

Briefing, April 2025

Germany supplied fighting vehicle parts and other arms to Israel throughout 2024, new data shows

By Ruth Rohde¹

Introduction and Background

Customs data released by the Government of Israel for 2024 shows the country has imported tank or other fighting vehicle components, as well as various arms and ammunition, from Germany throughout the year, as Israel stands accused of genocide.

Germany does not publish what weapons and military equipment it actually exports. Instead, the government only publishes licenses granted for the export of certain categories of goods. Although final 2024 arms export license values have not yet been made public, preliminary figures as of December 17th [indicated](#) **Germany had granted over EUR 161 million worth of arms export licenses to Israel in 2024.**

The data reveals imports to Israel from Germany worth approximately **EUR 3.7 million of armoured fighting vehicle components**, as well as approximately **EUR 4.3 million in the category “arms and ammunition”**, although some reported values may include shipping costs. This **likely represents a fraction of German arms exports to Israel and is only a snapshot** from certain customs categories. Exports are ongoing.

¹ Ruth Rohde is a researcher and project coordinator for Shadow World Investigations UK, a non-governmental organisation focused on investigating militarism, the global arms trade, and corruption.

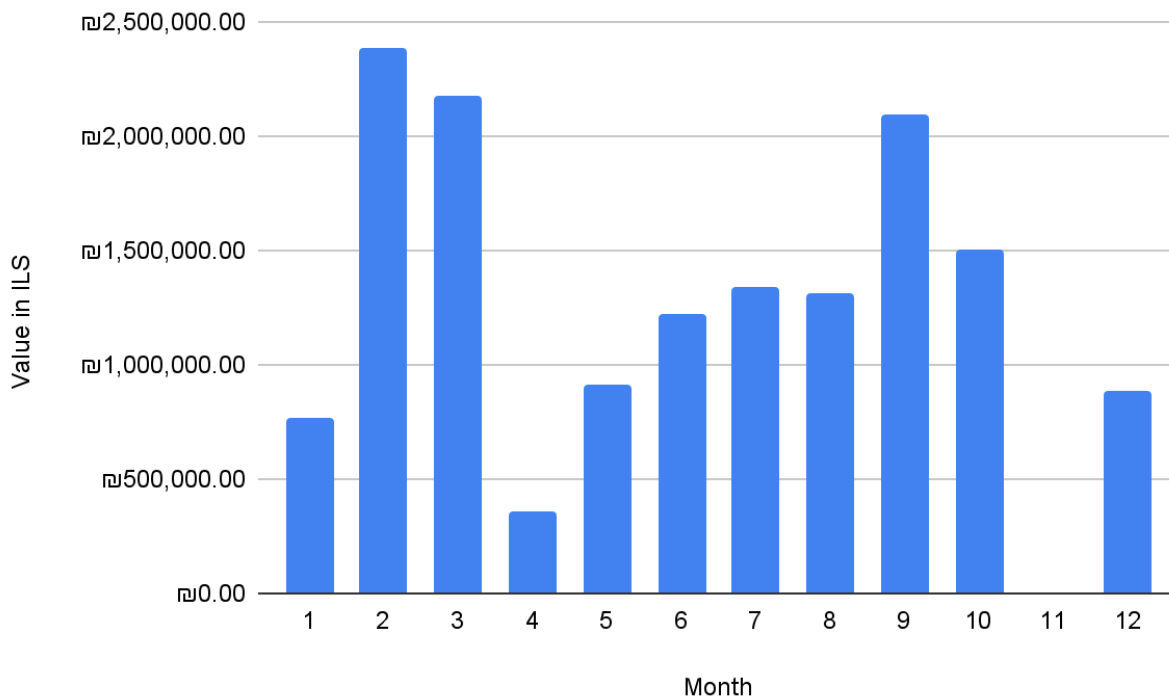
Key Findings

EUR 3.7 million of fighting vehicle components

In 2024, Israel imported over ILS 14.9 million (approx. EUR 3.7 million²) worth of goods classed as “Tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles, motorised, whether or not fitted with weapons, and parts of such vehicles” from Germany. A full list is appended to this report.

Imports were made almost every month of 2024, except November.

