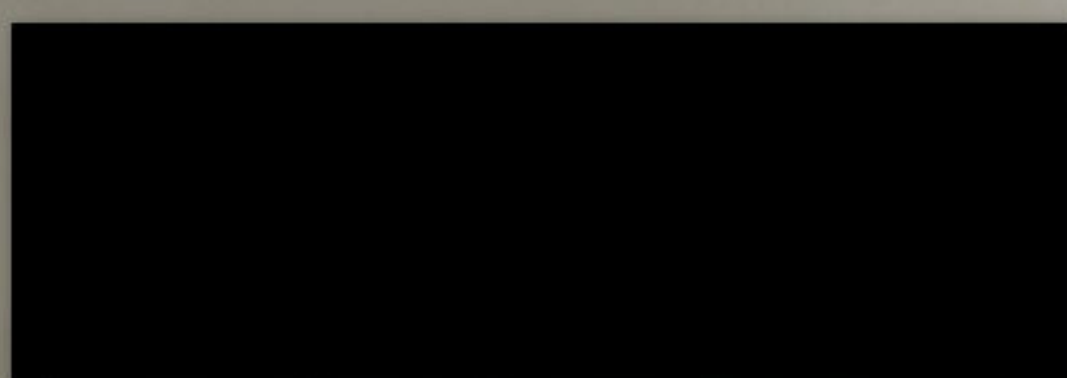




LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE DU PARLEMENT

## ARMS-RELATED TRADE BETWEEN CANADA AND ISRAEL: SELECTED INFORMATION



Research and Education

8 July 2025

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

Projects prepared by Research and Education are designed in accordance with the requirements of parliamentarians making the request. The views expressed should not therefore be regarded as those of Research and Education nor of the individual preparing the project.



## CANADA'S EXPORT CONTROL LIST AND ITS IMPORT CONTROL LIST

### A. EXPORT CONTROL LIST

At present, the ECL comprises nine groups of controlled items, including military goods and technologies that are specified in Group 2 (Munitions List) and in Group 9 (Arms Trade Treaty).<sup>3</sup>

The ECL incorporates, by reference, GAC's *A Guide to Canada's Export Control List – 2025* (the Guide). The Guide sets out the complete list of controlled items and their technical specifications, and is regularly updated to align with the Government of Canada's commitments in the following four multilateral export control regimes:

- the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies (the Wassenaar Arrangement);
- the Nuclear Suppliers Group;
- the Missile Technology Control Regime; and
- the Australia Group.

Until recently, all updates to the Guide required regulatory amendments to the ECL. In June 2021, the Administrator in Council<sup>4</sup> issued an order that changed this process. The Government of Canada's regulatory impact analysis statement concerning the order indicates that the only updates that can occur without the need for a regulatory amendment are those needed for alignment with multilateral export control and non-proliferation regimes in which Canada participates; all other updates are subject to the notice and comment periods required for regulatory amendments.

According to GAC, Group 2 of the ECL comprises military goods and technologies that are designed or modified for military use. In its *Export and brokering controls handbook*, GAC states that the goods and technologies in this group “present a strategic military concern,” adding that this group comprises items that “Canada has committed to controlling for export as a result of its participation in the Wassenaar Arrangement.” The Wassenaar Arrangement Secretariat indicates that, although the Wassenaar Arrangement is not a binding export control regime, its signatories voluntarily agree to control exports of “conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.”

As of 8 July 2025, the ECL's Group 2 had 22 items. Examples include aircraft, ammunition, specified chemical agents, electronic equipment, explosive devices designed or modified for military use, firearms, military ground vehicles and their components, imaging and countermeasures equipment designed or modified for military use, and software designed or modified for military use.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The *Export Control List* also outlines items relating to dual-use technologies (Group 1), nuclear technologies (Groups 3 and 4), miscellaneous goods (Group 5), missile technologies (Group 6), and chemical and biological weapons (Group 7); Group 8 was repealed in 2006. See Government of Canada, *Questions and answers: Strengthening Canada's export control program*.

<sup>4</sup> Between January 2021 and July 2021, Chief Justice Richard Wagner served as the Administrator of the Government of Canada (the Administrator) following the January 2021 resignation of then Governor General Julie Payette. Similar to the Governor General, the Administrator can issue orders in council while serving in that role.

<sup>5</sup> Table 2 in this paper identifies the entire list of 22 items in Group 2 of the *Export Control List*.



