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There are tables within this publication which are not badged as National Statistics. Please refer to the individual tables for details.

Bulletin 4.01 is an annual publication which provides information on the numbers and types of formations, vessels and aircraft of the UK Armed Forces.

This bulletin provides statistics for 2008 to 2014 (at 1 April each year), with the exception of Table 4.01.03 and 4.01.04 which are for 2008 to 2013 (at 31 December each year). This bulletin updates figures released in the 2013 release of Statistical Bulletin 4.01.

Key Points and Trends

- At April 2014 there were 11 submarines and 65 ships in the Royal Navy, and 13 vessels in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service.
- The numbers of Armour Regiments in the Regular Army and Army Reserves has remained unchanged, at ten and four respectively, since April 2000.
- There has been a slight decrease in the total number of squadrons in the RAF, from 47 in 2013 to 44 in 2014, due to the disbandment of two Tornado squadrons and one Air Transport / Air Refuelling squadron.
- The number of combat aircraft in the RAF's Forward Available Fleet (FAF) has decreased from 164 in 2013 to 149 in 2014, (with a reduction of 26 Tornados, and an increase of 11 Typhoons since 1 April 2013). This reduction continues the general decreasing trend of the number of combat aircraft since 2006.
- The number of aircraft in the Joint Helicopter Command's FAF has decreased by 7 to 174 at April 2014. This is mainly due to the planned reduction of Sea King Mk4, and the drawdown of Lynx helicopters.
- Whilst the total number of British-registered, militarily-useful specialist and fishing vessels has remained unchanged since December 2012, the number of passenger, tankers and dry cargo vessels has decreased, from 799 to 758. This reduction may be due to a number of reasons including:
 - a reduction in the number of militarily-useful vessels registered in the UK;
 - vessels formerly registered in the UK have been registered elsewhere;
 - vessels have been scrapped;
 - fewer new vessels are being built as a result of the recession.

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A National Statistics publication

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

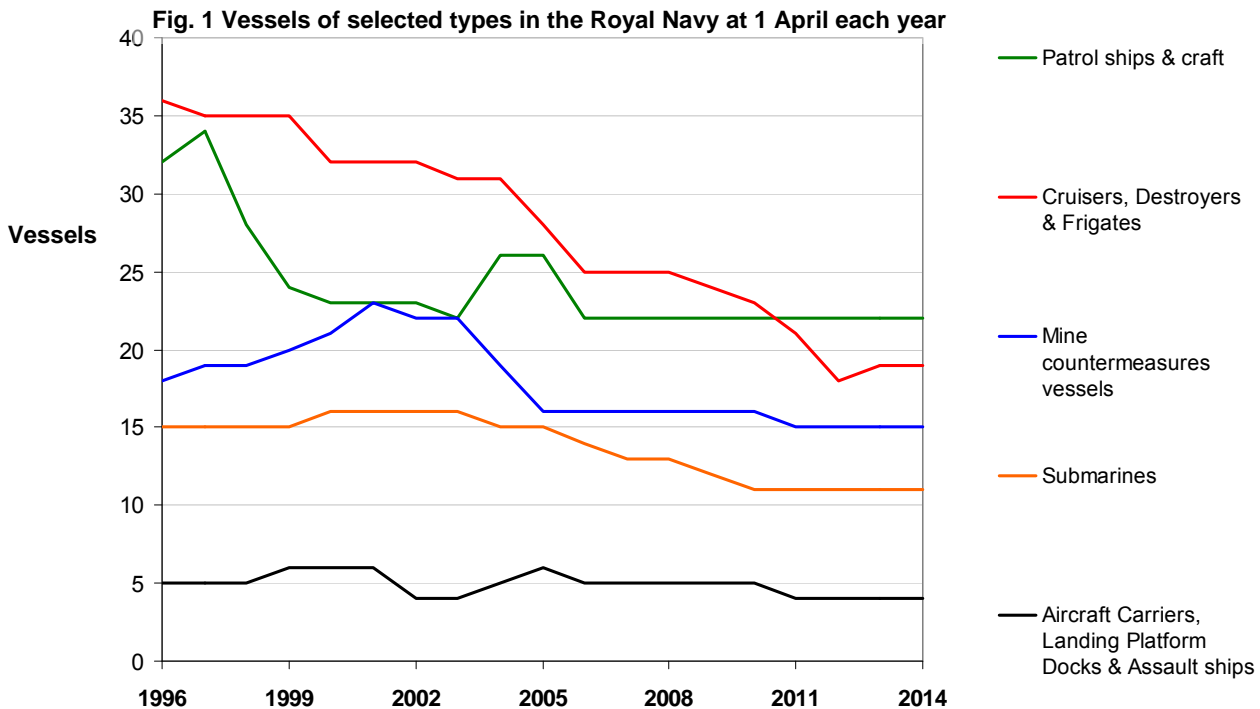
- meet identified user needs;
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- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

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Tables above marked as **NS** are National Statistics. Those without are Official Statistics but have not been badged as National Statistics. Details are provided above individual tables.

Key Findings

1. The Royal Navy, Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm



Source: UK Defence Statistics Compendium (1996-2012); Statistical Bulletin 4.01 2013

- At 1 April 2014 there were 76 vessels in the Royal Navy (RN), including 11 submarines and 65 ships, and 13 vessels in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) Service. The RN total is a decrease of 29 since 2000; though note that a decrease in the number of vessels does not necessarily mean a decrease in capability, due to intergenerational performance improvements. The reductions since 2010 are in line with the Future Forces 2020 framework set out in the [2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review](#).
- At 1 April 2014 there were 10 squadrons in the RN Fleet Air Arm, an increase of one since 2013.

[Table 4.01.01](#) provides detailed figures of squadrons in the Fleet Air Arm, as well as vessels in the RN and RFA for each year. [Table 4.01.02](#) gives figures on vessels split by whether they are operational or undergoing refit at 1 April 2014.

Forward Available Fleets by type of aircraft and role for the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm can be found in [Table 4.01.08](#).

