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Defence Statistics 2000

The main aim of this paper, which updates research paper 99/112, is to bring together the more commonly used statistics relating to defence expenditure and manpower and to explain some of the problems involved in using such statistics, particularly when making international comparisons.

Gavin Berman

SOCIAL AND GENERAL STATISTICS

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Summary of main points

- The UK Defence Budget has fallen from 5.3% of GDP in 1984/85 to 2.5% in 1999/00 and is planned to fall to 2.3% by 2003/04.
- There has been a 32% fall since 1990 in the size of UK regular armed forces. The number of regular reserves fell by 2.5% between April 1999 and 2000.
- The total number of armed forces personnel in NATO countries has fallen by just over a fifth since 1990.
- Since 1992/93 salaries of senior officers have increased at a faster rate than other ranks. The increases seen in ranks up to corporal were lower than for average earnings in the whole economy

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I Defence expenditure

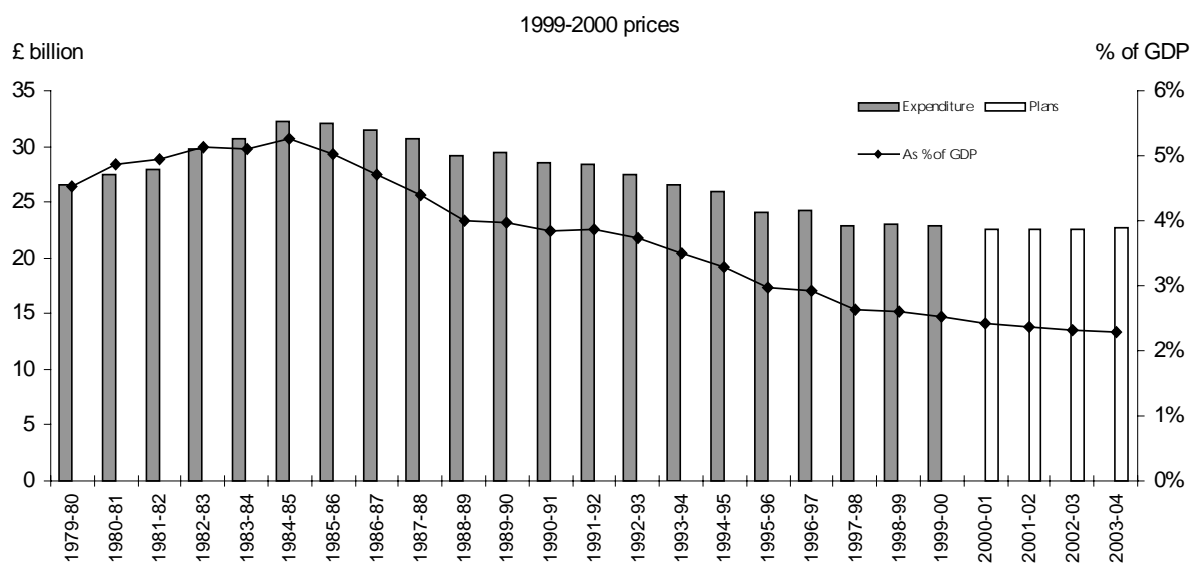
A. UK defence expenditure

The principal measure of defence expenditure in the United Kingdom is the Defence Budget, which covers all expenditure on the Ministry of Defence's programme, and is met from three votes within the Supply Estimates (Class I, Votes 1 to 3). These votes are individually cash limited, but together they form the block defence cash limit and are managed as a block budget. Expenditure incurred against Class I, Vote 4 on pensions for retired members of the Armed Forces falls outside the Defence Budget and is not cash limited.

The Defence Budget for the years 1979/80 to 1999/00 is shown in Table 1 and Chart 1, together with MoD planned defence expenditure to the financial year 2003/04. The figures are given at both outturn prices and constant 1999/00 prices (revalued using the adjusted GDP deflator). The figures at 1999/00 prices should be regarded more as a guide to what that expenditure could have purchased in other sectors of the economy (i.e. the opportunity cost), rather than as a guide to the volume of defence services/equipment purchased. The table also shows the Defence Budget as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product and of public expenditure.

Chart 1

Defence Expenditure 1979-80 to 2003-04



There are a number of points to note when looking at trends in defence expenditure over the period shown:

- Defence expenditure is planned to fall to around 2.3% of GDP by 2003/04. This figure has been on a downward trend since 1984/85 when the figure was 5.3%.
- According to the best available estimate of defence expenditure as a percentage of GDP, the previous low was recorded in 1930 when the figure was around 2.6%.¹
- Planned defence expenditure in real terms for the current financial year is 44% below that in 1984/85.

Table 2 looks at the defence budget according to the New Management Strategy which was introduced on 1 April 1991. This comprises a system of management planning centred on the Departmental Plan which established targets for managers throughout the Department and the armed forces, and a system of budgets which provide managers with a cash allocation with some flexibility in the way in which they use it. The figures show expenditure on defence systems procurement (1L) increasing over the period shown.

Table 3 looks at the Defence Budget broken down by principal heading. The expenditure figures in this table are derived from latest supply estimates and therefore differ from those in Table 1. Also, other countries' contributions to the cost of the Gulf War are excluded from this table, so expenditure in 1990/91 and 1991/92 in this table is higher than in Table 1. The percentage of total expenditure spent on personnel, equipment and other items has varied from year to year. The proportion of expenditure spent on equipment has been higher in the latest three years than since 1985/86.