Group 9 of the ECL comprises military goods and technologies controlled under the *Arms Trade Treaty*. As of 8 July 2025, Group 9 comprised the following nine items: armoured combat vehicles; battle tanks; large-calibre artillery systems; military aircraft and related systems; military helicopters and related systems; naval vessels and submarines that are armed and equipped for military use; missiles and missile launchers; small arms designed or modified for police or military use; and light weapons designed or modified for police or military use.

## **B. IMPORT CONTROL LIST**

According to GAC, goods subject to Canada's import controls include military goods and technologies, as well as certain listed agricultural, agri-food, aluminum and steel products.

The EIPA requires an import permit for items 70 to 73 and 91 listed on the ICL, as well as specially designed components and parts relating to these items. The items are the following:

- ammunition;
- battle tanks and self-propelled guns;
- bombs;
- pyrotechnics; and
- small- and large-calibre weapons.

GAC's 2024 report on the administration of EIPA permits indicates that certain firearms and their parts are "exempted from the import permit requirement." The report also points out that "[m]anufacturers and businesses licensed by the Provincial Chief Firearms Officers may import prohibited weapons, prohibited firearms and prohibited devices under strictly controlled conditions."

## **EXPORTS OF CANADIAN MILITARY GOODS AND TECHNOLOGIES TO ISRAEL**

### **A. EXPORT PERMITS**

A sessional paper that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs tabled in Parliament on 8 April 2024 focuses on Canadian military goods and technologies that have been exported to Israel. According to the sessional paper, since 1991 and as of 8 April 2024, GAC's Export Controls Division had not issued any export permits to Canadian individuals or organizations for exports of major conventional arms or light weapons listed in the ECL's Group 9 to Israel. The sessional paper also notes that, since 1994 and as of 8 April 2024, four export permits had been issued for exports of pistols and other small arms listed in Group 9 to Israel; these permits were issued in 2008, 2010, 2015 and 2018.

Concerning export permits issued in recent years for exports of Canadian military goods and technologies listed in the ECL's Group 2, including to Israel, the sessional paper indicates that most of these permits had been issued for components, parts, and other related equipment and technologies specifically designed for military use. The sessional paper adds that these components, parts, and other related equipment and technologies are integrated into "more developed components or full systems" that Canada or the country's allies, including other North Atlantic Treaty Organization member countries, then import.





In relation to export permits issued in 2023 for exports of Canadian military goods and technologies to Israel, GAC's Exports of military goods and technology – 2023 report states the following:

Throughout 2023, export permit applications for military goods and technology to Israel were reviewed on a case-by-case basis, including against the [Arms Trade Treaty] criteria, which are enshrined in the EIPA. Following the terrorist attack by Hamas against Israel on October 7, 2023 and the subsequent military operations by Israel in Gaza, the only permits issued were for non-lethal items. No permits have been issued since January 8, 2024, and all permits that remain valid at the time of tabling of this report [on 31 May 2024] are for non-lethal items.

Furthermore, GAC's Annual Report on Strategic Goods and Technologies Pursuant to Section 27 of the Export and Import Permits Act – 2024 (the 2024 report on exports of Canadian military goods and technologies) notes the following in relation to export permits issued in 2024 for exports of Canadian military goods and technologies to Israel:<sup>6</sup>

Global Affairs Canada's approach since January 8, 2024, has been to not issue permits and to suspend a limited number of export permits for military items destined for Israel. These suspensions allow for further review into whether the authorized items could be used in the ongoing conflict [between Israel and Hamas] in a manner inconsistent with Canada's foreign policy objectives.

Table 1 indicates the number of export permits issued and used for exports of Canadian military goods and technologies to Israel between 2016 and 2024. GAC states that export permits issued in a given year for exports of such goods and technologies are valid for a maximum five-year period and can be used to export these items during any of the years for which a permit is valid. As well, GAC indicates that export permits used during a specific year for these exports may include permits issued in previous years.

**Table 1 – Number of Export Permits Issued and Used for Exports of Canadian Military Goods and Technologies to Israel, 2016–2024**

Year	Issued	Used
2016	n/a	245
2017	n/a	291
2018	n/a	327
2019	311	401
2020	247	400

<sup>6</sup> On 13 March 2024, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) provided the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development with documents indicating the number of export permits issued for exports of Canadian military goods and technologies to Israel over the 7 October 2023–12 February 2024 period. Furthermore, between 21 June 2024 and 23 September 2024, GAC provided additional documents providing the number of export permits for exports of certain Canadian military goods and technologies to Israel that were valid during that period. For more information, see House of Commons, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, Documents received from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development related to the motion adopted by the committee on Wednesday, May 22, 2024.