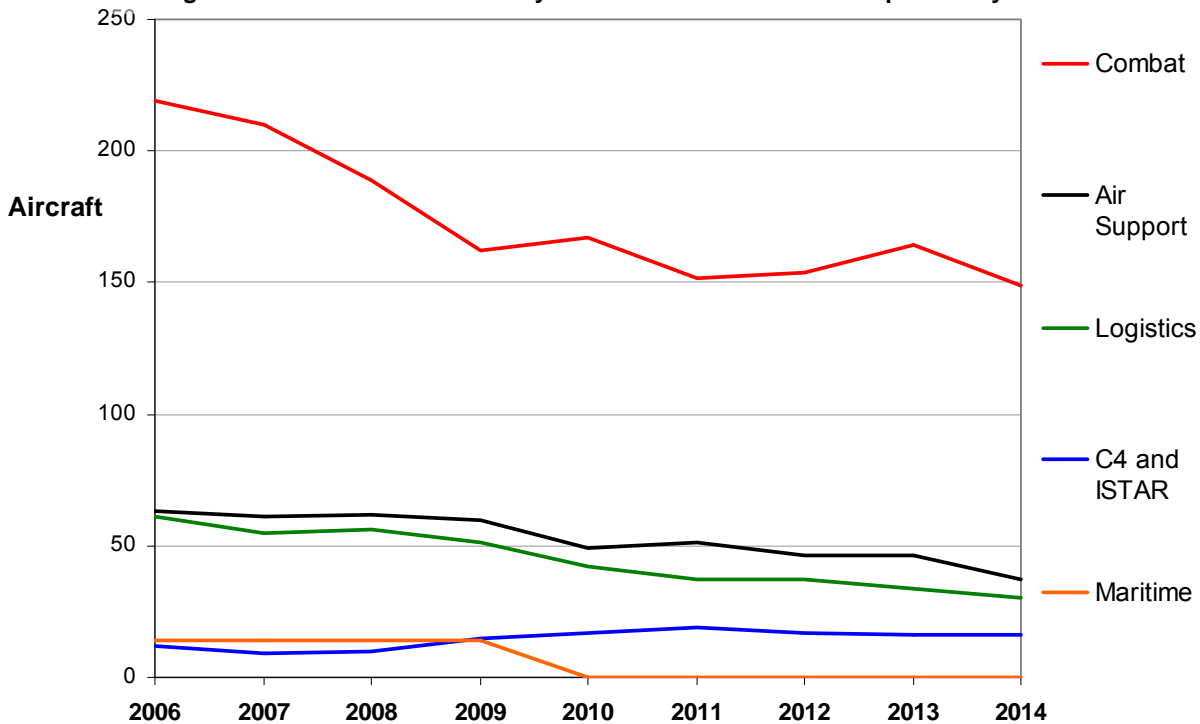
2. The Army and Army Reserves

- Since 2013 the number of Infantry Battalions in the Regular Army has decreased by three due to the disbandment of one battalion and the amalgamation of others. The numbers of Armour Regiments in the Regular Army and Army Reserves has remained unchanged, at ten and four respectively, since April 2000.

[Table 4.01.05](#) shows the numbers of Regiments, Infantry battalions and Major Headquarters, in the Regular Army and Army Reserves each year.

3. The Royal Air Force and Royal Auxiliary Air Force

Fig. 2 Forward Available Fleets by aircraft role in the RAF at 1 April each year



Source: UK Defence Statistics Compendium (1996-2012); Statistical Bulletin 4.01 2013

- The number of combat aircraft in the RAF's Forward Available Fleet has decreased from 164 in 2013 to 149 in 2014, (with a reduction of 26 in the number of Tornados, and an increase by 11 in the number of Typhoons). This reduction continues the general decreasing trend in combat aircraft since 2006.
- There has been a slight decrease in the total number of squadrons in the RAF, from 47 in 2013 to 44 in 2014, which is due to the disbandment of two Tornado squadrons and one Air Transport / Air Refuelling squadron.
- The number of multi-roled fast jet squadrons has a long-term decreasing trend reducing from 11 to 7 from 2008 to 2014. (Prior to 2006 these were split into Strike/attack, Offensive support, Reconnaissance, and Air defence roles.) However, the number of squadrons in the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) role has an increasing trend, increasing from 4 to 6 since 2008.

Table 4.01.06 gives the numbers of squadrons in the RAF and the RAuxAF each year, and RAF squadrons in the Joint Helicopter Command and Joint Force Harrier can be found in Table 4.01.07. Table 4.01.09 shows the numbers of aircraft in the Forward Available Fleets for the RAF Air Command each year, by type of aircraft.

4. Joint Forces

- Although seven Puma Mk2 helicopters entered Service between 1 April 2013 and 2014, the total number of aircraft in the Joint Helicopter Command's Forward Available Fleet decreased from 181 to 174 in the same period. This is mainly due to the planned drawdown of Lynx helicopters to feed into the [Wildcat programme](#), reducing by 8 to 41.

Table 4.01.07 provides the numbers of Regiments, Units and Squadrons in selected Joint Units each year. The Forward Available Fleets by type of aircraft in the Joint Helicopter Command and Joint Force Harrier each year can be found in Table 4.01.10.

Background Information

Context

This Bulletin provides data for a wide range of users including the media, politicians, academic researchers and the general public who use the information to:

- understand the size and organisation of the United Kingdom Armed Forces e.g. there has been considerable interest from the media about the size of the Navy and the types and number of ships it has;
- set the context for other information on Defence;
- assist in understanding the impact of changes in Defence policy.

Data Sources

Figure 1 uses figures previously published in UK Defence Statistics (UKDS); since the 1996 edition), and the 2013 edition of Bulletin 4.01. Note that UKDS has been a National Statistics publication from 2000 onwards only.

Figure 2 uses figures previously published in 2006-2012 versions of UKDS, and the 2013 edition of Bulletin 4.01.

The figures in **Tables 4.01.01 and 4.01.02** and in **Tables 4.01.05 to 4.01.10** have been received from the single Service Finance and Military Capability branches within the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The Department for Transport (DfT) have provided the figures on militarily-useful British-registered commercial vehicles shown in **Tables 4.01.03 and 4.01.04**. DfT who purchase the data from IHS Global, a commercial supplier, under contract. The figures from 2009 onwards are taken from the DfT's World Fleet Database and reflect changes in the classification of ships within the underlying data provided by IHS. Prior to 2008, the data were based on DfT information from a variety of sources, some of which are no longer available. For further details see the DfT note on their [Shipping Fleet Statistics](#). As this DfT publication is not a National Statistic, the associated tables in this Bulletin are also outside the scope of National Statistics.

Data on numbers of Naval ships, aircraft and formations are extracted from Naval Plans. Data on RAF aircraft numbers is provided by Air Command and cross-checked against numbers planned in the relevant Annual Budgeting Cycle, previously known as the Planning Round. Information on RAF squadrons and formations has been incrementally generated from planned force structure changes, which are recognised when they have taken place and cross-checked against details held elsewhere, such as the RAF station as well as Force information held on the RAF website.

The Joint Helicopter Command (JHC) Forward Available Fleet is calculated by the JHC HQ engineering staff and represents the total number of aircraft held by the Command that are available for use and not undergoing depth maintenance. Forecasts will therefore be driven by the size of the total (Departmental) fleet and usage or engineering factors

Data Quality

Information on data quality can be found in the [Background Quality Report](#).

Symbols and Conventions

Symbols

- * Not applicable
- .. Not available
- } Categories merged for some years
- Zero or rounded to zero
- r Revised

Italic figures are used for percentages and other rates, except where otherwise indicated.

Revisions

Due to a number of inconsistencies identified with previously published figures, the release of Bulletin 4.01 has been delayed to allow statisticians time investigate these issues with the single Service Finance and Military Capability branches in the MOD. As a result of this, a number of corrections have been made which have been addressed in one of two ways:

- i. where the number of figures updated in a table is small, figures will be updated and those which have been revised will be identified with the symbol "r". An explanation for the revision will be given in the footnotes to the table.
- ii. where the number of figures updated in a table is substantial, the revisions to the table, together with the reason for the revisions, will be identified in the commentary at the beginning, and in the commentary next to affected tables. Revisions will not be identified by the symbol "r" since where there are a large number of revisions in a table this could make them more difficult to read.

