

PART III:

Firearms Exported from the United States

Overview

The export of firearms is the movement of firearms from the U.S. to foreign countries. Firearms may be 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 the Annual Firearms Manufacturing and Exportation Report (AFMER). U.S. Government (including military) firearm exports are exempt from export regulation³⁴.

Firearm Export Licenses, Permits, and Fees

Prior to exporting firearms, ammunition, or specified related technologies, the exporting entity must obtain a license or permit from either the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), which authorizes exports by means of "licenses," or the U.S. Department of State (DOS), which authorizes exports through the issuance of "permits." Under the current structure, items requiring DOC license approval are included on the [Commerce Control List \(CCL\)](#) and items requiring DOS permit approval are included on the [U.S. Munitions List \(USML\)](#).

DOS Permitting

The export, by any entity other than the U.S. Government, of firearms, ammunition, or designated technologies that have a critical military or intelligence advantage, or significant national security implication, are regulated by the DOS via the [Arms Export Control Act \(AECA\)](#) Title 22 USC § 2778³⁵. Items subject to the AECA are listed on the [U.S. Munitions List \(USML\)](#).

Firearms and ammunition, (including some military munitions) not regulated by the DOS, are subject to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) Title 15 CFR Parts 730-774³⁶, enforced by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), within the DOC. Items regulated by BIS appear on the (CCL) and are also assigned an Export Control Classification Number (ECCN)³⁷ providing more specific identification. Persons conducting the permanent export of weapons regulated by the NFA, must also file an ATF Form 9, Application and Permit for Permanent Exportation of Firearms.

A person does not have to be registered with the DOC or pay any fees for a license to export items on the CCL. Individuals can create a free on-line account and submit their license request with any appropriate documentation. If the license or permit is granted, they may then export their items in accordance with the license/permit terms. Such terms would include identifying the specific items being exported, to

whom and in what country, and if the export were temporary or permanent. There is also an end use agreement to ensure a permanent export is not used to conceal an undeclared diversion.

To export items on the USML, a person must be registered with the DOS and pay an initial fee of \$2,250 per year. The amount of the fee increases with export activity. Once registered, a person would submit their export request and supporting documentation using an appropriate form (DSP-73 for temporary exports – DSP-5 for permanent exports). If the request is granted, they are then permitted to conduct the export.

Total Firearm Exports

Data in Figure E-01 and Table E-01a reflect a 240% increase in the total number of GCA firearms and NFA weapons exported on an annual basis between 2000 (191,067) and 2020 (650,485). Between 2010 (264,936) and 2020 (650,485), the total number of GCA firearms and NFA weapons exported on an annual basis increased 146%. At no point since 2011 has there been a year where less than 333,163 firearms were exported from U.S. manufacturers to other countries.

