

UK Defence in Numbers 2017: Sources

UK Defence in Numbers 2017 provides figures from a wide range of published official statistics and other releases, as well as numbers published for the first time. Further information on the sources of the statistics can be found below. Additional Defence statistics can be found via the [Statistics at MOD](#) pages on gov.uk.

Page 2 What We Spend: The information on this page is from a variety of sources:

- Defence Expenditure: [MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2016-17](#), page 14
- Defence Budgets: IISS, [The Military Balance](#) (requires subscription)
- UK spend per person on defence: £35.3bn Defence Expenditure divided by [ONS mid-year population estimate](#)
- Investment in new equipment and infrastructure: [MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2016-17](#), page 14
- Proportion of GDP spent on defence: NATO, [Defence Expenditure of NATO Countries \(2010-2017\)](#), page 8, Table 3
- Defence spending commitment: [gov.uk](#)
- Research and Development: ONS, [UK Government Expenditure on Science, Engineering and Technology 2015](#), section 1

Page 3 Defence Budgets: IISS, [The Military Balance](#) (requires subscription). Please note that differences between the UK Defence Expenditure on page 3 of Defence in Numbers, and that reported on page 2 can largely be explained by exchange rate calculations. Direct comparisons of the defence expenditure statistics contained within Defence in Numbers are challenging due to the varying definitions of defence expenditure employed by the different organisations which publish estimates. Please see the individual sources for further detail.

Page 4 Defence Expenditure as a % of GDP: NATO, [Defence Expenditure of NATO Countries \(2010-2017\)](#), page 8, Table 3

Page 5 % of NATO Defence Expenditure Spent on Equipment: NATO, [Defence Expenditure of NATO Countries \(2010-2017\)](#), page 11, Table 6a

Page 6 Trained Military and Civilian Personnel: [MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2016-17](#), page 12

Page 7 Diversity in the Armed Forces: [National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015](#), page 20

Page 8 Operations: Information on this page is from a variety of sources, and includes MOD public commitments on [Afghanistan](#), [Ukraine](#), [Estonia](#), [Poland](#), [Somalia](#), [South Sudan](#) and [Nigeria](#). Other statistics have been provided by sources within MOD.

Page 9 Campaign against Daesh: Provided by Ops Directorate, MOD. Updates are periodically released by MOD via gov.uk and other channels.

Page 10 Defence Advisers/Attachés: The Ministry of Defence does not currently publish information on Defence Attachés and Defence Advisors as official statistics. These figures include all countries where Defence Attachés and Advisors are currently located. The list also includes some countries that have anticipated opening dates in the coming year. While these numbers have been quality assured, they have not undergone the full quality assurance process that would be used for official statistics. Please note that the figures do not indicate the number of personnel employed at these locations nor are they indicative of their relative diplomatic importance.

Distribution of Defence Attachés and Defence Advisors by region is taken from the UN classification of Geographic Regions – which is the recommended classification for world geography. The full list is at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>

Page 11 Planned expenditure on equipment and support: High level figures from NAO, [Equipment Plan 2016 to 2026](#). More detailed figures provided by MOD.

Page 12 and 13 Joint Forces 2025: HM Government, [National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015](#), page 28

Page 14 Defence Exports: Department for International Trade Defence and Security Organisation, [UK Defence and Security Export Figures 2016](#), Chart 3 and Chart 7

Page 15 Government department expenditure: HMT, [Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2017](#), page 20, Table 1.3 and page 25, Table 1.8. Please note that Defence expenditure as shown in the Public Expenditure statistics cannot be directly compared to the Defence spending figure on page 2 as they use different definitions. The difference can be attributed in part to HMT's inclusion of Depreciation/Impairments/Fixed Assets Written On/Off and the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS). Breakdown of Defence Expenditure: [MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2016-17](#), page 76. Please note that the statistics in this section and on page 5 of Defence in Numbers are based on different time periods.

Page 16-17 Investment in UK Industry: [MOD Regional Expenditure with UK Industry and Commerce and Supported Employment 2015/16](#), Table 4 and Table 10.

Page 18 Apprenticeships: These figures include all apprenticeship places taken up in 2016/17 that meet the Skills Funding Agency definition for an apprenticeship. This is the first year that figures have been published on apprenticeships by trade. While these numbers have been quality assured, they have not undergone the full quality assurance process that would be used for official statistics. The numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10 for clarity.

Page 19 Defence Innovation Initiative: Provided by FMC Innovation, MOD.

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