



Ministry of Defence

Annual Location Statistics (ALS)

1 April 2022

Updated 22 December 2022: January Civilian data replaced with April data

This statistical release presents figures on the national and international locations of all UK Regular Forces and MOD Civilian personnel as at 1 April 2022. An earlier version had previously been published on 7 July 2022 with provisional Civilian personnel figures as at 1 January 2022 because the 1 April 2022 data was not available. The update of the Civilian figures was done on 24 November 2022. The release also presents the intake by Parliamentary Constituency into the UK Regular Forces as at 1 April 2022.

The strength by location tables present information on the stationed location of all UK Regular service and Civilian personnel by UK Unitary Authority and Local Authority Area, as well as global locations. Data are presented for each Service by Officer/Other Ranks breakdown, and for Civilian personnel by non industrial/industrial breakdown (including Trading Funds and Locally Engaged Civilians).

The intake tables present information on intake into the UK Regular Forces by Parliamentary Constituency. Data is presented

Key Points and Trends

▼ 142,060	Strength of UK Regular Forces in UK at 1 April 2022 <i>a decrease of 1,320 compared with 1 April 2021</i>
5,890	Strength of UK Regular Forces overseas at 1 April 2022 <i>no change compared with 1 April 2021</i>
▲ 53,550	Strength of MOD Civilian personnel in UK at 1 April 2022 <i>an increase of 20 compared with 1 April 2021</i>
▲ 4,560	Strength of MOD Civilian personnel located overseas at 1 April 2022 <i>an increase of 20 compared with 1 April 2021</i>
450	Strength of UK Regular Forces in Germany at 1 April 2022 <i>No change compared with 1 April 2021</i>
▼ 38,670	Largest UK Region concentration of UK Regular Forces is in South East UK at 1 April 2022 <i>a decrease of 870 compared with 1 April 2021</i>
▲ 21,810	Largest UK region concentration of MOD Civilian personnel is in South West UK at 1 April 2022 <i>an increase of 330 compared with 1 April 2021</i>

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Background quality report: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tri-service-personnel-bulletin-background-quality-reports

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Other bulletins in this series can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/location-of-all-uk-regular-service-and-civilian-personnel-annual-statistics-index>

NS indicates the underlying tables are badged as National Statistics

Introduction

This statistical release presents figures on the national and international locations of all UK Regular Forces personnel and MOD Civilian personnel, and the Intake into the UK Regular Forces by Parliamentary Constituency. The MOD Civilian personnel strengths had previously been presented based on **01 January 2022** data due to unavailability of 01 April 2022 at date of first publication, 7 July 2022. These have now been updated with data as at **01 April 2022**, on 24 November 2022.

Certain past financial years' Military and Civilian figures have been revised due to data processing errors. In particular, Civilian rounding methodology has been updated to be consistent with Military rounding. Please refer to the section on rounding on page 7 for further information on the rounding methodology.

The basing of the UK Forces changed when the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2010 (SDSR) outlined a number of recommendations to transform the UK Forces in order to face new threats. These recommendations aimed to restructure the UK Armed Forces and rationalise the Defence estate. This instigated a number of more detailed plans including the Regular Army Basing Plan. A number of modifications were made to the structure and way each of the Services operated, with a focus on creation of a versatile Force. The modifications included the decisions to reconfigure the Army by reducing it from six to five multi-role brigades. The Royal Air Force (RAF) structure was focused around fewer Fast Jet platforms with increasing numbers of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and an improved strategic Air Transport Fleet. Additionally, the British Forces personnel previously based in Germany have been relocated back in the UK. These changes came into effect by 2020 and consequently impacted on basing both overseas and in the UK. Previous versions of this publication reported the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review, released in November 2015. Prior to SDSR 2015, this publication reported the planned Future Force 2020, as set out in the SDSR 2010 which planned to reduce the size of the Armed Forces.

To provide a more solid overseas foundation for HM forces, the **Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy** (IR) presented to Parliament by the Prime Minister in 2021, seeks to invest in overseas strategic hubs in Oman, Singapore and Kenya in addition to the facilities and infrastructure in Cyprus, Gibraltar and Germany. The IR also seeks to expand the global network of British Defence Staffs, increasing it by nearly a third. This will see a fairly significant change in the basing of personnel overseas. This will be reported in future publications.

UK Regular Forces - Figures are for UK Regular Forces (including both Trained and Untrained personnel), and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and mobilised reservists. Royal Navy / Royal Marines personnel on sea service are included against the local authority containing the home port of their ship. RAF Other Ranks serving in the South Atlantic are shown against the location containing their home base.

