



## Defence personnel statistics

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This note provides information on the strength of the UK Armed Forces. Total UK Armed Forces personnel comprise full time trained and untrained UK Regular Forces, Gurkhas and all Full Time Reserve Service personnel. Long run trend data for UK Regular Forces and the diversity of these forces is also provided.

A summary of the strength of the Reserve forces is provided as is the number of civilian personnel. The final section compares the strength of military forces amongst the NATO countries.

This note will be updated quarterly soon after the publication of [UK Armed Forces - Quarterly Manning Report](#). The quarterly report contains information on the sex, ethnicity and rank of the Armed Forces. This is in addition to the strength, intake and outflow data that is published in the intervening months in the [UK Armed Forces - Monthly Manning Report](#).

Comprehensive analysis of policy developments concerning the Armed Forces can be found in the Library publications on the [Armed Forces subject page](#).

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# 1 Introduction

There are three measures of service personnel levels are generally used: total armed forces personnel; total UK regular forces; total trained UK armed forces/regular forces.

Total UK Armed Forces personnel comprise full time trained and untrained UK Regular Forces, Gurkhas and all Full Time Reserve Service personnel.

UK Regular Forces comprises trained and untrained personnel and excludes Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and mobilised reservists

Gurkhas are recruited and employed in the British and Indian Armies under the terms of the 1947 Tri-Partite Agreement (TPA). They remain Nepalese citizens whilst serving within the Brigade of Gurkhas but in all other respects are full members of HM Forces. Since 2008, Gurkhas are entitled to transfer to the UK Regular Forces after 5 years of service. On transfer, or on completion of their Service within the Brigade of Gurkhas, they are then eligible to apply for British citizenship

Full-Time Reserve Service (FTRS) are personnel who fill Service posts for a set period on a full-time basis while being a member of one of the reserve services, either as an ex-regular or as a volunteer. An FTRS reservist on:

- Full Commitment (FC) fulfils the same range of duties and deployment liability as a Regular Service person;
- Limited Commitment (LC) serves at one location but can be detached for up to 35 days a year.
- Home Commitment (HC) is employed at one location and cannot be detached elsewhere;

Trained Strength comprises military personnel who have completed Phase 1 and 2 training.

- Phase 1 training includes all new entry training to provide basic military skills.
- Phase 2 training includes initial individual specialisation, sub-specialisation and technical training following Phase 1 training prior to joining the trained strength.

Untrained strength comprises military personnel who have yet to complete Phase 2 training.

Prior to March 2006 Armed Forces personnel statistics were compiled from pay records (Naval Service) or personnel records (Army and RAF) held by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA, formerly the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency). In March 2006 the transfer of all Service personnel records to the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system began. Statistics have been compiled from JPA for the RAF since April 2006, for the Naval Service since November 2006 and for the Army since April 2007.

## 2 Future service personnel levels

In October 2010 the Strategic Defence and Security Review recommended that by 2015 the full-time trained strength of the Navy should decrease by 5,000 to 30,000, the Army by 7,000 to 95,000 and the RAF by 5,000 to 33,000.<sup>1</sup> The RAF figure is on top of the 2,000 reduction decided in Planning Round 10.

Although not explicitly mentioned it would appear that these are reductions in the full time trained strength of UK Armed Forces personnel.

On 18 July 2011 the Secretary of State for Defence indicated in a statement in the House of Commons that Army strength would reduce to 84,000 by 2020.<sup>2</sup>

By 2020, if the Territorial Army develops in the way we intend, we envisage a total force of around 120,000, with a regular to reserve ratio of around 70:30.

It appears from that the available statistics that such reductions would result in the trained strength of the Army standing at levels not seen for around 150-200 years, although historical strength data is not available for each individual year.

The Library has published a note briefly setting out the information that has been publicly released regarding the Armed Forces redundancy schemes that were announced in March/April 2011

[In Brief: Armed Forces Redundancies, Standard Note SN05951](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Securing Britain in an Age of Uncertainty: The Strategic Defence and Security Review, Cm 7948, October 2010

<sup>2</sup> HC Deb 18 July 2011 c644

### 3 Summary

- At 1 July 2014 the total strength of the UK Armed Forces was 163,670.
- Of the UK Armed Forces approximately 149,000 were trained and 13,000 untrained.
- UK Regulars comprise 96% of the total UK Armed forces, the Gurkhas 2% and the FTRS 2%.
- The majority of UK Armed forces serve in the Army (59%), with 21% serving in the RAF and 20% in Naval Service.

