



This publication provides information on the number of **Military Personnel** in (defined as the **strength**), joining (**intake**) and leaving (**outflow**) the UK Armed Forces. Detail is provided for both the **Full-time Armed Forces** and **Reserves**. Further statistics can be found in the [Excel tables](#).

The recent trends in personnel numbers in this report relate to the targets outlined in the **Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) 2010**, the **Three Month Exercise (3ME)**, **Army 2020 (A2020)** and the **Future Reserves 2020 (FR20)** programme.

This publication is the first in a new series of bulletins following the outcome of a public consultation on [Changes to Ministry of Defence Armed Forces Personnel Statistics](#). It is also the first release of monthly **Reserves Statistics** and quarterly statistics on the number of **Applications to the Armed Forces**.

Some of the statistics previously published in the following publications can now be found in this release: [Monthly](#), [Quarterly](#) and [Annual](#) Personnel Reports, [UK Reserve Forces and Cadets](#), [Service Personnel Bulletin 2.01](#) and [Service and Civilian Bulletin 2.03](#).

Key Points and Trends

▼ 195 600	Strength of UK Forces Service Personnel at 1 July 2015 <i>a decrease of 890 (0.5 per cent) since 1 July 2014</i>
▼ 142 730	Full-time Trained Strength at 1 July 2015 <i>a decrease of 5 980 (4.0 per cent) since 1 July 2014</i>
▼ - 3.3%	Deficit against the planned number of personnel needed (requirement) at 1 July 2015 <i>a reduction in the deficit from -4.7 per cent, as at 1 July 2014</i>
▲ 25 290	Strength of the Trained FR20 Volunteer Reserve at 1 July 2015 <i>an increase of 2 010 (8.7 per cent) since 1 July 2014</i>
▲ 13 190	People joined the Regular Armed Forces in the past 12 months (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015) <i>an increase of 1 470 (12.5 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▲ 7 870	People joined the FR20 Volunteer Reserve in the past 12 months (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015) <i>an increase of 3 390 (75.7 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▼ 18 320	Regular personnel left the Armed Forces in the past 12 months (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015) <i>a decrease of 4 030 (18.0 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▼ 3 810	FR20 Volunteer Reserve personnel left the Armed Forces in the past 12 months (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015) <i>a decrease of 1 450 (27.6 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>

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Background quality report: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tri-service-personnel-bulletin-background-quality-reports

Would you like to be added to our **contact list**, so that we can inform you about updates to these statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk

Contents

Introduction	page 2	
Policy background	page 3	Supplementary tables containing further statistics can be found at
UK Service Personnel	page 4 (National Statistic)	
Full-time Trained Strength and Requirement	page 5 (National Statistic)	
Regular Personnel	page 6 (National Statistic)	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-2015
Future Reserves 2020 Personnel	page 8 (National Statistic)	
Applications to the Armed Forces	page 10	
Further Information	page 14	

A glossary and other supporting documents are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-supplementary-documents>

Introduction

This publication contains information on the **strength, intake and outflow** for the UK Armed Forces overall and each of the Services; **Royal Navy/Royal Marines (RN/RM), Army and Royal Air Force (RAF)**. In addition, statistics on the number of Applications to the UK Armed Forces are published for the first time in this month's publication (page 10).

Detailed statistics and historic time series can be found in the **Excel tables**. Additional historic statistics will be added to these tables in due course; in the meantime, historic statistics can be found in the previous publications outlined below. The **glossary** contains definitions of terminology used in this publication.

The next edition of this publication will be published on GOV.UK at 9:30am on 10 September 2015. This will contain statistics on Separated Service (Harmony). A calendar of upcoming MOD statistical releases can be found on **GOV.UK**.

Changes to Armed Forces personnel statistics

The Ministry of Defence is implementing changes to Armed Forces personnel statistics. Previous Tri-Service publications have been reviewed, including the following: **Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Personnel Reports, UK Reserve Forces and Cadets, Service Personnel Bulletin 2.01, Service and Civilian Bulletin 2.03, UK Armed Forces Maternity Report, Diversity Dashboard and Quarterly Location Statistics**.

Following the consultation on **Changes to Ministry of Defence Armed Forces Personnel Statistics**, the above nine publications are being amalgamated into four new publications. The consultation response includes further detail on the changes we are making during 2015-16, including the introduction of this publication. For information on where updates to statistics in previous MOD Tri-Service publications are now located please see the following **guide**.

A National Statistics publication

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Policy background

The main factors affecting decisions about the size of the Armed Forces required by the MOD, to achieve success in its military tasks include:

- An assessment of current and future threats to UK national security;
- The need for contingent / reactive capability – the requirement to be able to respond immediately to domestic or international crisis;
- Current operational and international obligations (e.g. NATO, UN);
- Changes in technology, the introduction of new equipment and restructuring that leads to equipment becoming obsolete or surplus to requirements;
- The need to deliver against the military tasks as efficiently as possible, maintaining a balanced, affordable defence budget.

