



Metal handgun mouldings in a production line at the Zastava Arms factory, in Kragujevac, Serbia, June 2010. © Oliver Bunic/Bloomberg/Getty Images

Trade Update

AUTHORIZED SMALL ARMS TRANSFERS

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents information on states with the largest aggregate values of authorized small arms exports and imports in 2010, as captured by the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistic Database (UN Comtrade), noting changes since the previous year's report covering 2009 activities. It also includes the latest edition of the Small Arms Trade Transparency Barometer—normally covering transfers conducted in 2011 and not limited to UN Comtrade data—designed to assess countries' transparency in reporting on their small arms exports.

The main findings of the chapter include:

- In 2010 the top exporters of small arms and light weapons (those with annual exports of at least USD 100 million), according to available customs data, were (in descending order) the United States, Germany, Italy, Brazil, Switzerland, Israel, Austria, the Russian Federation, South Korea, Sweden, Belgium, and Spain.
- In 2010 the top importers of small arms and light weapons (those with annual imports of at least USD 100 million), according to available customs data, were (in descending order) the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Australia, South Korea, France, and Thailand.
- The 2013 edition of the Barometer identifies Switzerland, Romania, and Serbia as the most transparent of the major exporters, and Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates as the least transparent.

AUTHORIZED SMALL ARMS TRANSFERS: ANNUAL UPDATE

Since 2001, the Small Arms Survey has relied on state reporting to UN Comtrade to identify the largest exporting and importing states based on annual aggregate values of small arms transferred.¹ This year, the authorized transfers update presents data provided by states for transfer activities in 2010.²

In 2010, top exporters (exporting at least USD 100 million of small arms and light weapons annually) were, in descending order of export value, the United States, Germany, Italy, Brazil, Switzerland, Israel, Austria, the Russian Federation, South Korea, Sweden, Belgium, and Spain (see Table 8.1).³ Compared to the previous year, the number of top exporting countries remained steady at 12, and major exporting countries declined slightly from 38 in 2009 to 35 in 2010.

Among the top exporting countries, the United States is consistently the largest, and it increased its exports from USD 706 million in 2009 to USD 821 million in 2010. Two countries joined the list of top exporters in 2010: Israel (whose exports climbed from USD 98 million in 2009 to USD 183 million in 2010) and Sweden (whose exports jumped from USD 38 million to USD 132 million). For the first time since 2001, Denmark was among the list of major exporters—

Table 8.1 Exporters of small arms based on UN Comtrade, 2010

Category		Value (USD)	Countries (listed in descending order of value exported)
Top exporters	Tier 1	≥500 million	1: United States
	Tier 2	100-499 million	11: Germany, Italy, Brazil, Switzerland, Israel, Austria, Russian Federation, South Korea, Sweden, Belgium, Spain
Major exporters	Tier 3	50-99 million	9: Turkey, Czech Republic, China, Japan, Canada, United Kingdom, Finland, Croatia, Taiwan
	Tier 4	10-49 million	14: Norway, France, Portugal, Mexico, Serbia, Singapore, Philippines, Argentina, India, Hungary, Cyprus, Australia, Romania, Denmark

Table 8.2 Importers of small arms based on UN Comtrade, 2010

Category		Value (USD)	Countries (listed in descending order of value imported)
Top importers	Tier 1	≥500 million	1: United States
	Tier 2	100-499 million	7: United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Australia, South Korea, France, Thailand
Major importers	Tier 3	50-99 million	15: Colombia, Netherlands, Spain, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Italy, Belgium, Russian Federation, Israel, Mexico, Estonia, Denmark, Switzerland, Indonesia
	Tier 4	10-49 million	33: Lebanon, Austria, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Portugal, Poland, Pakistan, Qatar, Peru, Sweden, Turkey, Philippines, Iraq, Japan, Venezuela, United Arab Emirates, Brazil, Kuwait, Finland, Czech Republic, Argentina, Jordan, New Zealand, Ukraine, Morocco, South Africa, Botswana, Greece, Cyprus, Chile, Ireland, Bulgaria, Slovakia

countries that export at least USD 10 million of small arms and light weapons annually—while Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Netherlands, and Poland were dropped from the list.