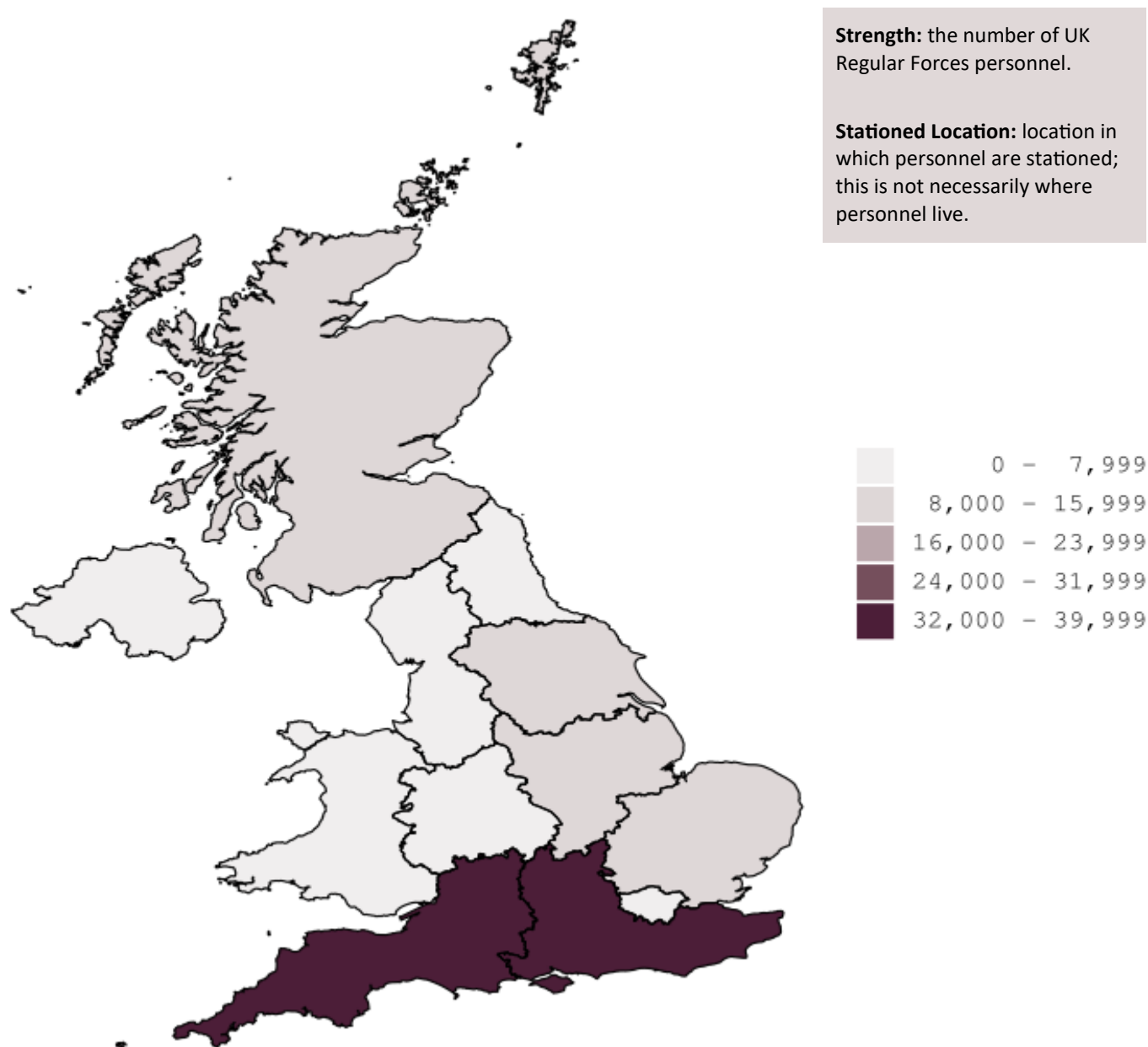
MOD Civilian personnel - Civilian figures are reported as Full Time Equivalent (FTE). FTE is a measure of the size of the workforce taking into account that some people work part-time. Part-time staff are counted according to the number of hours they work per week as a proportion of normal hours for their grade and location.

UK Regular Forces by Region

The majority of Service personnel are located in the South East and South West of the UK with 38,670 and 38,500 personnel, respectively. The fewest personnel are located in the North East with 1,140 personnel. The largest decrease between 1 April 2021 and 1 April 2022 was in South East with a decrease of 870 (2.2 per cent). The largest increase between 1 April 2021 and 1 April 2022 was in Scotland with an increase of 330 (3.3 per cent).

