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# Police Service Strength England and Wales, 30th September 2003

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Home Office Online Report 13/04

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## Key points

- There were 136,797 police officers (full-time equivalents) in England and Wales on 30 September 2003, the highest number on record.
- This total includes 2,114 officers seconded to the National Crime Squad, the National Criminal Intelligence Service and central services.
- The total number of police officers in the 43 police forces in England and Wales was 134,683.
- Police officer numbers have increased by 5,114 or 3.9 per cent compared with September 2002.
- An additional 1,939 officers represent the British Transport Police across England and Wales.
- The largest increase was in the London region where police officer numbers have increased by 7.7 per cent since September 2002.

**Figure 1: Change in number of police officers (full-time equivalents) from the previous six months**

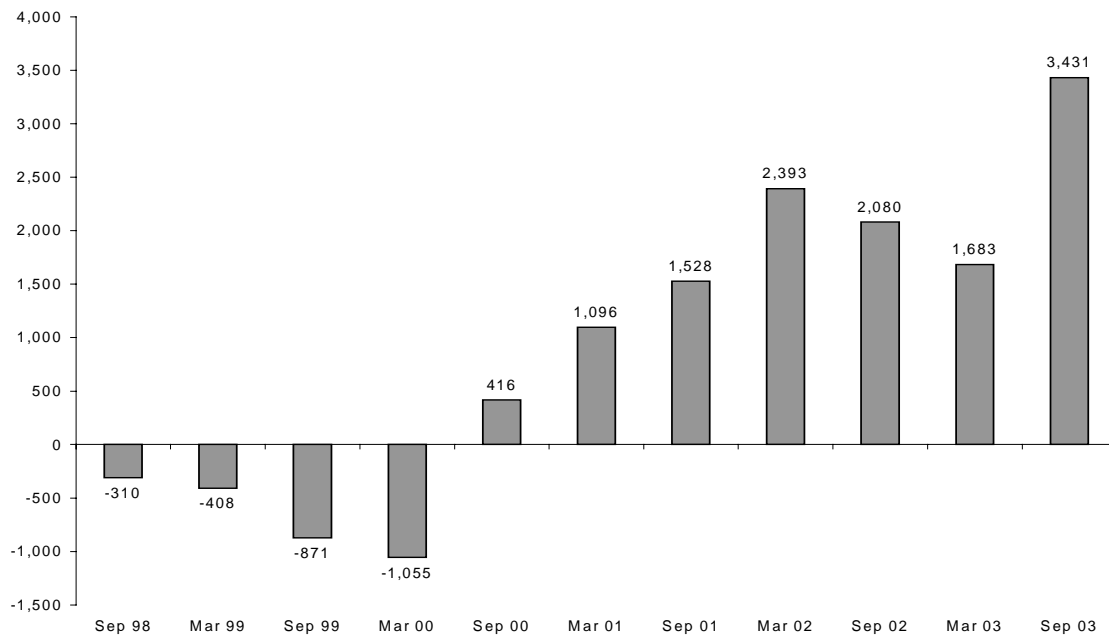


Table 1: Police officer strength by English Government Office Regions and Wales (full-time equivalents). <sup>(1)</sup>