**Table 1**  
**Strength of UK Armed Forces - Summary full time trained and untrained personnel**

|                           | 2007    | 2008    | 2009    | 2010    | 2011    | 2012    | 2013    | 2014    |         |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                           | 01-Apr  | 01-Apr  | 01-Apr  | 01-Apr  | 01-Apr  | 01-Apr  | 01-Apr  | 01-Apr  | 01-Jul  |
| All services              | 195,680 | 192,670 | 194,330 | 197,770 | 192,290 | 185,690 | 176,660 | 165,860 | 163,670 |
| UK Regular forces         | 190,400 | 187,060 | 188,370 | 191,660 | 186,360 | 179,800 | 170,710 | 159,630 | 157,490 |
| Gurkhas                   | 3,700   | 3,860   | 3,860   | 3,840   | 3,880   | 3,820   | 3,510   | 3,050   | 2,840   |
| Full Time Reserve Service | 1,590   | 1,750   | 2,100   | 2,280   | 2,060   | 2,060   | 2,440   |         |         |
| Army                      | 110,530 | 109,810 | 111,410 | 113,970 | 111,290 | 109,350 | 104,760 | 96,100  | 94,370  |
| UK Regular forces         | 106,170 | 105,090 | 106,460 | 108,870 | 106,230 | 104,250 | 99,730  | 91,070  | 89,480  |
| Gurkhas                   | 3,700   | 3,860   | 3,860   | 3,840   | 3,880   | 3,820   | 3,510   | 3,040   | 2,830   |
| Full Time Reserve Service | 660     | 850     | 1,090   | 1,260   | 1,180   | 1,270   | 1,530   | 1,980   | 2,060   |
| RAF                       | 45,710  | 43,750  | 43,970  | 44,500  | 42,920  | 40,440  | 37,540  | 35,920  | 35,690  |
| UK Regular forces         | 45,370  | 43,390  | 43,570  | 44,050  | 42,460  | 40,000  | 37,030  | 35,230  | 34,940  |
| Full Time Reserve Service | 340     | 360     | 400     | 450     | 450     | 430     | 510     | 690     | 750     |
| Naval Service             | 39,440  | 39,110  | 38,960  | 39,310  | 38,090  | 35,900  | 34,360  | 33,840  | 33,610  |
| UK Regular forces         | 38,860  | 38,570  | 38,340  | 38,730  | 37,660  | 35,540  | 33,960  | 33,330  | 33,080  |
| Full Time Reserve Service | 580     | 530     | 620     | 580     | 430     | 360     | 400     | 500     | 540     |

Notes:

All FTRS are trained. FTRS Strength includes personnel serving against an additional requirement excluded from Table 2. Figures may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.

Source: UK Armed Forces Quarterly Manning Report, DASA

### 3.1 UK Armed Forces personnel

The strength of each Service is in part determined by its requirements. The requirement is calculated on the basis of the full time trained strength of the UK Armed Forces.

The requirement for UK Armed Forces personnel will be affected by, amongst other things:<sup>3</sup>

- changes in technology, the introduction of new equipment and restructuring that leads to equipment becoming obsolete or surplus to requirements
- the type of ongoing operations that are being conducted and the development of emerging threats.

The surplus/ deficit in the strength of the Services against the requirement is one indicator of their ability to execute military tasks. Other indicators include the surplus/deficit in key trades or ranks. Data on Pinch Points, which are skills areas where there is insufficient trained personnel to meet the specified requirement, were published for the first time in the [MoD Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11](#), and have been repeated in subsequent years.