¹ Peacock & Wiseman, *The Growth of Public Expenditure in the United Kingdom*, 1961
ONS database series YBHA

Table 1

Defence Budget: 1979/80 to 2003/04

		£ billion	£ billion at 1999/2000 prices ^(a)	% change over previous year in real terms	As per cent of GDP	As per cent of TME ^(b)
1979-80	<i>outturn</i>	9.4	26.6		4.5%	10.2%
1980-81	<i>outturn</i>	11.5	27.5	+3.5%	4.9%	10.3%
1981-82	<i>outturn</i>	12.8	27.9	+1.7%	4.9%	10.3%
1982-83	<i>outturn</i>	14.6	29.8	+6.7%	5.1%	10.6%
1983-84	<i>outturn</i>	15.7	30.6	+2.8%	5.1%	10.6%
1984-85	<i>outturn</i>	17.4	32.3	+5.4%	5.3%	11.0%
1985-86	<i>outturn</i>	18.2	32.1	-0.7%	5.0%	11.1%
1986-87	<i>outturn</i>	18.4	31.4	-1.9%	4.7%	10.8%
1987-88	<i>outturn</i>	18.9	30.7	-2.5%	4.4%	10.5%
1988-89	<i>outturn</i>	19.2	29.2	-4.7%	4.0%	10.2%
1989-90	<i>outturn</i>	20.8	29.5	+0.8%	4.0%	10.0%
1990-91 (c)	<i>outturn</i>	21.7	28.5	-3.1%	3.8%	9.7%
1991-92 (c)	<i>outturn</i>	22.9	28.4	-0.6%	3.9%	9.2%
1992-93	<i>outturn</i>	22.9	27.5	-3.2%	3.7%	8.5%
1993-94	<i>outturn</i>	22.8	26.6	-3.2%	3.5%	8.0%
1994-95	<i>outturn</i>	22.6	26.0	-2.2%	3.3%	7.6%
1995-96	<i>outturn</i>	21.5	24.1	-7.3%	3.0%	7.0%
1996-97 (d)	<i>outturn</i>	22.3	24.3	+0.6%	2.9%	7.1%
1997-98 (d)	<i>outturn</i>	21.6	22.8	-6.0%	2.6%	6.7%
1998-99	<i>outturn</i>	22.5	23.0	+1.1%	2.6%	6.8%
1999-00	<i>estimates</i>	22.9	22.9	-0.8%	2.5%	6.7%
2000-01	<i>plans</i>	23.0	22.5	-1.5%	2.4%	6.2%
2001-02	<i>plans</i>	23.6	22.5	+0.1%	2.4%	6.0%
2002-03	<i>plans</i>	24.2	22.6	+0.2%	2.3%	5.8%
2003-04	<i>plans</i>	25.0	22.7	+0.7%	2.3%	5.7%

Notes: (a) Adjusted using the adjusted GDP deflator as at November 2000

(b) Total Managed Expenditure is total current and capital expenditure of the public sector.

(c) Figures for 1990/91 and 1991/92 are net of other countries contributions to the cost of the Gulf War of £498m and £1,525m respectively.

(d) Figures for 1996/97 and 1997/98 are net of the element of receipts from from the sale of married quarters that have been or will be appropriated onto Defence Votes, £304m and £700m respectively. The figures for these years including these amounts are given below:

1996-97	22.0	23.9	-0.8%	2.9%	7.0%
1997-98	20.9	22.1	-7.7%	2.6%	6.5%

(e) The planned expenditure figures to 2001/02 are net of defence estate disposals which should exceed £700 million over the next four years

Sources: *Defence Statistics 1999 (DASA) Table 1.2*

Ministry of Defence: The Government's Expenditure Plans:

2000/2001 to 2001/2002, Cm 4608

Public Expenditure: Statistical Analyses 1999-2000, Cm 4201

Table 2

The Defence Budget by budgetary area: 1996-97 to 2000-01		£ million				
Vote Section		1996-97 <i>outturn</i>	1997-98 <i>outturn</i>	1998-99 <i>outturn</i>	1999-00 <i>estimated outturn</i>	2000-01 <i>planned</i>
1A	Commander-in-Chief Fleet	1,155	1,106	1,090	1,093	1,105
1B	GOC (Northern Ireland)	505	509	512	521	545
1C	Commander-in-Chief, Land Command	2,970	2,870	2,866	2,902	3,166
1D	Air Force Commanding-in-Chief RAF Strike Command	1,701	1,653	1,772	1,773	1,609
1E	Chief of Joint Operations	395	389	368	413	335
1F	Chief of Defence Logistics	4,898	4,700	5,033	5,048	4,854
1G	2nd Sea Lord/Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command	632	529	549	581	588
1H	Adjutant General (Personal & Training Command)	1,082	1,076	1,102	1,225	1,261
1I	Air Officer C-in-C RAF Personnel and Training Command	813	596	593	599	618
1J	2nd Permanent Under Secretary of State	2,049	2,051	2,072	1,894	2,069
1K	Chief of Defence Procurement	775	699	699	662	635
1L	Defence systems procurement	4,791	5,014	5,397	5,716	5,617
1M	Major Customers' Research Budget	531	456	460	457	435
1N	Loans and grants to and repayments from the Hydrographic Office	3	-3	0	0	-1
1O	Loans and grants to and repayments from the Meteorological Office	27	-6	-9	-13	-8
3K	Defence Evaluation and Research Agency	16	-32	-29	-8	-8
	Total Defence Budget	22,345	21,610	22,475	22,863	22,975
2A	Retired pay,pensions and other payments to Service personnel and their dependants	1,076	1,109	1,168	1,270	1,342

Sources: Ministry of Defence: *The Government's Expenditure Plans: 2000/2001 to 2001/2002, Cm 4608*

