

Regular Army Officers and Soldiers by Nationality as at 1st January 2014

Question: How many soldiers from former British colonies are currently serving in the Army.

In particular, I would like to know how many soldiers are currently serving from: Any African country or Caribbean Island, New Zealand, Australia, Cyprus, India

Background: Prior to 1998 there were relatively few Commonwealth personnel in the Army, about 590 in 1998. The relaxation of the five year UK residency requirement for most applicants in 1998 allowed those who have spent less than five years in the UK entry into the Armed Forces, and Commonwealth numbers in the Army have now reached around 6360. It should be noted that following the changes in July 2013, the five year residency requirement for Commonwealth personnel has been re-introduced and inevitably the number of Commonwealth personnel in the Army will fall. This residency requirement does not apply to Gurkhas, who are recruited under separate arrangements.

Category	Nationality	Officer & Soldier		Officer		Soldier	
		Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained
Total		85,010	6,780	12,420	830	72,590	5,950
UK & UK Dependency Total		78,100	6,350	12,260	810	65,840	5,540
% of Column Total excluding No Value		91.9%	93.8%	98.7%	98.4%	90.7%	93.1%
UK & UK Dependency	British (or first Nationality is British)	77,865	6,340	12,250	815	65,615	5,530
	British Overseas Territory Citizen	225	10	5	-	220	10
	Gibraltarian	-	-	-	-	-	-
	St Helenian	5	-	-	-	5	-
Republic of Ireland Total		370	40	50	10	320	30
% of Column Total excluding No Value		0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	0.8%	0.4%	0.6%
Nepalese Total		560	-	-	-	560	-
% of Column Total excluding No Value		0.7%	-	0.0%	-	0.8%	-
Commonwealth (excl UK) Total		5,980	380	110	10	5,880	370
% of Column Total excluding No Value		7.0%	5.6%	0.9%	0.7%	8.1%	6.3%
Commonwealth (excl UK)	Antiguan	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Australian	55	-	25	-	35	-
	Bahamian	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Bangladeshi	15	10	-	-	15	10
	Barbadian	5	-	-	-	5	-
	Belizean	50	-	-	-	50	-
	Besotho (Citizen of Lesotho)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Botswanan	25	-	-	-	25	-
	Cameroonian	105	25	-	-	105	25
	Canadian	35	-	10	-	25	-
	Citizen of Fiji	1,705	15	-	-	1,700	15
	Citizen of Seychelles	15	-	-	-	15	-
	Citizen of Sri Lanka	10	-	-	-	10	-
	Citizen of St Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Dominican	25	5	-	-	25	5
	Gambian	250	10	-	-	250	10
	Ghanaian	735	125	-	-	735	125
	Grenadian	130	10	-	-	130	10
	Guyanese	20	-	-	-	20	-
	Indian	145	40	-	-	140	40
	Jamaican	325	15	-	-	325	15
	Kenyan	215	20	-	-	210	20
	Malawian	195	-	-	-	195	-
	Malaysian	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Maltese	5	-	-	-	5	-
	Mauritian	50	-	-	-	50	-
	Namibian	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New Zealander	50	-	10	-	40	-
	Nigerian	210	35	-	-	205	35
	Pakistani	15	-	-	-	15	-
	Papua New Guinean	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Rwandan	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sierra Leonean	35	-	-	-	35	-
	Singaporean	-	-	-	-	-	-
	South African	630	30	40	-	590	25
	St Lucian	225	-	-	-	225	-
	Swazi	10	-	-	-	10	-
	Tanzanian	10	-	-	-	10	-
	Tongan	10	-	-	-	10	-
	Trinidad and Tobago Citizen	40	-	-	-	40	-
	Ugandan	60	-	-	-	60	-
	Vincentian	295	-	-	-	295	-
	Zambian	35	-	-	-	35	-
	Zimbabwean	225	10	5	-	220	10
Other Total		-	-	-	-	-	-
% of Column Total excluding No Value		-	-	-	-	-	-
No Value Total		-	10	-	-	-	-
% of Column Total		-	0.1%	-	-	-	-

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

Notes/Caveats:

Under the British Overseas Territories Act 2002, British Dependent Territories were retitled British Overseas Territories, hence Gibraltar, Ascension Islands, St Helena and Montserrat are now included in the Total UK figures.

Prior to 1980 Zimbabwe was known as Rhodesia. Rhodesia was not a member of the Commonwealth. Zimbabwe was suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth in February 2002. Zimbabwe withdrew from the Commonwealth on 7 December 2003 after the suspension was renewed at the Commonwealth Leaders' meeting. An Act of Parliament is required to affect the status of its citizens if a country withdraws from the Commonwealth. For the purpose of this information Zimbabwe is included in Commonwealth.

Fiji was suspended from the Commonwealth on 1 September 2009. Individual Fijians (according to UK legislation) are still Commonwealth citizens and they are included in the Commonwealth in this table.

On October 2nd 2013 Gambia announced its withdrawal from the Commonwealth. An Act of Parliament is required to affect the status of its citizens if a country withdraws from the Commonwealth. For the purpose of this information Gambia is included in Commonwealth.

Nepalese includes personnel who have transferred from Gurkha Trained Personnel to United Kingdom Trained Army Personnel.

Other total includes those individuals who do not have a recorded UK, Commonwealth or Nepalese Nationality. It is expected that these individuals are British Dual Nationals.

Percentages are calculated from the number of known populations, therefore exclude No Values and unknowns.