

Background Quality Report

Career Transition Partnership annual statistics: UK service personnel employment outcomes, 2014/15 to 2018/19

The purpose of a background quality report is to inform users of the statistics about the quality of the data used to produce the publication, and any statistics derived from that data. It also discusses existing uses of the statistics and user requirements.

This assessment relates to the annual 'Career Transition Partnership Statistics' published by Defence Statistics on Thursday 27 February 2020.

1 Introduction

This annual Official Statistic provides summary statistics on the estimated employment outcomes for UK Regular service personnel (including Gurkhas) who left the UK armed forces between 2014/15 and 2018/19 and used the services provided by the Career Transition Partnership (CTP). The figures provide estimated employment outcomes for service personnel within six months of leaving the UK armed forces.

The findings in this Statistical Bulletin are presented by top level employment outcomes and the following demographic groups: gender, ethnicity, service, Officer/Rank groups, length of service, age at exit and medical discharge status.

All underlying data are presented in the supplementary tables (in Excel and Open Data Source (ODS) formats) in five sections:

- a) **Section 1:** Top level employment outcomes (supplementary tables 1 to 3). This section presents top-level employment outcomes (the number and percentages employed, unemployed and economically inactive) for regular and Gurkha personnel who left the UK armed forces in 2018/19 and used billable CTP services, six months after leaving service. Trends over time are also presented by financial year and financial quarters between 2014/15 and 2018/19. However, due to changes in data and methodology used, comparisons should only be made between the latest three financial years (2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19).
- b) **Section 2:** Employment outcomes by demographic groups (supplementary table 4). This section presents a summary of employment outcomes for 2018/19 service leavers, by demographic groups.
- c) **Section 3:** Employed occupations by demographic groups (supplementary tables 5 to 5h). This section presents a summary of occupations in which service leavers were employed six months post-discharge, by demographic groups.
- d) **Section 4:** Reasons for economic inactivity (supplementary tables 6 to 6f). This section presents a summary of reasons for economic inactivity for service leavers who reported being economically inactive six months post-discharge, by demographic groups.
- e) **Section 5:** Significant differences (supplementary tables 7a to 7c). This section presents a summary of significant differences between demographic groups by employment outcome, occupations and reasons for economic inactivity.

These Official Statistics were first released in June 2013 and subsequently published on a quarterly basis. Following the quarterly release in December 2014, Defence Statistics proposed a reduction in the frequency of these statistics from quarterly reports to annual reports. The first annual report was released in June 2015, covering the five-year period 2009/10 to 2013/14, with annual updates in 2016 to 2020 each presenting the previous five financial years.

As Official Statistics, the publication of this Official Statistic adheres to the [UK Statistics Authority \(UKSA\)](#)¹ protocols on [pre-release access](#)².

Ad-hoc interrogation of the data used to compile these statistics is regularly undertaken by Defence Statistics in order to answer Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, Parliamentary Questions (PQs) and internal queries from within the Ministry of Defence.

Background

The [Career Transition Partnership \(CTP\)](#)³ is an agreement between a contractor ([Right Management Limited](#)⁴, since 1998) and the MOD. The CTP also incorporates two service charities, the [Forces Employment Charity \(REFA\)](#)⁵ and the [Royal British Legion Industries](#)⁶. The CTP exists to support service leavers in their transition from the military to civilian employment. Service leavers differ in age and military experience, and all have different qualifications and aspirations. However, the adjustment from the military environment to the civilian world is an issue common to all.

The CTP philosophy is that resettlement preparation is for life, not just to get the first job after leaving the military. Support is typically provided from two years before discharge, through to two years after. The aim is to provide a personalised service that meets the need of the individual service leaver, be that further education, retirement, self-employment, full-time employment or part time employment. For employment, this support includes providing the tools for service leavers to market themselves confidently to employers and to get the most out of life outside the forces. This ranges from creating a CV and learning interview skills through to researching and accessing vocational training and applying for jobs. The services provided by the CTP fall into the following four categories: Guidance, Career Transition, Vocational Training and Job Finding Support.

