



# UK Armed Forces Monthly Service Personnel Statistics 1 October 2016

Published 17 November 2016

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.

The change in definition of trained strength for Army has been incorporated into this publication from this edition (1 October 2016) onwards (see page 2),

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

▲ 197 120	<b>Strength of UK Forces Service Personnel</b> at 1 October 2016 <i>an increase of 610 (0.3 per cent) since 1 October 2015</i>
▼ 139 480	<b>Full-time Trained Strength (RN/RM &amp; RAF) and Full-time Trade Trained Strength (Army)</b> at 1 October 2016 <i>a decrease of 1 920 (1.4 per cent) since 1 October 2015</i>
▲ - 4.3%	<b>Deficit against the planned number of personnel needed (Liability)</b> at 1 October 2016 <i>This is an increase in the deficit from -4.1 per cent as at 1 October 2015</i>
30 580	<b>Strength of the Trained Future Reserves 2020</b> at 1 October 2016
▲ 13 650	<b>People joined the UK Regular Armed Forces</b> in the past 12 months (1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016) <i>an increase of 60 (0.5 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▼ 15 580	<b>Regular personnel left the Armed Forces</b> in the past 12 months (1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016) <i>a decrease of 2 500 (13.8 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▼ 7 240	<b>People joined the Future Reserves 2020</b> in the past 12 months (1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016) <i>a decrease of 1 280 (15.0 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▲ 4 980	<b>Future Reserves 2020 personnel left the Armed Forces</b> in the past 12 months (1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016) <i>an increase of 1 270 (34.2 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](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tri-service-personnel-bulletin-background-quality-reports)

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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-2016>

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)**. An update to statistics on the number of **Applications** to each of the Services is also included this month.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) announced on 29th 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 this edition onwards. This affects statistics in some of the accompanying Excel tables, specifically tables: 3a, 3e, 5a, 5b, 5c and 5d. Terminology has also been updated in Excel tables 3c and 4.

Whilst the total RAF liability has been agreed, the composition is undergoing review. The Officer and Other Rank breakdown is currently marked as provisional for RAF, for 1 April - 1 October 2016, along with the Tri-Service Officer and Other Rank breakdown (see page 13 for further information).

Statistics on Exit Reason for the Army (specifically Voluntary Outflow, Time Expiry and Other), for UK Regular personnel, have been marked as provisional from 1 February 2016 edition onwards (see page 13 for further information). The corresponding Tri-Service totals are also marked as provisional.

Detailed statistics, including unrounded figures, and historic time series can be found in the **Excel tables**. These include quarterly statistics on **Separated Service** (the proportion of personnel breaching harmony guidelines) **Service and Civilian Personnel** 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 will be published on GOV.UK at 9:30am on 8 December 2016. 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

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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 29th June 2016, the MOD [announced](#) that the Army will in future plan to use Regular and Reserve Phase 1 trained personnel in response to crises within the UK. Following this, the term 'Trained Strength' will 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 November 2016.

From this (1 October 2016) publication 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 will now be 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<sup>rd</sup> 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 8th 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 197,120, which includes:

- All **UK Regular** personnel and all **Gurkha** personnel (which at 1 October 2016 comprised 77.6 per cent of UK Service Personnel);
- **Volunteer Reserve** personnel (which at 1 October 2016 comprised 18.2 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 2016 comprised 4.2 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 strength of the UK Forces<sup>1</sup> has increased between 1 October 2015 and 1 October 2016, by 0.3 per cent (610 personnel). Over the same period, there has been a decrease in the strength of UK Regular personnel and there have been increases in the Reserves populations. The total strength of the Regular Forces has decreased by 1,900 (1.3%) between 1 October 2015 and 1 October 2016. The total strength of the Volunteer Reserve has increased by 2,180 (6.5%) between 1 October 2015 and 1 October 2016.

