

## To find the answer to this question

Let's start by understanding the "world with nuclear weapons" we live in. This leaflet provides a clear explanation of the current global situation regarding nuclear weapons, using the 2024 edition of the "World's Nuclear Warhead Data" poster, created annually since 2013 by the PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC) and the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA). For more detailed information, please see the "Digital Guide: Let's Think About Nuclear Weapons" and the "Nuclear Warhead Database." You can find their QR codes on the back page.



### PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC)

This council for the abolition of nuclear weapons consists of Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City, and Nagasaki University. Since its establishment in 2012, it has been organizing public lectures and providing educational and training programs for the young people who will lead the next generation.

核兵器廃絶  
長崎連絡協議会  
PCU-Nagasaki Council



### Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)

A unique research institution specializing in information dissemination, research and policy proposal, and educational activities aimed at achieving the abolition of nuclear weapons. Established in 2012.

RECNA  
長崎大学核兵器廃絶研究センター



### Digital Guide: Let's Think About Nuclear Weapons

⇒ Provides a clear Q&A explanation of the global situation surrounding nuclear weapons (Japanese only).



### RECNA World's Nuclear Warhead Database

⇒ Details the nuclear capabilities of each of the nine nuclear-armed countries.



### RECNA World's Fissile Material Database

⇒ Explains the quantity of nuclear materials that can be used for weapons that exist worldwide.

## Contact

PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC)

1-14, Bunkyo-machi, Nagasaki-shi, Nagasaki, Japan 852-8521

TEL: +81-95-819-2252 / FAX: +81-95-819-2165

## Let's Think Together

# About Nuclear Weapons

### World's Nuclear Warhead Data

## A Guide to Understanding 2024

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長崎連絡協議会  
PCU-Nagasaki Council

RECNA  
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-About this leaflet-

## Is there anything we can do?

On August 9, 1945, a single atomic bomb destroyed the city of Nagasaki and claimed many lives. Those who survived were left with lifelong suffering. Driven by the conviction that history must not repeat itself, people have continued to proclaim, "Let Nagasaki be the last atomic bombed city!" However, nearly 80 years later, the threat of nuclear weapons still persists. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the conflicts in the Gaza Strip have brought the use of nuclear weapons into the realm of real threats. Will the day come when Nagasaki is no longer the "last atomic bombed city"?

## What's the difference between the number of "deployable nuclear warheads" and the total inventory?

Nuclear warheads can be divided into three categories based on their status.

Deployed Warheads

As the name suggests, "deployed warheads" are nuclear warheads that are deployed with operational forces and ready for immediate use.

Reserved Warheads

"Reserved warheads" are nuclear warheads that are non-operational and stored for potential deployment.

Retired or to be Dismantled Warheads

"Retired or to be dismantled warheads" are nuclear warheads that have been retired from active service and are awaiting dismantlement. The United States and Russia, which produced large numbers of warheads during the Cold War, possess a significant number of warheads of this status.

### What is a nuclear warhead?

A nuclear warhead is the part of a nuclear weapon that actually detonates. A nuclear weapon refers to the combination of a nuclear warhead and the missile or other delivery system that carries it.

### Deployable nuclear warheads + Total inventory

#### Relationship between deployable nuclear warheads and total inventory

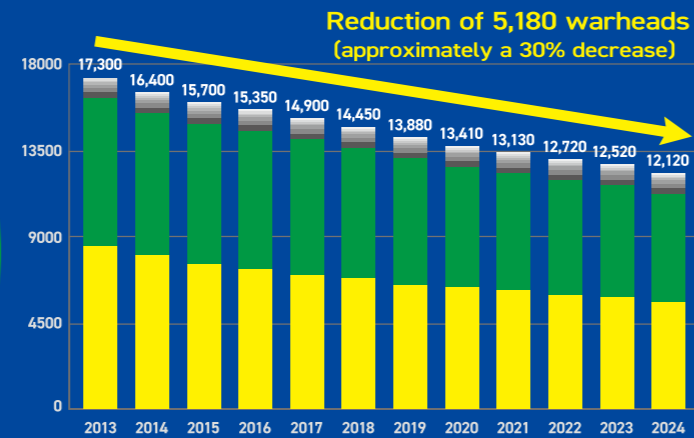
The "total inventory" refers to the sum of all three categories of warheads. As of June 2024, the estimated total inventory of nuclear warheads in the world is 12,120. The number of "deployable nuclear warheads" is derived by subtracting the number of "retired or to be dismantled warheads" from this total. This figure represents the number of warheads that are actually available for use at present.

