



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**. An update to quarterly statistics on the number of **Applications** to the UK Armed Forces is also included. 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) 2015** and the **Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme**. Prior to SDSR 2015, publications reported against SDSR 2010, the Three Month Exercise (3ME), Army 2020 and the Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme.

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

▲ 196 030	<b>Strength of UK Forces Service Personnel</b> at 1 January 2016 <i>an increase of 1 470 (0.8 per cent) since 1 January 2015</i>
▼ 141 260	<b>Full-time Trained Strength</b> at 1 January 2016 <i>a decrease of 4 420 (3.0 per cent) since 1 January 2015</i>
- 4.0%	<b>Surplus/Deficit against the planned number of personnel needed (Liability)</b> at 1 January 2016 <i>showing no change from a deficit of 4.0 per cent as at 1 January 2015</i>
▲ 26 640	<b>Strength of the Trained FR20 Volunteer Reserve</b> at 1 January 2016 <i>an increase of 2 720 (11.4 per cent) since 1 January 2015</i>
▲ 13 890	<b>People joined the UK Regular Armed Forces</b> in the past 12 months (1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015) <i>an increase of 1 550 (12.5 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▲ 8 560	<b>People joined the FR20 Volunteer Reserve</b> in the past 12 months (1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015) <i>an increase of 2 380 (38.6 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▼ 17 230	<b>Regular personnel left the Armed Forces</b> in the past 12 months (1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015) <i>a decrease of 1 590 (8.4 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▼ 3 980	<b>FR20 Volunteer Reserve personnel left the Armed Forces</b> in the past 12 months (1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015) <i>a decrease of 700 (14.9 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](http://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](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk)

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A glossary and other supporting documents are available here:

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

Supplementary tables containing further statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-2016>

## 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)**. An update to quarterly statistics on the number **Regular Reserve Forces** and the number of **Applications** to the UK Armed Forces is also included.

Detailed statistics and historic time series can be found in the **Excel tables**. These include statistics on **rank structure**, **military salaries** and **Separated Service** (the proportion of personnel breaching Harmony guidelines).

Further historic statistics will be added in due course; in the meantime, historic statistics can be found in the following archived publications: **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**. 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 March 2016. A calendar of upcoming MOD statistical releases can be found on **GOV.UK**.

### 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

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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 are reported against the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), released in November 2015. Prior to SDSR 2015, publications reported against the planned Future Force 2020, as set out in the SDSR 2010 which planned to reduce the size of the Armed Forces.

### Full-time Armed Forces personnel:

In order to meet the manpower reduction targets set out in SDSR 2010, the Three Month Exercise (3ME) and Army 2020 (A2020), a redundancy programme coupled with adjusted recruiting (intake) and contract extensions were set. The redundancy programme is now complete.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015, the Ministry of Defence published the National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015. SDSR 2015 outlines plans to uplift the size of the Regular Armed Forces, setting targets for a strength of 82,000 for the Army, and increasing the Royal Navy/Royal Marines and Royal Air Force by a total of 700 personnel. The [SDSR 2015 Defence Key Facts](#) booklet announced new targets for 2020 for each of the Services.

### Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) Programme

The Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme aims to increase the size of the Reserve Forces and targets the Volunteer Reserve.

**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.

**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](#).

Subsequent 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](#).

This statement outlines that the trained strength targets Financial Year 2018/19 are as follows:

<b>Maritime Reserve</b>	3 100
<b>Army Reserve</b>	30 100
<b>RAF Reserves</b>	1 860

## UK Service Personnel

**UK Service Personnel** comprise the total **strength** of the military personnel employed by the Ministry of Defence ([Excel tables](#), table1). The current strength of the UK Service Personnel is 196,030, which include:

- All **UK Regular** personnel and all **Gurkha** personnel (which at 1 January 2016 comprised 78.3 per cent of UK Service Personnel);
- **Volunteer Reserve** personnel (which at 1 January 2016 comprised 17.5 per cent of UK Service Personnel);
- **Other Personnel** including the Serving Regular Reserve, Sponsored Reserve, Military Provost Guard Service, Locally Engaged Personnel and elements of the FTRS (which at 1 January 2016 comprised 4.1 per cent of UK Service Personnel).

