

U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

OMB No. 1140-0043

National Tracing Center Trace Request

Phone: 1-800-788-7133 Martinsburg, WV 25405 Fax: 1-800-578-7223
FOR NTC DATA ENTRY ONLY Page 1 of 2 - Trace Request Information

NOTE: * - Required Entry Field (Must be completed for trace processing)
** - Required Entry With Listed Data Response (See back for codes and options)

Part I - Trace Initiation Information

1a. Date of Request
1b. Priority** Routine Urgent (Justification required) For NTC Data Entry Only
Justification
1c. Special Instructions

Part II - Crime Code Information

2a. NCIC Crime Code** 2b. Project Code, Project Title, or other Initiative (If you wish to obtain a Project Code, contact the Chief, Firearms Tracing Branch, ATF National Tracing Center)**:

Part III - ATF Agent Requesting Trace

3a. Organization Code* 3b. Phone Number: Fax Number: E-Mail: 3c. ATF Special Agent's Name (Last, first, middle)
3d. Badge Number 3e. ATF Case Number 3f. Field Office

Part IV - Other Agency Requesting Trace

4a. Agency Number* 4b. Phone Number: Fax Number: E-Mail: 4c. Other Agency Officer's Name (Last, first, middle)
4d. Department/Unit

5c. Firearms Manufacturer*
Country of Origin* (Importer required if other than U.S.)

Part V - Suspect Information

6a. Name
6b. Alias
6c. Height
6d. Weight
6e. Date of Birth
6f. Address - Route Number
6g. Apt. Number 6j. Street No. 6k. Direction
6m. City
6n. County 6o. State
6p. Date of Birth 6q. Place of Birth



ATF

Mexico

Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information
Data Source: Firearms Tracing System

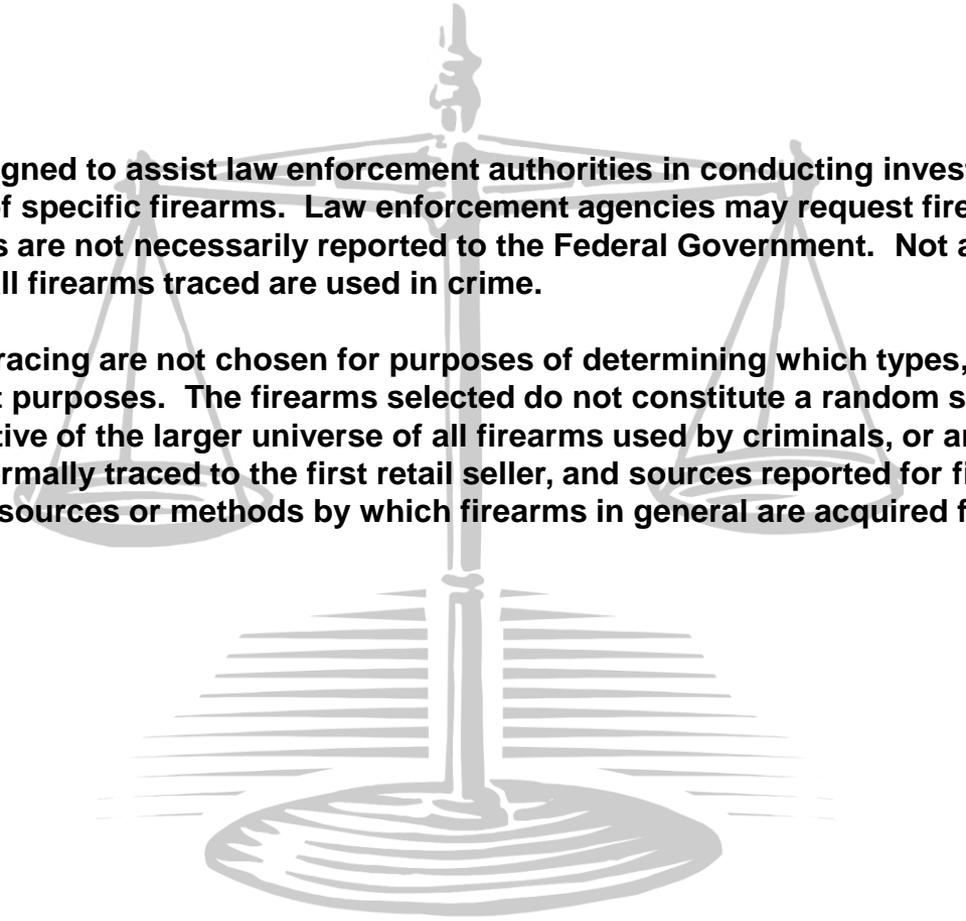
January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2014
(As of March 10, 2015)