Table 4.01.01**Number of vessels in the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and squadrons in the Fleet Air Arm, at 1 April each year**

These figures show overall unit numbers only; they do not reflect the level of readiness at which each unit is held, which changes throughout the year. Readiness refers to the length of time it would take for a vessel to be ready for deployment.

This table is a National Statistic.

		2000	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Royal Navy submarines	Total	16	13	12	11	11	11	11	11
<i>Of which:</i>									
Trident / Polaris Fleet	Vessels	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	Vessels	12	9	8 ²	7 ³	7	7	7 ^{4,5}	7
Royal Navy ships	Total	89	74	73	71	67	65	66	65
<i>Of which:</i>									
Aircraft Carriers	Vessels	3	2	2	2	- ^{6,7}	-	-	-
Landing Platform Docks / Helicopter	Vessels	3	3	3	3	4 ⁷	4	4	4
Destroyers	Vessels	11	8	7 ⁸	6 ⁹	6 ¹⁰	5 ¹¹	6	6
Frigates	Vessels	21	17	17	17	15 ¹²	13 ¹³	13	13
Mine countermeasures vessels	Vessels	21	16	16	16	15 ¹⁴	15	15	15
Patrol ships and craft	Vessels	23	22 ¹⁵	22	22	22	22	22	22
Survey ships	Vessels	6	5	5	4 ¹⁶	4	4	4	4
Ice patrol ships	Vessels	1	1	1	1 ¹⁷	1 ¹⁷	2 ¹⁸	2 ¹⁸	1 ³¹
Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service	Total	22	18	16	16	14	13	13	13
<i>Of which:</i>									
Tankers	Vessels	9 ^r	6 ^{r,19}	6	6	6 ^{r,22}	5	5	5
Fleet Replenishment Ships	Vessels	- ^r	2	2 ^{r,20}	2 ^{r,21}	1 ^r	1 ^r	1 ^r	1
Solid Support Ships	Vessels	4	4	2 ²⁰	2	2	2	2	2
Primary Casualty Receiving Ship ²³	Vessels	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Landing Ships	Vessels	5	4 ^{24,25}	4	4	3 ²⁶	3	3	3
Forward Repair Ships	Vessels	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Roll-on Roll-off vessels ²⁷	Vessels	2	- ^r	- ^r	- ^r	- ^r	- ^r	- ^r	-
Royal Marines									
RM Commando	Commandos	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Command Support Group	Commandos	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Infantry Battalion	Battalion	-	1 ²⁸	1	1	1	1	1	- ³⁵
Logistic unit	Regiments	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Artillery unit	Regiments	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Engineer unit	Squadrons	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nuclear Guarding and Fleet Security	Squadrons	1	3	3	4 ²⁹	4	4	4	3 ³⁶
Assault (landing craft)	Squadrons	3	4	4	4	4	4	3 ³⁰	3
Naval Aircraft									
Fixed Wing Aircraft ³²	Squadrons	1	- ^r	- ^r	- ^r	-	-	-	1
Helicopters ^{33,34}	Squadrons	10 ^r	8 ^r	8 ^r	8 ^r	8 ^r	8 ^r	8 ^r	8
Reserve Units									
Royal Navy Reserve Units	Units	..	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Royal Marine Reserve Units	Units	..	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

Source: MOD Finance & Military Capability

Footnotes located on the next page.

1. HMS Sovereign was withdrawn from service during the year.
2. HMS Superb was withdrawn from service during the year.
3. HMS Trafalgar and HMS Sceptre were withdrawn from service during the year. HMS Astute undergoing sea trials.
4. HMS Turbulent was withdrawn from service in July 2012.
5. HMS Ambush undergoing sea trials.
6. HMS Ark Royal withdrawn from service.
7. HMS Illustrious converted into a Helicopter Landing Platform.
8. HMS Southampton was withdrawn from service during the year.
9. HMS Exeter and HMS Nottingham were withdrawn from service during the year. HMS Daring entered full service during 2010.
10. HMS Dauntless entered service and HMS Manchester was withdrawn from service during the year.
11. HMS Diamond entered service, HMS Gloucester and HMS Liverpool were decommissioned.
12. HMS Chatham and HMS Campbeltown were withdrawn from service during the year.
13. HMS Cumberland and HMS Cornwall were decommissioned in year.
14. HMS Walney was withdrawn from service during the year.
15. HMS Clyde entered service during the year. HMS Dumbarton Castle was withdrawn from service.
16. HMS Roebuck was withdrawn from service during the year.
17. HMS Endurance non-operational while options for her repair or replacement were considered.
18. HMS Endurance non-operational while options for her repair or replacement were considered. Replaced on an operational basis by HMS Protector.
19. RFA Brambleleaf, RFA Oakleaf and RFA Grey Rover were withdrawn from service during this period.
20. Two vessels re-categorised as Fleet Replenishment ships to reflect their primary role.
21. RFA Fort George was withdrawn from service during the year.
22. RFA Bayleaf was withdrawn from service during the year.
23. Secondary role of Aviation Training Ship.
24. RFA Lyme Bay, Cardigan Bay and Mounts Bay entered service 2005/06. RFA Largs Bay entered service 2006/07.
25. The following were withdrawn from service: RFA Sir Geraint 2002, Sir Percivale 2005, Sir Tristram & Sir Galahad 2006, Sir Bedivere 2007.
26. RFA Largs Bay was sold to Australia in January 2011 as a result of SDSR10.
27. This role ceased for the RFA in 2004 and transferred to Chartered Shipping administered by Defence Supply Chain Operational Movements (DSCOM).
28. 1 Rifles became part of 3 Commando Brigade on 1 April 2008.
29. Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines expanded by one squadron (P Sqn) during Mar-Sep 2010.
30. A Landing Craft Assault Squadron has been disestablished as a result of SDSR10.
31. HMS ENDURANCE now withdrawn from service.
32. Excludes Joint Force Harrier squadrons from 1 April 2000.
33. Excludes Joint Helicopter Command squadrons from 1 October 1999.
34. Excludes all Operational Conversion Units (OCU) / Operational Evaluation Units (OEU) from 1 April 2004. Other Training squadrons have also been excluded.
35. 1 Rifles reverted to an Army Battalion in 2013.
36. P Sqn were disbanded in 2013.

r Some of the figures in this table have been corrected following a review by the MOD Finance and Military Capability branches, due to concerns raised about previously published figures. (1) Historic figures of tankers and fleet replenishment ships have been corrected due to the addition of solid support ships. This provides a clearer picture of vessels in the RFA, as each of these types of vessel has a distinct role. (2) Previous editions of this table incorrectly stated the MOD had a number of roll-on roll-off vessels in the Fleet Air Arm. However, the ownership of these vessels transferred from the RFA in 2004 as discussed in footnote 27. (3) Corrections have been made to the number of Naval aircraft squadrons following clarification of the squadrons excluded from these historic figures (see footnotes 32-34).

Table 4.01.02**Number of vessels in the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary at 1 April 2014, by class, baseport, and whether operational or undergoing refit**

Operational vessels are manned, in and around water, with readiness state under the command of Fleet Commander. Vessels undergoing refit are unmanned and in a dockyard in the custody of the Defence Equipment & Support organisation.

This table is a National Statistic.