**Strength** is the number of personnel.

**Volunteer Reserves** voluntarily accept an annual training commitment and are liable to be mobilised to deploy on operations. They can be utilised on a part-time or full-time basis to provide support to the Regular Forces at home and overseas.

The strength of the UK Forces has increased between 1 January 2015 and 1 January 2016, by 0.8 per cent (1,470 personnel). Over the same period, there has been a decrease in the strength of UK Regular personnel and Gurkhas, partly 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: Recent Trends in the Strength of the UK Forces**

	1 Apr 13	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	1 Oct 15	1 Nov 15	1 Dec 15	1 Jan 16
<b>UK Forces Personnel</b>	<b>211 340</b>	<b>198 810</b>	<b>195 690</b>	<b>196 500</b>	<b>196 670</b>	<b>196 810</b>	<b>196 030</b>
UK Regulars	170 710	159 630	153 720	152 150	151 890	151 700	150 900
Gurkhas	3 510	3 050	2 870	2 690	2 680	2 670	2 670
Volunteer Reserve	30 360	28 860	31 260	33 630	34 030	34 340	34 360
Other Personnel	6 760	7 280	7 840	8 030	8 080	8 090	8 100

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Since last month, the total strength of the UK Forces has decreased by 780 personnel (0.4 per cent). Though this goes against the longer term increasing trend, this is likely to be a seasonal effect due to reduced intake into the UK Regulars Forces and Volunteer Reserve at this time of year, as seen in previous years.

**Table 2: UK Forces Strength by Service**

<b>Strength</b>	<b>1 Jan 15</b>	<b>1 Jan 16</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease</b>	<b>% Increase/ Decrease</b>
Naval Service	38 120	38 140	+20	0.1%
Army	119 470	120 930	+1450	1.2%
Royal Air Force	36 980	36 970	-10	0.0%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

- The Maritime Reserve has increased by 380 (12.5 per cent) since 1 January 2015, the Army Volunteer Reserve has increased by 3,420 (13.7 per cent) since 1 January 2015 and the RAF Volunteer Reserve has increased by 560 (28.8 per cent) since 1 January 2015.

## Full-time Trained Strength and Liability

The **Full-time Trained Strength** (which comprises military personnel who have completed 'Phase 1' and 'Phase 2' training) is counted against the **Liability**. 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 a number of Reserve Forces personnel filling Regular posts whilst serving on Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS).

**Liability** 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 141,260, a decrease of 3.0 per cent (4,420 personnel) since 1 January 2015. There has been a small increase in the Full-Time Trained Strength (FTTS) this month compared to last month (approximately ten personnel); the first FTTS increase since September 2010.
- The FTTS is 29,800 for the RN/RM, 80,300 for the Army and 31,160 for the RAF. For the second consecutive month, there has been a very small increase in the FTTS for the Army.
- The FTTS comprises: 138,320 Regular personnel (97.9 per cent); 2,540 Gurkhas (1.8 per cent); and 410 Full Time Reserve Service personnel (0.3 per cent) who can fill Regular posts and are deployable.

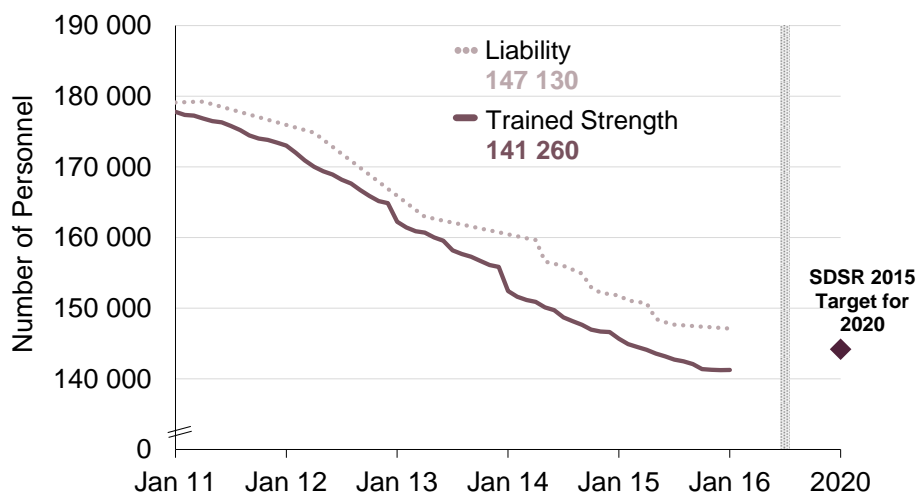
**Table 3: Full-Time Trained Strength against the Liability**