#### What are deployable nuclear warheads?

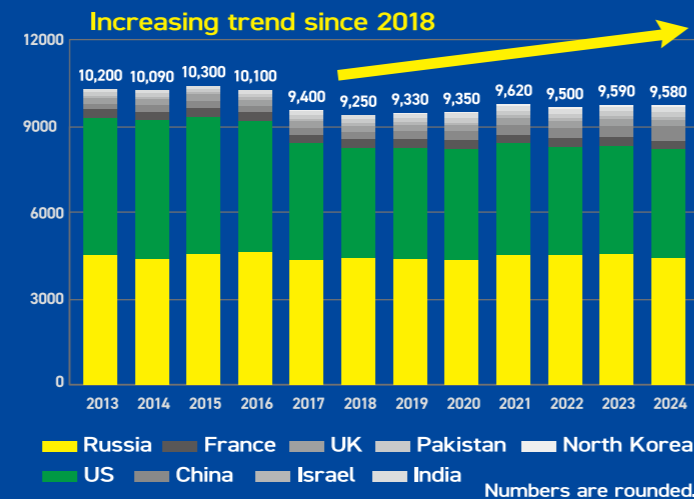
Deployable nuclear warheads refer to the total number of "deployed warheads" and "reserve/non-operational warheads." As of June 2024, the estimated number of deployable nuclear warheads in the world is 9,583.

## What is meant by "Nuclear Arms Build-up Underway"?

### Total Inventories of Nuclear Warheads (2013-2024)



### Deployable Nuclear Warheads (2013-2024)



### The Current State of Nuclear Weapons: Trends in Total and Deployed Warhead Numbers

Since the introduction of the poster in 2013, the total number of nuclear warheads has decreased by over 5,000. During the peak of the Cold War, the number of warheads was close to 70,000.

While the total inventory of nuclear warheads has decreased...

The trend for deployable warheads tells a different story. The reduction from 2013 to the present has been relatively modest, and since 2018, the number of deployable warheads has been increasing. Moreover, the issue is not just about numbers. Nuclear-armed countries are investing heavily in "modernization programs" to upgrade their arsenals with the latest technology. The development of new nuclear weapons using cutting-edge advancements is also accelerating. Thus, "Nuclear Arms Build-up Underway" applies not only to the "quantity" but also to the "quality" of nuclear arsenals.

### The Number of Deployable Nuclear Warheads in the World

June 2024

#### Russia

Increase/decrease (2018-24)

↑34 0.8% Increase

Deployable nuclear warheads 4,380

#### France

Increase/decrease (2018-24)

→0

Deployable nuclear warheads 290

#### Pakistan

Increase/decrease (2018-24)

↑30 21% Increase

Deployable nuclear warheads 170

#### Israel

Increase/decrease (2018-24)

↑10 13% Increase

Deployable nuclear warheads 90

#### UK

Increase/decrease (2018-24)

↑10 5% Increase

Deployable nuclear warheads 225

#### US

Increase/decrease (2018-24)

↓92 2.4% Decrease

Deployable nuclear warheads 3,708

### They exist, so they can be used

9,583

(Total number of nuclear warheads including those retired or to be dismantled: 12,120)

# Nuclear Arms Build-up Underway

#### India

Increase/decrease (2018-24)

↑45 36% Increase

Deployable nuclear warheads 170

#### DPRK

Increase/decrease (2018-24)

↑35 233% Increase

Deployable nuclear warheads 50

#### China

Increase/decrease (2018-24)

↑260 108% Increase

Deployable nuclear warheads 500

#### US

Increase/decrease (2018-24)

↓92 2.4% Decrease

Deployable nuclear warheads 3,708

#### Total

↑332 3.6% Increase

Deployable nuclear warheads 9,583

PCU Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC)/Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RENA)  
For more information, please visit



## Which countries are increasing their nuclear warheads?

### United States and Russia: Two Superpowers

As of 2024, nine countries possess nuclear weapons: Russia, the United States, China, France, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, India, Israel, and North Korea. Among these, the United States and Russia together hold about 80% of the world's deployable nuclear warheads.

This poster illustrates the changes in the number of deployable nuclear warheads for each country from 2018 to 2024, along with their growth rates. North Korea and China show the highest growth rates, expanding their nuclear arsenals as a means to counterbalance the military strength of the United States, which possesses the largest nuclear force.

### Deployable Nuclear Warheads by Country (2018-2024)

Country	2018	2024	Changes in Number (Growth Rate)
Russia	4346	4380	34 (0.8%) Increase ↑
US	3800	3708	92 (2.4%) Decrease ↓
China	240	500	260 (108%) Increase ↑
France	290	290	0 (No change) →
UK	215	225	10 (5%) Increase ↑
Pakistan	140	170	30 (21%) Increase ↑
India	125	170	45 (36%) Increase ↑
Israel	80	90	10 (13%) Increase ↑
North Korea	15	50	35 (233%) Increase ↑
Total	9251	9583	332 (3.6%) Increase ↑

The United States is the only country reducing its numbers, but it is steadily advancing nuclear arms development in terms of "quality." No country intends to give up its nuclear weapons, and they are all working to ensure they can maintain them for decades to come.

## What is meant by "They exist, so they can be used" ?

### The abolition of nuclear weapons is the only option

Preventing the use of nuclear weapons is an urgent task. We must encourage dialogue between nations and stop the arms race from progressing any further. What we must not forget is that the only guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used again is their complete elimination. As long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use remains, including the possibility of accidents. And once nuclear weapons are used, it could escalate into a nuclear war that could lead to the extinction of all humanity.