Year	Issued	Used
2021	148	280
2022	199	315
2023	193	348
2024	2	164

Note: "n/a" indicates that data are not available.

Sources: Table prepared by the Library of Parliament using data obtained from Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2016*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2017*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2018*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2019*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2020*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2021*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2022*; Government of Canada, *Exports of military goods and technology – 2023*; and Government of Canada, *Annual Report on Strategic Goods and Technologies Pursuant to Section 27 of the Export and Import Permits Act – 2024*.

## B. VALUE OF EXPORTS OF CANADIAN MILITARY GOODS AND TECHNOLOGIES TO ISRAEL

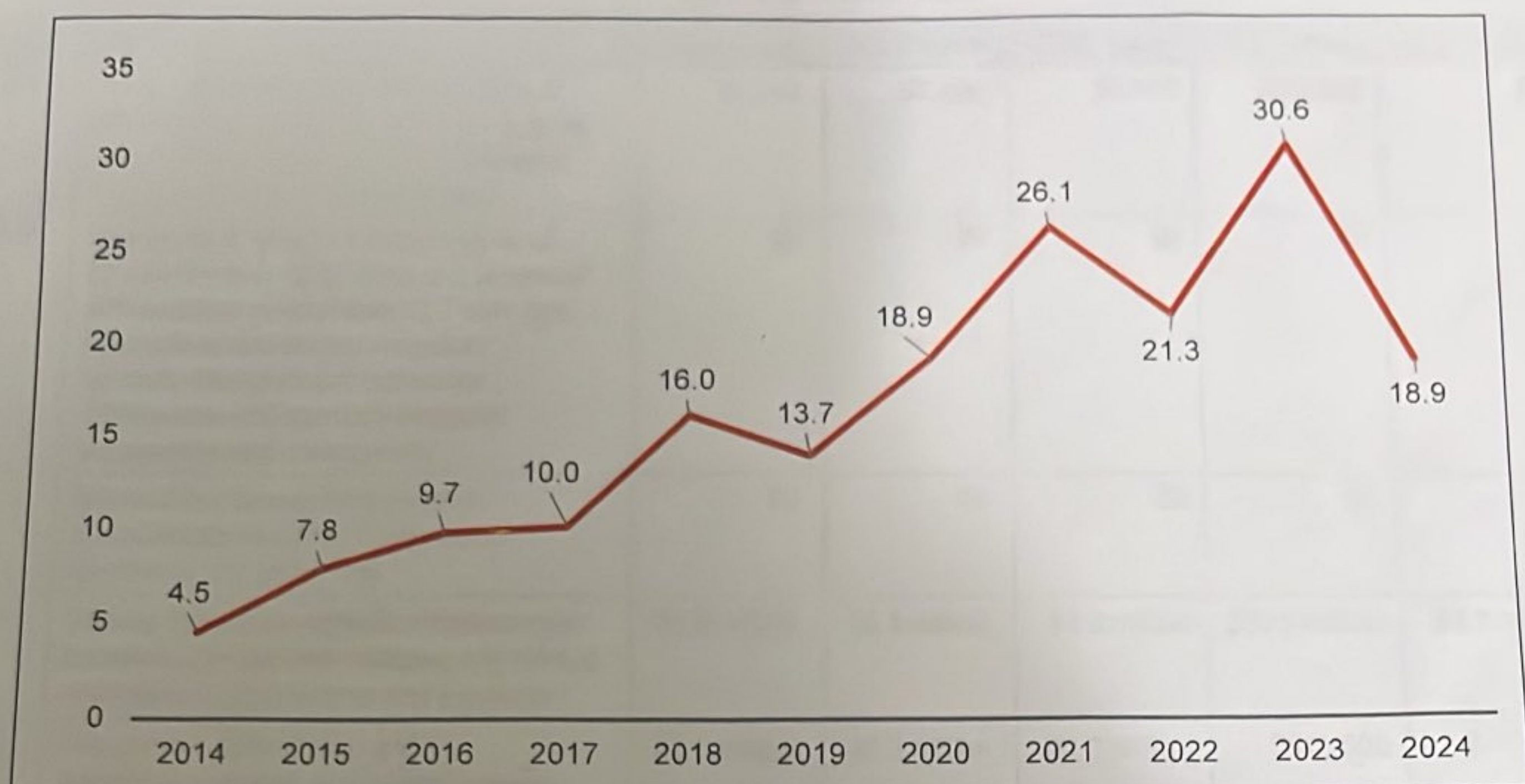
Statistics Canada indicates that data relating to exports of Canadian military goods and technologies in a given year are provided in annual reports that GAC publishes concerning such exports. In 2019, the EIPA was amended to require the Minister of Foreign Affairs to table these annual reports in Parliament, with the report for a given calendar year tabled prior to 31 May of the subsequent calendar year. Between 1990 and 2019, such annual reports had been published and tabled voluntarily. On 30 May 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs tabled GAC's 2024 report on exports of Canadian military goods and technologies.<sup>7</sup>

