

# **FCCI**

## **Research & Development Center**



**The Top Ten Arms Export & Import Countries**

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## **The top ten arms exporting countries in 2018**

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The world's ten biggest arms exporting countries made armament transfers worth more than \$25bn in 2018. Army-technology.com lists the top ten arms exporting countries based on Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) estimates of values of arms transferred in 2018.

### **Arms exports by country in 2018: Ranking the ten biggest**

1. USA
2. Russia
3. France
4. Germany
5. Spain
6. South Korea
7. China
8. United Kingdom
9. Israel
10. Italy

#### **1. United States of America (USA) – \$10.5bn**

United States is the world's biggest exporter of weapon systems. Image courtesy of the U.S. Army. The total value of the arms exported by the US was \$10.5bn in 2018, while the nation closed foreign military sales (FMS) contracts worth \$55.6bn during the year for transferring arms to its allies. Major weapon types exported were combat aircraft, helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), anti-tank missiles, naval gun systems and missiles, sensors, engines, and guided weapon systems. Combat aircraft accounted for more than half of the total arms exported by the US during 2014-2018. Boeing, Lockheed Martin Corporation,

Northrop Grumman Corporation, Raytheon Company, and General Dynamics Corporation produce a majority of the arms exported by the US.

## **2. Russia – \$6.4bn**

Russia exported arms worth \$6.4bn to multiple countries worldwide in 2018. Image courtesy of Valeri Pizhanski.

Russia, the world's second biggest defence exporter, transferred arms worth \$6.4bn in 2018. Its weapons exports to India and Venezuela suffered a decline during the year.

Russia transferred major weapons to 48 nations during the last five years, with India, China, and Algeria being the biggest importers. Su-30MK fighter, T-90S tank, Mi-17 helicopter, and BMP-3 IFV are the popular export products of Russia.

Domestic defence manufacturers, including JSC PO Sevmash, Almaz-Antey, Sukhoi, Uralvagonzavod, Antonov, and MiG Aircraft Corporation, contribute to the majority of Russian arms exports.

## **3. France – \$1.76bn**

France exports armoured vehicles, combat aircraft and naval vessels. Image courtesy of Gertrud Zach/U.S Army.

French arms exports in 2018 were driven by the sales of combat aircraft and naval vessels. The country's key defence exports include the Raffle fighter jet, NH-90 helicopter, Gowind-2500 frigate, MILAN anti-tank missile, and the MICA SAM system, among others.

France delivered major weapon systems to 78 countries during the last five years, among which Egypt was the biggest importer, followed by India and Saudi Arabia.

French defence exports are supported by its domestic arms manufacturers such as Airbus, Safran, Thales, Euro copter, Dassault Aviation, Constructions Mécaniques de Normandie (CNM), DCNS, Nexteer Systems, and Arcus.

## **4. Germany – \$1.27bn**

Armoured vehicles and naval platforms formed a major portion of German arms exports in 2018. Image courtesy of Alan Wilson.

Germany's weapons exports in 2018 were mainly driven by the sales of naval platforms and armoured vehicles.

The country exported OPV-80 patrol vessels, Type-214 submarines, Leopard main battle tanks (MBTs), and MTU diesel engines to countries in Asia and Oceania, Europe, and the Middle East regions.

German Naval Group, Lürssen, ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems, Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW), Rheinmetall Defence, and Diehl Defence are the major contributors to the German arms exports.

### **5. Spain – \$1.18bn**

Europe's third biggest arms exporter Spain transferred weapons worth \$1.18bn in 2018. Image courtesy of Benjamín Núñez González.

Arms exports of \$1.18bn in 2018 made Spain the third biggest arms exporter in Europe. Aircraft account for the majority of Spain's exports, followed by naval vessels and sensor systems.

The country exported aircraft, naval vessels and armoured vehicles, including C-295 and A-330 MRTT aircraft, Hobart-class destroyers, and Ajax (Scout-SV) to Australia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Malaysia and Egypt, between 2014 and 2018.

Navantia, General Dynamics European Land Systems, Indra Sistemas (Indra), and Sociedad Anonima De Electrónica Submarina (SAES) are the major Spanish arms exporters.

### **6. South Korea – \$1.08bn**

Iraq and Turkey were the major importers of South Korean weapon systems during 2014-2018. Image courtesy of Republic of Korea Armed Forces.

South Korean arms exports in 2018 were valued at \$1.08bn, posing a tough competition to China as the main Asian exporter of arms. Iraq and Turkey were the major arms importers of South Korean weapons during the last five years.

The T-50 Golden Eagle trainer/combat aircraft, KT-1 Woong Bee trainer, and K-9 Thunder self-propelled gun systems form a major part of the nation's defence exports.

Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI), Huta Stalowa Wola (HSW), Hyundai Rotem, Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME), and Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) are the major South Korean defence exporters.

