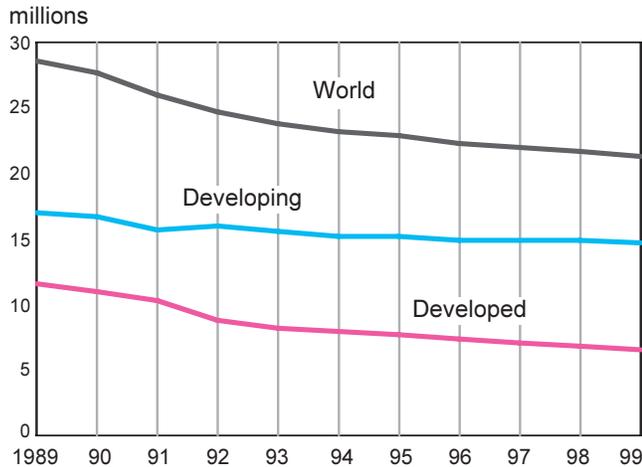


Armed Forces

The number of people serving in the world's armed forces in 1999 was 21.3 million, a 2% drop from the previous year. This continued a decade-long reduction with an average annual rate of decline of 2.9%. The average decline tapered off in the second half of the decade to 1.7%. By 1999, 26% fewer people served in the world's armed forces than in 1989.

Figure 2. World Armed Forces: 1989-1999



Developed nations' armed forces accounted for most of the reduction in the world total. They declined 4% to 6.6 million in 1999, the same as the average rate in the previous five years and somewhat less than the 5.6% average rate of decline for the entire decade. By 1999, developed nations' armed forces were 44% smaller than in 1989.

The size of developing nations' armed forces also declined, but by only 1% from the prior year to the 1999 level of 14.7 million. Their annual rate of decline was 1.4% over the decade, and 0.7% over the last five years. Developing nation's forces were 14% smaller than a decade earlier.

As a result of the differing rates of decline, the two groups' size disparity widened steadily over the decade. Developed nations' share of total world armed forces fell from 41% in 1989 to 31% in 1999, while developing nations' share climbed from 59% to 69%.

Of the world's twenty largest armed forces in 1999, only six were in the developed nations group and fourteen were in the developing country group.

The 10 largest armed forces were (in thousands):

1 China	2,400	6 Turkey	789
2 United States	1,490	7 South Korea	665
3 India	1,300	8 Pakistan	590
4 North Korea	1,000	9 Vietnam	485
5 Russia	900	10 Iran	460

Additional developing nations in the top 20 were Egypt, Iraq, China-Taiwan, Burma, Ukraine, Syria, and Brazil, with from 300 to 430 thousand troops each.

Only three developed-country armed forces—those of the U.S., Russia, and South Korea—were among the world's ten largest. In the top 20, France (12th), Italy (14th), and Germany (18th) had between 331 and 421 thousand.

Table 2
Armed Forces: Shares and Growth
(in percent)

	World Share		Growth Rate*	
	1989	1999	Decade 89-99	2nd Half 95-99
World	100.0	100.0	-2.8	-1.7
Developed	40.6	31.0	-5.6	-4.0
Developing	59.4	69.0	-1.4	-.7
Region				
East Asia	30.6	30.5	-2.7	-2.9
Western Europe	13.0	13.8	-2.3	-2.2
Middle East	11.2	11.1	-3.0	.1
South Asia	7.0	10.3	.8	.6
Eastern Europe	18.3	10.1	-8.0	-7.9
North America	8.7	8.5	-3.6	-.8
Central Africa	2.7	5.0	2.0	12.3
South America	3.2	4.4	.5	.4
North Africa	1.6	2.0	-.4	-.x
Southern Africa	1.7	1.7	-3.3	-1.3
Central Asia & Cauc.	—	1.3	—	3.8
Central Amer. & Car.	1.8	.8	-12.2	-5.0
Oceania	.3	.3	-1.3	-2.8
Europe, all	31.3	23.9	-5.2	-4.8
Africa, all	5.9	8.8	-.x	5.7
Organization / Reference Group				
OECD	22.3	28.1	-0.3	3.5
OPEC	8.7	8.5	-3.3	0.3
NATO, all	20.5	21.5	-2.9	-1.0
Warsaw Pact (fmr)	17.3	10.2	-7.3	-6.4
NATO Europe	12.3	14.2	-2.0	-0.4
Latin America	5.6	6.4	-1.8	1.4
CIS	—	7.4	—	-7.0

x Less than 0.05.