	Baseport	Operational	Undergoing refit	Total
Royal Navy submarines				
Trident	Faslane	3	1	4
Fleet	Devonport	5	-	5
	Faslane	2	-	2
Royal Navy ships				
Landing Platform Dock	Devonport	1	1	2
Landing Platform Helicopter	Devonport	-	1	1
	Portsmouth	1	-	1
Destroyers				
Type 45 ²	Portsmouth	5	1	6
Frigates				
Type 23	Devonport	5	2	7
	Portsmouth	5	1	6
Mine countermeasures vessels				
Hunt class	Portsmouth	6	2	8
Sandown class	Faslane	6	1	7
Offshore patrol ships				
River class ³	Portsmouth	4	-	4
Patrol craft				
University Royal Navy Unit Navigational training	Various	13	1	14
Gibraltar Squadron	Gibraltar	2	-	2
Op IMPERIOUS	Faslane	2	-	2
Survey ships ⁴				
Ice patrol ships	Devonport	3	1	4
	Devonport	1	-	1
Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service				
Fleet Tankers		4	1	5
Fleet Replenishment Ships ⁵		-	1	1
Solid Support Ships		1	1 ⁶	2
Landing Ships		2	1 ⁶	3
Primary Casualty Receiving Ship ⁷		1	-	1
Forward repair ships		1	-	1

Source: MOD Finance & Military Capability

1. ASTUTE and AMBUSH undergoing Sea Trials but not in refit nor under Fleet Commander command.
2. DUNCAN undergoing Sea Trials but not in refit nor under Fleet Commander command.
3. Includes Falkland Island Patrol vessel
4. Includes GLEANER
5. DILG undergoing defect rectification on completion of refit period.
6. RFA Fort Rosalie and RFA Mounts Bay are Base Port Maintenance Periods.
7. Secondary role of Aviation Training Ship.

Table 4.01.03**Militarily-useful British-registered passenger, tanker and dry cargo merchant vessels, by principal categories and sizes, at 31 December each year**

It is required by international law for all merchant ships to be registered in a country, called its flag state. 'Flag' refers to the country in which the ship is registered. Militarily-useful British-registered merchant vessels are vessels that could be requisitioned in the appropriate circumstances in support of the Armed Forces. Other types of ship might also be used in certain cases. Foreign-flagged but British-owned ships could also be requisitioned in certain circumstances.

The information in this table for UK Overseas Territories relates to: Anguilla, British Antarctic Territory, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, Belize [British], British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (and Dependencies), Gibraltar, Montserrat, St Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands. This list of countries differs slightly from the list used by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

The data in this table are outside the scope of National Statistics.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total passenger, tanker & dry cargo merchant vessels	817	841	805	813	799	758
United Kingdom	376	402	369	355	320	268
Isle of Man and the Channel Islands	133	130	141	158	165	182
UK Overseas Territories	308	309	295	300	314	308
<i>Of which:</i>						
Cruise ship (over 200 berths)	33	32	32	31	31	32
United Kingdom	8	7	6	3	3	3
Isle of Man and the Channel Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK Overseas Territories	25	25	26	28	28	29
Roll-on roll-off passenger (over 200 berths)	35	41	38	35	30	24
United Kingdom	33	38	36	33	29	23
Isle of Man and the Channel Islands	1	1	1	1	1	1
UK Overseas Territories	1	2	1	1	-	-
Roll-on roll-off freight (over 500 lane metres)	33	35	34	36	33	34
United Kingdom	17	19	27	29	25	21
Isle of Man and the Channel Islands	7	3	3	5	6	8
UK Overseas Territories	9	13	4	2	2	5
General cargo break bulk (over 1,000 deadweight tons)	120	115	123	149	172	177
United Kingdom	33	32	33	37	36	34
Isle of Man and the Channel Islands	31	35	49	65	78	92
UK Overseas Territories	56	48	41	47	58	51
Refrigerated cargo (over 1,000 deadweight tons)	31	30	21	21	4	1
United Kingdom	8	8	2	2	-	-
Isle of Man and the Channel Islands	4	3	-	-	-	-
UK Overseas Territories	19	19	19	19	4	1
Product and chemical tankers (2,000 to 80,000 deadweight tons)	300	318	311	317	313	305
United Kingdom	87	90	74	75	72	70
Isle of Man and the Channel Islands	78	80	81	80	72	70
UK Overseas Territories	135	148	156	162	169	165
Container (fully cellular, over 100 twenty foot containers)	265	270	246	224	216	185
United Kingdom	190	208	191	176	155	117
Isle of Man and the Channel Islands	12	8	7	7	8	11
UK Overseas Territories	63	54	48	41	53	57

Source: Department for Transport

Table 4.01.04**Militarily-useful British-registered merchant specialist and fishing vessels by principal categories and sizes at 31 December each year**

It is required by international law for all merchant ships to be registered in a country, called its flag state. 'Flag' refers to the country in which the ship is registered. Militarily-useful British-registered merchant vessels are vessels that could be requisitioned in the appropriate circumstances in support of the Armed Forces. Other types of ship might also be used in certain cases. Foreign-flagged but British-owned ships could also be requisitioned in certain circumstances.

The information in this table for UK Overseas Territories relates to: Anguilla, British Antarctic Territory, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, Belize [British], British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (and Dependencies), Gibraltar, Montserrat, St Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands. This list of countries differs slightly from the list used by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

The data in this table are outside the scope of National Statistics.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total specialist vessels & fishing vessels	..	102	102	96	91	91
United Kingdom	..	61	67	64	61	58
Isle of Man and the Channel Islands	..	27	21	18	16	19
UK Overseas Territories	..	14	14	14	14	14
<i>Of which:</i>						
Large diving support vessels	4	5	7	8	7	8
United Kingdom	2	3	4	3	3	4
Isle of Man and the Channel Islands	2	2	3	5	4	4
UK Overseas Territories	-	-	-	-	-	-
Large ocean tugs (over 100t bollard pull)	8	7	8	7	6	5
United Kingdom	7	7	8	6	6	5
Isle of Man and the Channel Islands	1	-	-	-	-	-
UK Overseas Territories	-	-	-	1	-	-
Large anchor handling tugs/supply vessels (over 100t bollard pull)	32	33	26	21	20	23
United Kingdom	6	6	6	7	6	6
Isle of Man and the Channel Islands	24	25	18	13	12	15
UK Overseas Territories	2	2	2	1	2	2
Large fishing vessels (over 1,500kW)	.. ¹	57	61	60	58	55
United Kingdom	.. ¹	45	49	48	46	43
Isle of Man and the Channel Islands	.. ¹	-	-	-	-	-
UK Overseas Territories	.. ¹	12	12	12	12	12

Source: Department for Transport

1. Horse power / power kw is not available for vessels for 2008 data.

Table 4.01.05**Number of Regiments, Infantry Battalions and Major Headquarters in the Regular Army and Army Reserves¹, at 1 April each year**

This table is a National Statistic.