Table 3

Principal Headings of the Defence Budget: 1979/80 to 2000-01

£ billion

		Total Expenditure as per cent of total												
		Expenditure on personnel					Expenditure on equipment					Other expenditure		
Expenditure (outturn/ estimates prices) ^(a)		Total	<i>of the Armed Forces</i>	<i>of the retired Armed Forces</i>	<i>of civilian staff</i>	Total	<i>Sea</i>	<i>Land</i>	<i>Air</i>	<i>Other</i>	Total	<i>Works, buildings and land</i>	<i>Misc. stores etc</i>	
1979-80	<i>outturn</i>	9.2	42.6%	22.9%	5.0%	14.8%	39.7%	12.1%	8.1%	15.5%	4.0%	17.7%	6.5%	11.2%
1984-85	<i>outturn</i>	17.1	34.9%	18.9%	4.8%	11.2%	45.8%	13.0%	9.6%	20.3%	2.9%	19.3%	7.4%	11.9%
1985-86	<i>outturn</i>	17.9	35.6%	19.6%	5.0%	11.0%	45.7%	13.9%	10.5%	18.4%	2.8%	18.8%	7.9%	10.9%
1986-87	<i>outturn</i>	18.2	37.9%	20.9%	5.4%	11.7%	43.4%	13.7%	9.7%	17.0%	3.0%	18.6%	8.2%	10.4%
1987-88	<i>outturn</i>	18.9	38.2%	21.4%	5.7%	11.1%	43.9%	14.8%	9.0%	17.1%	2.9%	17.8%	7.7%	10.2%
1988-89	<i>outturn</i>	19.1	39.7%	22.5%	5.6%	11.6%	42.1%	13.8%	8.1%	16.2%	4.0%	18.2%	7.4%	10.8%
1989-90	<i>outturn</i>	20.8	39.0%	21.8%	5.8%	11.4%	41.1%	13.9%	8.4%	14.9%	3.9%	19.9%	9.2%	10.7%
1990-91	<i>outturn</i>	22.3	39.5%	21.6%	6.3%	11.6%	39.6%	13.3%	8.6%	14.3%	3.4%	20.9%	9.3%	11.6%
1991-92	<i>outturn</i>	24.6	40.5%	22.4%	6.6%	11.5%	39.7%	12.8%	8.8%	14.5%	3.6%	19.8%	8.5%	11.3%
1992-93	<i>outturn</i>	23.8	44.2%	23.7%	8.2%	12.3%	36.7%	12.2%	7.8%	13.3%	3.4%	19.1%	7.5%	11.6%
1993-94	<i>outturn</i>	23.4	42.0%	29.5%	(c)	12.5%	39.3%	11.0%	7.7%	13.9%	6.7%	18.7%	8.9%	9.8%
1994-95	<i>outturn</i>	22.5	41.3%	28.8%	(c)	12.5%	39.2%	10.9%	7.3%	14.1%	6.9%	19.5%	10.7%	8.8%
1995-96	<i>outturn</i>	21.5	39.6%	28.6%	(c)	11.0%	39.7%	9.8%	7.3%	15.6%	7.0%	20.7%	9.6%	11.1%
1996-97	<i>outturn</i>	22.0	39.2%	28.2%	(c)	10.9%	41.3%	9.9%	8.2%	15.9%	7.2%	19.5%	8.6%	10.9%
1997-98	<i>outturn</i>	20.9	39.5%	28.4%	(c)	11.1%	43.1%	10.2%	7.9%	18.4%	6.5%	17.4%	6.0%	11.5%
1998-99	<i>outturn</i>	22.5	38.1%	28.0%	(c)	10.1%	44.0%	10.3%	7.4%	20.3%	5.9%	17.9%	7.8%	10.1%
1999-00	<i>estimates</i>	22.3	38.1%	28.0%	(c)	10.1%	44.0%	10.3%	7.4%	20.3%	5.9%	17.9%	7.8%	10.1%
2000-01	<i>estimates</i>	22.8	37.5%	27.7%	(c)	9.8%	44.2%	10.3%	7.4%	21.0%	5.5%	18.3%	7.7%	10.6%

Notes: (a) Figures for 1990/91 and 1991/92 exclude overseas contributions to the cost of the Gulf War.

(b) Using the GDP deflator and forecasts given in the Financial Statement & Budget Report 1995-96.

(c) Pension payments to retired service personnel are outside the new public expenditure control total and are excluded from the defence budget.

Sources: UK Defence Statistics 2000 and earlier editions, Table 1.3

B. International comparisons

There are problems when making international comparisons of military expenditure. One of the most important of these is the suitability of the exchange rates used when expenditures in national currencies are converted to a common basis. The use of current exchange rates can lead to substantial distortions when comparing defence expenditures. This is because the official exchange rates of currencies are often not an accurate reflection of the internal purchasing power of the respective currencies - rates of exchange may be fixed by administrative decree, or in the case of a floating rate, by forces reflecting many factors, such as the movement of capital or expectations about the future. Also, the national definitions of military spending may vary.

These problems mean, then, that international comparisons of defence expenditure tend to be crude measures which should be treated with a substantial amount of caution. Differences of a fraction of a percentage point should not be used as a basis for argument.

Furthermore, the basis of payment through which the military sector acquires resources can also differ between countries. If, for example, conscription takes place in a country, the total cost of the armed forces in that country is likely to be lower than in a country with a similar size of force which is fully professional².