A time series of United Kingdom Regular strengths can be found in the [accompanying tables](#).

Figure 1: Distribution of UK Regular Personnel by Region as at 1 April 2022



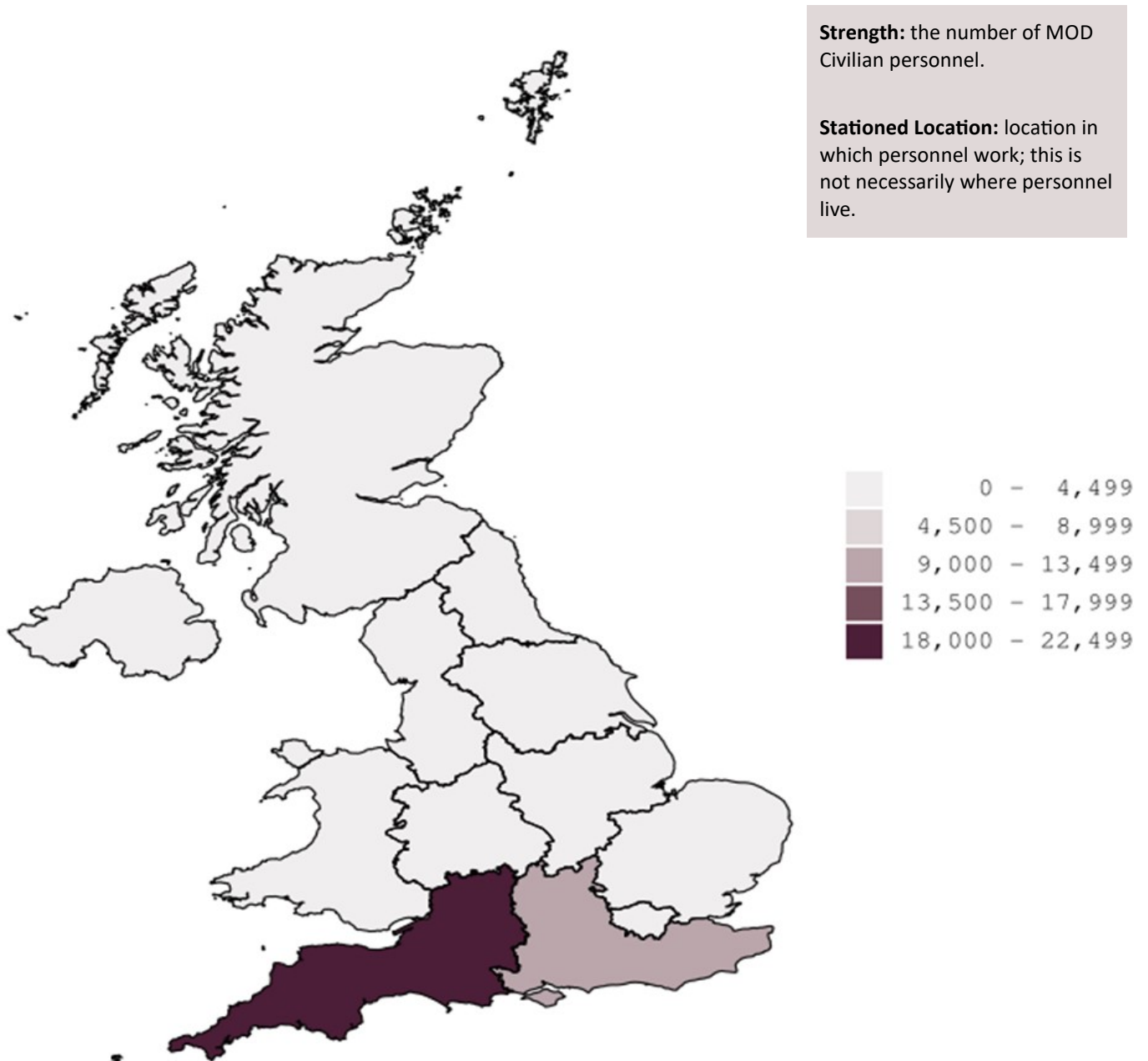
UK Boundary Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right [2018].

MOD Civilian personnel by Region

The majority of MOD Civilians are located in the South West and South East of the UK with 21,810 and 9,780 civilians, respectively. The region where the fewest civilians are located is the North East with 220 personnel.

A time series of United Kingdom Civilian strengths can be found in the [accompanying tables](#).