Table 2 shows the trends in trained strength and requirement for each service in each since 1997, the first year that requirement data was available. The table also shows the proposed requirement levels at April 2015 as announced in the SDSR

**Table 2**  
**Trained strengths and requirements of UK Armed Forces<sup>1</sup>: at 1 April**

|      | Naval Service       |                  |                  | Army                |                  |                  | Royal Air Force     |                  |                  |
|------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
|      | Trained requirement | Trained strength | Surplus/ Deficit | Trained requirement | Trained strength | Surplus/ Deficit | Trained requirement | Trained strength | Surplus/ Deficit |
| 1997 | 42,900              | 41,700           | -1,200           | 106,400             | 101,500          | -4,900           | 56,400              | 54,200           | -2,200           |
| 1998 | 41,900              | 40,400           | -1,500           | 105,800             | 101,100          | -4,700           | 54,500              | 52,700           | -1,800           |
| 1999 | 40,943              | 39,071           | -1,872           | 105,271             | 99,674           | -5,597           | 53,024              | 51,761           | -1,263           |
| 2000 | 39,863              | 38,877           | -986             | 106,396             | 100,334          | -6,062           | 52,160              | 51,208           | -952             |
| 2001 | 39,897              | 38,525           | -1,372           | 106,973             | 100,378          | -6,595           | 51,594              | 50,106           | -1,488           |
| 2002 | 39,179              | 37,489           | -1,690           | 106,973             | 100,902          | -6,071           | 49,994              | 49,205           | -789             |
| 2003 | 38,510              | 37,600           | -910             | 106,980             | 102,120          | -4,860           | 49,640              | 48,900           | -740             |
| 2004 | 38,720              | 37,470           | -1,250           | 106,730             | 103,770          | -2,960           | 49,890              | 49,120           | -770             |
| 2005 | 38,190              | 36,320           | -1,870           | 104,170             | 102,440          | -1,730           | 48,730              | 49,210           | +480             |
| 2006 | 36,800              | 35,500           | -1,300           | 101,800             | 100,600          | -1,200           | 47,300              | 46,900           | -400             |
| 2007 | 36,800              | 34,900           | -1,900           | 101,800             | 99,400           | -2,400           | 45,000              | 43,600           | -1,400           |
| 2008 | 36,260              | 35,070           | -1,190           | 101,800             | 98,270           | -3,530           | 41,210              | 40,620           | -590             |
| 2009 | 35,760              | 35,020           | -740             | 101,790             | 99,250           | -2,540           | 41,310              | 39,660           | -1,650           |
| 2010 | 35,790              | 35,500           | -290             | 102,160             | 102,200          | +40              | 40,800              | 40,140           | -660             |
| 2011 | 35,700              | 35,430           | -270             | 102,210             | 101,300          | -910             | 41,340              | 40,090           | -1,250           |
| 2012 | 34,800              | 33,290           | -1,510           | 101,210             | 98,600           | -2,610           | 38,830              | 38,120           | -710             |
| 2013 | 30,530              | 31,420           | +890             | 96,790              | 93,940           | -2,850           | 35,620              | 35,350           | -270             |
| 2014 | 30,340              | 30,410           | +70              | 94,100              | 87,180           | -6,920           | 34,870              | 32,870           | -2,000           |
| 2015 | 2                   | 30,000           |                  | 95,000              |                  |                  | 33,000              |                  |                  |
| 2020 | 2                   | 29,000           |                  | 94,000              |                  |                  | 91,500              |                  |                  |

Notes: 1. Full time personnel, including UK regulars, FTRS and Gurkhas. Some FTRS personnel serve against an additional requirement and are excluded from Table 2.  
2. Estimated requirement as set out in SDSR

Source:  
UK Armed Forces Quarterly Manning Report, DASA  
DASA Statistical Bulletin TSP 03

- On 1 July 2014 the Army had a shortfall of around 5,400 between trained requirement and strength, (5.9% of requirement). The last period in surplus was during 2012. Officers' strength was 4.0% below requirement, the strength of other ranks was 6.2% below requirement.

<sup>3</sup> UK Armed Forces Quarterly Manning Report, DASA

- The RAF was 1,990 under strength at 1 July 2014. Officers were 7.7% below requirement; the strength of other ranks was 5.5% below requirement.
- At July 2014 the strength of the Naval Service was 80 trained personnel above requirement. Officer strength was 2.4% above requirement, while the strength of other ranks was 0.3% below requirement.

### 3.2 UK Regular Forces personnel

The strength of UK Regular Forces is the series generally used when trends in personnel numbers are discussed.

Table 3 shows the strength of the UK Regular Forces, by officer/other rank, for each service since 1980.

