



**Editors:** For Immediate Release, February 1, 2022

Contact: [jbrauer@SmallArmsAnalytics.com](mailto:jbrauer@SmallArmsAnalytics.com)

## **U.S. firearms sales January 2022: Drastic but not unprecedented percentage drop**

(GREENVILLE, SC, USA & HALIFAX, NS, CANADA) – *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting* (SAAF) estimates January 2022 U.S. firearms unit sales at slightly under 1.3 million units, a drastic year-over-year decrease of 42.6% relative to January 2021. The decline affected the handgun and long-gun segments of the market in about equal measure.

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 January the state of Illinois conducted about 440,000 firearms permit checks alone whereas end-user unit sales likely amounted to under 40,000. 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 January 2022 nearly equal those of January 2020, pre-covid-19-pandemic. These, in turn, however, were 19% above the January 2019 level so that the industry still experienced strong January 2022 sales. Nonetheless, the drop relative to January 2021 is certainly large, but not unprecedented, in size."

-30-

Follow us on [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

### ***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 Analytics<sup>SM</sup> and Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting<sup>SM</sup> are legally protected Service Marks of Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting. (Contact [sales@SmallArmsAnalytics.com](mailto:sales@SmallArmsAnalytics.com) for sales and other information.)*