	1 Apr 13	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	1 Oct 15	1 Nov 15	1 Dec 15	1 Jan 16
Trained Strength	160 710	150 890	144 120	141 390	141 280	141 250	141 260
Liability	162 940	159 640	150 700	147 400	147 310	147 220	147 130
Surplus/Deficit	-2 230	-8 750	-6 580	-6 000	-6 020	-5 960	-5 860
% Surplus/Deficit	-1.4	-5.5	-4.4	-4.1	-4.1	-4.1	-4.0

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

- The current deficit against the Liability is 4.0 per cent for the UK Armed Forces. There is a deficit of 1.4 per cent in the Royal Navy/Royal Marines (RN/RM), 4.0 per cent in the Army and 6.4 per cent in the Royal Air Force (RAF).
- A proportion of the Army deficit (of FTTS against the Liability) is likely to be due to the numbers of Service personnel reducing to meet the targets previously set out in the SDSR 2010 and 3ME/A2020 and planned Liability reductions not keeping pace. During this transitional drawdown period the published Army Liability has lagged behind the number of personnel actually needed due to the way in which it is calculated.
- The SDSR 2015 envisaged that by 2020 the UK Armed Forces would have 144,200 personnel, comprising 30,450 for the RN/RM, 82,000 for the Army and 31,750 for the RAF.

**Figure 1: Full-Time Trained Strength against Liability and 2020 target derived from SDSR 2015**

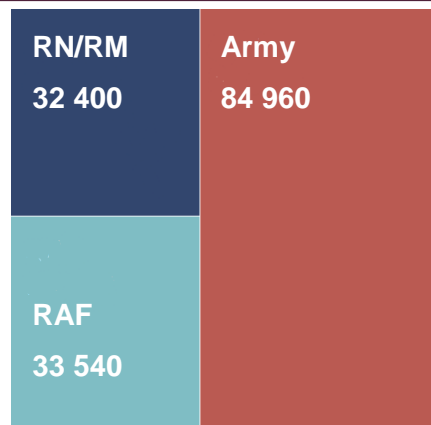




## UK Regular Personnel

As at 1 January 2016, the trained and untrained strength of the UK Regular Forces (which excludes Gurkhas) was 150,900, of which 138,320 were trained personnel.

- The largest numbers of trained UK Regular Forces personnel are in the Army followed by the RAF and the RN/RM.
- There are 12,580 untrained personnel in the UK Regular Forces, of which 7,320 are in the Army. The untrained strength reflects the number of personnel who can potentially join the trained strength.



**Figure 2: Trained and untrained Strength of the UK Regular Forces, by Service, as at 1 January 2016**

### Intake and Outflow since November 2009

Intake and Outflow over the past six years are presented in Figure 3. Since 2010 outflow has exceeded intake for each 12 month period, following the announcement of the reduction in the size of the Armed Forces.

- Excluding personnel who left on redundancy, in the 12 months to 31 December 2015, there was a net outflow of 3,200 personnel from the UK Regular Forces. This difference has reduced compared with the 12 months to 31 December 2014, when 5,090 more personnel left the UK Regular Forces than joined.