Figure E-01: Total GCA Firearm and NFA Weapon Exports, 2000 – 2020

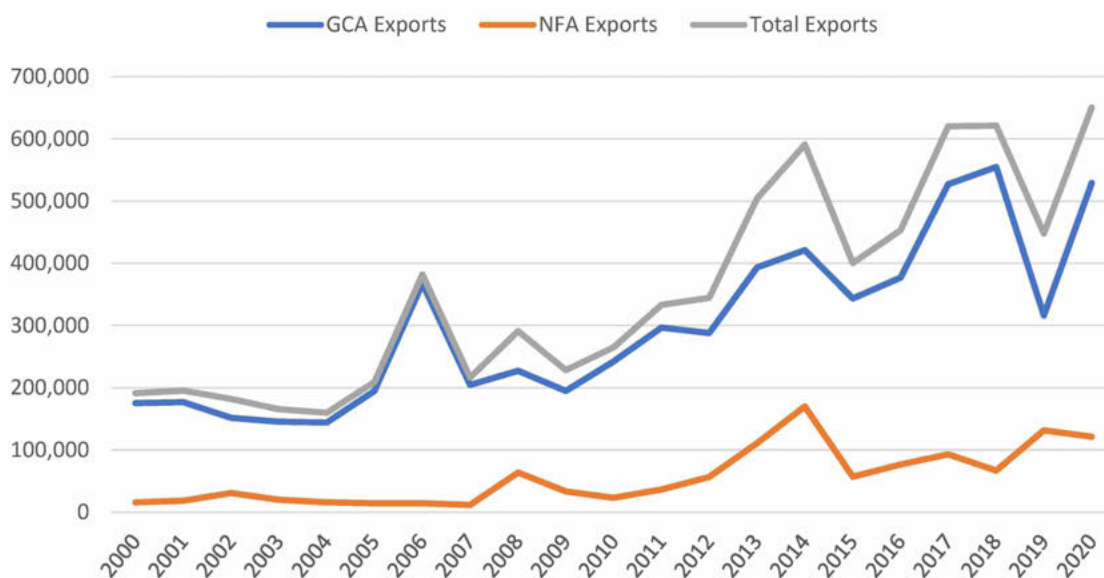


Table E-01a: Total GCA Firearm and NFA Weapon Exports – 2000, 2010, 2020

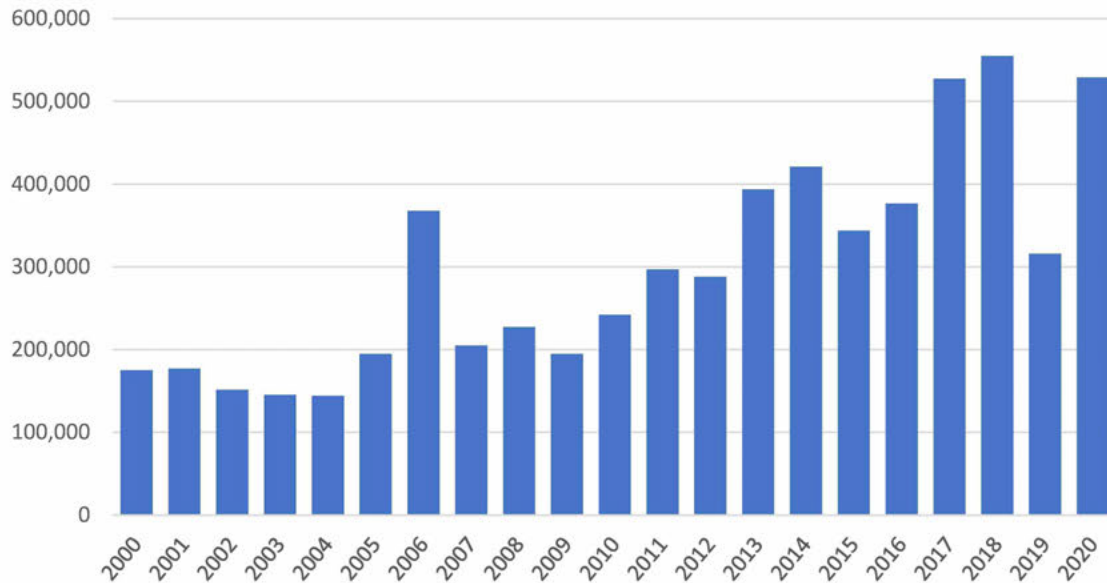
Year	# of GCA Exports	GCA Exports % Total	# of NFA Exports	NFA Exports % Total	Total Exports
2000	175,234	91.7%	15,833	8.3%	191,067
2010	241,971	91.3%	22,965	8.7%	264,936
2020	529,116	81.3%	121,369	18.7%	650,485

See Table E-01 in Appendix E - Exports for a detailed listing of the total number of GCA firearms and NFA weapons exported on an annual basis between 2000 and 2020.

GCA Firearm Exports

Most of the increase in annual firearm exports has been with GCA firearms. As with firearm exports, there was a 202% increase in the number of GCA firearm exports on an annual basis between 2000 (175,234) and 2020 (529,116) and a 119% increase between 2010 (241,971) and 2020 (529,116). Historically, GCA firearms comprise the largest share of exports annually. In 2020, GCA firearm exports constituted 81% of all firearm exports (529,116 of 650,485) (See Table E-01a and Figure E-02).

Figure E-02: Total GCA Firearm Exports, 2000 – 2020



See Table E-01 in Appendix E - Exports for a detailed listing of the total number of GCA firearms exported on an annual basis between 2000 and 2020.

As reflected in Table E-02, Sig Sauer, Glock, and Sturm Ruger collectively exported 1,349,917 GCA firearms or 59% of the total 2,303,991 GCA firearms exported from the U.S. between 2016 and 2020. During this time, 41 parent entities reported exporting GCA firearms. The top ten parent entities reported exporting 2,098,601 GCA firearms which equates to 91% of the total 2,303,991 GCA firearms exported from the U.S. during that time.