**Table 1: Recent Trends in the Strength of the UK Forces<sup>1</sup>**

	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	1 Apr 16	1 Jul 16	1 Aug 16	1 Sep 16	1 Oct 16
<b>UK Forces Personnel</b>	<b>198 810</b>	<b>195 690</b>	<b>197 090</b>	<b>196 690</b>	<b>196 590</b>	<b>196 290</b> <sup>r</sup>	<b>197 120</b>
UK Regulars	159 630	153 720	151 000	150 220	149 920	149 500	150 250
Gurkhas	3 050	2 870	2 860	2 830	2 820	2 810	2 800
Volunteer Reserve	28 860	31 260	35 070	35 390	35 600	35 720	35 810
Other Personnel	7 280	7 840	8 170	8 250	8 260	8 260	8 250

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

**Table 2: UK Forces<sup>1</sup> Strength by Service**

Strength	1 Oct 14	1 Oct 15	1 Oct 16	Increase/Decrease 1 Oct 15 - 1 Oct 16	% Increase/Decrease 1 Oct 15 - 1 Oct 16
Naval Service	38 020	38 220	38 300	+80	0.2%
Army	120 830	121 370	121 870	+500	0.4%
Royal Air Force	37 170	36 920	36 950	+30	0.1%

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

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Following [public announcement](#) and [public consultation](#) the definition of Army Trained Strength has changed. From 1 October 2016, UK Regular 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 personnel who have passed Phase 1 and Phase 2 training, in the RN/RM & RAF, and UK Regular 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 has been implemented in this release (1 October 2016 edition).

As at 1 October 2016, the Tri-Service Full-time Trained Strength was 144,180. A Service breakdown is shown below in table 3. Historical comparisons are not available for the Army because we're are not able to identify a split between Phase 1 and Phase 2 training prior to October 2016.

**Table 3: Full-time Trained strength by service**

	<b>1 Oct 16</b>
Royal Navy / Royal Marines	29 520
Army	83 770
Royal Air Force	30 900

## 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.

**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.

- The FTTS (RN/RM & RAF) and FTTTS (Army) is 139,480, a decrease of 1.4 per cent (1,920 personnel) since 1 October 2015.
- The FTTS for the RN/RM is 29,520 and 30,900 for the RAF. The FTTTS is 79,060 for the Army.
- The FTTS (RN/RM & RAF) and FTTTS (Army) comprises: 136,450 Regular personnel (97.8 per cent); 2,500 Gurkhas (1.8 per cent); and 520 Full Time Reserve Service personnel (0.4 per cent) who can fill Regular posts and count against the liability.

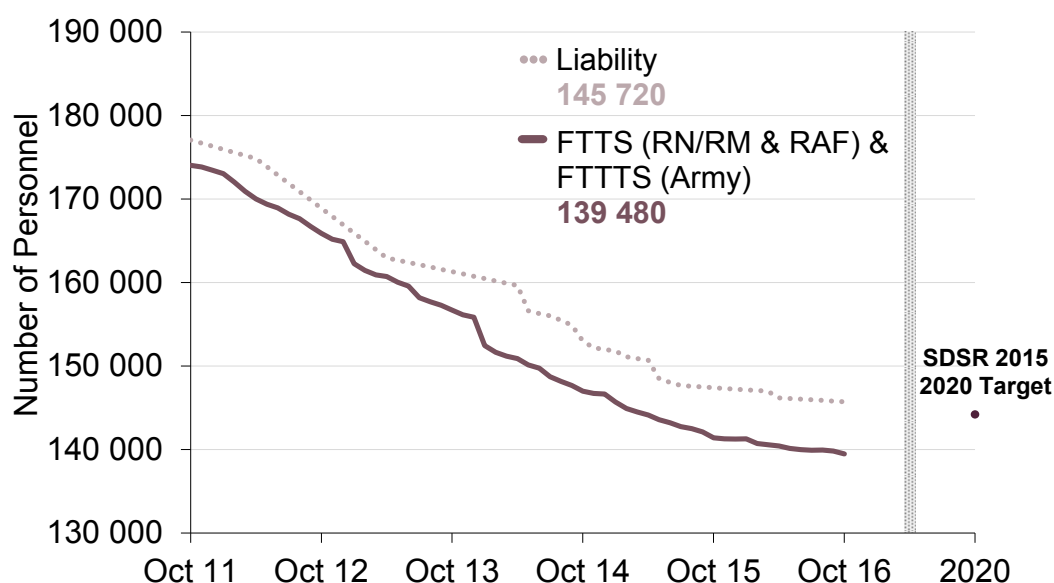
**Table 4: FTTS (RN/RM & RAF) & FTTTS (Army) against the Liability**

