TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS, 2009

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INTRODUCTION

The SIPRI Arms Transfers Database contains information on all international transfers of major conventional weapons to states, international organizations and armed non-state groups since 1950.¹ The database can be used to (a) monitor trends in the volume of transfers of major conventional weapons and (b) identify the quantity and types of weapons that have been transferred, broken down by supplier or recipient. This data can be used to answer such questions 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 potentially destabilizing build-ups of weapons occurring today?

The SIPRI Arms Transfers Database is available online at <http://www.sipri.org/databases/armstransfers>. From 15 March 2010 it includes newly released information on arms transfers during 2009. This Fact Sheet describes the trends in international arms transfers that are revealed by the new data in the SIPRI Arms Transfers Database. It lists the main exporters and importers for the period 2005–2009 and describes the regional trends.

Since the volume of deliveries of arms can fluctuate significantly from one year to the next, SIPRI uses a five-year moving average to give a more stable measure of trends in international transfers of major conventional weapons. The trend for the decade 2000–2009 is shown in figure 1. The volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons for the period 2005–2009 was 22 per cent higher than for the period 2000–2004.

THE MAIN SUPPLIERS OF MAJOR CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, 2005–2009

The five biggest suppliers of major conventional weapons for the period 2005–2009 were the United States, Russia, Germany, France and the United

¹ The database does not cover international transfers of small arms.
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