



# Location of UK Armed Forces Pension and Compensation Recipients

Published: 16 August 2018

This Statistical Bulletin provides summary statistics on the location of UK Armed Forces pension and compensation recipients by country, region, county, local authority, local health organisation, and postcode district, as at 31 March 2018. Overall totals of all pension and compensation recipients are presented, including separate totals for veterans only.

**Please note: This statistical bulletin does not contain those who are in receipt of a pension under the AFPS15 scheme. Please see [Background Quality Report](#) for more information.**

## Key Points

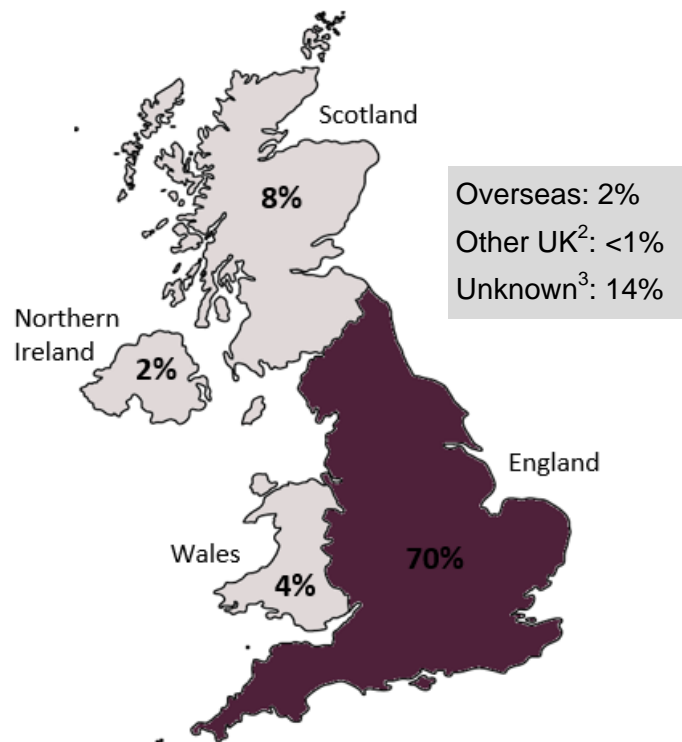
As at 31 March 2018:

- There were **477,681** pension and compensation recipients, of which **444,362** (93%) were veterans.
- Over **8 in every 10** pension and compensation recipients were identified as **residing in the UK**.
- Over **4 in every 5** recipients in the UK were residing in **England**.
- Over **one-third** of UK recipients were residing in the **South West or South East of England**.
- Over **half of overseas** compensation and pension recipients were residing in **Australia** (26%), **Germany** (22%) or **Canada** (10%).

(Tables 1, 2 and 3, Annex A)

**Figure 1: Recipients of Armed Forces pensions and compensation<sup>1</sup> in the UK, by Country**

As at 31 March 2018



1. Excludes those in receipt of a pension under the AFPS15 scheme.

2. Includes Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

3. Includes pension and compensation recipients with no valid postcode recorded.

## Sources: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS); War Pension Computer System (WPCS)

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**Background quality report:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients>

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## Introduction

These statistics present summary information on the number and location of recipients of an Armed Forces pension and/or compensation as at 31 March 2018.

The cohort of UK Armed Forces pension and compensation recipients is made up of the following;

**AFPS** - UK veteran personnel in receipt of an occupational pension under one of the following Armed Forces Pension Schemes: AFPS 75 or APFS 05. This report does **not** include those in receipt of AFPS 15, please see [Background Quality Report](#) for more details.

**WPS** - UK veteran personnel, war widow(er)s and other pensioners in receipt of a disablement pension under the War Pension Scheme (WPS).

**AFCS** - UK veterans and serving personnel who have been awarded compensation under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS).

An individual may be in receipt of an occupational pension and may also have been awarded compensation for Service-attributable injury/illness. Therefore, individuals may be captured under more than one scheme. For this reason the total numbers of individuals within each location have been presented, with a separate breakdown for veterans only.