Figure 2: Distribution of MOD Civilian Personnel by Region as at 1 April 2022



UK Boundary Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right [2018].

Worldwide Strengths

The strength of UK Regular Forces stationed overseas remained the same at 5,890 between 1 April 2021 and 1 April 2022. As at 1 April 2022, the number of MOD Civilian personnel based overseas was 4,560.

A time series of world wide strengths can be found in the [accompanying tables](#).

Germany Drawdown

Background

SDSR 2010 announced that while the presence of the British military in Germany has played an important role in demonstrating Alliance solidarity, there was no longer any operational requirement for UK forces to be based there, so the aim was to withdraw forces from Germany by 2020.

Strength Change

The strength declined from 19,100 as at 1 April 2010 to 450 as at 1 April 2021, a decrease of 18,650. The strength has remained the same at 450 as at 1 April 2022. These are Exchange and Liaison posts.

Intake by Parliamentary Constituency

In the latest financial year (12 months ending 31 March 2022), for the Royal Navy/Royal Marines, the region with the largest number of intake was South West with 500 personnel joining, while the Parliamentary Constituencies with the largest number of intake were Gosport and South West Devon with 30 personnel each joining. For the Army in the same period, Officer intake data could not be broken down by Parliamentary Constituency due to lack of recruits' Postcode information. The Officers intake data has therefore been included in the 'Unknown' category in the accompanying Excel and ODS tables. For the Army, the region with the largest number of Other Ranks intake was South East with 990 personnel while the Parliamentary Constituency with the largest number of Other Ranks intake was Aldershot with 70 personnel. For the RAF, the regions with the largest number of intake were South West and East Midlands with 270 personnel each joining, while the Parliamentary Constituency with the largest number of intake was Sleaford and North Hykeham with 40 personnel joining.

Unitary and Local Authority Changes

The restructuring of Defence and the Defence Estate is having an impact on both Regular and Civilian distribution across Unitary and Local Authorities in the UK.

Northern Ireland

There has been a change in structure of Northern Ireland Districts with some Districts grouped together during the 2015-16 financial year.

England

There was a change in Local Authority name in April 2018 from Shepway to Folkestone and Hythe. As at 1 April 2022, there were mergers of Local Authorities that occurred in 2019 and 2020:

- Buckinghamshire Council was formed from a merger of Buckinghamshire County Council with the District Councils of Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe.
- North Northamptonshire was formed from a merger of the non-metropolitan Districts of Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough.
- West Northamptonshire was formed from a merger of the non-metropolitan Districts of Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire.

Trading Funds

Trading Funds

The Trading Funds total as at 1 April 2022 was 8,170. Trading Funds comprise Defence Electronics and Components Agency (DECA), United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO), Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) and the Defence Nuclear Organisation (DNO).

There was a large reduction in Trading Funds strength between 1 January 2015 and 1 April 2015. This was driven by the privatisation of Defence Support Group and the transfer of 2,000 personnel as at 1 April 2015. Approximately 450 personnel were retained with the Department as the Defence Electronic Components Agency (DECA), which was then within Head Office and Corporate Services.

Data Sources and Notes

UK Regular Forces Strength data: are sourced from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. Location data are based on the stationed location of the individual as recorded in the 'Assignment Location' field of the JPA system. The figures are based on Service personnel's stationed location and not their location of residence - where personnel work isn't necessarily where they live. Personnel deployed on operations to an area away from their stationed location are shown against their most recent stationed location.

UK Regular Forces Intake data: Following a request in Defence Orals in April 2020, data on the Parliamentary Constituency of recruits (intake) is now included in these statistics, beginning with the April 2021 release. Data on recruits joining the Armed Forces is held by Defence Recruiting System (DRS). Data extracts are obtained from DRS and data validation and processing is performed by the single Services analysis teams (Analysis Navy, Analysis Army and Analysis Air). The Parliamentary Constituency is identified from "contact" Postcode as recorded in the DRS for Air and Navy data, however the Army data uses the Postcode District only, not the full Postcode, as per the information held in Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command (ARITC) management information system. This is then linked to the latest ONS geographical lookup tables.

Air and Navy data are produced using full "contact" Postcodes on intake and therefore provides a completely accurate intake by Constituency. Any Constituencies with no personnel recorded truly have had no intake over the reported period for these two Services.

