

**TSP 7**

**ANNUAL PUBLICATION**



**UK RESERVE FORCES STRENGTHS  
AT  
1 APRIL 2011**



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**Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration system, Naval Service Reserves data for 2008 onwards have been obtained from an alternative source. Army Reserves data for 2008 onwards and RAF Reserves data from 2007 onwards are provisional and subject to review.**

Due to the rounding methods used, figures may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

p denotes provisional

r denotes revised

.. denotes not available

\* denotes not applicable

- denotes zero or rounded to zero

## **Introduction**

This is an annual publication containing information on the strength of UK Reserve Forces, including Regular and Volunteer Reserves, broken down by Service. It uses data from the Ministry of Defence Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA) and single Service systems.

The tables provide information about the patterns of change in the composition of the UK's Reserve Forces for the three most recent years. Historic 5-year, 10-year, and 20 year figures are also presented to provide context.

## **Key Points**

- The strength of the UK Volunteer Reserve forces was 37,290 at 1 April 2011, a decrease of 2,130 on 1 April 2010.
- The strength of the Naval Service Volunteer Reserve, comprising the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Marine Reserve, and University Units, was 3,230 at 1 April 2011, a decrease of 360 on 1 April 2010.
- The strength of the Army Volunteer Reserve, including University Units was 31,420 at 1 April 2011, a decrease of 1,710 on 1 April 2010.
- The strength of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, including University Units was 2,450 at 1 April 2011, a decrease of 250 on 1 April 2010.

## **Background**

The overall strength of the Reserve Forces has been steadily decreasing since 1991, across all three Services. The Volunteer Reserves strength overall and across all three Services has also decreased.

## **Cadets Data**

In accordance with an agreement made between DASA and the UK Statistics Authority, from 2010, Cadets strengths are no longer published in TSP 7. This enables DASA to publish Reserve Forces data alongside DASA's other annual Tri-Service publications. Cadets data can be found in DASA's UK Defence Statistics publication, which is due to be published on September 28<sup>th</sup> 2011.

## **Sources and Data Quality Notes**

### **Regular Reserve**

Data on Naval Service Regular Reservists at 1 April 2009, 2010 and 2011, Army Regular Reservists, and Royal Air Force Individuals Liable to Recall at 1 April 2009, 2010 and 2011 are not included in this publication. Tri-Service Regular Reserve data were not migrated across from legacy systems onto the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system, and any data subsequent to its introduction have been sourced from the single Services where available. The absence of Naval Service Regular Reserve data in 2006 was caused by the disestablishment of the secretariat responsible for the compilation of Naval Service Reserve data. In 2008, data were compiled by a reorganised secretariat, however concerns over the quality of the source data prohibited publication of the 2009, 2010 and 2011 Naval Service Regular Reserve data.

Due to discontinuity in time series data, no graphs for Regular Reserve data are presented.

### **Volunteer Reserve**

Volunteer Reserve data appear on the JPA system, however there are known issues with the quality of the data. Naval Service Volunteer Reserve data at 1 April 2008 onwards were therefore sourced directly from the Naval Service. Army and Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve data for 2008 onwards were sourced from JPA, however validation is ongoing and as such the figures presented here are provisional.

DASA have initiated a major review of all historic JPA data and aim to revise provisional data (if necessary) during the course of 2011. No further data will be finalised until then. Revisions to strength figures are likely to be small. In addition, the Ministry of Defence is undertaking to improve the quality of Army Reserves data, with a view to correcting the recording of Contract Types and Assignment Types as referred to in Table 3, footnote 2.