The top importers (importing at least USD 100 million of small arms and light weapons annually) in 2010 were, in descending order of import value, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Australia, South Korea, France, and Thailand (see Table 8.2). Overall, the number of top importers increased slightly, from seven countries in 2009 to eight in 2010, while major importers increased from 47 to 48 over the same period. Two countries moved up from the major importers to the top importers category: Thailand (whose imports rose from USD 83 million in 2009 to USD 104 million in 2010) and South Korea (whose imports increased more than sevenfold, from USD 17 million to USD 130 million).

The aggregate value of exports by top and major exporters in 2010 decreased slightly, from USD 4.5 billion in 2009 to USD 4.4 billion. This is the first time that UN Comtrade has recorded a drop in small arms transfers since 2005. As reflected in the Transparency Barometer that follows, however, UN Comtrade covers only a portion of the authorized small arms trade.

THE 2013 TRANSPARENCY BAROMETER

This section presents the 2013 edition of the Small Arms Trade Transparency Barometer, designed to assess countries' transparency in reporting on their small arms and light weapons exports. The Barometer examines countries that claim—or that are believed—to have exported at least USD 10 million worth of small arms and light weapons, including their parts, accessories, and ammunition, during at least one calendar year between 2001 and 2011. The three main sources used to score state transparency in the Barometer are: (1) national arms export reports;⁴ (2) the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UN Register); and (3) UN Comtrade (see Table 8.3 overleaf). The Barometer does not assess the veracity of the data states provide.

This year, delays in publishing national submissions to the UN Register for 2011 activities have affected the scoring of several states (see notes to Table 8.3). Once all submissions to the UN Register are published, a revised and authoritative 2013 Transparency Barometer will be posted online.⁵

The current edition of the Transparency Barometer assesses national transparency in small arms export activities in 2011, normally based on state reporting in 2012.⁶ It reviews 55 countries' reporting practices: the 52 countries covered in the previous year's Barometer plus Colombia, Egypt, and Malawi, which are scored for the first time this year.

This year's Barometer identifies Switzerland, Romania, and Serbia as the three most transparent countries. Switzerland has led the ranking since the 2009 Barometer, while Serbia entered the top three for the first time.⁷ Croatia broke into the top ten, advancing from 15th to 7th place, and Denmark moved down from 7th to 11th place. The least transparent countries are Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, all scoring zero points out of a possible 25.00 points. Compared to the last edition, the average score decreased by 5 per cent (0.57 points—from 11.22 to 10.65) while the average score of the top ten countries remained constant at 18.00 points.

Improvements in transparency were observed for 14 countries. Croatia experienced the greatest point increase, rising by 2.00 points due to the introduction of detailed information on licences refused in its national report. Poland increased its score by 1.50 points by providing information on brokering licences, both granted and refused, to the EU Annual Report on military exports. Finally, Serbia increased its score by 1.00 point because its national report featured more detailed information on entities registered for exports.

Country-specific declines were experienced by Montenegro (which dropped by 6.00 points), Bosnia and Herzegovina (4.75 points), Saudi Arabia (2.75 points), and Taiwan (1.75 points). Montenegro submitted data to the UN Register in 2012 for 2011 activities, its first time since 2007, but lost points because its contribution has not yet been published. Bosnia and Herzegovina lost points because it did not issue its national arms export report for two successive years; nor did it report to UN Comtrade.⁸ Saudi Arabia did not report to any of the reporting instruments considered in this analysis; hence its score decreased to zero points. Finally, Taiwan reported to UN Comtrade, but on fewer categories than previously.⁹

Overall, the reporting practices reviewed show a high level of transparency for timeliness, with the vast majority of countries (91 per cent) providing information to at least one reporting tool. Transparency was poorer for the parameters of access and consistency, clarity, comprehensiveness, and deliveries—for which countries earned an average of 40–60 per cent of available points. Countries scored the lowest on information on licences granted and refused, with more than half scoring zero points in both parameters. The only tool for reporting on these parameters is a national arms export report. ■

Table 8.3 Small Arms Trade Transparency Barometer 2013, covering major exporters*

