



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: May 2020 daily FBI/NICS data release

(GREENVILLE, SC, USA & HALIFAX, NS, CANADA) – *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting* (SAAF) has examined the FBI's first-ever release of daily National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) numbers. These are raw numbers, not adjusted for likely firearms sales. They include checks not only at the level of U.S. states and territories but also checks within the federal system. They include states' and various other forms of administrative checks, and not every legitimate firearms sale/transfer is run through NICS. Various other precautions apply. The FBI itself states: "These statistics represent the number of firearm background checks initiated through the NICS. They do not represent the number of firearms sold. Based on varying state laws and purchase scenarios, a one-to-one correlation cannot be made between a firearm background check and a firearm sale."

SAAF Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer comments that "the media have expressed particular interest in whether or not the ongoing nation-wide unrest since the killing of Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minn., on May 25th, 2020 may have resulted in additional firearms sales. The NICS numbers through May 31st do not appear to bear out any such impression. In both May 2019 and May 2020 (see attached charts), one sees the regular weekly NICS cycle, without any observable unusual spike. The spike one does see is for March 20th, 2020, undoubtedly due to the global and national covid-19 crisis."

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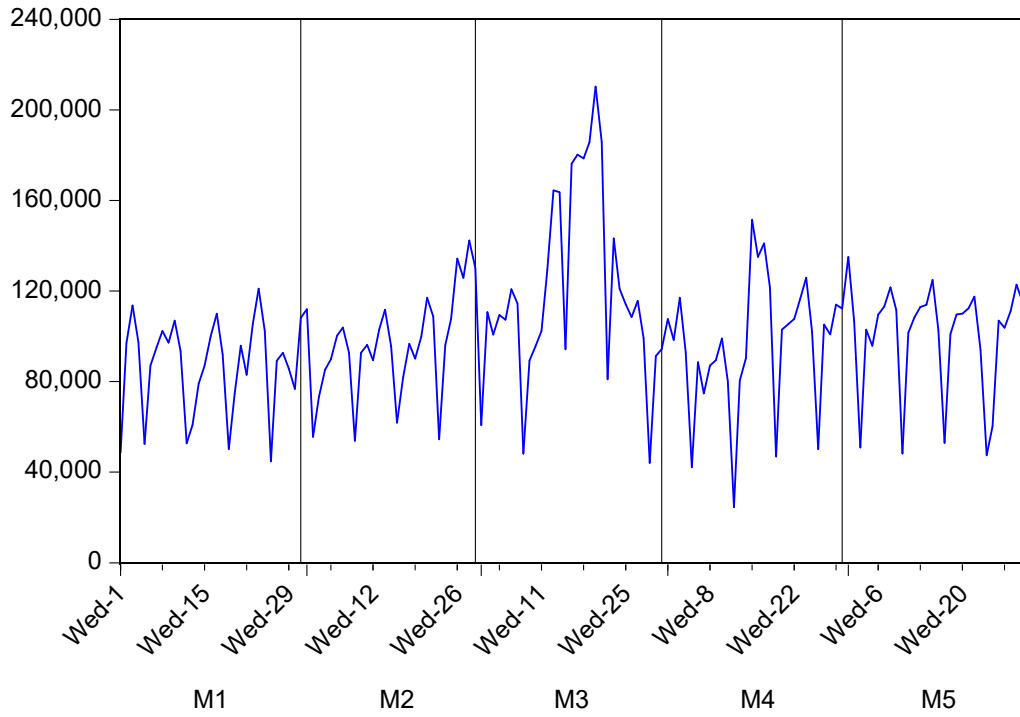
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Chart attached: FBI/NICS daily numbers, Jan. 1 – May 31, 2020 as compared to Jan. 1 – May 31, 2019.

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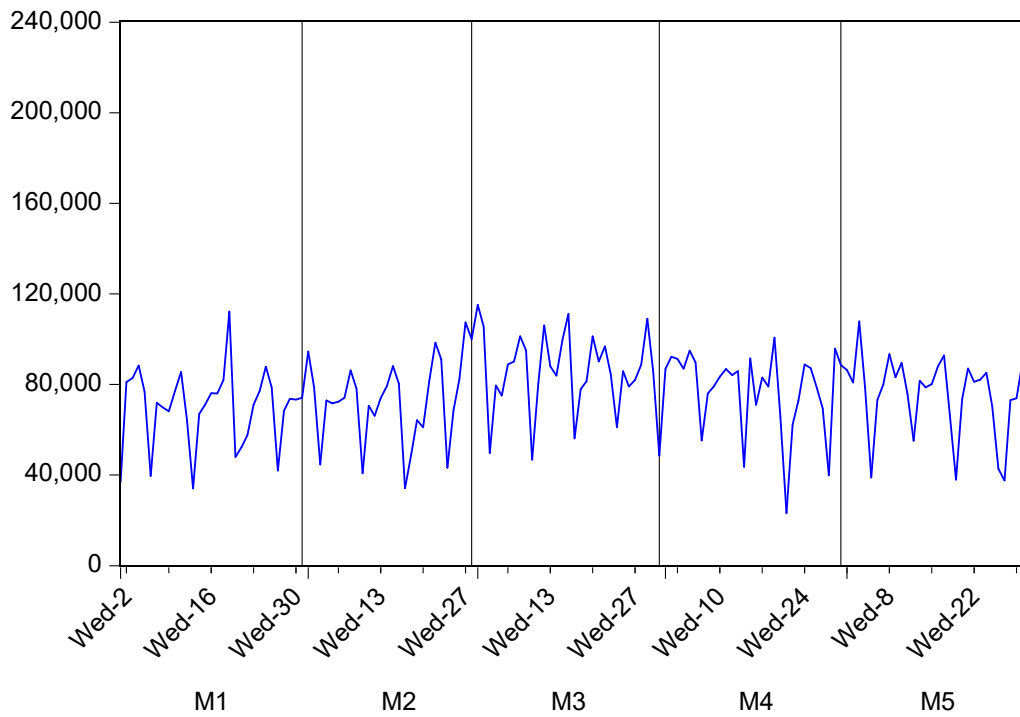
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FBI/NICS (daily), Jan. 1 to May 31, 2020



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