrained Strength of the UK Regular Forces, by Service, as at 1 October 2015

Intake and Outflow since July 2010

Intake and Outflow over the past 5 years are presented in Figure 3. Since 2010 outflow has exceeded intake for each 12 month period, following the announcement of the reduction in the size of the Armed Forces.

- Excluding personnel who left on redundancy, in the 12 months to 30 September 2015, 3,650 more personnel left the UK Regular Forces, than joined. This difference has reduced compared with the 12 months to 30 September 2014, when 5,810 more personnel left the UK Regular Forces than joined.

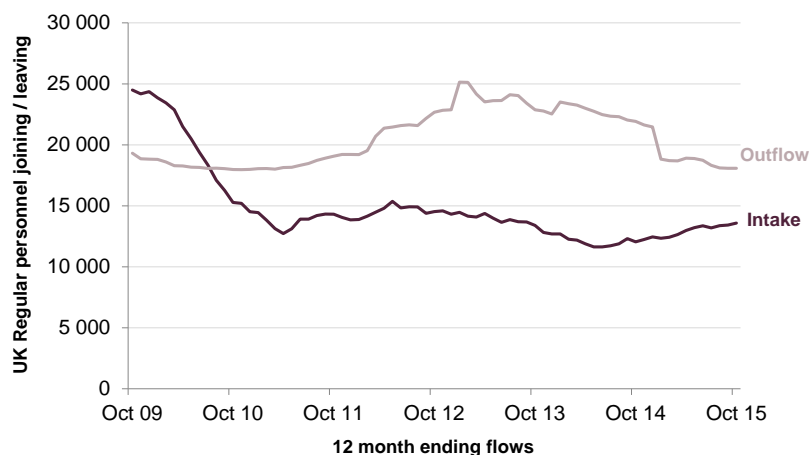
Intake

- Intake into the trained and untrained UK Regular Forces was 13,580 in the 12 months to 30 September 2015. This has increased slightly compared to the 12 months to 31 August 2015 (13,420) and is up from 12,040 in the 12 months to 30 September 2014.
- Of the current intake, 9.0 per cent was into the Officers and 91.0 per cent was into the Other Ranks.
- From the beginning of the financial year on 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015; 7,180 people have joined. This is an increase compared with intake of 6,580 in the same period last year (1 April to 30 September 2014).
- The intake pattern for each Service differs. Compared to the 12 months to 30 September 2014, intake to the RN/RM has remained relatively stable, the Army has increased by 18.7 per cent and the RAF has increased by 10.6 per cent.

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.

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



Regular Personnel

Outflow

- Outflow from the trained and untrained UK Regular Forces was 18,080 in the 12 months to 30 September 2015; down from 21,920 in the 12 months to 30 September 2014.
- From the beginning of the financial year on 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015; 8,760 people have left the UK Regulars. This is a decrease compared with outflow of 9,600 in the same period last year (1 April to 30 September 2014).
- In the 12 months to 30 September 2015, 840 trained and untrained personnel left the UK Regular Forces under Tranche 4 of the Armed Forces Redundancy Programme. This compares to 4,060 in the 12 months to 30 September 2014, leaving on Tranche 3; the largest of the four Tranches of redundancies. As a result, overall outflow is now lower.

Armed Forces Redundancy Programme Tranche 1-4 statistics are available at:

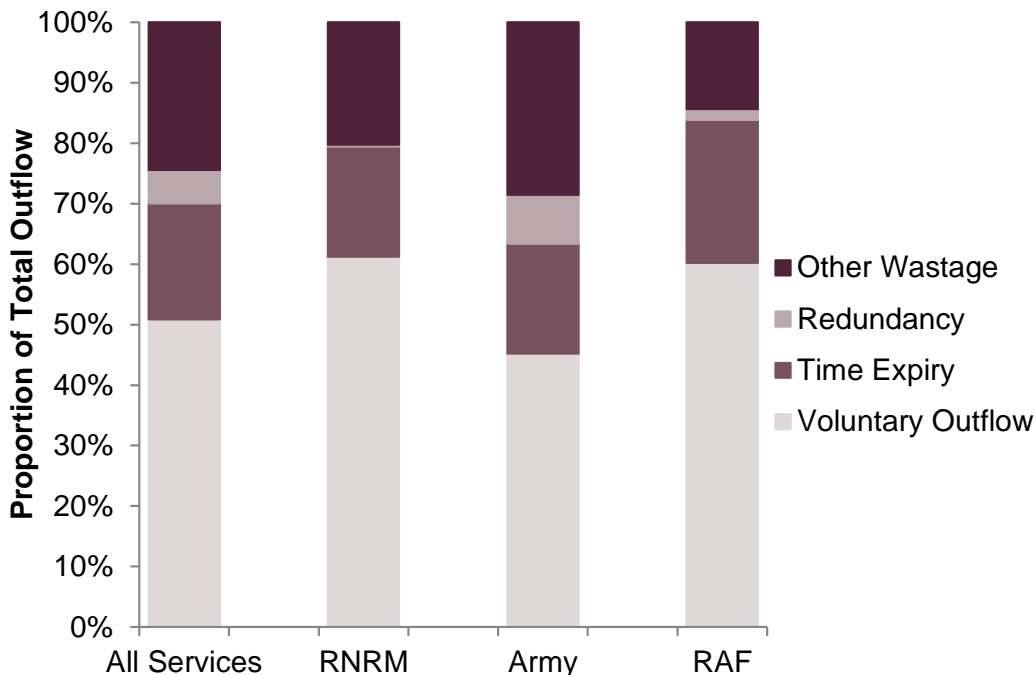
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-redundancy-program-statistics-index>

At a Tri-Service level, more personnel left the trained UK Regular Forces by Voluntary Outflow (VO) than for any other reason (Figure 4).

- In the 12 months to 30 September 2015, 7,730 trained personnel left through VO.
- The VO rate is higher amongst Other Ranks (5.6 per cent), compared to Officers (5.0 per cent).

There is no single reason why personnel leave on Voluntary Outflow, but the **Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey** shows reasons that Service personnel have given for leaving the Armed Forces, including the impact of Service life on family and personal life and opportunities outside the Armed Forces.

Figure 4: Outflow from the trained UK Regular Forces, by exit reason, in the 12 months to 30 September 2015



Voluntary Outflow

encompasses all trained 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 Wastage is outflow from the trained strength due to, amongst others, medical reasons, misconduct, compassionate, dismissals and death.

Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme monitoring

The [written ministerial statement](#) released on the 19th December 2013 details the planned growth of the FR20 over the next 5 years. Progress against the annual FR20 trained strength and intake targets is reported in tables 6a and 7c of the [Excel tables](#).

FR20 Volunteer Reserve Strengths as at 1 October 2015

The **total trained and untrained strength** of the FR20 Tri-Service Volunteer Reserve was 33,280; an increase of 4,810 or 16.9 per cent since 1 October 2014.

The **trained strength** of the FR20 Tri-Service Volunteer Reserve was 25,970; an increase of 2,550 or 10.9 per cent since 1 October 2014.

Table 4: FR20 Volunteer Reserve strength by Service

		1 Oct 14	1 Oct 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Maritime Reserve	Trained	1 920	2 190	+270	+14.0%
	Untrained	1 040	1 240	+190	+18.4%
Army Reserve	Trained	20 040	22 040	+2000	+10.0%
	Untrained	3 610	5 380	+1760	+48.8%
RAF Reserves	Trained	1 460	1 740	+280	+19.2%
	Untrained	390	690	+300	+76.3%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

FR20 Intake as at 1 October 2015

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

In the 12 months between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015 **8,520 people** joined the Tri-Service FR20 Volunteer Reserve (2,920 trained and 5,600 untrained); a **65.1 per cent increase** on the same 12 month period last year.

