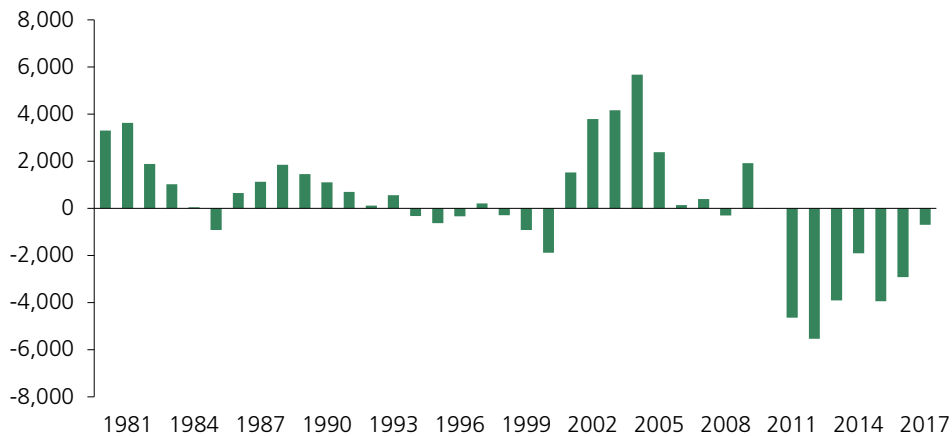


POLICE NUMBERS IN ENGLAND & WALES

- There were 123,142 full-time equivalent Police Officers in the 43 police forces of England and Wales at 31 March 2017, a decrease of 924 (0.7%) compared with a year earlier. In addition, there were 365 Central Service Secondees and 2,679 British Transport Police Officers, bringing the total to 126,186.
- This headline measure of police strength includes staff on career break or maternity/paternity leave. Excluding staff on career break or maternity/paternity leave, the strength of the 43 police forces was 118,079 at 31 March 2017, the lowest end of financial year total since March 1980.
- There were just over 23,550 fewer FTE Police Officers (excluding long term absentees) than at 31 March 2010; a reduction of 17%.
- Police forces recruited 7,526 officers in the 12 months to 31 March 2017 with 8,569 officers leaving over that period.
- The proportion of female police officers in England and Wales has increased from 7% in 1977 to 29% in 2017.
- Ethnic minority strength as a proportion of total police service strength increased from 1% in 1989 to 6% in 2017. In London, the proportion of ethnic minority officers in the Metropolitan Police Service is 13%.
- The Library's [Police Service Strength](#) briefing paper contains UK-wide statistics.

ANNUAL CHANGES IN POLICE OFFICER STRENGTH

FTE, England and Wales



Note: Includes long term leave, excludes secondments

Last updated: November 2017

TOTAL POLICE OFFICER STRENGTH¹

FTE at 31 March, England and Wales

	Total excluding secondments	Of which:				Total strength ²
		Female		Minority ethnic		
		Number	%	Number	%	
2004	138,468	27,925	20%	4,594	3%	140,563
2005	141,059	29,940	21%	4,971	4%	142,794
2006	141,523	31,520	22%	5,236	4%	143,271
2007	141,893	33,117	23%	5,519	4%	142,374
2008	141,157	34,332	24%	5,793	4%	142,363
2009	143,770	36,121	25%	6,290	4%	144,274
2010	143,734	36,988	26%	6,642	5%	144,235
2011	139,109	36,532	26%	6,615	5%	139,585
2012	134,099	35,401	26%	6,664	5%	134,580
2013	129,584	35,401	27%	6,537	5%	129,956
2014	127,909	35,653	28%	6,715	5%	128,346
2015	127,192	35,738	28%	6,979	5%	127,485
2016	124,066	35,498	29%	7,218	6%	124,368
2017	123,142	35,844	29%	7,572	6%	123,507

Notes:

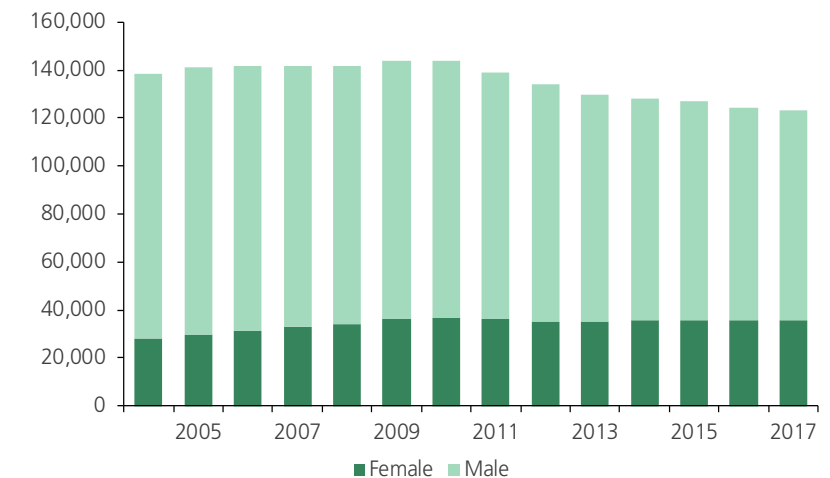
1 - Includes staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

2 - FTE + secondments. Excludes British Transport Police

Source: Home Office, Police Service Strength and Police Workforce, England & Wales, various editions

POLICE OFFICER STRENGTH

FTE at 31 March, England and Wales



Note: Includes long term leave, excludes secondments

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