The Service personnel statistics in this publication relate to the planned Future Force 2020, as set out in the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). SDRS 2010 set out reductions of 17,000 Full-time Armed Forces personnel by 2015. A 'Three Month Exercise' (3ME) and Army 2020 White Paper announced a further 12,000 reductions to the Army, to be fully implemented by 2020, bringing the total number of reductions to the Full-time Armed Forces, from the 2010 position, to approximately 29,000. Furthermore, Army 2020 states the reductions in the size of the Regular Army and the implementation of the Army 2020 structure will be achieved by 2018. In parallel, the Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme, which aims to increase the size of the Reserve Forces, targets the Volunteer Reserve.

Full-time Armed Forces personnel:

In order to meet the targets set out in SDRS 2010 and 3ME, a redundancy programme coupled with adjusted recruiting (intake) and contract extensions was set. This combination of measures enabled the Armed Forces to maintain the right balance of skills across the rank structures into the future. With the redundancy programme now complete, the Services continue to draw on a variety of measures to balance force levels against their 2020 targets.

Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) Programme

2010 The 2010 **Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR)** identified the future Armed Forces that the UK would need over the next ten years and beyond. It identified that the Reserve Forces should be an integral part of this Future Force; providing additional capacity as well as certain specialists whom it would not be practical or cost effective to maintain in the UK Regular Forces.

2011 The **2011 Independent Commission to Review the UK's Reserve Forces**, [available here](#), reported against this context and recommended:

Maritime Reserve should increase to **3,100** trained personnel.

Army Reserve should increase to **30,000** trained personnel.

Royal Air Force Reserves should increase to **1,800** trained personnel.

These became the FR20 programme's key targets.

2013 Information on measures the MOD planned to take in order to achieve these targets is in the **FR20 White Paper "Reserves in the Future Force 2020: Valuable and Valued"** published in July 2013, [available here](#).

Subsequently to this, details of the planned growth of the FR20 over the next 5 years were placed in the House of Commons Library on 19 December 2013. This statement included annual trained strength targets along with intake targets to support the planned growth, and can be viewed in full [here](#).

UK Service Personnel

The **UK Forces** comprise the total **strength** of the military personnel employed by the Ministry of Defence. The current strength of the UK Forces is 195,600 personnel, which includes:

- All **UK Regular** personnel and all Gurkha personnel (which at 1 July 2015 comprised **79.3 per cent** of the UK Forces);
- **Volunteer Reserve** personnel (which at 1 July 2015 comprised **16.6 per cent** of the UK Forces);
- **Other Forces** including the Serving Regular Reserve, Sponsored Reserve, and elements of the FTRS (comprised **4.1 per cent** of the UK Forces at 1 July 2015).

The UK Forces utilises each of these populations differently. Detailed explanations for each of the uses can be found in the [glossary](#).

Strength is the number of personnel.

Volunteer Reserves are members of society who voluntarily accept a liability to attend training with the Armed Forces on a full-time or part-time basis and to potentially be mobilised to deploy on operations alongside the Regular Forces.

The strength of the UK Forces has decreased slightly between 1 July 2014 and 1 July 2015, by 0.5 per cent (890 personnel). The decreases were in the UK Regular personnel and Gurkhas, driven by planned reductions in the numbers of personnel under SDSR 2010, the 3ME and A2020, and there have been increases in the Reserves populations.

Table 1: UK Forces Service Personnel: Strength by Service

Strength	1 Jul 14	1 Jul 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Naval Service	38 140	38 230	+90	+0.2%
Army	120 900	120 390	-510	-0.4%
Royal Air Force	37 450	36 980	-470	-1.3%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Whilst the overall UK Forces strength has been maintaining a downward trend, the strength of the Volunteer Reserve has been increasing.

- The Maritime Reserve has increased by 410 (14.1 per cent) since 1 July 2014, the Army Volunteer Reserve has increased by 2,750 (11.4 per cent) since July 2014 and the RAF Volunteer Reserve has increased by 620 (35.3 per cent) since July 2014.

This is in line with the Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme which aims to increase the size of the Reserve Forces. Further information on the FR20 Volunteer Reserves can be seen on page 8.

Table 2: Recent trends in the strength of the UK Forces

	1 Apr 12	1 Apr 13	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	1 May 15	1 Jun 15	1 Jul 15
UK Forces Personnel	221 330	211 340	198 810	195 690	195 690	195 850	195 600
UK Regulars	179 800	170 710	159 630	153 720	153 340	153 020	152 380
Gurkhas	3 820	3 510	3 050	2 870	2 850	2 840	2 720
Volunteer Reserve	31 310	30 360	28 860	31 260	31 650	32 090	32 560
Other UK Forces	6 390	6 760	7 280	7 840	7 840	7 900	7 940

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Full-time Trained Strength and Requirement

The **Full-time Trained Strength** (which comprises military personnel who have completed 'Phase 1' and 'Phase 2' training) is counted against the **requirement**. The difference between the two is measured as either a surplus or **deficit**. This is one indicator of the Service's ability to execute military tasks. Other indicators include the surplus / deficit within key trades or in specific Ranks.

Full-time Trained Strength includes all trained UK Regular personnel, Gurkhas and elements of the Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS).

The **Requirement** is the number of Service personnel needed, based on the Defence Planning Round, set for each of the three Services.

