FACTSHEET

Private ATT Reporting

STIMSON

Arms Trade Treaty
Baseline Assessment Project

OCTOBER 2026

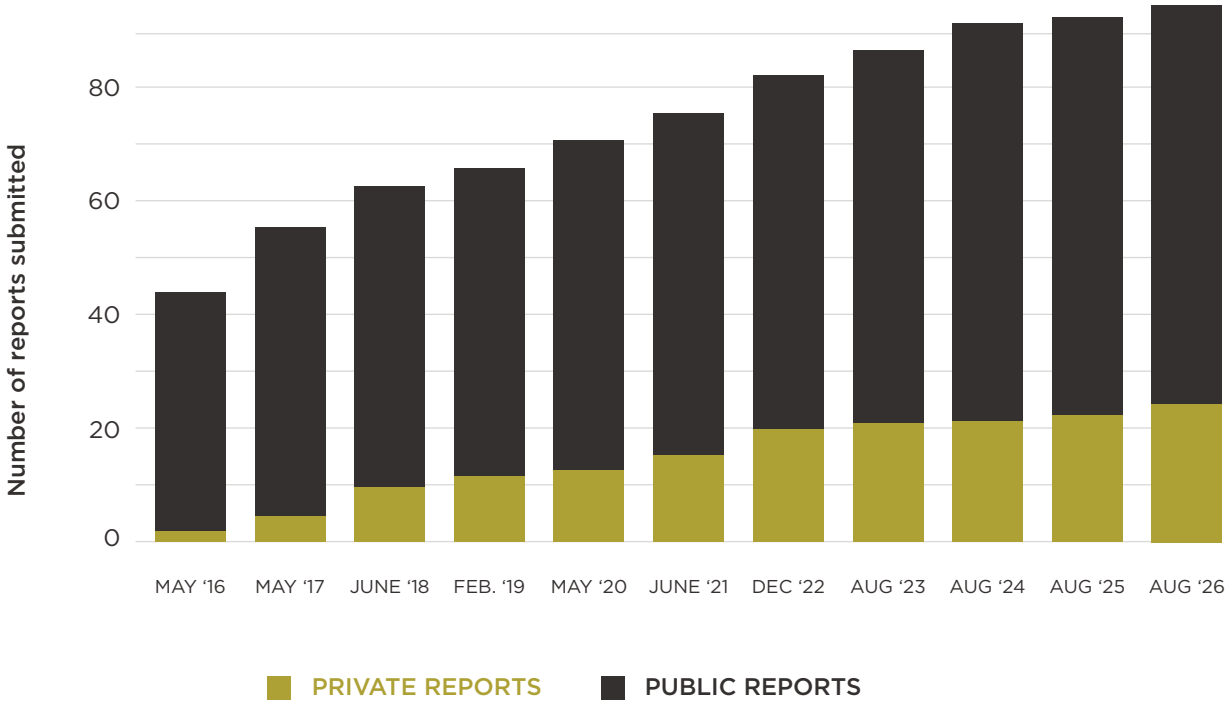
Private reporting refers to ATT States Parties submitting their initial or annual ATT reports only to the ATT Secretariat and other States Parties. Private reporting poses several challenges, including:

- **Hindering understanding** of how States Parties interpret and implement the treaty's provisions
- **Obscuring public accounting** of global arms transfer dynamics
- **Inhibiting identification** of good practices and assistance needs
- **Obstructing efforts** to identify problematic sales or dangerous accumulations

INITIAL REPORTS

Private reports represent an increasing share of all initial reports submitted by States Parties over time and have increased in number each year. In May 2016, only **2 of the 47 initial reports submitted by States Parties were private**, representing 4% of all submitted reports at that time.

Private Reporting for ATT Initial Reports Over Time



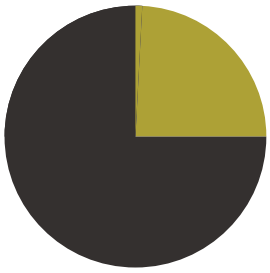
As of August 2026, **24 of the 94 initial reports submitted were private**, representing approximately 26% of all ATT initial reports submitted.

Of the 24 States Parties that elected to make their initial reports private as of October 2026...

8 are from **Africa**
7 are from the **Americas**
5 are from **Asia**
3 are from **Europe**
1 is from **Oceania**

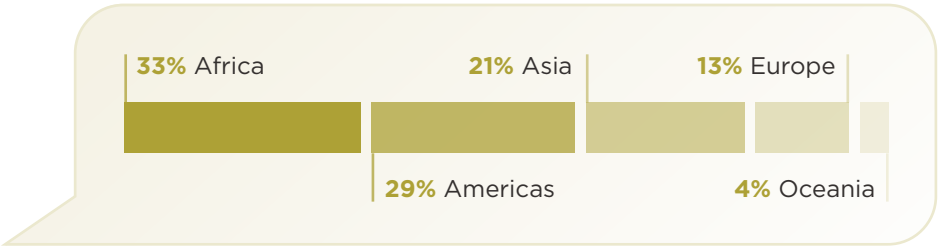


Rates of Public vs Private Initial Reporting (as of October 2026, in approximate percent)