English Government Office Regions and Wales	All officers			All officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures)			Change in 12 months		Change in 6 months	
	Strength as at:			Strength as at:			Sep 02 - Sep 03		Mar 03 - Sep 03	
	Sep 02	Mar 03	Sep 03	Sep 02	Mar 03	Sep 03	number	%	number	%
	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte	fte				
<b>NORTH EAST</b>	<b>7,209</b>	<b>7,272</b>	<b>7,339</b>	<b>7,177</b>	<b>7,177</b>	<b>7,287</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Cleveland	1,499	1,592	1,616	1,488	1,582	1,603	115	7.8	22	1.4
Durham	1,662	1,662	1,684	1,653	1,651	1,668	15	0.9	17	1.0
Northumbria	4,048	4,018	4,039	4,036	3,943	4,016	-20	-0.5	72	1.8
<b>NORTH WEST</b>	<b>18,126</b>	<b>18,174</b>	<b>18,767</b>	<b>18,022</b>	<b>18,040</b>	<b>18,580</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>3.0</b>
Cheshire	2,083	2,137	2,189	2,075	2,119	2,152	78	3.8	33	1.6
Cumbria	1,128	1,154	1,193	1,112	1,140	1,171	59	5.3	31	2.7
Greater Manchester	7,405	7,391	7,724	7,352	7,343	7,653	301	4.1	311	4.2
Lancashire	3,381	3,380	3,512	3,366	3,339	3,475	109	3.2	136	4.1
Merseyside	4,128	4,112	4,149	4,118	4,099	4,129	11	0.3	30	0.7
<b>YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER</b>	<b>11,749</b>	<b>11,806</b>	<b>12,121</b>	<b>11,734</b>	<b>11,760</b>	<b>12,036</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Humberside	2,114	2,123	2,188	2,114	2,105	2,170	56	2.7	66	3.1
North Yorkshire	1,404	1,452	1,481	1,404	1,444	1,471	67	4.8	27	1.9
South Yorkshire	3,217	3,194	3,222	3,217	3,183	3,193	-25	-0.8	9	0.3
West Yorkshire	5,014	5,037	5,230	4,999	5,029	5,202	203	4.1	173	3.4
<b>EAST MIDLANDS</b>	<b>8,948</b>	<b>9,040</b>	<b>9,216</b>	<b>8,887</b>	<b>8,959</b>	<b>9,117</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Derbyshire	1,977	2,010	2,061	1,970	2,003	2,049	79	4.0	46	2.3
Leicestershire	2,117	2,147	2,211	2,105	2,114	2,180	75	3.6	66	3.1
Lincolnshire	1,220	1,236	1,231	1,214	1,221	1,214	0	0.0	-7	-0.6
Northamptonshire	1,216	1,222	1,258	1,202	1,210	1,236	35	2.9	27	2.2
Nottinghamshire	2,418	2,426	2,455	2,397	2,411	2,438	41	1.7	27	1.1
<b>WEST MIDLANDS</b>	<b>13,108</b>	<b>13,322</b>	<b>13,585</b>	<b>13,144</b>	<b>13,206</b>	<b>13,506</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Staffordshire	2,169	2,224	2,260	2,218	2,202	2,243	25	1.1	41	1.9
Warwickshire	1,010	1,000	986	1,007	997	983	-24	-2.4	-14	-1.4
West Mercia	2,074	2,267	2,379	2,064	2,256	2,367	303	14.7	111	4.9
West Midlands	7,855	7,832	7,960	7,855	7,751	7,913	58	0.7	162	2.1
<b>EASTERN</b>	<b>10,162</b>	<b>10,261</b>	<b>10,559</b>	<b>10,083</b>	<b>10,188</b>	<b>10,476</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Bedfordshire	1,103	1,119	1,164	1,086	1,106	1,147	61	5.6	41	3.7
Cambridgeshire	1,405	1,391	1,415	1,398	1,384	1,406	9	0.6	22	1.6
Essex	3,006	3,007	3,074	2,988	2,989	3,055	67	2.2	66	2.2
Hertfordshire	1,922	1,977	2,080	1,902	1,957	2,057	155	8.2	99	5.1
Norfolk	1,492	1,509	1,520	1,481	1,499	1,513	32	2.1	14	0.9
Suffolk	1,234	1,258	1,306	1,228	1,253	1,299	70	5.7	46	3.6
<b>LONDON</b>	<b>27,882</b>	<b>29,042</b>	<b>30,072</b>	<b>27,646</b>	<b>28,793</b>	<b>29,765</b>	<b>2,119</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>3.4</b>
London, City of	781	811	815	777	808	813	36	4.6	5	0.6
Metropolitan Police	27,101	28,231	29,257	26,868	27,984	28,951	2,083	7.8	967	3.5
