

# Background Quality Report

## Statistical Series 6 – Other

### Bulletin 6.02 – Accommodation

## 1. Introduction

### Overview

Bulletin 6.02 is an annual publication which provides figures on Service Family Accommodation (SFA), including counts of dwellings (permanent holdings) by country, counts and percentages of vacant dwellings and counts by standard for condition..

Due to a change in the format of the UK Defence Statistics Compendium publication, Bulletin 6.02 is the successor to Chapter 6 of UKDS, Tables 6.4 – 6.5. Therefore, information on Land Holdings, which was originally published in Chapter 6 (Tables 6.1 – 6.3), will now be released in its own publication (Bulletin 6.01).

Data for both are provided from administrative systems in the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO). All the Tables in this Chapter are National Statistics.

Defence Statistics (formerly known as DASA) has published land holding and building statistics since 1992.

### Methodology and Production

Data on SFA is provided by regional contractors to DIO who enter it into an electronic asset register (database). Data are extracted from this system by DIO and collated to produce Tables 6.02.01 and 6.02.02 in Bulletin 6.02.

### Contact details

The Head of Defence Statistics (Web Development & Surveys) is responsible for Bulletin 6.02.

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Defence Statistics welcome feedback on this Background Quality Report or any of the statistics mentioned.

## 2. Relevance

Bulletin 6.02 is the primary means by which information on SFA is made widely available.

The information in this Bulletin has a range of users including the media, politicians, academic researchers and the general public who use the information to

- gain an understanding of size and condition of Service Family Accommodation;
- set the context for other information on Defence;

Public accountability requires that MOD should account for its assets, as well as knowing where they are and how they are used. Although internal systems may be sufficient for internal use, publication as a Statistical Bulletin makes this information available publicly, regularly and as a time series. Definitions and other information are also included in the Tables so that the data are set in context and can be understood by a lay audience, as well as those with professional interests.

The Tables also provide evidence for the outcomes of policy initiatives, such as reductions in the percentage of vacant SFA and improvements to the surveyed condition of the stock of SFA. Generally, this is of interest in terms of policy effectiveness and the use of public funds, but may be of particular interest to those concerned with the welfare of the Armed Forces and their families.

## 3. Accuracy

The data in these tables have been extracted from a MOD database which is considered to be reliable. There are no significant concerns over the accuracy of data. In addition to being checked by DIO staff who have carried out data extraction / collation, the Tables are reviewed by the DIO Board as a part of the validation process. The data in these Tables have also been subjected to a "sense check" by Government Statisticians.

## 4. Timeliness and Punctuality

As a National Statistic, the release date for Bulletin 6.02 was pre-announced on the [Publication Release Dates](#)<sup>1</sup> section of [Defence Statistics webpage](#)<sup>2</sup> and on the [National Statistics Publication Hub](#)<sup>3</sup> in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Following guidance from an assessment carried out by the UK Statistics Authority on UKDS, the different chapters of UKDS have been separated and will be released as individual Statistical Bulletins. This is to allow information on various topics to be published as soon as the data is available, rather than waiting for all the other chapters to be completed as was the case with previous editions of UKDS. A key benefit of this change is that the timeliness of the statistics is remarkably improved, reducing the amount of time between the reference date of the statistics and the time of release.

Defence Statistics only publish these statistics in this and each year the tables are updated to include the latest annual data, as at 1 April of that year.

## 5. Accessibility and Clarity

Bulletin 6.02 is published on the [Defence Statistics website](#)<sup>2</sup>. Statistical Bulletins are available as PDFs. The data underpinning the tables are also available as an Excel file but those for the charts are not.

A brief introduction to this bulletin is provided on the front page, which also informs the user that this publication updates figures previously released in UKDS 2012, Chapter 6. A summary of key points and trends in the statistics are included, as well as a link to the Background Quality Report and the contact details of the responsible statistician.

The introduction of Bulletin 6.02 further assists with the accessibility and clarity of this publication by setting out the context of the statistics, outlining the material in the tables, providing definitions and explanations of the terms used and giving information on methods and data quality.

## **6. Coherence and Comparability**

In this Bulletin, Table 6.02.01 covers the years 2000 and 2007 to 2013 and Table 6.02.02 covers the years 2000, Core Stock figures from 2006 and 2007 and figures for 2008 to 2013, thus providing a seven-year time series, together with a snapshot of the beginning of the century. The introductory material explains the impact on the statistics of factors that affect coherence over time.

Further organisational changes affecting the provision of SFA are explained in the section relating to this, together with explanations of definitions. For example, the difference between total and core stock is explained, which have both been used at various times as the denominator when measuring the proportion of the stock at different levels of condition.

## **7. Trade-offs between Output Quality Components**

The process for collating information requires substantial checking and includes approval by the DIO board. Although the data are requested early, it is often not finalised until close to the publication date and could not be published earlier.

## **8. Assessment of User Needs and Perceptions**

Defence Statistics holds regular consultation meetings with both internal and external users of Defence Official Statistics, which provide a forum for user feedback on their needs and perceptions. Defence Statistics also publishes a summary of proposed changes on the home page of its website, inviting users to comment on the proposals by email. Proposed changes are also set out at the consultation meetings in order to change feedback from both internal and external users.

## **9. Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden**

The outputs are produced from the administrative data provided by the DIO. The benefit of Defence Statistics publishing these statistics is that these administrative data are placed in the public domain, and as National Statistics, in a way that ensures their independence from political interference and adherence to quality standards. The small burden that this places on the data suppliers is considered to be worthwhile to achieve this and the consequent public accountability provided by their publication.

## **10. Confidentiality, Transparency and Security**

Bulletin 6.02 does not contain any identifiable personal data.

All staff involved in the production process have signed the Data Protection Act, and all MOD, Civil Service and data protection regulations are adhered to. All data are stored, accessed and analysed using the MOD's restricted network and IT systems.

We adhere to the principles and protocols laid out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#)<sup>4</sup> and comply with pre-release access arrangements. The [Defence Statistics Pre-Release Access lists](#)<sup>5</sup> are available on the DASA website. This Bulletin is subject to the pre-release access arrangements.

## 11. References

	Reference	Website Location
1	Publication Release Dates	<a href="http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=68">http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=68</a>
2	Defence Statistics website	<a href="http://www.dasa.mod.uk">http://www.dasa.mod.uk</a>
3	National Statistics Publication Hub	<a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html">http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html</a>
4	Code of Practice for Official Statistics	<a href="http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf">http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf</a>
5	Defence Statistics Pre-Release Access lists	<a href="#">DASA Pre-Release Access lists</a>

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