Figure 1 shows the annual value of exports of Canadian military goods and technologies to Israel over the 2014–2024 period.

<sup>7</sup> The Minister of Foreign Affairs is expected to table GAC's annual report on exports of Canadian military goods and technologies in 2025 in Parliament prior to 31 May 2026. See Government of Canada, *Export and import controls reports: Global Affairs Canada*.



**Figure 1 – Value of Exports of Canadian Military Goods and Technologies to Israel, 2014–2024 (\$ millions)**



Sources: Figure prepared by the Library of Parliament using data obtained from Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2014*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2015*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2016*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2017*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2018*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2019*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2020*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2021*; Government of Canada, *Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2022*; Government of Canada, *Exports of military goods and technology – 2023*; and Government of Canada, *Annual Report on Strategic Goods and Technologies Pursuant to Section 27 of the Export and Import Permits Act – 2024*.

Over the 2020–2024 period, all Canadian military goods and technologies exported to Israel were items listed in Group 2 of the ECL. Table 2 provides, for that period, an overview of these items and the annual value of the exports of each item.



**Table 2 – Exports of Canadian Military Goods and Technologies to Israel,  
by Item and Value, 2020–2024**

Item	Description	2020 Value	2021 Value	2022 Value	2023 Value	2024 Value
2-1	Smooth-bore weapons with a calibre of less than 20 millimetres (mm); other arms and automatic weapons with a calibre of 12.7 mm or less; and accessories	\$7,200	\$7,400	\$9,300	\$10,700	\$0
2-2	Smooth-bore weapons with a calibre of 20 mm or more; other arms and weapons with a calibre greater than 12.7 mm; gas, pyrotechnic and smoke projectors specially designed or modified for military use; and specially designed accessories and components	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2-3	Ammunition; fuse-setting devices; and specially designed components for military and police use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2-4	Bombs; torpedoes; rockets; missiles; other explosive devices and charges; and related accessories, components and equipment	\$5.8 million	\$6.1 million	\$3.2 million	\$10.5 million	\$2.3 million
2-5	Fire control, surveillance and warning equipment, and related systems; alignment, countermeasure and test equipment specially designed for military use; and specially designed accessories and components	\$2.6 million	\$6.8 million	\$1.1 million	\$540,500	\$115,500
2-6	Ground vehicles and components	\$326,600	\$367,700	\$297,200	\$323,000	\$88,600
2-7	Chemical or biological toxic agents; riot control agents; radioactive materials; and related components, equipment and materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2-8	Energy-producing materials and related substances that are specially designed for military use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2-9	Vessels of war; special naval equipment and accessories; and components specially designed for military use	\$199,200	\$100,700	\$516,800	\$621,400	\$370,500
2-10	Aircraft; lighter-than-air vehicles; unmanned airborne vehicles; aero-engines and aircraft equipment; and related equipment and components specially designed or modified for military use	\$4.0 million	\$4.3 million	\$5.0 million	\$4.4 million	\$2.9 million
2-11	Electronic equipment; military spacecraft; and related components	\$5.6 million	\$5.7 million	\$10.5 million	\$13.1 million	\$12.5 million
2-12	High velocity kinetic energy weapon systems; and related components and equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$