- The Strength of the Full-time Trained UK Armed Forces is 142,730, a decrease of 4.0 per cent (5,980 personnel) since 1 July 2014. The Full Time Trained Strength is 29,880 for the RN/RM, 81,270 for the Army and 31,580 for the RAF.
- Of this total, 17.5 per cent of personnel are Officers and 82.5 per cent are Other Ranks.
- The Full-time Trained Strength (FTTS) comprises: 139,920 Regular personnel (98.0 per cent); 2,440 Gurkhas (1.7 per cent); and 360 Full Time Reserve Service personnel (0.3 per cent) who can fill Regular posts and are deployable.

Table 3: Full-Time Trained Strength against the Requirement

	1 Apr 12	1 Apr 13	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	1 May 15	1 Jun 15	1 Jul 15
Trained Strength	170 010	160 710	150 890	144 120	143 580	143 200	142 730
Requirement	174 840	162 940	159 640	150 700	149 170 ^P	149 100 ^P	147 670 ^P
Surplus/Deficit	-4 830	-2 230	-8 750	-6 580	-5 590 ^P	-5 900 ^P	-4 940 ^P
% Surplus/Deficit	-2.8	-1.4	-5.5	-4.4	-3.7 ^P	-4.0 ^P	-3.3 ^P

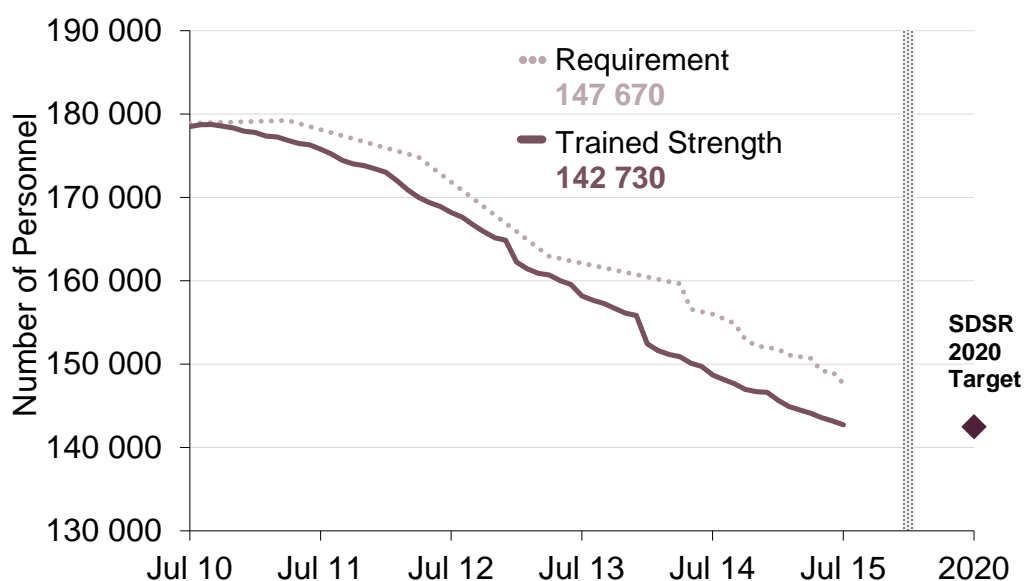
Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

- The current deficit is -3.3 per cent for the UK Armed Forces. This equates to deficits of -1.3 percent in the Royal Navy/Royal Marines (RN/RM), -2.9 per cent in the Army and -6.2 per cent in the Royal Air Force (RAF).

The deficit (of FTTS against the requirement) is likely to be due to the numbers of Service personnel reducing to meet the targets set out in the SDSR 2010 and 3ME/A2020 and planned liability reductions not keeping pace.

- The SDSR 2010 envisaged that by 2020 the UK Armed Forces will have 142,500 personnel. This comprises 29,000 personnel for the RN/RM, 82,000 for the Army and 31,500 for the RAF.

Figure 1: Full-Time Trained Strength against the Requirement and SDSR 2020 target



Please note: May to July 2015 requirements are provisional. See **Revisions** section for details.

Regular Personnel

As at 1 July 2015, the trained and untrained strength of the UK Regular Forces was 152,380, of which, 139,920 were trained personnel. This is a reduction of 5,110 (3.2 per cent) since 1 July 2014, part of a longer term decreasing trend.

- The largest numbers of trained UK Regular Forces personnel (excluding Gurkhas) are in the Army followed by the RAF and the RN/RM.
- There are 12,460 untrained personnel in the UK Regular Forces with 7,330 of them being in the Army.
- As at 1 April 2015, 1.6 per cent of Officers were in Senior Ranks.

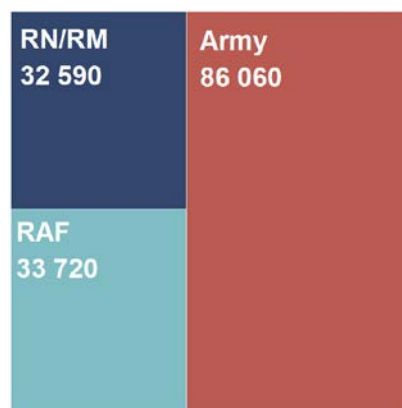


Figure 2: Trained and untrained Strength of the UK Regular Forces, by Service, as at 1 July 2015

Intake is defined as the number joining the Strength, whereas **Outflow** is the number leaving.

