



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: April 2020 unit sales continue drastic covid-19-related increase

(GREENVILLE, SC, USA & HALIFAX, NS, CANADA) – *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting* (SAAF) estimates April 2020 U.S. firearms unit sales at 1,797,910 units, a year-over-year increase of 71.3% from April 2019. Likely single handgun sales (1,085,046) increased year-over-year by 83.1% whereas single long-gun sales (560,353) increased year-over-year by 51.7%. All other likely background check-related sales (152,512) increased year-over-year by 74.6%. 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 unlikely to be related to end-user firearms sales. For example, the FBI's raw numbers (for April, some 2,878,176) cannot be taken at face value as large numbers of background checks are unrelated to end-user sales. As a case in point, in April the state of Kentucky conducted close to 170,000 so-called permit checks and rechecks alone whereas end-user checks at firearms retailers likely amounted to about 40,000 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 “once more, the spurt in firearms sales in April 2020 is particularly notable for its handgun component: The ratio of handguns to long-guns sold now stands at a new record of 1.94, breaking the previous high of 1.84 set just one month ago.”

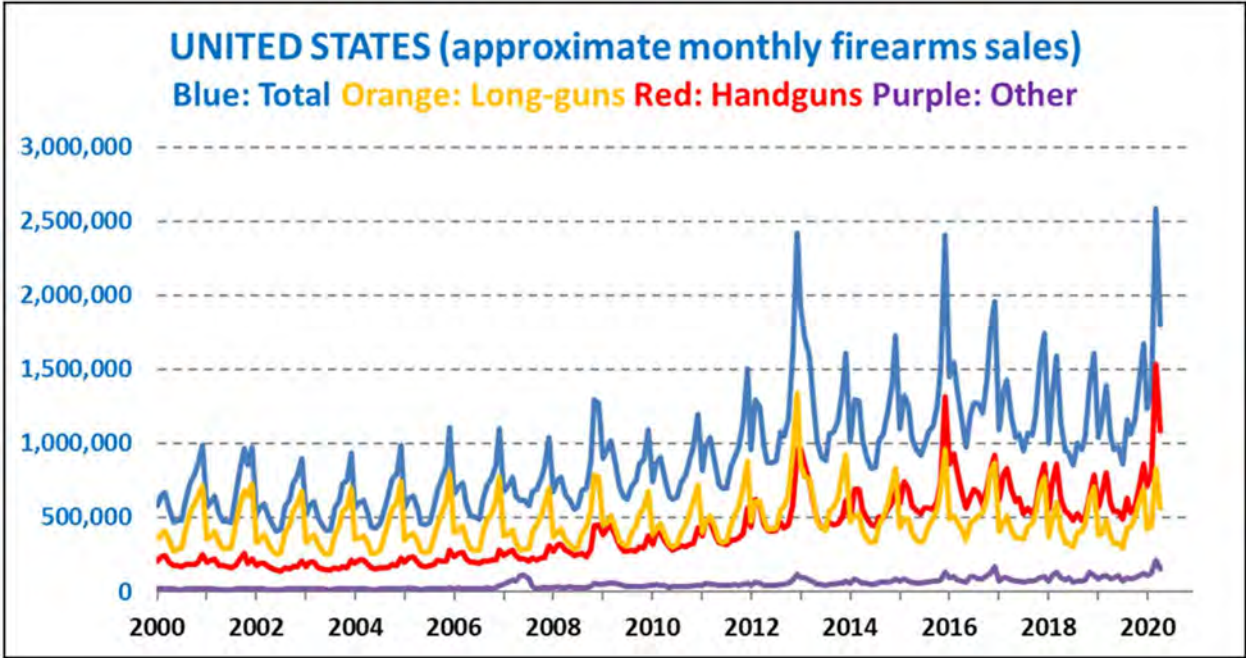
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Chart attached: Approximate United States Firearms Sales (January 2000 to April 2020).

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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