Tables 4 and 5 show international comparisons of Defence Expenditure based on the NATO definition of defence expenditure. This includes all spending on military forces, military aid to another nations, military pensions, host government expenses for NATO tenant forces, NATO infrastructure and civilian staff costs; but excludes spending on paramilitary forces. In view of the differences between this and national definitions, the figures may diverge considerably from those which are quoted by national authorities or given in national budgets, although for the UK the difference is minor³.

Table 4 shows expenditure as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product, while Table 5 shows expenditure in terms of US dollars per capita.

Of the eighteen member countries defence expenditure per capita rose between 1980 and 2000 in Turkey and Greece only. Expenditure as a proportion of GDP has fallen since the 1980's in all member countries except Turkey. Between 1985 and 1989 average defence expenditure in NATO member countries was 4.8% of GDP. This has fallen to 2.5% in 2000.

² although the professional force may well be more effective i.e. the size of professional force necessary to perform a specific defence role may be smaller than that required with conscripts

Table 4

Defence Expenditure as % of GDP ^(a)

Country	Average 1975-79	Average 1980-84	Average 1985-89	Average 1990-94	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 ^(b)
NATO countries											
Belgium	3.2	3.3	2.8	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4
Czech Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.2	2.3
Denmark	2.4	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5
France	3.8	4.1	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7
Germany ^(c)	3.4	3.4	3.0	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5
Greece	5.6	5.4	5.1	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.9
Hungary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.6	1.7
Italy	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9
Luxembourg	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7
Netherlands	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.6
Norway	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.2	1.9
Poland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.0	2.0
Portugal	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2
Spain	..	2.4	2.2	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Turkey	4.4	4.0	3.3	3.8	4.1	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.4	5.4	6.0
United Kingdom	4.9	5.2	4.5	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.4
NATO Europe	..	3.6	3.3	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1
Canada	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2
United States	5.0	5.8	6.3	4.9	4.3	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.0
NATO Total	..	4.6	4.8	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.5

Notes: (a) NATO definition of defence expenditure as a proportion of gross domestic product (based on current prices). Figures are for financial year with most months in fiscal year i.e 1999 is 1999/00 for UK.

(b) 2000 figures are estimates.

(c) These percentages have been calculated without taking into account the expenditure for Berlin.

Sources: NATO press release M-DPC-2(2000)107 - 'Financial & Economic Data Relating to NATO Defence' Table 3 and earlier editions

³ Only around £2 million in 1998/99 made up of expenditure on support services outside the defence budget (mainly provided by the National Audit Office).

Table 5

NATO Defence Expenditures Per Capita In US\$ (1995 prices & exchange rates)^(a)

Country	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 ^(b)
Belgium	619	613	597	438	431	426	423	426	427
Czech Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	115	120
Denmark	613	619	641	596	591	595	594	587	567
France	821	888	910	822	803	802	776	780	785
Germany	859	895	892	504	495	481	482	490	484
Greece	452	576	504	484	516	542	587	609	633
Hungary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84	91
Italy	324	365	387	338	340	336	343	350	343
Luxembourg	240	265	330	345	354	375	397	399	397
Netherlands	581	628	631	518	524	517	509	529	500
Norway	699	841	887	805	809	793	840	831	809
Poland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	83	85
Portugal	217	204	264	269	260	265	255	267	273
Spain	241	262	248	221	215	217	212	213	225
Turkey	83	80	106	107	113	117	119	123	136
United Kingdom	778	860	768	577	578	541	546	534	526
NATO Europe	547	582	573	447	443	435	433	394	394
Canada	306	386	387	309	278	257	277	285	265
United States	1,144	1,467	1,423	1,061	1,002	985	950	947	968
NATO Total	758	905	886	670	645	634	621	582	589

Notes: (a) 1999 population data have been calculated by applying the average annual growth over previous ten years to 1996 figures.

(b) 2000 figures are estimates.

Sources: NATO press release M-DPC-2(2000)107 - 'Financial & Economic Data Relating to NATO Defence' Table 4 and earlier editions

II Defence personnel

A. Armed Forces personnel

There have been large-scale reductions in the size of UK regular and reserve forces since 1990. These follow from the restructuring set out in *Britain's Defence for the 90s* and the *Defence Costs Study*. Between 1990/91 to 1996/97 there were 34,600 redundancies in the UK Armed Forces, with almost half of these in the Army⁴.

Tables 6 and 7 provide a simple analysis of the strength of UK regular and reserve forces since 1980. Between 1 April 1990 and 1 April 2000, the number of UK regular forces fell by 32% to 207,600. Over the same period the number of regular reserves has fallen by 4% whilst the number of volunteer reserves and auxiliary forces has fallen by 44%.

At 1 April 2000, the strength of the UK cadet forces was 136,300. This is around 2,900 below the strength in April 1989.

The Strategic Defence Review proposed that the establishment of the regular Army should increase by 3,300 posts to 111,300. The Royal Naval Reserve (RNR) and Reserve Air Forces are to see minor expansions while in contrast, the Territorial Army will see a significant reduction from 57,000 to "around 40,000".⁵

The SDR also set targets of full manning of the Royal Air Force by 2000, of the Royal Navy by 2002, and of the Army.

Table 8 shows the trained strength and establishment of UK regular forces. The figures show that at 1 April 1999 the Naval Service had a shortfall of around 1,600 between trained replacement and strength compared with 5,600 in the Army and 1,300 in the RAF.

