



# 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.<sup>1</sup> 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

## SUMMARY

● The SIPRI Arms Transfers Database now contains information on all international transfers of major conventional weapons from 1950 to the end of 2009. It is the only publicly available resource providing consistent data on international arms transfers for this length of time. This Fact Sheet describes the trends that are revealed by the new data.

The volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons for the period 2005–2009 is 22 per cent higher than for the period 2000–2004. Combat aircraft accounted for 27 per cent of the volume of international arms transfers. These weapon systems are potentially destabilizing, and orders and deliveries have led to arms race concerns in regions of tension in Latin America, the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and South East Asia.

The five biggest arms suppliers for the period 2005–2009 were the USA, Russia, Germany, France and the UK. The five biggest recipients were China, India, South Korea, the UAE and Greece. The volume of arms transferred to the two largest importers—China and India—decreased by 20 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively, in 2005–2009 in comparison with 2000–2004.

<sup>1</sup> The database does not cover international transfers of small arms.



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