			2000	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Combat arms										
Armour										
Regular Army	Regiments		10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Army Reserves	Regiments		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Infantry										
Regular Army ²	Battalions		40	36	36	36	36	36	36	33 ³
Army Reserves	Battalions		15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Home Service Forces	Battalions		7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Combat support										
Artillery										
Regular Army ⁴	Regiments		15	14	14	14	14	14	13	13
Army Reserves ⁵	Regiments		7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Engineers										
Regular Army	Regiments		11	11	11	12 ⁶	12	14	13 ⁷	13
Army Reserves	Regiments		6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5
Signals										
Regular Army	Regiments		11	12	12	12	12	11	11	11
Army Reserves	Regiments		11	11	5 ⁸	5	5	5	5	5
Combat service support										
Equipment support										
Regular Army	Battalions		7	7	7	7	7	7	6 ⁹	6
Army Reserves	Battalions		4	2 ¹⁰	2	2	2	2	2	2
Logistics										
Regular Army	Regiments		22	17	17	17	17	17	16 ¹¹	14 ¹²
Army Reserves	Regiments		17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17 ¹³
Medical Regiments / Field Hospitals										
Regular Army	Number		8	8	8	9	9	9	9	9
Army Reserves	Number		15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Corps, Division & Brigade HQ										
NATO Corps HQ			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Division / District HQ										
Deployable			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Non-deployable			4	5	5	5	5	5	4 ¹⁴	4
Brigade HQ ¹⁵										
Deployable			7	7	7	7	7	7	6 ¹⁶	6
Non-deployable			15	9	9	10	10	10	10	10

Source: Army HQ Plans Directorate

1. Previously known as the Territorial Army.
2. Excludes Special Forces Support Group.
3. 1 R WELSH and 2 R WELSH merged Mar 14; 2 YORKS and 3 YORKS merged 2013; 5 SCOTS regiment reduced to a Public Duties Independent Company Mar 14.
4. Excludes 14th Regiment Royal Artillery. Also excludes 40th Regiment Royal Artillery which was disbanded due to Planning Round 2011.
5. Includes the Honourable Artillery Company.
6. 101 Engr Regt (EOD) was 'regularised' under Op ENTIRETY, in order to support ongoing operations in Afghanistan.
7. 38 Engineer Regiment were disbanded in Planning Round 2011.
8. Restructuring of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was announced in 2008.
9. 19 Combat Service Support Battalion REME disbanded in January 2013 in Planning Round 2011. 01 Bn & 104 Bn REME form a single Regular Force Support Battalion.
10. As a result of Planning Round 2009, six R Signals Regiments (V) were removed from the force structure.
11. 8 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps disbanded in Planning Round 2011.
12. 24 Regiment and 12 Logistic Support Regiment removed from ORBAT as at Mar 14.
13. 168 Pioneer Regiment Royal Logistics Corp disbanded Feb 2014, with effect post 1 Apr 2014.
14. HQ 2 DIV, HQ 4 DIV and HQ 5 DIV all disbanded in 12/13; HQ Sp Comd was established in 12/13.
15. Brigade HQ figures do not include Logistics or Specialist Brigades.
16. HQ 19 Lt Brigade were disbanded in Planning Round 2011.

Table 4.01.06**Number of Squadrons in the Royal Air Force and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, at 1 April each year**

This table excludes Operational Conversion Units, which train qualified aircrew for different aircraft types.

This table is a National Statistic.

		2000	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Regular Air Force									
Multi-rolled Fast Jet Squadrons ^{1,2}	Squadrons	17	11	11	10 ³	10 ⁴	8 ⁵	9 ⁶	7 ²⁰
Maritime patrol	Squadrons	3	2	2	2	2	- ⁷	-	-
ISTAR (inc Airborne Early Warning)	Squadrons	2	4	4	4	4	5 ⁸	6 ⁹	6
Air transport / Air Refuelling	Squadrons	8	8	8	8	7 ¹⁰	7	7	6 ²¹
Search and Rescue	Squadrons	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
RAF FP Wg	HQs	..	7	7	8	8	8	8	8
RAF Ground based air defence ¹¹	Squadrons	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RAF Regiment Field ¹¹	Squadrons	*	7	7	8	8	8	8	8
RAF Regt (Jt CBRN) ¹²	Squadrons	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Defence CBRN Wing ^{12,25}	HQs	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
	Squadrons	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2
RAF Police Force ¹³	HQs	*	*	*	*	*	* ¹³	3	3
	Squadrons	*	*	*	*	*	*	9	9
Tactical Provost Wg	HQs	-	1	1	1	1	1	*	*
	Squadrons	-	1	1	1	1	1	*	*
Specialist Policing Wg	HQs	-	1	1	1	1	1	*	*
	Squadrons	-	3	3	3	3	3	*	*
General Policing Wg	HQs	-	1	1	1	1	1	*	*
	Squadrons	-	4	4	4	4	4	*	*
Tactical Communications Wg ¹⁴	Squadrons	*	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Auxiliary Air Force²⁵									
Air Movements	Squadrons	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Aeromedical	Squadrons	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Flight Operations	Squadrons	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
General Support	Squadrons	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 ¹⁵	3
HQ Augmentation	Squadrons	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 ^r	1
Intelligence	Squadrons	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Photographic Interpretation	Squadrons	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Public Relations	Squadrons	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RAuxAF Regt Field	Squadrons	4	3	3	3	3	3	4 ¹⁶	5 ²²
FP Operations Support	Squadrons	4	4	4	4	4	4	1 ¹⁷	- ²²
RAF Police	Squadrons	-	1	1	1	1	1	2 ¹⁸	2
RAuxAF Regt CBRN ²⁴	Squadrons	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
A4 - Logs	Squadrons	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 ¹⁹	2
Reserve Aircrew - Air Mobility	Squadrons	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
RAF Reserve - Sponsored Reserves									
Meteorological ²³	Units	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Source: MOD Finance & Military Capability

Footnotes continued on the next page.

1. Excludes Joint Force Harrier squadrons. See Table 4.01.07 - Joint units.

2. From 2006, four Air Defence squadrons amalgamated with Strike/Attack, Offensive support and Reconnaissance squadrons to form multi-rolled fast jet squadrons. One Reconnaissance squadron was re-rolled ISTAR. One squadron was disbanded.

3. 43 Sqn was stood down on 1 July 2009.

4. 6 Sqn (Typhoon) stood up 6 Sep 2010. 111 Sqn (Tornado F3) stood down 22 Mar 2011.

5. 13 Sqn and 14 Sqn (both Tornado GR4) were disbanded on 1 Jun 2011. (See further footnote below on 14 Sqn)

6. 1 Sqn (Typhoon) reformed 15 Sep 2012.

7. 201 Sqn and 120 Sqn were disbanded on 26 May 2011.

8. 14 Sqn was subsequently stood up on 14 October 2011. This unit replaced the flight within 5 Sqn operating the R1 Shadow aircraft.

9. 13 Sqn (MQ9) reformed 26 Oct 2012.

10. 70 Sqn disbanded 10 Sep 2010.

11. Delivery of Ground based air defence has been vested with the Army since 2008. The remaining 2 squadrons were combined on 1 Apr 2008 to provide a 7th Field Sqn (15 Sqn RAF Regt).

12. Defence CBRN Wing was established on 14 Dec 2011 on the disbandment of the Joint CBRN Regiment.

13. RAF Police re-brigaded on 1 Apr 2012 following a Planning Round 2011 option that directed a 15% reduction in manning numbers. The previous definitions of Tactical Provost, Specialist and General Wings are no longer appropriate.