	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	1 Apr 16	1 Jul 16	1 Aug 16	1 Sep 16	1 Oct 16
FTTS (RN/RM & RAF) & FTTTS (Army)	150 890	144 120	140 430	139 910	139 940	139 810	139 480
Liability	159 640	150 700	146 190	145 950	145 870	145 800	145 720
<i>Surplus/Deficit</i>	<i>-8 750</i>	<i>-6 580</i>	<i>-5 750</i>	<i>-6 040</i>	<i>-5 930</i>	<i>-5 990</i>	<i>-6 240</i>
<i>% Surplus/Deficit</i>	<i>-5.5</i>	<i>-4.4</i>	<i>-3.9</i>	<i>-4.1</i>	<i>-4.1</i>	<i>-4.1</i>	<i>-4.3</i>

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

- The current deficit against the Liability is 4.3 per cent for the UK Armed Forces. There is a deficit of 2.1 per cent in the Royal Navy/Royal Marines (RN/RM), 4.3 per cent in the Army and 6.2 per cent in the Royal Air Force (RAF).
- The SDSR 2015 envisaged that by 2020 the UK Armed Forces would have 144,200 personnel, comprising 30,450 for the RN/RM, 82,000 for the Army and 31,750 for the RAF.

**Figure 1: FTTS (RN/RM & RAF) and FTTTS (Army) against Liability and 2020 target derived from SDSR 2015**





# UK Regular Personnel

As at 1 October 2016, the trained and untrained strength of the UK Regular Forces (which excludes Gurkhas) was 150,250.

There are 9,380 untrained personnel in the UK Regular Forces, of which 3,710 are in the Army. The untrained strength reflects the number of personnel who can potentially join the trained strength.

**Table 5: UK Regular Forces Strength by Service**

Strength	1 Oct 15		1 Oct 16	
<b>RN/RM</b>	<b>32 480</b>		<b>32 500</b>	
Of which trained	29 450	90.7%	29 200	89.9%
<b>Army</b>	<b>86 080</b>		<b>84 490</b>	
Of which trained	77 910	90.5%	80 780	95.6%
Of which trade trained			76 370	90.4%
<b>RAF</b>	<b>33 580</b>		<b>33 270</b>	
Of which trained	31 240	93.0%	30 880	92.8%

**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.

*Note: || Denotes break in series; the definition of 'Trained' for Army has changed from this edition (1 October 2016) onwards (see page 5). Hence the **1 October 2016 Army Trained Strength figures cannot be compared to earlier figures**. However, the 1 October 2016 Army trade trained figure is comparable to the 1 October 2015 Trained figure.*

## Intake and Outflow since 2010

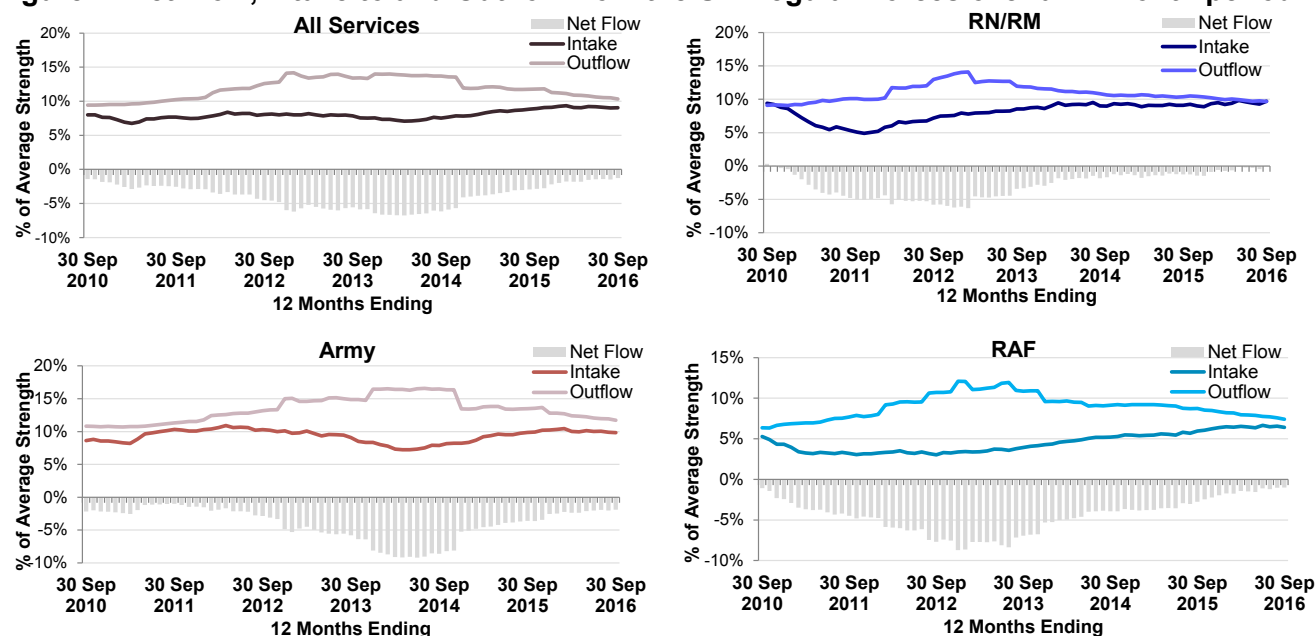
Intake and Outflow over the past six years are presented in Figure 2. Since 2010 outflow has exceeded intake for each 12 month period.