## **7. China – \$1.04bn**

Chinese arms exports accounted for \$1.04bn in 2018. Image courtesy of Tyg728.

Chinese arms exports in 2018 were mainly fuelled by the sales in the Asia and Oceania regions, followed by Africa and the Middle East.

Pakistan, Bangladesh and Algeria were the major importers of Chinese arms, including JF-17 Thunder/FC-1 combat aircraft, CH-3 UAVs and C-802 anti-ship missiles during the last five years.

State-owned companies such as China Aviation Industry Corporation (AVIC), China North Industries Group Corporation (NORINCO), China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) and China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC) contribute to the majority of exports from China.

## **8. United Kingdom – \$741m**

Saudi Arabia is one of the major importers of arms from the United Kingdom. Image courtesy of Sgt Mark Webster RLC/MOD.

The UK arms exports in 2018 were primarily driven by the sales of aircraft, vessels and missiles.

Saudi Arabia, India, Indonesia, US, Oman, China, Qatar, Brazil, South Korea and Japan were the biggest importers of UK arms during the last five years.

BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce Holdings, Babcock International, Qinetiq, Kelvin Hughes, GKN Aerospace Services, BMT Defence Services, and MBDA UK are the major exporters based in the UK.

## **9. Israel – \$707m**

Israeli arms exports mainly constitute missiles, UAVs, armoured vehicles, ammunition, artillery and air defence systems. Image courtesy of Zachi Evenor.

Israel exported weapons worth \$707m in 2018, becoming one of the world's biggest arms exporters. Its major defence importers during 2014-2015 were India, Azerbaijan, and Vietnam.

Missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), ammunition, artillery, armoured vehicles, air defence systems, defence electronics, and small arms form a major part of Israeli defence exports.

The nation's defence exports are backed by domestic manufacturers, including Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, Elbit Systems, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), IMI Systems, and Israel Weapon Industries (IWI).

## **10. Italy – \$611m**

Italy exported weapon systems worth \$611m in 2018. Image courtesy of Copyleft.

UAE, Turkey, Algeria and Israel were the biggest importers of arms from Italy in the last five years. The nation's exports mainly constitute ASW aircraft, trainer aircraft, combat helicopters and naval vessels.

Italian arms exports in 2018 were primarily driven by joint development programmes such as the Eurofighter Typhoon, Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), FREMM, and Horizon-class frigates.

Major domestic defence equipment manufacturers in Italy include Leonardo, Fincantieri, MBDA, Elettronica, Beretta, and Iveco Defence Vehicles.

## The World's Largest Arms Suppliers

Share of global arms exports by country from 2014 to 2018\*



\* May not add up to 100% due to rounding

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Source: SIPRI

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## The world's biggest arms importing countries in 2018

The world's ten biggest arms importing countries received arms worth more than \$15bn from overseas in 2018.

Ranking the ten largest importers of arms

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Australia
3. China
4. India
5. Egypt
6. Algeria
7. South Korea
8. United Arab Emirates (UAE)
9. Qatar
10. Pakistan

### **1. Saudi Arabia – \$3.81bn**

The US was the major supplier of weapon systems to Saudi Arabia in 2018, followed by the UK and France.

Saudi Arabia imported F-15 fighter aircraft from the US and Eurofighter Typhoon multi-role fighters from the UK between 2014 and 2018. The aircraft were transferred along with cruise missiles and other guided munitions.

Saudi Arabia is understood to be receiving F-15 combat aircraft, THAAD missile defence systems, and Black Hawk helicopters from the US, Piranha-V armoured vehicles from Canada, Avante 2200 corvettes from Spain, and An-132 transport aircraft from Ukraine in the next five years.

### **2. Australia – \$1.57bn**

Australia's weapon system imports in 2018 were mainly driven by major military procurement programmes such as Sea-4000 and Air-6000. The US, Spain, and France have been the major exporters of weapons to Australia during the last five years.

F-35 combat aircraft and P-8A Poseidon anti-submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft received from the US and warships from Spain accounted for more than 80% of Australia's imports between 2014 and 2018.

Other arms imported by the country during the period included missiles, armoured vehicles, helicopters, and radar systems.

### **3. China – \$1.56bn**

Despite being one of the world's biggest arms exporters, China is also the third biggest arms importer in the world.

Russia accounted for the majority of Chinese arms imports in 2018, with the major imports being of missile defence systems, and engines for combat aircraft and warships.

China also imported MTU diesel engines from Germany and DT-59 gas-turbine engines from Ukraine during 2014-18.

#### **4. India – \$1.53bn**

Indian arms imports declined by 47% in 2018 compared to the preceding year due to delays in supply of weapons manufactured under licence from foreign companies.

Nevertheless, Russia was the prime supplier of weapons imported by India, while Israel, the US, and France were also the major arms exporters during 2014-18.

