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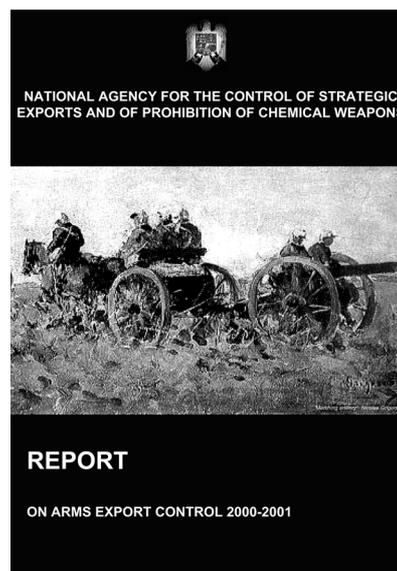
## INTERNATIONAL SMALL ARMS TRANSFERS

In portraying the small arms trade, this chapter introduces two novelties. The first is the **Small Arms Trade Transparency Barometer**, which assesses the transparency of the main small arms exporters on a 20-point scale. The second is an extensive listing of the most important importers and exporters, their main partners, and principal types of small arms traded. The chapter also examines, for the first time, to what extent some of the top and medium small arms producers are dependent on exports. Taking up the theme of this year's edition of the *Small Arms Survey*, the chapter finally considers transfers to states where serious violations of human rights take place.

The main findings are:

- The Small Arms Trade Transparency Barometer reveals that the most transparent states among the larger exporters of small arms and light weapons are France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States (13–15.5 points out of a possible 20). As the scores imply, even these states fall well short of full transparency. The average for all larger exporters is less than half of the total 20 points, which shows that much still needs to be done to improve transparency generally. Bulgaria, China, Israel, Mexico, and South Africa are at the bottom end of the list, with 0–6 points on the barometer. Encouragingly, only one state, Bulgaria, obtained a zero score.
- Transparency does not always lead to consistency. This chapter attempts to systematically compare data from customs and from national arms export reports, revealing that the two sources usually diverge significantly. The comparison suggests an urgent need for international standardization of national arms export reports.
- The value of exports of small arms for 2001—the latest year for which data is available—documented in international customs data is about USD 2.4 billion. This total is slightly more than for 2000, when documented exports amounted to USD 2.1 billion, at least partly because, in a departure from previous practice, small arms parts are included in the calculations for 2001. There is therefore no reason to modify the estimated total value of the authorized trade in small arms, namely **USD 4 billion per year**.
- Based on the latest available data and estimates, the largest exporters by value are the United States, Italy, Belgium, Germany, the Russian Federation, Brazil, and China. Countries that are known to be medium producers of small arms, but about whose exports we know virtually nothing, include Iran, Pakistan, and Singapore.
- The largest known importers are the United States, Saudi Arabia, Cyprus, Japan, South Korea, Germany, and Canada. Even though the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has adopted a moratorium on production, imports, and exports of small arms, states in the region import significant amounts of guns from Western and other sources. The data on authorized imports to ECOWAS states presented in this chapter is not consistent with publicly available information on exemptions granted from the moratorium. It is therefore unclear what, if any, effects the moratorium has had on authorized transfers in the region.

Among the larger exporters, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States are the most transparent.



Romania's first report on arms exports.

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**From Table 4.1 Top exporters of small arms (authorized transfers), 2001  
(most recent complete yearly data available)**

Country	USD value (2001)	Main known recipients (listed in order of importance)
Belgium	234.0m* EUR 82.0m (USD 73.5m)**	Saudi Arabia, United States, France, Portugal, United Kingdom*
Brazil	At least 99.1m*	United States, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, Algeria*
China	9.0m* SAS estimate: USD 100m	United States, Bangladesh, Iran, Germany, Canada*
Germany	At least 156.7m*	United States, Switzerland, France, Spain, Austria*
Italy	At least 298.7m*	United States, Belgium, France, Germany, United Kingdom*
Russian Federation	At least 42.2m* Estimate based on official information: no more than 130m	United States, Cyprus, Algeria, Germany, Lebanon* Vietnam, Malaysia, Bhutan, Indonesia, Afghanistan (Northern Alliance), Ethiopia
United States	741.4m*	Japan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Italy*

\* Customs data (UN Comtrade)  
\*\* Export report  
Source: NISAT (2003)

**From Table 4.3 Top importers of small arms (authorized transfers) 2001**

Country	USD value	Main suppliers (top five)	Main types of small arms and light weapons traded
Canada	99.9m	United States, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Germany	Ammunition, parts sporting/hunting weapons, hunting/sporting rifles, pistols/revolvers
Cyprus	159.8m	Unspecified country, Russian Federation, Italy, Spain, Japan	Military weapons, shotguns, ammunition, hunting/sporting rifles
Germany	104.2m	United States, Italy, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Belgium	Ammunition, parts for sporting/hunting weapons, shotguns, pistols/revolvers, hunting/sporting rifles
Japan	151.0m	United States, Germany, Italy, Spain, Australia	Military weapons, ammunition, shotguns, pistols/revolvers
Saudi Arabia	261.3m	Belgium, United States, Spain, Bulgaria, France	Military weapons, ammunition, parts for pistols/revolvers, shotguns
South Korea	105.7m	United States, Italy, Germany, Russian Federation, Spain	Military weapons, ammunition, pistols/revolvers, shotguns
United States	602.5m	Italy, Brazil, Japan, Austria, Germany	Shotguns, pistols/revolvers, hunting/sporting rifles, ammunition, parts for sporting/hunting weapons

