



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. Additional charts and images are available on request.*

For Immediate Release, May 7, 2018

April 2018 U.S. firearms sales fall to lowest level since 2015

(GREENVILLE, SC, USA & HALIFAX, NS, CANADA) – *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting (SAAF)* estimates April 2018 firearms sales at 1,131,533 units, a year-over-year decline of 4.2% from April 2017. This is the lowest unit number for April since April 2015.

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 raw numbers (for April, some 2,186,119, the highest April numbers on record) cannot be taken at face-value as very large numbers of background checks are unrelated to end-user sales. For example, in April the state of Kentucky conducted about 390,000 so-called permit checks alone whereas end-user checks at firearms retailers likely amounted to under 20,000 checks.

SAAF Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer comments that "the sum total of likely firearms sales for the first four month of 2018 is slightly below sales for the same period last year suggesting continued softness in the U.S. firearms market."

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Chart attached: United States Firearms Sales (January 1999 to April 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 AnalyticsSM and Small Arms Analytics & ForecastingSM both are legally protected Service Marks of Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting. (Contact sales@SmallArmsAnalytics.com for sales and other information.)

UNITED STATES

SAAF-adjusted FBI/NICS background checks (January 1999 - April 2018)