- Excluding personnel who left on redundancy, in the 12 months to 30 September 2016, there was a net outflow of 1,930 personnel from the UK Regular Forces. This difference has reduced compared with the 12 months to 30 September 2015, when 3,650 more personnel left the UK Regular Forces than joined.

## Intake

- Intake into the trained and untrained UK Regular Forces was 13,650 in the 12 months to 30 September 2016. This has increased from 13,580 in the 12 months to 30 September 2015.
- Of the current intake, 9.9 per cent was into Officers and 90.1 per cent was into Other Ranks.
- Compared to the 12 months to 30 September 2015, intake to the RN/RM has increased by 5.7 per cent, intake to the Army has decreased by 2.6 per cent and the RAF has increased by 5.8 per cent.

**Figure 2: Net Flow, 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 15,580 in the 12 months to 30 September 2016; down from 18,080 in the 12 months to 30 September 2015.
- In the 12 months to 30 September 2016, less than 5 trained and untrained personnel left the UK Regular Forces as part of the UK Armed Forces Redundancy Programme. This compares to 840 in the 12 months to 30 September 2015.

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

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

**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.

The following statistics on exit reason are **provisional** (see introduction for further information). At a Tri-Service level, more personnel left the trained (RN/RM & RAF) and trade trained (Army) UK Regular Forces by Voluntary Outflow (VO) than for any other reason (Figure 3).

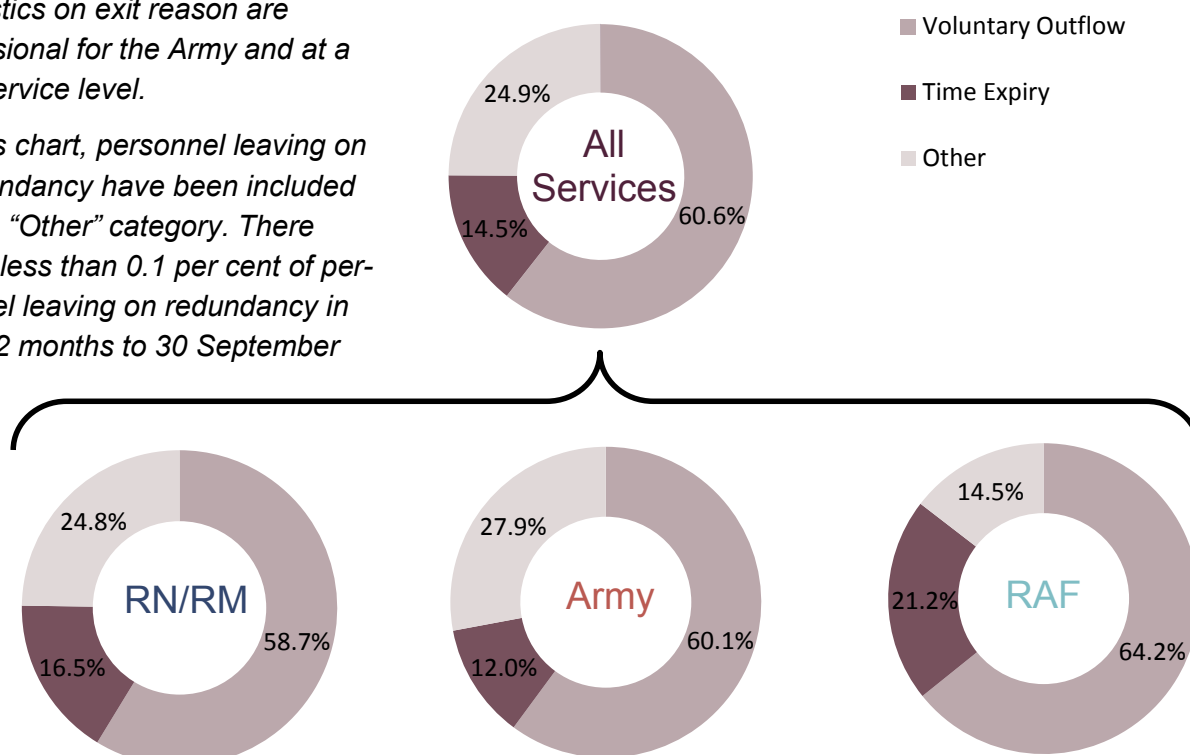
- In the 12 months to 30 September 2016, 7,540 trained (RN/RM & RAF) and trade trained (Army) personnel left through VO; provisionally the VO rate was 5.5 per cent. This is a decrease from 7,730 in the 12 months to 30 September 2015 and a VO rate of 5.5 per cent
- In the 12 months to 30 September 2016, the provisional VO rate is slightly higher amongst Other Ranks (5.7 per cent), compared to Officers (4.4 per cent).