Table 5: Intake to FR20 Volunteer Reserve, trained and untrained

Intake	1 Oct 13	1 Oct 14	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
	30 Sep 14	30 Sep 15		
Maritime Reserve	830	1 050	+220	+26.5%
Army Reserve	3 760	6 530	+2 760	+73.4%
RAF Reserves	570	950	+380	+66.9%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

FR20 Outflow as at 1 October 2015

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

In the 12 months between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015 **3,710 people** left the Tri-Service FR20 Volunteer Reserve (2,510 trained and 1,200 untrained); a **26.4 per cent decrease** compared to the same 12 month period last year.

Table 6: Outflow from FR20 Volunteer Reserve, trained and untrained

Outflow	1 Oct 13	1 Oct 14	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
	30 Sep 14	30 Sep 15		
Maritime Reserve	460	580	+120	+26.1%
Army Reserve	4 290	2 760	-1 530	-35.7%
RAF Reserves	290	370	+80	+28.7%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Regular Reserve Forces

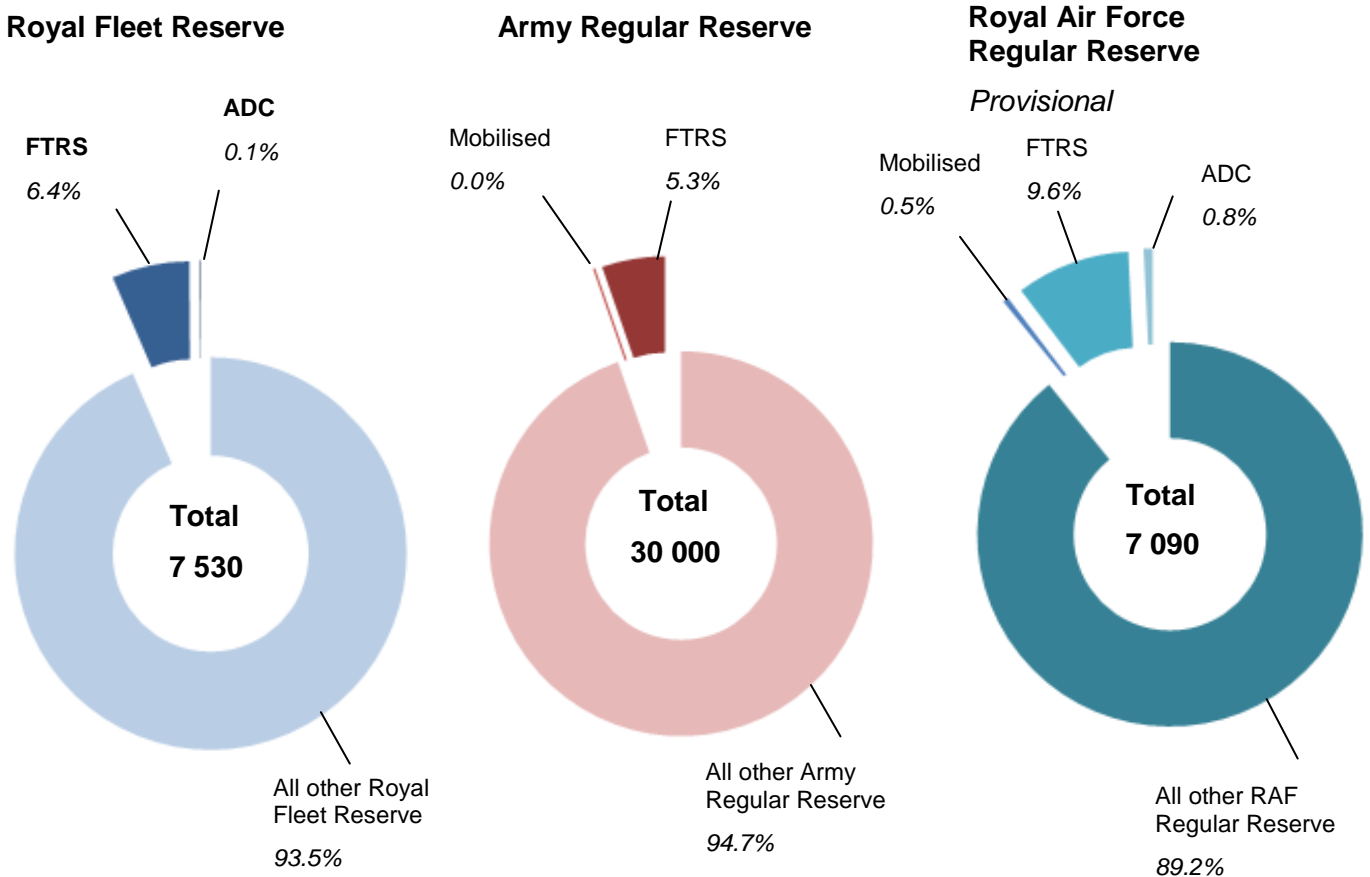
The Regular Reserve Forces comprises the Royal Fleet Reserve, Army Regular Reserve and the Royal Air Force Regular Reserve.

