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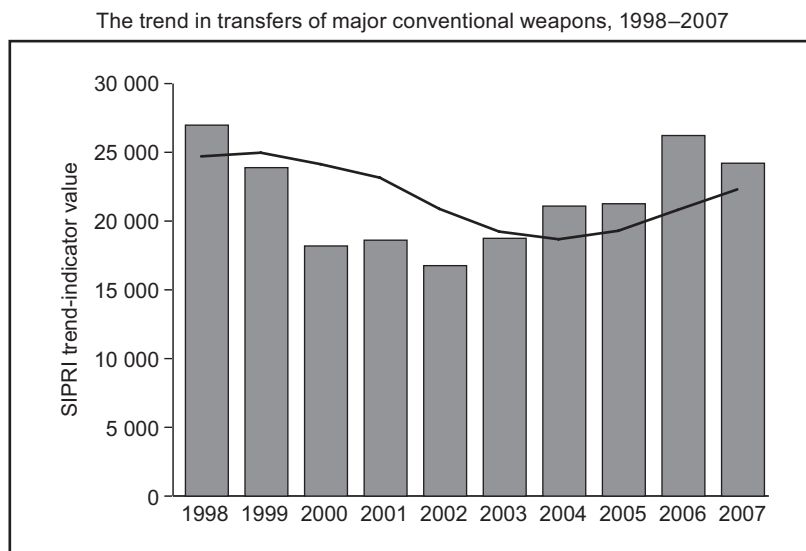
## Background paper on SIPRI Arms Transfers data

The SIPRI Arms Transfers Database contains information on all international transfers (sales, gifts and transfers of technology) of major conventional weapons to states, international organizations and armed non-state groups, since 1950. The database does not cover international transfers of small arms. The SIPRI Arms Transfers Database can be used to chart changes in the trends in the volume of major conventional weapons transferred for any period between 1950 and 2007, and can also be used to tackle questions, such as:

- Who are the main suppliers and recipients of major conventional weapons?
- How have the relationships between different suppliers and recipients changed over time?
- Where do countries in conflict get their weapons from?
- How do states implement their export control regulations?
- Where are destabilizing build-ups of weapons occurring today?

You can access the SIPRI Arms Transfers Database at <http://armstrade.sipri.org>—updated data will be added on 31 March 2008. For advance access to the new data, contact Paul Holtom (email: [holtom@sipri.org](mailto:holtom@sipri.org); tel: + 46 8 655 97 72)

Due to the fact that year-on-year deliveries can fluctuate significantly, a five-year moving average is employed to provide a more stable measure for trends in international transfers of major conventional weapons, with each year plotted on the graph below representing an average for the preceding 5-year period.



The SIPRI trend-indicator value gives an indicator for the volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons. The method used to calculate the SIPRI trend-indicator value is described on the SIPRI Arms Transfers Project website at <http://www.sipri.org/contents/armstrad/atmethods.html>.

## **Top 5 suppliers of major conventional weapons, 1998–2007**

The top five suppliers of major conventional weapons for the period 2003–2007 were the USA, Russia, Germany, France and the UK. The top 5 suppliers accounted for 80% of exports of major conventional weapons for the period 2003–2007, and 82% for the period 1998–2002. The Netherlands replaces the UK in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the ranking for the year 2007 due to deliveries of an increased volume of second-hand surplus equipment. With the announcement in September 2007 that the UK is to supply 72 Typhoon combat aircraft to Saudi Arabia in the coming years, one expects the UK to remain amongst the top five suppliers. The UK did not deliver any newly-produced combat aircraft in 2007 in contrast to the other major suppliers:

- The USA supplied an estimated 80 F-15 and F-16 combat aircraft to Chile, Israel, Poland, South Korea and the UAE.
- Russia supplied an estimated 51 MiG-29SMT, Su-27SK and Su-30MK combat aircraft to Algeria, China, India, Malaysia and Venezuela.
- France supplied an estimated 27 Mirage-2000 combat aircraft to Greece and the UAE. These deliveries complete the last orders for newly produced French combat aircraft. For the first time since 1960 France has no outstanding export orders for newly-produced combat aircraft.
- Germany supplied 5 Typhoon combat aircraft to Austria.