Intake and Outflow since July 2010

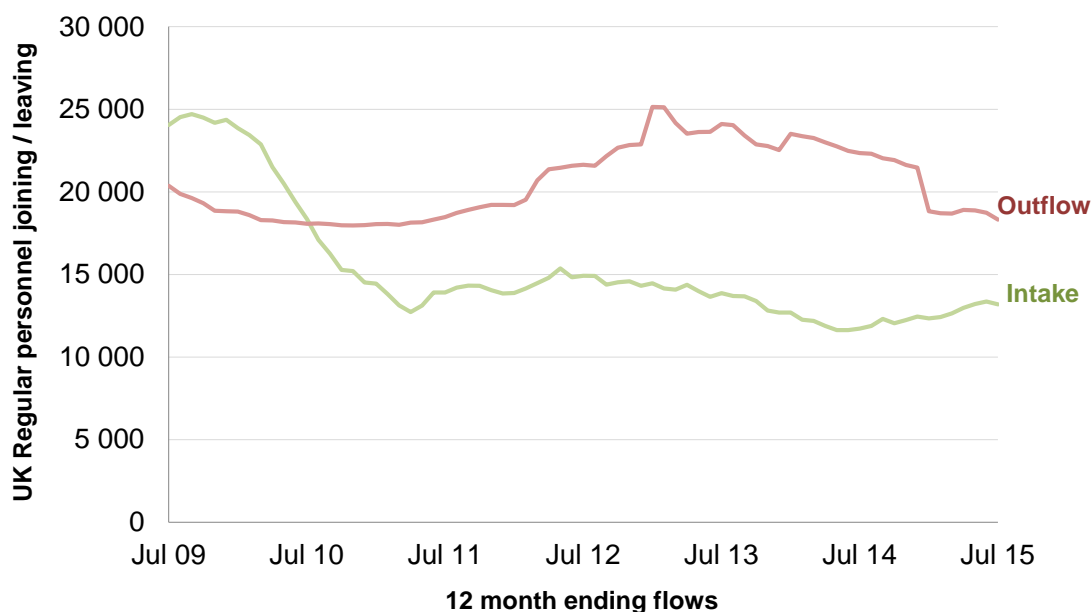
Intake and Outflow over the past 5 years are presented in Figure 3. Since 2010 outflow has exceeded intake each month, following the announcement of the reduction in the size of the Armed Forces.

- In the 12 months to 30 June 2015, 5,130 more personnel left the UK Regular Forces than joined. This difference has reduced compared with the 12 months to 30 June 2014, when 10,630 more personnel left the UK Regular Forces than joined.

Intake

- Intake into the trained and untrained UK Regular Forces was 13,190 in the twelve months to 30 June 2015, down from 13,360 in the 12 months to 31 May 2015 and up from 11,720 in the 12 months to 30 June 2014.
- Of the current intake, 8.8 per cent was into the Officers and 91.2 per cent was into the Other Ranks.
- From the beginning of the financial year on 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015; 3,090 people have joined. This is an increase compared with intake of 2,880 in the same period last year (1 April to 30 June 2014).
- The intake pattern for each Service differs. Compared to the 12 months to 30 June 2014, intake to the RN/RM decreased by 3.5 per cent (110 personnel), the Army has increased by 22.0 per cent (1,500 personnel) and the RAF has increased by 4.0 per cent (70 personnel).

Figure 3: Intake to and Outflow from the UK Regular Forces (over a 12-month period)



Regular Personnel

Outflow

- Outflow from the trained and untrained UK Regular Forces was 18,320 in the 12 months to 30 June 2015; down from 18,740 in the 12 months to 31 May 2015 and down from 22,350 in the 12 months to 30 June 2014.
- From the beginning of the financial year on 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015; 4,440 people have left the UK Regulars. This is a decrease compared with outflow of 5,030 in the same period last year (1 April to 30 June 2014).
- Outflow has decreased considerably compared to previous 12 month periods due to the previous time periods including those leaving after volunteering for redundancy under Tranche 3 of the redundancy programme. The Redundancy Programme is now complete.
- In the 12 months to 30 June 2015, 880 trained and untrained personnel left the UK Regular Forces under Tranche 4 of the Armed Forces Redundancy Programme. This compares to 4,090 in the 12 months to 30 June 2014, leaving on Tranche 3.

Voluntary Outflow

encompasses all trained personnel who voluntarily exit before the end of their agreed engagement or commission period.

Time Expiry is a term used to describe those in the Armed Services who reach the end of their engagement or commission and then leave.

Armed Forces Redundancy Programme Tranche 1-4 statistics are available at:

