

Worldwide Nuclear Stockpiles 1945-2005

Country	1945	1955	1965	1975	1985	1995	2005
United States	6	3,057	31,982	27,826	24,237	12,144	10,295
USSR/Russia	0	200	6,129	19,055	39,197	27,000	17,000
United Kingdom	0	10	310	325	300	300	200
France	0	0	32	188	360	500	350
China [1]	0	0	5	185	200	200	200
Israel [2]	0	0	0	20	77	115	150
India [3]	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	66	86
South Africa [4]	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Pakistan [3]	0	0	0	0	N/A	10	36
North Korea [5]	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Total	6	3,267	38,458	47,599	64,374	40,335	28,317

Notes:

[1] China's nuclear force has historically been overestimated by US defense analysts. A 2004 fact sheet from the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs notes that China has the smallest nuclear arsenal of declared nuclear weapon states. If this is to be believed, their total force must be under Britain's.

[2] The actual size and composition of Israel's nuclear stockpile is uncertain and is the subject of various estimates and reports. The values shown are the median between the highest and lowest reported numbers. Israel remains outside the NPT.

[3] The numbers for India and Pakistan are not actual numbers of warheads in their possession but extrapolations of how many weapons they might possess (or have possessed) considering their fissile material production capabilities. N/A refers to years when it was difficult to determine whether or not any weapons had been stored in an assembled form. Both states remain outside the NPT.

[4] South Africa had developed seven nuclear weapons by 1990, but destroyed them soon after and joined the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state in 1991.

[5] North Korea withdrew from the NPT in 2003 and announced in February 2005 that it had developed nuclear weapons. As of 2006, it had not conducted nuclear tests. Determining an exact number of operational warheads is impossible, as estimates vary wildly. North Korea appears to have enough fissile material for between five and fifteen warheads.

Sources:

Robert Norris and Hans Kristensen, "Global Nuclear Stockpiles, 1945-2006," *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, July/August 2006.

"Archive of Nuclear Data," Natural Resources Defense Council.