Background Quality Report
Statistical Series 6 – Other
Bulletin 6.02 – Service Family 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 publication are National Statistics.

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.

Defence Statistics (WDS)   Tel: 0207 8078792
MOD Main Building
Level 3 Zone K   E-mail: Def Strat-Stat-WDS-Hd@mod.uk
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Defence Statistics welcome feedback on this Background Quality Report or any of the statistics mentioned. Statistical outputs produced by Defence Statistics can now be found on the [Statistics at MOD page](#)[1] of GOV.UK.

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 and 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 MOD's Calendar of Upcoming Releases[2] section of GOV.UK 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 on UKDS, the different chapters of UKDS have been separated and 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.

Each year the tables in this Bulletin are updated to include the latest annual data, as at 1 April of that year.

5. Accessibility and Clarity

Bulletin 6.01 is published on the Service Family Accommodation Bulletin page[4] on GOV.UK as a PDF document. The tables are available as an Excel file to enable the figures to be reused.

An introduction to the bulletin is provided on the front page, which also informs the user that this publication updates figures previously released in the 2013 edition. 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. This is followed by a key findings section which includes graphical representation of some of the statistics, provides further detail about the trends in the data and draws attention to contextual information that has affected these trends.

Within the tables there is further information to clarify definitions, advise users of caveats in the data and explain changes since previous years.
.

6. Coherence and Comparability

In this Bulletin, both tables covers the years 2000 and 2008 to 2014, 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.

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 has previously held regular consultation meetings with users of Defence Official Statistics, which provided a forum for user feedback on their needs and perceptions. Proposed changes were set out at the consultation meetings in order to gain feedback from both internal and external users.

Defence Statistics invites users to provide feedback to the statistical output teams on any of their publications or reports using the contact information on the front of the statistical bulletin.

9. Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden

The outputs are produced from the administrative data provided by the DIO. The benefit of the MOD 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 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[5] and comply with pre-release access arrangements. The Defence Statistics Pre-Release Access lists[6] are available on GOV.UK. This bulletin is subject to the pre-release access arrangements for UKDS as a whole.

11. References

	Reference	Website Location
1	Statistics at MOD Homepage	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/statistics
2	MOD's Timetable of Future Releases of National and Official Statistics	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-timetable-for-future-releases-of-national-and-official-statistics
3	National Statistics Publication Hub	http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html
4	Bulletin 6.02 Homepage on GOV.UK	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/service-family-accommodation-bulletin-index
5	Code of Practice for Official Statistics	http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf
6	Defence Statistics Pre-release Access lists	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-statistics-pre-release-access-list

Last updated: 24 July 2014