



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)
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Date: 28th April 2017

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 6th April 2017 requesting the following information:

“An annual time series for the size of the armed forces (Army, Navy and RAF) since 1700.”

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. Please find the requested information in the tables below. The figures are for **UK Regular Forces only**. Please note, figures prior to 1900 have not been sourced, and therefore their reliability is unclear. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 1000. Totals have been rounded separately from their constituents, therefore in some cases the total may not exactly equal the sum of the constituents.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering **Military Personnel** and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
1700	-	-	-	-		1725	-	16,000	-	16,000
1701	-	19,000	-	19,000		1726	-	24,000	-	24,000
1702	-	31,000	-	31,000		1727	-	23,000	-	23,000
1703	-	36,000	-	36,000		1728	-	23,000	-	23,000
1704	-	43,000	-	43,000		1729	-	18,000	-	18,000
1705	-	45,000	-	45,000		1730	-	17,000	-	17,000
1706	-	50,000	-	50,000		1731	-	17,000	-	17,000
1707	-	63,000	-	63,000		1732	-	17,000	-	17,000
1708	-	67,000	-	67,000		1733	-	18,000	-	18,000
1709	-	69,000	-	69,000		1734	-	26,000	-	26,000
1710	-	68,000	-	68,000		1735	-	18,000	-	18,000
1711	-	67,000	-	67,000		1736	-	18,000	-	18,000
1712	-	65,000	-	65,000		1737	-	18,000	-	18,000
1713	-	47,000	-	47,000		1738	-	18,000	-	18,000
1714	-	26,000	-	26,000		1739	12,000	36,000	-	48,000
1715	-	-	-	-		1740	35,000	46,000	-	81,000
1716	-	36,000	-	36,000		1741	40,000	46,000	-	86,000
1717	-	-	-	-		1742	40,000	52,000	-	92,000
1718	-	16,000	-	16,000		1743	40,000	52,000	-	92,000
1719	-	12,000	-	12,000		1744	40,000	55,000	-	95,000
1720	-	20,000	-	20,000		1745	40,000	74,000	-	114,000
1721	-	12,000	-	12,000		1746	40,000	60,000	-	100,000
1722	-	16,000	-	16,000		1747	40,000	62,000	-	102,000
1723	-	16,000	-	16,000		1748	40,000	19,000	-	59,000
1724	-	16,000	-	16,000		1749	17,000	19,000	-	36,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
1750	10,000	79,000	-	89,000
1751	8,000	19,000	-	27,000
1752	10,000	19,000	-	29,000
1753	10,000	19,000	-	29,000
1754	10,000	19,000	-	29,000
1755	12,000	34,000	-	46,000
1756	50,000	50,000	-	100,000
1757	55,000	54,000	-	109,000
1758	60,000	53,000	-	113,000
1759	70,000	57,000	-	127,000
1760	70,000	65,000	-	135,000
1761	70,000	68,000	-	138,000
1762	70,000	18,000	-	88,000
1763	30,000	18,000	-	48,000
1764	16,000	17,000	-	33,000
1765	16,000	17,000	-	33,000
1766	16,000	17,000	-	33,000
1767	16,000	17,000	-	33,000
1768	16,000	17,000	-	33,000
1769	16,000	18,000	-	34,000
1770	16,000	24,000	-	40,000
1771	40,000	18,000	-	58,000
1772	25,000	17,000	-	42,000
1773	20,000	18,000	-	38,000
1774	20,000	18,000	-	38,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
1775	18,000	22,000	-	40,000
1776	28,000	21,000	-	49,000
1777	45,000	91,000	-	136,000
1778	60,000	20,000	-	80,000
1779	70,000	30,000	-	100,000
1780	105,000	35,000	-	140,000
1781	90,000	40,000	-	130,000
1782	100,000	50,000	-	150,000
1783	110,000	55,000	-	165,000
1784	26,000	18,000	-	44,000
1785	19,000	18,000	-	37,000
1786	19,000	18,000	-	37,000
1787	18,000	18,000	-	36,000
1788	18,000	18,000	-	36,000
1789	20,000	18,000	-	38,000
1790	20,000	17,000	-	37,000
1791	24,000	17,000	-	41,000
1792	16,000	17,000	-	33,000
1793	45,000	17,000	-	62,000
1794	85,000	27,000	-	112,000
1795	100,000	60,000	-	160,000
1796	110,000	119,000	-	229,000
1797	120,000	61,000	-	181,000
1798	120,000	49,000	-	169,000