75%
Public
Initial Reporting

25%
Private
Initial Reporting



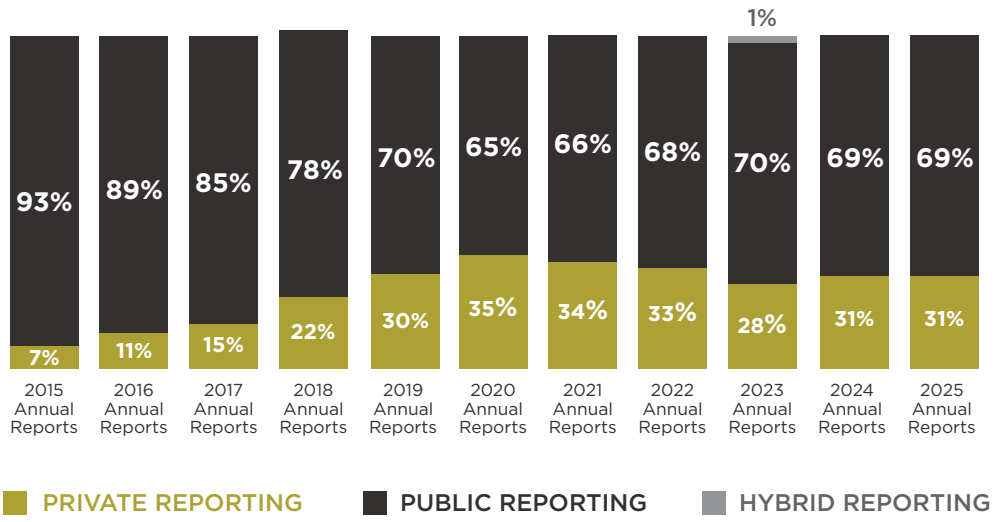
At least 88% of the ATT States Parties that submitted private ATT initial reports have reported publicly on their national arms transfer control systems in a national report on implementation of the UN Programme of Action.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The rate of private annual reporting dramatically increased in the first six years of ATT annual reporting, rising from 7% of 2015 annual reports to 35% of 2020 annual reports. The trend has since plateaued, hovering around 30% of reports submitted privately per year.

*Finland submitted its 2023 report in a 'hybrid' format, with its imports private and exports public.

Rates of Private vs Public ATT Reporting on Annual Arms Exports and Imports (as of October 2026, in approximate percent)

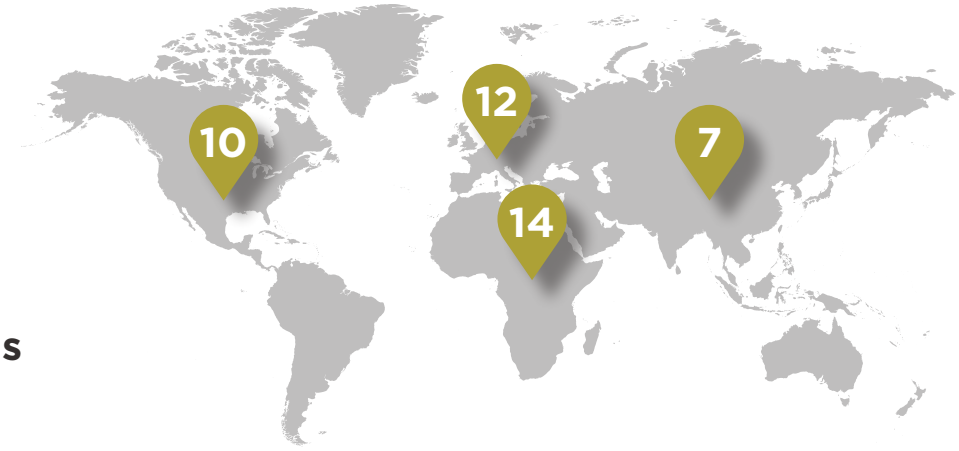


Fifteen States Parties have only ever submitted private ATT annual reports to the ATT Secretariat, while another 28 have submitted a combination of public and private reports. Among the latter, nine States Parties have changed their practice from public to private reporting, at least two have transitioned from private to public reporting, and at least 11 initially reported publicly, subsequently submitted one or more private reports, and have since returned to public reporting.

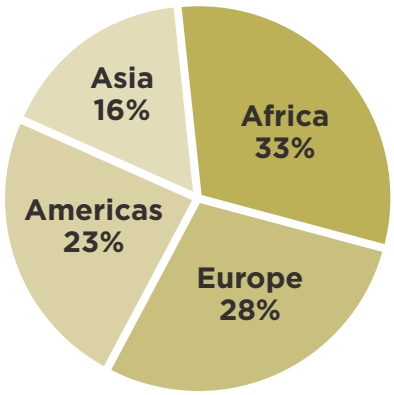
Since the first round of ATT annual reporting, a total of 43 States Parties have submitted private annual reports to the ATT Secretariat at least once.

Of these States Parties...

14 are from **Africa**
12 are from **Europe**
10 are from the **Americas**
7 are from **Asia**



Regional Share of Private Annual Reporting (as of October 2026, in approximate percent)



Of the 43 States Parties that have submitted a private annual report at least once, all have reported publicly on their annual arms transfers, either through the ATT or to the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA).* Twenty-three of these States Parties submitted a public UNROCA report in the same year(s) that they submitted a private ATT annual report.

*The sole exception is the State of Palestine. Although Palestine is a State Party to the ATT, it is not eligible to submit annual reports to UNROCA because it is not a UN Member State.

REASONS FOR PRIVATE REPORTING

States Parties have rarely indicated why they have chosen to make their ATT initial and/or annual reports private or have switched to private reporting after reporting publicly on their annual arms exports and imports. Private reporting may result from a change in personnel completing the reports or a change in national policy and practice. In responses to a survey conducted by the Stimson Center and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute that examined the reasons for private ATT reporting, States offered the following explanations:

- Concerns relating to the release of information regarded as sensitive
- Security concerns
- Reported privately by mistake
- Obligation of a regional/multilateral/international agreement to which the State Party is a member