

PART IV:

Crime Guns Recovered Outside the United States and Traced by Law Enforcement

Overview of International Crime Gun Tracing

The ATF National Tracing Center (NTC) and ATF International Affairs Division (IAD) cooperate with international law enforcement partners to disrupt transnational firearms trafficking and reduce violent gun crime in other countries. A central component of this effort is the use of ATF's eTrace system to provide information on crime guns recovered and submitted for tracing by LEAs in foreign countries. Between 2017 and 2021, ATF received trace requests from an average of 75 countries involving approximately 33,000 crime gun trace requests on an annual basis. ATF continuously works to improve the tracing of crime guns recovered in other countries by completing formal tracing agreements with new international law enforcement partners and training them on the appropriate use of the eTrace system. As of 2021, ATF had eTrace Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with LEAs in 47 countries, representing 1,843 eTrace user accounts. To improve accessibility, Spanish language eTrace is available and currently used by law enforcement agencies in Mexico and other Central and South American countries.

International eTrace Training

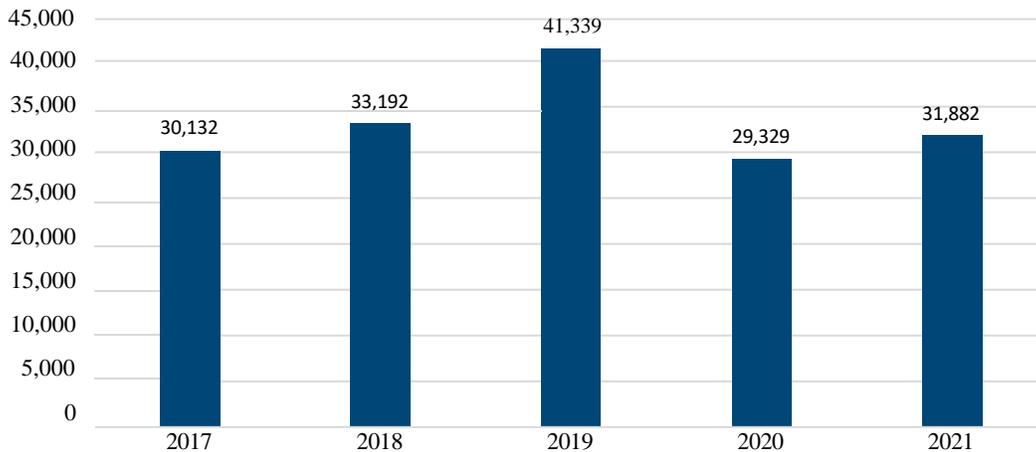
The success of eTrace use in other countries is supported by training delivered to the international law enforcement community through a variety of methods. International eTrace training includes guidance on firearms identification, accessing and entering data into the system, and the use of analytics to identify suspected firearms traffickers and patterns of violent crime in support of criminal investigations. eTrace training is provided to law enforcement agencies on-site in foreign countries by ATF Attachés and locally employed staff. eTrace training is also provided during Small Arms Trafficking Courses held globally at the six U.S. Department of State International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEA) located in Accra, Ghana; Budapest, Hungary; Bangkok, Thailand; Gaborone, Botswana; San Salvador, El Salvador; and Roswell, New Mexico.

ATF emphasizes the importance of comprehensive tracing of all recovered crime guns to all international LEAs. ATF currently has 17 eTrace MOUs with Caribbean nations and, in this region. In Mexico, ATF has established 287 eTrace accounts (163 Federal and 124 State accounts). By September 2023, the ATF Mexico Country Office intends to provide numerous additional Firearms and Explosives Identification courses as well as several eTrace Basic and Advanced courses. In Canada, ATF works directly with Federal, provincial, tribal, and municipal LEAs. Training for Canadian law enforcement partners also focuses on trace data analysis to identify suspicious patterns and indicators that could lead to the identification and apprehension of firearms traffickers by both U.S. and Canadian law enforcement officials.

International Crime Gun Trace Request Submissions

Law enforcement agencies across 125 foreign countries submitted 165,874 international trace requests¹ for crime guns recovered between 2017 and 2021. By comparison, these 165,874 international trace requests equated to almost 9% of the 1,922,577 total domestic U.S. trace requests during the same time. As reflected in Figure IRT-01, the number of international crime gun trace requests was relatively stable during the study period apart from a one year 37% increase in trace requests from 30,132 in 2017 to 41,339 in 2019.

Figure IRT-01: Total Number of Trace Requests Submitted for International Recovered Crime Guns, 2017 – 2021



International Crime Gun Trace Requests by Recovery Country or Region Grouping

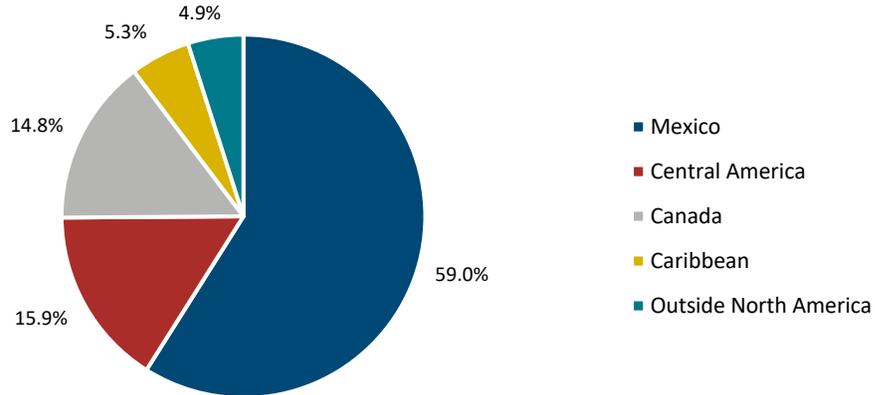
A list of countries that had at least one crime gun trace request during the study period and their respective regional groupings may be found in Table IRT-01 in Appendix IRT – International Traces, Countries Comprising Regional Groupings. As reflected in Table IRT-02a, much of the 2019 trace request volume increase noted above was attributable to 11,717 trace requests from Canada in 2019; this represented a 252% increase from the total number of trace requests submitted by Canada in 2018 (3,330). This increase was due to an extensive effort by ATF to trace recovered crime guns in Canadian law enforcement evidence rooms that were yet to be traced. For the year-over-year percent changes for each country and regional grouping see Table IRT-02 in Appendix IRT – International Traces.

Table IRT-02a: Total Traces by Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 – 2021

Recovery Country/Grouping	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Mexico	15,996	19,353	20,994	20,580	20,868	97,791
Central America	5,306	6,414	5,655	3,937	5,120	26,432
Canada	3,597	3,330	11,717	2,429	3,513	24,586
Caribbean	2,406	1,915	1,451	1,476	1,625	8,873
Outside North America	2,827	2,180	1,522	907	756	8,192
Total	30,132	33,192	41,339	29,329	31,882	165,874

Mexico generated the largest number of crime gun trace requests during the study period, accounting for 59% (97,791) of all international trace requests (165,874) from 2017 through 2021 (Figure IRT-02).

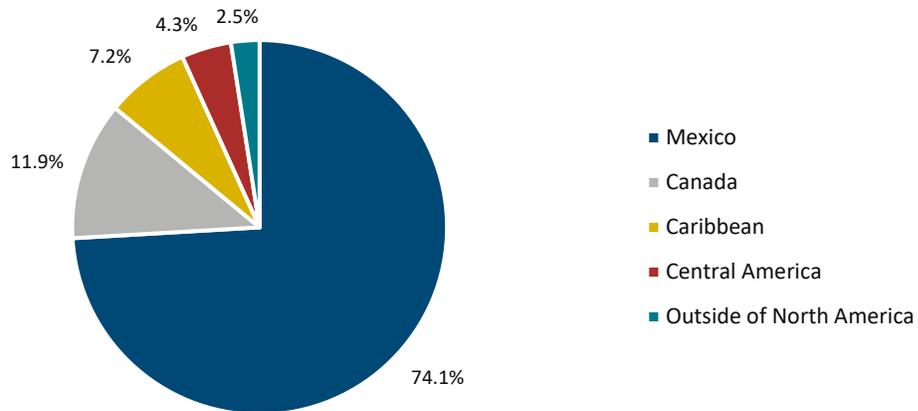
Figure IRT-02: Percentage of Total Traces by Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 – 2021



International Traced to a Purchaser

For international crime gun trace requests submitted between 2017 and 2021, 27% (44,669 of 165,874) were traced to a purchaser in the U.S. These firearms were not part of lawful exports to other countries. Rather, these crime guns were purchased in the U.S., and at some point, following the retail purchase from an FFL, were trafficked out of the U.S., and subsequently recovered in a crime by LEAs in foreign countries and submitted for tracing. As reflected by Figure IRT-03, 74% (33,088) of international traces to a purchaser were recovered in Mexico, followed by Canada (12%; 5,327), the Caribbean (7%; 3,235), Central America (4%; 1,922), and Outside North America (3%; 1,097).

Figure IRT-03: Percentage of Crime Guns Traced to a Purchaser by Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 – 2021



See Table IRT-03 in Appendix IRT – International Traces for information related to year over year changes and percentage of traces to a purchaser by recovery country or grouping.

International Crime Guns Not Traced to a Purchaser

Table IRT-04 reflects the results of ATF attempts to complete international traces. In sum, 73% of trace requests were not successful in identifying the firearm purchaser (121,143 of 165,874). The most frequent reasons for a trace not identifying a purchaser included: firearm was manufactured outside of the U.S. and not imported into the U.S. (22%; 35,926), incomplete or invalid firearm information provided by the LEA submitting the request (18%; 29,757), or the firearm was legally exported from the U.S. and traced to a foreign dealer (10%; 16,429).

Table IRT-04: Reasons Crime Guns Were Not Able to be Traced to a Purchaser, 2017 – 2021

Trace Completion Status	Number	Percent
Purchaser Identified	44,731 ²	27.0%
Firearm Manufactured Outside of U.S. and Not Imported into U.S.	35,926	21.7%
Incomplete / Invalid Firearm Information Provided	29,757	17.9%
Firearm Exported from U.S. and Traced to Foreign Firearm Dealer	16,429	9.9%
Partial/Incomplete/Obliterated Serial Number ³	13,761	8.3%
FFL Acquisition and Disposition Record Missing	9,250	5.6%
Pre-1968 Firearm Manufacture / Too Old to Trace	8,615	5.2%
Traced to Government Entity, Law Enforcement Agency, or Military	3,526	2.1%
Other	3,879	2.3%
Total	165,874	100.0%

International Firearms Recovered and Traced Associated with Reported FFL Theft or Loss and Interstate Shipment Theft or Loss

As reflected in Table IRT-05, there were only 350 crime gun traces that were associated with a reported FFL theft, loss, or interstate shipment. This represents less than one percent of the total 129,928⁴ international crime guns recovered and traced that were known to be sourced from the U.S. Mexico had the largest total percentage of international crime gun traces associated with reported FFL thefts, losses, or interstate shipments with 61% (212).