Figure 1: The value of imports by Israel from Germany of tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles or their parts, 2024



Notes: Value of imports from Germany of goods in the customs category “Tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles, motorised, whether or not fitted with weapons, and parts of such vehicles” by

² Based on an average 2024 exchange rate of ILS 1 = EUR 0.2498. Some arms transfers include cost of shipping.

month in 2024 in new Israeli Shekels to Israel. Source: Own calculations based on [Government of Israel Statistics on Imports 2024](#)

Germany reports its arms export licenses in categories corresponding to the Common Military List of the European Union. Tank and armoured fighting vehicle components would be classed under ML6 “Ground vehicles and components”, corresponding to the German export control list’s A0006 category. Up to 17 December 2024, **Germany licensed over 48 million Euros worth of arms in this category for export to Israel.**

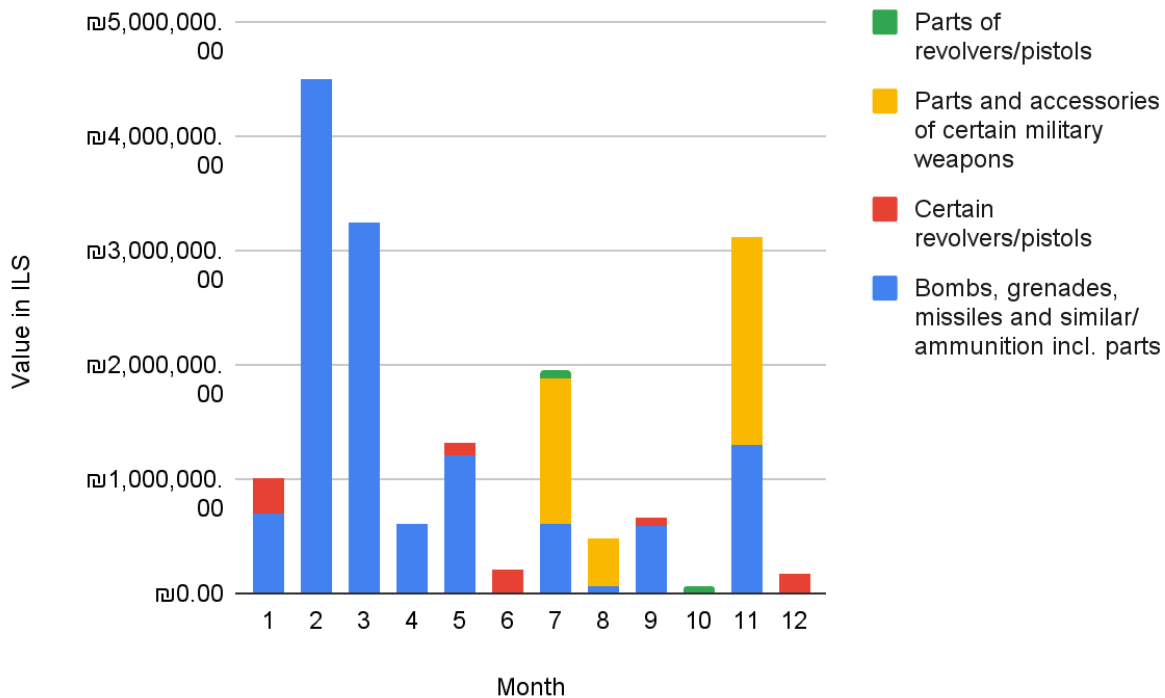
In October 2024, it was [reported](#) that the German government issued export licenses for tank components made by the company Renk. Israeli Merkava tanks rely on Renk transmission systems. Merkava tanks have been used in Gaza, [including in the attack](#) that killed five-year-old Hind Rajab, her four cousins, her aunt and uncle, and two paramedics who were trying to rescue her. It is unclear whether the components licensed in October 2024 have already been exported. [Preliminary Israeli import data up to February 2025 shows further exports of fighting vehicle components from Germany worth over ILS 700,000 in 2025.](#) Yet the data is not fine-grained enough to show which components were concretely exported. In December 2024, a German court [ruled against](#) a Gazan claimant who sought to challenge the licenses. The claimant has [appealed](#) the decision.

EUR 4.3 million “Arms and Ammunition”

In 2024, Israel also imported over ILS 17.3 million (approx. EUR 4.3 million³) worth of goods in the category of “arms and ammunition”, which can include firearms, as well as bombs, grenades, and ammunition. A full list, including more specific subcategory definitions, can be found in the appendix to this report.

³ Based on an average 2024 exchange rate of ILS 1 = EUR 0.2498. Some arms transfers include cost of shipping.

Figure 2: The value of imports by Israel from Germany of goods categorized as arms and ammunition (excluding some subcategories), 2024



Notes: The value of imports to Israel of goods in the customs category “arms and ammunition” from Germany, including simplified descriptions of subcategories, by month in 2024 in new Israeli Shekel. Subcategories excluded for this report can be found in the methodology section. Source: Own calculations based on [Government of Israel Statistics on Imports 2024](#)

As can be seen in Figure 2, the largest amount of imports by Israel from Germany in the arms and ammunitions category came from the subcategory “Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war and parts thereof; cartridges and other ammunition and projectiles and parts thereof, including shot and cartridge wads” were worth ILS 12.8 million in 2024 (approx. EUR 3.2 million).

