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## **U.S. firearms sales May 2022: 12.6% year-over-year drop**

(GREENVILLE, SC, USA & HALIFAX, NS, CANADA) – Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting (SAAF) estimates May 2022 U.S. firearms unit sales at about 1.3 million units, a year-over-year decrease of 12.6% relative to May 2021. The decline affected the handgun segment (–13.1%) slightly more than it did the long-gun segment (–12.0%). Detailed data by firearms type and state are available for purchase at <https://SmallArmsAnalytics.com/shop/> as are firearms demand forecasts, 12 months ahead. The average forecast error over the last three months was 0.2% and over the past 12 months 2.4%.

SAAF’s firearms unit sales estimates and forecasts 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 May the state of Illinois conducted nearly 250,000 firearms permit checks alone whereas end-user unit sales likely amounted to about 32,000. 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 May 2022 year-over-year drop in firearms unit sales continues to fit the pattern thus far this year: monthly drops relative to 2021 but still substantially above the pre-pandemic levels: in 2019, unit sales from January to May amounted to about 5.6 million units; in 2020, they were about 8.7 million; in 2021, about 9.2 million; and in 2022 about 7.2 million for the same months.”

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