

Achieving Meaningful Transparency

Why Disaggregation Matters

ATT MONITOR FACT SHEET

Transparency in arms transfers is a central component of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and fundamental to achieving its goals and objectives. The object and purpose of the ATT itself cannot be fulfilled in the absence of transparency among states trading in arms, and transparency more broadly is central to the effective implementation of the ATT's operative articles.

Timely, comprehensive, and meaningfully transparent reporting facilitates confidence building, responsibility and cooperation by allowing States Parties and civil society to be certain that Treaty commitments have been respected. For reporting to be comprehensive and meaningfully transparent, data on arms transfers should be disaggregated.

Full disaggregation in ATT reporting means breaking down individual weapon transfers by weapon category and sub-category, importer/exporter, number of units and/or financial value, and specifying whether transfers are authorized and/or actual.

Between 2015 and 2020, the percentage of publicly available annual reports with fully disaggregated information has increased from 56% to 68%, although the actual number remains the same as it was in 2015 (See Table 1).¹

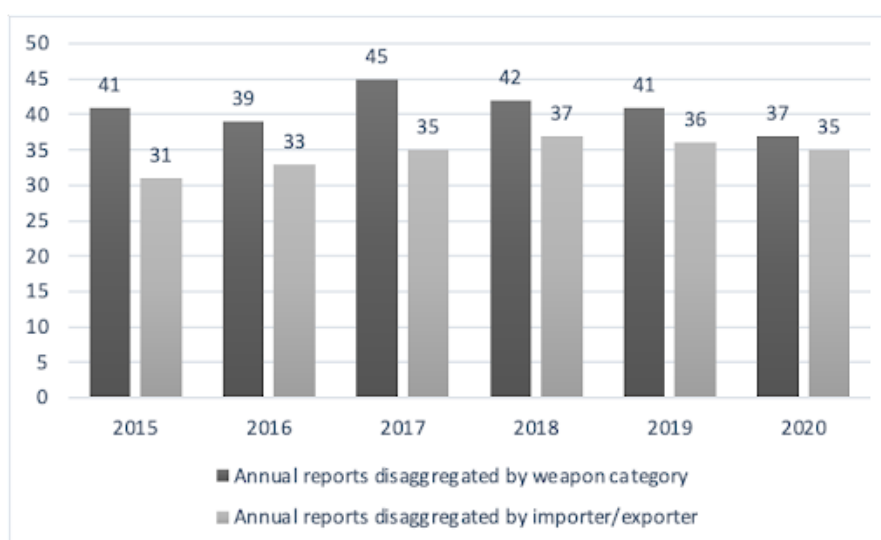
Table 1 - Number and percentage of publicly available annual reports (excluding nil reports and early submissions) with fully disaggregated information

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of publicly available reports	48	48	52	49	47	40
Number of publicly available reports with fully disaggregated information	27	27	31	31	28	27
Percentage of publicly available reports with fully disaggregated information	56%	56%	60%	63%	60%	68%

Key Findings

Only 16 States Parties have consistently provided fully disaggregated information in their annual reports in the 2015-2020 period. When analyzed separately, the number of States Parties that have disaggregated information by weapon type has decreased since 2015, whereas those disaggregating by importer or exporter have increased slightly (See Figure 1).

Figure 1 - Number of publicly available annual reports (excluding nil reports and early submissions) that disaggregated information by weapon category and by importer/exporter (2015-2020)



¹ These figures exclude 'nil reports' and reports that were submitted before they were due. Analysis is based on information submitted by States Parties up to 26th April 2022.



Disaggregating information on small arms and light weapons sub-categories

As with the previous categories where disaggregation is encouraged, submitting disaggregated information for the category of small arms and light weapons, and its related sub-categories, helps to further the transparency objectives and aims of the ATT. We see that data aggregation in ATT annual reports is most frequent with respect to small arms and light weapons (SALW) categories.