Regular Reserve personnel are former members of a UK Regular force who retain an obligation to be called up for service in times of need. The duration of this is determined by their previous contract type, length of Regular service and reason for leaving. If an ex-Regular service personnel goes on to join the Volunteer Reserve forces they will be counted as members of the Volunteer Reserves.

The serving component of the Regular Reserve can be utilised in the following ways as defined in the Reserve Forces Act 1996:

- **Mobilised:** can be called-out into permanent service under certain conditions e.g. deployment on operations.
- **High Readiness Reserve (HRR):** increased obligation for call-out when they have the skills that may be needed at short notice.
- **Additional Duties Commitment (ADC):** Undertake a part-time additional role.
- **Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS):** Undertake a full-time role for a set period of time.

Figure 5: Regular Reserve Forces utilisation as at 1 October 2015



There are varying patterns of utilisation of the Regular Reserve Forces amongst the services. The RAF Regular Reserve utilise the largest percentage of their population at 10.8%, followed by the Royal Fleet Reserve at 6.5% and the Army Reserve at 5.3%.

Applications to the Armed Forces

Recruitment Application Process

Due to the differences in the recruitment application processes the three Services do not adopt the same definition of an application; therefore application numbers cannot be added together to show total Armed Forces applications. It should also be noted that figures relate to the **number of applications received and not the number of applicants**, since one applicant may make several applications. In addition, the number of applications received does not directly relate to the intake figures presented in this report since people withdraw their applications for a number of reasons (some examples are provided below) and there is a time-lag between an application being received and an individual successfully being taken onto untrained strength.

Applications are partly a response to recruiting marketing; they reflect those numbers in the target audience who are disposed to apply to serve in the Armed Forces. However, applications can also be the result of an awareness of the Services driven by a number of other factors, for example, knowledge of military personnel and their families, careers advice and economic circumstances.

There are many reasons why the number of applications is greater than the number of those commencing training (intake). The main causes of applicant failure include:

- Failing Security clearance;
- Not having the required Residency;
- Not achieving fitness entry standards;
- Failing the medical scrutiny;
- Not achieving the required Recruiting Test score for the desired branch/trade and not electing to continue with an alternative;
- Applicants withdraw for their own reasons (e.g. change of mind) during the process.

whilst the main causes of application failure are:

- Applicants may have submitted several other applications for employment (including more than one application to join the Armed Forces) and accept another offer.
- Applications can be submitted to satisfy the requirements of job seeking with no intention to join.

Applications Figures

The figures in this publication include all applications to the UK Regular and Volunteer Reserve Forces and are broken down by Officers and Other Ranks. Due to the differences in the application processes between each Service, three separate tables/graphs are produced.