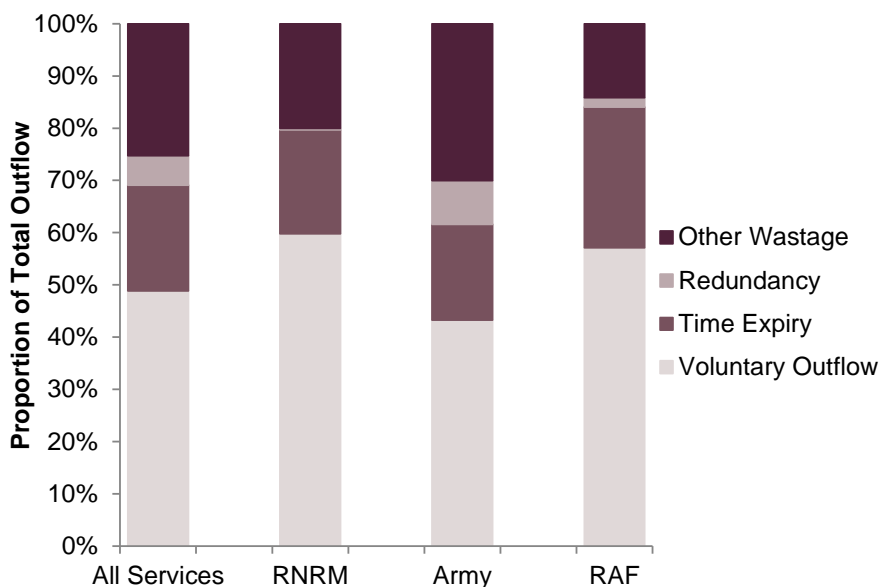
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-redundancy-program-statistics-index>

At the All Services level, Voluntary Outflow (VO) accounted for the greatest proportion of those leaving the trained UK Regular Forces (Figure 4).

- In the 12 months to 30 June 2015, 7,590 trained personnel left through VO.
- The VO rate is higher amongst Other Ranks (5.5 percent), compared to Officers (4.6 percent). This **difference** between Officers and Other Ranks VO rate varies between Services. The VO rate for Other Ranks is higher than for Officers in the RAF and RN/RM whilst the VO rates for Officer and Other Ranks in the Army are broadly similar.

There is no single reason why personnel leave on Voluntary Outflow, but the **Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey** shows reasons that Service personnel have given for leaving the Armed Forces include the impact of Service life on family and personal life and opportunities outside the Armed Forces.

Figure 4: Outflow from the trained UK Regular Forces, by exit reason, in the 12 months to 30 June 2015



Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme monitoring

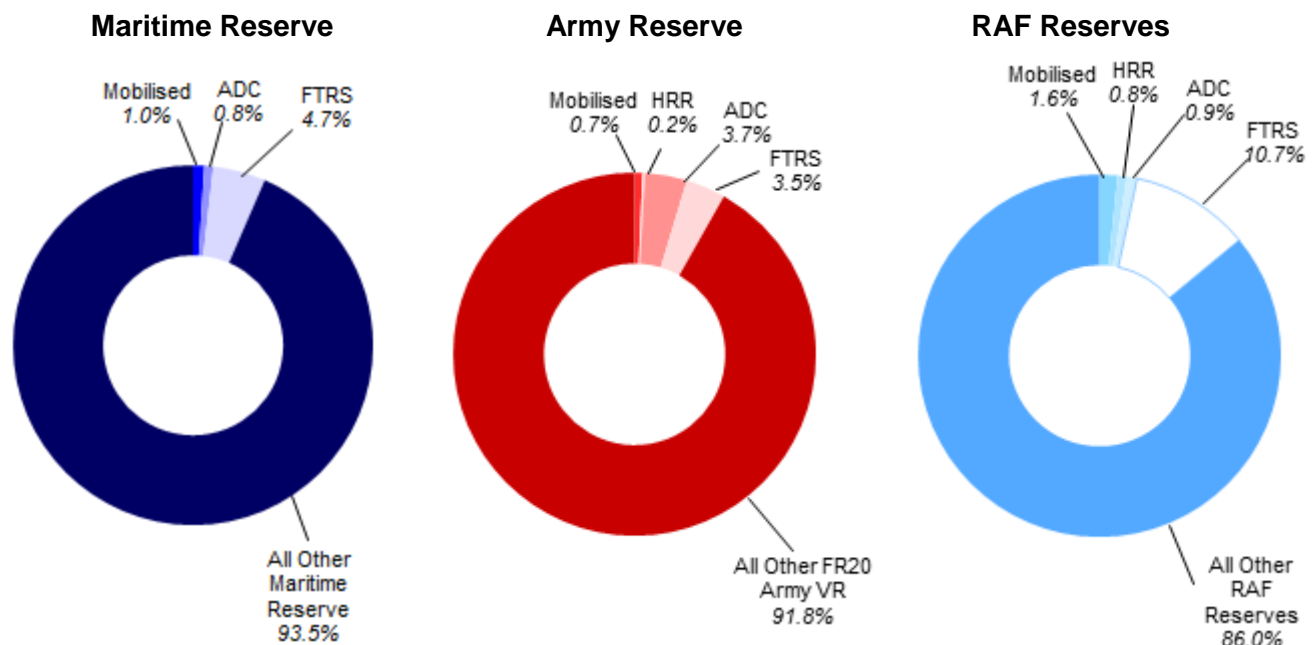
FR20 Personnel

FR20 personnel are all Volunteer Reserves. These personnel are members of society who accept an annual training commitment and a liability to call-out for permanent service. They typically attend training on a part-time basis throughout the year, including an Annual Camp which runs for around two weeks. They are paid at the same rates as Regular personnel and if they complete a specified amount of training per year they become eligible for an annual Bounty payment.

These personnel can be utilised in the following ways as defined in the Reserve Forces Act 1996:

- **Mobilised:** can be called-out into permanent service under certain conditions e.g. deployment on operations.
- **High Readiness Reserve (HRR):** increased liability for call-out when they have skills that may be needed at short notice.
- **Additional Duties Commitment (ADC):** Undertake a part-time additional role.
- **Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS):** Undertake a full-time role for a set period of time.