⁴ HC Deb 4 June 1997 c183W

⁵ Strategic Defence Review, Essay 7, Para 16

Table 6

UK Regular Armed Forces Manpower ^{(a) (b)}

	1 April 1980	1 April 1990	1 April 1994	1 April 1995	1 April 1996	1 April 1997	1 April 1998	1 April 1999	1 April 2000	% Change since April 1990
Naval Service	71,900	63,200	55,800	50,900	48,300	45,100	44,500	43,700	42,800	-32%
Officers	10,100	10,100	9,200	8,800	8,400	7,900	7,800	7,700	7,700	-24%
Other ranks	61,800	53,000	46,600	42,100	39,900	37,200	36,700	36,000	35,200	-34%
Army	159,000	152,800	123,000	111,700	108,800	108,800	109,800	109,700	110,100	-28%
Officers	17,100	17,400	14,800	14,000	13,800	13,700	13,900	13,600	13,900	-20%
Other ranks	142,000	135,400	108,200	97,700	95,100	95,100	95,900	96,100	96,200	-29%
Royal Air Force	89,600	89,700	75,700	70,800	64,700	56,900	55,800	55,200	54,700	-39%
Officers	14,800	15,200	13,500	12,800	12,000	11,000	11,000	10,900	11,000	-28%
Other ranks	74,800	74,400	62,200	57,900	52,700	45,800	44,900	44,300	43,700	-41%
Total Officers	42,000	42,900	37,500	35,500	34,100	32,700	32,600	32,200	32,500	-24%
Total Other Ranks	278,600	262,900	217,000	197,800	187,800	178,100	177,500	176,400	175,100	-33%
Total Regular Forces	320,600	305,700	254,500	233,300	221,900	210,800	210,100	208,600	207,600	-32%

Notes: (a) Excludes locally entered personnel and Gurkhas.

(b) Figures may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.

Sources: *Defence Statistics 2000 (DASA) Table 2.8**MoD Statistical Bulletin TSP1 (October 2000)*

Table 7

UK Reserves & Auxiliary Forces

	1 April 1980	1 April 1990	1 April 1994	1 April 1995	1 April 1996	1 April 1997	1 April 1998	1 April 1999	1 April 2000	% change since 1990
Regular Reserve	192,300	250,800	262,200	264,100	264,600	259,500	254,700	247,500	241,300	-4%
Volunteer Reserve	77,100	90,600	71,300	64,900	62,000	62,500	62,400	57,400	50,700	-44%
Split by:										
Naval Service	35,100	34,200	27,900	27,000	27,400	27,700	28,500	28,600	28,800	-16%
<i>Royal Fleet Reserve</i>	<i>14,200</i>	<i>13,600</i>	<i>9,800</i>	<i>9,800</i>	<i>10,200</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>10,600</i>	<i>10,600</i>	<i>10,100</i>	-26%
<i>Individuals liable to recall</i>	<i>15,000</i>	<i>13,600</i>	<i>13,500</i>	<i>13,500</i>	<i>13,700</i>	<i>14,100</i>	<i>14,200</i>	<i>14,100</i>	<i>14,000</i>	+3%
Total regular reserves	29,200	27,200	23,300	23,300	23,900	24,100	24,800	24,800	24,700	-9%
Volunteer Reserves & Auxiliary Forces ^(a)	5,900	7,000	4,600	3,700	3,500	3,600	3,700	3,800	4,100	-41%
Army	203,500	265,400	257,500	255,200	252,800	247,700	243,000	232,200	220,000	-17%
<i>Army reserve</i>	<i>71,400</i>	<i>65,800</i>	<i>54,900</i>	<i>53,400</i>	<i>48,500</i>	<i>41,200</i>	<i>36,600</i>	<i>34,800</i>	<i>34,200</i>	-48%
<i>Individuals liable to recall</i>	<i>61,400</i>	<i>117,700</i>	<i>137,600</i>	<i>141,900</i>	<i>147,000</i>	<i>148,900</i>	<i>149,300</i>	<i>145,600</i>	<i>141,000</i>	+20%
Total regular reserves	132,800	183,500	192,500	195,300	195,500	190,100	186,000	180,400	175,200	-5%
Territorial Army ^(b)	63,300	72,500	65,000	59,900	57,300	57,600	57,000	51,800	44,800	-38%
Ulster Defence Regiment ^(c)	7,400	6,200	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Home Service Force ^(d)	*	3,200	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Royal Air Force	30,800	41,900	48,200	46,800	46,400	46,800	45,500	44,100	43,700	+4%
<i>Royal Air Force Reserve</i>	<i>3,600</i>	<i>10,100</i>	<i>16,300</i>	<i>15,900</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>16,300</i>	<i>15,400</i>	<i>14,700</i>	<i>14,300</i>	+42%
<i>Individuals liable to recall</i>	<i>26,700</i>	<i>30,100</i>	<i>30,100</i>	<i>29,600</i>	<i>29,200</i>	<i>29,000</i>	<i>28,500</i>	<i>27,700</i>	<i>27,600</i>	-8%
Total regular reserves	30,300	40,200	46,400	45,500	45,200	45,400	43,900	42,400	41,900	+4%
Volunteer Reserves & Auxiliary Forces	500	1,700	1,800	1,300	1,200	1,400	1,600	1,700	1,800	+6%

Notes: (a) The Royal Naval Auxiliary Service are not included in this table. They were disbanded on 31 March 1994.

(b) The figures for the TA include Non-Regular Permanent Staff of which there were around 1,400 at 1 April 2000

(c) On 1 July 1993 the UDR merged with the Royal Irish Rangers and are now counted as regular forces.

(d) By 1 April 1994 the Home Service Force had become fully amalgamated with the Group A of the TA.