Item	Description	2020 Value	2021 Value	2022 Value	2023 Value	2024 Value
2-13	Armoured or protective equipment; constructions of metallic or non-metallic materials; and related components	\$55,300	\$109,100	\$4,600	\$0	\$0
2-14	Specialized equipment for military training or for simulating military scenarios; simulators specially designed for training in the use of any firearm or weapon specified in item 2-1 or 2-2; and specially designed components and accessories	\$5,600	\$0	\$2,600	\$0	\$0
2-15	Imaging and countermeasure equipment specially designed for military use; and specially designed components and accessories	\$510,700	\$1.9 million	\$531,600	\$240,000	\$125,200
2-16	Forgings, castings and other unfinished products specially designed for items 2-1 to 2-4, 2-6, 2-9, 2-10, 2-12 or 2-19	\$122,700	\$351,800	\$291,900	\$435,100	\$550,200
2-17	Miscellaneous equipment and materials; libraries specially designed or modified for military use; and specially designed components	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2-18	Production equipment; environmental test facilities; and related components	\$73,400	\$123,800	\$18,600	\$75,800	\$0
2-19	Directed Energy Weapon systems and related or countermeasure equipment and test models; and specially designed components	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2-20	Cryogenic and superconductive equipment; and specially designed components and accessories	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2-21	Software	\$107,100	\$761,500	\$18,100	\$319,900	\$0
2-22	Technology	\$2,600	\$224,500	\$291,600	\$190,800	\$25,700

Notes: Values have been rounded.

Over the 2020–2024 period, all Canadian military goods and technologies exported to Israel were items listed in Group 2 of the *Export Control List*.

Sources: Table prepared by the Library of Parliament using data obtained from Government of Canada, [\*Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2020\*](#); Government of Canada, [\*Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2021\*](#); Government of Canada, [\*Report on exports of military goods from Canada – 2022\*](#); Government of Canada, [\*Exports of military goods and technology – 2023\*](#); Government of Canada, [\*Annual Report on Strategic Goods and Technologies Pursuant to Section 27 of the Export and Import Permits Act – 2024\*](#); and Government of Canada, [\*A Guide to Canada’s Export Control List – 2025\*](#).



## CANADIAN IMPORTS OF ISRAELI MILITARY GOODS AND TECHNOLOGIES

### A. IMPORT PERMITS

GAC's annual reports on the administration of EIPA permits contain data on the number of import permits issued, cancelled or denied in a given year for Canadian imports of certain military goods and technologies; the reports do not specify the jurisdictions of origin, and nor do they provide a breakdown of import permits concerning particular military goods and technologies. The annual reports for the 2011–2024 period do not contain data concerning import permits issued for Canadian imports of certain Israeli military goods and technologies.

### B. VALUE OF IMPORTS

GAC's annual reports on the administration of EIPA permits do not provide data on the value of Canadian imports of Israeli military goods and technologies. However, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's Trade Data Online database and Statistics Canada's Canadian International Merchandise Trade Web Application provide such data; the data collection methodology that they use differs from that which GAC uses. In particular, they collect data based on World Customs Organization–determined categories of traded goods; each military good and technology has a specific Harmonized System code. Statistics Canada indicates that, although arms and ammunition designed for military use are listed under Chapter 93 of the Harmonized System, not all goods included in that chapter are military goods and technologies; for example, flare guns for gas and oil drilling are listed under Chapter 93.

Table 3 provides the annual value of Canadian imports of selected Israeli military goods and technologies over the 2020–2024 period. The goods and technologies presented in the table were chosen because their Harmonized System codes clearly indicate a military purpose.

**Table 3 – Value of Canadian Imports of Selected Israeli Military Goods and Technologies, 2020–2024**

Military Good and Technology	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Battle tanks; other armoured fighting vehicles; and related components and parts	\$146,800	\$257,200	\$12.5 million	\$11.5 million	\$5.1 million
Ammunition; bombs; grenades; and other explosives	\$54,300	\$15,579	\$0	\$5,800	\$0
Military weapons, excluding pistols, revolvers and other small arms	\$0	\$21,700	\$13,300	\$18,100	\$6,400
Pistols, revolvers and other small arms	\$766,400	\$597,300	\$486,200	\$0	\$0
Weapon components and parts	\$36,800	\$2.1 million	\$505,900	\$549,100	\$3.2 million

Notes: Values have been rounded.

The goods and technologies presented in the table were chosen because their Harmonized System codes clearly indicate a military purpose.

Source: Table prepared by the Library of Parliament using data obtained from Government of Canada, "Trade Data Online," Database, accessed 2 July 2025.