ATF Firearms Trace Data Disclaimer

(1) Firearm traces are designed to assist law enforcement authorities in conducting investigations by tracking the sale and possession of specific firearms. Law enforcement agencies may request firearms traces for any reason, and those reasons are not necessarily reported to the Federal Government. Not all firearms used in crime are traced and not all firearms traced are used in crime.

(2) Firearms selected for tracing are not chosen for purposes of determining which types, makes or models of firearms are used for illicit purposes. The firearms selected do not constitute a random sample and should not be considered representative of the larger universe of all firearms used by criminals, or any subset of that universe. Firearms are normally traced to the first retail seller, and sources reported for firearms traced do not necessarily represent the sources or methods by which firearms in general are acquired for use in crime.





Introduction



The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) National Tracing Center (NTC) is the nation's only crime gun tracing facility. As such, the NTC provides critical information that helps domestic and international law enforcement agencies solve firearms crimes, detect firearms trafficking and identify trends with respect to intrastate, interstate and international movement of crime guns. For calendar year (CY) 2009, the NTC traced over 354,000 firearms; CY 2010, over 285,000 firearms; CY 2011, over 319,000 firearms; CY 2012, over 332,000 firearms; CY 2013, over 336,000 firearms; and CY 2014 over 351,000 firearms. Over this time period the NTC has traced firearms for the United States and 127 countries, including Mexico.

Firearms tracing is the systematic tracking of the movement of a firearm from its first sale by a manufacturer or importer through the distribution chain in an attempt to identify the first retail purchaser in order to provide investigative leads for criminal investigations. After the firearm is recovered and the identifiers are forwarded to the NTC, ATF contacts the manufacturer or importer to ascertain the sale or transfer of the firearm. ATF will attempt to contact all ensuing Federal firearms licensees (wholesale/retail) in the distribution chain until a purchaser is identified or the trace process cannot continue due to a lack of accurate or incomplete information on the trace request or in the Federal firearms licensee's records. The success of a trace result, whether domestic or international, relies upon the accuracy of the supplied firearm identifiers. The necessary identifiers for a trace include manufacturer, importer (if applicable), model, caliber and serial number.

This report relates only to firearms recovered in Mexico and traced by ATF. The firearm trace results are based upon the supplied firearm identifiers on the Mexico trace requests. The Mexican trace data in this report is organized by the calendar year in which the firearm was recovered, not the year in which the trace was initiated. For example, if a firearm was recovered in 2014 but the trace was not initiated until 2015, the data will be organized in the year of recovery, 2014. Organization by recovery date provides valuable investigative leads as well as more specific trend data. Therefore, using this example, if a firearm for which a trace is initiated in later years is determined to have been recovered in 2014, the raw trace numbers for 2014 will increase in subsequent trace data reports. As a result, the trace numbers for each calendar year may fluctuate, necessitating changes to prior years' trace numbers in future reports. If a recovery date is not provided for a firearm, trace data for that firearm is organized by the calendar year in which the trace was entered into the Firearms Tracing System by ATF.



Introduction (continued)



Note that in September 2009, the government of Mexico provided ATF with electronic files containing firearms identifiers and recovery data. The electronic files contained information that initiated over 43,000 firearms traces, excluding duplicates, with most having recovery years ranging from CY 2007 to 2009. Once each trace was initiated, it was organized by the year of recovery. With the influx of trace data from these electronic files, the number of firearms listed as recovered and traced in 2008 to 2009 increased from previous releases of information.



Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Mexico Trace Statistics

All of the attached trace statistics had the following selection criteria in common:

- Traces with a recovery country of Mexico were included.
- Traces with a recovery date between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2014 were included.
 - If a recovery date was not provided, traces with an entered date between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2014 were included.
 - In CY 2009, 98.6% of all Mexico traces listed a recovery date.
 - In CY 2010, 99.9% of all Mexico traces listed a recovery date.
 - In CY 2011, 99.5% of all Mexico traces listed a recovery date.
 - In CY 2012, 98.8% of all Mexico traces listed a recovery date.
 - In CY 2013, 97.4% of all Mexico traces listed a recovery date.
 - In CY 2014, 98.9% of all Mexico traces listed a recovery date.
- Duplicate traces were not included. A duplicate is a trace request for the same recovery of a firearm that was previously traced.
- All traces may not have been submitted or completed at the time of this analysis.
- Statistics are based on a query of the Firearms Tracing System on March 10, 2015.

Firearms Recovered in Mexico and Submitted to ATF for Tracing

Calendar Year	CY 2009			CY 2010			CY 2011			CY 2012			CY 2013			CY 2014		
	# of Traces	% of all Traces	% by Category	# of Traces	% of all Traces	% by Category	# of Traces	% of all Traces	% by Category	# of Traces	% of all Traces	% by Category	# of Traces	% of all Traces	% by Category	# of Traces	% of all Traces	% by Category
Category - U.S. Sourced Firearms																		
Manufactured in the United States	11,225	51.5	67.0	5,082	52.5	75.9	11,637	51.5	70.9	10,426	53.0	69.7	8,345	53.1	69.6	8,200	53.3	71.9
Imported into the United States	3,379	15.5		2,263	23.4		4,391	19.4		3,287	16.7		2,588	16.5		2,861	18.6	
Subtotal	14,604			7,345			16,028			13,713			10,933			11,061		
Category - Undetermined Source Country for Firearms																		
Non-U.S. Manufacturer	2,154	9.9	33.0	1,427	14.8	24.1	4,192	18.6	29.1	3,820	19.4	30.3	3,150	20.0	30.4	2,801	18.2	28.1
Undetermined Country of Origin	5,025	23.1		900	9.3		2,375	10.5		2,149	10.9		1,638	10.4		1,535	9.9	
Subtotal	7,179			2,327			6,567			5,969			4,788			4,336		
Total	21,783	100		9,672	100		22,595	100		19,682	100		15,721	100		15,397	100	

This chart is based upon firearms recovered in Mexico in a particular year and submitted to ATF for tracing.

The category "U.S. Sourced Firearms" refers to those firearms that were determined by ATF to be manufactured in the U.S. or legally imported into the U.S. by a Federal firearms licensee.

"Manufactured in the United States" refers to those firearms that were determined by ATF to be manufactured in the U.S. by a Federal firearms licensee (manufacturer).

"Imported into the United States" refers to those firearms that were determined by ATF to be legally imported into the U.S. by a Federal firearms licensee (importer). Foreign manufactured firearms that are legally imported into the U.S. require that the importer name be stamped (impressed) on the firearm (27 C.F.R. Section 478.92). The firearm is traced by ATF through the U.S.-based importer, not the foreign manufacturer.

The category "Undetermined Source Country for Firearms" refers to those firearms in which the trace request did not provide sufficient information in order for ATF to determine a source country.

"Non-U.S. Manufacturer" refers to those firearms in which the trace request indicated a non-U.S. (foreign) manufacturer and a U.S. firearms importer was either not listed (possible omission of the trace requestor) or not required (a foreign manufactured firearm that never legally entered U.S. commerce and therefore would not bear the identifying stamp of a U.S. firearms importer). ATF is unable to determine if these non-U.S. (foreign) manufactured firearms were imported directly into Mexico, or if the firearms were legally imported into the U.S. or went to another country and then made their way to Mexico by legal or illegal means.

"Undetermined Country of Origin" refers to those firearms in which the trace request was unclear as to the manufacturer, country of origin and the importer. ATF is unable to determine the firearm's manufacturer, or if the firearms were imported directly into Mexico, or if the firearms were legally imported into the U.S. or went to another country and then made their way to Mexico by legal or illegal means.

"Total" refers to all firearms recovered in Mexico in a particular calendar year and submitted to ATF for tracing.

Please note, changes to the trace data will occur in the future as result of the statistics being based upon the recovery date of the firearm.

