



UK Armed Forces Monthly Service Personnel Statistics 1 April 2016

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**. In addition there is an update to quarterly statistics on the number of applications to each of the Services. Annual statistics on rank structure have also been updated for UK Regular personnel and released for the first time for the Future Reserve 2020 Volunteer Reserve. 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

▲ 197 190	Strength of UK Forces Service Personnel at 1 April 2016 <i>an increase of 1 500 (0.8 per cent) since 1 April 2015</i>
▼ 140 430	Full-time Trained Strength at 1 April 2016 <i>a decrease of 3 680 (2.6 per cent) since 1 April 2015</i>
- 4.4% ^p	Provisional Surplus/Deficit against the planned number of personnel needed (Liability) at 1 April 2016 <i>Provisionally, this is the same size deficit as at 1 April 2015</i>
▲ 27 270	Strength of the Trained FR20 Volunteer Reserve at 1 April 2016 <i>an increase of 2 640 (10.7 per cent) since 1 April 2015</i>
▲ 13 800	People joined the UK Regular Armed Forces in the past 12 months (1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016) <i>an increase of 820 (6.3 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▼ 16 540	Regular personnel left the Armed Forces in the past 12 months (1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016) <i>a decrease of 2 370 (12.5 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▲ 8 200	People joined the FR20 Volunteer Reserve in the past 12 months (1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016) <i>an increase of 1 390 (20.4 per cent) compared with the previous 12 month period</i>
▲ 4 260	FR20 Volunteer Reserve personnel left the Armed Forces in the past 12 months (1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016) <i>an increase of 120 (2.8 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

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Supplementary tables containing further statistics can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-2016>

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)**. An update to annual statistics on **rank structure** and quarterly statistics on the number of **applications** to each of the Services has also been included.

Liability figures for 1 April 2016 have been marked as provisional because finalised figures were not available when this publication was produced. The associated surplus / deficit figures are therefore provisional as well. These figures will be updated next month.

Statistics on the number of applications to the Army were revised last month in the Excel tables due to a processing error with our data providers between November 2014 and March 2015. Updated commentary is now included in this publication.

Statistics on Exit Reason for the Army (specifically Voluntary Outflow, Time Expiry and Other), for UK Regular personnel, have been marked as provisional from 1 February edition onwards (see page 7 and Excel tables 4 and 5d). The corresponding Tri-Service totals are also marked as provisional. This is due to the implementation of improvements to the quality assurance process. These statistics will be finalised in due course. The associated historic statistics will also be affected and therefore revised.

Detailed statistics and historic time series can be found in the **Excel tables**. These include statistics on **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 9 June 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

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 23rd 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 population 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 by the end of Financial Year 2018/19 are as follows:

Maritime Reserve	3 100
Army Reserve	30 100
RAF Reserves	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 197,190, which include:

- All **UK Regular** personnel and all **Gurkha** personnel (which at 1 April 2016 comprised 78.0 per cent of UK Service Personnel);
- **Volunteer Reserve** personnel (which at 1 April 2016 comprised 17.8 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 April 2016 comprised 4.2 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 April 2015 and 1 April 2016, by 0.8 per cent (1,500 personnel). Over the same period, there has been a decrease in the strength of UK Regular personnel and Gurkhas and there have been increases in the Reserves populations. The total strength of the Volunteer Reserve has increased by 3,810 (12.2%) between 1 April 2015 and 1 April 2016.

Table 1: Recent Trends in the Strength of the UK Forces

	1 Apr 13	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	1 Jan 16	1 Feb 16	1 Mar 16	1 Apr 16
UK Forces Personnel	211 340	198 810	195 690	196 030	196 650	196 900	197 190
UK Regulars	170 710	159 630	153 720	150 900	150 950	150 960	151 000
Gurkhas	3 510	3 050	2 870	2 670	2 870	2 860	2 860
Volunteer Reserve	30 360	28 860	31 260	34 360	34 680	34 910	35 070
Other Personnel	6 760	7 280	7 840	8 100	8 140	8 170	8 270

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Table 2: UK Forces Strength by Service

Strength	1 Apr 15	1 Apr 16	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Naval Service	38 200	38 360	+160	0.4%
Army	120 490	121 850	+1360	1.1%
Royal Air Force	37 000	36 980	-20	-0.1%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

1. UK Forces comprises all UK Regular, Gurkha, Volunteer Reserve and Other personnel. The constituents of "Other personnel" are reported towards the top of this page.