- Between 1 April 1980 and 1 April 2014, the size of UK regular forces, trained and untrained, fell by roughly half to 159,630.
- The Army Officer rank is the only sector within the three services to have experienced any growth since 1997, standing 6.7% higher at 14,6200 on 1 April 2013.

**Table 3**  
**UK Regular Forces strength at 1st April** <sup>(a)</sup> <sup>(b)</sup>

|      | Naval Service |           |             | Army    |           |             | Royal Air Force |           |             | Total Regular Forces |           |             |
|------|---------------|-----------|-------------|---------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------|
|      | Total         | Of which: |             | Total   | Of which: |             | Total           | Of which: |             | Total                | Of which: |             |
|      |               | Officers  | Other ranks |         | Officers  | Other ranks |                 | Officers  | Other ranks |                      | Officers  | Other ranks |
| 1980 | 71,900        | 10,100    | 61,800      | 159,100 | 17,100    | 142,000     | 89,700          | 14,900    | 74,800      | 320,700              | 42,100    | 278,600     |
| 1990 | 63,200        | 10,100    | 53,100      | 152,800 | 17,400    | 135,400     | 89,700          | 15,300    | 74,400      | 305,700              | 42,800    | 262,900     |
| 1995 | 50,900        | 8,800     | 42,100      | 111,700 | 14,000    | 97,700      | 70,800          | 12,800    | 57,900      | 233,300              | 35,500    | 197,800     |
| 1996 | 48,300        | 8,400     | 39,900      | 108,800 | 13,800    | 95,100      | 64,700          | 12,000    | 52,700      | 221,900              | 34,100    | 187,800     |
| 1997 | 45,100        | 8,000     | 37,200      | 108,800 | 13,700    | 95,100      | 56,900          | 11,100    | 45,800      | 210,800              | 32,700    | 178,200     |
| 1998 | 44,500        | 7,800     | 36,800      | 109,830 | 13,900    | 95,930      | 55,840          | 10,980    | 44,870      | 210,140              | 32,620    | 177,510     |
| 1999 | 43,700        | 7,700     | 36,000      | 109,720 | 13,620    | 96,100      | 55,210          | 10,910    | 44,300      | 208,640              | 32,240    | 176,400     |
| 2000 | 42,850        | 7,660     | 35,190      | 110,050 | 13,870    | 96,180      | 54,720          | 10,990    | 43,730      | 207,620              | 32,520    | 175,100     |
| 2001 | 42,420        | 7,760     | 34,660      | 109,530 | 13,920    | 95,610      | 53,700          | 10,960    | 42,740      | 205,650              | 32,630    | 173,020     |
| 2002 | 41,630        | 7,800     | 33,850      | 110,050 | 14,060    | 96,000      | 53,000          | 10,920    | 42,090      | 204,690              | 32,750    | 171,940     |
| 2003 | 41,550        | 7,800     | 33,760      | 112,130 | 14,400    | 97,720      | 53,240          | 10,950    | 42,290      | 206,920              | 33,160    | 173,770     |
| 2004 | 40,880        | 7,770     | 33,120      | 112,750 | 14,720    | 98,030      | 53,390          | 10,960    | 42,430      | 207,020              | 33,450    | 173,580     |
| 2005 | 39,940        | 7,730     | 32,210      | 109,290 | 14,660    | 94,630      | 51,870          | 10,620    | 41,250      | 201,100              | 33,000    | 168,100     |
| 2006 | 39,390        | 7,660     | 31,730      | 107,730 | 14,730    | 93,000      | 48,730          | 10,310    | 38,420      | 195,850              | 32,700    | 163,150     |
| 2007 | 38,860        | 7,580     | 31,280      | 106,170 | 14,630    | 91,540      | 45,370          | 9,890     | 35,480      | 190,400              | 32,100    | 158,290     |
| 2008 | 38,570        | 7,480     | 31,090      | 105,090 | 14,560    | 90,530      | 43,390          | 9,670     | 33,720      | 187,060              | 31,710    | 155,340     |
| 2009 | 38,340        | 7,410     | 30,930      | 106,460 | 14,510    | 91,950      | 43,570          | 9,770     | 33,800      | 188,370              | 31,690    | 156,680     |
| 2010 | 38,730        | 7,460     | 31,270      | 108,870 | 14,640    | 94,230      | 44,050          | 9,820     | 34,230      | 191,660              | 31,930    | 159,730     |
| 2011 | 37,660        | 7,410     | 30,240      | 106,230 | 14,760    | 91,470      | 42,460          | 9,660     | 32,810      | 186,360              | 31,830    | 154,520     |
| 2012 | 35,540        | 7,190     | 28,350      | 104,250 | 14,480    | 89,780      | 40,000          | 9,030     | 30,970      | 179,800              | 30,700    | 149,100     |
| 2013 | 33,960        | 7,050     | 26,910      | 99,730  | 14,620    | 85,110      | 37,030          | 8,440     | 28,590      | 170,710              | 30,110    | 140,600     |
| 2014 | 33,330        | 6,930     | 26,690      | 91,070  | 14,090    | 82,010      | 35,230          | 8,130     | 27,790      | 159,630              | 27,850    | 131,770     |