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 3: Outflow of trained (RN/RM & RAF) and trade trained (Army) UK Regulars by exit reason (12 months to 30 September 2016)**

Statistics on exit reason are provisional for the Army and at a Tri-Service level.

In this chart, personnel leaving on Redundancy have been included in the "Other" category. There were less than 0.1 per cent of personnel leaving on redundancy in the 12 months to 30 September 2016.





# Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme monitoring

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has [consulted](#) on changes to the Army trained strength definition and the removal of the FR20 intake targets.

MOD has released revised Future Reserves 2020 trained strength growth profiles in the [Written Ministerial Statement](#) released on 8th November 2016. Reporting of the growth of the Reserves will be based on trained strength profiles only.

## Future Reserves 2020 Strength

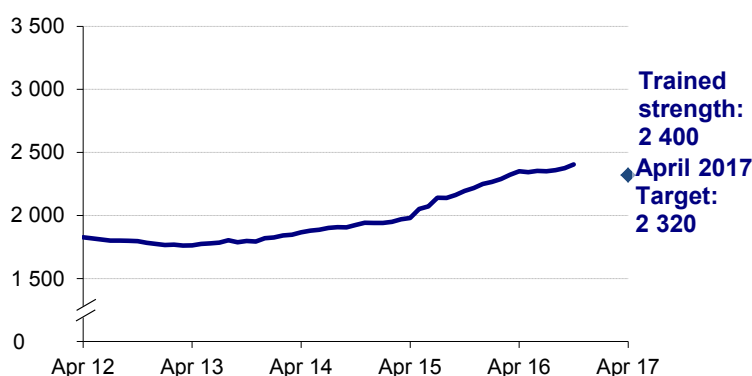
Progress against FR20 population trained strength targets is reported in table 6a of the [Excel tables](#).

The total **trained and untrained strength** of the Tri-Service Future Reserves 2020 was 35,540; an increase of 2,260 or 6.8 per cent since 1 October 2015.

### 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.

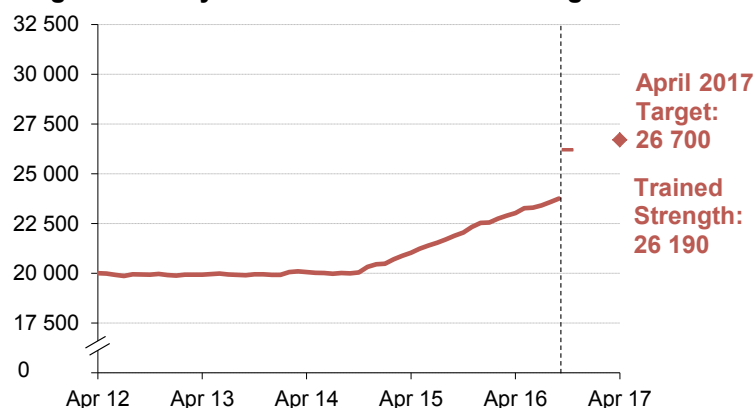
**Figure 4: Maritime Reserve trained strength**



The Maritime Reserve total strength as at 1 October 2016 was 3,480 this is an increase of 50 personnel (1.3 per cent) since 1 October 2015.