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.

- The Strength of the Full-time Trained UK Armed Forces is 140,430, a decrease of 2.6 per cent (3,680 personnel) since 1 April 2015.
- The FTTS is 29,700 for the RN/RM, 79,750 for the Army and 30,980 for the RAF.
- The FTTS comprises: 137,470 Regular personnel (97.9 per cent); 2,500 Gurkhas (1.8 per cent); and 470 Full Time Reserve Service personnel (0.3 per cent) who can fill Regular posts and are deployable.

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.

Liability figures for 1 April 2016 have been marked as provisional because finalised figures were not available when this publication was produced. The associated surplus / deficit figures are therefore provisional as well. These figures will be updated next month.

Table 3: Full-Time Trained Strength against the Liability

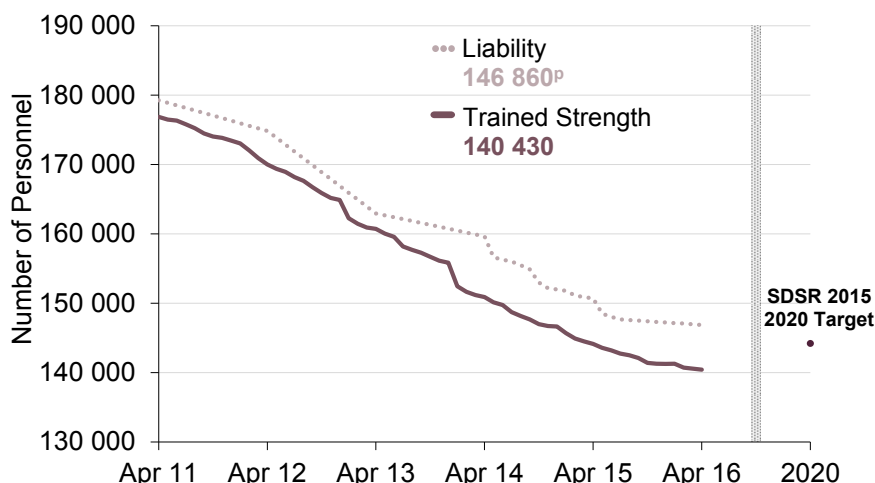
	1 Apr 13	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	1 Jan 16	1 Feb 16	1 Mar 16	1 Apr 16
Trained Strength	160 710	150 890	144 120	141 260	140 720	140 570	140 430
Liability	162 940	159 640	150 700	147 130	147 070	146 950	146 860 ^P
Surplus/Deficit	-2 230	-8 750	-6 580	-5 860	-6 350	-6 380	-6 420 ^P
% Surplus/Deficit	-1.4	-5.5	-4.4	-4.0	-4.3	-4.3	-4.4 ^P

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

- The current provisional deficit against the Liability is 4.4 per cent for the UK Armed Forces. There is a provisional deficit of 1.7 per cent in the Royal Navy/Royal Marines (RN/RM), 4.6 per cent in the Army and 6.3 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

Note: Liability for 1 April 2016 is provisional



UK Regular Personnel

As at 1 April 2016, the trained and untrained strength of the UK Regular Forces (which excludes Gurkhas) was 151,000, of which 137,470 were trained personnel.

- The majority of trained UK Regular Forces personnel are in the Army followed by the RAF and the RN/RM.
- There are 13,530 untrained personnel in the UK Regular Forces, of which 7,930 are in the Army. The untrained strength reflects the number of personnel who can potentially join the trained strength.

RNRM 32 500	ARMY 85 040
RAF 33 460	

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

Intake and Outflow since 2010

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 March 2016, there was a net outflow of 2,640 personnel from the UK Regular Forces. This difference has reduced compared with the 12 months to 31 March 2015, when 4,580 more personnel left the UK Regular Forces than joined.