* Average annual rate, calculated as a compound rate curve fitted to all points (see Statistical Notes).

Regional Trends

The world's armed forces declined overall, primarily in the developed countries and especially in the first half of the decade, but the **trends differed considerably among the various regions.**

Rapid reductions on the order of 8-12% annually took place in Eastern Europe and Central America and the Caribbean. In the latter case, the reduction occurred especially in the first half-decade

Moderate reductions over the decade on the order of 1-4% (similar to the world trend) took place in East Asia, Western Europe, the Middle East, North America, Southern Africa, and Oceania. In the Middle East and North America, the declines were mainly in the first half-decade, with little change in the second half.

On the other hand, Central Africa's armed forces grew rapidly (especially in the latter half-decade), **Central Asia and the Caucasus', moderately, and South Asia's, minimally.**

Little movement occurred in the **South American and North African** armed force totals.

Throughout the decade, East Asia's armed forces had the largest world share—31% in both 1989 and 1999—even as their actual size declined 26%, from 8.7 million to 6.5 million troops. The average rate of decline was 2.7% for the decade and 2.9% for 1995-1999. **China's** armed forces, the largest in the world, strongly influenced East Asia's trends.

	World Rank'99	Forces (000)		Change (%)	
		1989	1999	Total	Ann.95-99
East Asia	1	8,740	6,500	-26	-2.9
China - Mainland	1	3,900	2,400	-38	-4.1
North Korea	4	1,040	1,000	-4	-2.8
South Korea	7	647	665	3	-2.4
Vietnam	9	1,250	485	-61	-5.8
China - Taiwan	15	406	370	-9	-3.5
Burma	16	200	345	73	1.4

The size of Western Europe's armed forces declined 21% over the past decade, from 3.7 million to 2.9 million troops, even as they moved from third to second largest among all regions. The ten-year average rate of decline for Western Europe was 2.3%. In 1998-1999, regional forces declined 3%. **Turkey's**

military force was Western Europe's largest and the only one among the ten largest in the world. **France, Italy, Germany, and the U.K.** had significant reductions in size over the past decade.

	World Rank'99	Forces (000)		Change (%)	
		1989	1999	Total	Ann.95-99
Western Europe	2	3,720	2,930	-21	-2.2
Turkey	6	780	789	1	-0.8
France	12	554	421	-24	-4.6
Italy	14	506	391	-23	-2.8
Germany	18	503	331	-34	-1.4
United Kingdom	26	301	218	-31	-0.6
Greece	28	201	204	1	-1.3

The Middle East's armed forces (2.4 million persons) moved up from fourth to third largest among regions, even though in size they declined 26% over the entire decade. The region's average 10-year rate of decline was 3%, which levelled off in the 1995-1999 period to 0.1%.

	World Rank'99	Forces (000)		Change (%)	
		1989	1999	Total	Ann.95-99
Middle East	3	3,200	2,370	-26	0.1
Iran	10	604	460	-24	-0.6
Egypt	11	450	430	-4	-4.0
Iraq	13	1,000	420	-58	0.4
Syria	19	400	310	-23	-0.8
Saudia Arabia	30	82	190	132	2.2
Israel	32	191	173	-9	-1.3

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest importer of arms, had the 5th largest armed force in the region and 30th largest in the world. Its size increased significantly over the past ten years, from 82 thousand to 190 thousand people. **Israel** had the Middle East's 6th largest and the world's 32nd largest force.

South Asia's armed forces ranked fourth largest in the world, with 2.2 million troops. This was a 10% increase over a decade ago, making it one of the few regions to have a positive 10-year growth rate, which averaged 0.8%.

	World Rank'99	Forces (000)		Change (%)	
		1989	1999	Total	Ann.95-99
South Asia	4	2,000	2,200	10	0.6
India	3	1,260	1,300	3	0.7
Pakistan	8	520	590	13	0.5

Eastern Europe dropped from the second largest regional armed force a decade earlier to the fifth largest in 1999. Its size fell by more than half, from 5.24 million in 1989 to 2.15 million in 1999. The annual decline averaged 8%. By 1999, Russia, with the region's largest and the world's fifth largest

armed forces, cut its ranks to 900 thousand troops, less than half its 1992 level.