1799	120,000	52,000	-	172,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
1800	120,000	80,000	-	200,000		1825	29,000	87,000	-	116,000
1801	135,000	86,000	-	221,000		1826	30,000	87,000	-	117,000
1802	130,000	84,000	-	214,000		1827	30,000	87,000	-	117,000
1803	100,000	67,000	-	167,000		1828	30,000	91,000	-	121,000
1804	100,000	129,000	-	229,000		1829	30,000	90,000	-	120,000
1805	120,000	135,000	-	255,000		1830	29,000	89,000	-	118,000
1806	120,000	135,000	-	255,000		1831	32,000	89,000	-	121,000
1807	130,000	122,000	-	252,000		1832	27,000	90,000	-	117,000
1808	130,000	124,000	-	254,000		1833	27,000	89,000	-	116,000
1809	130,000	134,000	-	264,000		1834	28,000	89,000	-	117,000
1810	145,000	99,000	-	244,000		1835	27,000	81,000	-	108,000
1811	145,000	85,000	-	230,000		1836	34,000	81,000	-	115,000
1812	145,000	246,000	-	391,000		1837	34,000	89,000	-	123,000
1813	140,000	227,000	-	367,000		1838	34,000	89,000	-	123,000
1814	140,000	237,000	-	377,000		1839	34,000	89,000	-	123,000
1815	90,000	204,000	-	294,000		1840	40,000	94,000	-	134,000
1816	33,000	177,000	-	210,000		1841	43,000	92,000	-	135,000
1817	19,000	121,000	-	140,000		1842	43,000	96,000	-	139,000
1818	20,000	134,000	-	154,000		1843	39,000	101,000	-	140,000
1819	20,000	81,000	-	101,000		1844	36,000	100,000	-	136,000
1820	23,000	93,000	-	116,000		1845	40,000	100,000	-	140,000
1821	22,000	82,000	-	104,000		1846	40,000	109,000	-	149,000
1822	21,000	72,000	-	93,000		1847	42,000	108,000	-	150,000
1823	25,000	72,000	-	97,000		1848	43,000	114,000	-	157,000
1824	29,000	77,000	-	106,000		1849	40,000	103,000	-	143,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
1850	39,000	99,000	-	138,000		1875	60,000	-	-	60,000
1851	39,000	99,000	-	138,000		1876	60,000	-	-	60,000
1852	46,000	102,000	-	148,000		1877	60,000	-	-	60,000
1853	46,000	102,000	-	148,000		1878	60,000	-	-	60,000
1854	64,000	128,000	-	192,000		1879	59,000	-	-	59,000
1855	70,000	223,000	-	293,000		1880	59,000	-	-	59,000
1856	76,000	275,000	-	351,000		1881	58,000	-	-	58,000
1857	56,000	157,000	-	213,000		1882	58,000	-	-	58,000
1858	59,000	223,000	-	282,000		1883	57,000	-	-	57,000
1859	72,000	230,000	-	302,000		1884	57,000	-	-	57,000
1860	84,000	236,000	-	320,000		1885	62,000	-	-	62,000
1861	77,000	-	-	77,000		1886	61,000	-	-	61,000
1862	75,000	-	-	75,000		1887	63,000	-	-	63,000
1863	75,000	-	-	75,000		1888	62,000	-	-	62,000
1864	71,000	-	-	71,000		1889	65,000	-	-	65,000
1865	69,000	-	-	69,000		1890	69,000	-	-	69,000
1866	68,000	-	-	68,000		1891	71,000	-	-	71,000
1867	69,000	-	-	69,000		1892	74,000	-	-	74,000
1868	67,000	-	-	67,000		1893	77,000	-	-	77,000
1869	63,000	-	-	63,000		1894	83,000	-	-	83,000
1870	61,000	-	-	61,000		1895	89,000	-	-	89,000
1871	61,000	-	-	61,000		1896	94,000	-	-	94,000
1872	61,000	-	-	61,000		1897	100,000	-	-	100,000
1873	60,000	-	-	60,000		1898	106,000	-	-	106,000
1874	60,000	-	-	60,000		1899	111,000	-	-	111,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
1900	115,000	302,000	-	417,000		1925	100,000	209,000	33,000	342,000
1901	119,000	421,000	-	540,000		1926	101,000	206,000	35,000	342,000
1902	123,000	398,000	-	521,000		1927	102,000	206,000	32,000	340,000
1903	127,000	325,000	-	452,000		1928	102,000	198,000	31,000	331,000
1904	131,000	287,000	-	418,000		1929	100,000	194,000	32,000	326,000
1905	129,000	272,000	-	401,000		1930	97,000	188,000	32,000	317,000
1906	129,000	263,000	-	392,000		1931	94,000	193,000	32,000	319,000
1907	128,000	248,000	-	376,000		1932	92,000	193,000	32,000	317,000
1908	128,000	251,000	-	379,000		1933	90,000	195,000	31,000	316,000
1909	128,000	253,000	-	381,000		1934	91,000	196,000	31,000	318,000
1910	131,000	253,000	-	384,000		1935	93,000	196,000	32,000	321,000
