

including trends (i.e. are there signs of improvement or is the situation deteriorating?). Careful attention is also paid to the end-use documentation to ensure that the goods are indeed going to a legitimate end-user and will not be diverted.

Particular care is taken over applications involving firearms. The vast bulk of these applications do not involve modern military weapons (which as noted above can be exported to only a very small group of countries). Rather, they involve firearms that are controlled only because they are captured by the Wassenaar definition, and that are to be used for sporting purposes (such as hunting and target shooting) or for self-defence, or are for collectors and re-enactors. All require permits, and for most destinations, if the value of the export exceeds \$2000, the Minister is consulted about the application. Because many Canadian firearms exports are to private end-users, we want to satisfy ourselves that the firearms do not slip into the illegal arms trade or fuel local lawlessness or violence. Information may therefore be sought from our missions and from other sources about destination countries' firearms control laws and procedures. We want to know not only what exists on paper, but also how strict enforcement is and whether these laws and procedures are open to corruption. We also check the bona fides of the end-user.

All applicants seeking export permits for firearms are now required to provide an import permit or some equally valid evidence that their import will be allowed. This ensures that firearms do not leave Canada without an assurance that they will be allowed into their country of destination and that the recipient will be permitted to take possession of them.

Military Export Statistics

The statistics on military exports in the following tables are obtained from reports filed by exporters on the actual shipments for each of the permits issued to them under the Export and Import Permits Act. These reports include the country of destination, a description of the goods and their value. Information about individual shipments and information found on the original permit applications, including the identities of the potential exporter and consignee and details of transactions, is commercially highly sensitive and is provided to DFAIT in confidence. Such information must be protected to ensure compliance with reporting requirements.

As noted above, permits are not required for the export of most Group 2 items to the United States. This has been a long-standing policy arising from the integration of the North American defence industry in World War II. Statistics on military exports to that country are therefore not readily available and cannot be included in this report.

Certain types of statistics on Canadian exports to military users may be available from other sources, such as Statistics Canada or the Canadian Commercial Corporation. These, however, may include non-military goods such as food rations, commercial computers, civil-certified aircraft or other civilian equipment. Since there is no direct correlation between the commodity codes used by Statistics Canada and the ECL item numbers, and as each source