There are three main CTP support programmes;

- a) Formerly known as the 'Full Resettlement Programme' (FRP), the **Core Resettlement Programme (CRP)** will normally commence with attendance on a three-day Career Transition Workshop (CTW). Service personnel will then gain access to the CTP interactive website 'myPlan' and will also be appointed a Career Consultant who will help with advice and guidance and support their resettlement progress. They will also have access to the bespoke online CTP job-board 'RightJob', and the support of a consultant is available for up to two years post discharge. Various other workshops for example, Self-Employment Awareness, New Horizons in Retirement and vocational training courses are also available. Those service leavers who are being medically discharged are also entitled to this 'core' support. The MOD may determine, based on individual circumstances, that a service leaver being medically discharged is entitled to career support via the CTP Assist team, which aims to help those individuals pinpoint a rewarding and realistic change of career. For many, this support plays a fundamental part in the individual's future planning – it is about identifying who they are, and what they want to do, and working with them to find the future outcome that works for them – whatever their injury or illness.
- b) The **Employment Support Programme (ESP)** includes an interview with a Career Consultant, attendance on a one-day Job Finding workshop, access to 'myPlan' and 'RightJob' and the support of a Consultant for up to two years post discharge.
- c) The **Future Horizons (FH)** includes an interview with an Employment Advisor, access to 'myPlan' and 'RightJob' and ongoing employment support up to two years post discharge.

Within each programme service leavers are offered a range of 'billable' services (where Right Management will invoice the MOD for payment);

- a) The types of benefits available to service leavers under both the CRP and ESP include transition workshops, one-to-one career guidance, housing advice, financial briefs and job finding support. Service leavers can access this resettlement support two years either side of their discharge date. After this period, employment support is available to service leavers for the remainder of their working lives from the [RFEA, the Forces Employment Charity](#)⁵, a charity embedded within MOD's resettlement framework.
- b) Under the FH, the MOD is billed for all personnel who opt-in and receive a 1:1 interview and ongoing employment support. FH offers a needs assessment with appropriate referral or signposting to help tackle any barriers to employment and post discharge support to ensure ESLs, and those discharged for disciplinary reasons, gain sustainable employment, education or further training. FH support is available to eligible personnel for up to two years post discharge.
- c) In addition to the billable services, all service leavers can receive housing advice and financial briefs. Those on the CRP are entitled to attend online webinars hosted by CTP, access graduated resettlement time (GRT), subsistence allowance, including travel warrants and a training grant. Service leavers on both the CRP and ESP can also access Enhanced Learning Credits (ELC) in line with the ELC policy set out in [JSP 822](#)⁷.

Service leavers accessing CTP support through any of the programmes may also use 'non-billable' services, such as attending career fairs.

Who is eligible for CTP support?

Length of service is the key criteria used to determine CTP programme eligibility for most service leavers;

- a) The CRP is offered to service leavers with at least six years' service at their time of discharge.
- b) Service leavers who will have served between four and six years at discharge are entitled to access CTP support through the ESP.
- c) Early service leavers (ESLs) who will have served fewer than four years at discharge are entitled to access CTP support through the FH.

However, the following reasons for discharge are also taken into consideration;

- a) Service personnel who were medically discharged from service will automatically be eligible to receive CTP support through the CRP, regardless of length of service. In Table 4 of this report, service leavers who used the CRP have been split into two categories; those who were medically discharged, and other CRP users.
- b) Service personnel who were discharged for disciplinary reasons or were deemed unsuitable for service will automatically be eligible to receive CTP support through the FH, regardless of length of service. In this report these service leavers are reported as 'FH-Other' in order to differentiate between genuine ESLs and other FH users. Service leavers who were discharged for disciplinary reasons or deemed unsuitable for service with less than four years' service were also reported as 'FH-Other' rather than 'FH-ESL', since they did not actively apply for early discharge.

Since 1 October 2013 **all** regular and Gurkha service personnel have been eligible for the Career Transition Partnership resettlement provision.

Prior to 1 October 2013 ESLs with fewer than four years' service were not eligible to receive CTP support, nor were service personnel who left the UK armed forces for disciplinary reasons or who were deemed unsuitable for service. CTP support was provided only through the CRP and ESP programmes.

Who is included within these statistics?

All service leavers during each financial year between 2014/15 and 2018/19 are identified within these statistics. However, employment outcomes are only reported on for those who have used a 'billable' CTP service prior to their discharge, or up to six months after discharge. Any service leaver who used a billable CTP service between six months and two years after discharge will be excluded from employment outcome analysis in this report.