Table IRT-05: Recovered and Traced Crime Guns Associated with Reported FFL Theft or Loss and Interstate Shipping Theft or Loss by Country or Region Grouping, 2017 – 2021

Country of Region Grouping	FFL Loss	FFL Theft	Interstate Shipping Theft	Total Traces	% Total Traces
Mexico	35	139	38	212	60.6%
Canada	17	45	7	69	19.7%
Central America	5	38	2	45	12.9%
Caribbean	5	8	2	15	4.3%
Outside North America	1	7	1	9	2.6%
Total	63	237	50	350	100.0%

International Crime Gun Traces Associated with Lawful U.S. Firearm Exports

Firearms may be [lawfully exported](#) from the U.S. on a temporary or permanent basis. Temporary exports are conducted for a variety of reasons to include, but not limited to, sales samples, demonstrations, repair, or for the owner's personal use, such as hunting or other lawful sporting purposes. Permanent exports are conducted for commercial sale or part of a military assistance program. All firearms produced for

permanent export from the U.S. must be reported on ATF Form 5300.11 – Annual Firearms Manufacturing and Exportation Report (AFMER). U.S. Government (including military) firearm exports are exempt from export regulation.

An analysis of international crime gun trace requests indicates that 11% (18,749) were attributable to firearms lawfully exported from the U.S. and later recovered in a foreign country. These recovered and traced crime guns represent less than 1% of the total (2,793,002) firearms lawfully exported out of the U.S. between 2016 and 2020⁵ As reflected in Table IRT-06a, less than 2% (1,646) of the total crime guns recovered and traced in Mexico (97,791) were associated with firearms lawfully exported from the U.S., while approximately 37% (3,058) of the total crime guns recovered and traced “Outside North America” (8,192) were associated with firearms lawfully exported. For a breakout of lawful U.S. Exports by Country or Region by year and year-over-year percentage changes see Table IRT-06 in Appendix IRT – International Traces.

Table IRT-06a: Total Lawful U.S. Firearm Exports Recovered and Traced by Law Enforcement by Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 – 2021

Recovery Country/Grouping	Traces Associated with Lawful U.S. Exports	Total Traces	% Total Traces Related to Lawful U.S. Exports
Outside North America	3,058	8,192	37.3%
Canada	8,238	24,586	33.5%
Central America	5,083	26,432	19.2%
Caribbean	724	8,873	8.2%
Mexico	1,646	97,791	1.7%
Total	18,749	165,874	11.3%

International Crime Gun Traces by FFL Type

Between 2017 and 2021, information on the type of FFL⁶ that transferred the firearm was recorded in nearly all (98%; 43,825) of the 44,669 traces to a purchaser. As reflected in Table IRT-08, 71% (31,105) were transferred to the last known purchaser by a Type 01 Dealer. When combined with traced crime guns transferred by Type 02 Pawnbroker (9,033) and Type 07 Manufacturer (3,019) FFLs, the three most frequent FFL types accounted for nearly 98% (43,157) of the crime guns traced to a purchaser.

Table IRT-07: Total Traced Crime Guns by FFL Type, 2017 – 2021

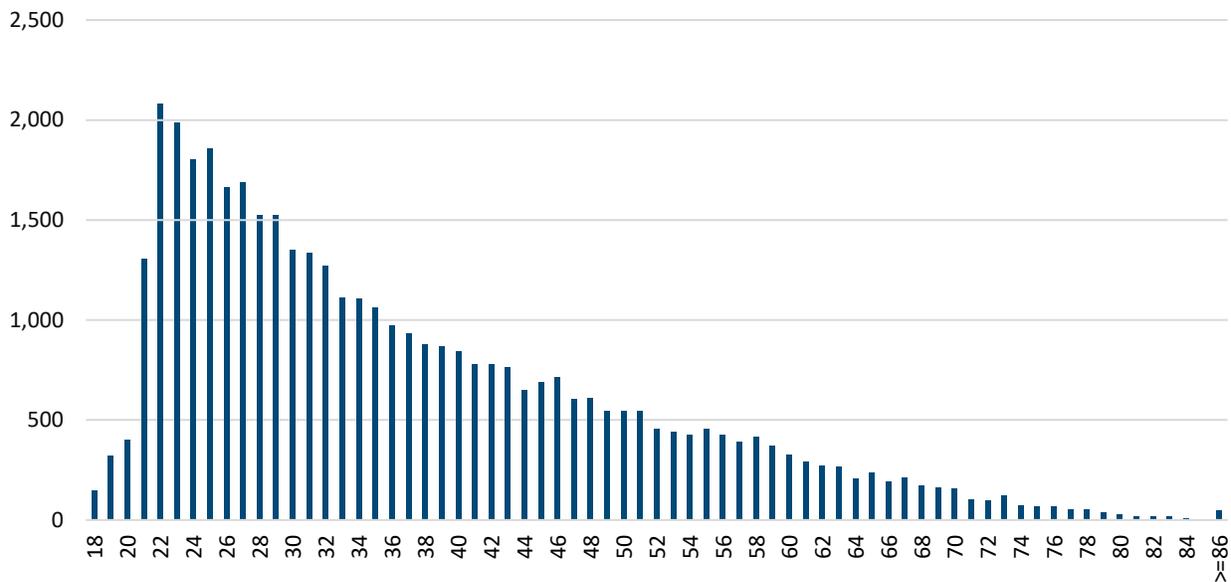
FFL Type	Total	% Total Traces
01	31,105	71.0%
02	9,024	20.6%
07	3,019	6.9%
08	527	1.2%
10	103	0.2%
11	18	0.0%
03	17	0.0%
09	12	0.0%
Total	43,825	100.0%

International Crime Gun Traces by Purchaser Age and Gender

The age of the purchaser was recorded in almost 94% (41,912) of the 44,669 crime guns traced to a purchaser. The traced firearm purchaser ages ranged from 18 through more than 86 years old with the

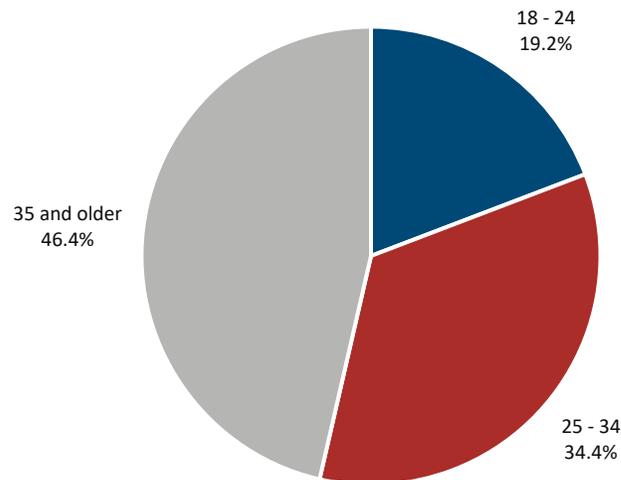
individuals in their twenties and early thirties representing the most frequent purchasers of traced crime guns (Figure IRT-04).

Figure IRT-04: Total Traced Crime Guns by Purchaser Age Frequency, 2017 – 2021



Crime guns traced to purchasers aged 35 and older was the largest age grouping constituting 46% (19,437) of traces (Figure IRT-05). Crime guns traced to purchasers aged 18 to 24 was the smallest age grouping constituting 19% (8,044).

Figure IRT-05: Percentage of Crime Gun Traces by Purchaser Age Group, 2017 – 2021



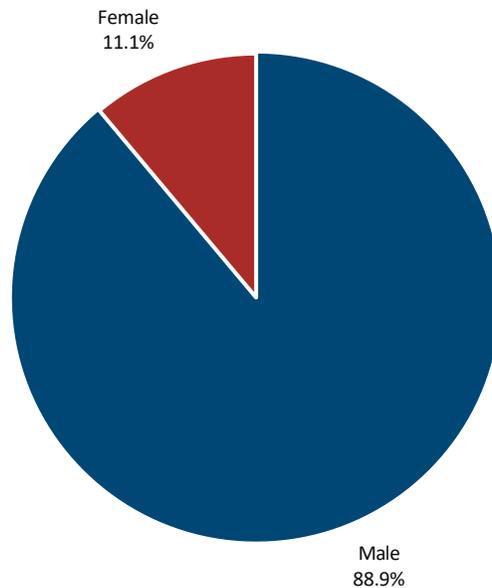
Adults ages 35 and older accounted for the largest percentage of purchasers of trace crime guns recovered in the selected foreign countries and regions (Table IRT-08). Mexico, at 21% (6,380), had the highest percentage of crime guns traced to a purchaser aged 18 to 24.

Table IRT-08: Total Crime Guns Traced to a Purchaser, by Purchaser Age Group and Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 – 2021

Recovery Country/Grouping	Youth (18-24)		Young Adult (25-34)		Adult (35 and Older)		Total Traces
	Trace Count	% Total Traces	Trace Count	% Total Traces	Trace Count	% Total Traces	
Mexico	6,380	20.6%	10,770	34.8%	13,793	44.6%	30,943
Canada	781	15.3%	1,623	31.8%	2,707	53.0%	5,111
Caribbean	529	17.1%	1,165	37.8%	1,392	45.1%	3,086
Central America	233	13.2%	593	33.5%	942	53.3%	1,768
Outside North America	121	12.1%	280	27.9%	603	60.1%	1,004
Total	8,044	19.2%	14,431	34.4%	19,437	46.4%	41,912

The gender of the purchaser was recorded in 85% (38,038) of the 44,669 crime guns recovered by LEAs in other countries and submitted for tracing between 2017 and 2021. Males purchased most of the traced crime guns (89%; 33,783) while females purchased a relatively small share of traced crime guns (11%; 4,265) during the study period (Figure IRT-06).