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute [recorded](#) exports of 10 DM2A4 Seehecht anti-ship/anti-submarine torpedos for Dolphin-class

submarines to Israel in 2024. These torpedoes, developed by Atlas Elektronik, may be included in this category.

Methodology

The calculations in this report are based on customs statistics of imports to Israel for 2024, released by the Israeli government. The full database can be found [here](#).

The data contains information about the origin country, the month of import into Israel, the authority, and the item customs code, as well as information on the value of the goods in new Israeli Shekels.

Israeli customs codes are based on the harmonized system of the World Customs Organization (WCO). The WCO codes are a maximum of six digits. Israel works with codes that are eight digits long in the import data and up to ten digits long in the goods classification system. The Israeli goods classification list can be found [here](#) (in Hebrew). The first six digits should generally correspond to the WCO list, which can be accessed [here](#).

8710 in the WCO harmonized system refers to “Tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles, motorised, whether or not fitted with weapons, and parts of such vehicles.” This appears to also hold for the Israeli customs code of 87100000.

Customs codes starting with 93 refer to “Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof”, there are several subcategories to this. Certain categories were excluded from analysis as they are unlikely to refer to military or policing exports. The subcategories excluded for the purposes of this report were:

- 930330100 (= 9303301000/5): Other firearms and similar devices which operate by the firing of an explosive charge (for example, sporting shotguns and rifles, muzzle-loading firearms, Very pistols and other devices designed to project only signal flares, > - Other sporting,

hunting or target-shooting rifles > ('---OF A CALIBER NOT EXCEEDING 5.6 MM (0.22))

- 93039000: Other firearms and similar devices which operate by the firing of an explosive charge (for example, sporting shotguns and rifles, muzzle-loading firearms, Pistols and other devices designed to project only signal flares, > - Other
- 93040090: Other arms (for example, spring, air or gas guns and pistols, truncheons), excluding those of heading 93.07. - "other"
- 93052000: Parts and accessories of articles of headings 93.01 to 93.04. > - Of shotguns or rifles of heading 93.03
- 93070000: Swords, cutlasses, bayonets, lances and similar arms and parts thereof and scabbards and sheaths thereof.

Limitations

Customs data cannot reveal the full extent of arms exports from Germany to Israel in 2024. This has four primary reasons.

First, not all customs codes are specific enough to separate military from non-military, or even weapons from non-weapons categories. For example, ships or aircraft categories do not distinguish between civilian planes and fighter jets. This is why reporting is limited to the two customs categories mentioned above.

Second, according to experts consulted for this report, not all military goods imported to Israel are likely to show up in customs statistics. An indication of this can be found in the data itself, as all imports are recorded as having been entered through Ben Gurion airport, or the port of Ashdod, and one shipment going via the customs house in Eilat. Conspicuously missing is Nevatim airbase, one of the key places where Israel appears to be receiving military equipment. Nevatim is not listed as a separate customs house in the Israeli import dataset at all, which would indicate that either imports through Nevatim are recorded under another customs house or are omitted from the data altogether.

Third, this data does not consider more complex supply chains. For example, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute [recorded](#) German arms exports of 50 MTU diesel engines for Israel's Merkava tanks, as well as the Namer armoured personnel carrier for 2024. These engines are assembled in and transferred from the United States with German components. These engines would therefore not be included in the data presented here.

Fourth, there is some debate as to whether some imports recorded by Israel as coming from EU countries are actually transferred via these countries from the United States. A recent [investigation](#) by Progressive International, Palestinian Youth Movement, and American Friends Service Committee seemed to suggest that Israel recorded US products transferred by the US military via Spain as coming from Spain. However, it is not clear whether this practice has been used consistently, as we have been told that a similar practice could not be identified in other European countries that are known to be used by the United States as transfer hubs, such as Belgium. Germany is host to several major US military bases and military cargo flights have gone [directly](#) to Israel from Ramstein airbase, as well as to the British military base on Cyprus, which may then be [transferred](#) to Israel.

It should be noted that export values as reported in new Israeli Shekel were converted to Euros based on the average 2024 exchange rate of ILS 1 = EUR 0.2498. Some values reported in the data may be inflated due to the cost of shipping being included, depending on the terms of sale.

Conclusion

For several months in 2024, it looked like Germany's arms export licensing practices to Israel had slowed down. But ultimately, what matters is not only licenses but actual deliveries. Through this short analysis of Israeli customs data, we can see that deliveries to Israel from Germany never stopped, even as hundreds of Palestinians continue to be killed daily.

