

Section I: Summary statistics

Each year, Congress sets authorized endstrength—the number of servicemembers—for each service. However, actual endstrength may differ from authorized endstrength. Actual endstrength refers to the number of servicemembers as of the 30th of September in a given fiscal year. To meet authorized endstrength, each service balances retention with accessions (i.e., those entering the service).³ In this report, “endstrength” refers to *actual* endstrength.

We show individual service total endstrength—the sum of enlisted members, commissioned officers, and warrant officers—and accessions for FY08, FY09, and FY10 in the first three columns of tables 1 and 2, respectively. The remaining columns break down FY10 endstrength (accessions) by personnel type.

Fiscal year 2010 DoD AC endstrength totaled 1.42 million servicemembers. This represents a slight increase from the FY09 AC total of 1.41 million. In FY10, the Army, the largest of the military services, had 562,000 active duty servicemembers, an increase of 13,000 from FY09. The Army expansion accounted for half of AC growth between FY08 and FY09, but for nearly all of the growth between FY09 and FY10. The Marine Corps and Air Force each grew by 2 percent from FY08 to FY09, but they changed little in size from FY09 to FY10. The Navy shrank by 2,500 personnel between FY08 and FY09, and continued to decrease between FY09 and FY10 by 1,000.

Like the AC, the DoD RC grew between FY09 and FY10, but by less than half the rate as the previous year; growth between FY08 and FY09 was 0.9 percent, while growth between FY09 and FY10 was 0.4 percent. RC endstrength in FY10 totaled 849,300 servicemembers; the corresponding FY08 and FY09 figures were 838,300 and 845,900, respectively. The Army National Guard (ARNG), the largest reserve component, grew by over 3,500 soldiers, after decreasing by 2,000 between FY08 and FY09. The Army Reserve (USAR) experienced no growth between FY09 and FY10, but it remained the second-largest reserve component in FY10, after growing by roughly 8,000 soldiers from FY08 to FY09. The Air Force Reserve (USAFR) grew by 2,000 personnel from FY09 to FY10, but only by 400 between FY08 and FY09. The remaining three reserve elements changed in size by no more than 2,000 servicemembers.

³ Here “accessions” refers to both officer and enlisted personnel. However, “gains” is a more appropriate term for officers and RC servicemembers, as officers and RC members can exit one component and enter another. Specifically, OSD definitions for accessions and gains are as follows:

- Accessions: Number associated with recruiters’ productivity and used in reporting the achievements of the services’ recruiting commands (and other accessioning agencies).
- Gains: Are associated with transactions in a database and reflect the addition of an SSN that was not in the previous file.

Table 1. Actual endstrength by service and personnel type, FY08–FY10

	Endstrength			FY10 endstrength, by personnel type		
	FY08	FY09	FY10	Enlisted	Commissioned Officers	Warrant Officers
Component						
Active Duty						
Army	539,675	549,015	561,979	467,537	78,983	15,549
Navy	326,684	324,239	323,139	270,460	51,059	1,620
Marine Corps	198,415	203,075	202,612	181,221	19,377	2,014
Air Force	322,900	328,847	329,640	263,439	66,201	0
DoD Total	1,387,674	1,405,176	1,417,370	1,182,657	215,530	19,183
Reserve						
ARNG	360,351	358,391	362,015	319,846	34,184	7,985
USAR	197,024	205,297	205,281	168,717	33,453	3,111
USNR	68,136	66,508	65,006	50,718	14,174	114
USMCR	37,523	38,510	39,222	33,423	3,475	324
ANG	107,679	109,196	107,676	93,287	14,389	0
USAFR	67,565	67,986	70,119	55,559	14,560	0
DoD Total	838,278	845,888	849,319	723,550	114,235	11,534
U.S. Coast Guard						
AC	41,362	42,426	41,327	32,890	3,742	1,695
RC	7,970	7,693	7,942	6,598	1,183	161
Total	49,332	50,119	49,269	39,488	7,925	1,856

Notes:

1. The RC consists of the Army National Guard (ARNG), the Army Reserve (USAR), the Navy Reserve (USNR), the Marine Corps Reserve (USMCR), the Air National Guard (ANG), and the Air Force Reserve (USAFR).
2. Data come from appendix tables B-15, B-22, B-34, C-11, C-17, C-28, E-12, E-15, E-19, E-24, E-26, and E-29.