These statistics were developed following an increasingly high burden of external requests for information, specifically from Local Authorities and NHS Groups wanting to obtain estimates of serving and ex-serving personnel residing within their catchment area that may be more likely to require access to local health and social care services. The increase in such requests has been primarily driven by the Armed Forces Covenant<sup>1</sup>, published in May 2011, which sets out the moral obligation of the nation to members of the UK Armed Forces, veterans and their families.

This report has been published to support the MOD's commitment to release information wherever possible.

Defence Statistics also produces annual National Statistics on the War Pension Scheme (WPS) and the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS), and an annual Official Statistic on the estimated number of Veteran residing in Great Britain. These publications can be found via the following links:

- The War Pension Scheme (WPS): <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>
- The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS): <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>
- Annual population survey: UK armed forces veterans residing in Great Britain: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-population-survey-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-great-britain>

1. More information about the Armed Forces Covenant can be found via the following link: <https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/>

## Results

As at 31 March 2018, there were 477,681 recipients of a pension or compensation (**Table 1**). Specifically, there were:

- 373,430 recipients of an occupation pension under the AFPS 75 or the AFPS 05.
- 118,000 recipients of an ongoing war pension under the WPS.
- 39,229 recipients of compensation under the AFCS.

Note that the subtotals presented above cannot be summed as an individual may have been in receipt of financial payments under more than one scheme.

**Table 1: UK Armed Forces pension and compensation recipients, by country and scheme, numbers and percentages**

As at 31 March 2018

Country	All <sup>1</sup>		Of which veterans <sup>1</sup>		All AFPS <sup>2</sup>	All WPS	Of which veterans <sup>3</sup>		All AFCS	Of which veterans <sup>4</sup>
<b>All</b>	<b>477,681</b>		<b>444,362</b>		<b>373,430</b>	<b>118,000</b>	<b>101,630</b>		<b>39,229</b>	<b>22,057</b>
<b>UK</b>	<b>404,710</b>		<b>374,005</b>		<b>308,808</b>	<b>107,591</b>	<b>92,541</b>		<b>36,410</b>	<b>20,540</b>
England	333,013	70%	307,025	69%	254,870	85,378	72,949		31,234	17,497
Wales	20,555	4%	19,079	4%	15,045	6,692	5,841		1,534	895
Scotland	36,456	8%	34,318	8%	27,502	10,646	9,435		2,381	1,443
N Ireland	9,987	2%	9,219	2%	7,447	4,110	3,612		696	419
Other UK <sup>5</sup>	872	<1%	816	<1%	637	300	253		23	13
UK Unknown <sup>6</sup>	3,827	1%	3,548	1%	3,307	465	451		542	273
<b>Overseas</b>	<b>10,712</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>8,503</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3,359</b>	<b>6,325</b>	<b>5,020</b>		<b>1,576</b>	<b>672</b>
<b>Unknown<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>62,259</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>61,854</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>61,263</b>	<b>4,084</b>	<b>4,069</b>		<b>1,243</b>	<b>845</b>

### Sources: Compensation and Pension System; War Pension Computer System

1. Subtotals can't be summed as an individual may have been in receipt of financial payments under more than one scheme.

2. Includes ex-serving personnel who are in receipt of their pension. Does not include pensioners in receipt of AFPS 15. Please see [Background Quality Report](#) for more details.

3. Includes Disablement Pensioners in receipt of an ongoing war pension as at 31 March 2018.

4. Includes individuals awarded compensation under the AFCS after leaving Service, and in-Service recipients of compensation who had later left Service as at 31 March 2018.

5. Includes Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

6. Includes pension and compensation recipients with a region of UK recorded but with no valid postcode as at 31 March 2018.

