

IV. The financial value of states' arms exports

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Official data on the financial value of states' arms exports in the years 2009–18 is presented in table 9.10. 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 9.10 is based on national definitions and methodologies and is thus not necessarily comparable. 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.

According to the SIPRI Arms Transfers Database, countries that produce official data on the financial value of their arms exports accounted for over 90 per cent of the total volume of deliveries of major arms. By adding together the data in table 9.10 it is therefore usually possible to attain a rough estimate of the financial value of the global arms trade. There are significant limitations in using this data to make such an estimate. First, as noted above, the data sets used are not directly comparable. Second, several states (e.g. the United Kingdom) do not release data on arms exports but only on arms export licences, while other states (e.g. China) do not release any data on either exports, licences, agreements or orders. Nonetheless, by adding together the data that states have made available on the financial value of their arms exports, as well as estimates for those that only provide data on arms export licences, agreements or orders—for earlier years when the latest data is not available—it is possible to estimate the total value of the global arms trade.

For 2018, part of the data for the United States, which generally accounts for around 25 per cent of the overall figure, had not been published at the time of writing. An estimate for 2018 is thus not possible. The estimate of the financial value of the global arms trade for 2017, the latest year for which US data is available, was at least \$95 billion.¹ However, the true figure is likely to be higher.

¹ For a full description of the methodology used to calculate this figure see the 'Financial value of the global arms trade' page of the SIPRI website.

Table 9.10. The financial value of states' arms exports according to national government and industry sources, 2009–18

Figures are in constant (2018) US\$ m. Conversion to constant US dollars 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	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Explanation of data
Austria	566	569	667	639	753	755	395	739	437	352	Arms exports
	3 658	2 697	2 533	2 184	3 398	1 271	1 274	4 606	2 306	1 788	Arms export licences
Belgium	1 792	1 530	1 296	1 362	877	6 351	1 310	1 445	852	1 374	Arms export licences
Bosnia and Herzegovina	37	15	64	58	56	94	123	120	120	..	Arms exports
	75	43	88	65	160	182	270	353	340	..	Arms export licences
Brazil	116	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Arms exports
Bulgaria	236	393	358	308	336	568	1 647	1 174	1 401	903	Arms exports
	514	451	346	490	703	1 165	751	1 457	1 597	1 237	Arms export licences
Canada ^d	555	456	715	1 141	713	764	560	567	813	1 595	Arms exports
Croatia	..	82	54	72	123	100	46	86	78	116	Arms exports
	364	679	237	334	1 019	678	449	439	521	451	Arms export licences
Czechia	285	331	284	385	412	602	661	797	659	644	Arms exports
	634	688	537	372	469	704	872	398	585	460	Arms export licences
Denmark	..	..	..	..	33	63	90	130	105	97	Arms exports
	410	573	368	312	1 119	207	157	235	236	314	Arms export licences
Estonia	5	<1	5	<1	1	4	5	5	2	<1	Arms exports
	13	3	543	4	4	6	16	10	74	44	Arms export licences
Finland	141	90	151	82	319	314	115	153	121	151	Arms exports
	304	93	286	166	492	319	425	113	225	208	Arms export licences
France	5 159	5 683	5 871	5 309	4 836	5 692	7 287	8 239	7 737	8 222	Arms exports
	13 275	7 806	10 113	6 769	9 838	11 565	19 882	16 133	7 978	10 762	Arms export licences
Germany	2 177	3 232	1 994	1 329	1 335	2 565	1 827	2 895	3 048	910	Arms exports ^b
	11 445	8 375	16 752	12 473	11 936	9 174	15 062	7 992	7 548	5 712	Arms export licences ^c
Greece	369	450	351	478	..	..	..	..	..	157	Arms export licences
Hungary	28	29	28	38	46	47	54	22	51	44	Arms exports
	207	210	242	379	734	609	1 507	681	671	467	Arms export licences
India ^d	80	..	..	94	126	173	340	233	736	1 572	Arms exports