DASA welcome feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication or about DASA statistics in general, you can contact us as follows:

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Complete the feedback form on our website: [www.dasa.mod.uk](http://www.dasa.mod.uk)

**Table 1 - Strengths of All Services Reserves<sup>1</sup>**

1 April 2011

Number

	All Services	Naval Service	Army	Royal Air Force
<b>Total Reserves</b>	..	..	..	..
<b>Regular Reserves</b>	..	..	..	..
<b>Regular Reserve Forces</b>	..	..	..	5,120 <sup>P</sup>
Male Officers	..	..	..	220 <sup>P</sup>
Female Officers	..	..	..	60 <sup>P</sup>
Male Other Ranks	..	..	..	3,980 <sup>P</sup>
Female Other Ranks	..	..	..	860 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Individuals liable to Recall</b>	..	..	..	..
Male Officers	..	*	..	..
Female Officers	..	*	..	..
Male Other Ranks	..	..	..	..
Female Other Ranks	..	..	..	..
<b>Volunteer Reserves</b>	37,070 <sup>P</sup>	3,230	31,400 <sup>P</sup>	2,450 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Volunteer Reserve (excluding University Units)</b>	31,180 <sup>P</sup>	2,540	27,280 <sup>P</sup>	1,360 <sup>P</sup>
Male Officers	4,480 <sup>P</sup>	530	3,820 <sup>P</sup>	130 <sup>P</sup>
Female Officers	1,010 <sup>P</sup>	140	840 <sup>P</sup>	30 <sup>P</sup>
Male Other Ranks	22,470 <sup>P</sup>	1,580	19,870 <sup>P</sup>	1,010 <sup>P</sup>
Female Other Ranks	3,230 <sup>P</sup>	280	2,750 <sup>P</sup>	200 <sup>P</sup>
<b>University Units</b>	5,890 <sup>P</sup>	680	4,120 <sup>P</sup>	1,080 <sup>P</sup>
Male	4,480 <sup>P</sup>	..	3,070 <sup>P</sup>	720 <sup>P</sup>
Female	1,410 <sup>P</sup>	..	1,050 <sup>P</sup>	360 <sup>P</sup>

Source: DASA (Quad-Service)

1. Includes trained and untrained personnel. Includes Mobilised/Activated reservists but excludes personnel serving in an FTRS role. For more information see tables 2-4.

**Table 2 - Strengths of Naval Service Reserves**

1 April

Number

	1991	2001	2006	2009	2010	2011
<b>Total Reserves - Naval Service<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>34,280</b>	<b>28,370</b>	..	..	..	..
<b>Regular Reserves</b>	<b>27,240</b>	<b>23,540</b>	..	..	..	..
<b>Royal Fleet Reserve</b>	<b>13,940</b>	<b>9,750</b>	..	..	..	..
Officers	6,780	5,910	..	..	..	..
<i>of which mobilised</i>	-	-	..	10	-	-
Other Ranks	7,160	3,840	..	..	..	..
<i>of which mobilised</i>	-	-	..	-	-	-
<b>Recall Reserve</b>	<b>13,300</b>	<b>13,790</b>	..	..	..	..
Officers	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Ranks	13,300	13,790	..	..	..	..
<b>Volunteer Reserves<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>7,030</b>	<b>4,830</b>	..	<b>3,630</b>	<b>3,590</b>	<b>3,230</b>
<b>RNR and RMR (excl URNU)</b>	<b>7,030</b>	<b>4,050</b>	..	<b>2,970</b>	<b>2,930</b>	<b>2,540</b>
Officers	2,260	1,080	..	930	900	680
<i>of which mobilised</i>	-	-	..	50	40	40
Other Ranks	4,780	2,980	..	2,040	2,030	1,870
<i>of which mobilised</i>	-	-	..	170	110	100
<b>University Royal Naval Units<sup>1</sup></b>	..	<b>770</b>	..	<b>660</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>680</b>

Source: DASA (Quad-Service)