	World		Forces (000)		Change (%)	
	Rank'99	1989	1999	Total	Ann.95-99	
Eastern Europe	5	5,240	2,150	-59	-7.9	
Russia	5	--	900	--	-10.8	
Ukraine	17	--	340	--	-2.8	
Poland	31	350	187	-47	-5.8	
Romania	33	207	170	-18	-3.2	

North America had the world's sixth largest armed force, with 1.8 million troops. Since 1989, its size was cut 27% and its decline averaged 3.6%. With 1.49 million troops, the United States accounted for 83% of the total North American force. Since 1989, the U.S. cut its force by one third and its annual decline averaged 4.4%.

	World		Forces (000)		Change (%)	
	Rank'99	1989	1999	Total	Ann.95-99	
North America	6	2,480	1,800	-27	-0.8	
United States	2	2,240	1,490	-33	-2.1	
Mexico	24	154	255	66	12.0	
Canada	59	88	60	-32	-4.0	

Although South America's forces (942 thousand) experienced a slight decline in 1999 from the prior year, they were 3% larger than in 1989 and had a small growth rate over the decade.

	World		Forces (000)		Change (%)	
	Rank'99	1989	1999	Total	Ann.95-99	
South America	8	912	942	3	0.4	
Brazil	20	319	300	-6	0.3	
Colombia	34	91	155	70	1.7	
Peru	37	110	115	5	0	

Central Africa had the world's fastest armed forces growth rate, which averaged 2% over the decade and then surged to 12.3% in 1995-1999. This growth increased their share of the world's total from 2.7% to 5%. The region's forces went from 711 thousand in 1997, to 850 thousand in 1998, to 1.07 million in 1999.

	World		Forces (000)		Change (%)	
	Rank'99	1989	1999	Total	Ann.95-99	
Central Africa	7	766	1,070	40	12.3	
Ethiopia	21	250	300	20	33.5	
Eritrea	27	55	215	291	48.1	
Sudan	42	65	105	62	5.1	
Nigeria	48	107	77	-28	-1.3	

North Africa's force size, 435 thousand in 1999, hasn't varied much over the past ten years.

	World		Forces (000)		Change (%)	
	Rank'99	1989	1999	Total	Ann.95-99	
North Africa	9	447	435	-3	0.02	
Morocco	29	195	195	0	0.0	
Algeria	36	126	120	-5	0.1	
Libya	47	86	85	-1	-0.1	

Southern Africa had 365 thousand forces in 1999, a 3% reduction from the prior year and a 23% reduction since 1989.

	World		Forces (000)		Change (%)	
	Rank'99	1989	1999	Total	Ann.95-99	
Southern Africa	10	472	365	-23	-1.3	
Angola	44	107	100	-7.0	0.5	
South Africa	55	100	68	-32.0	-1.9	
Congo (Kinshasa)	66	51	55	8	6.6	

Central Asia and the Caucasus grew their forces 2% from the prior year and a hefty 39% since their independence, reaching 266 thousand troops in 1999. The increase was largely due to growth in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan.

	World		Forces (000)		Change (%)	
	Rank'99	1992	1999	Total	Ann.95-99	
Central Asia & C.	11	191	266	39	3.8	
Azerbaijan	49	43	75	74	-2.1	
Uzbekistan	62	40	60	50	32.2	
Armenia	71	20	50	150	-5.3	
Kazakhstan	89	na	33	na	11.6	

Central America and the Caribbean's forces were cut sharply, from 527 thousand in 1989 to 174 thousand in 1999, and the fall averaged 12.2%. Cuba accounted for the majority of the decline, as it slashed forces from 297 thousand in 1989 to 50 thousand in 1999.

	World		Forces (000)		Change (%)	
	Rank'99	1989	1999	Total	Ann.95-99	
Central Am & C.	12	527	174	-67	-5.0	
Cuba	72	297	50	-83	-8.7	
Dominican Rep	93	21	30	43	5.0	
Guatemala	94	43	30	-30	-5.3	

Oceania cut force size 13% from the prior year and 18% over the decade to 73 thousand troops in 1999. This region's decline was largely due to reductions made by Australia.

	World		Forces (000)		Change (%)	
	Rank'99	1989	1999	Total	Ann.95-99	
Oceania	13	89	73	-18	-2.8	
Australia	65	70	55	-21	-3.3	

Force Ratios

The ratio of a country's armed forces to its population provides a useful indicator of national military burden and effort. A comparison of trends in armed forces, population, and the resulting "force ratio" shows some significant differences between developed and developing countries as well as between regions.

World, regional, and country comparisons of this indicator are shown in:

- Table 3 below (ratios and growth rates);
- Figure 8, column 1, page 20 (bar chart, 1999);
- "Regional Trends, 1989-1999," pp. 29-35 (graphs);
- Main Table I, pp. 51-101 (group and country data).

