

Background Quality Report Statistical Series 6 – Other Bulletin 6.01 – Land Holdings

1. Introduction

Overview

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is one of the largest landowners in the country, with an estate equal to over 1% of the UK land mass. The estate, spread over approximately 4,000 sites, is critical to the effectiveness of the Armed Forces. It is used for training and accommodation and provides a base from which operations can be instigated.

Due to a change in the format of the UK Defence Statistics Compendium publication, Bulletin 6.01 is the successor to Chapter 6 of UKDS, Tables 6.1 – 6.3. Therefore, this bulletin will only contain information on Land Holdings. Service Family Accommodation (SFA), originally published in Chapter 6 (Tables 6.4 and 6.5), will now be released as its own publication (Bulletin 6.02).

The statistics on land holdings are published annually and provide land holdings in thousands of hectares by parent service area, country and type of use and in each case, whether owned, leased or with legal rights. Data for are provided from administrative systems in the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO). All the Tables in this Chapter are National Statistics.

Defence Statistics (formerly known as DASA) has published land holding and building statistics since 1992.

Methodology and Production

Data on Land Holdings are taken from the Defence Property Gazetteer (DPG), a database maintained by Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), which provides information on all MOD Land Holdings. This includes all property assets which are owned, occupied or over which the MOD has rights. The areas of each property are calculated from computerised mapping in order to provide the most accurate representation of the size of the Defence Estate. Data are extracted from the DPG and collated by DIO staff to give the figures in Bulletin 6.01, Tables 6.1 to 6.3.

Contact details

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Defence Statistics welcome feedback on this Background Quality Report or any of the statistics mentioned.

2. Relevance

Bulletin 6.01 is the primary means by which information on Land Holdings is made widely available.

The information in this chapter has a range of users including the media, politicians, academic researchers and the general public who use the information to:

- gain an understanding of size and condition of the MOD estate;
- set the context for other information on Defence;
- assist in understanding the impact of initiatives and policy on MOD estate

Public accountability requires that MOD should account for its assets as well as knowing where they are and how they are used. Although internal systems may be sufficient for internal use, publication as a Statistical Bulletin makes this information available publicly, regularly and as a time series. The Tables include definitions and other information, so that the data are set in context and can be understood by a lay audience as well as those with professional interests.

3. Accuracy

The data in these tables have been extracted from a MOD database, the DPG, which is considered to be reliable. There are no significant concerns over the accuracy of data. In addition to being checked by DIO staff who have carried out data extraction / collation, the tables are also reviewed by the DIO Board as part of the validation process. The data in these tables have also been subjected to a "sense check" by Government Statisticians.

4. Timeliness and Punctuality

As a National Statistic, the release date for Bulletin 5.01 was pre-announced on the [Publication Release Dates](#)¹ section of [Defence Statistics webpage](#)² and on the [National Statistics Publication Hub](#)³ in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Following guidance from an assessment carried out by the UK Statistics Authority on UKDS, the different chapters of UKDS have been separated and will be released as individual statistical bulletins. This is to allow information on various topics to be published as soon as the data is available, rather than waiting for all the other chapters to be completed as was the case with previous editions of UKDS. A key benefit of this change is that the timeliness of the statistics is remarkably improved, reducing the amount of time between the reference date of the statistics and the time of release.

Defence Statistics only publish these statistics in this and each year the tables are updated to include the latest annual data, as at 1 April of that year.

5. Accessibility and Clarity

Statistical Bulletins are published on the [Defence Statistics website](#)². Individual Chapters are available as PDFs. The data underpinning the tables are also available as an Excel file but those for the charts are not.

A brief introduction to the bulletin is provided on the front page, which also informs the user that this publication updates figures previously released in UKDS 2012, Chapter 6. A summary of key points and trends in the statistics are included, as well as a link to the Background Quality Report and the contact details of the responsible statistician.

The introduction of Bulletin 6.01 assists with the accessibility and clarity of this bulletin by setting out the context of the statistics, outlining the material in the tables, providing definitions and explanations of the terms used and giving information on methods and data quality.

6. Coherence and Comparability

The Tables in this Bulletin cover the years 2000 and 2007 to 2013, providing a seven-year time series, together with a snapshot of the beginning of the century. The introductory material explains the impact on the statistics of factors that affect coherence over time.

The statistics presented show both overall UK land holdings and the holdings for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland separately. Bulletin 6.01 does not offer any comparisons with holdings elsewhere and no demand for such comparisons has been identified. The form of the data allows users to make comparisons (e.g. international comparisons, comparisons to other land users) themselves.

7. Trade-offs between Output Quality Components

None identified.

8. Assessment of User Needs and Perceptions

Defence Statistics holds regular consultation meetings with both internal and external users of Defence Official Statistics, which provide a forum for user feedback on their needs and perceptions. Defence Statistics also publishes a summary of proposed changes on the home page of its website, inviting users to comment on the proposals by email. Proposed changes are also set out at the consultation meetings in order to change feedback from both internal and external users.

9. Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden

The outputs are produced from the administrative data provided by the DIO. The benefit of Defence Statistics publishing the data on Land Holdings and Buildings is that these administrative data are placed in the public domain, and as National Statistics, in a way that ensures their independence from political interference and adherence to quality standards. The small burden that this places on the data suppliers is considered to be worthwhile to achieve this, and the consequent public accountability provided by their publication.

10. Confidentiality, Transparency and Security

Bulletin 6.01 does not contain any identifiable personal data.

All staff involved in the production process have signed the Data Protection Act, and all MOD, Civil Service and data protection regulations are adhered to. All data are stored, accessed and analysed using the MOD's restricted network and IT systems.

We adhere to the principles and protocols laid out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#)⁴ and comply with pre-release access arrangements. The [Defence Statistics Pre-Release Access lists](#)⁵ are available on the Defence Statistics website. This Bulletin is subject to pre-release access arrangements.

11. References

	Reference	Website Location
1	Publication Release Dates	http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=68
2	Defence Statistics website	http://www.dasa.mod.uk
3	National Statistics Publication Hub	http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html
4	Code of Practice for Official Statistics	http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf
5	Defence Statistics Pre-Release Access lists	Defence Statistics Pre-Release Access lists

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