

V. The financial value of states' arms exports

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Official data on the financial value of states' arms exports in the years 2008–17 is presented in table 5.10. The countries included in the table are those that provide data on the financial value of 'arms exports', 'arms export licences', 'arms export agreements' or 'arms export orders' for at least 6 of the 10 years covered and where the average of the values given in at least one of the data sets exceeds \$10 million. The data is taken from reports by—or direct quotes from—national governments. The stated data coverage reflects the language used by the original source. National practices in this area vary, but the term 'arms exports' generally refers to the financial value of the arms actually delivered; 'arms export licences' generally refers to the financial value of the licences for arms exports issued by the national export licensing authority; and 'arms export agreements' or 'arms export orders' refers to the financial value of contracts or other agreements signed for arms exports. The arms export data for the states in table 5.10 is based on national definitions and methodologies and is thus not necessarily comparable.¹ Conversion to constant (2017) United States dollars is made using the market exchange rates of the reporting year and the US consumer price index (CPI).

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 weapons. By adding together the data in table 5.10 it is therefore possible to obtain a rough estimate of the financial value of the global arms trade. However, there are significant limitations in using the data presented in this way. First, as noted above, the data sets used are based on different definitions and methodologies and are not directly comparable. Second, several states (such as the United Kingdom) do not release data on arms exports but only on arms export licences, while other states (such as China) do not release any data on exports, licences, agreements or orders. Nonetheless, by adding together the data that states have made available on the financial value of their arms

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. In addition, there is no standardized methodology concerning how to collect and report such data, with some states reporting on export licences issued or used and other states using data collected from customs agencies.

Table 5.10. The financial value of states' arms exports according to national government and industry sources, 2008–17
 Figures are in constant (2017) US\$ m. Years are calendar years unless otherwise stated.

State	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Explanation of data
Austria	350	552	555	651	624	735	737	385	722	426	Arms exports
	1 578	3 571	2 632	2 472	2 132	3 317	1 240	1 243	4 496	2 251	Arms export licences
Belgium	2 226	1 749	1 493	1 265	1 329	856	6 199	1 279	1 411	831	Arms export licences
Bosnia and Herzegovina	47	37	15	62	56	54	92	120	117	..	Arms exports
	97	73	42	86	63	156	177	264	344	..	Arms export licences
Bulgaria	250	230	384	350	300	328	554	1 608	1 146	1 368	Arms exports
	792	502	441	338	479	686	1 137	733	1 422	1 558	Arms export licences
Canada ^a	595	542	445	698	1 113	696	746	547	553	793	Arms exports
Croatia	80	53	70	120	98	45	84	76	Arms exports
	..	356	663	232	326	995	662	438	428	508	Arms export licences
Czechia	317	278	323	277	376	402	587	646	778	643	Arms exports
	354	619	671	524	364	458	688	851	389	571	Arms export licences
Denmark	272	400	560	359	305	1 093	202	154	229	230	Arms export licences
Estonia	10	5	1	5	1	1	4	5	5	2	Arms exports
	10	13	3	530	4	4	5	16	10	72	Arms export licences
Finland	155	138	88	147	80	312	306	112	149	118	Arms exports
	562	297	91	279	162	481	311	415	111	220	Arms export licences
France	5 238	5 858	5 515	5 525	4 587	5 421	5 284	6 950	7 886	7 453	Arms exports
	10 980	12 958	7 620	9 872	6 608	9 603	11 289	19 408	15 748	7 788	Arms export licences
Germany	2 380	2 125	3 155	1 947	1 298	1 303	2 504	1 783	2 826	2 976	Arms exports ^b
	13 899	11 172	8 175	16 353	12 176	11 651	8 955	14 702	7 801	7 368	Arms export licences ^c
Hungary	25	27	28	27	37	45	46	53	21	49	Arms exports
	198	202	205	236	370	717	594	1 472	665	655	Arms export licences
India ^d	225	78	92	123	169	332	227	..	Arms exports
Ireland	52	71	36	41	64	87	118	49	71	28	Arms export licences
Israel	7 202	8 455	8 206	6 342	..	6 881	5 860	5 895	6 638	9 200	Arms export agreements