Applications to the Armed Forces – RN/RM

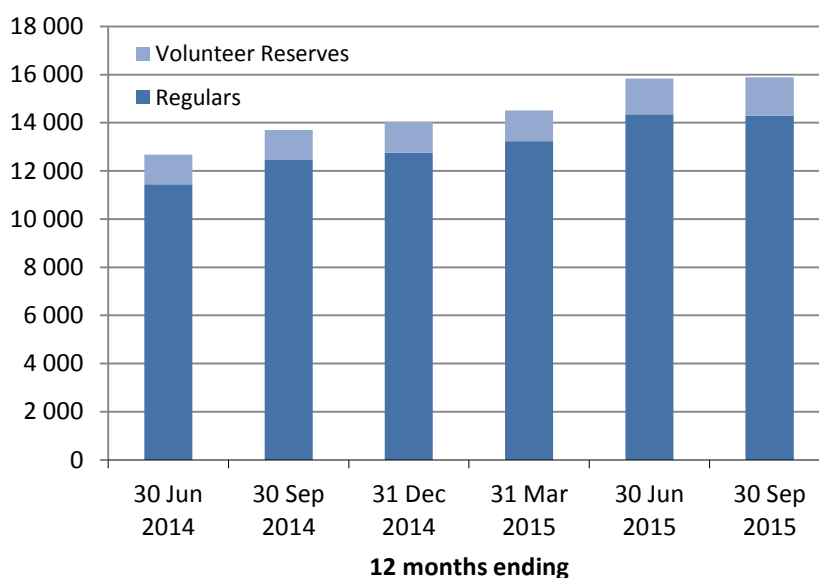
Table 7: RN/RM Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

Applications	1 Oct 13 30 Sep 14	1 Oct 14 30 Sep 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Regulars	12 450	14 300	+ 1 850	+14.9%
Volunteer Reserves	1 260	1 590	+ 330	+26.2%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

There were **14,300 applications** to join the Regulars between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015, which is a **14.9 per cent increase** on the previous 12 months. **1,590 applications** were received to join the Volunteer Reserves between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015, which is a **26.2 per cent increase** on the previous 12 months.

Figure 7: Applications to the RN/RM split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves



There has been an overall upward trend for applications to join the RN/RM Regular and Volunteer Reserves Forces with a high in the **12 months to 30 September 2015 of 15,890**.

This upward trend is largely attributed to the Regulars, as there has been an **increase of 1,850** applications received since the same 12 month period last year. Volunteer Reserves applications have also **increased by 330** over the same time period.

Applications to the Armed Forces - Army

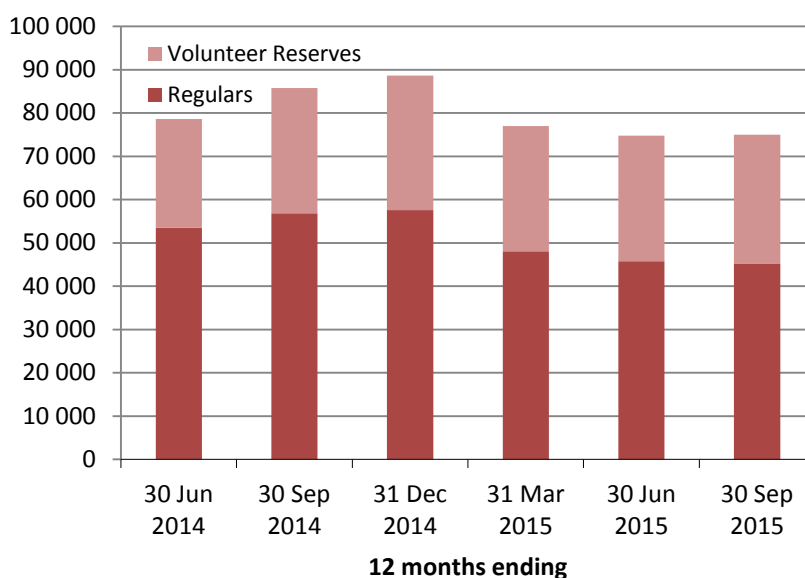
Table 8: Army Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