Table E-02: Top Ten Manufacturers of GCA Firearm Exports, 2016 – 2020

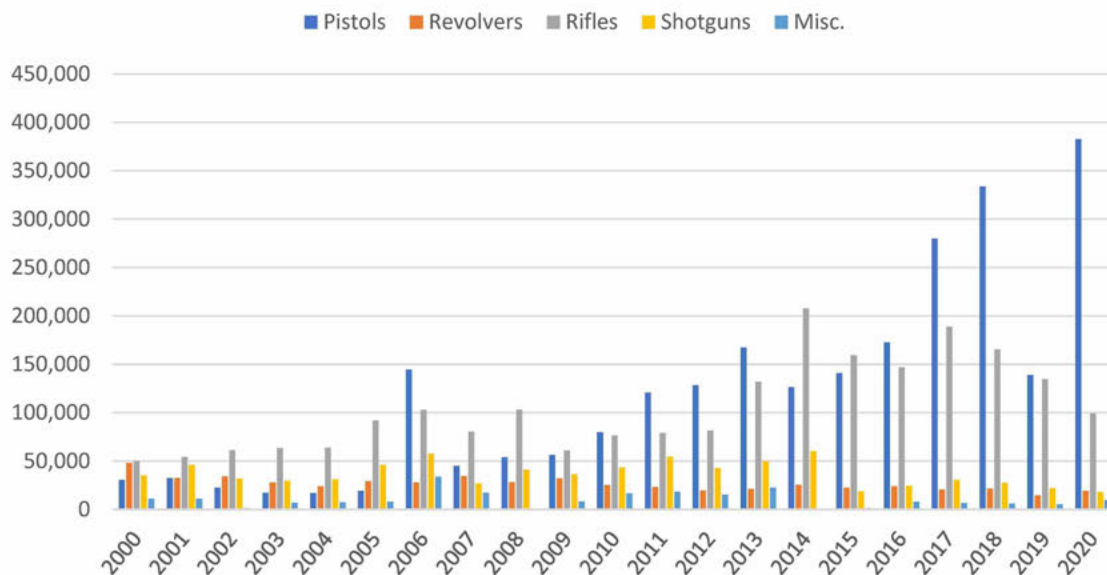
Manufacturer Parent Entity	# of Firearms	% Total
Sig Sauer Inc	732,826	31.8%
Glock Inc	334,767	14.5%
Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc	282,324	12.3%
Smith & Wesson Corp	235,084	10.2%
Freedom Group	201,464	8.7%
O F Mossberg & Sons Inc	99,571	4.3%
Henry RAC Holding Corp	85,588	3.7%
Savage Arms, Inc	84,944	3.7%
Beretta USA Corp	23,992	1.0%
CZ / Colt / Dan Wesson	18,041	0.8%
Total	2,098,601	91.1%

Pistol Exporting Dominance

Rifles represented the dominant GCA firearm type exported from the U.S. between 2000 and 2009, except for 2006 when the total number of pistols exported (144,767) exceeded the number of rifles exported (102,973). However, as reflected in Figure E-03, pistols became the dominant firearm type exported from the U.S. beginning in 2010, and its dominance has continued for much of the last decade.

In 2000, the total number of rifles³⁸ exported (50,251) was almost 64% higher than pistols³⁹ exported (30,590). As Figure E-03 reflects, rifle exports increased steadily over the last two decades with noted peaks in 2014 and 2017. Similarly, pistol exports have also increased, but at a much more accelerated rate between 2010 and 2020. By 2020, the number of pistols exported (382,761) was 285% higher than rifles exported from the U.S. (99,429).

Figure E-03: Total GCA Firearm Exports by Weapon Type, 2000 – 2020



As reflected in Table E-03a, total pistol exports (30,590) constituted slightly more than 17% of all GCA firearms exported from the U.S. (175,234) in 2000. By 2020, total pistol exports (382,761) constituted more than 72% of all GCA firearms exported from the U.S. (529,116) annually. Other firearm types accounted for much smaller shares of 2020 GCA firearm total exports, including rifles at 19% (99,429), revolvers at 4% (19,264), shotguns/combination guns at 3% (17,874), and miscellaneous⁴⁰ firearms at 2% (9,788).

Table E-03a: Total GCA Firearm Exports by Weapon Type – 2000, 2010, 2020⁴¹

Year	# of Pistols	Pistols % Total	# of Revolvers	Revolvers % Total	# of Rifles	Rifle % Total	# of Shotguns or Combos	Shotgun % Total	# of Misc.	Misc. % Total	Total Exports
2000	30,590	17.5%	48,130	27.5%	50,251	28.7%	35,089	20.0%	11,174	6.4%	175,234
2010	80,041	33.1%	25,286	10.5%	76,518	31.6%	43,355	17.9%	16,771	6.9%	241,971
2020	382,761	72.3%	19,264	3.6%	99,429	18.8%	17,874	3.4%	9,788	1.8%	529,116

See Table E-03 in Appendix E - Exports for a detailed listing of GCA firearm exports by weapon type between 2000 and 2020.

