Sources

MILITARY PERSONNEL (COW (2017))

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| Variable description | Number of troops under the command of the national government, intended for use against foreign adversaries, and held ready for combat as of 1 January of the given year. See additional information for further details of what is defined as military personnel. |
| Variable time span | 1816 – 2012 |
| Data published by | COW Project |
| Data publisher's source | Multiple sources |
| Link | <http://www.correlatesofwar.org/data-sets/national-material-capabilities> |

Notes and definitions as provided by the source.  
  
1. Military personnel estimates include active, regular military units of the land, naval, and air components. Troops in the reserves such as those found in the United States were not included in the state’s annual total. Colonial troops (such as Indian troops under British command during India’s colonial period) were usually not included in this total if they were a separately administered force.  
  
2. The military personnel data exclude the military forces of foreign military forces, semi-autonomous states and protectorates, and insurgent troops. Such units were not part of a regular national armed force under a military chain of command. Their inclusion would distort the number of personnel that could be summoned when deemed necessary.  
  
3. Figures reflect the project's best judgement on which forces were intended for combat with foreign parties. Irregular forces such as civil defense units, frontier guards, gendarmerie, carabineri, and other quasi-military units were nominally responsible for defending outlying districts or for internal security and could be mobilized in time of war. We usually excluded them, however, because they were not integral to the regular armed forces (e.g. Cossack troops of nineteenth century Russia). When these forces were the only military a nation had they were still excluded (e.g. Costa Rica and Switzerland).  
  
4. Armed forces in several semi-feudal nations, including the warlord armies in pre-modern Japan and China, and Jannissary troops in the Ottoman Empire: We counted only those forces that were acting at the behest of the central government. For example, we included only the Imperial troops and those armies of feudal lords operating on the behalf of the throne in the case of pre-modern Japan.  
  
5. National police forces organized for both foreign and domestic purposes and found in several developing nations in the twentieth century: Such units come directly under the military chain of command and are fully a part of the armed forces at the immediate disposal of a national government. Examples include the old National Guard of Nicaragua and the national police forces of many African states. When such forces provided dual functions of foreign combat and internal security, we included them in its military personnel figures; otherwise, they were excluded  
  
For further information please see: <http://www.correlatesofwar.org/data-sets/national-material-capabilities/nmc-codebook-v5-1/at_download/file>)