	Total (25.00 max)	Export report**/ EU Annual Report***	UN Comtrade	UN Register	Timeliness (1.50 max)	Access and consistency (2.00 max)	Clarity (5.00 max)	Comprehensiveness (6.50 max)	Deliveries (4.00 max)	Licences granted (4.00 max)	Licences refused (2.00 max)
Switzerland	20.75	X	X	X(10) ^a	1.50	1.50	4.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	1.75
Romania	19.75	X/EU Report	-	X	1.50	2.00	2.75	4.50	3.50	3.50	2.00
Serbia ¹	19.75	X(10)	X	X(10)	1.50	1.50	3.75	5.00	3.50	2.50	2.00
Netherlands	19.25	X/EU Report	X	X	1.50	2.00	4.50	4.75	2.50	3.00	1.00
United Kingdom	19.25	X/EU Report	X	X	1.50	2.00	4.00	4.75	3.00	2.50	1.50
Germany ²	18.25	X/EU Report	X	X	1.50	1.50	3.75	3.25	3.00	3.50	1.75
Croatia	16.75	X	X	X	1.50	1.00	3.25	3.50	3.00	3.00	1.50
Belgium	16.00	X/EU Report	X	X ^a	1.50	2.00	3.00	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.00
Italy	16.00	X/EU Report	X	-	1.50	1.50	3.25	5.00	2.50	2.00	0.25
Spain	16.00	X/EU Report	X	-	1.50	2.00	2.50	3.50	3.50	1.50	1.50
Denmark	15.50	X/EU Report	X	X	1.50	1.50	4.25	3.25	2.50	1.50	1.00
Sweden	15.50	X/EU Report	X	X	1.50	2.00	4.00	4.00	2.50	1.50	0.00
Norway	15.00	X	X	X	1.50	1.50	3.75	3.00	3.00	2.00	0.25
United States ³	15.00	X	X	X(10) ^a	1.50	1.50	2.75	4.25	3.00	2.00	0.00
Czech Republic	14.75	X/EU Report	X	X	1.50	1.50	2.50	3.50	3.00	2.00	0.75
Austria ⁴	14.25	X(10)/EU Report	X	X	1.50	1.50	2.25	3.75	3.00	2.00	0.25
Finland	14.25	X/EU Report	X	X	1.50	1.50	3.25	3.25	2.50	2.00	0.25
France	14.25	X/EU Report	X	X	1.50	1.50	4.00	3.00	2.50	1.50	0.25
Poland	14.25	X(10)/EU Report	X	X	1.50	1.00	2.25	3.75	3.00	1.50	1.25
Slovakia ⁵	14.25	X/EU Report	X	X	1.50	1.50	2.50	3.75	2.50	2.00	0.50
Hungary	12.25	X/EU Report	X	X(10) ^a	1.50	1.50	2.75	2.50	2.50	1.50	0.00
Bulgaria	12.00	X/EU Report	-	X	1.50	1.50	2.25	2.00	3.00	1.50	0.25
Canada	11.75	X(07-09)	X	X(10)	1.50	0.50	2.75	4.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
Greece	11.50	EU Report	X	X	1.50	0.50	2.00	3.25	3.00	1.00	0.25
Portugal	11.00	EU Report	X	X(10) ^a	1.50	1.00	1.75	2.25	3.00	1.50	0.00
Australia	10.25	-	X	X	1.50	1.00	1.50	3.25	3.00	0.00	0.00
Luxembourg	10.25	EU Report	X	-	1.50	0.50	1.75	2.50	2.50	1.50	0.00
Lithuania	10.00	EU Report	X	X(10) ^a	1.50	1.00	1.75	1.75	2.50	1.50	0.00

Note: The online version of the Transparency Barometer incorporates updates and corrections, and fills in reporting gaps, all of which affect states' scores as well as their rankings for current and previous years. For these reasons, the online editions—rather than the printed version—should be considered definitive. See Small Arms Survey (n.d.).

Notes

* Major exporters are countries that export—or are believed to export—at least USD 10 million worth of small arms, light weapons, their parts, accessories, and ammunition in a given year. The 2013 Barometer includes all countries that qualified as a major exporter at least once during the 2001–11 calendar years.

** X indicates that a report was issued. X(years) indicates that a report was not issued by the cut-off date; in that case, the country is evaluated on the basis of its most recent submission, covering activities in the period reported in brackets.

*** The Barometer assesses information provided in the EU's *Fourteenth Annual Report* (CoEU, 2012), reflecting military exports by EU member states in 2011.