1911	134,000	254,000	-	388,000		1936	98,000	197,000	45,000	340,000
1912	136,000	254,000	-	390,000		1937	103,000	197,000	53,000	353,000
1913	146,000	247,000	-	393,000		1938	113,000	199,000	73,000	385,000
1914	151,000	1,327,000	-	1,478,000		1939	129,000	675,000	264,000	1,068,000
1915	250,000	2,476,000	-	2,726,000		1940	282,000	1,152,000	379,000	1,813,000
1916	350,000	3,344,000	-	3,694,000		1941	420,000	2,111,000	754,000	3,285,000
1917	400,000	3,883,000	-	4,283,000		1942	535,000	2,438,000	907,000	3,880,000
1918	450,000	3,838,000	295,000	4,583,000		1943	724,000	2,692,000	1,037,000	4,453,000
1919	275,000	1,065,000	265,000	1,605,000		1944	864,000	2,742,000	1,085,000	4,691,000
1920	136,000	435,000	27,000	598,000		1945	861,000	2,930,000	1,116,000	4,907,000
1921	114,000	297,000	28,000	439,000		1946	371,000	1,129,000	439,000	1,939,000
1922	121,000	217,000	29,000	367,000		1947	197,000	774,000	285,000	1,256,000
1923	100,000	205,000	30,000	335,000		1948	142,000	450,000	238,000	830,000
1924	101,000	207,000	31,000	339,000		1949	145,000	395,000	220,000	760,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
1950	139,000	364,000	193,000	696,000		1975	76,000	167,000	95,000	338,000
1951	138,000	434,000	251,000	823,000		1976	76,000	170,000	91,000	337,000
1952	145,000	454,000	273,000	872,000		1977	76,000	167,000	87,000	330,000
1953	146,000	444,000	278,000	868,000		1978	75,000	161,000	85,000	321,000
1954	134,000	445,000	261,000	840,000		1979	73,000	156,000	86,000	315,000
1955	128,000	423,000	253,000	804,000		1980	72,000	159,000	90,000	321,000
1956	122,000	398,000	242,000	762,000		1981	74,000	166,000	94,000	334,000
1957	116,000	367,000	221,000	704,000		1982	73,000	163,000	92,000	328,000
1958	107,000	324,000	185,000	616,000		1983	72,000	159,000	90,000	321,000
1959	102,000	294,000	171,000	567,000		1984	71,000	162,000	93,000	326,000
1960	98,000	258,000	166,000	522,000		1985	70,000	162,000	93,000	325,000
1961	95,000	200,000	162,000	457,000		1986	68,000	161,000	93,000	322,000
1962	94,000	190,000	150,000	434,000		1987	67,000	160,000	94,000	321,000
1963	96,000	177,000	145,000	418,000		1988	66,000	158,000	93,000	317,000
1964	98,000	181,000	138,000	417,000		1989	65,000	156,000	91,000	312,000
1965	99,000	184,000	132,000	415,000		1990	63,000	153,000	90,000	306,000
1966	98,000	184,000	128,000	410,000		1991	62,000	148,000	88,000	298,000
1967	97,000	185,000	124,000	406,000		1992	62,000	145,000	86,000	293,000
1968	93,000	185,000	118,000	396,000		1993	59,000	135,000	81,000	275,000
1969	90,000	179,000	114,000	383,000		1994	56,000	123,000	76,000	255,000
1970	86,000	174,000	113,000	373,000		1995	51,000	112,000	71,000	234,000
1971	83,000	173,000	112,000	368,000		1996	48,000	109,000	65,000	222,000
1972	82,000	178,000	111,000	371,000		1997	45,000	109,000	57,000	211,000
1973	81,000	180,000	106,000	367,000		1998	45,000	110,000	56,000	211,000
1974	78,000	172,000	99,000	349,000		1999	44,000	110,000	55,000	209,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Navy</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>RAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
2000	43,000	110,000	55,000	208,000
2001	42,000	110,000	54,000	206,000
2002	42,000	110,000	53,000	205,000
2003	42,000	112,000	53,000	207,000
2004	41,000	113,000	53,000	207,000
2005	40,000	109,000	52,000	201,000
2006	39,000	108,000	49,000	196,000
2007	39,000	106,000	45,000	191,000
2008	39,000	105,000	43,000	187,000
2009	38,000	107,000	44,000	189,000
2010	39,000	109,000	44,000	192,000
2011	38,000	106,000	42,000	186,000
2012	36,000	104,000	40,000	180,000
2013	34,000	100,000	37,000	171,000
2014	33,000	91,000	35,000	160,000
2015	33,000	87,000	34,000	154,000
2016	33,000	85,000	33,000	151,000