Figure IRT-06: Percentage of Traced Crime Guns by Purchaser Gender, 2017 – 2021



International Crime Gun Traces by Possessor Age and Gender

The age of the possessor was recorded in nearly 13% (5,673) of the 44,669 international crime guns recovered and submitted for tracing between 2017 and 2021. As reflected in Figure IRT-07, older possessor age groups accounted for larger percentages of traced crime guns. Possessors ages 35 and older accounted for the largest share of all crime guns traced to a purchaser (41%; 2,300).⁷ Conversely, possessors aged 17 and younger were the smallest age grouping constituting just under 2% (99) of all crime guns recovered and traced.

Figure IRT-07: Percentage of Traced Crime Guns by Purchaser Age Group, 2017 – 2021

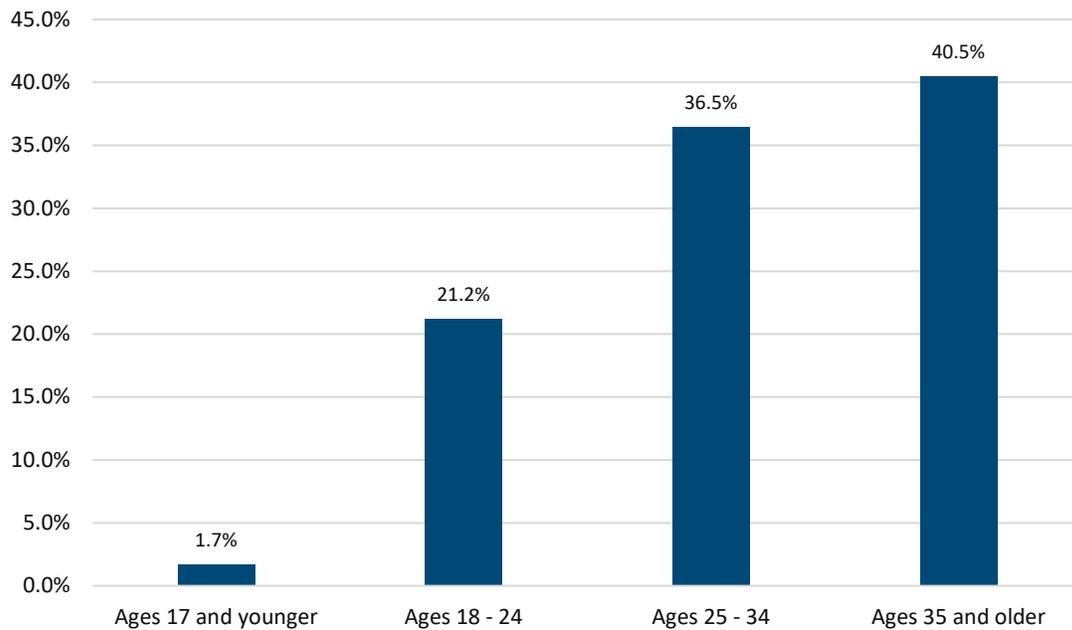


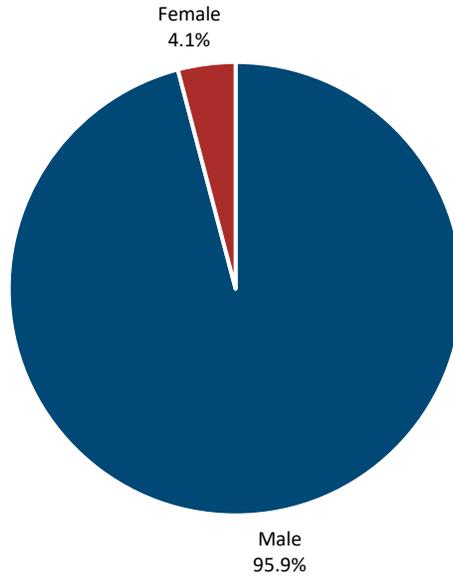
Table IRT-09 presents the percentages of traced crime guns associated with possessor age groupings for Canada, Mexico, Caribbean, Central America, and other countries outside North America. In general, older possessor age groups accounted for larger shares of traced crime guns. The only exception involved traced crime guns submitted by LEAs in Caribbean nations where possessors ages 25 to 34 years old accounted for 42% of traced crime guns (372 of 892).

Table IRT-09: Total Crime Guns Traced to a Purchaser, by Possessor Age Group and Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 – 2021

Recovery Country/Grouping	Juvenile (17 and younger)		Youth (18-24)		Young Adult (25-34)		Adult (35 and older)		Total Traces
	Trace Count	% Total Traces	Trace Count	% Total Traces	Trace Count	% Total Traces	Trace Count	% Total Traces	
Canada	77	1.9%	861	20.9%	1,484	36.1%	1,690	41.1%	4,112
Caribbean	17	1.9%	225	25.2%	372	41.7%	278	31.2%	892
Mexico	5	1.1%	102	22.4%	172	37.8%	176	38.7%	455
Outside North America	0	0.0%	10	7.1%	33	23.4%	98	69.5%	141
Central America	0	0.0%	4	5.5%	11	15.1%	58	79.5%	73
Total	99	1.7%	1,202	21.2%	2,072	36.5%	2,300	40.5%	5,673

The gender of the possessor was recorded in 70% (31,156) of the 44,669 crime guns recovered by law enforcement agencies in other countries and submitted for tracing between 2017 and 2021. Males possessed most of the traced crime guns (96%; 29,884) while females possessed a very small share of traced crime guns (4%; 1,272) during the study period (Figure IRT-08).

Figure IRT-08: Percentage of Traced Crime Guns by Possessor Gender, 2017 – 2021



International Crime Gun Traces Associated with a Gun Show

Between 2017 and 2021, approximately 3% (1,563) of the 44,669 crime gun traces to a purchaser were acquired from an FFL at a gun show. As reflected in Table IRT-10, Mexico accounted for nearly 61% (947) and Canada accounted for approximately 21% (334) of the crime guns traced to a purchaser that were sourced from an FFL at a gun show.

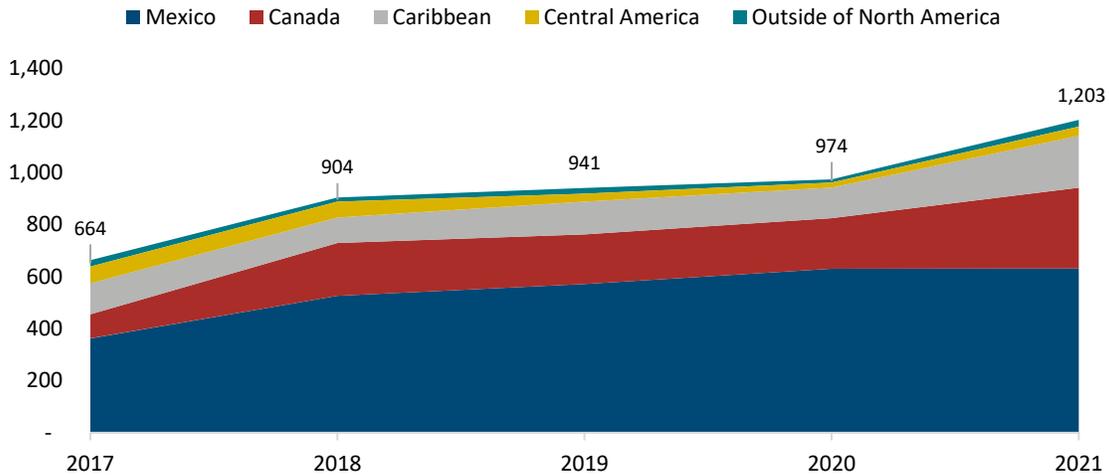
Table IRT-10: Total Crime Guns Traced to a Purchaser Sourced from an FFL at a Gun Show by Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 – 2021

Country or Region Grouping	Total Traces to Purchaser	Total Gun Show Traces to Purchaser	% Total Gun Show Traces
Mexico	33,088	947	60.6%
Canada	5,327	334	21.4%
Caribbean	3,235	203	13.0%
Central America	1,922	35	2.2%
Outside North America	1,097	44	2.8%
Total	44,669	1,563	100.0%

International Crime Gun Traces Associated with Multiple Sales Transactions

As reflected in Figure IRT-09, between 2017 and 2021, 10% (4,686) of international crime gun traces were associated with a multiple sale.⁸ Between 2017 (664) and 2021 (1,203) the annual volume of international crime gun traces associated with a multiple sale increased 81%.

Figure IRT-09: Total Crime Guns Traced to a Purchaser that were Associated with Multiple Sales of Firearms by Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 – 2021



See Table IRT-11 in Appendix IRT – International Traces for information related to year-over-year changes and percentage of total traces to a purchaser that were associated with multiple sales of firearms by recovery country or grouping.

Summary of International Crime Gun Tracing

LEAs outside of the U.S. and its territories submitted roughly 33,000 recovered crime guns per year to ATF for tracing between 2017 and 2021. Out of all international traces submitted on an annual basis, Mexico, Canada, and Caribbean LEAs accounted for an overwhelming majority. ATF was able to trace only slightly more than 27% of recovered crime guns to a purchaser in the U.S. during the study period. The top three reasons for unsuccessful traces were that the submitted firearm was manufactured outside of the U.S. and no importer was provided (no U.S. nexus), incomplete or invalid firearm information was provided by the LEA submitting the request, and the firearm was exported from the U.S. and traced to a foreign dealer. The analyses presented here suggest that international and domestic crime guns traced to a purchaser share very similar characteristics. Nearly all crime guns traced to an FFL with a known purchaser were transferred by Type 01, 02, or 07. Very small proportions of recovered and traced crime guns were transferred by an FFL at a gun show or sold as part of a multiple sale transaction. Most of the recovered crime guns had been purchased and possessed by males.

Characteristics of International Crime Guns

For this portion of the report, the data analyzed includes only those crime gun traces in which a purchaser in the U.S. was identified.

Types of Traced International Crime Guns

Pistols represented the most frequently traced crime gun recovered by LEAs in other countries between 2017 and 2021 (Table IRT-12). Of the 44,669 traced crime guns, pistols accounted for 61% (27,379), rifles accounted for 26% (11,663), revolvers accounted for 10% (4,277), and shotguns accounted for 3% (1,117).