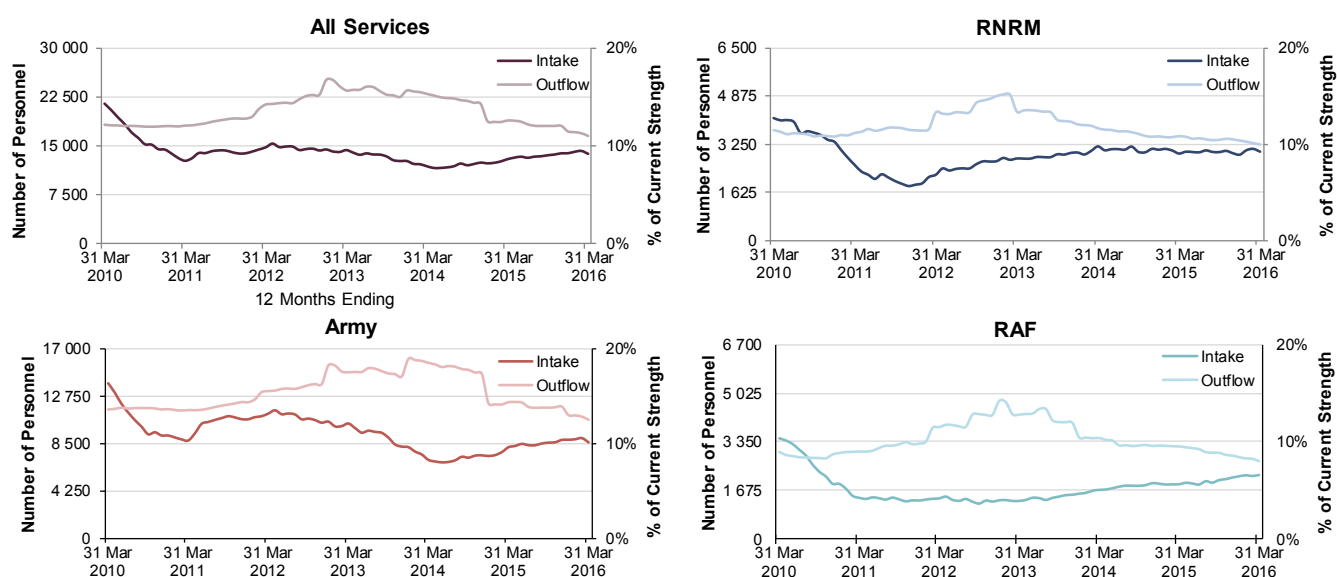
UK Regulars are full time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, excluding FTRS personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guarding Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), and Non Regular Permanent Service (NRPS).

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

Intake

- Intake into the trained and untrained UK Regular Forces was 13,800 in the 12 months to 31 March 2016. This has increased from 12,980 in the 12 months to 31 March 2015.
- Of the current intake, 8.8 per cent was into the Officers and 91.2 per cent was into the Other Ranks.
- Intake numbers have increased for each Service. Compared to the 12 months to 31 March 2015, intake to the RN/RM has increased by 2.2 per cent, intake to the Army has increased by 5.3 per cent and the RAF has increased by 16.8 per cent.

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 16,540 in the 12 months to 31 March 2016; down from 18,910 in the 12 months to 31 March 2015.
- In the 12 months to 31 March 2016, 110 trained and untrained personnel left the UK Regular Forces as part of the UK Armed Forces Redundancy Programme. This compares to 1,350 in the 12 months to 31 March 2015.

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

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

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.