Notes:

(a) Excludes locally entered personnel and Gurkhas.

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

Source:

DASA Statistical Bulletin TSP 01

Table 3, DASA Statistical Bulletin TSP 04

Table 4 shows the current strength of the Regular Forces is at historically low levels.

- The strength of the Naval Service is at levels not seen since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century,
- Available data suggests that current Army strength is at the levels of the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- The current strength of the RAF is at post-WWII low, although strength was lower between the two World Wars.

**Table 4**  
**Historical strength of UK Regular Forces personnel, (000s, FTE)**

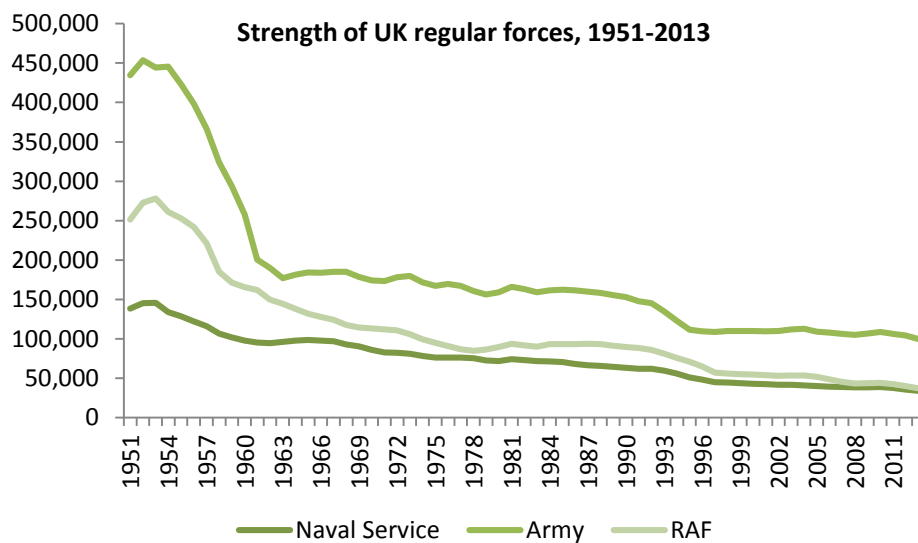
|      | <b>Total Service</b> | Naval Service | Army  | RAF   |
|------|----------------------|---------------|-------|-------|
| 1750 | <b>88.9</b>          | 10.0          | 78.9  | n/a   |
| 1800 | <b>200.3</b>         | 120.0         | 80.3  | n/a   |
| 1850 | <b>138.1</b>         | 39.0          | 99.1  | n/a   |
| 1900 | <b>416.4</b>         | 114.9         | 301.5 | n/a   |
| 1950 | <b>696.5</b>         | 139.3         | 364.1 | 193.1 |
| 1960 | <b>521.1</b>         | 97.8          | 257.8 | 165.5 |
| 1970 | <b>373.0</b>         | 86.0          | 174.0 | 113.0 |
| 1980 | <b>320.5</b>         | 71.9          | 159.0 | 89.6  |
| 1990 | <b>305.7</b>         | 63.2          | 152.8 | 89.7  |
| 2000 | <b>207.6</b>         | 42.8          | 110.1 | 54.7  |
| 2010 | <b>191.7</b>         | 38.7          | 108.9 | 44.1  |
| 2014 | <b>159.6</b>         | 33.3          | 91.1  | 35.2  |

Source:

UK Defence Statistics 2000, DASA

UK Armed Forces Quarterly Manning Report, DASA

The chart below shows that the strengths of each of the Services have fallen sharply since the end of World War II.