Table IRT-12: Total Traced Crime Guns by Weapon Type, 2017 – 2021

Weapon Type	Number	% Total
Pistol	27,379	61.3%
Rifle	11,663	26.1%
Revolver	4,277	9.6%
Shotgun	1,117	2.5%
Derringer	114	0.2%
Other / Unknown	119	0.3%
Total	44,669	100.0%

Calibers of Traced Crime Guns

There were 27,379 pistol-type crime guns traced between 2017 and 2021. As indicated by Table IRT-13, the top 10 calibers of traced pistols accounted for more than 98% (29,960) of all traced pistols. Nearly 49% (13,294) of the recovered pistols were 9mm, while .380 caliber accounted for 13% (3,438), .40 accounted for 12% (3,175), and .45 caliber were 10% (2,638) of the pistol caliber crime guns recovered and traced.

Table IRT-13: Top 10 Calibers of Traced Pistols, 2017 – 2021

Caliber	Number	% Total
9mm	13,294	48.6%
.380	3,438	12.6%
.40	3,175	11.6%
.45	2,638	9.6%
.25	1,631	6.0%
.22	1,379	5.0%
.38	600	2.2%
7.62mm	412	1.5%
.32	245	0.9%
5.7mm	148	0.5%

There were 11,663 rifle-type crime guns traced between 2017 and 2021. As reflected in Table IRT-14, the top 10 calibers accounted for slightly more than 96% (11,204) of all traced rifles. Specifically, 7.62mm accounted for 35% (4,064), 5.56mm accounted for 19% (2,262), and .223 accounted for 16% (1,889).

Table IRT-14: Top 10 Calibers of Traced Rifles, 2017 – 2021

Caliber	Number	% Total
7.62mm	4,064	34.9%
5.56mm	2,262	19.4%
.223	1,889	16.2%
Multiple	1,218	10.4%
.22	911	7.8%
.308	305	2.6%
.50 BMG	245	2.1%
9mm	136	1.2%
.30	88	0.8%
.30-30	86	0.8%

There were 4,277 revolver-type crime guns traced between 2017 and 2021. The top 10 calibers accounted for almost 100% (4,258) of all traced revolvers. The .38 caliber (43%), .357 caliber (28%), and the .22 (20%) accounted for 91% (3,885) of all revolver-type crime guns. Table IRT-15 provides the top 10 revolver calibers of recovered and traced crime guns.

Table IRT-15: Top 10 Calibers of Traced Revolvers, 2017 – 2021

Caliber	Number	% Total
.38	1,851	43.3%
.357	1,180	27.6%
.22	854	20.0%
.44	160	3.7%
.32	137	3.2%
.45/410 GA	32	0.8%
.45	20	0.5%
.41	11	0.3%
9mm	7	0.2%
.357/9mm	6	0.2%

There were 1,117 shotgun-type crime guns traced between 2017 and 2021. The top five gauges accounted for almost 100% (1,112) of all traced shotguns recovered. The 12 gauge (84%), 20 gauge (11%), and the 410 gauge (4%) accounted for almost 99% (1,101) of all shotgun type-crime guns (Table IRT-16).

Table IRT-16: Top Five Gauges of Traced Shotguns, 2017 – 2021

Gauge	Number	% Total
12 GA	940	84.2%
20 GA	120	10.7%
410 GA	41	3.7%
16 GA	8	0.8%
10 GA	3	0.3%

Manufacturers of Traced International Crime Guns

NOTE: Data analysis identifying firearm manufacturers whose firearms were most frequently recovered in crimes does not imply any illegal activity by the manufacturer and may be attributable to several factors to include production and sales volume, pricing, and brand reputation.

Of the 27,379 pistol-type crime guns traced between 2017 and 2021, nearly 16% of these were manufactured by Glock. Other top manufacturers of recovered pistols were Smith & Wesson (12%), Taurus (9%), Sturm Ruger (8%), and Colt (5%). The top five manufacturers accounted for almost 49% (13,379) of all traced pistols (Table IRT-17).

Table IRT-17: Top Five Manufacturers of Traced Pistols, 2017 – 2021

Manufacturer	Number	% Total
Glock	4,313	15.8%
Smith & Wesson	3,247	11.9%
Taurus	2,340	8.5%
Sturm Ruger	2,133	7.8%
Colt	1,346	4.9%

As reflected in Table IRT-18, of the 11,663 rifle-type crime guns traced between 2017 and 2021, the top five manufacturers were Romarm/Cugir (11%), Century Arms (10%), Anderson Manufacturing (9%), Colt (5%), and DPMS Panther Arms (5%). The top five manufacturers accounted for 38% (4,481) of all traced rifles.

Table IRT-18: Top Five Manufacturers of Traced Rifles, 2017 – 2021

Manufacturer	Number	% Total
Romarm/Cugir	1,228	10.5%
Century Arms	1,176	10.1%
Anderson Manufacturing	992	8.5%
Colt	543	4.7%
DPMS Panther Arms	542	4.6%

Of the 4,277 revolver-type crime guns traced between 2017 and 2021, 30% were manufactured by Smith & Wesson. Other top manufacturers of recovered revolvers include Taurus (11%), Sturm Ruger (11%), RG Industries (10%), and Colt (7%). The top five manufacturers accounted for almost 70% (2,976) of all traced revolvers (Table IRT-19).

Table IRT-19: Top Five Manufacturers of Traced Revolvers, 2017 – 2021

Manufacturer	Number	% Total
Smith & Wesson	1,291	30.2%
Taurus	484	11.3%
Sturm Ruger	477	11.2%
RG Industries	446	10.4%
Colt	278	6.5%

Of the 1,117 shotgun-type crime guns traced between 2017 and 2021, almost 27% were manufactured by Mossberg. Other top manufacturers of recovered and traced shotguns include Remington (17%), Winchester (13%), Maverick Arms (8%), and Savage Arms (4%). The top five manufacturers accounted for more than 68% (764) of all traced (Table IRT-20).

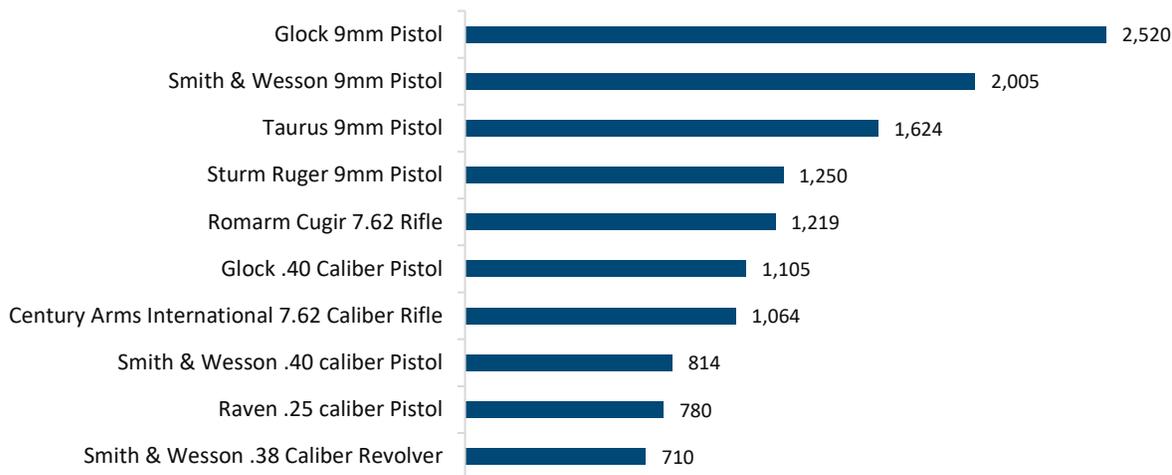
Table IRT-20: Top Five Manufacturers of Traced Shotguns, 2017 – 2021

Manufacturer	Number	% Total
Mossberg	298	26.7%
Remington	190	17.0%
Winchester	149	13.3%
Maverick Arms	86	7.7%
Savage Arms	41	3.7%

International Traced Crime Guns by Manufacturer, Type and Caliber

The manufacturer, caliber, and type of firearm was recorded in all 44,699 traces to a purchaser. As reflected in Figure IRT-10, the top ten most frequently traced crime guns by manufacturer, caliber, and type combination accounted for 26% (11,601) of all (44,669) recovered and traced crime guns. The most frequently traced crime gun by manufacturer, caliber, and type combination was the Glock 9mm pistol accounting for 6% (2,520) of all crime guns traced to a purchaser.

Figure IRT-10: Total Crime Guns Traced to a Purchaser by Manufacturer, Caliber, and Type Combination, 2017 – 2021



Summary of International Crime Gun Characteristics

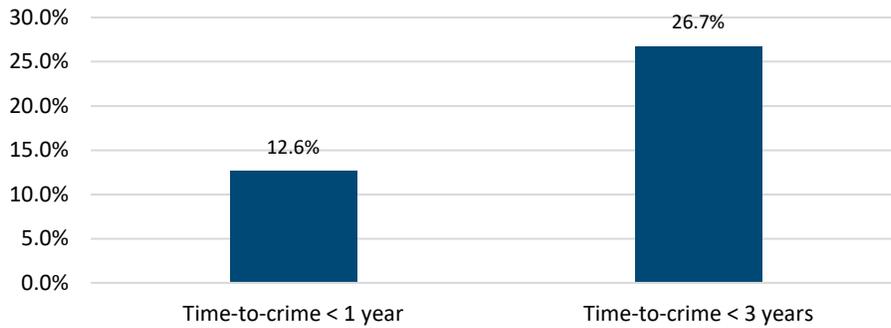
Traced crime guns recovered in other countries shared similar characteristics to recovered crime guns in the U.S. Pistols represented about 61% of the traced crime guns recovered by foreign LEAs between 2017 and 2021. Like crime guns recovered domestically, 9mm, .40, .380, and .45 caliber pistols were the most frequently traced crime guns recovered in other countries. The top manufacturers of traced pistols recovered in other countries include Glock, Smith & Wesson, Taurus, Sturm Ruger, and Colt. Rifles were more prevalent among traced crime guns recovered outside the U.S. (26%) relative to crime guns recovered in the U.S. (12%). The most frequent calibers among traced rifles recovered in other countries were the 7.62mm, 5.56mm, and .223, and the top manufacturers of traced rifles recovered in other countries and traced were Romarm/Cugir, Century, Anderson Manufacturing, Colt, and DPMS Panther Arms.