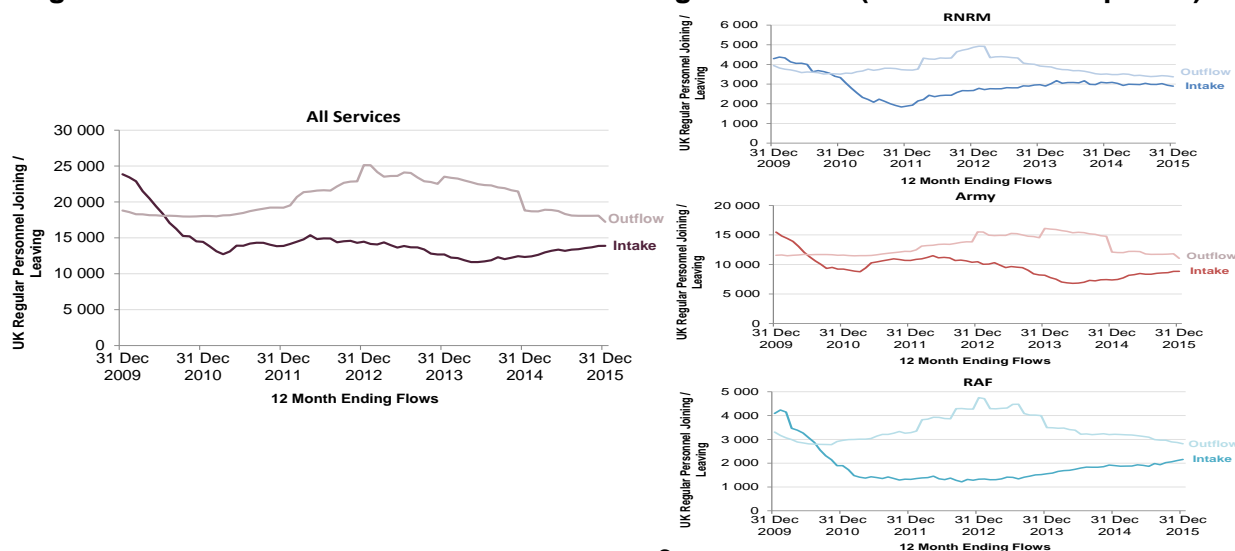
#### Intake

- Intake into the trained and untrained UK Regular Forces was 13,890 in the 12 months to 31 December 2015. This has increased from 12,340 in the 12 months to 31 December 2014.
- Of the current intake, 8.2 per cent was into the Officers and 91.8 per cent was into the Other Ranks.
- From the beginning of the financial year on 1 April 2015 to 31 December 2015, 9,780 people have joined. This is an increase compared with intake of 8,880 in the same period last year (1 April to 31 December 2014).
- The intake pattern for each Service differs. Compared to the 12 months to 31 December 2014, intake to the RN/RM has decreased by 5.5 per cent, the Army has increased by 19.8 per cent and the RAF has increased by 13.5 per cent.

**UK Regulars** are full time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, excluding FTRS personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guarding Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), and Non Regular Permanent Service (NRPS).

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

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



## UK Regular Personnel

### Outflow

- Outflow from the trained and untrained UK Regular Forces was 17,230 in the 12 months to 31 December 2015; down from 18,820 in the 12 months to 31 December 2014. This is also down by 860 since last month (the 12 months to 30 November 2015).
- In the 12 months to 31 December 2015, 140 trained and untrained personnel left the UK Regular Forces as part of the UK Armed Forces Redundancy Programme. This compares to 1,390 in the 12 months to 31 December 2014. As a result, overall outflow is now lower.
- From the beginning of the financial year on 1 April 2015 to 31 December 2015; 12,610 people have left the UK Regulars. This is a decrease compared with outflow of 14,290 in the same period last year (1 April to 31 December 2014).