Appendix

The full datasets, as extracted from Israeli customs data and relied upon by this report, can be accessed here:

For goods category 8710:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q9kt4mRvyhqYVYKGyViO4HBXdP-sWGWEqDf5BghBFaM/edit?usp=sharing2024_customs_statistics_for_8710

For goods category 93 (spreadsheet has two tabs, one without and one with subcategories excluded for this report, subcategory descriptions were added for ease of use):

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1j99vK_q4F5DLEfY27CY-3YePcFo2bRgz101nuyjFC6U/edit?qid=1646282790#qid=1646282790

Table 1: Imports by Israel from Germany of tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles or their parts, 2024

Month	Number of Items	NIS Currency Amount
1	6	₪649,768.41
1	6	₪1,076.33
1	16	₪115,218.96
2	2	₪1,082,337.01
2	12	₪1,307,823.59
3	90	₪121,953.41
3	18	₪1,963,508.91
3	12	₪10,361.34
3	11	₪82,299.87
4	50	₪358,020.10
5	22	₪121,871.29
5	104	₪162,755.01
5	140	₪625,427.09
6	90	₪10,102.36

6	6	₪664,747.57
6	46	₪550,433.44
7	6	₪661,026.73
7	1	₪11,623.94
7	118	₪666,807.76
8	1	₪15,523.48
8	400	₪351,712.90
8	198	₪947,760.99
9	18	₪2,058,830.12
9	2	₪11,203.55
9	80	₪29,983.07
10	7	₪797,496.30
10	16	₪96,187.83
10	220	₪611,148.44
12	5	₪535,950.33
12	4	₪111,652.00
12	2	₪241,405.54
Sum Total	1709	₪14,976,017.67

Notes: Imports to Israel of goods in the customs category “Tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles, motorised, whether or not fitted with weapons, and parts of such vehicles” (customs code 87100000), the number of items, and value in Israeli New Shekels. Source: [Government of Israel Statistics on Imports 2024](#)

Table 2: Imports by Israel from Germany of “arms and ammunition” excluding certain subcategories, 2024

Month	Number of Items	NIS Currency Amount	Customs Code	Category of items (simplified)
1	103	₪305,139.55	93020000	Revolvers and pistols, other than those of heading 93.03 or 93.04.
1	400	₪539,361.42	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition,

				including parts
1	340	₪163,151.03	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
2	30	₪709,865.68	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
2	4	₪3,783,839.60	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
3	1	₪209.26	93051000	Parts and accessories of revolvers or pistols
3	4	₪3,060,637.55	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
3	2	₪3,542.66	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
3	4	₪186,959.08	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
4	1	₪33,458.41	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
4	20	₪538,475.60	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
4	2	₪43,069.19	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
5	42	₪107,921.26	93020000	Revolvers and pistols, other than those of

				heading 93.03 or 93.04.
5	14	₺1,937.12	93051000	Parts and accessories of revolvers or pistols
5	9	₺1,202,180.48	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
5	1	₺2,005.03	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
6	65	₺192,127.56	93020000	Revolvers and pistols, other than those of heading 93.03 or 93.04.
6	1	₺8,782.80	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
7	53	₺41,996.02	93051000	Parts and accessories of revolvers or pistols
7	40	₺29,494.20	93051000	Parts and accessories of revolvers or pistols
7	980	₺1,282,684.52	93059100	Parts and accessories of certain military weapons
7	231	₺600,441.17	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
8	14	₺407,994.12	93059100	Parts and accessories of certain military weapons
8	50	₺66,689.79	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
9	24	₺73,784.59	93020000	Revolvers and pistols, other than those of heading 93.03 or 93.04.
9	26	₺584,459.09	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts

10	456	₪63,306.00	93051000	Parts and accessories of revolvers or pistols
10	1	₪62.22	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
11	58	₪1,819,906.71	93059100	Parts and accessories of certain military weapons
11	7080	₪999,144.47	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
11	3728	₪293,617.84	93069090	Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war, cartridges and other ammunition, including parts
12	60	₪171,159.74	93020000	Revolvers and pistols, other than those of heading 93.03 or 93.04.
Sum Total	13844	₪17,317,403.76		

Notes: Imports to Israel of goods in the customs category “Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof”, the number of items, and value in Israeli New Shekels. Specific good category descriptions have been simplified, the full customs code corresponding to each description is provided, Israeli customs codes and full good descriptions can be [accessed from the Government of Israel](#). Some subcategories were excluded from the report, see methodology for details. Source: Government of Israel [Statistics on Imports 2024](#)