Indicators of Firearms Trafficking

Time-to-Crime (TTC) of International Crime Gun Traces

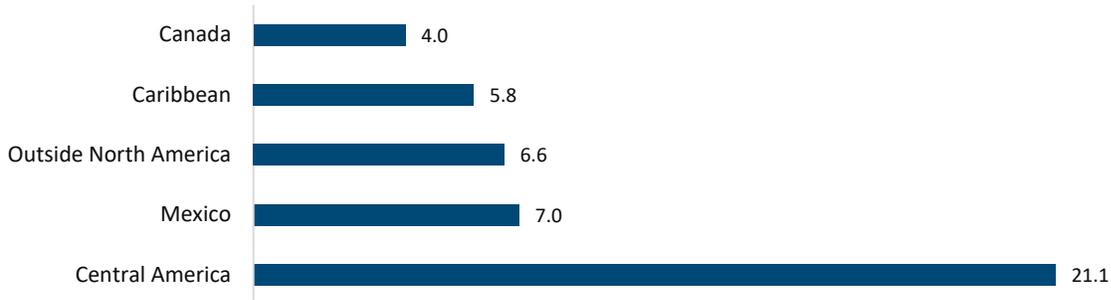
As described in Part III - Crime Guns Recovered and Traced in the U.S. and its Territories, short TTC represents an indicator of firearms trafficking as traced guns with this characteristic have moved rapidly from the last known purchaser to recovery in crime by LEAs. Between 2017 and 2021, the TTC was determined in nearly 100% (44,516) of all crime guns traced to a purchaser (44,669). The median TTC for international traces was 6.6 years (2,416 days). Almost 13% (5,587) of traced guns were recovered less than one year after the last known purchase, while nearly 27% (11,856) of traced crime guns were recovered less than three years after the last known purchase (Figure IRT-11).

Figure IRT-11: Percentage of Traced Crime Guns by TTC Categories, 2017 – 2021



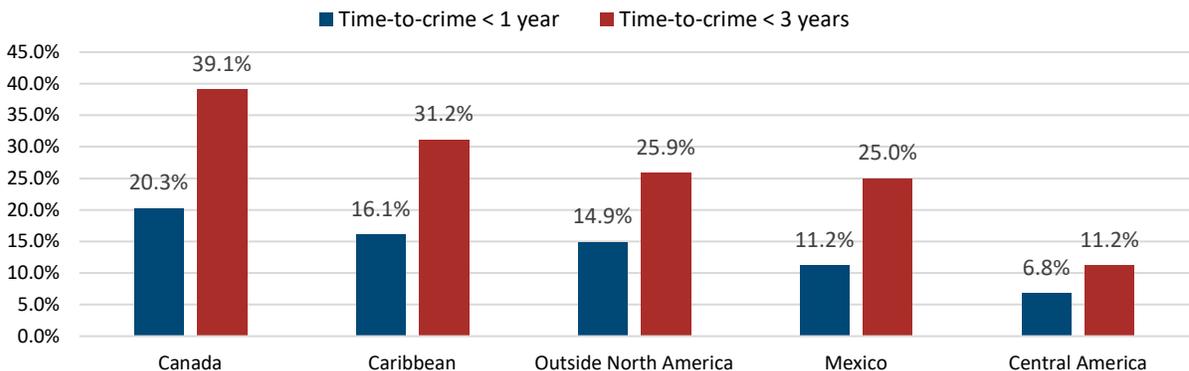
As reflected in Figure IRT-12, the median TTC rates of international crime guns traced to a purchaser by country or region grouping indicates Canada had the shortest median TTC rate at four years, while Central America had the longest median TTC at 21 years.

Figure IRT-12: Median TTC (Years) by Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 – 2021



As reflected in Figure IRT-13, Canada had the largest percentages of total traces to a purchaser (5,316) with TTC less than one year (20%; 1,078) and with TTC less than three years (39%; 2,076). For traced crime guns recovered in Caribbean nations (3,223), 16% had TTC less than one year (519) and 31% had TTC less than three years (1,006). For traced crime guns recovered in countries located Outside North America (1,085), 15% had TTC less than one year (162) and 28% had TTC less than three years (299). For traced crime guns recovered in Mexico (32,977), 11% had TTC less than one year (3,697) and 25% had TTC less than three years (8,259). Central America had the lowest percentage of their total traces to a purchaser (1,915) with a TTC of less than three years at 11% (216).

Figure IRT-13: TTC Grouping by Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 – 2021



Purchasers and Possessors of International Traced Crime Guns

Between 2017 and 2021, nearly all (44,660) of the 44,669 traces recorded purchaser and/or possessor information. As reflected in Table IRT-21 the purchaser and the possessor were the same person in only 1% (574) of all traces. Within this 1% (574) of traces, Canada accounted for 85% (488) of crime gun trace requests where the purchaser was also the possessor. More than 75% (33,543) of crime guns traced to a purchaser involved a trace request where the possessor was not identified.

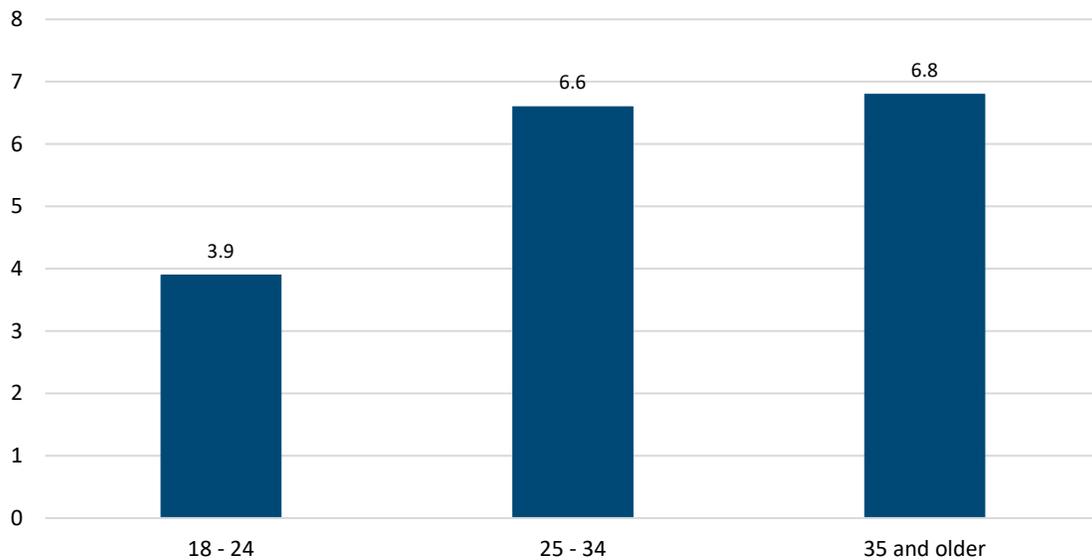
Table IRT-21: Total Crime Guns Recovered and Traced to a Purchaser by Purchaser-to-Possessor Relationship and Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 – 2021

Recovery Country/Grouping	Purchaser & Possessor are Different		Purchaser & Possessor are Same		Purchaser Known, Possessor Unknown		Total Traces
	Trace Count	% Total Traces	Trace Count	% Total Traces	Trace Count	% Total Traces	
Mexico	3,858	11.7%	37	0.1%	29,186	88.2%	33,081
Canada	3,700	69.5%	488	9.2%	1,139	21.4%	5,327
Caribbean	1,813	56.1%	15	0.5%	1,405	43.5%	3,233
Central America	947	49.3%	23	1.2%	952	49.5%	1,922
Outside North America	225	20.5%	11	1.0%	861	78.5%	1,097
Total	10,543	23.6%	574	1.3%	33,543	75.1%	44,660

International Crime Gun Traces TTC by Purchaser Age and Purchaser Gender

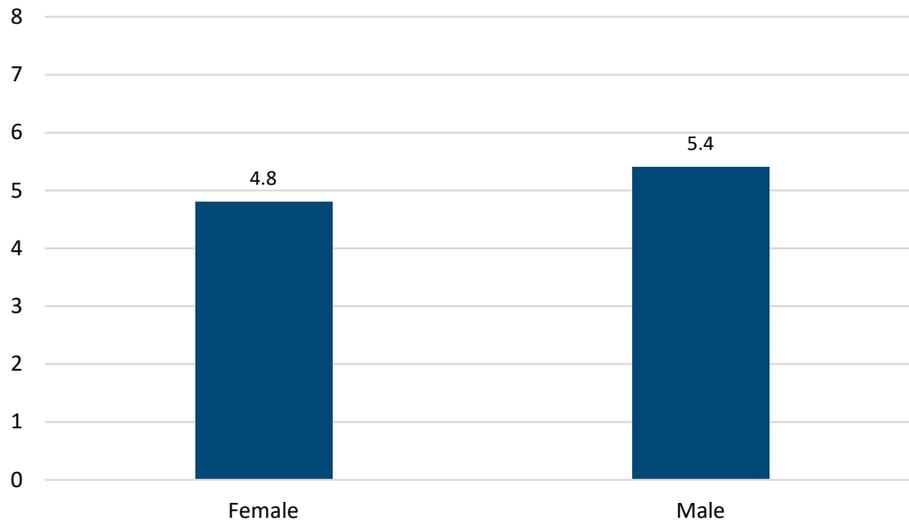
Between 2017 and 2021, the median TTC for traced crime guns purchased by youth 18 to 24 (1,426 days or 3.9 years) was shorter than the TTC for crime guns purchased by young adults 25 to 34 (2,418 days or 6.6 years) and shorter than the TTC for crime guns purchased by adults 35 and older (2,484 days or 6.8 years) (Figure IRT – 14).

Figure IRT-14: Median TTC by Purchaser Age Grouping, 2017 – 2021



The median TTC for traced crime guns that were purchased by a female (1,771 days or 4.8 years) was shorter than the TTC for traced crime guns purchased by a male (1,963 days or 5.4 years) between 2017 and 2021 (Figure IRT-15).