However, for the Army data in the financial years 2014/15 to 2020/21, only Postcode District is available and therefore used to derive Constituency. Postcode Districts can overlap Constituencies and therefore we have assigned personnel to the Constituency which has a majority of Postcodes associated with the relevant Postcode District. Two Constituencies, namely Dudley South and Northampton North, have no Postcode Districts where the majority of Postcodes fall in the Constituency, and so have no reported intake. It should be noted that this does not mean that no personnel have been recruited from these Constituencies, rather they cannot be assigned there due to the methodology used.

For the intake into the Army in the financial year 2021/2022, Officers' Postcode data were unavailable, and so Officer data could not be broken down to Constituency level, and have been included in the "Unknown" category. For Other Ranks, Parliamentary Constituency has been derived using a mix of Postcode District only for personnel whose Postcode information is partial, and the full Postcode for those with complete Postcode information. The partial Postcode information has been obtained from ARITC management information system, and the available full Postcode information has been obtained from the Recruitment and Training Pipeline Project (RTPP) information. RTPP is an ongoing project within the MOD Analysis Function aiming to streamline data on intake into the Armed Forces. Where the full Postcode is available, this has been used to assign personnel to a Constituency, otherwise, Constituency has been derived using the Postcode District only, as per the information held in ARITC management information system. Due to this, there could be instances where a Postcode District covers more than one Parliamentary Constituency. Where this occurs, personnel are assigned to the Parliamentary Constituency where the majority of a Postcode District lies.

The methodology is currently under review and is being revised to use full Postcodes for all three services for the next Annual Location Statistics, increasing the quality of the data produced.

Data Sources and Notes (continued)

MOD civilian data are compiled from several sources:

- 1) Core MOD personnel** - Data for core MOD personnel are taken from the personnel system - MyHR. Analysis Tri-Service use budgetary UINs and attribute people according to the budgetary area that pays them, using the Standing Data System hierarchy from Financial Management Information Systems.
- 2) Trading Funds** - Trading Funds were introduced by the Government under the Trading Funds Act 1973 as a 'means of financing trading operations of a government department which, hitherto, have been carried out on Vote'. They are self-accounting units that have greater freedom than other government departments in managing their own financial and management activities. Currently the MOD has four Trading Funds - Defence Electronics and Components Agency (DECA), United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO), Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) and the Defence Nuclear Organisation (DNO). Until 1 October 2011, the Met Office also was reported on by the MOD, but as of 1 October 2011 their responsibility transferred to the Department for Business, Energy, & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Defence Support Group (DSG) was privatised as at 1 April 2015, with approximately 2,000 posts transferring to Babcock. Approximately 450 personnel were retained with the Department as the Defence Electronic Components Agency (DECA), which was then within Head Office and Corporate Services.

- 3) Locally engaged civilians (LEC)** - LEC employees are recruited overseas exclusively for employment in support of the UK Armed Forces deployed in a particular overseas theatre and on terms and conditions of service applicable only to that overseas theatre or Administration.

Previously this has included the dependents of UK military personnel or UK-based civilian staff employed in overseas theatre (who are sometimes separately identified as UK Dependents). However, to reflect the different terms and conditions of these personnel, UK dependents are not included in LEC figures from October 2013. LECs are not civil servants. LEC data are provided by Top Level Budgetary areas quarterly to Defence Statistics requirements. LEC FTE strengths are based on the actual FTE of part-time LECs where available, and the FTE for those part-time personnel where actual values remain unavailable are estimated with the mean FTE of part-time LECs, increasing the accuracy of LEC FTE.

- 4) The Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA)** - The civilian-manned Royal Fleet Auxiliary delivers worldwide logistical and operational support for the wide range of tasks the Royal Navy undertakes including warfighting, counter-piracy, humanitarian and disaster relief, and counter-narcotics operations. RFA data are now taken from the Magellan personnel system. Previously these data were taken from the CHIPS payroll system, but moving to the Magellan system allows total personnel numbers to be reported, rather than purely those being paid. Due to using this system Tri-Service do not have access to the location of these personnel.

- 5) Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S)** - changed status as at 1 April 2015 and was reclassified as a Bespoke Trading Entity, reported under the title DES Bespoke Trading Entity, and will be reported in the same format as current Trading Funds. For the purposes of the ALS report it has still been reported in Industrial and Non Industrial Civilian figures to allow comparable analysis of DE&S across the SDSR periods on a consistent basis.

Further Information

Symbols

- [| |] = discontinuity in time series
- [*] = not applicable
- [..] = not available
- [-] = zero
- [~] = 5 or fewer
- [p] = Provisional
- [e] = Estimate

Further Information (continued)

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 (e.g. 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.

Contact Us

Analysis (Tri-Service) 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. See guidance on [how to make an FOI request](#).

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