Italy	2963	3500	917	1550	4129	3873	4574	3686	3225	3231	Arms exports
	9441	10623	4840	7973	5706	3002	3642	9041	16533	10675	Arms export licences
Korea, South	1177	1332	1335	2596	2512	3594	3740	3662	2612	3120	Arms export agreements
Lithuania	52	70	22	73	26	22	26	31	46	80	Arms exports
	78	125	34	77	27	31	21	68	104	67	Arms export licences
Montenegro	28	13	9	..	4	4	12	5	1	..	Arms exports
	33	13	15	6	7	8	15	13	9	..	Arms export licences
Netherlands	834	900	1006	1169	1128	353	344	679	639	746	Arms exports
	2098	2087	1359	630	1291	1345	2837	1001	1599	903	Arms export licences
Norway	786	818	682	695	712	591	484	419	436	648	Arms exports
Pakistan ^e	59	16	19	11	14	14	18	62	32	..	Arms exports
	27	..	38	26	30	23	58	97	69	..	Arms export agreements
Poland	614	2208	680	1286	868	1199	1264	1455	1386	1213	Arms export licences
Portugal	118	25	30	38	43	246	215	219	674	182	Arms exports
	127	44	31	47	71	204	350	78	276	66	Arms export licences
Romania	138	156	183	198	114	247	218	185	204	217	Arms exports
	198	262	226	279	246	414	342	252	272	296	Arms export licences
Russia	9506	9712	11241	14929	16228	16520	16152	14996	15320	15000	Arms exports
Serbia	265	160	216	189	200	183	324	400	460	..	Arms exports
	687	516	849	432	479	855	830	838	944	..	Arms export licences
Slovakia	63	70	22	15	34	43	50	65	68	77	Arms exports
	118	170	86	45	100	170	368	325	235	257	Arms export licences
Slovenia	10	8	9	14	5	4	12	13	18	26	Arms exports
	10	19	16	18	12	13	4	36	49	57	Arms export licences
South Africa	813	1053	1279	1378	1379	344	284	222	289	258	Arms export licences
Spain	1558	2138	1679	3683	2679	5460	4400	4267	4577	4877	Arms exports
	4213	5068	3332	4349	10556	6037	5036	12246	6268	23657	Arms export licences
Sweden	2193	2024	2144	2335	1538	1929	1201	915	1310	1314	Arms exports
	1659	1657	2063	1829	1251	1588	676	607	7378	950	Arms export licences

State	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Explanation of data
Switzerland	759	764	691	1 071	797	523	637	480	427	454	Arms exports
Turkey	656	766	713	890	1 281	1 463	1 708	1 717	1 714	1 739	Arms exports
United Kingdom	9 119	12 906	10 125	9 428	14 833	16 120	14 492	12 166	8 130	11 541	Arms export orders ^f
	4 113	5 495	4 224	10 608	3 654	7 309	3 552	9 197	4 462	8 470	Arms export licences
Ukraine	911	914	1 076	1 094	1 093	1 052	..	589	786	..	Arms exports
United States ^g	51 492	24 504	20 453	21 294	18 735	21 389	20 112	21 903	21 561	30 563	Arms exports ^h
	31 081	33 102	23 835	28 157	66 956	24 708	32 491	46 415	28 102	49 371	Arms export agreements ⁱ
	38 926	41 101	38 315	47 810	35 841	21 883	65 266	76 478	50 902	51 578	Arms export licences ^j

.. = not available.

Note: The countries included in this table are those that provide official data on the financial value of 'arms exports', 'arms export licences', 'arms export agreements' or 'arms export orders' for at least 6 of the 10 years covered and where the average of the values given in at least one of the data sets exceeds US\$10 million. The arms export data for the different states in this table is not necessarily comparable and may be based on significantly different definitions and methodologies.

^a Figures for Canada exclude exports to the USA.

^b These figures only include exports of 'war weapons' as defined under German legislation.

^c These figures include arms export licences for international collaborative projects.

^d Figures for India cover the period 1 Apr.–31 Mar. (e.g. the figure for 2016 covers the period 1 Apr. 2016–31 Mar. 2017). The figure for 2009 covers the period 1 Apr. 2009–31 Dec. 2009.

^e Figures for Pakistan cover the period 1 Apr.–31 Mar. (e.g. the figure for 2016 covers the period 1 Apr. 2016–31 Mar. 2017).

^f These figures cover defence equipment and additional aerospace equipment and services.

^g US figures are for the period 1 Oct.–30 Sep. (e.g. the figure for 2017 covers the period 1 Oct. 2016–30 Sep. 2017).

^h These figures include items sold under the government-to-government Foreign Military Sales programme and sales by US industry direct to foreign governments as Direct Commercial Sales.

ⁱ These figures only include items sold under the government-to-government Foreign Military Sales programme.

^j These figures only include sales by US industry direct to foreign governments as Direct Commercial Sales.

Sources: Reports published by—or direct quotes from—national governments. For a full list of sources and all the available financial data on arms exports see the 'Financial value of the global arms trade' web page on the SIPRI website.

exports as well as estimates for those that only provide data on arms export licences, agreements or orders, it is possible to estimate that the total value of the global arms trade in 2017 was at least \$95 billion.² However, the true figure is likely to be higher.

² Where figures for arms exports are available, these are used. In the case of Canada, the figure for arms exports in 2017 has been doubled, as the arms export figures for Canada exclude exports to the USA, which the Canadian authorities claim account for more than half of Canada's exports of military technology. Where figures for arms exports in 2017 are not available but figures for 2016 are available, the 2016 figure has been used. Where figures for arms exports are not available in 2017 or 2016, figures for 'arms export agreements' or 'arms export orders' in 2016 have been used if available. Based on an analysis of past cases in which states have released data on both arms exports and arms export agreements or orders, the full figure for arms export agreements or orders has been used, but with a one-year lag. Where figures for arms export agreements or orders are not available, figures for 'arms export licences' in 2017 have been used. Based on an analysis of reports by states that release data on both arms exports and arms export licences, half the figure for arms export licences, for the current year, has been used. This export licence-based estimate has also been used for Germany, even though it provides figures for arms exports. Germany's arms export figures only include exports of 'war weapons', which is a much more limited category of goods and services than is generally covered by export licences. These figures therefore underestimate the total value of German arms exports.