

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

1c. Special Instructions _____

Part II - Crime Code Information

2a. NCIC Crime Code**:

Part III - ATF Agent Requesting Trace

3a. Organization Code* _____ 3b. Phone Number: _____ 3c. ATF Special Agent's Name (Last, first, middle) _____
 Fax Number: _____
 E-Mail: _____

3d. Badge Number _____ 3e. ATF Case Number _____ 3f. Field Office _____

Part IV - Other Agency Requesting Trace

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

4d. Department/Unit _____

4e. Firearms Manufacturer* _____

4f. Country of Origin* (Importer required if other than U.S.) _____

Part V - Suspect Information

5a. Name for _____

5b. Name _____

5c. Alias _____

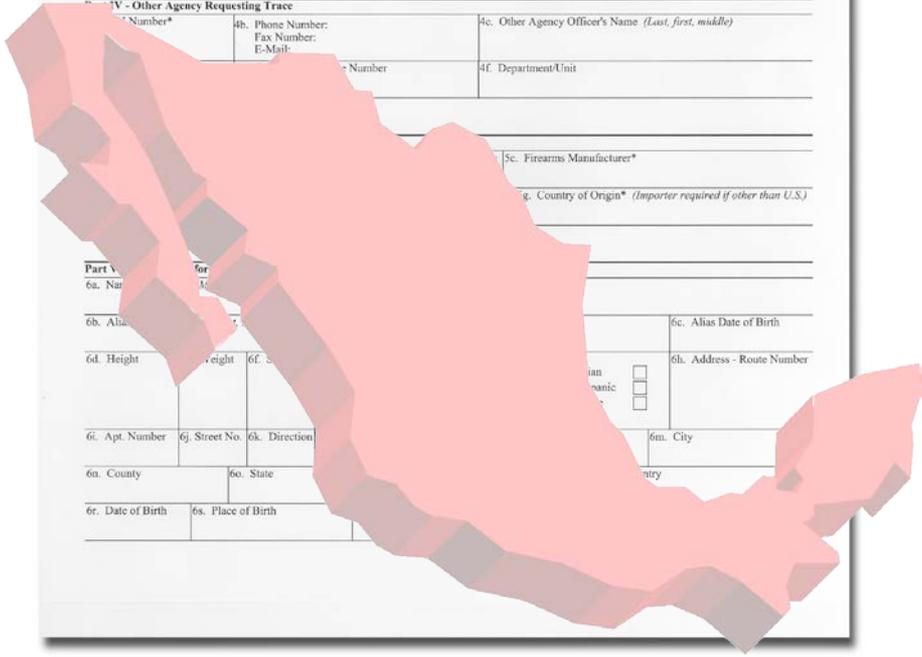
5d. Height _____ Weight _____ 5e. Sex _____ 5f. Date of Birth _____

5g. Address - Route Number _____

5h. Apt. Number _____ 5i. Street No. _____ 5j. Direction _____ 5k. City _____

5l. County _____ 5m. State _____ 5n. Country _____

5o. Date of Birth _____ 5p. Place of Birth _____



Mexico

Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives
Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information
Data Source: Firearms Tracing System

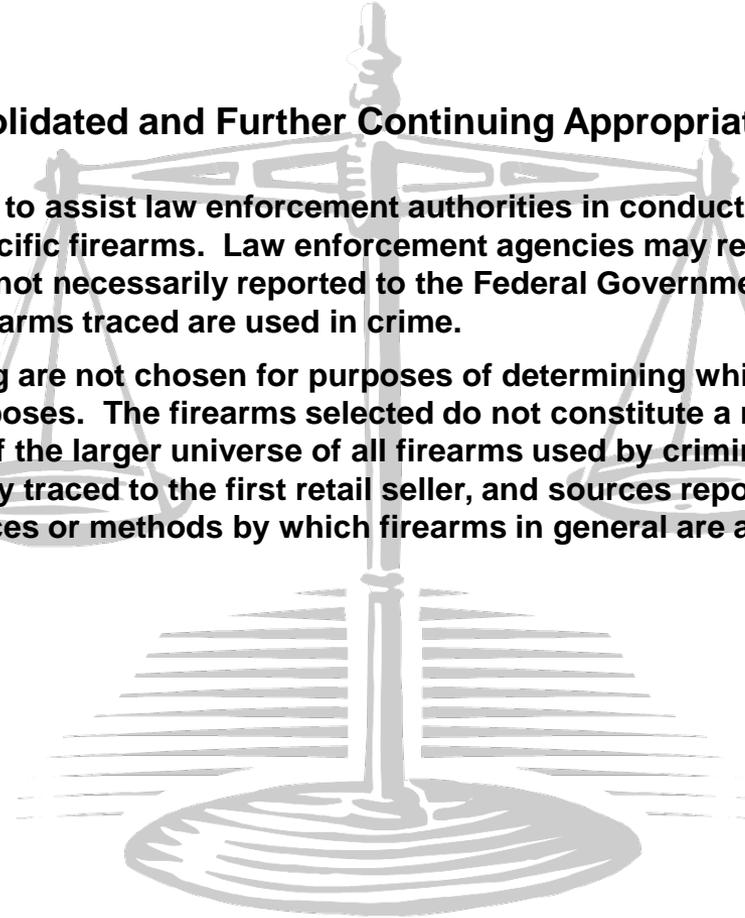
Calendar Years 2007 – 2012
(As of March 12, 2013)