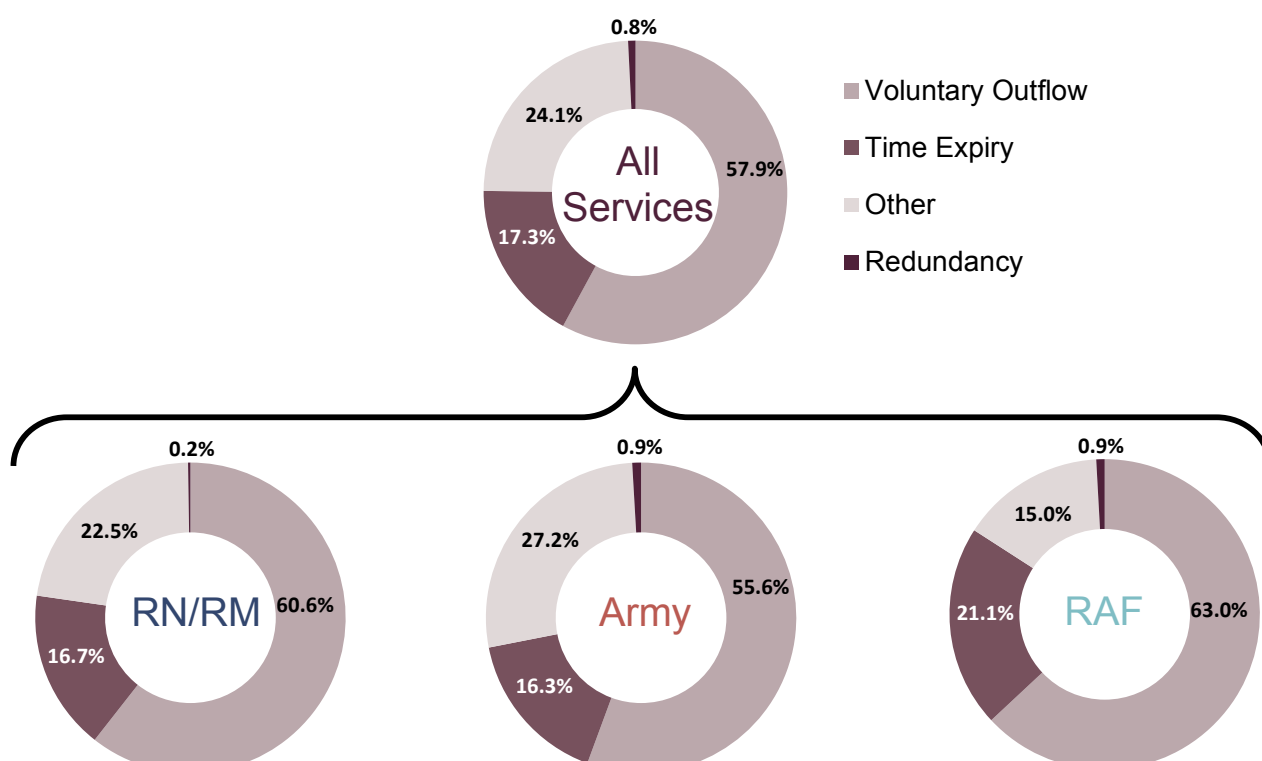
Other includes outflow from the trained strength due to, amongst others, medical reasons, misconduct, compassionate, dismissals and death.

The following statistics on exit reason are **provisional** (see introduction for further information). 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 March 2016, 7,840 trained personnel left through VO; provisionally the VO rate was 5.6 per cent. This is an increase from 7,610 in the 12 months to 31 March 2015 and a VO rate of 5.3 per cent
- Provisionally, the VO rate is slightly higher amongst Other Ranks (5.8 per cent), compared to Officers (4.9 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 of trained UK Regulars by exit reason (12 months to 31 March 2016)



Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme monitoring

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

FR20 Volunteer Reserve Strength

Progress against FR20 population rained 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 34,760; an increase of 3,940 or 12.8 per cent since 1 April 2015.

The **trained strength** of the FR20 Tri-Service Volunteer Reserve was 27,270; an increase of 2,640 or 10.7 per cent since 1 April 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) and Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) are excluded.