## 4 Diversity in the UK Regular Forces

### 4.1 Gender

Over the past few years the proportion of females in the UK Regular Forces has been rising in each of the services.

In 1980 4.8% of officers in the UK regular forces were female; by 1990 the proportion had increased to 5.9%. Over the same period the proportion of females in other ranks increased from 5.0% to 5.6%.<sup>4</sup> By 1 July 2014 females accounted for 12.7% of officers and 9.4% of other ranks.

The RAF has the highest proportion of female officers amongst the tri-services (13.9%). 11.8% of Army officers were female and 10.1% of Naval Service officers. The RAF also had the highest proportion of females amongst other ranks (13.1%). In the Naval Service 8.9% of other ranks were female; the figure for the Army was 8.3%.

**Table 5**  
**Women in the UK Regular Forces, 1 July 2014**

|                       | Total   |       | Officers |       | Other ranks |       |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|-------------|-------|
|                       | number  | %     | number   | %     | number      | %     |
| Total armed forces    | 157,490 |       | 27,760   |       | 129,730     |       |
| <i>of which women</i> | 15,780  | 10.0% | 3,530    | 12.7% | 12,250      | 9.4%  |
| Royal Navy            | 33,080  |       | 6,780    |       | 26,300      |       |
| <i>of which women</i> | 3,010   | 9.1%  | 680      | 10.0% | 2,330       | 8.9%  |
| Army                  | 89,480  |       | 13,190   |       | 76,290      |       |
| <i>of which women</i> | 7,920   | 8.9%  | 1,550    | 11.8% | 6,370       | 8.3%  |
| RAF                   | 34,940  |       | 7,800    |       | 27,140      |       |
| <i>of which women</i> | 4,850   | 13.9% | 1,300    | 16.7% | 3,550       | 13.1% |

Source: UK Armed Forces Quarterly Manning Report, DASA

The intake of female personnel was 10.0% in the year to July 2014. This is somewhat higher than the rates in 2011/12 and 2012/13. The intake to the officer ranks was 15.3% and to other ranks 9.5%.

The intake of female personnel was higher in the RAF (14.3%) than in the Army (9.6%) and Naval Service (8.4%). The proportion of female intake in all 3 Services was higher than the preceding year.

### 4.2 Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)

This section examines the ethnic composition of the Regular Forces<sup>5</sup> in the United Kingdom. Originally, information on ethnicity was supplied by surveys. Since July 1996, ethnicity has been recorded at the time of recruitment.

- At 7.1% the proportion of BME forces in the UK Regular Forces was slightly down from the record high (7.2%) of a year earlier.
- The Army has the highest proportion of BME Regular Forces (10.3%), followed by Naval Service (3.5%) and RAF (2.1%)

<sup>4</sup> UK Defence Statistics 2004, DASA

<sup>5</sup> Excluding Gurkhas

- The proportion of BME officers remained at 2.4% in 2014, while the proportion of BME other ranks remained roughly stable at 8.1%.
- Until 1999 the proportion of ethnic minorities with officer status was similar to the proportion in the lower ranks (about 1%). Since then a gap has emerged and has been widening.
- The proportion of BMEs in the naval service and Army has increased steadily since 1997. However the proportion of BME in the RAF has fallen over the last 10 years, although the decline has levelled off in the past 18 months.
- In the Naval Service and Army there is a higher proportion of BMEs in other ranks than officers. The reverse is true of the RAF.
- The intake of BME personnel was 6.4% in the year to July 2014. This is 1.3 percentage points below the rate in the year to June 2013, but and below the peak of 9.4% in the year to March 2009.
- The intake of BME personnel was higher in the Army (9.1%) than in the Naval Service (2.9%) and RAF (2.3%). In the Army, the BME intake was a smaller proportion than 12 months previously, but a higher proportion of the intake to the navy and RAF were drawn from ethnic minority backgrounds.