RNR = Royal Navy Reserve; RMR = Royal Marine Reserve

1. University Royal Naval Unit data are only available from 1997. Totals before 1997 do not include URNU.



**Table 3 - Strengths of Army Reserves<sup>1</sup>**

1 April

Number

	1991	2001	2006	2009 <sup>2</sup>	2010 <sup>2</sup>	2011 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total Reserves - Army</b>	<b>270,510</b>	<b>211,660</b>	<b>159,740</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Regular Reserves</b>	<b>187,740</b>	<b>169,760</b>	<b>127,580</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Army Reserve</b>	<b>65,210</b>	<b>33,720</b>	<b>32,060</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
Officers <sup>3</sup>	10,120	10,130	9,190	..	..	..
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	10	20	-	-	-
Other Ranks	55,090	23,590	22,870	..	..	..
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	210	240	30	30	20
<b>Individuals liable to Recall<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>122,520</b>	<b>136,030</b>	<b>95,520</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
Officers	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Ranks	122,520	136,030	95,520	..	..	..
<b>Volunteer Reserves Total</b>	<b>82,780</b>	<b>41,900</b>	<b>32,160</b>	<b>35,320<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>33,130<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>31,420<sup>P</sup></b>
<b>Volunteer Reserves<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>81,570</b>	<b>35,940</b>	<b>25,850</b>	<b>28,730<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>27,410<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>25,820<sup>P</sup></b>
Officers	8,170	5,560	5,210	4,350 <sup>P</sup>	4,250 <sup>P</sup>	4,150 <sup>P</sup>
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	60	160	230 <sup>P</sup>	210 <sup>P</sup>	230 <sup>P</sup>
Other Ranks	73,400	30,380	20,640	24,380 <sup>P</sup>	23,160 <sup>P</sup>	21,660 <sup>P</sup>
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	320	950	1,190 <sup>P</sup>	1,170 <sup>P</sup>	1,230 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS)</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>1,590<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1,550<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1,460<sup>P</sup></b>
Officers	390	400	190	570 <sup>P</sup>	550 <sup>P</sup>	500 <sup>P</sup>
Other Ranks	810	810	880	1,020 <sup>P</sup>	1,000 <sup>P</sup>	950 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Officer Training Corps (excl. NRPS)</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>5,240</b>	<b>4,980<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>4,140<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>4,120<sup>P</sup></b>
Group A	..	120	100	..	..	..
Group B	..	4,640	5,140	4,980 <sup>P</sup>	4,140 <sup>P</sup>	4,120 <sup>P</sup>

Source: DASA (Quad-Service)

- Officer figures from April 1998 to April 2004 are provisional estimates which include FTRS personnel.
- Since the introduction of the Joint Personnel System, there have been inconsistencies within TA personnel records and the subcategories are estimated using the information available. This has meant that a number of Cadet Force Adult Volunteer personnel are recorded as having an Assignment Type of Volunteer Reserve (approx 20 to 30). These personnel are included in the Volunteer Reserve total but are not included within the individual sub-populations. The MOD is undertaking work to rectify this anomaly; see commentary for more details.
- Excludes RARO V.
- Comprises the Army Long Term Reserve and Army Pensioners.
- Comprises Territorial Army, Ulster Defence Regiment (before 1993) and Home Service Force (1983 to 1993 inclusive).  
The UDR merged with the Royal Irish Rangers on 1 July 1992 and became the Home Service element of the Royal Irish Regiment.  
Volunteer Reserve figures before 1989 include OTC and NRPS, before 1995 include OTC, and from 1998 exclude NRPS and OTC.

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration system, all Army Reserves data from 2009 onwards are provisional and subject to review.