Table 4: FR20 Volunteer Reserve strength by Service

		1 Apr 15	1 Apr 16	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Maritime Reserve	Trained	1 980	2 350	+370	+18.7%
	Untrained	1 180	1 190	+10	+ 1.2%
Army Reserve	Trained	21 030	23 030	+2000	+9.5%
	Untrained	4 410	5 640	+1230	+27.9%
RAF Reserves	Trained	1 620	1 890	+270	+16.5%
	Untrained	600	650	+60	+9.2%

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 April 2015 and 31 March 2016, **intake** to the Tri-Service FR20 Volunteer Reserve was **8,200 people** (2,940 trained and 5,260 untrained, including transfers); a **20.4 per cent increase** on the same 12 month period in the previous year.

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

Intake	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
	31 Mar 15	31 Mar 16		
Maritime Reserve	860	1 060	+200	+23.1%
Army Reserve	5 210	6 260	+1060	+20.3%
RAF Reserves	740	870	+140	+18.5%

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 April 2015 and 31 March 2016 **outflow** from the Tri-Service FR20 Volunteer Reserve was **4,260 people** (2,650 trained and 1,610 untrained, including transfers); a **2.8 per cent increase** compared with the same 12 month period in the previous year. Such increases in outflow are to be expected following growth in the untrained strength.

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

Outflow	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
	31 Mar 15	31 Mar 16		
Maritime Reserve	560	680	+120	+21.9%
Army Reserve	3 350	3 030	-320	-9.5%
RAF Reserves	240	550	+310	+132.1%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) programme monitoring

Performance against 2015/16 FR20 Volunteer Reserve targets

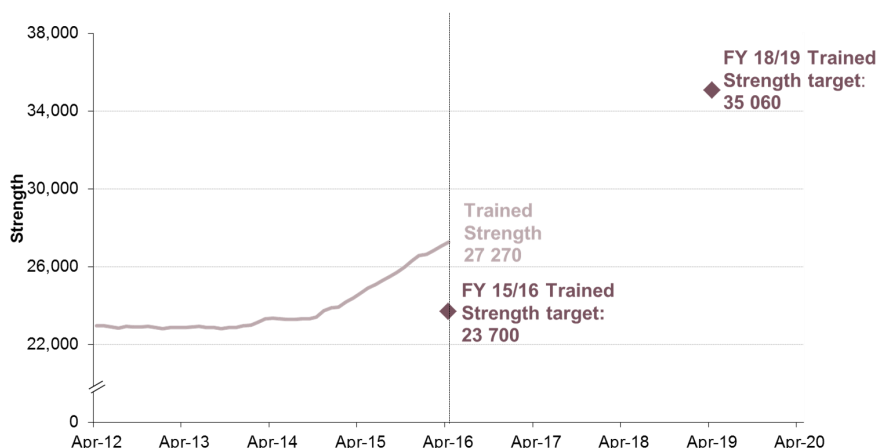
Strength targets

As at 1 April 2016 the trained strength of the FR20 Tri-Service Volunteer Reserve was 27,270, 3,570 personnel above the target of **23,700** for financial year 2015/16. (See figure 5). This is a result of all three services achieving their trained strength targets for this financial year.

As at 1 April 2016 the trained strength of the

- Maritime Reserve was 2,350, 450 personnel above its target of **1,900** for financial year 2015/16.
- Army Reserve was 23,030, 2,830 personnel above its target of **20,200** for financial year 2015/16.
- RAF Reserves was 1,890, 290 personnel above its target of **1,600** for financial year 2015/16.

Figure 5: FR20 Tri-Service Volunteer Reserve trained strength against target



Intake targets

The Maritime Reserve exceeded its total intake target by 39.7 per cent. This is a result of them exceeding both their new entrant and trained direct entrant targets for financial year 2015/16. (see table 7)

Table 7: Maritime Reserve intake against targets

	1 Apr 15 31 Mar 16	FY 2015/16 Target	Performance against Target
Total	1 060	760	+300
New Entrant	760	640	+120
Trained Direct Entrant	300	120	+180

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

The Army Reserve is 24.7 per cent below its total intake target. This is mainly because they were 41.5 per cent below their new entrant target despite achieving their trained direct entrants target for financial year 2015/16. (see table 8)