Source: Defence Statistics 2000 (DASA) Table 2.13; TSP 7, 1 April 1998, DASA

Table 8

	Strengths and requirements of UK Regular Forces: at 1 April												Thousands
	Naval Service				Army ^(a)				Royal Air Force				
	1996	1997	1998	1999	1996	1997	1998	1999	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Trained requirement	44.3	42.9	41.9	40.9	108.0	106.4	105.8	105.3	63.7	56.4	54.5	53.0	
Trained strength	45.5	41.7	40.4	39.1	103.8	101.5	101.1	99.7	62.5	54.2	52.7	51.8	
Variation	+1.2	-1.2	-1.6	-1.6	-4.2	-4.8	-4.7	-5.6	-1.2	-2.2	-1.8	-1.3	
Untrained strength	2.8	3.5	4.1	4.6	9.5	11.2	12.4	13.7	2.2	2.7	3.2	3.5	
Total UK regular forces	48.3	45.1	44.5	43.7	113.3	112.7	113.5	113.3	64.7	56.9	55.9	55.2	

(a) Includes Gurkhas

Ministry of Defence Performance Report: 1998/99, Cm 4170
TSP 3, DASA

B. Civilian staffing

Figures are given in Table 9 showing that by 1 April 2000, the total of UK and locally engaged civilian personnel had fallen by 57,300 or 33% since 1 April 1990.

Table 9

	Civilian manpower at 1 April							
	1980	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
UK Personnel	239,800	141,400	116,100	109,900	109,200	104,200	100,900	100,300
Locally Engaged	36,400	30,900	17,100	16,900	15,700	15,000	14,800	14,700
Total civilians	276,200	172,300	133,200	126,800	124,900	119,200	115,700	115,000

Defence Statistics 2000 (DASA) Table 2.1

C. International comparisons

The numbers of military personnel in each NATO country are set out in Table 10. Once again, this method of international comparison is very crude. Different organisations quote varying figures for the size of the armed forces for certain countries, depending on what definition is used. For example, figures could include or exclude paramilitary forces. The NATO figures given in Table 10 include paramilitary forces.

Table 10

NATO Armed Forces Personnel												Thousands
Country	1975	1980	1985	1990	1992	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 ^(a)	% change 1990-2000 ^(d)
Belgium ^(b)	103	108	107	106	79	47	46	45	43	42	42	-60%
Czech Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54	51	
Denmark	34	33	29	31	28	27	28	25	25	27	25	-18%
France	585	575	563	550	522	504	501	475	449	421	395	-28%
Germany ^(c)	491	490	495	545	442	352	339	335	333	331	323	-41%
Greece	185	186	201	201	208	213	212	206	202	204	205	+2%
Hungary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51	54	
Italy	459	474	504	493	471	435	431	419	402	391	382	-23%
Luxembourg	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	+40%
Netherlands	107	107	103	104	90	67	64	57	55	54	54	-49%
Norway	38	40	36	51	36	38	38	33	33	33	32	-36%
Poland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	187	191	
Portugal	104	88	102	87	80	78	73	72	71	71	73	-16%
Spain	..	356	314	263	198	210	203	197	189	155	160	-39%
Turkey	584	717	814	769	704	805	818	828	788	789	793	+3%
United Kingdom	348	330	334	308	293	233	221	218	218	218	218	-29%
NATO Europe	..	3,504	3,603	3,510	3,154	3,010	2,976	2,912	2,809	3,029	2,999	-15%
Canada	78	82	83	87	82	70	66	61	60	60	59	-33%
United States	2,146	2,050	2,244	2,181	1,919	1,620	1,575	1,539	1,505	1,486	1,484	-32%
NATO Total	..	5,636	5,930	5,778	5,154	4,700	4,617	4,512	4,375	4,574	4,542	-21%

Notes: (a) 2000 figures are estimates.

(b) Decrease from 1992 military strength reflects the decision by the Belgian government to demilitarise the Gendarmerie.

(c) Figures for Germany refer to Germany up to and including 1990 and to united Germany from 1991.

(d) NATO and NATO Europe changes exclude armed forces in new member countries

Source: NATO press release M-DPC-2(2000)107 - 'Financial & Economic Data Relating to NATO Defence' Table 6 and earlier editions

III Formation of the armed forces

Table 11 gives information on the formation of the armed forces in terms of numbers of aircraft, ships and army units since 1975.

Table 11

Formation of the armed forces

		1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Front-line units												
Royal Navy												
Submarines	Vessels	32	32	33	33	23	16	15	15	15	15	16
<i>Trident/Polaris</i>	Vessels	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	4
<i>Fleet</i>	Vessels	28	28	29	29	17	12	12	12	12	12	12
Carriers	Vessels	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Assault ships	Vessels	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Cruisers	Vessels	2	1									
Destroyers	Vessels	10	13	15	14	12	12	12	12	12	12	11
Frigates	Vessels	60	53	41	35	25	23	24	23	23	23	21
Mine counter measure vessels	Vessels	43	36	45	41	18	18	18	18	19	20	21
Patrol ships and craft	Vessels	14	22	32	34	34	32	32	34	28	24	23
Fixed wing aircraft	Squadrons	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
Helicopters	Squadrons	13	14	18	17	17	15	15	15	12	12	10
Royal marines	Commandos	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Regular army												
Combat arms												
Armour	Regiments	19	19	19	19	12	11	11	11	11	11	11
Infantry	Battalions	55	26	26	55	45	41	41	40	40	40	40
Special Forces	Regiments	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Aviation	Regiments	..	6	4	4	6	5	5	5	5	5	5
Combat support												
Artillery	Regiments	26	22	22	22	16	16	16	16	15	15	15
Engineers	Regiments	13	10	13	13	12	10	10	10	10	10	11
Signals	Regiments	17	13	14	13	14	12	12	11	11	11	11
Territorial Army												
Combat arms												
Armour	Regiments	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	6	3	4	4
Infantry	Battalions	38	38	35	41	36	36	36	33	33	33	15
Special Forces	Regiments	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Aviation	Regiments	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1
Combat support												
Artillery	Regiments	5	6	6	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	7
Engineers	Regiments	7	7	7	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	5
Signals	Regiments	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	12