**Table 4 - Strengths of Royal Air Force Reserves**

1 April

Number

	1991	2001	2006	2009	2010	2011
<b>Total Reserves - Royal Air Force</b>	<b>44,240</b>	<b>44,210</b>	<b>36,660</b>	..	..	..
<b>Regular Reserves</b>	<b>42,470</b>	<b>41,640</b>	<b>34,360</b>	..	..	..
<b>Air Force Reserve</b>	<b>12,610</b>	<b>14,050</b>	<b>7,790</b>	<b>5,600<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>5,420<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>5,120<sup>P</sup></b>
Officers	600	590	400	300 <sup>P</sup>	310 <sup>P</sup>	280 <sup>P</sup>
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	10	10	10 <sup>P</sup>	10 <sup>P</sup>	10 <sup>P</sup>
Other Ranks	12,010	13,460	7,390	5,300 <sup>P</sup>	5,110 <sup>P</sup>	4,840 <sup>P</sup>
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	-	-	10 <sup>P</sup>	10 <sup>P</sup>	20 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Individuals liable to Recall<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>29,860</b>	<b>27,580</b>	<b>26,570</b>	..	..	..
Officers	8,350	8,610	7,980	..	..	..
Other Ranks	21,510	18,970	18,590	..	..	..
<b>Volunteer Reserves</b>	<b>1,770</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,580<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>2,700<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>2,450<sup>P</sup></b>
<b>Royal Auxiliary Air Force<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1,770</b>	<b>1,660</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,440<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1,500<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1,360<sup>P</sup></b>
Officers	210	350	250	180 <sup>P</sup>	160 <sup>P</sup>	150 <sup>P</sup>
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	-	10	20 <sup>P</sup>	20 <sup>P</sup>	10 <sup>P</sup>
Other Ranks	1,560	1,320	1,100	1,260 <sup>P</sup>	1,350 <sup>P</sup>	1,210 <sup>P</sup>
<i>of which mobilised</i>	..	10	80	160 <sup>P</sup>	100 <sup>P</sup>	70 <sup>P</sup>
<b>University Air Squadrons (UAS)<sup>3</sup></b>	..	<b>910</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>1,140<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1,200<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1,080<sup>P</sup></b>

Source: DASA (Quad-Service)

AWO = Adult Warrant Officer

1. Comprises Retired Officers and Airmen pensioners.
2. Includes RAF Volunteer Reserve which was subsumed into the Royal Auxiliary Air Force on 1 April 1997.
3. University Air Squadron data are only available from 1994. Totals before 1994 do not include UAS.

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration system, all RAF Reserves data from 2008 onwards are provisional and subject to review.