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

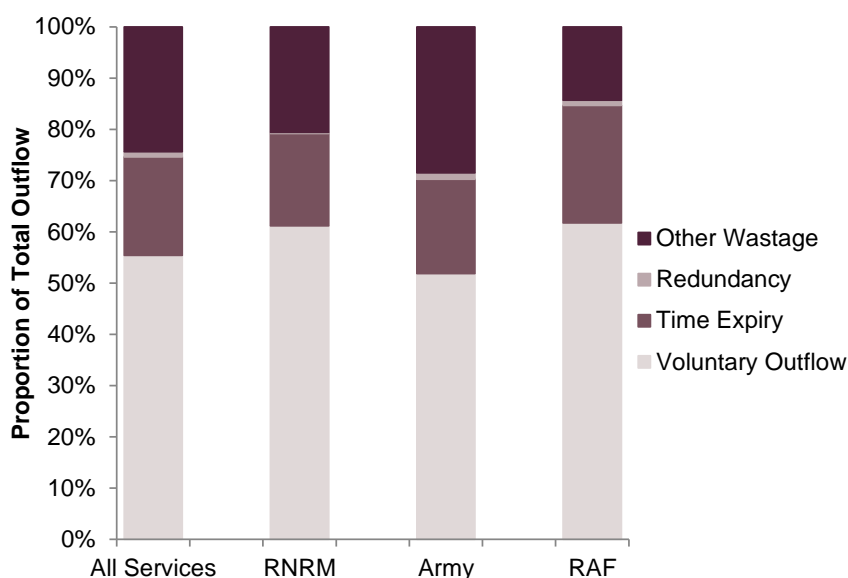
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-redundancy-program-statistics-index>

At a Tri-Service level, more personnel left the trained UK Regular Forces by Voluntary Outflow (VO) than for any other reason (Figure 4).

- In the 12 months to 31 December 2015, 7,920 trained personnel left through VO; the VO rate was 5.7 per cent. This is an increase from 7,450 in the 12 months to 31 December 2014 and a VO rate of 5.1 per cent
- The VO rate is slightly higher amongst Other Ranks (5.8 per cent), compared to Officers (5.1 per cent).

There is no single reason why personnel leave on Voluntary Outflow, but the personnel who completed the **Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey** indicated reasons for leaving the Armed Forces included 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 31 December 2015**



### 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.

**Other Wastage** is outflow from the trained strength due to, amongst others, medical reasons, misconduct, compassionate, dismissals and death.

## Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme monitoring

The [written ministerial statement](#) released on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013 details the planned growth of the FR20 over the next 5 years.

### FR20 Volunteer Reserve Strength

Progress against FR20 trained strength targets is reported in table 6a of the [Excel tables](#).

The total **trained and untrained strength** of the FR20 Tri-Service Volunteer Reserve was 34,030; an increase of 4,580 or 15.5 per cent since 1 January 2015.

The **trained strength** of the FR20 Tri-Service Volunteer Reserve was 26,640; an increase of 2,720 or 11.4 per cent since 1 January 2015.

### FR20 Volunteer Reserve

Includes mobilised volunteer reserves, High Readiness Reserves (HRR) and those volunteer reserves serving on Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) and Additional Duties Commitments (ADC). Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) are excluded.

**Table 4: FR20 Volunteer Reserve strength by Service**

		1 Jan 15	1 Jan 16	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Maritime Reserve	Trained	1 940	2 270	+330	+16.8%
	Untrained	1 100	1 160	+60	+ 5.1%
Army Reserve	Trained	20 480	22 550	+2080	+10.1%
	Untrained	3 990	5 550	+1560	+39.1%
RAF Reserves	Trained	1 500	1 820	+320	+21.4%
	Untrained	440	680	+240	+54.0%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

### FR20 Intake

Intake statistics report how many people have joined the trained or untrained strengths. As well as new recruits, this can include personnel transferring from the Regular Forces, other Reserve populations, or Reserve re-joiners.

In the 12 months between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2015, **intake** to the Tri-Service FR20 Volunteer Reserve was **8,560 people** (3,030 trained and 5,530 untrained, including transfers); a **38.6 per cent increase** on the same 12 month period in the previous year.

**Table 5: Intake to FR20 Volunteer Reserve, trained and untrained**

	1 Jan 14 31 Dec 14	1 Jan 15 31 Dec 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Maritime Reserve	910	1 070	+160	+17.6%
Army Reserve	4 650	6 480	+1830	+39.4%
RAF Reserves	610	1 000	+390	+64.4%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

### FR20 Outflow

Outflow statistics report how many personnel have left the trained or untrained strengths. The majority of outflow is personnel leaving the Armed Forces, though a substantial proportion do transfer to another part of the Armed Forces, such as the Regulars or another Reserve Force.