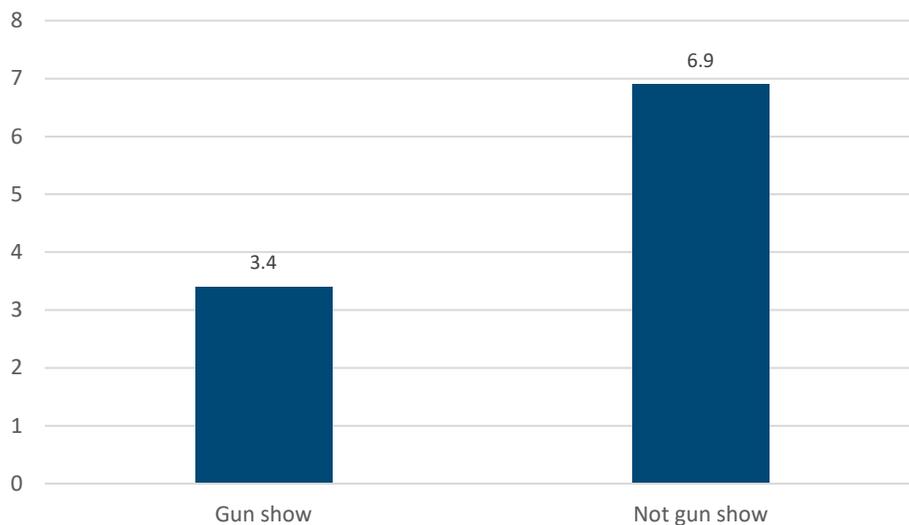
Figure IRT-15: Median TTC by Purchaser Gender, 2017 – 2021



TTC for International Crime Guns Acquired from FFLs at Gun Shows

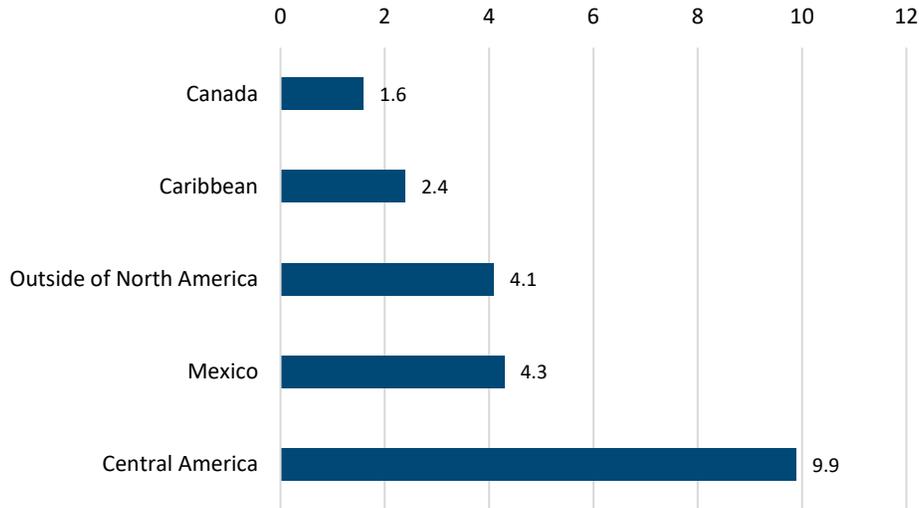
Approximately 3% (1,563) of all crime guns traced to a purchaser (44,669) were acquired from an FFL at a gun show. As reflected in Figure IRT-16, the median TTC for crime gun traces to a purchaser acquired from an FFL at a gun show was 3.4 years (1,236 days). This was 51% shorter than the 6.9 median TTC in years (2,528 days) for international traces to a purchaser that were not acquired from an FFL at a gun show.

Figure IRT-16: Median TTC for Crime Guns Acquired from an FFL at a Gun Show versus Not Acquired from an FFL at a Gun Show, 2017 – 2021



Traced crime guns acquired from an FFL at a gun show and recovered by Canadian LEAs had the shortest TTC (1.6 years). Traced crime guns recovered by Central American LEAs had the longest TTC (9.9 years) (Figure IRT-17).

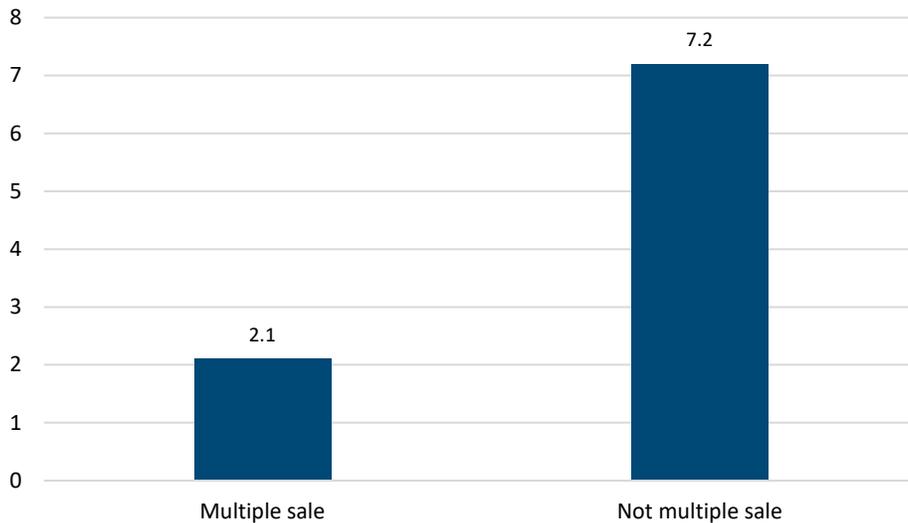
Figure IRT-17: Median TTC (Years) for Crime Guns Acquired from an FFL at a Gun Show by Country or Region Grouping, 2017 – 2021



TTC for International Crime Gun Traces Associated with Multiple Sales Transactions

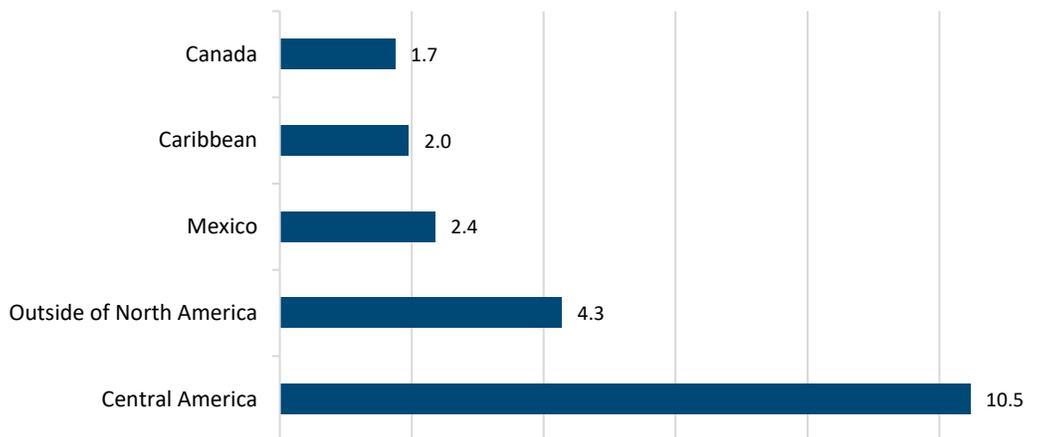
Approximately 10% (4,686) of crime guns traced to a purchaser (44,669) were associated with a multiple sale. As reflected in Figure IRT-18, the median TTC for crime gun traces to a purchaser associated with a multiple sale was 2.1 years (799 days). This was 70% shorter than the 7.2 median TTC in years (2,644 days) for crime gun traces to a purchaser that were not associated with a multiple sale.

Figure IRT-18: Median TTC for Traces Associated with a Multiple Sale and Not Associated with a Multiple Sale, 2017 – 2021



Traced crime guns associated with a multiple sale recovered by Canadian LEAs had the shortest median TTC (1.7 years). Traced crime guns associated with a multiple sale recovered by Central American LEAs had the longest TTC (10.5 years) (Figure IRT-19).

Figure IRT-19: Median TTC (Years) Associated with a Multiples Sale by Country or Region Grouping, 2017 – 2021

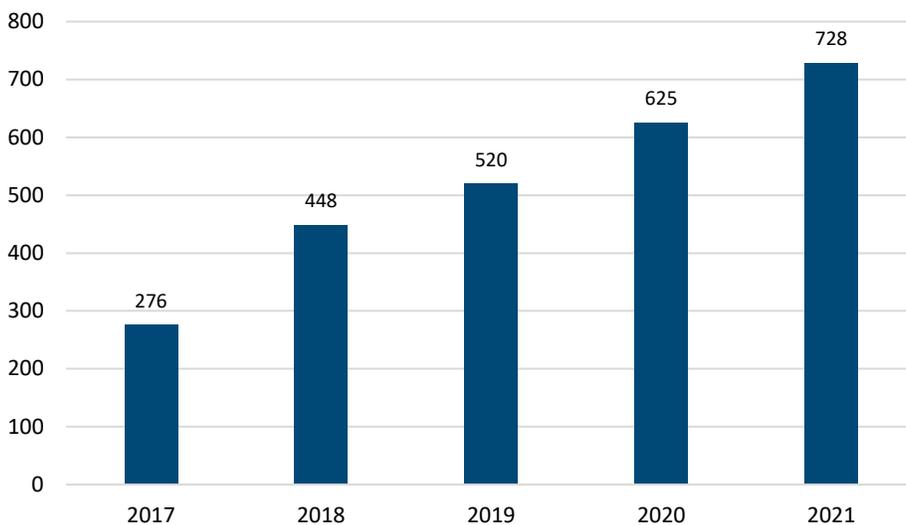


See Table IRT-11 in Appendix IRT – International Traces for information related to year-over-year changes and percentage of total traces to a purchaser that were associated with a multiple sale of firearms by recovery country or grouping.

International Crime Gun Traces Associated with the FFL Resale Program (FRP)

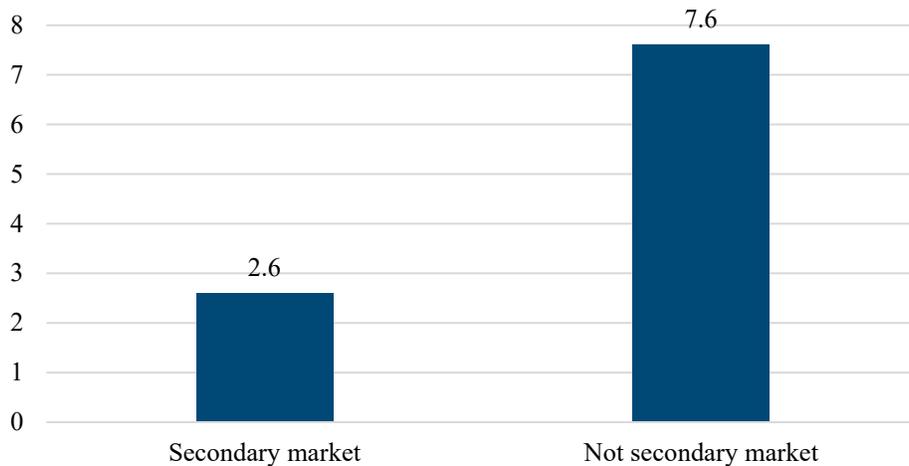
A small number of crime guns recovered by international LEAs and traced to a purchaser were associated with FRP transactions between 2017 and 2021 (refer to Part II – NTC for an explanation on the FRP). Only 6% (2,597) of the 44,669 recovered crime guns traced to a purchaser were associated with the FRP. The number of crime guns associated with the FRP increased by 164% between 2017 (276) and 2021 (728) (Figure IRT-20).