**Table 1.** Top 5 suppliers and their three largest recipients, 2003–2007

Supplier	Global share of international arms transfers	Total number of recipients	Recipient	Recipient	Recipient
USA	31%	71	South Korea 12%	Israel 12%	UAE 9%
Russia	26%	45	China 45%	India 22%	Venezuela 5%
Germany	10%	49	Turkey 15%	Greece 14%	South Africa 12%
France	9%	43	UAE 41%	Greece 12%	Saudi Arabia 9%
UK	4%	38	USA 17%	Romania 9%	Chile 9%

All percentages rounded; recipient shares for each supplier are given in the right hand columns

**Table 2.** Top 5 suppliers and their three largest recipients, 1998–2002

Supplier	Global share of international arms transfers	Total number of recipients	Recipient	Recipient	Recipient
USA	42%	83	Taiwan 11%	Japan 9%	Turkey 9%
Russia	20%	51	China 41%	India 18%	Iran 6%
France	8%	60	Taiwan 22%	UAE 12%	Pakistan 8%
Germany	7%	60	Turkey 15%	Israel 12%	Greece 11%
UK	5%	45	Canada 17%	USA 13%	Saudi Arabia 13%

All percentages rounded; recipient shares for each supplier are given in the right hand columns

### **Top 5 recipients of major conventional weapons, 1998–2007**

The top 5 recipients of major conventional weapons have changed slightly between the periods 2003–2007 and 1998–2002. There has been greater fluctuation in the composition of the top 5 recipients of major conventional weapons than in the composition of the top 5 suppliers since 1950. The top 5 recipients accounted for 36% of imports of major conventional weapons for the period 2003–2007, and 32% of the period 1998–2002. The volume of deliveries to Taiwan has dropped significantly since the late 1990s, but its procurement plans could see it become one of the top 5 recipients again in the coming years.

**Table 3.** Top 5 recipients and their three largest suppliers, 2003–2007

Recipient	Global share of international arms transfers	Total number of suppliers	Supplier	Supplier	Supplier
China	12%	6	Russia 94%	Ukraine 2%	France 2%
India	8%	11	Russia 70%	Israel 6%	Uzbekistan 5%
UAE	7%	8	France 52%	USA 43%	Ukraine 2%
Greece	6%	12	USA 40%	France 18%	Germany 17%
South Korea	5%	6	USA 77%	France 9%	Germany 5%

All percentages rounded; supplier shares for each recipient are given in the right hand columns

**Table 4.** Top 5 recipients and their three largest suppliers, 1998–2002

Recipient	Global share of international arms transfers	Total number of suppliers	Supplier	Supplier	Supplier
China	9%	10	Russia 90%	France 3%	Ukraine 2%
Taiwan	7%	4	USA 72%	France 27%	Germany <1%
Turkey	6%	10	USA 62%	Germany 16%	France 13%
India	5%	14	Russia 75%	Germany 5%	Netherlands 4%
South Korea	5%	10	USA 70%	Germany 10%	France 10%

All percentages rounded; supplier shares for each recipient are given in the right hand columns

## ***A regional breakdown of major conventional weapon deliveries, 2003–2007***

As noted above, the composition of the 5 major recipients is subject to frequent change. However, there are few changes in the shares of the volume of major conventional weapons received by different regions of the world for the past decade. Asia accounted for a significant volume of transfers of major conventional weapons in the periods 1998–2002 and 2003–2007, followed by Europe and the Middle East.

### **Africa**

African states received 6% of the volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons for the period 2003–2007 and 5% for 1998–2002. Four North African states (Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) accounted for 32% of African arms imports in 2003–2007 and 44% in 1998–2002. In 2003–2007, South Africa accounted for 42% of all Sub-Saharan African arms imports. The volume of arms imports by Sub-Saharan African countries excluding South Africa was only 2% of the world total during 2003–2007. The major conventional weapons supplied can still have a significant impact on conflict in sub-Saharan Africa.

- In the period 2003–2007, Sudan received 87% of its major weapons from Russia and 8% from China. Significant deliveries during this period by Russia included 20 combat helicopters (Mi-24s or Mi-17s) and 12 MiG-29 combat aircraft. China supplied at least 9 light combat aircraft (K-8s and A-5Cs). Some of these aircraft have been deployed in Darfur in contravention of UN Security Council resolution 1591 (2005).
- Chad received six armed helicopters from unidentified sources, an estimated 25 armoured vehicles from Belgium and one light aircraft from Switzerland in 2006 and 2007. These weapons were used in combat against rebel forces.

### **Americas**

States in the Americas received 9% of the volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons in the period 2003–2007 and 8% for 1998–2002. States in South America accounted for 5% of the volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons for the period 2003–2007 - 47% higher than in 1998–2002. For the most part, these acquisitions have been driven by modernisation efforts and domestic security threats.

