



**Note to Editors:** *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting's Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer is available for phone interviews. Contact: Phone +1-706-267-6072 or direct email to [jbrauer@SmallArmsAnalytics.com](mailto:jbrauer@SmallArmsAnalytics.com). Additional charts and images are available on request.*

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## **March 2018 U.S. firearms sales picking up**

(GREENVILLE, SC, USA & HALIFAX, NS, CANADA) – *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting (SAAF)* estimates March 2018 firearms sales at 1,594,988 units, a year-over-year increase of 11.4% from March 2017.

SAAF's firearms unit sales estimates are based on raw data taken from the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), adjusted for checks likely to be unrelated to end-user firearms sales. The FBI's numbers cannot be taken at face-value as very large numbers of background checks are unrelated to end-user sales. For example, in March the state of Kentucky conducted almost 391,000 so-called permit checks whereas end-user checks at firearms retailers amounted to just over 30,000 checks.

SAAF Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer comments that "while the renewed national debate on firearms regulation following the February 14 mass shooting at the Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., had surprisingly little effect on February sales figures, this seems to have been made up for in the March sales figures, perhaps because a number of states actually proposed and passed age-limitations and other restrictions on firearms sales."

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Chart attached: United States Firearms Sales (January 1999 to March 2018).

### ***ABOUT Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting:***

*Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting (SAAF) is a research consultancy focusing on the business & economics of the global small arms and ammunition markets. Politically unaffiliated, SAAF is an independent, evidenced-based resource for industry, advocacy, research, and policymaking alike, as well as for financial analysts and members of the media. Among other services, SAAF produces forecasts of U.S. civilian firearms unit sales, nationwide and for most states. Small Arms Analytics<sup>SM</sup> and Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting<sup>SM</sup> both are legally protected Service Marks of Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting. (Contact [sales@SmallArmsAnalytics.com](mailto:sales@SmallArmsAnalytics.com) for sales and other information.)*

# UNITED STATES

## SAAF-adjusted FBI/NICS background checks

