U.S. firearms and munitions imports boom in 2020

(GREENVILLE, SC, USA & HALIFAX, NS, CANADA) – Not counting muzzle-loading or military weapons, Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting (SAAF) estimates U.S. handgun and long-gun imports in 2020 at 6.4 million units, a 60% increase over 2019’s 4.0 million. This increase is in line with last year’s demand surge, which resulted in an estimated 22.8 million firearms units sold. Imports thus supplied 28% of U.S. firearms demand.

The top-10 countries of origin are Turkey, Austria, Brazil, Croatia, Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic, Canada, China, and the Philippines, collectively accounting for 92% of the 2020 firearms import volume.

Relatedly, imports of munitions in 2020 amounted to nearly 3.5 billion units (defined as cartridges, shells, with or without projectile, and their parts). The top-10 countries of origin were Russia, Mexico, Italy, the Czech Republic, Brazil, Serbia, South Korea, Hungary, Israel, and the Philippines.

SAAF’s import estimates are based on raw data taken from records of the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC).

SAAF Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer comments that “over the past several decades firearms and ammunition imports have come to play an important role in the U.S. industry’s competitive landscape and firearms brand names such as Beretta, Glock, Sig Sauer, and Taurus have become well-established in the U.S. market.”

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