Source: NISAT (2003), based on UN Comtrade data

- Small arms manufacturers of large producer countries, such as Brazil, Germany, and (to a lesser extent) the Russian Federation, are dependent on exports for their survival. US manufacturers, in contrast, produce mainly for domestic consumption. European producers of civilian small arms are heavily dependent on the US market and would probably have difficulty surviving without access to it. The same is true for Brazil: in 2000 and 2001, Brazilian exports to the United States accounted for about 55–60 per cent of the country's total exports of small arms and light weapons.
- The ability of states classified as having serious human rights problems to import arms is quite uneven. At one extreme, the Russian Federation—although involved in a war marred by human rights violations in Chechnya—has unlimited access to small arms of all types and from almost all states; at the other end, no transfer of small arms was recorded to Iraq while it was embargoed during Saddam Hussein's rule. In general, states where serious human rights abuses are common do not seem to meet major impediments when attempting to procure small arms.
- Human rights advocacy and research organizations are increasingly attempting to trace individual weapons and pieces of ammunition used in human rights violations back to the producers. In the coming years, this research is likely to become increasingly refined.

States with serious human rights abuses do not generally meet major impediments when attempting to procure small arms.

**Table 4.5 Small Arms Trade Transparency Barometer, covering known or estimated top exporters, based on the latest export report made publicly available and on 2001 international customs data (UN Comtrade)<sup>31</sup>**

Country and source(s) available (E = export report, C = customs data)	Total points (20 points max) Updated scores are followed by previous Barometer scores in parentheses <sup>a</sup>	Access <sup>b</sup> (2 points max)	Clarity <sup>c</sup> (4 points max)	Comprehensiveness <sup>d</sup> (4 points max)	Information on deliveries (disaggregated by weapons type, and by country and weapons type) Value of deliveries (V) Quantity of weapons (Q) (4 points max)	Information on licences granted (disaggregated by weapons type, and by country and weapons type) Value of licences (V) Quantity of weapons (Q) (4 points max)	Information on licences refused (disaggregated by weapons type, and by country and weapons type) Value of licences (V) Quantity of weapons (Q) (2 points max)
Germany	E C 15.5 (13.5)	2	3	4	2	4	0.5
United States	E C 14	2	3	3	2	4	0
UK	E C 13.5 (13)	2	3.5	4	4	0	0
France	E C 13	2	3.5	3.5	4	0	0
Italy	E C 12	2	3	3	2	2	0
Czech Rep.	E C 11.5	2	2.5	4	3	0	0
Canada	E C 10.5	2	3	3.5	2	0	0
Norway	E C 10.5 (9)	2	3	3.5	2	0	0
Spain	E C 10.5	2	3	3.5	2	0	0
Finland	E C 10	2	3	3	2	0	0
Belgium	E C 9.5	2	2.5	3	2	0	0
Sweden	E C 9.5 (8.5)	2	2	3.5	2	0	0
Switzerland	E C 9 (8.5)	2	2.5	2	2	0	0.5
Australia	E C 8.5	2	2	2.5	2	0	0
Portugal	E C 7.5	2	2	1.5	2	0	0
Turkey	C 7.5	1.5	2	2	2	0	0
Romania	E 7	2	1.5	2.5	1	0	0
Austria	C 6.5	1.5	2	1	2	0	0
Brazil	C 6.5	1.5	2	1	2	0	0
Japan	C 6.5	1.5	2	1	2	0	0
Russian Federation	C 6.5	1.5	2	1	2	0	0
South Korea	C 6.5	1.5	2	2	1	0	0
China	C 6	1.5	2	0.5	2	0	0
Mexico	C 6	1.5	2	0.5	2	0	0
Israel	C 5.5	1.5	2	0	2	0	0
South Africa	E 5 (5.5)	2	1	0	2	0	0
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sources: UN Comtrade, download date 31 Oct 2003, Australia (2003), Belgium (2003), Canada (2002), Czech Republic (2003), Finland (2002), France (2003), Germany (2002, 2003), Italy (2003), Norway (2003, 2004), Portugal (2002), Romania (2002, 2003), South Africa (2002), Spain (2003, 2004), Sweden (2003), Switzerland (2003, 2004), UK (2003, 2004), United States Department of State (2003)

Notes: Includes the following parameters:

(a) Total points: Updates reflect information contained in arms export reports made available since December 2003.

(b) Access: Information is: available on Internet (half point); available in a UN language (1 point); free of charge (half point).

(c) Clarity: The reporting includes methodology (1 point); small arms and light weapons distinguishable from other types of weapons (1 point); SALW ammunition distinguishable from other types of ammunition (1 point); reporting includes information on end-user categories (military; police; other security forces; civilians directly; civilian retailers) (1 point).

(d) Comprehensiveness: The reporting covers: government as well as industry-negotiated transactions (1 point); civilian as well as military SALW (1 point); information on SALW parts (1 point); summaries of export laws and regulations as well as international commitments (1 point).