Figure 5: FR20 trained and untrained utilisation as at 1 July 2015



There are varying patterns in utilisation across the Services. The RAF Reserves utilise the largest percentage of their population at 14%, followed by the Army Reserve at 8.2% and the Maritime Reserve at 6.5%.

FR20 Strengths

The **total trained and untrained** strength of the FR20 Tri-Service population at 1 July 2015 was 32,180, an increase of 4,060 or 14.5 per cent since 1 July 2014.

The **trained** strength of the FR20 Tri-Service population at 1 July 2015 was 25,290, an increase of 2,010 or 8.7 per cent since 1 July 2014. The table below reports the trained strength increases split by Service:

	1 Jul 14	1 Jul 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Trained Strength				
Maritime Reserve	1 900	2 140	+240	+12.5%
Army Reserve	19 970	21 530	+1 560	+7.8%
RAF Reserves	1 400	1 620	+220	+15.5%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme monitoring

FR20 Intake

Programme monitoring intake statistics are calculated by month-on-month comparisons of strength data. They report how many people have joined the **trained and untrained** strengths during the reported time period. The figures comprise any type of intake and can include personnel coming from the Regular Forces, other Reserve populations not part of FR20, or Reserve re-joiners.

During the 12 month period between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015 **7,870 people** joined the Tri-Service FR20 Volunteer Reserve (2,660 trained and 5,210 untrained); a **75.7 per cent increase** on the same 12 month period last year.

Table 5: Intake to FR20 populations, trained and untrained

Intake	1 Jul 13	1 Jul 14	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
	30 Jun 14	30 Jun 15		
Maritime Reserve	770	990	+220	+28.4%
Army Reserve	3 180	5 970	+2 790	+87.8%
RAF Reserves	530	910	+380	+71.8%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

FR20 Outflow

As with intake, outflow is calculated from month-on-month comparisons of strength data. Outflow shows how many personnel left the **trained or untrained** strengths during the reported time period. The majority of outflow is personnel leaving the Armed Forces, though a large number do transfer to another part of the Armed Forces, such as the Regulars or another Reserve Force.

During the 12 month period between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015 **3,810 people** left the Tri-Service FR20 Volunteer Reserve (2,600 trained and 1,200 untrained); a **27.6 per cent decrease** compared to the same 12 month period last year.

Table 6: Outflow from the FR20 populations, trained and untrained

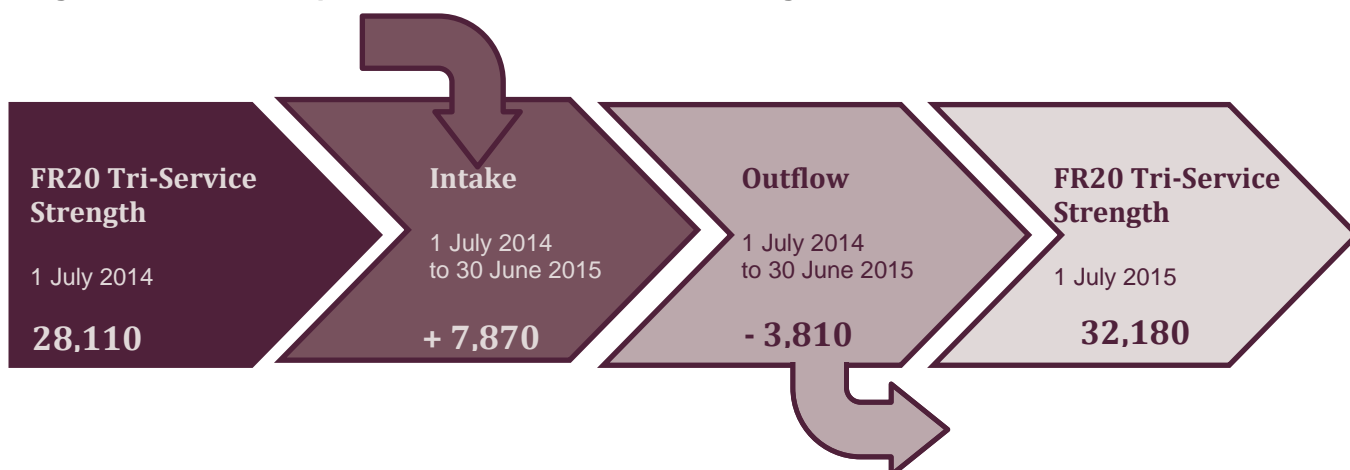
Outflow	1 Jul 13	1 Jul 14	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
	30 Jun 14	30 Jun 15		
Maritime Reserve	460	570	+110	+23.0%
Army Reserve	4 510	2 940	-1 560	-34.7%
RAF Reserves	290	290	-	-

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

How does the Intake and Outflow impact on the FR20 Tri-Service Strengths?

The relationship between the strengths, the intake and the outflow is relatively straightforward. The change between the strengths at two different 12 month time periods is always the intake over the 12 months, minus the outflow over the 12 months (*any differences may be due to rounding*).

