

IV. The financial value of states' arms exports

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Table 5.8 presents official data on the financial value of states' arms exports in the years 2003–12. The countries included in the table are those that provide official data on the financial value of 'arms exports', 'arms export licences' or 'arms export agreements' for at least 6 of the 10 years covered and for which the average of the values given exceeds \$10 million. The data is taken from reports by, direct quotes from, or direct communication with governments or official industry bodies. The stated data coverage reflects the language used by the original source. National practices in this area vary, but 'arms exports' generally refers to the financial value of arms actually delivered; 'arms export licences' generally refers to the financial value of licences for arms exports issued by the national export licensing authority; and 'arms export agreements' refers to the financial value of agreements signed for arms exports. Neither the licences nor the agreements necessarily lead to actual deliveries, and their reported values are likely to be an overestimate. In addition, even if they lead to actual deliveries, those are likely to be spread over several years. Thus, a high or low value for licences or agreements in one year (e.g. the very high value of agreements for the USA in 2012) is not necessarily indicative of a trend change.

According to the SIPRI Arms Transfers Database, the countries that produce official data on the financial value of their arms exports account for over 90 per cent of the total volume of deliveries of major conventional weapons. By adding together the data in table 5.8 it is therefore possible to arrive at a rough estimate of the financial value of the global arms trade. However, there are significant limitations in using the data in this way. First, the data sets used are based on different definitions and methodologies and are not directly comparable.¹ Second, several states (including the United Kingdom) release no data on 'arms exports', while others (including China) release data on neither 'arms exports', 'arms export licences' nor 'arms export agreements'. However, by adding together the data that states have made available on the financial value of their 'arms exports', it is possible to estimate that the total value of the global arms trade in 2012 was at least \$58 billion. The true figure is likely to be higher.²

¹ There is no internationally agreed definition of what constitutes 'arms' and governments use different lists when collecting and reporting data on the financial value of their arms exports. Moreover, there is no standardized methodology concerning how to collect and report such data. E.g. some states collect data on 'arms exports' by using information on export licences used, while other states use data collected from customs agencies.

² It is worth noting that this figure refers to the sum of the monetary value of goods exported and that certain goods will be counted twice. In particular, many goods will be exports of components that are integrated into larger weapon systems that are then re-exported to another destination.

Table 5.8. The financial value of states' arms exports according to national government and industry sources, 2003–12

Figures are in constant (2012) US\$ m. Conversion is made using the market exchange rates of the reporting year and the US consumer price index (CPI). Years are calendar years, unless otherwise stated.

State	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Stated data coverage
Austria	163	6	165	207	188	328	517	520	610	585	Arms exports
	346	24	374	437	2 090	1 477	3 344	2 465	2 315	1 997	Arms export licences
Belgium	938	821	374	1 256	1 364	2 085	1 638	1 398	1 184	1 246	Arms export licences
Bosnia and Herzegovina	..	53	94	71	58	91	68	39	..	..	Arms export licences
Brazil	61	346	335	401	177	41	106	..	..	..	Arms exports
Bulgaria	..	..	208	160	224	234	216	360	328	281	Arms exports
	..	..	466	627	573	742	470	413	316	449	Arms export licences
Canada	645	602	312	361	336	558	507	418	655	..	Arms exports ^a
Czech Republic	117	136	129	133	264	297	260	303	260	352	Arms exports
	149	187	177	260	723	331	580	629	491	341	Arms export licences
Denmark	113	152	130	186	297	255	375	524	336	285	Arms export licences
Estonia	..	–	1	–	5	9	12	3	496	4	Arms export licences
Finland	69	63	151	76	114	145	129	82	138	152	Arms exports
	144	495	64	123	86	526	278	85	261	73	Arms export licences
France	6 049	10 491	5 426	5 682	6 846	4 905	5 486	5 164	5 173	4 298	Arms exports
	5 942	5 102	6 014	8 219	8 576	10 283	12 135	7 136	9 244	6 320	Arms export licences
Germany	1 877	1 704	2 383	1 963	2 288	2 229	1 990	2 954	1 823	1 216	Arms exports ^b
	6 850	5 745	6 163	5 984	5 558	9 039	7 496	6 628	7 680	6 046	Arms export licences
Greece	158	23	42	126	50	75	337	411	321	437	Arms export licences
Hungary	15	14	18	23	26	23	25	26	26	35	Arms exports
	69	60	47	89	145	186	189	192	221	347	Arms export licences
India	118	85	68	108	92	211	73	..	..	..	Arms exports ^c
Ireland	49	41	44	66	50	48	67	33	38	60	Arms export licences
Israel	2 932	3 160	3 056	3 416	..	..	7 383	7 580	7 143	7 470	Arms exports
	3 744	4 497	4 114	5 580	6 200	6 745	7 918	7 685	..	..	Arms export agreements
Italy	887	724	1 215	1 386	1 920	2 775	3 278	859	1 451	3 869	Arms exports
	1 805	2 248	1 989	3 131	7 188	8 841	9 949	4 533	7 465	5 347	Arms export licences
Korea, South	301	508	308	288	936	1 099	1 248	1 251	2 431	2 353	Arms export agreements