Figure IRT-20: International Traced Crime Guns Associated with the FFL Resale Program, 2017 – 2021



As reflected in Figure IRT-21, the median TTC of traced crime guns associated with the FRP was 2.6 years (939 days). This was 66% shorter than the 7.6 median TTC in years (2,769 days) for traced crime gun traces that were not associated with the FRP.

Figure IRT-21: Median TTC (Years) for International Traces Associated with the FRP and Not Associated with the FRP, 2017 – 2021



Summary of Firearm Trafficking Indicators for International Crime Gun Traces

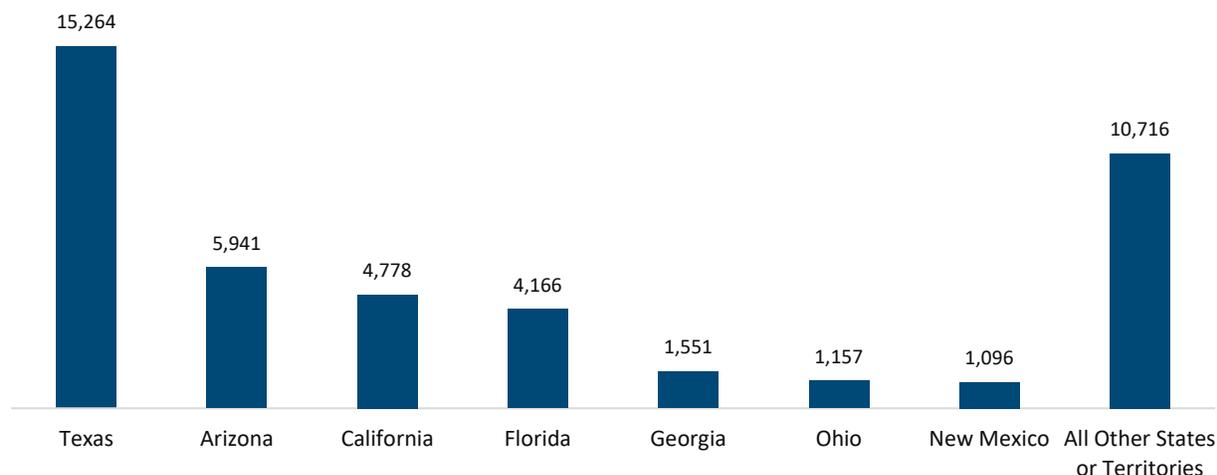
Between 2017 and 2021, almost 27% of traced crime guns that were purchased from the U.S. and recovered in another country, were recovered within three years of the last known sale of the firearm. Traced crime guns recovered in the U.S. have a shorter TTC with roughly half recovered in crimes within three years of the last known sale (see Part III). TTC patterns vary across foreign countries and regional groupings of foreign countries. For instance, Canada had the largest percentages of their crime gun traces with TTC less than one year (20%) and with TTC less than three years (39%). Similar to traced crime guns in the U.S., shorter TTC for recovered crime guns were associated with a number of patterns such as when crime guns were purchased and possessed by younger people, purchased by a female, part of a multiple sale, identified through the FRP, and when acquired from an FFL at a gun show.

Geographical Patterns

U.S. Source State or Territory for International Crime Gun Traces

For purposes of this section, a U.S. “source state” is the state where the last known purchaser acquired the crime gun from an FFL. As reflected in Figure IRT-22, Texas was the top U.S. source state accounting for 34% of all international crime guns traced to a purchaser between 2017 and 2021 (15,264 of 44,669). All 50 states were the source of at least one crime gun, but seven states, Texas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Ohio, and New Mexico accounted for approximately 76% of all international crime guns traced to a purchaser (33,953 of 44,669). See Table IRT-22, Appendix IRT – International Traces for a full break out of crime gun traces by all U.S. states and territories.

Figure IRT-22: Total Crime Guns Recovered and Traced to a Purchaser by U.S. Source State or Territory, 2017 - 2021



As reflected in Table IRT-23, only two states, Texas, and Florida, were among the top five source states for each of the international country or region groupings. The top five source states varied across the international country or region groupings:

Texas was the highest volume source state for traced crime guns recovered in Mexico, accounting for 43% (14,216). The top five source states (TX, AZ, CA, NM, FL) accounted for 79% (26,001) of all traced crime guns recovered in Mexico.

Ohio was the highest volume source state for traced crime guns recovered in Canada, accounting for 15% (796). The top five source states (OH, FL, GA, TX, MI) accounted for 53% (2,805) of all traced crime guns recovered in Canada.

Florida was the highest volume source state for traced crime guns recovered in the Caribbean accounting for 57% (1,846). The top five source states (FL, GA, TX, OH, NC) of traced crime guns recovered in the Caribbean accounted for 80% (2,583).

Florida was the highest volume source state for traced crime guns recovered in Central America, accounting for 25% (472). The top five source states (FL, TX, CA, VA, GA) accounted for 64% (1,230) of all traced crime guns recovered in Central America.

Florida was the highest volume source state for traced crime guns recovered Outside of North America, accounting for 47% (516). The top five source states (FL, TX, GA, CA, VA) of traced crime guns recovered Outside of North America, accounting for 66% (723).

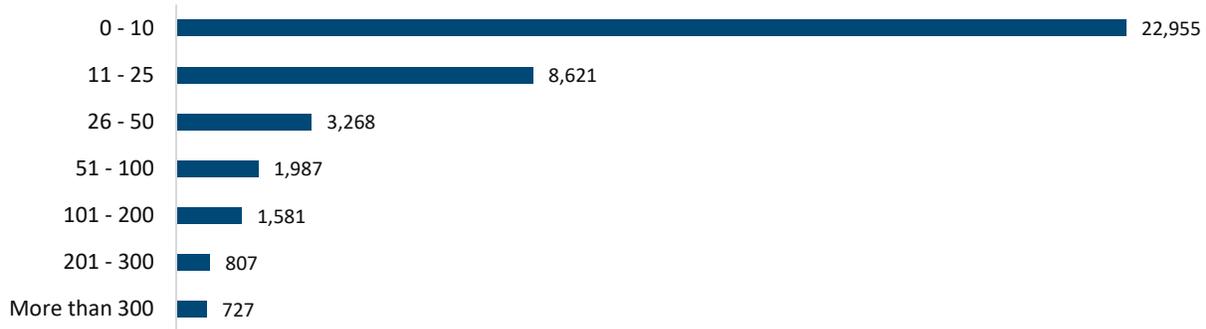
Table IRT-23: International Crime Gun Traces to a Purchaser by Top 5 Source States and Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 - 2021

Recovery Country/Grouping	Source State 1	Trace Total	% Total	Source State 2	Trace Total	% Total	Source State 3	Trace Total	% Total	Source State 4	Trace Total	% Total	Source State 5	Trace Total	% Total
Mexico	Texas	14,216	43.0%	Arizona	5,737	17.3%	California	4,335	13.1%	New Mexico	1,051	3.2%	Florida	662	2.0%
Canada	Ohio	796	14.9%	Florida	670	12.6%	Georgia	533	10.0%	Texas	455	8.5%	Michigan	351	6.6%
Caribbean	Florida	1,846	57.1%	Georgia	437	13.5%	Texas	157	4.9%	Ohio	75	2.3%	North Carolina	68	2.1%
Central America	Florida	472	25.6%	Texas	361	18.8%	California	242	12.6%	Virginia	81	4.2%	Georgia	74	3.9%
Outside North America	Florida	516	47.0%	Texas	75	6.8%	Georgia	48	4.4%	California	45	4.1%	Virginia	39	3.6%

International Crime Gun Traces by Distance Between the FFL and Purchaser

The purchaser's address was recorded in 39,946 of the traced international crime guns. In 87% (34,844) of these traces, the purchasers lived less than 50 miles from the FFL. Moreover, in 58% (22,955) of these traces the purchasers lived less than 10 miles from the FFL (Figure IRT-23).

Figure IRT-23: Total Crime Guns Recovered and Traced to a Purchaser by Distance (Miles) Between FFL and Purchaser, 2017 - 2021



International Crime Gun Tracing Conclusion

There are strong parallels between traced crime guns recovered in the U.S. and traced crime guns recovered in other countries. The analyses presented in this section suggest that many traced crime guns recovered by foreign LEAs and traced originated from lawful firearms commerce in the U.S. and were illegally exported by traffickers who smuggled these crime guns across U.S. borders. These transnational gun traffickers seem to exploit the same criminal opportunities to divert firearms from legal commerce as our domestic gun traffickers. For instance, traced crime guns recovered in Canada tend to quickly move from firearm transfers at FFLs in states with less stringent firearm laws into the hands of violent gun offenders. Traced crime guns recovered in Mexico often originate from firearm transfers at FFLs in Southwest border states and Florida. These patterns suggest that the same kinds of strategic enforcement and regulatory interventions used to disrupt illicit crime gun markets that supply domestic criminals could also be used to good effect in disrupting supply lines of illegal guns to violent gun offenders in other countries. As described in the conclusion of Part III, ongoing comprehensive data collection and analysis of recovered and traced crime guns are necessary to understand both persistent and emergent flows of crime guns into other countries. Strong collaborations among federal, state, local, territorial, tribal, and international LEAs, including timely sharing of intelligence on local diversion patterns and cross-border movements of traced crime guns, are critical to the development of strategies to disrupt illegal gun markets serving violent gun criminals in the U.S. and other countries.