Figure 6: Relationship between FR20 Tri-Service strengths, trained and untrained



Applications to the Armed Forces

Recruitment Application Process

This is the first time application statistics have been published as an Official Statistic. Due to the differences in the recruitment application processes the three Services do not adopt the same definition of an application; therefore application numbers cannot be added together to show total Armed Forces applications. It should also be noted that figures relate to the **number of applications received and not the number of applicants**, since one applicant may make several applications. In addition, the number of applications received does not directly relate to the intake figures presented in this report since people withdraw their applications for a number of reasons (some examples are provided below) and there is a time-lag between an application being received and an individual successfully being taken onto untrained strength.

Applications are partly a response to recruiting marketing; they reflect those numbers in the target audience who are disposed to apply to serve in the Armed Forces. However, applications can also be the result of an awareness of the Services driven by a number of other factors, for example, knowledge of military personnel and their families, careers advice and economic circumstances.

There are many reasons why the number of applications is greater than the number of those commencing training (intake). The main causes of applicant failure include:

- Failing Security clearance;
- Not having the required Residency;
- Not achieving fitness entry standards;
- Failing the medical scrutiny;
- Not achieving the required Recruiting Test score for the desired branch/trade and not electing to continue with an alternative;
- Applicants withdraw for their own reasons (e.g. change of mind) during the process.

whilst the main causes of application failure are:

- Applicants may have submitted several other applications for employment (including more than one application to join the Armed Forces) and accept another offer.
- Applications can be submitted to satisfy the requirements of job seeking with no intention to join.

Applications Figures

The figures in this publication include all applications to the UK Regular and Volunteer Reserve Forces and are broken down by Officers and Other Ranks. Due to the differences in the application processes between each Service, three separate tables/graphs are produced.

Applications to the Armed Forces

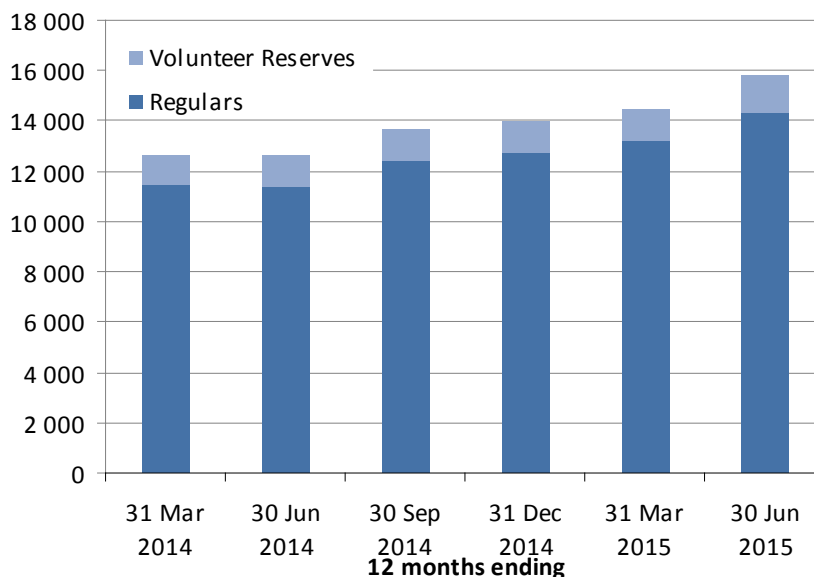
Table 7: RN/RM Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

Applications	1 Jul 13 30 Jun 14	1 Jul 14 30 Jun 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Regulars	11 450	14 350	+ 2 900	25.3%
Reserves	1 230	1 490	+ 260	21.1%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

There were **14,350 applications** to join the Regular RN/RM between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015, which is a **25.3 per cent increase** on the 12 months previous. **1,490 applications** were received to join the Volunteer Reserve RN/RM between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015, which is a **21.1 per cent increase** on the 12 months previous.

Figure 7: Applications to the RN/RM split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves



There has been an overall upward trend for applications to join the RN/RM Regular and Volunteer Reserve Forces with a high in the **12 months to 30 June 2015 of 15,840**.

This upward trend is largely attributed to the Regulars, as there has been an **increase of 2,910** applications received since the same 12 month period last year. Volunteer Reserve applications have also **increased by 260** over the same time period.

Applications to the Armed Forces

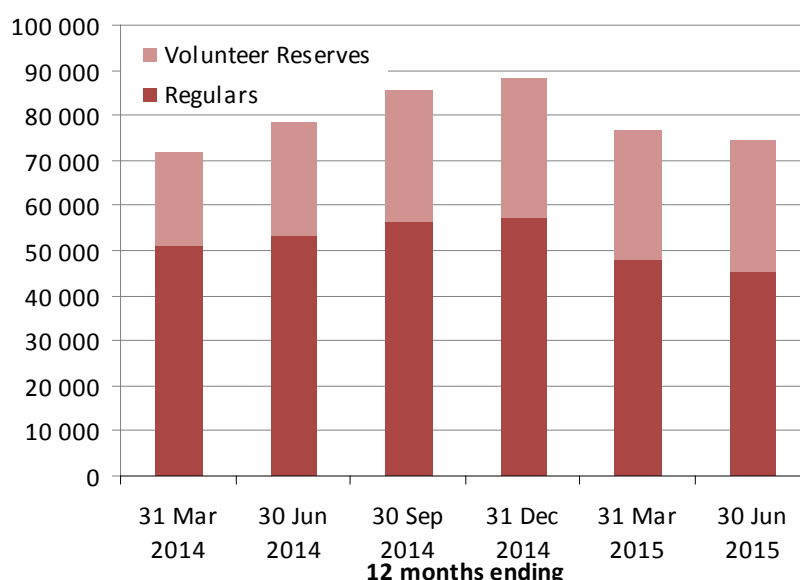
Table 8: Army Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