Applications	1 Oct 13 30 Sep 14	1 Oct 14 30 Sep 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Regulars	56 840	45 240	- 11 600	-20.4%
Volunteer Reserves	28 960	29 730	+ 770	+2.7%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

There were **45,240 applications** to join the Regulars between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015, which is a **20.4 per cent decrease** on the 12 months previous. **29,730 applications** were received to join the Volunteer Reserve between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015, which is a **2.7 per cent increase** on the 12 months previous.

Figure 8: Applications to the Army split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves



There was an upward trend for applications to the Army Regular and Volunteer Reserve Forces with a high of **88,670 for the 12 months to 31 Dec 14**. Since then the number of applications has reduced but remained at a steady state for the past three quarter points.

Comparing the most recent 12 month period to the same 12 month period last year shows an **11,600 decrease** in applications received by the Regulars. This is partly compensated by an **increase of 770** applications to the Volunteer Reserves.

Applications to the Armed Forces - RAF

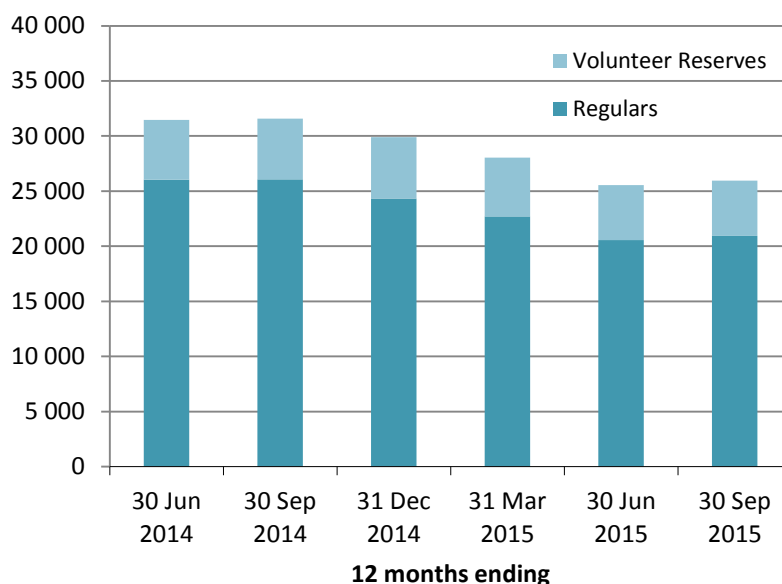
Table 9: RAF Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

Applications	1 Oct 13 30 Sep 14	1 Oct 14 30 Sep 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Regulars	26 070	20 930	- 5 140	-19.7%
Volunteer Reserves	5 520	5 020	- 500	-9.1%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

There were **20,930 applications** to join the Regulars between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015, which is a **19.7 per cent decrease** on the 12 months previous. **5,020 applications** were received to join the Volunteer Reserve between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015, which is a **9.1 per cent decrease** on the 12 months previous.

Figure 9: Applications to the RAF split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves



There has been an overall downward trend for applications to join the RAF Regular and Volunteer Reserve Forces; the lowest point being **25,560 for the 12 months to 30 Jun 15**. This has increased slightly by **380 for the 12 months to 30 Sep 15**.

Both the Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves have decreased since the same 12 month period last year, with a **5,140 and 500 decrease** in applications received, respectively.

Further Information

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.

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.

Revisions

Statistics for the RAF Regular Reserve totals are reported as provisional this month, we expect to finalise the figures next month.

There are no regular planned revisions of this Bulletin.

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:

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service) Telephone: 0207 807 8896
Email: DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/the-freedom-of-information-act>

Other contact points within Defence Statistics are:

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Please note that these email addresses may change later in the year.

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