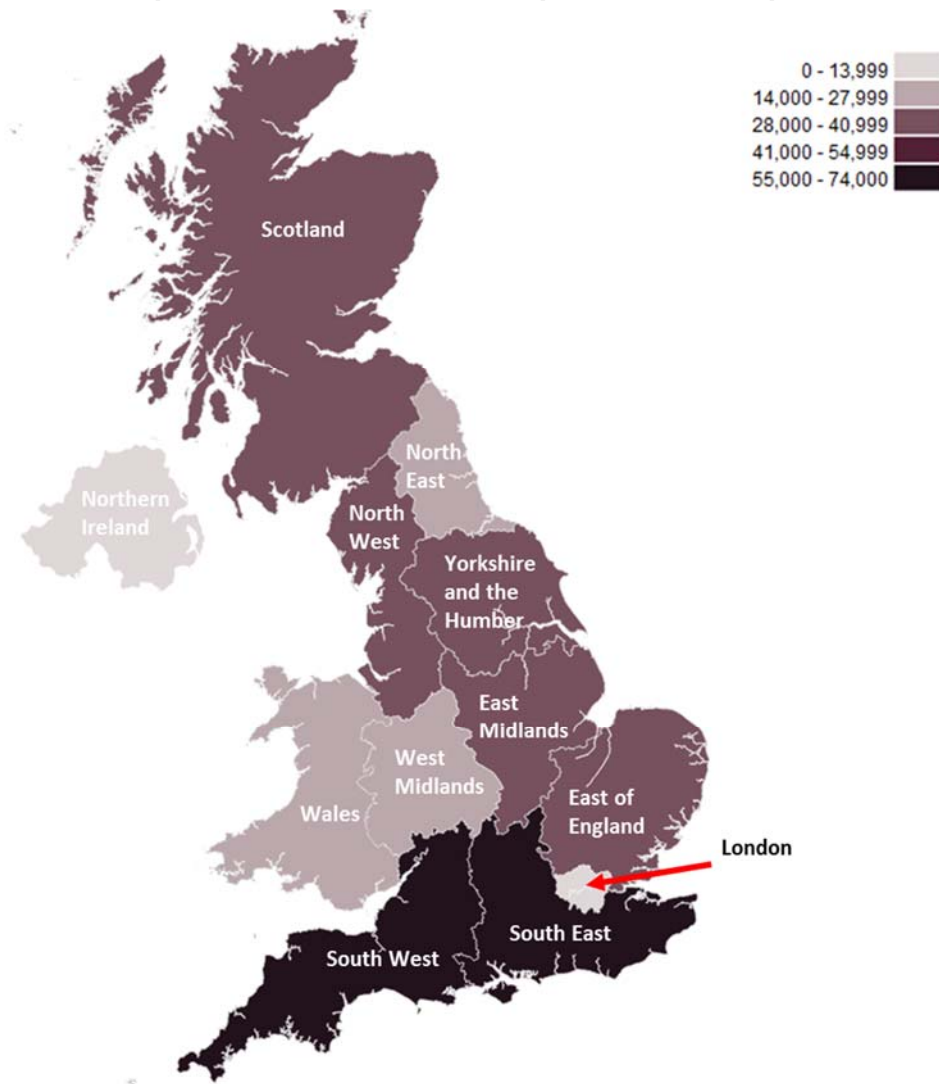
7. Includes pension and compensation recipients with no valid address recorded as at 31 March 2018.

## Results (cont.)

**UK Recipients:** As at 31 March 2018, there were 404,710 pension and compensation recipients identified as residing in the UK, of which over one-third (35%) were residing in the South East and South West of England (**Figure 2**).

**Figure 2: Heat map of location of recipients of UK Armed Forces pension<sup>1</sup> or compensation<sup>2</sup> by UK region**

As at 31 March 2018



**Sources: Compensation and Pension System; War Pension Computer System**

1. Includes those in receipt of an occupational pension under the AFPS 75 and AFPS 05.

2. Includes those in receipt of an ongoing disablement pension under the WPS and/or those that have been awarded compensation under the AFCS.

**Overseas Recipients:** As at 31 March 2018 There were 10,712 pension and compensation recipients with an overseas postal address. Of these;

- One-quarter (26%) were resident in Australia
- One in five (22%) were resident in Germany
- One in ten (10%) were resident in Canada

(Tables 2 and 3, Annex A)

## Results (cont.)

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### Location of Veteran pension and compensation recipients:

There is increased public interest in the location of veterans, primarily driven by the Armed Forces Covenant, published in May 2011, which sets out the moral obligation of the nation to its members of the armed forces and their families. Supplementary to this is the Armed Forces Community Covenant, encouraging local communities to support the armed forces community in their area and promote understanding and awareness of issues affecting the armed forces community.