In the 12 months between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2015 **outflow** from the Tri-Service FR20 Volunteer Reserve was **3,980 people** (2,510 trained and 1,460 untrained, including transfers); a **14.9 per cent decrease** compared with the same 12 month period in the previous year. The overall decrease in Tri-Service outflow is a result of a large decrease in Army Reserve outflow; Maritime Reserve and RAF Reserves outflow has increased over the periods.

**Table 6: Outflow from FR20 Volunteer Reserve, trained and untrained**

	1 Jan 14 31 Dec 14	1 Jan 15 31 Dec 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Maritime Reserve	510	690	+180	+35.1%
Army Reserve	3 900	2 850	-1050	-26.9%
RAF Reserves	270	440	+170	+64.3%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)



# Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme monitoring

## Intake against Targets

### Maritime Reserve

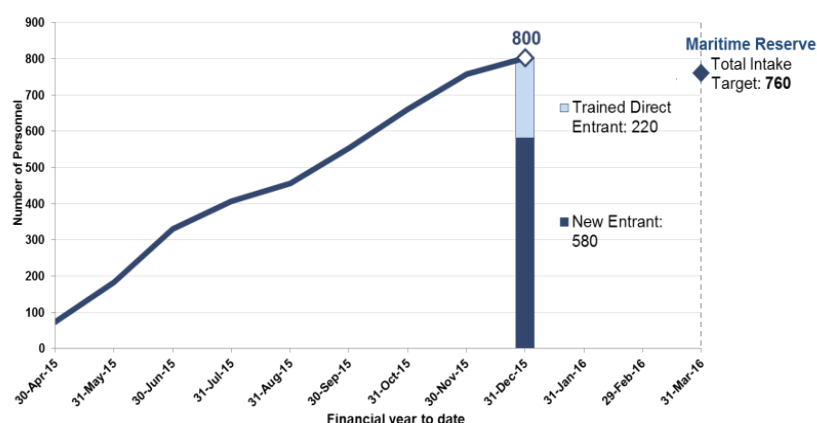
The Maritime Reserve has exceeded its total and trained direct entrant intake targets for financial year 2015/16 in the 9 months to 31 December 2015. (See table 7)

**Table 7: Maritime Reserve intake against targets**

	1 Apr 15 31 Dec 15	End of FY 15 Target	Progress on Target
Total	800	760	+ 40
New Entrant	580	640	- 60
Trained Direct Entrant	220	120	+ 100

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

**Figure 5: Maritime Reserve Intake against targets for Financial Year 2015-16**



### Army Reserve

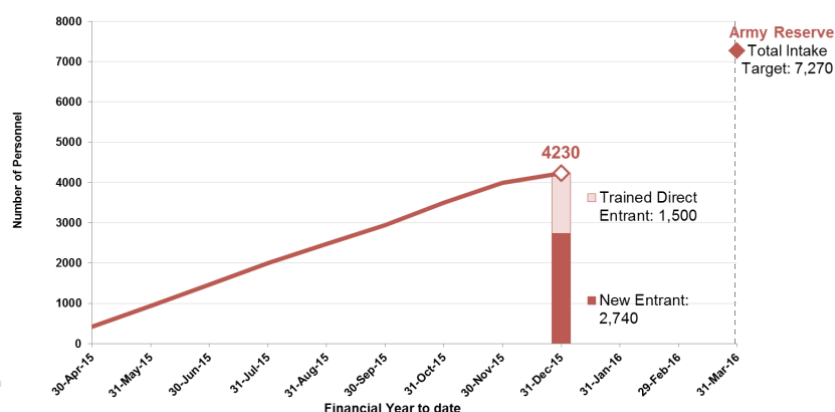
The Army Reserve has exceeded its trained direct entrant targets for financial year 2015/16 in the 9 months to 31 December 2015 (table 8) and is 3,040 away from meeting its end of financial year total intake target.

