

U.S. tops global military spending at \$1.9 trillion



Stockholm, April 29 (RHC)-- The United States leads once again the list of largest military spenders with a 38 percent share of the almost \$1.9 trillion USD spent in war and weapons by the world's superpowers, according to the latest annual report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

"The recent growth in U.S. military spending is largely based on a perceived return to competition between the great powers," senior researcher at SIPRI Pieter Wezeman said. The 2019 report found that the top military spenders after the U.S. were China, India, Russia and Saudi Arabia. Total spending in 2019 was 3.6 percent higher than in the previous year and accounted for 2.2 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP).

"Global military expenditure was 7.2 percent higher in 2019 than it was in 2010, showing a trend that military spending growth has accelerated in recent years," SIPRI researcher Nan Tian said in a statement. "This is the highest level of spending since the 2008 global financial crisis and probably represents a peak in expenditure."

China's military expenditure hit \$261 billion in 2019, a 5.1 percent rise compared to 2018, while India posted a 6.8 percent surge to \$71.1 billion. The research underlined that China's military expenditure had increased continuously for 25 consecutive years, closely matching the country's economic growth.

Russia's spending also increased by 4.5 percent while it fell in Saudi Arabia by 16 points. Regional conflicts, the rise in tensions, and perceived threats between superpowers are likely the biggest reasons behind the surge, according to experts.

Military expenditure in South America was relatively unchanged in 2019, at \$52.8 billion. Brazil accounted for 51 percent of total military expenditure in the subregion. While the combined military expenditure of states in Africa grew by 1.5 percent to an estimated \$41.2 billion in 2019, the region's first spending increase for five years.

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