



**Note to Editors:** *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting's* Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer is available for interviews. Contact: [jbrauer@SmallArmsAnalytics.com](mailto:jbrauer@SmallArmsAnalytics.com).

*For Immediate Release, March 6, 2019*

## ***Sharp drop in year-over-year February 2019 U.S. firearms sales***

(GREENVILLE, SC, USA & HALIFAX, NS, CANADA) – *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting* (SAAF) estimates February 2019 firearm sales at 1,157,094 units, a year-over-year decrease of 12.4% from February 2018. Likely single handgun sales (663,620) decreased year-over-year by 9.2% and single long-gun sales (392,871) decreased year-over-year by 18.1%. All other likely firearms sales (100,604) decreased year-over-year by 8.8%. This includes so-called “multiple” sales where the allocation between handguns and long-guns cannot be determined from the data record.

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 February, some 2,028,667) cannot be taken at face-value as very large numbers of background checks are unrelated to end-user sales. For example, in February the state of Kentucky conducted just over 300,000 so-called permit checks alone whereas end-user checks at firearms retailers likely amounted to somewhat less than 24,000 checks.

SAAF Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer comments that “February sales traditionally show an increase over January, and that is true this year as well. But the large year-over-year drop in February 2019 sales, particularly in the long-gun segment, might give the industry some pause. Since 2015, handgun sales have reliably outpaced long-gun sales every month, even during the hunting season, indicative of the shift in consumer demand that started in the late 2000s.”

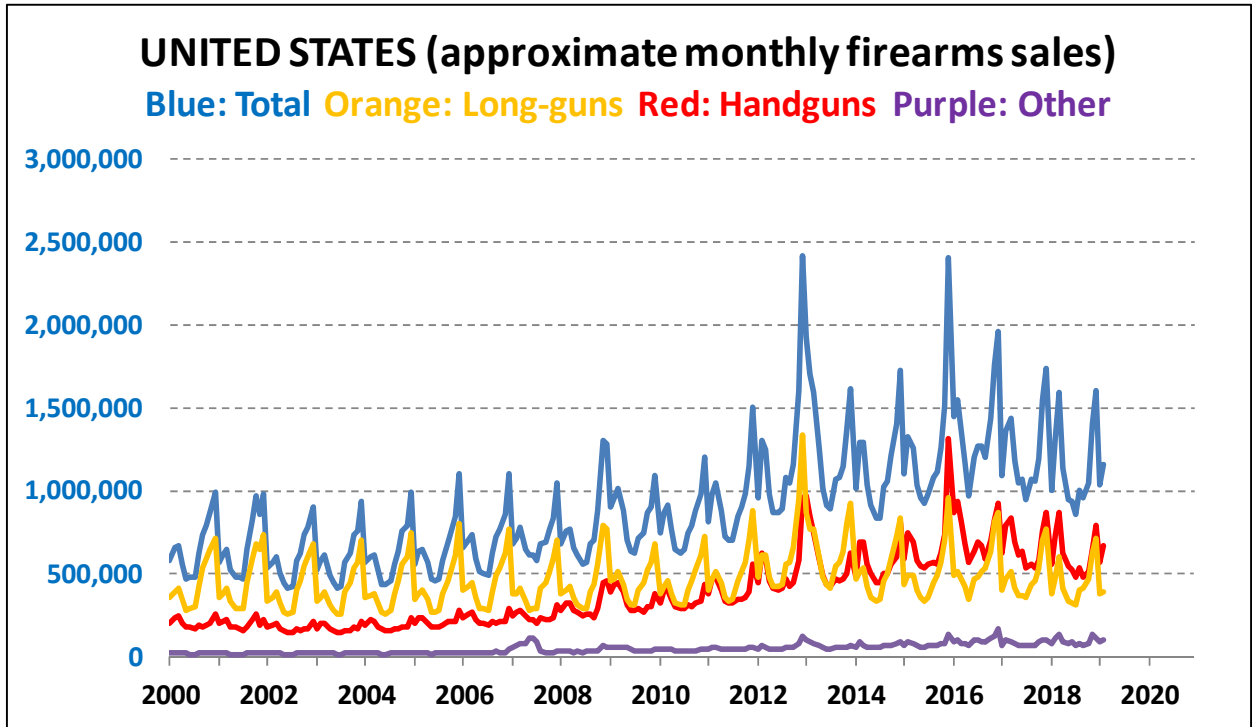
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Chart attached: Approximate United States Firearms Sales (January 1999 to February 2019).

### ***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> are legally protected Service Marks of Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting. (Contact [sales@SmallArmsAnalytics.com](mailto:sales@SmallArmsAnalytics.com) for sales and other information.)*



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