Whilst the CTP eligibility criteria changed from 1 October 2013, Defence Statistics only began reporting on service leavers accessing CTP support through the FH from 1 October 2015. Therefore, all reporting prior to 1 October 2015 only includes service leavers eligible to receive support through the CRP and ESP. Since 1 October 2015 **all** regular and Gurkha service personnel are included.

Methodology and Production

Data sources

The MOD administrative database for service personnel, the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System, was used to identify all UK armed forces service leavers during the financial year. The JPA system was also used to identify the service, gender, ethnicity, length of service, rank and age of each service leaver. The MOD routinely publishes a range of [Quarterly Military Personnel Statistics](#)⁸, including numbers of service personnel leaving the UK armed forces. It is important to note that annual numbers of UK armed forces service leavers presented within this report do not match the figures presented in the statistics referenced above, since these statistics include Gurkhas and exclude those who have died.

The MOD's authoritative deaths database, held by Defence Statistics Health, was used to determine UK armed forces service personnel that had died during the financial year in order to exclude them from analysis. Information held on the death's database is compiled from several sources from which [UK Armed Forces Deaths Statistics](#)⁹ are compiled.

The MOD's Medical Discharge database, held by Defence Statistics Health, was used to identify personnel who were medically discharged from service. The MOD publishes annual [Medical Discharge Statistics](#)¹⁰ from these data.

Right Management's administrative database, Adapt, contains the details of all service leavers who have registered with Right Management for employment support. The data held on this system was also used to compile employment outcome estimates for service leavers, six months post-discharge since 1 October 2015.

Right Management invoice the MOD for billable services. This information was used to determine service leavers who had used a billable service prior to 1 October 2015.

The UK general population employment outcome estimates were taken from the [Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#)¹¹. These have been compared with the estimated employment outcomes for UK Regular service personnel who used the CTP services. The LFS is the UK's primary data source for employment figures and is published by the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS)¹².

Determining service leavers who used billable CTP services

Using the JPA data and Defence Statistics' Death data, a cohort was identified of personnel who left the UK armed forces during 2018/19 (who had not died) and were therefore eligible to have accessed CTP services for employment support. This cohort was linked to the Adapt database to determine service leavers whose details were passed to Right Management by the MOD.

Prior to 1 October 2015, Defence Statistics used Right Management's invoice list to determine those who had used a billable CTP service. Since 1 October 2015 Defence Statistics used Right Management's Adapt database to determine service personnel who have used a billable CTP service.

Determining employment outcomes for service leavers who used billable CTP services

Service leavers who have used a billable service are reviewed by Right Management six months post-discharge. A minimum of four definite attempts are made, over the six-month period, to contact such service leavers using a variety of means. This includes phone, email or text before they are classed as being a 'Non-Responder'.

For the financial years prior to 2014/15 the employment outcomes reported were based on a random 20% sample of CTP users who were contacted to ask about employment outcomes. The sample was stratified by the Resettlement Advice Centre (RAC). The proportions of the random sample identified as employed, unemployed and economically inactive were then scaled up to estimate the number of service leavers who had used billable CTP services that were employed, unemployed and economically inactive.

For the financial year 2015/16, there were two data collection methods to determine employment outcomes:

- a) For those who left service between 1 April 2015 and 30 September 2015, employment outcomes reported were based on a random 20% sample of CTP users (as outlined above).
- b) For those who left service between 1 October 2015 and 31 March 2016, and used billable CTP services, an attempt was made by Right Management to contact all users to determine employment outcomes.

The employment outcomes from these methods were then scaled up to estimate the number of all service leavers that had used billable CTP services that were employed, unemployed and economically inactive.

Since the financial year 2016/17, actual responses at the six-month review were used to compile employment outcomes. Non-response bias was taken into account in order to present the most accurate employment outcomes. See the section 'accounting for non-responders' on page 6 for more details.

In addition, since the financial year 2016/17, employment outcomes have been included for service leavers who have re-engaged with the UK or overseas military or were employed part-time but were seeking full-time employment (in this bulletin, these service leavers have been included in the employed category). In previous financial years these cohorts were excluded.