## 5 Inflow/outflow

Data on the flows into and out of the UK Regular Forces are published quarterly. Table 6 shows the flows for the Armed Forces in each year since 2000.

**Table 6**  
**UK Regular Armed Forces Manpower Flows, 12 months to 31 March**

|                                       | 2000   | 2003   | 2004   | 2005   | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>Intake from civilian life</i>      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Naval Service                         | 4,950  | 5,220  | 4,120  | 3,690  | 3,940  | 3,770  | 3,860  | 4,000  | 4,150  | 2,550  | 2,190  | 2,770  | 3,170  |
| Army                                  | 16,500 | 16,690 | 15,260 | 11,720 | 12,730 | 14,300 | 14,540 | 14,510 | 14,180 | 8,820  | 10,890 | 10,300 | 7,020  |
| Royal Air Force                       | 4,100  | 4,450  | 4,160  | 2,180  | 1,480  | 1,720  | 2,930  | 4,260  | 3,470  | 1,430  | 1,380  | 1,310  | 1,690  |
| Total Regular Forces                  | 25,550 | 26,350 | 23,540 | 17,590 | 18,150 | 19,790 | 21,330 | 22,770 | 21,800 | 12,800 | 14,460 | 14,380 | 11,880 |
| <i>Outflow from UK Regular Forces</i> |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Naval Service                         | 5,800  | 5,290  | 4,770  | 4,630  | 4,490  | 4,320  | 4,340  | 4,430  | 3,740  | 3,630  | 4,320  | 4,350  | 3,790  |
| Army                                  | 16,170 | 14,560 | 14,600 | 15,070 | 14,190 | 15,770 | 15,330 | 13,140 | 11,840 | 11,500 | 13,200 | 14,890 | 15,740 |
| Royal Air Force                       | 4,620  | 4,250  | 4,040  | 3,730  | 4,590  | 5,070  | 5,020  | 4,320  | 3,000  | 3,020  | 3,850  | 4,280  | 3,480  |
| Total Regular Forces                  | 26,580 | 24,100 | 23,400 | 23,430 | 23,260 | 25,160 | 24,690 | 21,880 | 18,570 | 18,150 | 21,370 | 23,520 | 23,010 |

Notes: Figures are for UK regular Forces (including both trained and untrained personnel), and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time reserve Service personnel, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, mobilised reservists and Naval Activated Reservists equal the sum of the parts

Source: UK Armed Forces Quarterly Manning Report, DASA

- The majority of the intake from civilian life is to the untrained ranks. Of the total intake in the year to July 2013 97.3% were to the untrained ranks.
- Intake (untrained and trained direct entrants) to the officer ranks accounted for 9.3% of total intake while 90.7% were to other ranks.
- Reasons for outflow are only provided for those leaving trained strength. Information is provided on voluntary outflow, time expiry, redundancy and other wastage.
- Voluntary outflow (VO) is defined as all exits from the trained UK Regular Forces which are voluntarily generated by the individual before the end of their agreed engagement or commission period.
- The VO rate of officers was 4.6% of trained strength during the year to July 2014. The VO rate of other ranks was 5.4%.
- Time Expiry is the term used to describe those who reach the end of their engagement or commission and then leave.
- The Time Expiry rate of officers was 2.8% of trained strength during the year to July 2013. The rate of other ranks was 2.4%.
- 0.9% of the trained strength of Officers, and 3.1% of the trained strength of Other Ranks were made redundant during the 12 months to July 2014.

## 6 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 8 compares indices based on average military salaries for different ranks, while Table 9 looks at average military salaries for different ranks for various years since 2001/02.

