

Background Quality Report

Statistical Series 4 - Equipment

Bulletin 4.02 – Vehicle & Aircraft Holdings within the scope of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty

1. Introduction

Overview

Within this Bulletin, Tables 4.02.01 to 4.02.03 show holdings of vehicles and aircraft in the UK, Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar within the scope of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty at 1 January from 2006 to 2013. The declared holdings and ceilings for a selection of countries in, and not in NATO at 1 January from 2009 to 2013 are also shown (Tables 4.02.04 to 4.02.08).

Due to a change in the format of the UK Defence Statistics (UKDS) Compendium publication, Bulletin 4.02 is the successor to Chapter 4 of UKDS, Tables 4.11 – 4.15. Therefore, this bulletin will only contain information on equipment holdings within the scope of the CFE Treaty. Information on formations, vessels, aircraft and vehicles of the Armed Forces, originally published in Chapter 4 (Tables 4.01 – 4.10) will be released in its own publication (Bulletin 4.01).

Methodology and Production

Data are received annually from data suppliers within the Ministry of Defence from the Directorate for Arms Control and Counter-Proliferation Policy (ACP). The data suppliers complete standard templates for each Table using data that are derived from the CFE Data Exchange Chart IIA.

CFE Vehicles and Aircraft tables are compiled annually via census, which is sponsored by ACP. The ACP directs all UK military Formations and Units to provide detailed information on their holdings of military hardware, which is sourced primarily to meet the data requirements of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE), The Vienna Document 2011 (VD11) and The Global Exchange of Military Information (GEMI). The data provided through the census is error checked by the military Chain-of-Command and by the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG), who are responsible for the collation and dissemination of the data to signatory states of each Treaty / Agreement.

Definitions and explanations of the terminology used are provided within the Bulletin. In particular, there are extensive notes on the CFE Treaty, its coverage and definitions, which are provided before the data tables. All the tables in this Bulletin are National Statistics.

Contact details

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

2. Relevance

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

- understand the size and organisation of the United Kingdom's Armed Forces;
- set the context for other information on Defence;
- assist in understanding the impact of changes in Defence policy.

Bulletin 4.02 contributes to the public accountability of the MOD and whilst internal systems may be sufficient for the internal use, publication in Bulletin format makes this information available publicly, regularly and as a time series. This publication is thought to be the only place where information on the holdings and ceilings of the UK Armed Forces, within the scope of the CFE Treaty, are brought together in a coherent document. Furthermore, the Bulletin includes definitions and other information so that the data are set in context and can be understood by a lay audience as well as those with professional interests.

3. Accuracy

The data in this Bulletin is considered to be of good quality. It is error checked by the military Chain-of-Command and by the JACIG, who are responsible for the collation and dissemination of the data to signatory states of each Treaty / Agreement. It has also been subjected to sense checks by Government Statisticians.

4. Timeliness and Punctuality

As a National Statistic, the release date for Bulletin 4.02 was pre-announced on the [Publication Release Dates](#)¹ section of [Defence Statistics website](#)² and on the [National Statistics Publication Hub](#)³ in accordance with the guidance set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Following guidance from an assessment carried out by the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) 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 timeliness of the statistics is improved, reducing the amount of time between the reference date of the statistics and the time of release.

Each year the tables in this bulletin are updated to include the latest annual data, as at 1 January each year.

5. Accessibility and Clarity

Statistical Bulletins are published on the [Defence Statistics website](#)². The tables are available as an Excel file to enable the figures to be reused.

A brief introduction to the bulletin is provided on the front page, which also informs the user that this publication updates figures previously released in UKDS 2012, Chapter 4. A summary of key points and trends are included as well as a link to the Background Quality Report and the contact details of the responsible statistician. The introduction assists with the accessibility and clarity of this publication by setting out the context of the statistics, identifying the key conclusions that can be drawn from the statistics, providing definitions and explanations of the terms used and giving information on methods and data quality.

6. Coherence and Comparability

The tables that contain information on vehicles and aircraft holdings in the UK, Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar within the scope of the CFE Treaty (4.02.01 to 4.02.03), provide a time series for years 2006 to 2013, as at 1 January each year. International comparisons of holdings and ceilings (Tables 4.02.04 to 4.02.08) are also provided as a time series as at 1 January each year for 2009 to 2013.

7. Trade-offs between Output Quality Components

None identified.

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 gain feedback from both internal and external users.

9. Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden

The outputs are produced from the administrative data provided by the MOD. The benefit of Defence Statistics publishing these statistics is that outputs from these 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 4.02 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](#)⁴ and comply with pre-release access arrangements. The [Defence Statistics Pre-Release Access lists](#)⁵ are available on the Defence Statistics website. This Bulletin is subject to the pre-release access arrangements for UKDS as a whole.

11. References

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

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