



**Editors:** For Immediate Release, Sept. 1, 2022 | Contact: [jbrauer@SmallArmsAnalytics.com](mailto:jbrauer@SmallArmsAnalytics.com)  
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## U.S. firearms sales August 2022: Normal “August bump” disappears for third year in a row

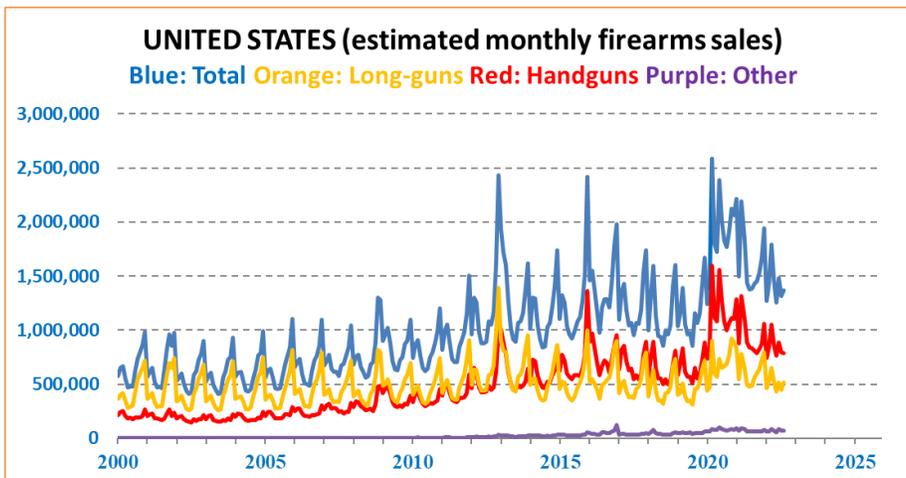
(GREENVILLE, SC, USA & HALIFAX, NS, CANADA) – Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting (SAAF) estimates August 2022 U.S. firearms unit sales at about 1.4 million units, a year-over-year decrease of 3.8% relative to August 2021. The decrease affected the handgun segment (–2.7%) much less than it did the long-gun segment (–7.2%). Detailed data are available for purchase at <https://SmallArmsAnalytics.com/shop/> as are firearms demand forecasts, 12 months ahead. (The average forecast error for the last three months was 3.9% and for the past 12 months just 0.7%.)

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 August the state of Illinois conducted about 347,000 firearms permit checks alone whereas end-user unit sales likely amounted to about 37,000. 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 “normally August sales are ‘bumped up’ relative to July sales by about 10% to 30%, but this has not been the case for the past three years, possibly reflecting different purchasing patterns since covid-19 arrived in the U.S.”

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