Figure 4 shows that the Maritime Reserve trained strength was 2,400 as at 1 October 2016. This is an increase of 210 personnel (9.6 per cent) since 1 October 2015.

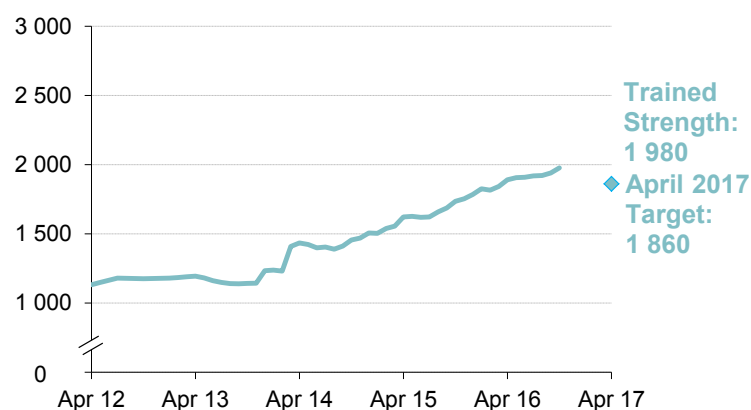
**Figure 5: Army Reserve FR20 trained strength**



The Army Reserve total strength as at 1 October 2016 was 29,410 this an increase of 1,990 personnel (7.3 per cent) since 1 October 2015.

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 26,190 as at 1 October 2016.

**Figure 6: RAF Reserves trained strength**



The RAF Reserves total strength as at 1 October 2016 was 2,650 this is an increase of 220 personnel (9.2 per cent) since 1 October 2015.

Figure 6 shows that as at 1 October 2016 the RAF Reserves trained strength was 1,980. This is an increase of 240 personnel (13.9 per cent) since 1 October 2015.

## 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 October 2015 and 30 September 2016, **intake** to the Tri-Service Future Reserves 2020 population was **7,240 people**; a **15.0 per cent decrease** on the same 12 month period in the previous year.

**Table 6: Intake to Future Reserves 2020 population, trained and untrained**

	1 Oct 14	1 Oct 15	Increase/	% Increase/
<b>Intake</b>	<b>30 Sep 15</b>	<b>30 Sep 16</b>	<b>Decrease</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
Maritime Reserve	1 050	960	-90	-8.6%
Army Reserve FR20	6 530	5 560	-970	-14.9%
RAF Reserves	950	730	-220	-23.1%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

### 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 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 2015 and 30 September 2016 **outflow** from the Tri-Service Future Reserves 2020 population was **4,980 people**; a **34.2 per cent increase** compared with the same 12 month period in the previous year.

**Table 7: Outflow from Future Reserves 2020, trained and untrained**

	1 Oct 14	1 Oct 15	Increase/	% Increase/
<b>Outflow</b>	<b>30 Sep 15</b>	<b>30 Sep 16</b>	<b>Decrease</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
Maritime Reserve	580	910	+330	+55.8%
Army Reserve FR20	2 760	3 560	+800	+29.2%
RAF Reserves	370	500	+140	+37.2%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

# Applications to the Armed Forces

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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

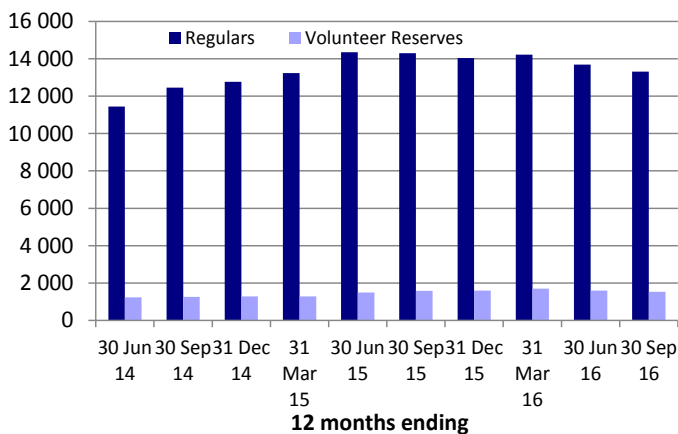
The main causes of **application** failure (i.e. the applicant declines an offer to join):