- For the period 2003–2007 Chile was the 12th largest recipient of military equipment in the world, up from 38th for 1998–2002. This rise is largely due to deliveries in 2006 and 2007 of 10 new F-16C from the USA, 18 second-hand F-16Am from the Netherlands, four second hand frigates from the Netherlands and 3 second-hand frigates from the UK.
- For the period 2003–2007 Venezuela was the 24th largest recipient of military equipment in the world, up from 56th for 1998–2002. For the period 2003–2007, 92 per cent of Venezuelan arms imports came from Russia. These included transfers of SU-30MKs combat aircraft and Mi-35, Mi-26 and Mi-17 helicopters.

### **Asia**

Asian states received 37% of the volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons in the period 2003–2007, down from 40% for 1998–2002. Transfers to East Asia accounted for 70% of these deliveries, transfers to South Asia accounted for 29% and transfers to Central Asia accounted for less than 1%.

- Transfers to Pakistan more than doubled between 2006 and 2007 to reach their highest level since 1999. For the period 2003–2007, the USA accounted for 36% of transfers to Pakistan, China 27% and France 16%. Transfers from the USA are likely to increase following decisions in 2006 to supply up to 62 new and second-hand F-16 combat aircraft and 20 AH-1F combat helicopters.

- India remains the pre-eminent arms importer in South Asia importing nearly four times the volume of arms imported by Pakistan for the period 2003–2007. Russia accounted for 70% of transfers to India during this period and fresh deals were signed in 2007 for SU-30MKI combat aircraft, Smerch multiple rocket launchers, T-90S tanks and Mi-17 helicopters. At the same time, India has also responded positively to US marketing efforts, agreeing to purchase 6 C-130J transport aircraft in early 2008.
- Transfers to China fell by 62 per cent between 2006 and 2007, mainly due to a dramatic reduction in deliveries from Russia. No new contracts for big ticket aircraft or ships from Russia were signed in 2007, fuelling speculation of a rift in one of the most stable and, from Russia's perspective, most lucrative arms trade relationships

## Europe

European states received 25% of the volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons in the period 1998–2002 and 26% for 2003–2007. EU member states received 16% of global the volume of major conventional weapons transferred for the period 1998–2002 and 19% for the period 2003–2007. For the period 2003–2007, 62% of German transfers of major conventional weapons were delivered to NATO and/or EU member states, compared to 49% of UK transfers and 16% of French transfers.

- Greece was the 6<sup>th</sup> largest recipient of major conventional weapons for the period 1998–2002 and the 4<sup>th</sup> largest for the period 2003–2007. The delivery of 25 Mirage 2000-5 Mk-2 combat aircraft build under license from France represented 45% of the volume of Greek imports in 2007. Deliveries of an estimated 90 modernised second-hand Leopard-1A5 and 69 Leopard-2A4 tanks from Germany accounted for a further 10% of the volume of Greek imports in 2007.
- Turkey was the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest recipient of major conventional weapons for the period 1998–2003 and the 9<sup>th</sup> largest for the period 2003–2007. The delivery of 289 second-hand Leopard-2A4 tanks from Germany represented 49 % of the volume of Turkish imports in 2007.

## Middle East

Middle Eastern states received 18% of the volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons in the period 1998–2002 and 19% for 2003–2007. During 2003–2007 the UAE accounted for 31%, Israel for 18% and Egypt for 15% of major conventional weapons transfers to the Middle East.

- During 2003–2007, the UAE and Israel improved their long-range strike capabilities significantly. The UAE received 62 Mirage-2000-9 armed with Storm Shadow cruise missiles from France and about 70 F-16E combat aircraft from the USA while Israel received about 85 F-16I combat aircraft from the USA.
- Saudi Arabia was the 6<sup>th</sup> largest arms importer in the world for the period 1998–2002, but was only the 21<sup>st</sup> largest during 2003–2007. With a 2007 order for 72 Typhoon combat aircraft from the UK and plans for further large arms acquisitions, Saudi Arabia is once again expected to become one of the world's largest arms importers.
- Iran has dropped from the 15<sup>th</sup> largest recipient of major conventional weapons for the period 1998–2002, to be the 27<sup>th</sup> largest recipient for the period 2003–2007. Its most significant major conventional arms import during 2006 and 2007 were 29 Tor-M1 Surface to Air Missile systems delivered from Russia. Russian officials have denied rumours circulating in 2007 that Russia would supply Iran with combat aircraft and S-300 long-range air defence systems.