**THIRTEEN STATES PARTIES
AGGREGATED INFORMATION
IN THE SALW CATEGORY**

In the 2020 ATT annual reports, thirteen States Parties aggregated information in the SALW category: three States Parties did not provide information by weapon sub-category, four States Parties failed to disaggregate sufficiently with regards to importing or exporting states and seven did not specify whether all transfers were authorized or actual.²



Small arms and light weapons sub-categories

SMALL ARMS

- 1) revolvers and self-loading pistols;
- 2) rifles and carbines; 3) sub-machine guns; 4) assault rifles; 5) light machine guns; 6) other.

LIGHT WEAPONS

- 1) heavy machine guns; 2) hand-held under-barrel and mounted grenade launchers; 3) portable anti-tank guns; 4) recoilless rifles; 5) portable launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems; 6) mortars of calibres less than 75mm; 7) other.

Data aggregation in SALW reporting is a particularly salient issue as the uncontrolled proliferation of these weapons has devastating effects on socio-economic development, human rights and human security.

²One State Party aggregated data in two different ways, both by weapon category and by failing to specify whether all transfers were authorized or actual. As such, the total number of States Parties that aggregated information to some degree in 2020 is thirteen.

Figure 2. Aggregation of exporting states in the small arms imports section of an annual report.

Small Arms (aggregated) ¹⁶		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
1.	Revolvers and self-loading pistols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	201		USA, Barbados, Guyana, Antigua, Grenada, Chile, Canada, Brazil, Panama, Argentina, Ecuador, Venezuela, Cayman Islands,		Competitive/Sport Shooting
2.	Rifles and carbines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	36		Canada, Panama, Trinidad		Law Enforcement Exercises, Competitive/ Sport Shooting

Figure 3. Small arms exports aggregated in an annual report.

Category of arms ¹ (in MT)	Authorised or actual exports ⁶		Extent of exports ⁵ (choose one or both)		Final importing State ⁷	State of origin (if not exporter) ¹⁰	Remarks ¹¹	
	Auth.	Act.	Number of items ²	Value ³			Description of item ⁸	Comments on the transfer ⁹
1								
Small Arms (aggregated)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10	4.350	CA			
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	500	1.007.500	QA			
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1.206	4.016	HR			
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	438	362.803	LU			
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	68	58.110	MT			
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	58	35.538	NZ			
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	167	60.485	NL			
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1.201	637.332	OM			
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	666	228.310	PL			

Figure 4. Small arms exports aggregated in an annual report.

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	US\$ 16,500	ESTADOS UNIDOS	ESTADOS UNIDOS	Carabina ANSCHUTZ Cal. 22 LR	Importación realizada por la Fábrica de Armas y Municiones del Ejército SAC.
3.	Metralletas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
4.	Fusiles de asalto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
5.	Ametralladoras ligeras	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	US\$ 80,000	ESPAÑA	ESTADOS UNIDOS	M2 12.7 mm	Importación realizada por Servicios Industriales de la Marina.
6.	Otros	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
	Ametralladora de 30mm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	US\$ 1,200,000	ESPAÑA	ESTADOS UNIDOS	Ametralladora de 30mm MK 44 BUSHMASTER II 30 mm	Importación realizada por Servicios Industriales de la Marina.



Conclusions

Disaggregation means going beyond the minimum information requested by Art. 13.3. Use of excessive aggregation makes it difficult or impossible to determine whether a state has abided by its Treaty commitments. With the rise in confidential reporting and a general decline in compliance with Treaty reporting obligations, the issue of data aggregation requires attention in order to support meaningful transparency in the conventional arms trade.

Useful Resources

ATT Monitor (2021). '2021 Annual Report'

attmonitor.org/en/the-2021-report

ATT Secretariat (2021). 'ATT Reporting Template'

www.bit.ly/3KiGkl4

ATT Secretariat (2019). 'Reporting Authorized or Actual Exports and Imports of Conventional Arms under the ATT: Questions & Answers'. ATT/CSP5.WGTR/2019/CHAIR/533/Conf.Rep.Rev1.

www.bit.ly/3OLLSrU

