

Appendix 8E. Government and industry data on national arms exports

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Publicly available government and industry statistics on the value of national arms exports are listed in table 8E. These data are included here for four reasons: (a) to make them more accessible; (b) to illustrate the current state of government transparency in arms export data; (c) to underline the fact that arms export data from different countries are only partially comparable; and (d) to provide a rough indication of the financial scale of arms exports.

Caution should be exercised when using the data in table 8E for detailed analysis. Only some of the statistics are fully explained, definitions are not consistent from country to country, and the reports give different definitions for what is included in the category 'arms'. Some countries release figures only on arms exports, while others aggregate exports of arms and dual-use equipment. Some release data on the value of items *delivered*, others on the value of items *approved* for export, some on both. In some countries different reports present different national arms export data. To underline this last type of inconsistency, all relevant data are included in the table. No attempt has been made to compensate for any of these comparability problems or possible lack of reliability.

Despite these methodological reservations, in the absence of good alternatives the values are considered useful as a rough indication of the financial scale of arms exports. Such an indication cannot be derived from the SIPRI arms transfer trend-indicator values, as these indicate the volume of international arms transfers and not actual financial values (see appendix 8D).

The table is not comprehensive and there are other countries, such as China, whose exports would be larger than those of some of the countries listed in the table. However, SIPRI estimates that the countries in the table together account for over 90 per cent of the total volume of deliveries of major conventional weapons in 2001, and it can be assumed that these countries together account for a similarly high percentage of total arms exports in financial terms.

Table 8E is based on publications of governments and arms industry associations, well-documented reports on government statements, and government and arms industry association replies to SIPRI's requests for information. Comments are worded as closely as possible to the details given in the documents cited. If the comment does not specify whether the values refer to permits or deliveries, it is because this distinction is not specified in the original source. Sources refer to the last year reported for each country. Sources for previous years are given in previous editions of the SIPRI Yearbook. The 2000 US dollar series is calculated on the basis of the exchange rates on 31 December 2000.¹ SIPRI collects hyperlinks to Internet sites containing official arms export data, which in several cases include data disaggregated by recipients and category.²

¹ As compiled by OANDA Corporation, available at URL <<http://www.oanda.com>>.

² These links are listed at URL <<http://www.sipri.se/projects/armstrade/atlinks.html>>.