



**Note to Editors:** *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting's* Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer may be reached at [jbrauer@SmallArmsAnalytics.com](mailto:jbrauer@SmallArmsAnalytics.com).

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## ***December 2018 U.S. firearms sales***

(GREENVILLE, SC, USA & HALIFAX, NS, CANADA) – *Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting* (SAAF) estimates December 2018 firearm sales at 1,603,700 units, a year-over-year decline of 7.7% from December 2017. This is the lowest December number since December 2012. Likely single handgun sales (786,144) fell year-over-year by 9.2% and single long-gun sales (707,026) fell year-over-year by 8.2%. All other likely firearms sales (110,530) increased year-over-year by 7.6%. 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 December, some 2,517,286) cannot be taken at face-value as very large numbers of background checks are unrelated to end-user sales. For example, in December the state of Kentucky conducted about 372,000 so-called permit checks alone whereas end-user checks at firearms retailers likely amounted to just over 33,400 checks.

SAAF Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer comments that “the sum total of likely U.S. firearms sales for all of 2018 was about 13.8 million units, below the 16.6 million for the same time period in 2016 and the 14.7 million for the same time period in 2017. On a per capita basis, firearms demand per 100,000 people in 2018 was 4,203. The highpoint was 5,141 in 2016, and the low point was 2,444 in 2003. (Records began in 1999.)”

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Chart attached: Approximate United States Firearms Sales (January 2007 to December 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 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.)*

## Approximate United States Firearms Sales

January 2007 to December 2018 (in millions)