**Table 8: Army Reserve intake against targets**

	1 Apr 15 31 Dec 15	End of FY 15 Target	Progress on Target
Total	4 230	7 270	- 3 040
New Entrant	2 740	6 000	- 3 260
Trained Direct Entrant	1 500	1 270	+ 230

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

**Figure 6: Army Reserve Intake against targets for Financial Year 2015-16**



### Royal Air Force Reserves

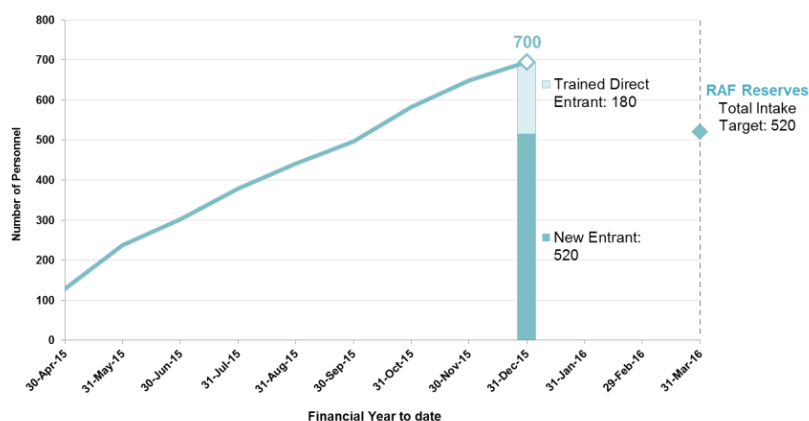
The RAF Reserves has exceeded its total, trained direct entrant and new entrant intake targets for financial year 2015/16 in the 9 months to 31 December 2015. (See table 9)

**Table 9: RAF Reserves intake against targets**

	1 Apr 15 31 Dec 15	End of FY 15 Target	Progress on Target
Total	700	520	+ 180
New Entrant	520	420	+ 100
Trained Direct Entrant	180	100	+ 80

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

**Figure 7: RAF Reserves Intake against targets for Financial Year 2015-16**



## Applications to the Armed Forces

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The figures in this publication include applications to the UK Regular and Volunteer Reserve Forces. They are broken down by Service, and by Officers and Other Ranks.

Due to differences in the application process for each Service, the three Services do not currently adopt the same definition of an 'application'. Therefore, **application numbers cannot be added together across the Services to show total Armed Forces applications** (hence separate tables & graphs are provided).

The number of applications received does not directly relate to intake figures, since:

- Figures relate to the number of **applications** received and not the number of **applicants**, as one applicant may submit several applications;
- For successful applicants who accept an offer to join the Services, there is a substantial processing time between their application being received and the applicant joining the Services. Therefore, the intake figures for Dec 15 are not comparable with the number of applications received in Dec 15, as the numbers apply to different cohorts of people;
- Applications will not result in intake if, for example, they are withdrawn by the applicant during the recruitment process, rejected by the Services, or if an offer to join the Services is declined by the applicant. **See below** for further information.

### Applications that do not result in intake

The main causes of **applicant** failure (i.e. no offer to join the Services given) include:

- Failing security clearance;
- Not having the required residency;
- Not achieving the required recruiting test score for the desired branch/trade;
- Failing the medical scrutiny;
- Not achieving fitness entry standards;
- Applicants withdraw for their own reasons (e.g. change of mind) during the process

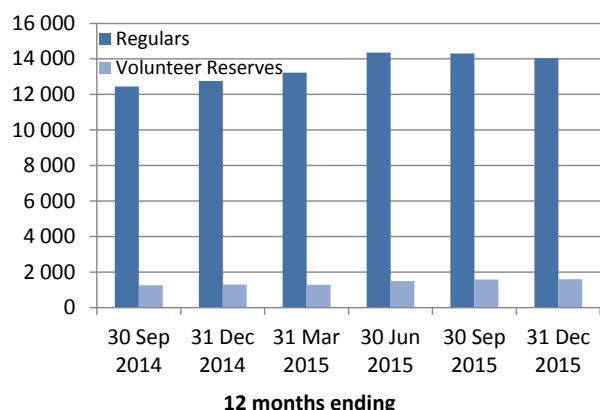
The main causes of **application** failure (i.e. the applicant declines an offer to join):

- Applicants may have submitted other applications for employment (including multiple applications to join the Armed Forces) and accept another offer;
- Applications may be submitted with no intention to join (e.g. to satisfy the requirements of job seeking).