<b>SOUTH EAST</b>	<b>15,961</b>	<b>16,064</b>	<b>16,355</b>	<b>15,807</b>	<b>15,884</b>	<b>16,158</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Hampshire	3,659	3,707	3,763	3,623	3,668	3,704	81	2.2	36	1.0
Kent	3,441	3,488	3,539	3,434	3,487	3,538	104	3.0	51	1.5
Surrey	2,009	1,933	1,977	1,986	1,906	1,960	-26	-1.3	54	2.8
Sussex	2,974	3,037	3,028	2,933	2,989	2,973	39	1.3	-17	-0.6
Thames Valley	3,878	3,899	4,049	3,830	3,833	3,982	152	4.0	149	3.9
<b>SOUTH WEST</b>	<b>10,070</b>	<b>10,202</b>	<b>10,537</b>	<b>10,003</b>	<b>10,151</b>	<b>10,414</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Avon & Somerset	3,158	3,160	3,328	3,119	3,149	3,273	154	4.9	124	3.9
Devon & Cornwall	3,156	3,215	3,286	3,145	3,202	3,259	113	3.6	57	1.8
Dorset	1,402	1,422	1,423	1,386	1,416	1,401	15	1.1	-15	-1.1
Gloucestershire	1,181	1,237	1,258	1,171	1,227	1,245	74	6.3	18	1.5
Wiltshire	1,173	1,169	1,242	1,182	1,158	1,236	54	4.6	78	6.8
<b>WALES</b>	<b>7,121</b>	<b>7,326</b>	<b>7,388</b>	<b>7,125</b>	<b>7,268</b>	<b>7,343</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Dyfed Powys	1,144	1,156	1,158	1,144	1,149	1,155	11	1.0	6	0.5
Gwent	1,327	1,347	1,347	1,327	1,341	1,340	13	1.0	-1	-0.1
North Wales	1,497	1,553	1,597	1,496	1,539	1,593	96	6.4	53	3.5
South Wales	3,153	3,269	3,286	3,158	3,239	3,256	98	3.1	17	0.5
<b>TOTAL of all 43 forces</b>	<b>130,336</b>	<b>132,509</b>	<b>135,938</b>	<b>129,628</b>	<b>131,426</b>	<b>134,683</b>	<b>5,055</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3,257</b>	<b>2.5</b>
NCS	1,169	1,175	1,179	1,169	1,175	1,179	10	0.8	3	0.3
NCIS	268	252	262	268	252	262	-6	-2.2	10	4.0
BTP	2,073	2,176	1,940	2,073	2,176	1,939	-134	-6.5	-237	-10.9
Other secondments <sup>(2)</sup>	617	513	673	617	513	673	56	9.1	160	31.3
<b>Total police officer strength</b>	<b>134,463</b>	<b>136,625</b>	<b>139,992</b>	<b>133,755</b>	<b>135,542</b>	<b>138,736</b>	<b>4,981</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3,194</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Total police officer strength (excluding BTP)</b>	<b>132,390</b>	<b>134,450</b>	<b>138,052</b>	<b>131,683</b>	<b>133,366</b>	<b>136,797</b>	<b>5,114</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3,431</b>	<b>2.6</b>

(1) This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

(2) 'Other secondments' are officers seconded to central services.

## NOTES

1. The police officer numbers quoted here should be treated as provisional and subject to possible revision in future police service strength publications. Finalised figures will appear in the annual police service strength statistical bulletin, as will further detail and explanation.
2. The figures quoted in this report are for all officers excluding officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave for a period exceeding 28 days. These are consistent with previously published figures. The figures for 'All officers' given in Table 1 include police officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave. These are included following the recommendations of the Police Numbers Task Force.
3. Seconded officers are counted in the force to which they are seconded.
4. The Crime and Policing Group of the Home Office would like to acknowledge the assistance of the police force personnel sections for the provision of data.

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ISBN 1 84473 179 0

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