Δ The country submitted data to the UN Register for its 2011 activities but its contribution was not available for analysis by the cut-off date due to delays in the release of a further addendum to the reports of the UN Secretary-General on the UN Register (UNGA, 2012a; 2012b). As a result, it is evaluated on the basis of its most recent submission, covering activities in 2010, when available.

Scoring system

The scoring system for the 2013 Barometer remains the same as in 2012. The Barometer's seven categories assess: timeliness, access and consistency in reporting, clarity, comprehensiveness, and the level of detail provided on actual deliveries, licences granted, and licences refused. For more detailed information on the scoring guidelines, see Small Arms Survey (n.d.).

Explanatory notes

Note A: The Barometer is based on each country's most recent arms export report, made publicly available between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2012.

Note B: The Barometer takes into account national reporting to the UN Register from 1 January 2011 to 21 January 2013 as well as information states have submitted to UN Comtrade for their 2011 exports up to 8 January 2013.

Note C: The fact that the Barometer is based on three sources—national arms export reports, reporting to the UN Register, and UN customs data—works to the advantage of states that publish data in all three outlets. Information provided to each of the three sources is reflected in the scoring. The same information is not credited twice, however.

Country-specific notes

1. Serbia published a national arms export report in 2012 that was limited to data from 2010.
2. Germany submitted data to the UN Register for its 2011 activities but its full contribution on small arms and light weapons transfers was not available by the cut-off date.
3. The US report is divided into several documents. For the purposes of the Barometer, the US annual report refers to the State Department report pursuant to Section 655 on direct commercial sales, and the report on foreign military sales, which is prepared by the US Department of Defense.
4. Austria published a national arms export report in 2012 that was limited to data from 2010.
5. Slovakia submitted data to the UN Register for its 2011 activities but its contribution on small arms and light weapons transfers was not available by the cut-off date.

Source: Small Arms Survey (2013)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

NISAT	Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfers
UN Comtrade	United Nations Commodity Trade Statistic Database
UN Register	United Nations Register of Conventional Arms

ENDNOTES

- 1 UN Comtrade does not provide full coverage of the small arms and light weapons trade. See Dreyfus, Marsh, and Shroeder (2009, pp. 8–11, 28–31) for a discussion of the strengths and limitations of UN Comtrade data and Lazarevic (2010, pp. 16–24) for an overview of the reporting tools on small arms and light weapons transfers.
- 2 The Small Arms Survey relies on the analysis of UN Comtrade data provided by the Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfers (NISAT) project at the Peace Research Institute, Oslo. NISAT considers countries' self-reported exports as well as 'mirror data'—reported imports by destination countries. See Marsh (2005). For this chapter, NISAT downloaded data from the UN Comtrade on 8 January 2013, giving exporting and importing states at least 24 months to report on 2010 transfers.
- 3 See the online annexes to this chapter for a complete list of the major importers and exporters, along with the values transferred, the main partners, and categories of weapons traded.

- 4 This category includes information that European Union (EU) states have contributed to the EU Annual Report on military exports (CoEU, 2012).
- 5 See Small Arms Survey (n.d).
- 6 There are important exceptions to these yearly timeframes. See Lazarevic (2010) for full details on the scoring methodology and a description of the changes to the Transparency Barometer scoring system since its introduction in 2004.
- 7 For comparisons with previous rankings and scores, please consult the online versions of the Transparency Barometer (Small Arms Survey, n.d.).
- 8 Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro did provide information on their 2010 activities to the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, which published data in its *Regional Report on Arm Exports* in 2012 (SEESAC, n.d.); however, these reports are not included among the sources monitored for the purposes of the Transparency Barometer.
- 9 Taiwan's score was generated using the data it submits to UN Comtrade, as published by the International Trade Centre in its TradeMap database. Taiwan did not report on the UN Comtrade category 930200, which includes pistols and revolvers.

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ANNEXES

Online annexes at <<http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/publication/by-type/yearbook/small-arms-survey-2013.html>>

Annexe 8.1. Annual authorized small arms and light weapons exports for major exporters (yearly exports of at least USD 10 million), 2010

Annexe 8.2. Annual authorized small arms and light weapons imports for major importers (yearly imports of at least USD 10 million), 2010

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Principal authors

Irene Pavesi and Christelle Rigual

Contributors

Thomas Jackson