**NOTE: Application numbers cannot be added together across the Services to show total Armed Forces applications due to differences in definitions.**

## Applications to the Armed Forces

**Figure 10: Applications to the RN/RM split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves**



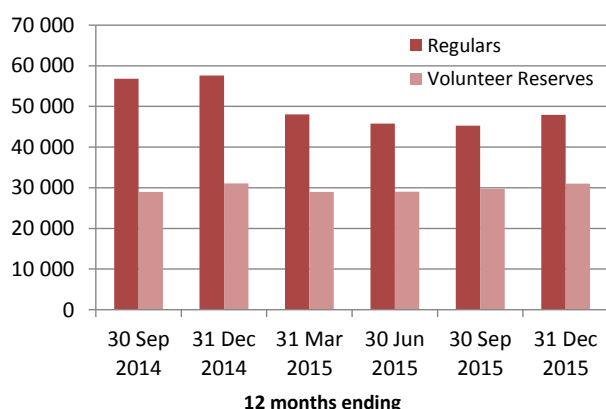
**Table 10: RN/RM Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves**

Applications	1 Jan 14 31 Dec 14	1 Jan 15 31 Dec 15	Increase/ Decrease	Increase/ Decrease
Regulars	12 760	14 040	+ 1 280	+10.0%
Volunteer Reserves	1 290	1 600	+ 310	+24.0%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

The number of applications to join the RN/RM Regular Forces has levelled out during 2015, while the Volunteer Reserves Forces continue to see small increases. There was an overall **increase of 1590** applications in the **12 months to 31 Dec 15** compared with the same period in 2014.

**Figure 11: Applications to the Army split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves**



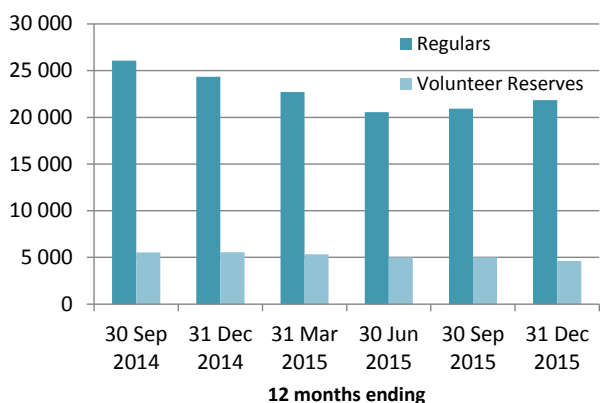
**Table 11: Army Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves**

Applications	1 Jan 14 31 Dec 14	1 Jan 15 31 Dec 15	Increase/ Decrease	Increase/ Decrease
Regulars	57 590	47 940	- 9 650	-16.8%
Volunteer Reserves	31 080	31 000	- 80	-0.3%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Applications to Army Regular and Volunteer Reserve Forces have remained at a steady state throughout 2015. However, the **78,940** applications in the **12 months to 31 Dec 15** is a **decrease of 9,730** compared with the same period in 2014, largely due to reductions in the Regulars.

**Figure 12: Applications to the RAF split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves**



**Table 12: RAF Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves**

Applications	1 Jan 14 31 Dec 14	1 Jan 15 31 Dec 15	Increase/ Decrease	Increase/ Decrease
Regulars	24 340	21 840	- 2 500	-10.3%
Volunteer Reserves	5 560	4 620	- 940	-16.9%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

The number of applications to join the RAF Regular Forces has begun to increase during 2015, while the Volunteer Reserve Forces continue to see slight decreases. The total **26,470** applications in the **12 months to 31 Dec 15** is a **3,430 decrease** compared with the same period in 2014.

## Further Information

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### 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

Minor revisions have been made to figures for the Royal Air Force (RAF) Volunteer Reserve Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) as at 1 January 2013 in the supporting Excel tables 1 and 2c; this has resulted in the total RAF Volunteer Reserve FTRS being revised from 50 to 160.

There are no regular planned revisions of this Bulletin.

### 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.

## Further Information (cont.)

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### 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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If you require information which is not available within this or other available publications, you may wish to submit a Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Ministry of Defence. For more information, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/the-freedom-of-information-act>

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