ATF Firearms Trace Data Disclaimer

Public L. No. 112-55, Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012, Sec. 516

- (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) 2007, the NTC traced over 295,000 firearms; CY 2008, over 288,000 firearms; CY 2009, over 354,000 firearms; CY 2010, over 285,000 firearms; CY 2011, over 319,000 firearms; and CY 2012, over 332,000 firearms. Over this time period the NTC has traced firearms for the United States and 120 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 2012 but the trace was not initiated until 2013, the data will be organized in the year of recovery, 2012. 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 2012, the raw trace numbers for 2012 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 2007 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, 2007 and December 31, 2012 were included.
 - If a recovery date was not provided, traces with an entered date between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2012 were included.
 - In CY 2007, 99.6% of all Mexico traces listed a recovery date.
 - In CY 2008, 98.6% of all Mexico traces listed a recovery date.
 - 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, 99.4% of all Mexico traces listed a recovery date.
 - In CY 2012, 98.7% 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 12, 2013.

Firearms Recovered in Mexico and Submitted to ATF for Tracing

Calendar Year	CY 2007			CY 2008			CY 2009			CY 2010			CY 2011			CY 2012		
	# 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	9,142	52.5	68.3	16,313	50.4	65.5	11,195	51.5	66.9	5,035	52.6	75.3	11,571	51.5	70.8	9,920	53.0	69.8
Imported into the United States	2,741	15.8		4,871	15.1		3,344	15.4		2,172	22.7		4,326	19.3		3,155	16.8	
Subtotal	11,883			21,184			14,539			7,207			15,897			13,075		
Category - Undetermined Source Country for Firearms																		
Non-U.S. Manufacturer	1,851	10.6	31.7	3,530	10.9	34.5	2,177	10.0	33.1	1,462	15.3	24.7	4,195	18.7	29.2	3,611	19.3	30.2
Undetermined Country of Origin	3,673	21.1		7,635	23.6		5,023	23.1		895	9.4		2,357	10.5		2,049	10.9	
Subtotal	5,524			11,165			7,200			2,357			6,552			5,660		
Total	17,407	100		32,349	100		21,739	100		9,564	100		22,449	100		18,735	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 2007		CY 2008		CY 2009		CY 2010		CY 2011		CY 2012	
	# 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	4,428	37.3	8,082	38.2	5,622	38.7	3,435	47.7	7,406	46.6	5,854	44.8
Traced to a Foreign Country	290	2.4	376	1.8	271	1.9	174	2.4	523	3.3	325	2.5
Unable to Determine a Purchaser	7,165	60.3	12,726	60.0	8,646	59.4	3,598	49.9	7,968	50.1	6,896	52.7
Total	11,883	100	21,184	100	14,539	100	7,207	100	15,897	100	13,075	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 2007 - CY 2012 is approximately 62%).

"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 2007		CY 2008		CY 2009		CY 2010		CY 2011		CY 2012	
	# 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	7,821	44.9	12,779	39.5	7,101	32.7	2,575	26.9	8,388	37.4	7,876	42.0
Revolvers	2,418	13.9	3,557	11.0	2,120	9.8	494	5.2	2,418	10.8	2,316	12.4
Rifles	4,906	28.2	11,564	35.7	9,575	44.0	5,537	57.9	9,800	43.6	6,866	36.6
Shotguns	2,144	12.3	4,138	12.8	2,706	12.4	723	7.6	1,352	6.0	1,124	6.0
Other	118	0.7	311	1.0	237	1.1	235	2.4	491	2.2	553	3.0
Total	17,407	100	32,349	100	21,739	100	9,564	100	22,449	100	18,735	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.