**Table 8**  
**Military Salary Index: 2001/02=100**

|                         | All Ranks <sup>(a)</sup> | Senior Officers<br>(Major General<br>and above) | Officers<br>(Up to<br>Brigadier) | Other ranks<br>(Sergeant<br>and above) | Other ranks<br>(Up to<br>Corporal) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 2001/02                 | 100                      | 100   | 100                              | 100                                    | 100                                |
| 2006/07                 | 118                      | 116   | 119                              | 117                                    | 118                                |
| 2007/08                 | 122                      | 120   | 123                              | 121                                    | 122                                |
| 2008/09                 | 127                      | 124   | 128                              | 125                                    | 126                                |
| 2009/10                 | 130                      | 131   | 132                              | 129                                    | 130                                |
| 2010/11                 | 133                      | 134   | 134                              | 131                                    | 132                                |
| 2011/12                 | 133                      | 134   | 134                              | 131                                    | 133                                |
| 2012/13                 | 133                      | 134   | 134                              | 131                                    | 133                                |
| Average annual % change |                          |   |                                  |  |                                    |
| 1980/81 to 2012/13      | 3.1%                     | 3.5%  | 3.4%                             | 3.2%                                   | 3.0%                               |
| 2001/02 to 2012/13      | 2.4%                     | 2.5%  | 2.5%                             | 2.3%                                   | 2.4%                               |

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 2012 (DASA), Table 2.23 & earlier editions*

**Table 9**  
**Illustrative Rates of Military Salary (in terms of Army ranks) <sup>(a) (b)</sup>**

|                    |                                 | 2001/02  | 2006/07  | 2007/08  | 2008/09  | 2009/10  | 2010/11  | 2011/12  | 2012/13  |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| General            |                                 | £125,928 | £152,728 | £160,625 | £164,159 | £172,130 | £177,993 | £177,993 | £177,993 |
| Brigadier          |                                 | £74,135  | £86,527  | £89,444  | £96,288  | £98,984  | £100,964 | £100,964 | £100,964 |
| Colonel            | after 4 years in the rank       | £59,280  | £69,189  | £71,522  | £77,545  | £79,716  | £81,310  | £81,310  | £81,310  |
| Lieutenant Colonel | after 4 years in the rank       | £56,586  | £66,047  | £68,273  | £74,023  | £76,095  | £77,617  | £77,617  | £77,617  |
| Major              | after 4 years in the rank       | £43,472  | £50,983  | £52,702  | £54,551  | £56,078  | £57,199  | £57,199  | £57,199  |
| Captain            | after 3 years in the rank       | £30,372  | £35,617  | £36,817  | £38,109  | £39,176  | £39,959  | £39,959  | £39,959  |
| Lieutenant         | after 2 years in the rank       | £23,787  | £27,762  | £28,698  | £29,704  | £30,536  | £31,147  | £31,147  | £31,147  |
| Second Lieutenant  |                                 | £18,798  | £21,940  | £22,680  | £23,475  | £24,133  | £24,615  | £24,615  | £24,615  |
| Warrant Officer I  | band 6, scale C, after 18 year: | £35,420  | £41,672  | £43,077  | £44,588  | £45,836  | £46,753  | £46,753  | £46,753  |
| Warrant Officer II | band 6, scale C, after 18 year: | £33,029  | £38,551  | £39,851  | £41,249  | £42,404  | £43,252  | £43,252  | £43,252  |
| Staff Sergeant     | band 5, scale C, after 18 year: | £28,904  | £34,098  | £35,248  | £36,484  | £37,506  | £38,256  | £38,256  | £38,256  |
| Sergeant           | band 5, scale C, after 12 year: | £28,200  | £32,916  | £34,025  | £35,219  | £36,205  | £36,929  | £36,929  | £36,929  |
| Corporal           | class 1, band 2, scale C        | £25,342  | £29,576  | £30,573  | £31,646  | £32,532  | £33,182  | £33,182  | £33,182  |
| Lance Corporal     | class 1, band 1, scale C        | £22,101  | £25,794  | £26,664  | £27,599  | £28,372  | £28,940  | £28,940  | £28,940  |
| Private            | class 2, band 1, scale C        | £12,071  | £14,323  | £15,677  | £16,227  | £16,681  | £17,015  | £17,736  | £17,986  |

Notes:

(a) The illustrative rates of annual military salary are calculated using the Pay Review Bodies' annualised rates for the appropriate year. The rate shown for each rank is the pay level with the largest number of people at 1 March 2008.

(b) Under the Pay 2000 system, introduced in 2001/02, Regular personnel progress annually up incremental pay spines, subject to satisfactory performance. Other Ranks are also assigned to Higher (H) or Lower (L) ranges, in accordance with their trade.

Source: Defence Statistics 2012 (DASA), Table 2.23 & earlier editions