Due to changes in data sources and methodology, employment outcomes for service leavers since 2016/17 cannot be compared with earlier outcomes.

Employment rates were calculated in line with the [Office for National Statistics's definition](#)¹³:

- a) The **employment rate** and the **economically inactive rate** were calculated as the ratio of those personnel with the respective employment outcomes, relative to the total number of personnel employed, unemployed and economically inactive. These rates have then been applied to the total number of personnel who used a billable CTP service to estimate the number of personnel employed and economically inactive.
- b) The **unemployment rate** has been calculated as the ratio of unemployed personnel, relative to the total number of personnel employed and unemployed. This rate has then been applied to the total number of personnel who used a billable CTP service, less the estimated proportion who were economically inactive, to estimate the number of personnel unemployed.

Since the unemployment rate was calculated using a different population to the employment rate and the economically inactive rate, the employment, unemployment and economically inactive rates will not sum to 100%.

Accounting for non-responders

The response rate for 2018/19 service leavers was high (82%). Despite this, investigations were conducted to determine any non-responder bias as response rates were lower for:

- Army service leavers,
- Service leavers who were of Other (non-Officer) Rank,
- Service leavers aged under thirty.

This means that the characteristics of responders did not reflect the distribution of characteristics among all 2018/19 service leavers. Therefore, responses were weighted by service, Officers/Others Rank and age group in order to correct for any bias caused by over or under-representation. Numbers are presented as unweighted counts and percentages have been weighted. The weights were calculated by:

$$\frac{\text{Population size within weighting class (p)}}{\text{Number of responses within weighting class (r)}}$$

Weighting in this way assumes that missing data are missing at random (MAR) only within the weighting classes. This means we assume that within a single weighting class the employment outcomes of non-respondents do not differ (on average) to the employment outcomes of respondents.

Table 1: Weightings used for CTP 2018/19 analysis

Weighting class			Weighting applied
Naval Service	Officers	Younger than 30 years of age	1.15
Naval Service	Other Ranks	Younger than 30 years of age	1.23
Naval Service	Officers	30 years of age or older	1.20
Naval Service	Other Ranks	30 years of age or older	1.22
Army	Officers	Younger than 30 years of age	1.10
Army	Other Ranks	Younger than 30 years of age	1.29
Army	Officers	30 years of age or older	1.17
Army	Other Ranks	30 years of age or older	1.23
RAF	Officers	Younger than 30 years of age	1.19
RAF	Other Ranks	Younger than 30 years of age	1.17
RAF	Officers	30 years of age or older	1.11
RAF	Other Ranks	30 years of age or older	1.15

The impact of weighting employment outcomes was minimal. There were no changes to the employment rates, overall or by demographic groups. However, some percentages calculated from very small numbers, e.g. the percentage of employed BAME service leavers in each occupation, experienced minimal change (by no more than 2%).

Determining occupations and reasons for economic inactivity

Right Management supplied free-text occupation information for all users of a billable CTP service who reported as being employed six months post-discharge. This information was coded by Defence Statistics, in line with the ONS [Standard Occupational Classification 2010](#)¹⁴. Occupation information is presented within these statistics in line with these SOC groupings. Of

the 8,064 2018/19 service leavers who reported as being employed six months post-discharge, there were 1,328 service leavers for which it was not possible to code their occupation, due to missing or incomplete free text information.

Right Management supplied categorised information for all users of a billable CTP service who reported as being economically inactive six months post-discharge. Categories include 'education/training/volunteering', 'travelling/abroad', 'looking after family', 'retired', 'medical reasons', 'no employment sought' (e.g. those on a career break) and 'unknown'. In the 2018/19 publication, the category 'awaiting visa/citizenship' was added (supplementary Tables 6 to 6f).

Statistical methods

a) Z test

The z test difference between two proportions was used to identify any significant differences between the percentages of employed, unemployed and economically inactive service leavers in different demographic groups, and differences between groups with regards to occupation (for those employed) and reasons for economic inactivity. The significance test provided confidence to state that an observed difference between the percentages was a real difference and did not occur due to chance. Upper and lower confidence intervals were also calculated from the z test.