Ireland	73	37	42	66	89	121	51	73	29	39	Arms export licences
Israel	8 076	8 291	7 814	8 170	..	..	..	..	9 425	7 500	Arms exports
	8 661	>8 406	6 497	..	7 050	6 004	6 039	6 801	3 310	2 900	Arms export agreements
Italy	3 585	940	1 588	4 230	3 967	4 686	3 776	3 303	10 935	5 641	Arms exports
	10 883	4 958	8 167	5 846	3 076	3 731	9 262	16 937	3 196	..	Arms export licences
Korea, South	1 365	1 368	2 659	2 573	3 682	3 831	3 752	2 676	82	112	Arms export agreements
Lithuania	72	23	74	27	23	27	32	47	69	53	Arms exports
	128	35	79	28	31	22	69	106	7	..	Arms export licences
Montenegro	13	9	..	4	4	13	5	1	10	..	Arms exports
	13	15	6	7	9	15	13	9	764	675	Arms export licences
The Netherlands	922	1 031	1 198	1 155	362	352	696	655	925	759	Arms exports
	2 138	1 392	646	1 322	1 378	2 906	1 026	1 638	663	584	Arms export licences
Norway	838	699	712	729	605	495	429	446	59	212	Arms exports
Pakistan ^e	16	20	11	14	14	18	64	32	543	575	Arms exports
Poland	..	..	..	..	481	556	495	443	1 243	1 838	Arms exports
	2 262	697	1 318	890	1 228	1 294	1 491	1 420	186	248	Arms export licences
Portugal	26	31	39	44	252	221	224	691	68	203	Arms exports
	46	32	48	73	209	358	80	282	198	195	Arms export licences
Romania	115	142	146	91	191	169	171	189	270	204	Arms exports
	193	175	205	196	319	264	233	252	>15 366	16 000	Arms export licences
Russia	9 949	11 516	15 294	16 624	16 923	16 547	15 362	15 694	282	..	Arms exports
Serbia	164	221	194	205	187	332	410	471	836	..	Arms exports
	528	869	442	490	876	850	859	967	79	110	Arms export licences
Slovakia	72	23	16	35	44	51	67	69	263	223	Arms exports
	174	88	47	103	175	377	333	241	26	14	Arms export licences
Slovenia	8	9	14	6	4	13	13	19	59	77	Arms exports
	20	17	19	13	13	4	36	50	264	357	Arms export licences
South Africa	1 079	1 310	1 412	1 412	352	291	228	296	4 996	4 392	Arms export licences
Spain	2 190	1 720	3 773	2 744	5 593	4 507	4 371	4 688	24 235	13 460	Arms exports
	5 192	3 413	4 455	10 813	6 184	5 159	12 545	6 422	1 346	1 308	Arms export licences
Sweden	2 074	2 196	2 392	1 576	1 976	1 230	937	1 342	974	974	Arms exports
	1 698	2 113	1 874	1 281	1 626	693	622	7 558	465	522	Arms export licences
Switzerland	783	708	1 097	816	536	653	492	437	465	522	Arms exports

State	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Explanation of data
Turkey	784	730	912	1 312	1 498	1 747	1 753	1 756	1 781	2 035	Arms exports
United Kingdom	13 221	10 372	9 658	15 195	16 514	14 846	12 463	8 329	11 823	18 676	Arms export orders ^f
	5 629	4 327	10 868	3 744	7 488	3 639	9 422	4 571	8 677	3 731	Arms export licences
Ukraine	936	1 102	1 121	1 120	1 078	..	604	806	..	..	Arms exports
United States ^g	25 103	20 953	21 814	19 192	21 912	20 603	22 438	22 087	31 310	..	Arms exports ^h
	33 911	24 417	28 845	68 591	25 311	33 285	47 549	28 789	50 577	..	Arms export agreements ⁱ
	42 105	39 251	48 978	36 717	22 417	66 860	78 346	52 145	52 838	63 432	Arms export licences ^j

.. = not available.

Note: The states included in this table are those that provide official data on the financial value of either 'arms exports', 'contracts signed for arms exports', 'arms export orders placed' or 'licences for arms exports' and where the average of the values given in at least 1 of the data sets exceeds \$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 2018 covers the period 1 Apr. 2018–31 Mar. 2019). The figure for 2009 covers the period 1 Apr. 2009–31 Dec. 2009.

^e Figures for Pakistan for 2009–17 cover the period 1 Apr.–31 Mar. (e.g. the figure for 2017 covers the period 1 Apr. 2017–31 Mar. 2018). The figure for 2018 covers the period 1 Aug. 2018–31 July 2019.

^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 available figures for 2018 cover the period 1 Oct. 2017–30 Sep. 2018).

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