Sources: Defence Statistics 2000(DASA) Table 3.1

Table 11 (continued)

Formation of the armed forces		1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Home Service Forces												
Infantry	Battalions	13	14	11	11	8	8	7	7	7	7	7
Royal Air Force												
Strike/attack	Squadrons	13	15	11	11	6	6	6	6	6	5	5
Offensive support	Squadrons	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Reconnaissance	Squadrons	5	5	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Maritime patrol	Squadrons	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Air defence	Squadrons	9	9	9	9	6	6	6	6	6	5	5
Airborne Early Warning	Squadrons	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Air transport, tankers and helicopters	Squadrons	17	11	14	15	15	14	14	13	14	14	14
Search and Rescue	Squadrons	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
RAF regiments												
Ground based air defence	Squadrons	6	8	8	7	5	5	6	6	6	4	4
Field	Squadrons	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Royal Auxiliary Air Force												
Total	Squadrons	4	8	12	15	14	14	14	16	18	19	18
Support units												
Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service												
Support ships	Vessels	8	9	10	8	1	1	1	1			
Survey ships	Vessels	13	13	9	8	6	6	6	6	5	6	6
Ice patrol ships	Vessels	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tankers	Vessels	..	15	14	13	9	9	9	9	9	9	7
Fleet replenishment ships	Vessels	..	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	4
Aviation training ship	Vessels	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Landing ships	Vessels	..	6	7	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Forward repair ships	Vessels	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Royal Marines												
Logistic unit	Regiments	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Regular Army												
Combat service support												
Equipment support	Battalions	..	..	..	..	5	5	5	5	6	6	7
Logistics	Regiments	23	17	23	27	26	26	26	24	24	24	22
Field ambulances/field hospitals	Number	11	8	14	16	13	13	12	12	12	12	8
Territorial Army												
Combat service support												
Equipment support	Battalions	..	..	..	..	4	4	5	5	5	4	4
Logistics	Regiments	13	8	12	12	11	11	11	19	19	14	16
Field ambulances/field hospitals	Number	15	13	18	17	17	17	18	18	18	19	14

Sources: Defence Statistics 2000(DASA) Table 3.1

IV Armed Forces salaries

Military salaries for ranks in the armed services are quite complex as they often relate to bands, scales and classes according to employment classification, length of service, nature of specialisation etc. For example, there are nine pay rates for Majors in the Army on the main Officer pay scale according to the length of service in that rank.

The tables shown here look at illustrative military salaries for officers and servicemen, based on Army ranks. Table 12 compares indices based on average military salaries for different ranks with the Average Earnings Index. The table shows that salaries of senior officers have risen faster than those of other ranks (by 94% between 1988/89 and 2000/01 compared with 84% for ranks up to corporal). The table also shows the average annual percentage change in salaries for different periods. For average earnings in 2000/01, a forecast increase of 4.6% has been used.⁶

Table 13 looks at average military salaries for different ranks for various years since 1980/81. It also shows real terms changes calculated by converting the cash salaries to constant 1997/98 prices using the Retail Prices Index. The change in the RPI for 2000/01 has been calculated using the latest forecast given in the Pre-Budget Report⁷.

⁶ *Forecasts for the UK Economy*, HM Treasury, November 2000

⁷ *Pre-Budget Report*, HM Treasury, November 2000

Table 12

Military Salary Index: 1988-89=100

	All Ranks ^(a)	Senior Officers (Major General and above)	Officers (Up to Brigadier)	Other ranks (Sergeant and above)	Other ranks (Up to Corporal)	Average earnings (whole economy)
1978-79	37	33	33	35	39	37
1979-80	49	42	44	48	52	44
1980-81	57	51	52	56	59	52
1981-82	63	55	59	62	65	58
1982-83	66	63	64	66	68	63
1983-84	71	67	69	71	72	68
1984-85	75	73	73	74	76	73
1985-86	82	80	81	82	83	79
1986-87	87	90	86	86	88	85
1987-88	94	95	93	93	94	92
1988-89	100	100	100	100	100	100
1989-90	107	109	107	107	107	109
1990-91	115	117	115	114	115	120
1991-92	131	131	131	130	131	129
1992-93	139	138	139	138	139	135
1993-94	141	142	141	140	141	140
1994-95	145	150	145	144	145	146
1995-96	150	157	151	150	149	150
1996-97	157	164	157	156	156	157
1997-98	163	168	164	163	163	164
1998-99	168	178	169	168	168	171
1999-00	176	187	177	176	176	178
2000-01	184	194	185	183	184	187
Average annual % change						
1978-79 to 2000-01	7.6%	8.3%	8.1%	7.8%	7.3%	7.6%
1988-89 to 2000-01	5.2%	5.7%	5.3%	5.2%	5.2%	5.3%
1992-93 to 2000-01	3.6%	4.3%	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%	4.1%

Notes: (a) Indices cover adult male UK regular forces and are based on the average rate of basic pay through the year.