14. TCW has existed as a formed unit since 1969 and is currently subordinate to 90 Signals Unit at RAF Leeming. 90 Signals Unit comprises one HQ and 8 Sqns; 4 x TCW and 4 x Force Generation Wg (FGW); it has existed since 2006. All but 2 Sqns have some form of deployable function.

15. 611 Sqn stood up Oct 2012, 502 Sqn stood up Jan 2013
16. 501 Sqn RAuxAF Ops Spt - Regt staff regenerated into newly created 2624 RAuxAF Regt Sqn at BZN.
17. 501 and 504 RAuxAF Ops Spt Sqns transfer to A4. 603 RAuxAF Sqn transferred to RAFP.
18. Reflects the transfer of 603 Sqn to RAF Police.
19. 501 and 504 RAuxAF Logs Sqns.
20. 12 Sqn and 617 Sqn stood down on 31 March 2014.
21. Number 216 Sqn disbanded March 2014.
22. 609 Sqn now Regt Field previously reported as Operations Support.
23. Previously reported as an Royal Auxillary Air Force squadron.
24. CBRN is also known as: Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear.
25. Note that this is not a comprehensive list of Auxiliary Air Force squadrons, as for example some units that form part of the Air Combat Service Support Units are not included.

r The 2013 edition of this publication incorrectly stated that there were three HQ Augmentation Squadrons in 2013. The reason for this error is that 2 General Support Squadrons were incorrectly declared as HQ Augmentation Squadrons.

Table 4.01.07
Number of Regiments and Squadrons in selected Joint Units, at 1 April each year

This table excludes Operational Conversion Units, which train qualified aircrew for different aircraft types.

This table is a National Statistic.

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Joint Units								
Joint Nuclear Biological Chemical	Regiments	1	1	1	1	- ³	-	-
Special Forces								
Special Air Service	Regiments	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Special Air Service - Army Reserves	Regiments	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Special Boat Service	Units ¹	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Special Forces Support Group Battalion ²	Battalions	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Joint Helicopter Command								
Royal Navy Helicopter	Squadrons ⁴	4	4	4	4	4	4	4 ¹⁴
Army Aviation ⁵	Regiments	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Army Aviation - Army Reserves	Regiments	2	1 ⁷	1	1	1	1	1
Royal Air Force Helicopter	Squadrons ⁴	6 ⁸	6	6	6	6	6 ^r	6 ¹⁵
Royal Auxiliary Air Force ⁹	Squadrons ⁴	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Joint Special Forces Air Wing	Units	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Joint Force Harrier								
Royal Navy	Squadrons ⁴	2	2	1 ¹⁰	- ¹¹	-	-	-
Royal Air Force	Squadrons ⁴	2	2	1 ¹²	- ¹³	-	-	-

Source: MOD Finance & Military Capability

- The units for the Special Boat Service have been changed from Squadrons to Units so that the same level of formation is given for all Special Forces.
- The Special Forces Support Group was formed as a result of the Ministerial Announcement on 16 Dec 2004 as part of The Future Army Structure. It is a Tri-Service Unit based on 1 PARA, to provide specialist support to Special Forces.
- The JNBC regiment disbanded on the formation of the Defence CBRN Wing on 14 December 2011.
- The term "squadron" has different meanings among the three Services: see the Glossary for details.
- These figures exclude the School of Army Aviation, 667 (D&T) Sqn and 657 Sqn and three independent Army Air Corps flights (7, 25 and 29 Flts).
- 6 Regt AAC(V) formed on 1 April 2007.
- 7 Regt AAC(V) was disbanded 31 March 2009.
- Reflects the standing up of 78 Sqn RAF to accommodate the endorsed increase in Merlin Mk3 crews and aircraft.
- No 606 (Chiltern) Squadron provides a pool of trained personnel to provide combat service support to the Support Helicopter Force in training and on operations in times of crisis and war.
- On the reduction in the Joint Force Harrier force from 1 April 2010, the Fleet Air Arm Strike Wing was counted as 1 Sqn.
- 800 RNAS was disbanded on 28 January 2011.
- 20 Sqn was disbanded 31 March 2010.
- 1 Sqn was disbanded on 28 January 2011.
- Although Commando Helicopter Force have 4x Sqns, currently the Merlin Sqn are going through transition to Merlin based out of RAF Benson under Command of the RAF until they move to Yeovilton under RN in March 15 and March 16.
- Merlin Sqns (2x RAF Sqn) currently going through transition to RN.

r The 2013 edition of this publication incorrectly stated that there were 7 RAF Helicopter squadrons in 2013.

Table 4.01.08**Forward Available Fleets by type of aircraft for the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm, at 1 April each year**

Forward Available Fleet are those aircraft available to the front line command for operational and training purposes, including those that are classed as "short term unserviceable". Therefore, the figures exclude aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance or planned routine fleet maintenance.

This table is a National Statistic.

Aircraft type	Aircraft role	Forward Available Fleet						
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Merlin Mk 1	Anti-Submarine	30	28	24	22	21	16	11
Merlin Mk 2	Anti-Submarine	-	-	-	-	-	4	11
Lynx Mk 3	Anti-Submarine / Anti-Ship	21	19	13	4 ¹	4	-	-
Lynx Mk 7	Anti-Submarine / Anti-Ship	20	20	25	25	25	25	25
Wildcat HMA Mk2	Anti-Submarine / Anti-Ship	-	-	-	-	-	3 ²	7
Sea King Mk 5	Search & Rescue	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Sea King Mk 7 ASAC	Airborne Surveillance and Area Control	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Hawk	Fleet Training Support	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Jetstream T2	Aircrew Training	8	8	8	- ³	-	-	-
Jetstream T3	Aircrew Training and Support	2	- ⁴	-	-	-	-	-
King Air	Aircrew Training	4 ³	4	4	4

Source: MOD Finance & Military Capability

1. All Lynx Mk 3 aircraft were withdrawn from service as part of the SDSR outcome, but the Navy has had to run on 4 dual control aircraft (used for training pilots) because there are not enough Mk 8 dual aircraft yet. Once enough Mk 8s have been generated then the Mk 3s will be withdrawn.

2. Not Under Military Control (UMC) until August 2016.

3. All Jetstream T2 aircraft were withdrawn from service and replaced by King Air.

4. The RN Comms Flight became non-operational during 2008.

Table 4.01.09**Forward Available Fleets by type of aircraft for the Royal Air Force Air Command including Operational Conversion Units and Training Aircraft, at 1 April each year**

Forward Available Fleet are those aircraft available to the front line command for operational and training purposes, including those that are classed as "short term unserviceable". Therefore, the figures exclude aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance or planned routine fleet maintenance.

This table is a National Statistic.