A significance level of 0.05 has been used throughout this report, however, where appropriate, a Bonferroni correction has been applied to allow for multiple testing (when more than two groups are being compared). A Bonferroni correction helps to reduce the likelihood of a difference being classed as significant when it is not (a false positive). To do this the level of significance (0.05) was divided by the number of tests being carried out. Statistical significance was then only assumed when the *p*-value was less than the corrected significance level.

b) Measure of effect

When comparing two estimated proportions from large samples, a significant difference is more likely to be found even if the difference is only trivial. The measure of effect enables us to confirm that any difference observed were large enough to note. The effect size is independent of the sample size.

The [standardized difference \(d\)](#)¹⁵ for categorical responses, assuming each response option is a separate binary outcome, has been used:

$$d = \frac{(\hat{p}1 - \hat{p}2)}{\sqrt{\frac{[\hat{p}1(1 - \hat{p}1) + \hat{p}2(1 - \hat{p}2)]}{2}}}$$

$\hat{p}1$ = estimated percentage for group one

$\hat{p}2$ = estimated percentage for group two

Cohen's rule of thumb has been applied to identify small ($d \geq 0.2$), medium ($d \geq 0.5$) and large ($d \geq 0.8$) effects.

The supplementary tables 1 to 6 present all of the findings. However, the bulletin only reports on the notable differences where the difference between two groups was determined to be statistically significant (z-test of proportions with a 95% confidence level), with an effect size of ≥ 0.2 / ≤ -0.2 . These notable differences have been marked with an '**' in the supplementary tables 7a to 7c.

c) Pearson product moment correlation coefficient

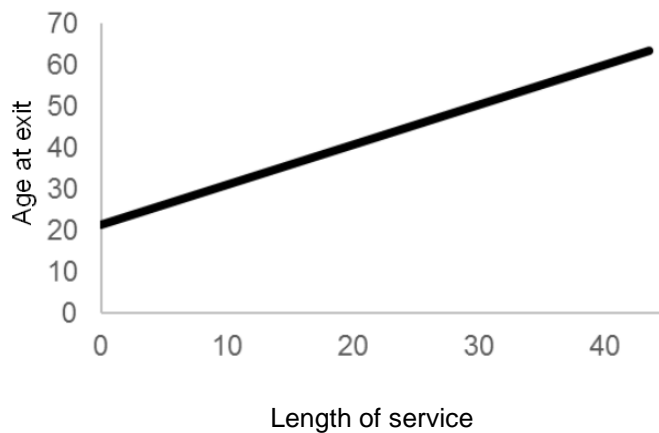
Correlation is a measure of the linear relationship between two variables. We say that two variables are correlated if the movement (a rise) in one variable is accompanied by the movement (a rise or fall) in the other. The Pearson product moment correlation coefficient was calculated to determine if age at exit and length of service were correlated. A correlation coefficient takes any value between -1 and +1:

- A positive correlation (a correlation coefficient greater than 0, up to and including +1) apply when the value of one variable increases, the value of the other variable also increases. As the strength of the positive correlation increases, the correlation coefficient approaches +1.
- A negative correlation (a correlation coefficient less than 0, up to and including -1) apply when the value of one variable increases, the value of the other variable also decreases. As the strength of the negative correlation increases, the correlation coefficient approaches -1.
- A correlation coefficient equal to 0 means that there is no positive or negative correlation between the two variables.

A Pearson correlation coefficient value of 0.913 between age at exit and length of service suggests that there is a strong positive correlation between the two variables (Figure 1). This means that as the value of one variable increases, the value of the other variables also increases.

Figure 1: Correlation between length of service and age at exit for UK armed forces service leavers¹

1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019



Sources: JPA and Right Management

1. Includes regulars and Gurkhas who have left the UK armed forces to civil life or have an unexplained outflow between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 and have an employment outcome of employed, unemployed or economically inactive. Excludes Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel, mobilised reservists and deaths.

Redundancies

Previous Statistical Bulletins provided updates on employment outcomes for those selected for redundancy between September 2011 and June 2014. As there is no further data for the redundancy programme, this information is no longer presented. The 2016/17 Statistical Bulletin was the last bulletin in this series that provided details of the redundancy programme and latest employment outcomes.

2. Relevance

Coverage

Data coverage

The figures presented in this report show outflow from the UK Regular Forces including Gurkhas. This report does not include Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel or mobilised reservists.