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



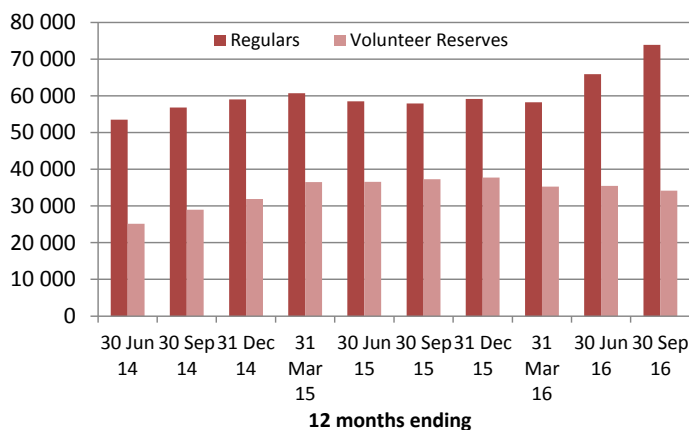
**Table 8: RN/RM Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves**

Applications	1 Oct 14 30 Sep 15	1 Oct 15 30 Sep 16	Change	%
Regulars	14 300	13 310	- 990	-7.0%
Volunteer Reserves	1 590	1 530	- 60	-3.6%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

The number of applications to join the RN/RM Regular Forces has decreased slightly since last quarter. There was an overall **decrease of 990** applications in the **12 months to 30 Sep 16** compared with the same period last year.

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



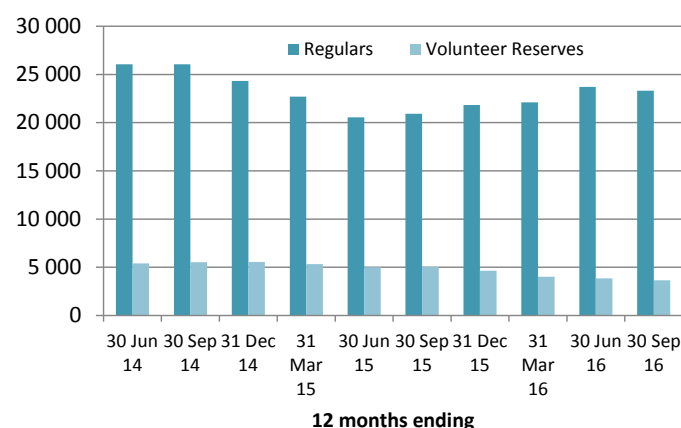
**Table 9: Army Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves**

Applications	1 Oct 14 30 Sep 15	1 Oct 15 30 Sep 16	Change	%
Regulars	57 940	73 860	+15 920	+27.5%
Volunteer Reserves	37 270	34 160	-3 110	-8.3%

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 two quarters. The increase could, in part, be 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. Since the same period last year, there has been an overall **increase of 15,920** applications to join the UK Regular Forces.

**Figure 9: 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 14 30 Sep 15	1 Oct 15 30 Sep 16	Change	%
Regulars	20 930	23 300	+2 380	+11.4%
Volunteer Reserves	5 020	3 640	-1 380	-27.4%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

There has been a net increase of 1,000 applications to the RAF as a whole in the **12 months to 30 Sep 16** compared with the same period last year. The RAF Regulars have seen a large **2,380 increase** in applications offset by a **1,380 decrease** in Reserves applications for the same time period.

## Further Information

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### 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

Following a review of the methodology used to identify Phase 1 and Phase 2 training status of Army Reserve personnel the trained strength of the Army Reserve has increased by one from 1 August 2014 to 1 November 2014. This has also resulted in revisions to the number of personnel counted against Army Reserve New Entrant and Trained Direct Entrant targets between 1 June 2014 and 1 January 2016. The net change in New Entrants over this period is minus 23 and the net change in Trained Direct Entrants is minus one personnel.

Whilst the total RAF liability has been agreed, the composition is undergoing review. The Officer and Other Rank breakdown is currently marked as provisional for RAF, from 1 April to 1 October 2016, along with the Tri-Service Officer and Other Rank breakdown. As a result, the associated surplus / deficit figures are also provisional. These figures will be finalised in due course.

Statistics on Exit Reason for the Army (specifically Voluntary Outflow, Time Expiry and Other), for UK Regular personnel, are marked as provisional from 1 February edition onwards (see page 7 and Excel tables 4 and 5d). The corresponding Tri-Service totals are also marked as provisional. This is due to the implementation of improvements to the quality assurance process. These statistics will be finalised in due course. The associated historic statistics will also be affected and therefore revised.

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 convenience 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.)

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### 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:

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

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