

Thomas Jackson and Nicholas Marsh
Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfers (NISAT)
International Peace Research Institute, Oslo
Hausmanns gate 7
Oslo
Norway

Abstract - NISAT datasets on the global trade in small arms and light weapons

The authors will present three unique datasets on small arms and light weapons (SALW). The first dataset concerns global SALW transfers over the period 1992-2005 and is based upon the information from the UN COMTRADE database of trade statistics. The second dataset has been built up using observations of black market Kalashnikov assault rifles prices. It has been used to examine trafficking of small arms by monitoring changes in the price of weapons. The final dataset concerns the average price of licensed gun imports and exports. It has been built up from Government reports on their arms exports, and data from COMTRADE and EUROSTAT. Obtaining reliable data on small arms imports and exports is a difficult task - the NISAT datasets are the only such resource in the world. They represent a very useful tool for researchers.

The Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfers (NISAT) is a project at the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO) devoted to carrying out research on the annual global trade SALW. With the help of these unique datasets on small arms, the authors have produced research on the global arms dynamic, both licensed and illicit. The most recent output by the authors is a paper presented at the 2007 ISA conference in Chicago on how factors related to globalisation are linked to the growing problem of weapons proliferation. Globalisation is a controversial topic and sceptics argue that as economies become more open to the global capitalist system, the demand and supply of tools of violence will increase. In addition, the datasets are used by other researchers. In particular, one long-term beneficiary of NISAT's datasets is the Geneva-based *Small Arms Survey* (most notably in its yearbook); another author used the dataset to produce an analysis of the development of EU controls over the arms trade which was published in *European Security*.