



Ministry  
of Defence

## Recruit Trainee Survey - Cover Note 2015/16

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The statistical release found separately provides results from the Recruit Trainee Survey (RTS) 2015/16. The RTS is administered to All Phase 1 and 2 training establishments to gauge Phase 1 recruits' and Phase 2 trainees' attitude, background, perceptions and experience of training and hopes for the future. The data is used to inform colleges on their performance, and to compare results with required standards set by the MOD.

Due to changes in response rates for the individual services, trends in Tri-Service results are not presented, however, figures for the different Services are available, reflecting the differing experiences in training colleges, along with changes over time.

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**Background quality report:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/recruit-trainee-survey>

Would you like to be added to our **contact list**, so that we can inform you about updates to these statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing [DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Pubs@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Pubs@mod.uk)

## Methodology

All trainees and recruits who have completed at least two weeks training were invited to participate in the survey. Participants complete an anonymous and confidential online questionnaire.

The survey was carried out over a 12 month survey period (April 2015-March 2016) to bring it in-line with the military calendar. During this time there were responses to the questionnaire. Overall, 4,121 Phase 1 Army recruits and 3,361 Phase 2 Trainees, 1,952 Phase 1 Royal Navy recruits and 1,190 Phase 2 Trainees and 1,831 Phase 1 RAF recruits and 1,085 Phase 2 Trainees completed the Survey (responses for the Royal Marines are included within the Royal Navy figures).

The overall response rate for all four colleges is 13,541. Due to large changes in the responses rates from the different Services, Tri-Service results are not reported on.

A detailed explanation of the statistical reliability of this survey is found in Annex A of the main report, however it should be noted that due to non-response we cannot be certain that the figures obtained are exactly those we would have found, had everybody been interviewed (the 'true' values).

**Table 1: Response rates**

		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>% of questionnaires</b>	<b>2015/16 Response rate</b>	<b>2014 response rate</b>
<b>Phase 1</b>	Army	4,121	52	46	72
	Navy	1,952	25	82	83
	RAF	1,831	23	95	93
	<b>Total Phase 1</b>	<b>7,904</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Phase 2</b>	Army	3,361	60	29	31
	Navy	1,190	21	49	53
	RAF	1,085	19	90	30
	<b>Total Phase 2</b>	<b>5,636</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,541</b>		<b>48</b>	<b>51</b>

In order to complete the survey, respondents log into the survey using a unique password which has been generated for their training establishment. This enables Ipsos MORI to identify how many completed survey are received from each training school. In addition, in the questionnaire, the respondent identifies which service they belong to. This enables Ipsos MORI to differentiate recruits from different services at the same establishment. Ipsos MORI request the individual services to provide the number of people from their service who could have completed the survey (the number people from their service who have completed at least two weeks of a course). Figures are provided per school to ensure that everyone eligible is being captured. These numbers are then used to calculate response rates based on how many completed surveys are received out of the number that could have been completed.

Response rates should be treated with caution. The large changes in response rates are currently being investigated and the response rate methodology will be reviewed before the 2016/17 publication.

No adjustment or weighting has been applied to this data to bring it in-line with the actual (or population) Service profile.

## **Revisions**

Corrections to the published statistics will be made if errors are found, or if figures change as a result of improvements to methodology or changes to definitions. When making corrections, we will follow the Ministry of Defence [Statistics Revisions and Corrections Policy](#).

## Further Information

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### Contact Us

The MOD welcomes feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication, you can contact us as follows:

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<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/the-freedom-of-information-act>

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