Applications	1 Jul 13 30 Jun 14	1 Jul 14 30 Jun 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Regulars	53 490	45 780	- 7 710	14.4%
Reserves	25 120	29 020	+ 3 900	15.5%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

There were **45,780 applications** to join the Regulars between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015, which is a **14.4 per cent decrease** on the 12 months previous. **29,020 applications** were received to join the Volunteer Reserve between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015, which is a **15.5 per cent increase** on the 12 months previous.

Figure 8: Applications to the Army split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves



There was an upward trend for applications to the Army Regular and Volunteer Reserve Forces with a high of **88,670 for the 12 months to 31 Dec 14**; however this has not been maintained and the most recent two quarter points have seen a reduction.

Comparing the most recent 12 month period to the same 12 month period last year shows a **7,710 decrease** in applications received by the Regulars. This is partly compensated by an **increase of 3,890** applications to the Volunteer Reserves.

Applications to the Armed Forces

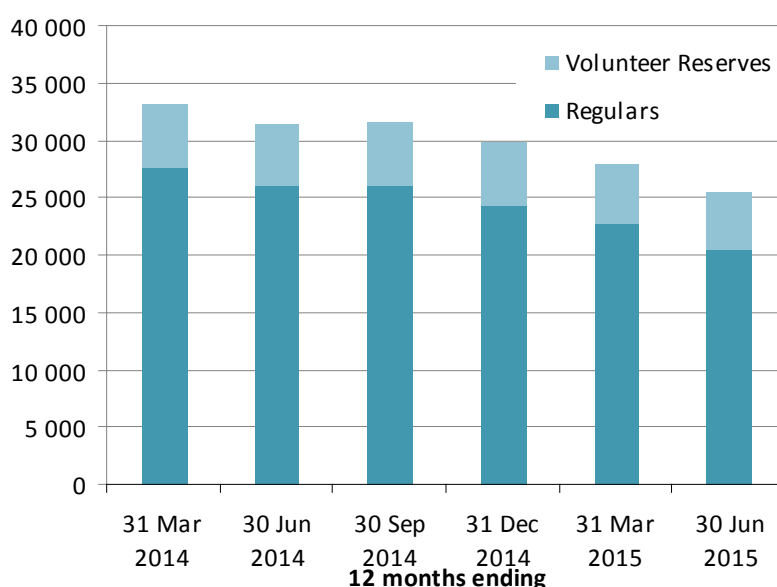
Table 9: RAF Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

Applications	1 Jul 13 30 Jun 14	1 Jul 14 30 Jun 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Regulars	26 050	20 550	- 5 500	21.1%
Reserves	5 400	5 010	- 390	7.2%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

There were **20,550 applications** to join the Regulars between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015, which is a **21.1 per cent decrease** on the 12 months previous. **5,010 applications** were received to join the Volunteer Reserve between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015, which is a **7.2 per cent decrease** on the 12 months previous.

Figure 9: Applications to the RAF split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves



There has been an overall downward trend for applications to join the RAF Regular and Volunteer Reserve Forces; the lowest point being **25,560 for the 12 months to 30 Jun 15**.

Both the Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves have decreased since the same 12 month period last year, with a **5,500 and 390 decrease** in applications received, respectively.

Further Information

Symbols

	discontinuity in time series
*	not applicable
..	not available
–	Zero
~	5 or fewer
p	Provisional
e	Estimate
r	Revised

Italic figures are used for percentages and other rates, except where otherwise indicated.

Rounding

Figures in this publication have been rounded to the nearest 10, though numbers ending in a “5” have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent the systematic bias caused by always rounding numbers upwards. For example; a value of “25” would be rounded down to “20” and a value of “15” would be rounded up to “20”.

Additionally, totals and sub-totals are rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

Percentages are calculated from unrounded data and presented to one decimal place.

Revisions

Please note: Finalised planning round 2015 requirements were unavailable before publication, so the provisional requirement figures used in this publication, for May to July 2015, are based on figures from the previous planning round.

The following revisions have been made to the statistics in the Excel tables that accompany this report:

- Two RAF FTRS figures have been updated with information on commitment. This has had a minor effect on two rounded totals: RAF FTRS at 1 April 2014 and RAF Officers at 1 July 2014. These are marked as revised in Table 3b.
- The additional requirement for RN/RM has been updated for 1 July 2014. This has had a minor effect on the surplus / deficit figure for the RN/RM and the Tri-Service totals. These are marked as revised in Table 3d.
- Three Gains To Trained Strength (GTS) figures have been updated. This has had a minor effect on figures for the 12-months ending 31 March 2014 for the RN/RM, the Army and two All Services totals, as well as figures for 12-months ending 30 June 2014 for RN/RM. These are marked as revised in Table 5b.

There are no regular planned revisions of this Bulletin.

Further Information (cont.)

Contact Us

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

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