



Note to Editors: *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting's Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer is available for interviews. Contact: jbrauer@SmallArmsAnalytics.com. Additional charts and images are available on request.*

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May 2018 U.S. firearms sales continue on sluggish path

(GREENVILLE, SC, USA & HALIFAX, NS, CANADA) – *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting (SAAF)* estimates May 2018 firearms sales at 947,984 units, a year-over-year decline of 9% from May 2017. This is the lowest unit number for May since May 2015. Likely single handgun sales (539,129) fell year-over-year by 11.5% and single long-gun sales (332,299) fell year-over-year by 8.3%. All other likely firearms sales (76,557) increased year-over-year by 9.7%. This includes so-called “multiple” sales where the allocation between handguns and long-guns cannot be determined from the data record.

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 likely to be unrelated to end-user firearms sales. The FBI's raw numbers (for May, some 1, 983,346, the highest May number on record) cannot be taken at face-value as very large numbers of background checks are unrelated to end-user sales. For example, in May the state of Kentucky conducted about 395,000 so-called permit checks alone whereas end-user checks at firearms retailers likely amounted to under 16,000 checks.

SAAF Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer comments that “the sum total of likely U.S. firearms sales for the first five month of 2018 is slightly below 6 million units, below the 6.5 million for the January to May 2016 period and the 6.1 million for the January to May 2017 period. U.S. firearms sales remain sluggish.”

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Chart attached: Approximate United States Firearms Sales (January 2007 to May 2018, in millions).

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.)

Approximate United States Firearms Sales

January 2007 to May 2018 (in millions)