In 2018/19 14,536 UK Regular and Gurkha service personnel left the UK armed forces (as recorded on the JPA system), of which 11,489 (79% of service leavers) used a billable CTP service. Employment outcomes were calculated using information held for 9,390 service leavers, representing 82% of all regular and Gurkha personnel who left the UK armed forces during 2018/19 and used a billable CTP service.

Prior to 1 October 2015, employment outcome estimates were compiled based on a 20% sample of data. Therefore, employment outcomes were estimated based on the sample of data for service leavers who used CTP services.

User needs

These statistics have been provided in response to interest in employment outcomes for UK service leavers and concerns raised by the Chief Statistician over the quality of numbers previously released in Parliamentary Questions, Freedom of Information requests and internal reports.

The interest in CTP comes from armed forces charities, Other Government Departments including the Department for Work and Pensions; business and industry within the private sector; and within the Ministry of Defence.

The statistics will aid policy development. They will be used as an indication of effectiveness of the CTP resettlement services. They will also be used for monitoring of the [UK Armed Forces Covenant](#)¹⁶, a component of the Armed Forces Act, which states that service personnel should not be disadvantaged in terms of health or welfare.

The scope of the publication to meet all user needs will be under continuous review from feedback from users.

3. Accuracy

There were issues with the data and methodology used to compile these statistics for service leavers prior to 1 October 2015. JPA data were linked to multiple data sources to compile the cohort of service leavers who had used a billable service, resulting in a higher risk of mismatched or unmatched data. Also, employment outcomes were estimated based on a 20% sample of data from those who used a billable service.

Since 1 October 2015, JPA data have only been linked to the Adapt system which has resulted in a more accurate picture of the process. Employment outcomes have also been calculated using a much higher sample of data e.g. 82% of billable CTP users in 2018/19. Therefore the 2018/19 CTP statistics are considered to be a more reliable summary of CTP users and employment outcomes.

Data

There are often differences between the projected exit date recorded on Adapt and service personnel's actual exit date as recorded on the JPA system. The information held on Adapt is informed through an initial resettlement update from JPA. However, if an individual's exit date changes, the update is made to JPA but the Adapt data will only be updated if the individual provides Right Management with this new information. This may result in service leavers being contacted at a different time point to six months after their actual exit date. The MOD is currently investigating methods to improve alignment between exit dates held on JPA and Adapt.

The reported number of personnel who did not use billable CTP services will include personnel who engaged with CTP services such as attending careers fairs but did not use enough services provided by CTP to be billed. This number will also include service leavers who may go on to use a billable CTP service up to two years post-discharge but have been missed from the report since follow-up is at six-months post-discharge.

Length of service (as recorded on the JPA system) has been used as the key criteria to determine service leavers' eligibility for the CRP, ESP or FH. This has been calculated using entry and exit dates. There are known problems with the reliability of this information extracted from JPA. If personnel have transferred from another service, have served under an alternative assignment type (e.g. reserve forces), are re-entrants or have transferred from Other Ranks to Officers, their entry date may correspond to any of these events. The resulting time served may reflect their current period of service, include previous service, or it may be the time that has elapsed since they first joined the UK armed forces, irrespective of any break in service.

Service leavers' ethnicity is compiled based on a self-declared, non-mandatory field on JPA. In 2018/19 there were 178 service leavers who had not declared their ethnicity and were therefore excluded from any analysis pertaining to ethnicity. UK BAME personnel refer to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic service leavers with a nationality of English, Scottish, Welsh or Irish. Please note, that Irish service leavers have all been reported under 'UK BAME' since it was not possible to determine whether they were from Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland. Non-UK BAME refer to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic foreign and commonwealth service leavers who do not have a nationality of English, Scottish, Welsh or Irish.

Methodology

Prior to October 2015, service personnel were selected at random from the population of those who used billable CTP services. Since 1 October 2015, Right Management attempted to contact all service leavers who used billable CTP services.

Personnel were contacted six months after the discharge date recorded on Adapt to ascertain their employment status. However, those already recorded on Adapt (prior to the six-month point) as employed were assumed to still be in employment at the six month point and are not re-contacted. This may lead to an over estimate of the employment rate.