Cuts in armed forces combined with growth in population caused the world force ratio to decline steadily over the decade. In 1989, the ratio was 5.5 soldiers per 1,000 people. By 1995, it fell to 4.0 and in 1999, it reached its 10-year low of 3.6. The rate declined by an average 4.2% from 1989 to 1999, and an average 2.6% from 1995 to 1999.

The force ratio declined sharply among developed countries, from 9.3 in 1989 to 5.6 in 1999. Their armed forces were cut 44%, from 11.6 million persons in 1989 to 6.55 million in 1999. Their population declined 6%, from 1.25 billion people to 1.17 billion (partially due to reassignment of parts of the former Soviet Union). The reduction in armed forces substantially outweighed the reduction in population, causing the steep decline in the force ratio.

Developing nations' force ratios also declined, although to a lesser degree than the developed. In 1989, the developing world's ratio was 4.3, by 1999 it was 3.1. Armed forces fell from 17.0 million to 14.7 million persons. Population rose from 3.92 billion to 4.81 billion people. Armed forces declined 14% while population increased 23%, both factors that reduced the force-to-population ratio.

As has been the case throughout the past decade, **the Middle East had the highest force ratio in 1999 with 10.3. Western Europe had the second highest with 6.5, bumping Eastern Europe with 6.3 into third place.** Even though these areas had the three highest force ratios, they had all made significant cuts to their forces throughout the decade. The Middle East's ratios declined 41%, Western Europe's 28%, Eastern Europe 48%.

Table 3

Force Ratio Trends

	Amount			Growth Rate (%)*	
	1989	1995	1999	Decade 89-99	2nd Half 95-99
Armed Forces:	(In millions)				
World	28.6	22.9	21.3	-2.9	-1.7
Developed	11.6	7.7	6.6	-5.6	-4.0
Developing	17.0	15.2	14.7	-1.4	-0.7
Population:	(In billions)				
World	5.2	5.7	6.0	1.4	1.4
Developed	1.3	1.2	1.2	-0.8	0.4
Developing	3.9	4.5	4.8	2.1	1.6
Force Ratio:	(In soldiers per 1000 pop.)				
World	5.5	4.0	3.6	-4.2	-2.6
Developed	9.3	6.7	5.6	-4.8	-4.5
Developing	4.3	3.4	3.1	-3.3	-2.4
Middle East	17.5	11.1	10.3	-5.1	-1.8
Western Europe	9.0	7.2	6.5	-2.9	-2.6
Eastern Europe	12.2	8.6	6.3	-5.7	-7.6
North Africa	7.2	6.2	5.8	-2.3	-1.8
North America	7.0	4.8	4.5	-4.7	-1.5
Central Asia & Cauc.	—	3.2	3.7	—	3.2
East Asia	4.9	3.9	3.3	-3.7	-3.6
South America	3.1	2.9	2.8	-1.1	-0.7
Oceania	3.6	3.2	2.6	-2.6	-4.4
Central Amer. & Car.	9.5	3.4	2.6	-13.9	-6.8
Central Africa	2.4	1.7	2.5	-1.0	9.2
Southern Africa	2.9	2.0	1.7	-5.8	-4.2
South Asia	1.8	1.7	1.6	-1.2	-1.2
Europe, all	10.6	7.8	6.4	-4.4	-4.9
Africa, all	3.1	2.3	2.6	-2.7	2.5
OECD	7.7	5.5	5.4	-3.6	-0.0
OPEC	5.9	3.9	3.5	-5.1	-2.7
NATO, all	8.9	6.6	5.8	-4.1	-3.2
Warsaw Pact (fmr)	12.3	7.3	5.6	-7.0	-6.5
NATO Europe	9.3	7.3	6.3	-3.4	-3.6
Latin America	3.7	2.8	2.7	-3.3	-0.4
CIS	—	7.3	5.6	—	-6.7

* Average annual rate, calculated as a compound rate curve fitted to all points (see Statistical Notes for details).

In 1999, **Eritrea** had the world's largest number of armed forces per 1,000 population, with 54.0. **North Korea** was second with 46.8, and **Israel**, third (30.1) **Six of the top ten countries in terms of their force ratio were in the Middle East—Israel, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Cyprus.**

1 Eritrea	54.0	6 Syria	19.5
2 North Korea	46.8	7 Greece	19.3
3 Israel	30.1	8 Iraq	19.1
4 Un. Arab Em.	27.9	9 Cyprus	18.6
5 Jordan	21.1	10 Djibouti	18.0