Table 8: Army Reserve intake against targets

	1 Apr 15 31 Mar 16	FY 2015/16 Target	Performance against Target
Total	5 480	7 270	-1 790
New Entrant	3 510	6 000	-2 490
Trained Direct Entrant	1 970	1 270	+700

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

The RAF Reserves has exceeded its total intake target by 67.9 per cent. This is a result of them exceeding both their new entrant and trained direct entrant target for financial year 2015/16. (see table 9)

Table 9: RAF Reserves intake against targets

	1 Apr 15 31 Mar 16	FY 2015/16 Target	Performance against Target
Total	870	520	+350
New Entrant	650	420	+230
Trained Direct Entrant	220	100	+120

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Rank Structure

Figures are for paid rank; details of NATO rank codes can be found in the [glossary](#).

UK Regular Forces

Table 10: Strength of UK Regular Forces by rank, at 1 April each year

	1 Apr 12	1 Apr 13	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	1 Apr 16
Officer	30 700	29 060	27 850	27 230	26 820
OF 7 and above	140	130	130	140	130
OF-6	330	300	310	310	300
OF-5	1 140	1 110	1 080	1 080	1 060
OF-4	3 920	3 750	3 720	3 680	3 640
OF-3	9 050	8 650	8 360	8 190	8 170
OF-2	12 030	11 440	10 720	9 950	9 410
OF-D/OF-1	4 090	3 680	3 530	3 890	4 100
Rank	149 100	141 650	131 770	126 490	124 180
OR-8/OR-9	8 320	7 730	7 370	7 210	7 190
OR-7	12 230	11 720	10 910	10 460	10 490
OR-6	19 710	18 650	17 100	16 300	16 320
OR-4	28 890	27 540	26 170	24 980	24 580
OR-3	16 870	16 000	14 880	14 760	14 630
OR-1/OR-2	63 080	60 010	55 340	52 780	50 960

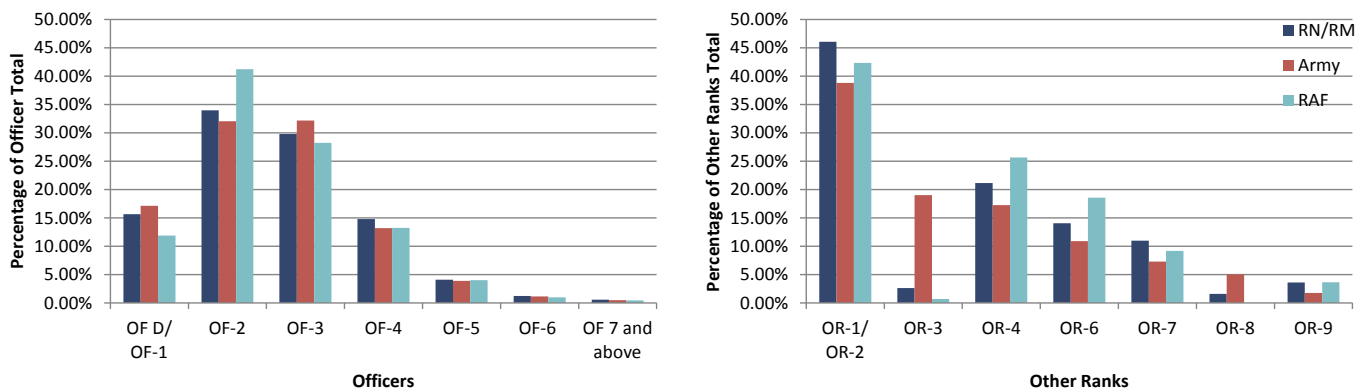
Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

- Overall, the downward trend in the strength of Officers and Other Ranks (OR) continues from 1 April 2015 to 1 April 2016; both have decreased by about the same percentage.
- Between 2015 and 2016, strengths have decreased across most ranks, apart from OF-D/OF-1 within Officers and OR9, OR7 and OR6 within Other Ranks.