Since Adapt is not updated if a service person's exit date is changed, six-month reviews conducted by Right Management are sometimes held too early or too late. In the case of the former, an individual's employment status recorded on Adapt (and presented within these statistics) may not accurately reflect their status at the six-month point.

UK employment outcomes and occupation sectors have been compared against the estimated employment outcome and occupation sectors for UK Regular service personnel who used the CTP services. The UK information has not been adjusted to take account of the age and gender spread seen in the UK armed forces.

In 2018/19, 1,118 service leavers were recorded on Adapt but had not used a billable CTP service six months after leaving service. Right Management were able to contact 359 of these

service leavers and establish their reason for not accessing CTP support, as presented in the Statistical Bulletin. It is worth noting that service leavers can access CTP support up to two years before and two years after they leave the UK armed forces. Although they had not used a billable CTP service six months after exit, they are still entitled to support for a further eighteen months.

4. Timeliness and punctuality

Timeliness

The Statistical Bulletins for the financial years 2015/16 to 2017/18 were all published 10 months after the end of the financial year, at the end of January in the following year, with the 2018/19 report being published 11 months after the financial year, at the end of February the following year. The timeliness of the publication release is driven by:

- a. A required six-month gap after leaving the UK armed forces before service leavers can be surveyed by the contractor to establish their employment outcome.
- b. Collation and delivery of the data by the contractor. This includes time required to follow-up service personnel who were hard to contact.
- c. The time required for Defence Statistics to link datasets and compile the Statistical Bulletin.

Punctuality

All Statistical Notices were published on time to a pre-announced release date. The release date for the 2019/20 statistics will be published on the Gov.uk website at least one month in advance.

5. Accessibility and clarity

Accessibility

The estimated employment outcome statistics for CTP service users can be accessed on the [Gov.UK website](#)¹⁷. The Statistical Bulletin is published in a PDF file with the data available in supplementary tables, in both Excel and Open Data Source (ODS) formats. Defence Statistics are currently ensuring all published information is equally accessible by everyone.

Clarity

Users with an interest in the key findings can read a short summary of main messages at the start of the report. The Statistical Bulletin presents visual key messages which highlight notable differences between groups with regards to employment outcomes, occupations (for those employed) and reasons for economic inactivity.

The supplementary tables (1 to 6f) present numbers, weighted percentages and 95% confidence intervals. Tables 7a to 7c list all the statistically significant difference between two groups (z-test of proportions, with a 95% confidence level), with the notable differences (those with an effect size of ≥ 0.2 / -0.2) marked with an “*”.

A detailed methodology in this document presents the user with the data sources used, collection methods, and statistical analysis undertaken.

6. Comparability

Comparability

The Official Statistic presents estimated employment outcomes from 2014/15 through to 2018/19, including quarterly estimates, with confidence intervals around each of the estimates. However, due to changes in data and methodology used in 2016/17, comparisons should only be made between the latest three financial years (2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19). The supplementary tables present breaks in series to highlight to the reader where comparisons over time can and cannot be made.

The employment definitions have been adjusted to better align with the UK population enabling comparisons over time. However, it must be noted the UK estimates have not been adjusted to reflect the age and gender spread seen in the UK armed forces population.

The definitions for demographic groups are consistent with other MOD Official Statistics, though the overall number of 2018/19 service leavers (14,536) does not match service outflow figures for all regular service personnel as published in the MOD's [Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics](#)⁸, since the CTP statistics include Gurkhas and exclude those who have died.

7. Trade-offs between output quality components

Coverage versus resources for data collection is the key trade-off for these statistics.

In order to increase coverage of the statistics and thus capture more people and make the figures further representative, further resources (time, money and people) would be needed to widen the scope of the current data collection process.

The scope of the coverage is further limited by the level of contact information provided to the MOD by service personnel when they leave the UK armed forces.

8. Assessment of user needs and perceptions

The estimated employment outcome statistics for service leavers are used by:

- a. Government – policy making and monitoring.
- b. Academia – facilitating research.
- c. Charities – used for planning purposes.

Description of users and usage of statistics

The employment statistics for service leavers have been published in response to user demand. Interest has come from Parliament, Government Departments, the third Sector, academics, the media, and the general public.