**Table 5 - Relative Strength of Reserve Forces by Type**

1 April

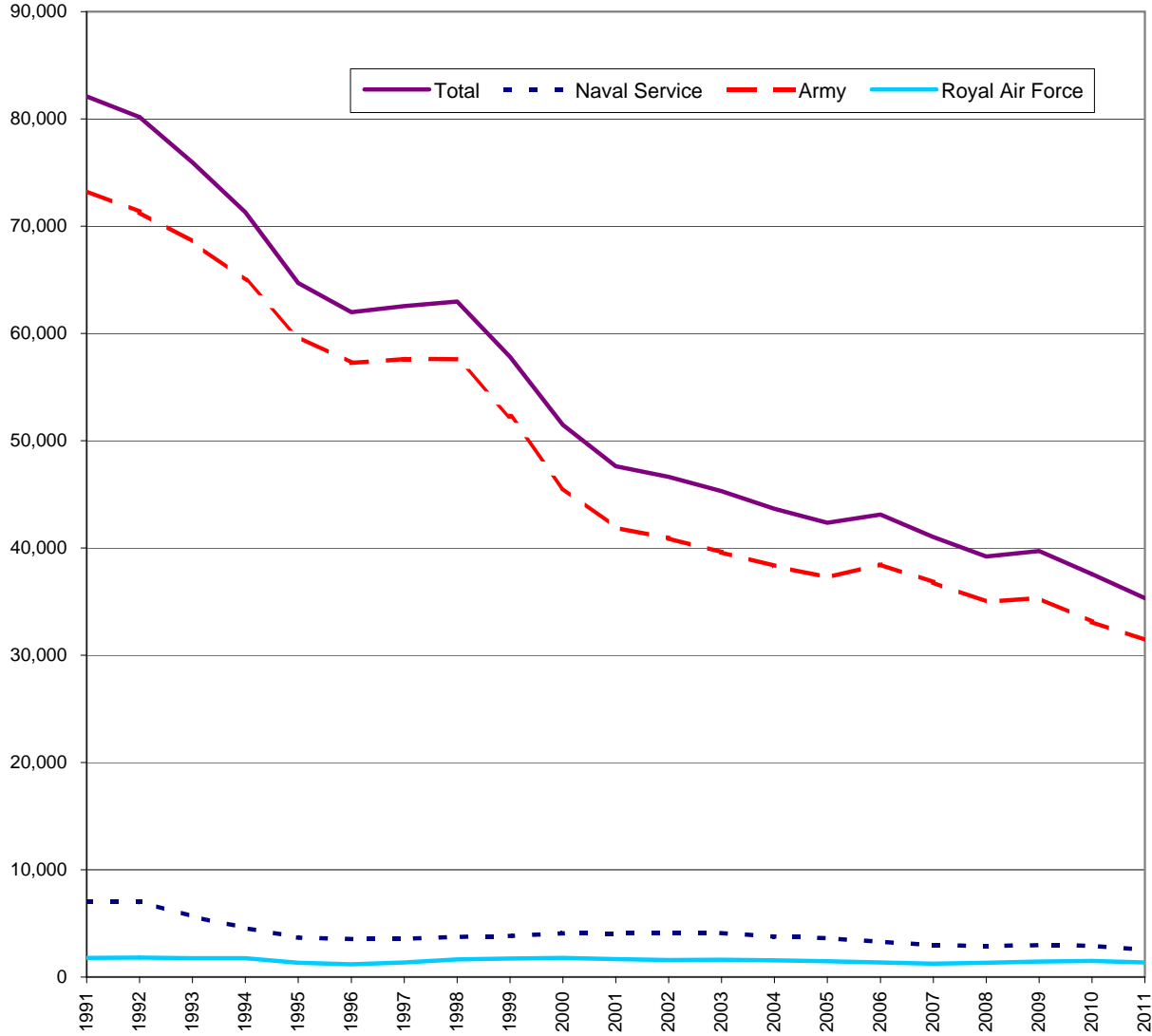
Index for 1991 = 100

	1991	2001	2006	2009	2010	2011
<b>Total <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
Naval Service	100	81	..	..	..	..
Army <sup>1</sup>	100	81	64	..	..	..
Royal Air Force	100	98	83	..	..	..
<b>Regular Reserve Forces</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
Naval Service	100	70	..	..	..	..
Army <sup>1</sup>	100	52	49	..	..	..
Royal Air Force	100	111	62	44 <sup>P</sup>	43 <sup>P</sup>	41 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Individuals liable to Recall</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
Naval Service	100	104	..	-	..	..
Army <sup>1</sup>	100	111	78	..	..	..
Royal Air Force	100	92	89	..	..	..
<b>Volunteer Reserves</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>48 <sup>P</sup></b>	<b>46 <sup>P</sup></b>	<b>43 <sup>P</sup></b>
Naval Service <sup>2</sup>	100	58	..	42	42	36
Army <sup>1,3</sup>	100	57	52	48 <sup>P</sup>	45 <sup>P</sup>	43 <sup>P</sup>
Royal Air Force <sup>4</sup>	100	94	76	81 <sup>P</sup>	85 <sup>P</sup>	77 <sup>P</sup>

Source: DASA (Quad-Service)

1. Army Officer figures from April 1998 to April 2004 are provisional estimates which include FTRS personnel.
2. University Royal Naval Units data are unavailable before 1997, so are excluded from all the above figures.
3. Includes Non-Regular Permanent Staff and the Officer Training Corps. Excludes the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR), which merged with the Royal Irish Rangers on 1 July 1992.
4. University Air Squadron data are unavailable before 1994, so are excluded from all the above figures.

**Graph 1 - Strength of Volunteer Reserves by Service, 1991 - 2011**



Royal Air Force and Naval Service figures exclude University Units because data are only available for these units from 1994 and 1997 respectively.

The Ulster Defence Regiment and Home Service Force ceased to exist from 1993 and are excluded. 2006 Naval Service data are unavailable and have been interpolated.

