

4.2. Persons who evaded or deserted military service

Following the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024, this document has been reviewed and updated. Please consult '[Interim Country Guidance: Syria \(2025\)](#)'

COMMON ANALYSIS

Last update: April 2024

This section provides an analysis with regard to the profiles of:

Draft evader: a draft evader is a Syrian male, above the age of 18, who has avoided being drafted into the Syrian Armed Forces either by hiding from the Syrian authorities or by fleeing Syria.

Deserter: a deserter is a former member of the Syrian Armed Forces (e.g. a conscript, a non-commissioned officer (corporal or sergeant) or an officer) who has left his post or unit in the Syrian Armed Forces without permission. See also [4.2.3. Military deserters and defectors](#) for the legal definition of military desertion according to Syrian law.

Defector: a defector is a former member of the Syrian Armed Forces who has left the Syrian Armed Forces and joined an armed opposition group in Syria.

Reservist: a reservist is a Syrian male who has previously completed his mandatory military service in Syria and can still be called up for reserve service in the Syrian Armed Forces.

Military service: the term is used broadly to cover both military service and reserve service in the Syrian Armed Forces.

For more information on the structure of the Syrian Armed Forces, see [3.2. The Government of Syria and associated armed groups](#).

The contents of this section include:

- [4.2.1. Military service: overview](#)
- [4.2.2. Draft evaders](#)
- [4.2.3. Military deserters and defectors](#)