Major imports by India during the period included Su-30MK fighter jets, T-90S tanks, [Mi-8MT/Mi-17](#) helicopters, MILAN anti-tank missiles, and MTU engines.

#### **5. Egypt – \$1.48bn**

Increased political tensions with neighbouring countries continued to drive Egypt's arms imports in 2018. Despite a 38.2% decline in the value of imports compared to 2017, Egypt was the second biggest arms importer in the Middle East in 2018.

Egypt was the biggest recipients of French arms during 2014-18 and also one of the major importers of Russian weapons in the Middle East, during the period.

Gowind-2500 corvettes, Panthera T6 armoured vehicles, Rafale fighter aircraft, MICA missiles, and radars formed a major chunk of the weapon systems imported by Egypt.

#### **6. Algeria – \$1.32bn**

Algerian arms imports in 2018 increased by 37%, compared to 2017. Russia accounted for 66% of the arms imports during 2014-18, followed by China (13%) and Germany (10%).

At 56%, Algeria's arms imports were the highest in Africa during the period, surpassing other major weapons importers in the region such as Morocco and Nigeria.

Algeria imported Su-30MKA fighter aircraft, [Mi-28N](#) combat helicopters, MaxxPro armoured vehicles, AT-9 anti-tank missiles, and Kilo-class submarines during 2014-18.

## **7. South Korea – \$1.31bn**

South Korea witnessed a more than 23% rise in its arms imports in 2018, compared to 2017. It relies on the US, Germany, and the UK for the majority of its arms supplies. South Korea's defence procurement programmes are driven by the need for reinforcing its defence capabilities to face any potential aggressive actions of its neighbour North Korea.

AH-64E Apache attack helicopters, Type 214 submarines, MTU diesel engines, MT-30 gas turbines, and AIM-120 AMRAAM missiles were the major defence products imported by South Korea during 2014-2018.

South Korea, however, intends to reduce reliance on imports over the next five years through the development of its indigenous manufacturing capabilities.

## **8. United Arab Emirates (UAE) – \$1.1bn**

Regional tensions in the Middle East continue to propel the arms imports of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The majority of the UAE's arms imports during 2014-18 were from the US and included products such as [THAAD](#) missile defence systems, Hellfire missiles, and MaxxPro armoured personnel carriers (APCs).

The UAE also imported C-295 aircraft, warships, Wing Loong-2 UAVs, CIRIT laser-guided missiles, and Erieye SRSS airborne early warning and control (AEW&C) systems in the last five years.

## **9. Qatar – \$816m**

Qatar's arms imports increased by more than 22% year-over-year in 2018 due to rearmament efforts and political tensions with neighbouring countries.

The US was responsible for 65% of Qatari arms imports during 2014-18, while the remaining imports came from countries such as Germany, France, China, and Russia.

Qatar also plans to import AH-64E Apache Guardian helicopters from the US, NH-90 TTH from France, and Fincantieri-3000 frigates from Italy over the next five years from 2019 to 2023.

## 10. Pakistan – \$777m

Pakistan's arms imports in 2018 mainly included aircraft, missiles, armoured vehicles, and naval vessels. China continues to be the major supplier of arms to Pakistan.

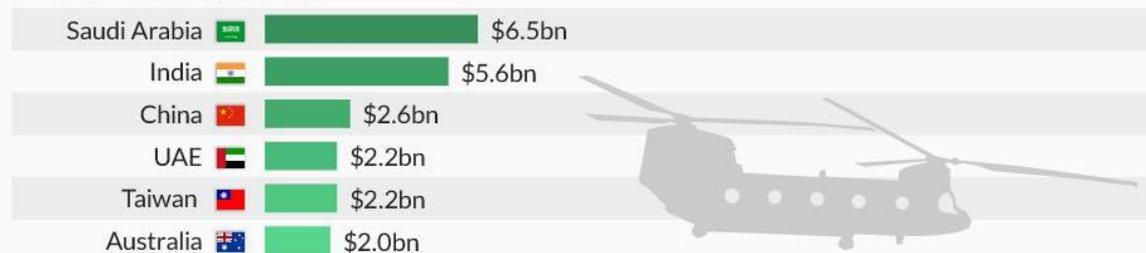
Arms exports from the US, which was once a major weapons exporter to Pakistan, declined during 2014-18, increasing Pakistan's dependence on countries such as Turkey for arms supplies.

JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft, Al-Khalid tanks, Azmat-class corvettes, C-802 anti-ship missiles, and MaxxPro armoured vehicles were some of the major arms imported by Pakistan during 2014-18.

### The world's largest arms importers and exporters

Military imports and exports by country in 2014

#### Military imports by country



#### Military exports by country



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- Buys weapons from the US
- Buys weapons from the US & Russia
- Buys weapons from the US, China & Russia
- Buys weapons from China
- Buys weapons from the US & China
- Buys weapons from China & Russia
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