



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

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U.S. firearms sales: Slight year-over-year increase in May 2019

(GREENVILLE, SC, USA & HALIFAX, NS, CANADA) – *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting (SAAF)* estimates May 2019 firearm sales at 957,725 units, a year-over-year increase of 1.0% from May 2018. Likely single handgun sales (542,654) increased year-over-year by 0.7% but single long-gun sales (321,749) decreased year-over-year by 3.2%. All other likely firearms sales (93,322) increased year-over-year by 21.9%. 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. For example, the FBI's raw numbers (for May, some 2,320,918, a “record” for May) cannot be taken at face value, as very large numbers of background checks are unrelated to end-user sales. For example, in May the state of Kentucky conducted just over 315,000 so-called permit checks alone whereas end-user checks at firearms retailers likely amounted to about 15,300 checks. SAAF makes certain other adjustments to the data based on retailer reports and other information; nonetheless, the estimates still likely understate the “true” number of unit sales.

SAAF Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer comments that “while the slight year-over-year unit sales increase will be a relief for the industry, unit sales for the first five months of 2019 still run at the lowest pace since 2015.”

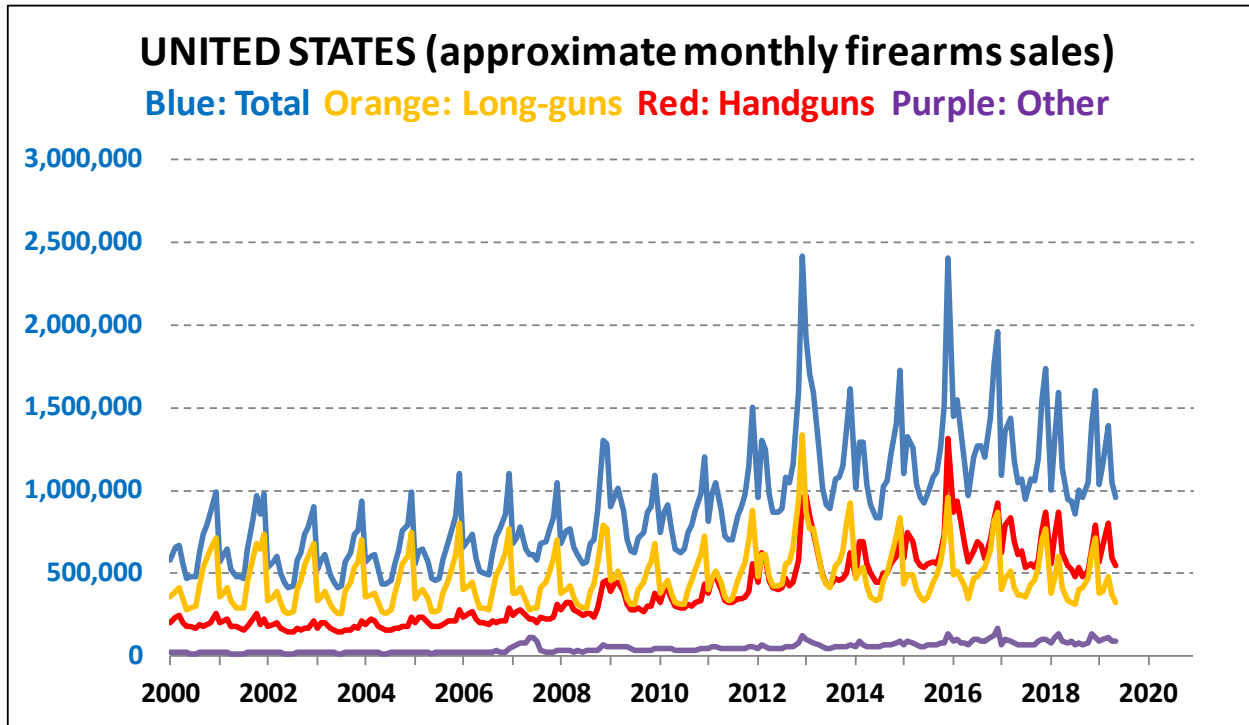
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Contact: Corinne MacLellan <media@SmallArmsAnalytics.com> +1-902-209-3234.

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



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