APPENDIX IRT – INTERNATIONAL RECOVERIES AND TRACES

Table IRT-01: Recovery Country or Region Grouping

Recovery Country or Region Grouping	Countries Comprising Region Grouping
Canada	Canada
Caribbean (<i>19 countries</i>)	Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, the Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kits and Nevis, Saint Luca, Saint Martin, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos
Central America (<i>6 countries</i>)	Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama
Outside of North America (<i>110 countries</i>)	Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bermuda, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Curacao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, South Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Martinique, Mauritius, Micronesia, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Kosovo, Romania, Russia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Saint Martin, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Tanzania, Pacific Island, Thailand, Turkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, West Bank, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Mexico	Mexico

Table IRT-02: Total Crime Guns Recovered and Traced by Law Enforcement and YOY Percentage Change by Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 - 2021

Recovery Country/Grouping	2017 Total	% Change 17-18	2018 Total	% Change 18-19	2019 Total	% Change 19-20	2020 Total	% Change 20-21	2021 Total	Total Traces	% Total Traces	% Change 17-21	Median TTC Days
Mexico	15,996	21.0%	19,353	8.5%	20,994	-2.0%	20,580	1.4%	20,868	97,791	59.0%	30.5%	2,222
Central America	5,306	20.9%	6,414	-11.8%	5,655	-30.4%	3,937	30.0%	5,120	26,432	15.9%	-3.5%	7,351
Canada	3,597	-7.4%	3,330	251.9%	11,717	-79.3%	2,429	44.6%	3,513	24,586	14.8%	-2.3%	1,383
Caribbean	2,406	-20.4%	1,915	-24.2%	1,451	1.7%	1,476	10.1%	1,625	8,873	5.3%	-32.5%	2,171
Outside of North America	2,827	-22.9%	2,180	-30.2%	1,522	-40.4%	907	-16.6%	756	8,192	4.9%	-73.3%	2,017
Total	30,132	10.2%	33,192	24.5%	41,339	-29.1%	29,329	8.7%	31,882	165,874	100.0%	5.8%	2,087

Table IRT-03: Total Crime Guns Recovered and Traced to a Purchaser by Law Enforcement and YOY Percentage Change by Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 - 2021

Recovery Country/Grouping	2017 Total	% Change 17-18	2018 Total	% Change 18-19	2019 Total	% Change 19-20	2020 Total	% Change 20-21	2021 Total	Total Traces	% Total Traces	% Change 17-21	Median TTC Days
Mexico	5,327	23.8%	6,593	2.9%	6,784	6.2%	7,207	-0.4%	7,177	33,088	74.1%	34.7%	2,574
Canada	760	25.0%	950	34.0%	1,273	-26.4%	937	50.2%	1,407	5,327	11.9%	85.1%	1,465
Caribbean	736	-19.8%	590	-6.3%	553	7.4%	594	28.3%	762	3,235	7.2%	3.5%	2,115
Central America	457	-4.4%	437	-64.0%	409	-37.4%	256	41.8%	363	1,922	4.3%	-20.6%	7,701
Outside of North America	388	-44.6%	215	-10.2%	193	-37.8%	120	50.8%	181	1,097	2.5%	-53.4%	2,396
Total	7,668	14.6%	8,785	4.9%	9,212	-1.1%	9,114	8.5%	9,890	44,669	100.0%	29.0%	2,416

Table IRT-06: Total Lawful U.S. Firearm Exports Recovered and Traced by Law Enforcement and YOY Percentage Change by Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 - 2020

Recovery Country/Grouping	2017 Total	% Change 17-18	2018 Total	% Change 18-19	2019 Total	% Change 19-20	2020 Total	% Change 20-21	2021 Total	Total Traces	% Total Traces	% Change 17-21
Canada	1,826	-39.5%	1,104	201.1%	3,324	-74.8%	836	37.3%	1,148	8,238	43.9%	-37.1%
Central America	929	-3.1%	900	45.1%	1,306	-32.4%	883	20.6%	1,065	5,083	27.1%	14.6%
Outside North America	1,030	0.8%	1,038	-47.8%	542	-47.2%	286	-43.4%	162	3,058	16.3%	-84.3%
Mexico	252	22.6%	309	21.4%	375	-19.2%	303	34.3%	407	1,646	8.8%	61.5%
Caribbean	259	-37.1%	163	-32.5%	110	-10.0%	99	-6.1%	93	724	3.9%	-64.1%
Total	4,296	-18.2%	3,514	61.0%	5,657	-57.5%	2,407	19.4%	2,875	18,749	100.0%	-33.1%

Table IRT-11: Total Crime Guns Recovered and Traced to a Purchaser that are Associated with a Multiple Sale and YOY Percentage Change by Country or Region Grouping 2017 - 2021

Recovery Country/Grouping	2017 Total	% Change 17-18	2018 Total	% Change 18-19	2019 Total	% Change 19-20	2020 Total	% Change 20-21	2021 Total	Total Traces	% Total Traces	% Change 17-21	Median TTC Days
Mexico	363	45.2%	527	8.5%	572	10.1%	630	0.3%	632	2,724	58.1%	74.1%	861
Canada	92	119.6%	202	-5.4%	191	2.1%	195	59.0%	310	990	21.1%	237.0%	639
Caribbean	120	-17.5%	99	27.3%	126	-7.1%	117	70.9%	200	662	14.1%	66.7%	714
Central America	64	-6.3%	60	-50.0%	30	-33.3%	20	75.0%	35	209	4.5%	-45.3%	3,824
Outside of North America	25	-36.0%	16	37.5%	22	-45.5%	12	116.7%	26	101	2.2%	4.0%	1,562
Total	664	36.1%	904	4.1%	941	3.5%	974	23.5%	1,203	4,686	100.0%	81.2%	799

Table IRT-22: Total Crime Guns Recovered and Traced to a Purchaser by U.S. Source State or Territory, 2017 - 2021

State or Territory	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total	% Total Traces
AK	24	16	36	43	43	162	0.4%
AL	72	92	89	70	75	398	0.9%
AR	43	55	53	47	58	256	0.6%
AZ	1,004	985	1,202	1,385	1,365	5,941	13.3%
Blank	8	2	9	4	4	27	0.1%
CA	972	1,157	974	855	820	4,778	10.7%
CO	102	112	123	126	126	589	1.3%
CT	10	14	18	5	18	65	0.1%
DC	3	2	0	1	3	9	0.0%
DE	2	3	3	2	5	15	0.0%
FL	855	853	697	725	1,036	4,166	9.3%
GA	266	304	333	284	364	1,551	3.5%
GU	0	0	2	0	0	2	0.0%
HI	2	2	2	5	1	12	0.0%
IA	9	12	19	12	21	73	0.2%
ID	50	40	53	38	38	219	0.5%
IL	143	127	134	100	118	622	1.4%
IN	71	71	79	62	53	336	0.8%
KS	50	71	69	57	62	309	0.7%
KY	56	57	79	67	71	330	0.7%
LA	64	79	83	86	106	418	0.9%
MA	16	15	13	10	15	69	0.2%
MD	25	19	36	18	19	117	0.3%
ME	21	14	16	18	13	82	0.2%
MI	91	85	121	96	87	480	1.1%
MN	12	19	32	28	23	114	0.3%
MO	38	39	58	39	51	225	0.5%
MS	42	55	70	56	47	270	0.6%
MT	24	24	25	28	44	145	0.3%
NC	94	97	102	85	114	492	1.1%
ND	7	16	10	10	14	57	0.1%
NE	17	17	13	17	15	79	0.2%
NH	11	6	11	16	16	60	0.1%
NJ	14	11	8	7	12	52	0.1%
NM	155	240	250	225	226	1,096	2.5%
NV	98	130	114	118	128	588	1.3%
NY	35	46	35	29	47	192	0.4%
OH	205	184	282	237	249	1,157	2.6%
OK	77	125	141	176	192	711	1.6%
OR	45	52	73	56	67	293	0.7%
PA	72	66	62	65	53	318	0.7%
PR	3	1	3	3	1	11	0.0%
RI	11	1	2	3	3	20	0.0%
SC	39	52	67	64	77	299	0.7%
SD	9	6	9	7	7	38	0.1%
TN	44	55	71	72	71	313	0.7%
TX	2,309	3,003	3,118	3,299	3,535	15,264	34.2%
UT	39	46	56	73	94	308	0.7%
VA	77	71	101	86	82	417	0.9%
VI	1	1	1	0	0	3	0.0%
VT	5	6	23	5	10	49	0.1%
WA	164	144	153	119	113	693	1.6%
WI	30	39	28	38	39	174	0.4%
WV	22	28	26	13	15	104	0.2%
WY	10	18	25	24	24	101	0.2%
Total	7,668	8,785	9,212	9,114	9,890	44,669	100.0%

ENDNOTES

¹ International trace request data excludes duplicates, firearms turned in, and firearms recovered in gun buy-backs, traces without a recovery date, and any traces for crime guns recovered in the U.S. or where the recovery location was left blank. The analysis includes traces with a crime gun recovery date between 01-01-2017 and 12-21-2021 and an entry date into the Firearms Tracing System (FTS) of 01-01-2017 to 09-07-2022.

² When limited to only the purchaser identified trace completion codes, the number of crime guns traced to purchaser is 44,731 (165,874 total traces minus 121,143 unsuccessful traces). When further examining the completion codes which indicate a purchaser was identified, only 44,669 traces were determined to actually contain purchaser information.

³ A data description error in Table IRT-04 was identified and corrected on March 25, 2024. It was determined that the text in the table did not fully describe the data set (omitting the terms “partial” and “incomplete” which incorporate a broader range of firearms than those with obliterated serial numbers).

⁴ This number represents the total number of international trace requests (165,874) minus the total number of traces (35,946) that could not be completed because they were not sourced from the U.S.

⁵ As reported in the [*National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment: Firearms in Commerce Report*](#)⁵, there were 2,793,002 firearms lawfully exported from the U.S. between 2016 and 2020. Recovered crime gun trace data is from the 2017 to 2021 study period covered by this report while lawfully exported firearms data is from the 2016 to 2020 study period in the Firearms in Commerce Report.

⁶ This section does not include Type 06 – Manufacture of Ammunition for Firearms other Than” Destructive Devices.”

⁷ There is an anomaly in the age 58 category with 774 crime guns traced. All but 20 of those (754) crime gun traces are from Canada and this had a disproportionate impact on the total in this age grouping.

⁸ Multiple sales data includes the multiple sales of handguns and certain rifles under the DL3 Program.