Sources: *Defence Statistics 2000 (DASA) and earlier editions*
ONS Database; Incomes Data Services

Table 13

Illustrative Rates of Military Salary (in terms of Army ranks) ^(a)

		1980/81	1985/86	1990/91	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	Average annual change in real terms ^(b)				
										80/81	85/86	90/91	98/99	80/81
										-85/86	-90/91	-00/01	-00/01	-00/01
General		£30,999	£51,558	£76,489	£100,579	£103,510	£106,098	£109,368	£112,668	3.6%	2.0%	1.1%	1.0%	1.9%
Brigadier		£18,250	£29,401	£41,682	£59,872	£62,351	£64,554	£67,633	£69,828	3.0%	1.1%	2.4%	1.9%	2.2%
Colonel	after 4 years in the rank	£16,151	£25,711	£36,598	£51,402	£53,511	£55,366	£58,117	£60,178	2.7%	1.1%	2.2%	2.2%	2.1%
Lieutenant Colonel	after 4 years in the rank	£13,750	£22,170	£31,750	£44,225	£46,040	£47,632	£49,999	£51,969	3.0%	1.3%	2.1%	2.4%	2.1%
Major	after 4 years in the rank	£11,001	£16,976	£24,109	£32,823	£34,138	£35,251	£37,003	£38,460	2.1%	1.1%	1.9%	2.4%	1.7%
Captain	after 3 years in the rank	£8,501	£13,202	£18,819	£25,441	£26,468	£27,351	£28,764	£30,040	2.2%	1.2%	1.9%	2.7%	1.8%
Lieutenant	after 2 years in the rank	£6,650	£10,209	£14,395	£19,443	£20,222	£20,882	£21,960	£22,937	2.0%	0.9%	1.9%	2.7%	1.7%
Second Lieutenant		£5,201	£7,490	£10,389	£13,976	£13,802	£15,006	£15,782	£18,126	0.7%	0.6%	2.8%	7.7%	1.7%
Warrant Officer I	band 6, scale C, after 18 years	£8,983	£13,505	£18,888	£26,119	£27,153	£28,032	£29,415	£30,558	1.6%	0.8%	2.0%	2.3%	1.6%
Warrant Officer II	band 6, scale C, after 18 years	£8,593	£12,786	£17,935	£24,789	£25,769	£26,602	£27,915	£28,999	1.4%	0.8%	2.0%	2.3%	1.6%
Staff Sergeant	band 5, scale C, after 18 years	£7,669	£11,169	£15,620	£21,190	£22,026	£22,739	£23,860	£24,784	0.9%	0.8%	1.8%	2.3%	1.3%
Sergeant	band 5, scale C, after 12 years	£7,173	£10,417	£14,616	£19,847	£20,631	£21,297	£22,348	£23,214	0.9%	0.8%	1.8%	2.3%	1.3%
Corporal	class 1, band 2, scale C	£6,482	£9,289	£13,066	£17,587	£18,296	£18,911	£19,845	£20,619	0.6%	0.9%	1.8%	2.3%	1.3%
Lance Corporal	class 1, band 1, scale C	£5,344	£6,953	£9,614	£13,010	£13,533	£13,988	£14,688	£15,334	-1.3%	0.6%	1.9%	2.6%	0.7%
Private	class 2, band 1, scale C	£4,453	£6,081	£8,249	£11,237	£11,685	£12,086	£12,726	£13,282	-0.4%	0.2%	2.0%	2.7%	0.9%

Notes: (a) In the illustrative rates for officers, the mid-point of the incremental scales has been used. For servicemen, the pay bandings have been selected which contain the largest number at each rank. Within each rank servicemen are divided for the purposes of pay into classes, bands and scales according to their employment classification, the nature of their specialisation and the period of commitment to serve. All forms of additional pay, eg flying pay, diving pay etc are excluded since they are not paid to the majority of Service personnel. In each year the rates are calculated using a weighted average of the salaries in that year.

(b) Conversions to constant prices are made using the retail prices index. For 2000/01 a forecast increase of 2.8% has been used.

Sources: *Defence Statistics 2000 (DASA), Table 2.15*
ONS CSDB database series CHAW, CBAB & CZVJ

Appendix: Tri-Service and Civilian Personnel information published by DASA

Number	Title	Frequency
TSP1	UK Regular Forces strengths and changes	Monthly
TSP2	Trained requirements and strengths of service personnel	Quarterly
TSP4	UK Regular Forces quarterly press release	Quarterly
TSP5	UK Regular Forces premature voluntary release	Quarterly
TSP6	Global deployment of service personnel	Six-monthly
TSP7	Reserve and Cadet Forces	Yearly
TSP8	Age distribution of UK Regular Forces	Yearly
TSP9	Rank structure of UK Regular Forces	Quarterly
TSP10	UK Regular Forces deployment in UK by local authority area	Yearly
TSP11	Male UK Regular Forces marital status and family statistics	Yearly
TSP13	UK Regular Forces servicemen age on entry	Yearly
TSP15	UK Service Personnel on loan to other countries	Quarterly
TSP16	UK Regular Forces disciplinary convictions	Yearly
TSP18	UK Servicemen wastage during first six months of training	Yearly
TSP19	UK Regular Forces intake and outflow by age	Yearly
TSP20	Male Regular Forces outflow by rank	Yearly
TSP22	UK Regular Forces comparative statistics	Yearly
TSP24	Strength of uniformed medical staff	Yearly
SCPS1	UK service and civilian personnel by sector and TLB	Monthly
CPS1	Permanent UK-based civilian personnel by grade equivalent, type and area of work	Quarterly
CPS2	Regional analysis of resignations for admin and science group staff	Quarterly
	UK Defence Statistics	Annual