		Forward Available Fleet						
Aircraft role	Aircraft type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Air - Combat	Tornado GR	108	106	105	105	94 ¹	85 ¹	59 ²¹
	Tornado F3	47	14	12	- ³	-	-	-
	Typhoon	34	42	50	47	60	79	90 ⁴
	Lightning II ²²	*	*	*	*	*	*	-
C4 and ISTAR	Nimrod R1	3	3	1	1	- ⁵	-	-
	Shadow R1 ⁶	-	-	4	4	5	5	5
	Sentinel	-	5 ⁷	4 ⁸	4	3	3	3
	Sentry AEW	6	6	5 ⁸	5	4	4	4
	Reaper ⁹	1	1	3	5	5	4 ¹⁰	4
	Rivet Joint ²²	*	*	*	*	*	*	-
Maritime	Nimrod MR2	14	14	- ¹¹	-	-	-	-
Air Support	VC10 C1K	10	10					
	VC10 K3	4	4 }	11 ⁸	11	8 ¹²	8	- ²³
	VC10 K4	1	1					
	Sea King HAR3/3A ¹³	23	23	17 ⁸	17	16	15	15
	Tristar K1	1	1					
	Tristar KC1	4	4 }	7 ⁸	6	5	5	- ²³
	Tristar C2	3	3					
	Voyager	*	*	*	*	*	*	6
	Hawk (100 Sqn)	16	14	14	17	17	18	16 ²⁴
Logistics	BAe 125 CC3	5	5	5	5	5	5	3 ⁸
	BAe 146 CC2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3 ²⁵
	C-17	5	6	6	6	6	7 ¹⁴	6 ⁸
	Hercules C1/C3/C4/C5	44	38	29 ⁸	24	24	20	18 ²³
Training aircraft								
Elementary Training ¹⁵	Viking	82	82	82	82	55 ¹⁶	82	81
	Vigilant	63	63	61	65	56 ¹⁶	61	65
Basic Training ¹⁶	Tucano	52	52	52	52	30 ¹⁷	24 ⁸	41 ²⁶
	Dominie T1	8	8	7	- ¹⁸	-		
Advanced Training ¹⁶	Hawk T1/T1A/T1W	49	49	49	39	29 ¹⁹	22 ¹⁹	18
	Hawk T2	-	4	21	27	25 ²⁰	21 ²⁰	28
RAF Aerobatic Team (Red Arrows)	Hawk T1/T1A	13	13	13	13	13	14	14

Source: MOD Finance & Military Capability

Footnotes continued on the next page.

1. The reduction in Tornado aircraft numbers is due to the disbandment of 13 and 14 Squadrons on 1 June 11.

2. Jaguar GR1A/3/3A were declared non-operational with effect from 30 April 07.

3. Tornado F3 were withdrawn from service on 31 March 2011.

4. The increase in Typhoon aircraft is due to Force growth.

5. The Nimrod R1 was withdrawn from service on 30 June 2011.

6. The Shadow R1 aircraft was brought into service as an UOR in 2010. The numbers reflect the total fleet size - there is no depth fleet for UOR assets.

7. Sentinel entered service in November 2008.
8. Changes in these fleets reflect transfers to/from sustainment (depth) fleet.
9. The Reaper remotely-piloted aircraft was brought into service as a UOR in 2007. The numbers reflect the total fleet size - there is no depth fleet for UOR assets.
10. The original plan for April 2013 was a Reaper FAF of 10 airframes. However, the planned delivery of 5 new airframes has been delayed, and one of the previous 5 was damaged and under repair in the US.
11. The Nimrod MR2 force was stood down 31 March 2010.
12. The VC-10 fleet reduced from 11 to 8 during FY 11/12 as 3 aircraft were retired from the fleet.
13. Excludes two Sea King aircraft attached to 78 Sqn (based in the Falkland Islands).
14. Additional airframe procured during Planning Round 2012.
15. Air Command also use Beechking Air 200, Tutor, Squirrel and Griffin aircraft owned by a private contractor in training roles.
16. Anomaly in 2012 figures reflects transfers to sustainment (depth) fleet. DF reported again in 2013 figures.
17. 11 Tucano aircraft have been short-term retired and 11 aircraft are in the sustainment (depth) fleet.
18. The Dominie was withdrawn from service on 31 January 2011.
19. Hawk T1 draw-down. Initial 4FTS OSD reversed in ABC13.
20. The Hawk T2 reduction in fleet numbers also reflects transfer to sustainment (depth) fleet.
21. Reduction due to stand-down of numbers 12 Sqn and 617 Sqn
22. Not yet in service, undergoing Test & Evaluation
23. Reductions due to C130K Out of Service Date: 30 September 2013, VC10: 31 December 2013, Tristar: 31 March 2014.
24. Temporary reduction from 17 to due to major servicing. Increase in 2013 associated with reversal of planned change
25. Increase of 2 additional airframes to the total fleet.
26. Increase in fleet size in order to complete International Defence Training Task

Table 4.01.10**Forward Available Fleets by type of aircraft in the Joint Helicopter Command and Joint Force Harrier, at 1 April each year**

Forward Available Fleet are those aircraft available to the front line command for operational and training purposes, including those that are classed as "short term unserviceable". Therefore, the figures exclude aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance or planned routine fleet maintenance.

This table is a National Statistic.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Joint Helicopter Command							
Royal Navy Helicopters							
Sea King HC4	26	26	26	29	22	20	14 ¹
Sea King HC6 ²	3	3	3	-	-	-	-
Lynx AH7 ³	6	6	6	6	-	-	-
Army Aviation Helicopters							
Lynx/Wildcat ³	59	36	36	49	50	49	41 ^{3,4}
Gazelle	42	12 ⁵	12	12	12	11 ⁶	11
Apache	51	51	51	51	49	38 ⁷	38
RAF Helicopters							
Chinook HC2/3	29	29	29 ⁸	32	29	32 ⁹	33 ¹⁰
Puma HC1	23	22	22	15	12	- ¹¹	-
Puma HC2	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 ¹²
Merlin Mk 3/3A ¹³	18	20 ¹⁴	20 ¹⁴	20	20	20	20
Army Aviation Fixed Wing							
Islander	5	5	3	3	3	3	2
Defender 4000	3	4	9	9	9	8	8
Joint Force Harrier							
RN/RAF Aircraft (including OCU ¹⁵)							
Harrier GR	45	45	27 ¹⁶	- ¹⁷	-	-	-
Harrier T10 / T12	6	7	5	-	-	-	-

Source: MOD Finance & Military Capability

1. Reflects the continued planned drawdown of Sea King Mk4 towards Out of Service Date 1 April 2016.
2. Sea King HC6 was brought into service from 1 Apr 2006 and has maintained operational capability whilst Sea King HC4 has undergone modification.
3. From 2012 Lynx aircraft operated by the Royal Navy's Commando Helicopter Force are reported from within the Army Lynx/Wildcat pool to reflect 847 NAS' conversion to the Army's Lynx Mk 9A. 847 NAS will be JHC's first Lynx squadron to convert to Wildcat.
4. Reduction is a result of planned drawdown of Lynx to feed the Wildcat Programme.
5. Reductions reflect restructuring of fleet to meet revised operational requirement.
6. 5 & 7 Regt AAC Gazelles included only. BATUS (British Army Training Unit Suffield) & 8 Flt not included.
7. Includes 3 & 4 Regt AAC + HERRICK Detachment. Middle Wallop training fleet are not included.
8. Chinook Mk 3 first entered the forward fleet in 2010.
9. Some Chinook Mk 2 in JULIUS MOD programme. No Chinook Mk4 yet in Forward Fleet at April 2012.
10. Increase due to In Service Date of Chinook Mk6 and its planned delivery; also due to Mk 2/3 becoming Mk4s.
11. Pu Mk1 fleet in drawdown towards Out of Service Date cliff edge at December 2012.
12. Increase due to In Service Date of Puma Mk2.
13. Merlin Mk 3 and 3A operate within the same fleet and so have been combined.
14. Merlin Mk 3/3A were reported by Departmental fleet in 2009 and 2010. This has been changed to bring into line with other year.
15. Operational Conversion Units train qualified aircrew for different aircraft types.
16. Reflects reduction in Joint Force Harrier from 1 April 2010.
17. Harrier aircraft were withdrawn from service on 15 December 2010.