As at 31 March 2018, there were 444,362 veterans in receipt of a pension or compensation. Of these,

- Over two-thirds were residing in England.
- Almost one-third were residing in the South East and South West Regions:

#### South West

Almost half of veterans residing in the South West were in the counties of Devon and Wiltshire. This was driven by the numbers of veterans in the Plymouth and Wiltshire Local Authorities.

#### South East

Two-fifths of veterans residing in the South East were in the county of Hampshire. This was driven by the numbers of veterans in the Gosport, Fareham and Portsmouth Local Authorities

These findings were expected considering half of UK Armed Forces personnel are registered at medical practices in the South<sup>2</sup> and many personnel are likely to remain living there after leaving the Services. This finding was also consistent with the Annual Population Survey, which estimated that 28% of veterans were residing in the South East and South West regions of England<sup>3</sup>.

(Tables 2 and 3, Annex A)

Supplementary tables to this Statistical Bulletin can be found on the gov.uk website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients>):

- Table 2: Location of all AFPS, WPS and AFCS recipients by country.
- Table 3: Location of AFPS, WPS and AFCS recipients in the UK, by country, region, county and local authority.
- Table 4: Location of AFPS, WPS and AFCS recipients in the UK, by NHS Group.
- Table 5: Location of AFPS, WPS and AFCS recipients in the UK, by postcode district.

2. The Bi-annual NHS Commissioning Population Statistics:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-personnel-nhs-commissioning-quarterly-statistics-index>

3. The Annual Population Survey: UK Armed Forces Veterans residing in Great Britain:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-population-survey-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-great-britain>

## Methodology

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This section provides a brief summary of the methodology and data sources; more detailed information is available in the [Background Quality Report](#) for this bulletin.

Information on recipients of an occupational pension under the AFPS 75 and AFPS 05, and recipients of compensation under the AFCS is held on the Compensation and Pension System (CAPS). Information on recipients of an ongoing pension under the WPS is held on the War Pension Computer System (WPCS). The MOD is responsible for managing both systems and ensuring the quality of the data.

The overall number of pension and compensation recipients has been compiled by combining the CAPS and the WPCS. Individuals are only counted once regardless of whether they are in receipt of a pension and/or compensation under more than one scheme.

**Veterans** include all recipients of an occupational pension under the AFPS 75 and AFPS 05, disablement pensioners in receipt of a war pension, individuals awarded compensation under the AFCS after leaving Service, and in-Service recipients of compensation under the AFCS who had later left Service as at 31 March 2018. Information presented is not the location of all veterans as not all will be in receipt of these occupational pensions and/or compensation.

Individuals have been excluded if the MOD has been notified of their death. Please note, for individuals who have been awarded a lump sum payment only under AFCS, the MOD may not always be notified of death, therefore numbers may include individuals who have subsequently died.

The CAPS and the WPCS have been combined to provide the latest **postcode** information for each individual. The location information presented in the WPS and AFCS National Statistics publications are based only on the address information available on the relevant data system. Therefore, the location information presented in this publication may differ from previously presented information. The information by postcode district has not been provided for Northern Ireland due to security concerns regarding the release of this information.

### **Scheme information**

Further information on the AFPS, WPS and AFCS can be found on the gov.uk website:

AFPS: <https://www.gov.uk/pensions-and-compensation-for-veterans>

WPS and AFCS: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation>

## Glossary

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**Adult Dependent:** Adult relatives, i.e. sister, brother, aunt or uncle etc., for whom the service person was financially responsible.

**Allowance for Lowered Standard of Occupation (ALSO):** This may be paid if a pensioner's earning capacity is reduced because their pensioned disablement permanently prevents them following their regular occupation. To gain entitlement, new claimants must be under the age of 65, with a Service disablement of at least 40% when they make their claim. This allowance, plus their basic War Disablement Pension cannot exceed the 100% disablement pension rate.

**Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS):** Compensation scheme for all members of the regular and reserve forces. It provides compensation for all injuries, ill-health and death attributable to Service where the cause occurred on or after 6 April 2005.

**Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS):** Pension available to members of the Regular UK Armed Forces who have served for a minimum of two years:

AFPS 75 – Introduced in 1975 and closed to new members from 6 April 2005. Pension benefits are based on rank and time served

AFPS 05 – Introduced on 6 April 2005. Pension benefits are based on time served and final salary.

AFPS 15- Introduced on 1 April 2015. Pensions are calculated using a system called Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE). For more information on how CARE works please go to: [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419740/20150312\\_AFPS15\\_YPSE\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419740/20150312_AFPS15_YPSE_FINAL.pdf)

**Child Allowance:** There is a Child Allowance Only Pension in payment, i.e. no award has been given to War Widow(er)s Pension, but her child has been awarded.

**Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG):** Clinical commissioning groups are NHS organisations set up by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to organise the delivery of NHS services in England.

**Community Health Partnership (CHP):** The NHS Reform (Scotland) Act 2004 abolished separate acute and primary care trusts in Scotland. NHS Boards were set up to manage types of service, which in turn, set up Community Health Partnerships in their local area to bridge the gap between primary and secondary healthcare, and health and social care.

**Compensation and Pension System (CAPS):** AFPS and AFCS administrative database.

**Disablement Pensioner:** Ex-Service Personnel awarded a pension under the War Pensions Scheme for an injury or illness attributable to Service prior to 6 April 2005.

**Local Authority (LA):** An administrative body in local Government.

**Local Commissioning Group (LCG):** In Northern Ireland, health and social care are jointly managed and provided. The Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland Board was established in 2009 and has Local Commissioning Groups that are responsible for assessing, planning and securing the delivery of health and social care.

**Local Health Board (LHB):** In Wales, the NHS reforms in 2009 saw the former 22 Local Health Boards and seven NHS Trusts replaced with seven integrated Local Health Boards (LHB) and a new Public Health Wales NHS Trust. The seven Local Health Boards plan, secure and deliver healthcare services on their areas. These reforms aim to improve joined up working between health and social care services, to place a greater emphasis on public health and to improve health outcomes.

## Glossary (cont.)

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**Local Health Organisation:** A summary term used in this report covering all of the health organisations across the UK: England's **Clinical Commissioning Groups**, Scotland's **Community Health Partnerships**, Northern Ireland's **Local Commissioning Groups** and Wales' **Local Health Boards**. See each of the definitions for further detail.

**UK Serving personnel:** UK Service Personnel comprise the total strength of the military personnel employed by the Ministry of Defence.

**UK Veterans:** A veteran of the UK Armed Forces is any person of any age who has served in the Armed Forces for one day or more.

**War Parent:** Parent of the deceased service person.

**War Pension Computer System (WPCS):** WPS administrative database.

**War Orphan:** Child of deceased Service person who has no surviving mother or father, child whose mother was divorced from a Service person at the time of death or child who is not in the care of the surviving parent.

**War Pension Scheme (WPS):** No fault compensation scheme for all members of the regular and reserve force. It provides compensation for all injuries, ill-health and death caused or made worse by Service from WW1 in 1914 to 5 April 2005. Ex-Service personnel are only eligible to claim once they have left the Services.

**Widow(er):** Spouse of ex-Service person whose death was whilst in Service or related to a disablement due to Service.



## Further information

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### Disclosure Control

In line with the directives of the JSP 200, disclosure control is conducted on all statistical information provided by the MOD to safeguard the confidentiality of individuals. A risk of disclosure has been considered to be high where numbers presented are fewer than three. In this statistical bulletin, numbers fewer than three have been suppressed and marked as '~'. Where there was only one cell in a row or column that was fewer than three, secondary suppression has been applied to the next smallest figure so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals and sub-totals.

### Revisions

Any revisions to historic data can be identified by a revision marker ('r') and will only be discussed if such revisions are considered to have an impact on the findings.

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

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