



U.S. ARMS SALES TRENDS: RHETORIC VERSUS REALITY

Security Assistance Monitor | Center for International Policy

This fact sheet summarizes the key findings of the April 2019 Security Assistance Monitor report, "[Major Arms Sales Trends 2018: The Trump Record - Rhetoric Versus Reality](#)."

- Arms Makers Cash In:** A handful of corporations were the main beneficiaries of U.S. arms exports. The top five arms exporters, based on deals of \$500 million or more, were Lockheed Martin, which was involved in deals worth \$25 billion; Boeing, \$7.1 billion in deals; Raytheon, \$5.5 billion in deals; Northrop Grumman, had one deal worth \$2.5 billion; and BAE systems, which had a \$1.3 billion deal.
- Regional Shift to Europe & Eurasia:** There was a sharp shift in the regional distribution of U.S. arms sales from 2017 to 2018. Offers to Europe and Eurasia accounted for 55% of deals in 2018, nearly double the region's 29.5% share in 2017. Deals with countries in the Middle East and North Africa dropped from 36.6% in 2017 to 21.9% in 2018.

1/4th

One-quarter of U.S. arms deals in 2018 were for licenses to manufacture U.S. weapons overseas.

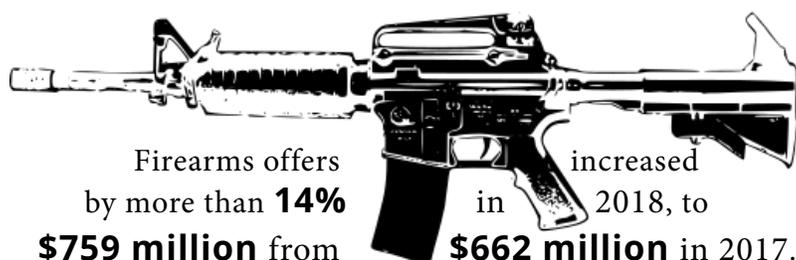
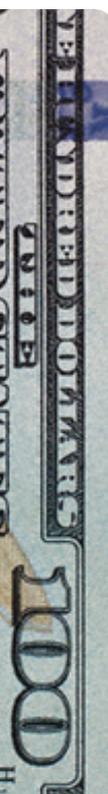
\$78.8 billion

The Trump administration made \$78.8 billion in arms deals in 2018, more than enough to sustain the U.S. role as the world's number one weapons exporting nation.

Less than

0.002%

Arms sales create only a fraction of the number of jobs claimed by President Trump and the arms industry. In all, less than two-tenths of one percent of U.S. jobs are tied to arms exports, and many of those jobs involve production of U.S. arms in other countries.



Firearms offers increased by more than **14%** in 2018, to **\$759 million** from **\$662 million** in 2017. The biggest recipient by far was Saudi Arabia, with over \$579 million in deals. Other sales of concern include a deal for the Philippines, where police and military forces have engaged in extrajudicial killings that have left thousands dead and injured.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

A number of steps can and should be taken to increase transparency and accountability in U.S. arms sales:

- End exports to regimes involved in internal repression and allies engaging in unjust wars, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines, Bahrain, and Nigeria.
- Make it easier for members of Congress to be notified and act in advance of deliveries of U.S. arms, not just original offers.
- Maintain notification of commercial sales, particularly firearms, to Congress.
- Notify Congress and publish reports on offset deals and production of U.S. arms overseas.
- Make it possible for members of the House of Representatives to force a vote on a resolution of disapproval on specific arms sales, as is now the case in the Senate.

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