Among the Officers, the greatest decrease in strength was at OF2 which fell by 5.5 per cent between 2015 and 2016. For Other Ranks, OR1/OR2 had the largest decline, with 3.5 per cent fewer personnel in 2016 than in 2015.

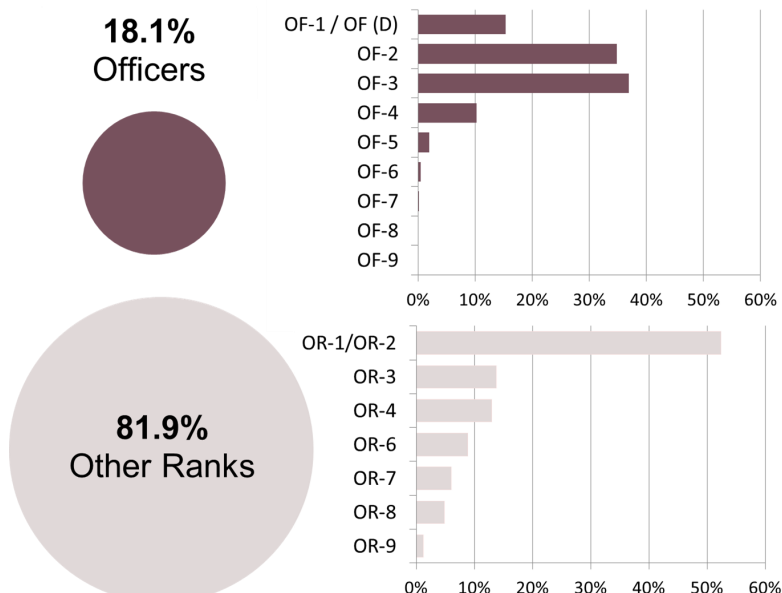
- The structure of Officer strength by rank is fairly similar across the three Services whilst OR strength profiles are more varied due to the different uses of the OR hierarchy by each Service (the Army and Royal Marines use all OR ranks; the Royal Navy does not use OR3; and the RAF does not use OR8 and largely excludes OR3).

Figure 6: UK Regular Forces Strength by Rank Structure, 1 April 2016



Future Reserves 2020 Volunteer Reserve

Figure 7: FR20 Volunteer Reserve Rank Structure, 1 April 2016



As at 1 April 2016, 18.1 per cent of the FR20 Volunteer Reserve were Officers and 81.9 per cent were Other Ranks. These percentages have remained stable since 1 April 2013.

52.3 per cent of the other ranks in the FR20 Volunteer Reserve are OR-1/ OR-2 and the majority of Officers are OF-3 or below.

Applications to the Armed Forces

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 and 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 8: Applications to the RN/RM split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

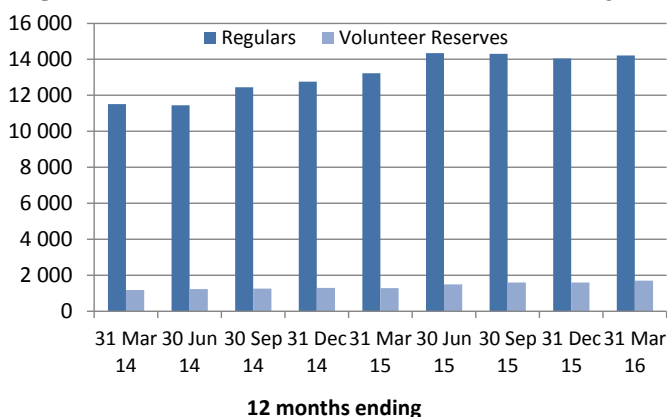


Table 11: RN/RM Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

Applications	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	Change	%
	31 Mar 15	31 Mar 16		
Regulars	13 230	14 220	+ 990	+7.5%
Volunteer Reserves	1 280	1 700	+ 420	+32.8%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

The number of applications to join the RN/RM Regular Forces has remained fairly stable over the past four quarter points, while the Volunteer Reserves continue to see small increases. There was an overall **increase of 1,420** applications in the **12 months to 31 Mar 16** compared with the same period last year.

