

Killer facts: The scale of the global arms trade

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Transfers of heavy conventional weapons

The top 10 exporters of conventional arms (excluding small arms/ light weapons – SALW) 2010-15

USA	US\$55.006 billion
Russia	US\$42.404 billion
China	US\$9.943 billion
Germany	US\$ 9.467 billion
France	US\$ 8.932 billion
UK	US\$ 7.627 billion
Spain	US\$ 5.310 billion
Italy	US\$ 4.360 billion
Ukraine	US\$ 4.156 billion
Israel	US\$ 3.280 billion

The top 10 importers of conventional arms (excluding SALWs) 2010-15

India	US\$23.124 billion
Saudi Arabia	US\$11.002 billion
China	US\$7.726 billion
UAE	US\$7.156 billion
Pakistan	US\$6.899 billion
Australia	US\$6.711 billion
Turkey	US\$5.410 billion
US	US\$5.220 billion
South Korea	US\$5.011 billion
Singapore	US\$4.344 billion

[Source: [SIPRI](#)]

Between 1992 and 2015, the United States reported transfers of heavy conventional weapons to the UN Register of Conventional Arms totalling:

- 5,570 Battle tanks
- 12,208 Armoured combat vehicles
- 4,097 Large-calibre artillery system
- 1,686 Combat aircrafts

- 672 Attack helicopters
- 51 Warships
- 24,841 Missiles and missile launchers

The Russian Federation reported the following totals for the same period:

- 1,294 Battle tanks
- 4,052 Armoured combat vehicles
- 1,637 Large-calibre artillery system
- 664 Combat aircrafts
- 604 Attack helicopters
- 36 Warships
- 26,809 Missiles and missile launchers

[Source: [UN Register of Conventional Arms](#)]

Military expenditure

- Total global military expenditure increased from US\$1.14 trillion in 2001 to \$US1.76 trillion in 2015, a rise of 50%.
- Military expenditure in the Middle East has grown from \$US130 billion to \$US181 billion from 2008-2014
- Military expenditure in the Asia/Oceania increased from \$US311 billion to \$US450 billion from 2008-2015
- In 2015, Saudi Arabia spent the equivalent of 13.7% of its GDP on arms; in the same year South Sudan spent 13.8% of GDP on arms.

Top companies

- Total arms sales from the top 100 arms-producing and military services companies in the world (excluding China) rose by 104% from 2002-2013 and in 2013 stood at US\$401 billion.
- The top 10 arms companies on this list made profits of over US\$26 billion in 2014.

[Source: [SIPRI](#) – figures in constant 2011 prices/exchange rates excluding small arms/light weapons]

Armed violence

- Just under 500 people a day die from firearm homicide worldwide [Source: [UNODC Global study on homicide 2013](#)] - most in non-conflict settings. In addition, an estimated 2,000 more are injured. [Source: [Small Arms Survey](#)]
- At least 2 million people around the world are living with firearm injuries in non-conflict settings; millions more suffer the profound psychological effects that firearms violence brings to individuals, families and the wider community. [Source: [Small Arms Survey](#)]
- An estimated three-quarters of all small arms in the world are privately owned – approximately 650 million out of 875 million as of 2007, though the numbers are likely to have grown since then. [Source: [Small Arms Survey](#)]
- 41% of all homicides are committed with firearms, rising to 66% in the Americas. [Source: [UNODC Global report on homicide](#)]

Small arms

- The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms registered the export of 1,808,904 firearms in 2013 - a considerable underestimate since only 25 Member States reported data on firearms. A more accurate estimate of the annual international trade in firearms is at least 4.6 million firearms. [Source: [Small Arms Survey](#)]
- The number of firearms in civilian hands in the USA is approximately one per head of population.
- From 2010-13 states reporting to the UNODC registered seizures of over 700,000 illicit firearms and 100 million rounds of ammunition. [Source: [UNODC](#)]
- Eight million new small arms and up to 15 billion rounds of ammunition are estimated to be manufactured worldwide each year;
- The authorised international trade in small arms and ammunition is estimated to be more than US\$7.1 billion annually. [Source: [Gunpolicy.org](#)]

Historical Small Arms Estimates from Small Arms Survey:

- 35–100 million AK-pattern weapons were produced since the 1950s until 2015
- 8–12 million AR-15 rifles and derivatives were produced from the 1960s onwards (Bevan, 2013).
- Approximately 17 million Lee Enfield-series rifles and at least 7 million G3-pattern rifles have been produced to date (Bevan, 2014).

Cluster munitions - from 2015 Cluster Munitions Monitor

- At least 23 governments have used cluster munitions in conflicts around the world since the end of World War II. As of mid-2015, there were 25 countries still contaminated by cluster munition remnants.
- On the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2008, a total of 91 states stockpiled millions of cluster munitions containing more than 1 billion submunitions. Since then, 27 States Parties have destroyed 1.3 million cluster munitions and 160 million submunitions - 90% of submunitions declared as stockpiled by States Parties.

[Source: [Cluster Munitions Monitor 2015](#)]