Lithuania	..	..	..	6	67	48	65	21	68	24	Arms exports
	..	..	7	11	95	73	117	32	72	26	Arms export licences
Netherlands	..	..	997	1 154	1 324	781	843	943	1 095	1 057	Arms exports
	1 621	942	1 718	1 607	1 086	1 965	1 955	1 273	590	1 210	Arms export licences
Norway	533	363	448	518	604	736	766	639	651	667	Arms exports
Poland	258	397	424	393	435	575	2 068	637	1 204	814	Arms export licences
Portugal	35	18	10	1	..	111	24	28	35	40	Arms exports
	44	26	18	1	41	119	42	29	44	67	Arms export licences
Romania	86	51	54	114	93	88	105	129	134	83	Arms exports
	..	..	116	125	187	127	177	160	188	179	Arms export licences
Russia	6 988	7 024	7 201	7 401	8 193	8 903	9 095	10 527	13 979	15 200	Arms exports
Slovakia	..	30	31	46	56	59	65	21	14	32	Arms exports
	54	98	73	91	112	111	159	81	43	94	Arms export licences
South Africa	511	515	..	488	629	761	986	1 198	1 291	1 292	Arms export licences
Spain	539	613	612	1 207	1 414	1 459	2 002	1 573	3 448	2 510	Arms exports
	376	664	1 798	1 851	2 973	3 945	4 746	3 120	4 072	10 238	Arms export licences
Sweden	1 000	1 206	1 357	1 601	1 573	2 054	1 896	2 008	2 186	1 441	Arms exports
	1 392	1 073	2 382	2 320	1 119	1 554	1 552	1 932	1 713	1 171	Arms export licences
Switzerland	351	393	244	361	429	711	716	647	1 003	747	Arms exports
Turkey	413	238	396	401	465	614	717	667	834	1 390	Arms exports
Ukraine	624	..	..	..	775	853	856	1 007	1 024	1 204	Arms exports
United Kingdom	9 946	10 115	8 525	11 580	21 379	8 540	12 086	9 482	8 828	13 894	Arms export orders ^d
	6 322	4 489	4 409	3 405	1 988	3 851	5 146	3 955	9 934	3 424	Arms export licences
USA	12 146	13 850	13 091	13 107	13 779	12 569	17 455	13 840	14 071	15 819	Arms exports ^e
	15 789	16 512	10 254	19 859	19 000	29 880	31 472	22 854	26 680	62 996	Arms export agreements ^e

^a The figures for Canada exclude exports to the USA.

^b These figures cover only exports of 'war weapons', as defined by German national legislation.

^c Figures for India for 2002–2008 are for the period 1 Apr.–31 Mar. The figure for 2009 covers the period 1 Apr.–31 Dec. 2009.

^d These figures cover exports of defence equipment and additional aerospace equipment and services.

^e Figures for the USA are for the period 1 Oct.–30 Sep. (e.g. the figure for 2012 covers the period 1 Oct. 2011–30 Sep. 2012). Figures for the USA only cover sales under government-to-government Foreign Military Sales (FMS) agreements. Sales by US industry direct to foreign governments under Direct Commercial Sales (DCS) agreements are not included.

Sources: Published information or direct communication with governments or official industry bodies. For a full list of sources and all available financial data on arms exports see <http://www.sipri.org/research/armaments/transfers/measuring/financial_values>.