U.S. Sourced Firearms Recovered in Mexico and Submitted to ATF for Tracing

Calendar Year	CY 2009		CY 2010		CY 2011		CY 2012		CY 2013		CY 2014	
	# of Traces	% of U.S. Sourced Traces	# of Traces	% of U.S. Sourced Traces	# of Traces	% of U.S. Sourced Traces	# of Traces	% of U.S. Sourced Traces	# of Traces	% of U.S. Sourced Traces	# of Traces	% of U.S. Sourced Traces
Category - U.S. Sourced Firearms												
Traced to a Retail Purchaser	5,680	38.9	3,548	48.3	7,504	46.8	6,175	45.0	4,950	45.3	5,173	46.8
Traced to a Foreign Country	271	1.8	176	2.4	528	3.3	374	2.7	328	3.0	273	2.4
Unable to Determine a Purchaser	8,653	59.3	3,621	49.3	7,996	49.9	7,164	52.3	5,655	51.7	5,615	50.8
Total	14,604	100	7,345	100	16,028	100	13,713	100	10,933	100	11,061	100

This chart is based upon the **U.S. sourced firearms** from the page entitled "Firearms Recovered in Mexico and Submitted to ATF for Tracing". The total does not include trace numbers from the category "Undetermined Source Country for Firearms".

The category "U.S. Sourced Firearms" refers to those firearms that were determined by ATF to be manufactured in the U.S. or legally imported into the U.S. by a Federal firearms licensee.

"Traced to a Retail Purchaser" refers to those traces in which ATF could determine the first retail purchaser, that is, a sale executed on an ATF Firearms Transaction Record (ATF Form 4473) from a U.S. Federal firearms licensee to a purchaser in the U.S. (As a comparison, for firearms recovered in the U.S. and traced to a retail purchaser, the average percentage for firearms traced for the time period CY 2009 - CY 2014 is approximately 65%).

"Traced to a Foreign Country" refers to those firearms that were determined by ATF to be transferred from a U.S. Federal firearms licensee to a foreign government, law enforcement, dealer or entity.

"Unable to Determine a Purchaser" refers to those firearms that were manufactured in / imported into the U.S. but ATF was unable to determine the first retail purchaser through the trace process.

- Common reasons ATF is unable to identify a purchaser:
 - Incomplete firearms identifying data on the trace request form
 - Incomplete or never received out-of-business Federal firearms licensee records (upon discontinuance of business by a Federal firearms licensee, the records shall be delivered within 30 days to ATF or other Attorney General stipulated location (Title 18 U.S.C. 923(g)(4))
 - Altered or obliterated firearm serial numbers
 - The firearm is considered to be too old to trace
 - Current Federal firearms licensee records are incomplete or missing, or the Federal firearms licensee was unresponsive to ATF request for trace information

Please note, changes to the trace data will occur in the future as result of the statistics being based upon the recovery date of the firearm.

Types of Firearms Recovered in Mexico and Submitted to ATF for Tracing

Calendar Year	CY 2009		CY 2010		CY 2011		CY 2012		CY 2013		CY 2014	
	# of Traces	% of all Traces	# of Traces	% of all Traces	# of Traces	% of all Traces	# of Traces	% of all Traces	# of Traces	% of all Traces	# of Traces	% of all Traces
Category - Types of Firearms												
Pistols	7,120	32.7	2,618	27.0	8,446	37.4	8,286	42.1	7,469	47.5	7,158	46.5
Revolvers	2,128	9.8	501	5.2	2,428	10.7	2,461	12.5	2,320	14.8	2,221	14.4
Rifles	9,591	44.0	5,592	57.8	9,866	43.7	7,198	36.6	4,635	29.5	4,836	31.4
Shotguns	2,706	12.4	724	7.5	1,357	6.0	1,170	5.9	964	6.1	927	6.0
Other	238	1.1	237	2.5	498	2.2	567	2.9	333	2.1	255	1.7
Total	21,783	100	9,672	100	22,595	100	19,682	100	15,721	100	15,397	100

This chart is based upon firearms recovered in Mexico in a particular year and submitted to ATF for tracing.

The "Other" category refers to machineguns, destructive devices, derringers, tear gas launchers, combination guns, flare guns, receivers/frames, silencers, any other weapons and unknown types (to include trace requests that do not annotate a firearm type).

Please note, changes to the trace data will occur in the future as result of the statistics being based upon the recovery date of the firearm.