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

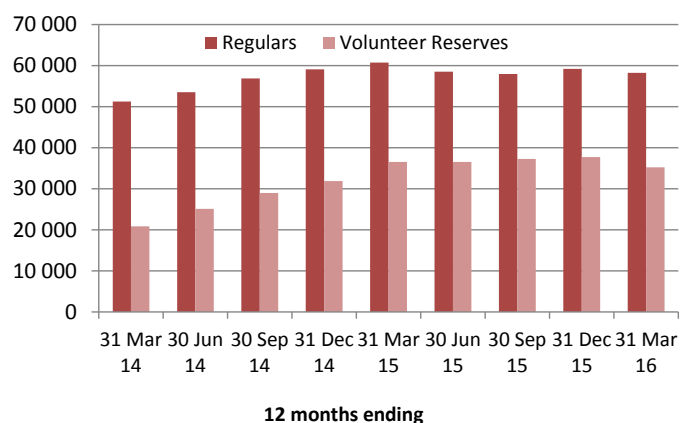


Table 12: Army Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

Applications	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	Change	%
	31 Mar 15	31 Mar 16		
Regulars	60 730	58 250	- 2 480	-4.1%
Volunteer Reserves	36 520	35 240	- 1 280	-3.5%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

The annual number of applications to Army Regular and Volunteer Reserve Forces have remained at a relatively steady state throughout financial year 15/16. The **93,490** applications in the **12 months to 31 Mar 16** is a **decrease of 3,760^r** compared with the same period last year, when annual applications peaked at **97,250^r** in the **12 months to 31 Mar 15**.

Figure 10: Applications to the RAF split by UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

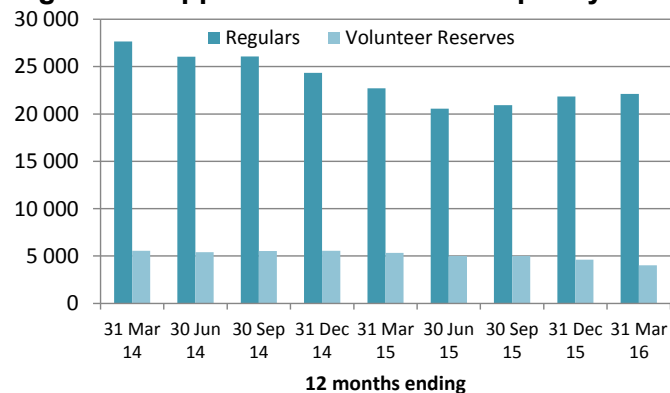


Table 13: RAF Applications to the UK Regular Forces and Volunteer Reserves

Applications	1 Apr 14	1 Apr 15	Change	%
	31 Mar 15	31 Mar 16		
Regulars	22 710	22 110	- 600	-2.6%
Volunteer Reserves	5 330	4 030	- 1 300	-24.4%

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

The annual number of applications to join the RAF Regular Forces has begun to rise during financial year 15/16, while the Volunteer Reserves continue to see slight decreases. The total **26,140** applications in the **12 months to 31 Mar 16** is a **1,900 decrease** compared with the same period last year.

^r commentary has been updated to reflect the revised Army applications numbers.

Further Information

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

Statistics on the number of applications to the Army were revised last month in the Excel tables due to a processing error with our data providers between November 2014 and March 2015. Updated commentary is included in this publication.

Liability figures for 1 April 2016 have been marked as provisional because finalised figures were not available when this publication was produced. The associated surplus / deficit figures are therefore provisional as well. These figures will be updated next month.

Statistics on Exit Reason for the Army (specifically Voluntary Outflow, Time Expiry and Other), for UK Regular personnel, are marked as provisional from 1 February edition onwards (see page 7 and Excel tables 4 and 5d). The corresponding Tri-Service totals are also marked as provisional. This is due to the implementation of improvements to the quality assurance process. These statistics will be finalised in due course. The associated historic statistics will also be affected and therefore revised.

The 12 month ending 29th February 2016 Tri-Service trained strength at the start of the period has been revised (see table 7a of the Excel tables).

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.)

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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