In July 2007 the National Audit Office (NAO) published a report on "[Leaving the services](#)"¹⁸. The NAO summarised the CTP services as follows:

“The practical realities for people leaving the armed forces can be very demanding. The process of finding a new home and a new job at the same time is something most of us would find quite stressful. So it is encouraging that most make that transition smoothly, and without too many troubles.

“And undoubtedly, part of that is due to the good support the Ministry of Defence provides to those leaving the Forces. It is important that all those leaving the services know what support is due to them, and have the opportunity to take advantage of it.”

The Statistical Bulletin is a publication on employment outcomes for service leavers who used the CTP services. The statistics are widely used to inform policy monitoring and development; to inform the delivery of the CTP; and to enable MOD to be held accountable for the support provided to service personnel in relation to finding employment when leaving the UK armed forces.

Strengths and weakness in relation to user needs

This statistical series provides the first robust estimates of employment outcomes for service leavers who used the CTP services. There is a lot of user demand for this information, and the publication of this statistical series will go towards meeting this demand.

Potential users have asked for figures of employment outcomes by service, gender, rank, ethnicity, medical discharge, CTP programme used, age at exit, and length of service. The Statistical Notice meets this demand.

The statistical series uses employment definitions which are broadly comparable with UK employment statistics. This is an improvement on figures which were previously in the public domain and utilised terminology and methodology which was inconsistent with national approaches to measuring employment outcomes.

9. Performance cost

Operational cost

The annual report takes approximately 35 days to produce each year. Further analysis and development work will require additional resource.

There are two key data sources required to produce this Statistical Bulletin, and three further sources. Three of these five sources are already collected as administrative systems (personnel data from the JPA system; medical discharges data and deaths data). There are marginal costs involved in obtaining this data. The primary data source is the survey of service leavers which is undertaken by the contractor Right Management. UK occupation comparison data collected from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is made available by the ONS.

The data collection process is undertaken by a tracking team from Right Management and the Career Consultants based across the country. They collect employment status information through a mix of phone, email and text message.

10. Confidentiality, transparency and security

The data source used to compile the Official Statistics used service number as a unique identifier. The medical discharges data was linked using a pseudo-random unique identifier.

The files are all stored on a secure MOD network, with access to files limited to individuals in Defence Statistics Health. All MOD, Civil Service and data protection regulations are adhered to.

Estimates

Figures are presented unrounded. In line with JSP 200 (October 2017), the suppression methodology has been applied to ensure individuals are not inadvertently identified dependent on the risk of disclosure. Numbers fewer than three have been suppressed and presented as '~'. Where there was only one cell in a row or column that was fewer than three, the next smallest number has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

11. References

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Note: The MOD is not responsible for the contents or reliability of the listed non-MOD web sites and does not necessarily endorse the views expressed therein. Listings should not be taken as endorsement or any kind. The MOD has no control over the availability of these sites. Users access them at their own risk. The information given was correct at the time of publication.

ANNEX A

Office for National Statistics' definitions

These definitions have not been used within this CTP employment statistics report. However, since there is user interest in comparing the CTP employment statistics with national employment figures, the definitions used by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are provided here for context:

Employment Anyone doing one hour or more a week of paid work is counted in the employment figures. This includes people on government supported training programmes if they are engaging in any form of work, work experience or work-related training. The employment estimates also include unpaid family workers, who work in a family business and benefit from the profits of the business although they do not receive a formal wage or salary. People working without pay (for example, volunteers in charity shops) are not included in the employment figures.

Unemployment People not in employment are counted as unemployed if they have been looking for work in the last four weeks and if they are able to start work within the next two weeks. It does not matter if the person is looking for a full-time job or a part-time job or whether the person is claiming Jobseeker's Allowance or any other benefits. The unemployment estimates also include people who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks.

Economically Inactive People who are not in employment but are not counted as unemployed either because they have not been looking for work in the last four weeks or because they are unable to start work within the next two weeks. The economically inactive population includes retired people, those looking after the family or home, those unable to work due to illness or disability and those students who choose not to look for work.

A common misunderstanding is to assume that all full-time students are in the economically inactive category. This is incorrect. A full-time student with a part-time job will be recorded in the employment figures. Students who have been looking for a job within the last four weeks and who would be able to start work within the next two weeks would be counted as unemployed, even if they are only looking for part-time work.