Further Information

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Royal Marines

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Royal Air Force

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- RAF Regiment: www.raf.mod.uk/rafregiment/
- Royal Auxiliary Air Force Units: www.raf.mod.uk/rafreserves/

Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Air Command On 1 April 2007, Air Command was formed when RAF's Personnel and Training Command and Strike Command were merged to create a single Command, with a single fully integrated Headquarters, which would better equip the RAF to provide a coherent and coordinated single Air focus to the other Services, MOD Head Office, the Permanent Joint Headquarters and the rest of MOD.

CINCFLEET see **Commander-in-Chief Fleet**.

Commander-in-Chief Fleet The CINCFLEET is responsible for delivery of warships and trained crews to CJO at agreed readiness states. The CINCFLEET maintains an operational command and control capability, in particular for the nuclear deterrent force. The CINCFLEET TLB merged with Chief of Naval Personnel/Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command TLB to form the Fleet Joint TLB on 1 April 2006.

FAF see **Forward Available Fleet**.

Forward Available Fleet (FAF) is defined as the number of aircraft required to undertake the mandated task; including aircrew and ground crew training, 'in-work' rectification and operational / tactical trials. FAF is a way of managing aircraft resources that aims to enable the optimal level of availability, which has been used since 2006. Also known as Forward Fleet.

Ministry of Defence The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is the United Kingdom government department responsible for implementation of government defence policy and is the headquarters of the British Armed Forces. The principal objective of the MOD is to defend the United Kingdom and its interests. The MOD also manages day to day running of the armed forces, contingency planning and defence procurement.

Minor war vessels Minor war vessels are Royal Navy vessels of the following types: monitors, minehunters, offshore patrol craft, patrol craft, survey ships, ice patrol ships.

MOD see **Ministry of Defence**.

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Naval Service The Naval Service is comprised of the Royal Navy (including QARNNS) and the Royal Marines together. The role of the Royal Navy is to contribute to a peaceful environment in which the UK's foreign policy and trade can flourish and in which the security of the UK and her Overseas Territories is assured.

Navy Command Navy Command is the TLB for the Naval Service, at 1 April 2010 Fleet TLB was renamed to Navy Command. Fleet TLB was formed on 1 April 2006 by the merger of the Commander-in-Chief Fleet and the Chief of Naval Personnel/ Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command.

RAF see **Royal Air Force**.

RAF PTC see **Royal Air Force Personnel and Training Command**.

RAuxAF Royal Auxiliary Air Force, see **Volunteer Reserves**.

Readiness refers to the length of time it would take for a vessel to be ready for deployment. A graduated scale of readiness, from very high to very low, is used to allow the Royal Navy to fulfil its tasks in the most efficient way, as it would be impractical and expensive to keep vessels and their crews at a constantly high level of readiness. It is Departmental policy not to comment on the readiness state of individual ships, as to do so could be prejudicial to their security and the safety of the crews, as well as to our operational and national security.

RFA see **Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service**.

RFR Royal Fleet Reserve. See **Regular Reserves**.

RM see **Royal Marines**.

RMR see **Royal Marines Reserve**.

RN see **Royal Navy**.

RNR see **Royal Naval Reserve**.

Royal Air Force The RAF's mission is: "To generate air power to meet the Defence Mission."

Royal Air Force Personnel and Training Command (PTC) is responsible for providing the 'raw material' of trained officers and other ranks to Strike Command to allow it to meet his commitment to CJO, and to other TLBs. RAF PTC deals with recruitment into the RAF and individual training. RAF PTC was amalgamated with Strike Command on 1 April 2007 to form Air Command.

Royal Auxiliary Air Force Founded 1924, see **Volunteer Reserves**.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service Constituted in 1905, this is a civilian manned fleet, owned by the Ministry of Defence. Its main task is to supply warships of the Royal Navy at sea with fuel, food stores and ammunition which they need to remain operational while away from base. It also provides aviation support for the Royal Navy, together with amphibious support and secure sea transport for Army units and their equipment. Its employees are full-time civil servants, but who come under the Naval Discipline Act when deployed to sea under naval command.

Royal Marines Royal Marines are sea-going soldiers who are part of the Naval Service. RM officer ranks were aligned with those of the Army on 1 July 1999.

Royal Marines Reserve Approximately 10% of the RMR are working with the Regular Corps on long term attachments, mostly FTRS. The remainder are Volunteer Reserves

Royal Naval Reserve Formed in 1859 it was merged with the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) in 1958, and also incorporates the former Women's Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve (WRNVR) and QARNNS (Reserve). See **Volunteer Reserves**.

Royal Navy The sea-going defence forces of the UK, including ships, submarines, and Naval aircraft and their personnel, but excluding the Royal Marines and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service (RFA). From 1 April 2000 the Royal Navy incorporated Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service (QARNNS).

SAS see **Special Air Service**.

SBS see **Special Boat Service**.

Special Air Service Part of the Special Forces, usually drawn from the Army.

Special Boat Service Part of the Special Forces, usually drawn from the Naval Service.

Squadron In the Naval Service (i) a group of vessels, normally commanded by a Commander; (ii) a group of naval aircraft, normally commanded by a Commander; (iii) a group of particular personnel, such as divers, commanded by a Commander; (iv) a group of Royal Marines on board ship or an amphibious assault group, normally under the command of a Lt Col (Royal Marines); (v) a sub-unit of the Special Boat Service, normally commanded by a Major (Royal Marines) or Lieutenant Commander (Royal Navy).

In the Army, a sub-unit of some regiments, normally commanded by a Major.

In the Royal Air Force (i) a unit of a number of aircraft larger than a Flight and smaller than a Group; (ii) a unit of personnel, including sub-units of the RAF Regiment. An RAF squadron is usually commanded by a Wing Commander.

Strategic Defence and Security Review a review of the United Kingdom's defence and security capability.

UK Statistics Authority The UK Statistics Authority is an independent body, and is directly accountable to Parliament. It was established on 1 April 2008. The Authority's overall objective is to promote and safeguard the quality of official statistics that serve the public good. It is also required to safeguard the comprehensiveness of official statistics, and ensure good practice in relation to official statistics. The UK Statistics Authority has three main functions: oversight of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) (its executive office), monitoring and reporting on all UK official statistics, and independent assessment of official statistics.

Volunteer Reserves and Auxiliary Forces Volunteer Reserves and Auxiliary Forces are civilian volunteers who undertake to give a certain amount of their time to train in support of the Regular Forces. They include the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Marines Reserve, Territorial Army and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force but do not include Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service (RFA). Some Volunteer Reservists undertake (paid) Full-Time Reserve Service.