Unlike AC endstrength, which grew between FY08 and FY10, DoD AC accessions fell. In FY10, accessions numbered 183,600, down by 5,600 from FY09 and by more than 20,000 from FY08. Accessions were highest in the Army in FY10; Army accessions totaled 81,900 – 2,500 more than in FY09, but 7,700 fewer than in FY08. The Navy, the second largest in terms of FY10 accessions, added 38,500 personnel, down by 1,200 from FY09 and by 4,100 from FY08. The third largest in FY10 was the Air Force, with 33,100 accessions, which is 3,600 fewer than in FY09, but 1,100 more than in FY08. Lastly, the Marine Corps had 30,000 accessions in FY10, down by 3,300 from FY09 and by exactly 10,000 from FY08.

Table 2. Number of NPS and PS accessions by service and personnel type, FY08–FY10

	Total accessions			FY10 accessions, by personnel type		
	FY08	FY09	FY10	Enlisted	Commissioned Officers	Warrant Officers
Component						
Active Duty						
Army	89,632	79,383	83,608	74,573	7,715	1,320
Navy	42,678	39,733	38,562	34,179	4,208	175
Marine Corps	40,044	33,350	30,045	28,039	1,759	247
Air Force	31,949	36,694	33,062	28,493	4,569	0
DoD Total	204,303	189,160	185,277	165,284	18,251	1,742
Reserve						
ARNG	71,658	63,395	61,497	56,599	3,930	968
USAR	44,843	40,914	32,653	27,559	4,696	398
USNR	17,561	14,015	12,519	10,257	2,245	17
USMCR	8,490	10,360	10,595	9,602	942	51
ANG	11,935	11,204	8,007	6,952	1,055	0
USAFR	9,073	10,646	11,321	9,753	1,568	0
DoD Total	163,560	150,534	136,592	120,722	14,436	1,434
U.S. Coast Guard						
AC	4,536	4,619	2,953	2,363	380	210
RC	743	1,123	1,628	1,439	160	29
Total	5,279	5,742	4,581	3,802	540	239

Notes:

1. Enlisted accessions for all components include both non-prior-service (NPS) and prior-service (PS) accessions.
2. The RC consists of the Army National Guard (ARNG), the Army Reserve (USAR), the Navy Reserve (USNR), the Marine Corps Reserve (USMCR), the Air National Guard (ANG), and the Air Force Reserve (USAFR).
3. Data come from appendix tables B-1, B-12, B-22, B-34, C-1, C-16, C-28, E-5, E-10, E-15, E-19, E-20, E-22, E-26, and E-29.

In FY10, DoD RC accessions totaled 136,600 across all the reserve elements. This is 13,900 fewer than in FY09 and almost 27,000 fewer than in FY08. Four of the six RC elements experienced a decrease in accessions since FY08. They are the ARNG, the USAR, the USNR, and the ANG. The ARNG had the most accessions in FY10, with 61,500; this is 1,900 fewer than in FY09 and 10,200 fewer than in FY08. The USAR accessed 32,700 in FY10, down by 8,300 from FY09 and by 12,200 from FY08. The USNR had 12,500 accessions in FY10—1,500 fewer than in FY09 and 5,000 fewer than in FY08. The ANG had 8,000 accessions in FY10, down by 3,200 from FY09 and by 3,900 from FY08. The two remaining reserve elements, the USMCR and the USAFR, experienced an increase in accessions; both accessed roughly 11,000 in FY10—an increase of less than 700 from FY09 and over 2,000 from FY08.

Unlike the Air Force, the Army, the Marine Corps, and the Navy (which are part of the DoD), the U.S. Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In

FY10, the U.S. Coast Guard's total endstrength was 49,000; its AC endstrength was 41,300 and its RC endstrength was 7,900. There is little difference between the AC's and RC's respective FY08 and FY10 endstrength; however, the AC grew by 1,100 between FY08 and FY09 and then shrank by the same amount between FY09 and FY10, while the RC shrank and then grew by 250, respectively.

Enlisted personnel make up a majority of total endstrength and accessions for all DoD services (AC and RC) and the U.S. Coast Guard. In FY10, enlisted personnel made up between 78 and 90 percent of endstrength, and between 80 and 93 percent of accessions, depending on the service. Commissioned officers made up 9 to 21 percent of endstrength, and 5 to 16 percent of accessions, while warrant officers made up between 0 and 5 percent of both endstrength and accessions. Since warrant officers are a small percentage of endstrength, the remainder of this report will focus on enlisted personnel and commissioned officers.⁴

⁴ The Air Force does not have warrant officers.