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U.S. firearms sales December 2021: Slight fall from December 2020. Year closes out with nearly 20 million firearms sold

(GREENVILLE, SC, USA & HALIFAX, NS, CANADA) – *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting* (SAAF) estimates December 2021 U.S. firearms unit sales at slightly over 1.9 million units, a year-over-year decrease of 6.1% relative to December 2020. For all of calendar year 2021, SAAF estimates unit sales of nearly 20 million units (about 6,000 firearms per 100,000 people), a decline of 12.5% relative to calendar year 2020, a fairly modest fall when compared to the 63.9% increase from 2019 to 2020.

Detailed data by firearms type and state are available for purchase at <https://SmallArmsAnalytics.com/shop/>.

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, in December the state of Illinois conducted almost 400,000 firearms permit checks alone whereas end-user unit sales likely amounted to about 50,000. SAAF thus makes certain adjustments to the FBI's raw data based on retailer reports and other information. Even so, SAAF-adjusted NICS numbers may still underestimate the actual unit sales level by some amount.

SAAF Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer comments that "the estimated U.S. firearms unit sales for calendar year 2021 held up better than might have been expected at the beginning of the year. Whereas 2020 saw many industries' output lifted in dramatic ways – not just the firearms industry's output – unit sales for many of those industries have fallen farther back to more conventional sales levels than have the unit sales of the U.S. firearms industry, which instead has experienced only a fairly minor downward unit sales adjustment of 12.5%."

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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.)