

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: 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. Agency Address 4e. Agency Phone Number 4f. Department/Unit

5c. Firearms Manufacturer*

5d. Country of Origin* (Importer required if other than U.S.)

Part V - Suspect Information

6a. Name 6b. Alias 6c. Alias Date of Birth

6d. Height 6e. Weight 6f. Sex 6g. Race 6h. Address - Route Number

6i. Apt. Number 6j. Street No. 6k. Direction 6l. City

6m. County 6n. State 6o. Country

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, 2011 – December 31, 2016
(As of March 10, 2017)



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) 2011, the NTC traced more than 319,000 firearms; for CY 2012, more than 332,000 firearms; for CY 2013, more than 336,000 firearms; for CY 2014, more than 351,000 firearms; for CY 2015, more than 364,000 firearms; and for CY 2016, more than 364,000 firearms. Over this time period, the NTC has traced firearms for the United States and 129 other 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 complete 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 2016 but the trace was not initiated until 2017, the data will be organized in the year of recovery, 2016. 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 2016, the raw trace numbers for 2016 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.



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, 2011, and December 31, 2016, were included.
 - If a recovery date was not provided, traces with an entered date between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2016, were included.
 - In CY 2011, 99.4% 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, 99.4% of all Mexico traces listed a recovery date.
 - In CY 2015, 99.6% of all Mexico traces listed a recovery date.
 - In CY 2016, 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, 2017.

Firearms Recovered in Mexico and Submitted to ATF for Tracing

Calendar Year	CY 2011			CY 2012			CY 2013			CY 2014			CY 2015			CY 2016		
	# 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	11,803	51.4	70.6	10,434	53.0	69.7	8,511	53.0	69.3	8,547	53.2	71.7	9,145	51.4	71.3	6,770	50.3	68.7
Imported into the United States	4,414	19.2		3,288	16.7		2,620	16.3		2,964	18.5		3,538	19.9		2,481	18.4	
Subtotal	16,217			13,722			11,131			11,511			12,683			9,251		
Category - Undetermined Source Country for Firearms																		
Non-U.S. Manufacturer	4,330	18.9	29.4	3,827	19.4	30.3	3,240	20.2	30.7	2,946	18.3	28.3	2,985	16.8	28.7	2,376	17.7	31.3
Undetermined Country of Origin	2,398	10.5		2,155	10.9		1,682	10.5		1,606	10.0		2,116	11.9		1,825	13.6	
Subtotal	6,728			5,982			4,922			4,552			5,101			4,201		
Total	22,945	100	100	19,704	100	100	16,053	100	100	16,063	100	100	17,784	100	100	13,452	100	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 a 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 2011		CY 2012		CY 2013		CY 2014		CY 2015		CY 2016	
	# 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	7,569	46.7	6,184	45.1	5,051	45.4	5,410	47.0	5,935	46.8	4,276	46.2
Traced to a Foreign Country	532	3.3	374	2.7	333	3.0	281	2.4	264	2.1	262	2.8
Unable to Determine a Purchaser	8,116	50.0	7,164	52.2	5,747	51.6	5,820	50.6	6,484	51.1	4,713	51.0
Total	16,217	100	13,722	100	11,131	100	11,511	100	12,683	100	9,251	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 2011 - CY 2016 is approximately 69%.)

"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's request for trace information

Please note, changes to the trace data will occur in the future as a 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	CY2011		CY 2012		CY 2013		CY 2014		CY 2015		CY 2016	
	# 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	8,664	37.8	8,296	42.1	7,595	47.3	7,444	46.3	8,300	46.7	6,853	50.9
Revolvers	2,493	10.9	2,462	12.5	2,346	14.6	2,287	14.3	2,438	13.7	2,016	15.0
Rifles	9,917	43.2	7,207	36.6	4,794	29.9	5,111	31.8	5,593	31.4	3,585	26.7
Shotguns	1,366	6.0	1,170	5.9	974	6.1	948	5.9	996	5.6	727	5.4
Other	505	2.1	569	2.9	344	2.1	273	1.7	457	2.6	271	2.0
Total	22,945	100	19,704	100	16,053	100	16,063	100	17,784	100	13,452	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 a result of the statistics being based upon the recovery date of the firearm.