As reflected in Table E-04, parent entities Sig Sauer, Glock, and Smith & Wesson collectively exported 1,166,394 GCA pistols or 89% of the total 1,308,554 GCA pistols exported from the U.S. between 2016 and 2020. During this time, 30 parent entities reported exporting GCA pistols. The top ten parent entities reported 1,273,614 GCA pistol exports which equates to 97% of the total 1,308,554 GCA pistols exported from the U.S. during that time.

Table E-04: Top Ten Manufacturers of Pistol Exports, 2016 – 2020

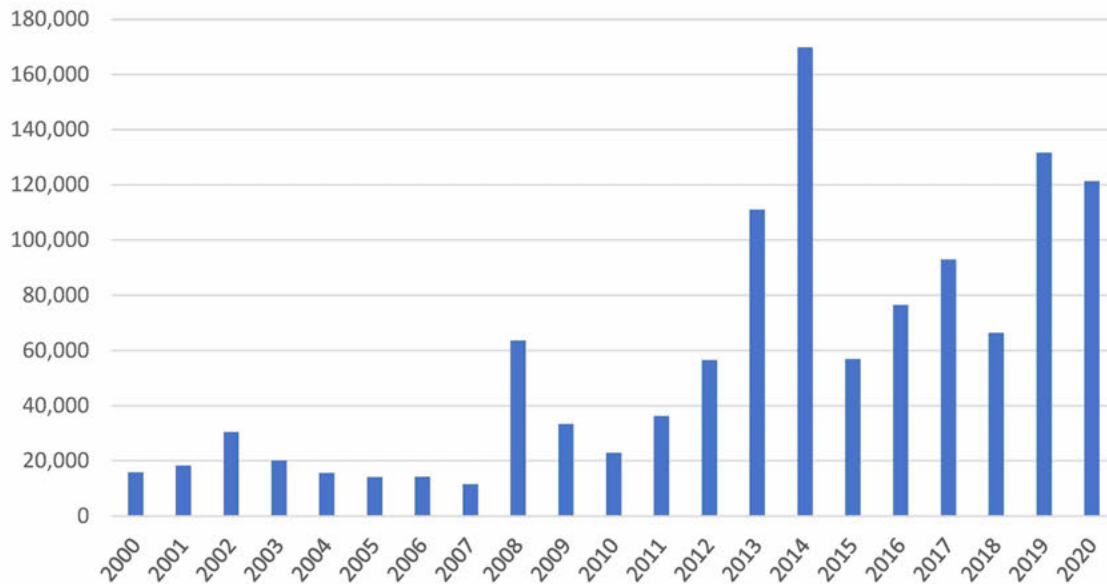
Manufacturer Parent Entity	# of Pistols	% Total
Sig Sauer Inc	721,087	55.1%
Glock Inc	334,767	25.6%
Smith & Wesson Corp	110,540	8.4%
Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc	48,852	3.7%
Beretta USA Corp	21,453	1.6%
Taurus International Manufacturing / Diamondback / Rossi / Heritage / Braztech	10,343	0.8%
Kimber Manufacturing Inc	9,903	0.8%
CZ / Colt / Dan Wesson	7,279	0.6%
FNH USA LLC	5,347	0.4%
Freedom Group	5,060	0.4%
Total	1,274,631	97.4%

NFA Weapons Exports⁴²

U.S. firearm manufacturers also export many NFA weapons to foreign countries. NFA weapons include machineguns, short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, silencers, destructive devices, and any other weapon.

As reflected in Figure E-04, the annual number of exports of NFA weapons increased 667% between 2000 (15,833) and 2020 (121,369). Most of this growth in NFA exports occurred between 2010 (22,965) and 2020 (121,369). Compared to GCA firearm exports, NFA weapon exports have historically accounted for a smaller share of all firearms exported. In 2020, annual NFA weapon exports (121,369) constituted just under 19% of all firearms exported (650,485) from the U.S. NFA exports increased by 200% from 2012 (56,620) to 2014 (169,897). This sudden spike was not sustained as NFA exports returned to 56,992 in 2015. However, NFA exports continued to climb through the mid to late 2010s with a second spike of 131,694 in 2019.

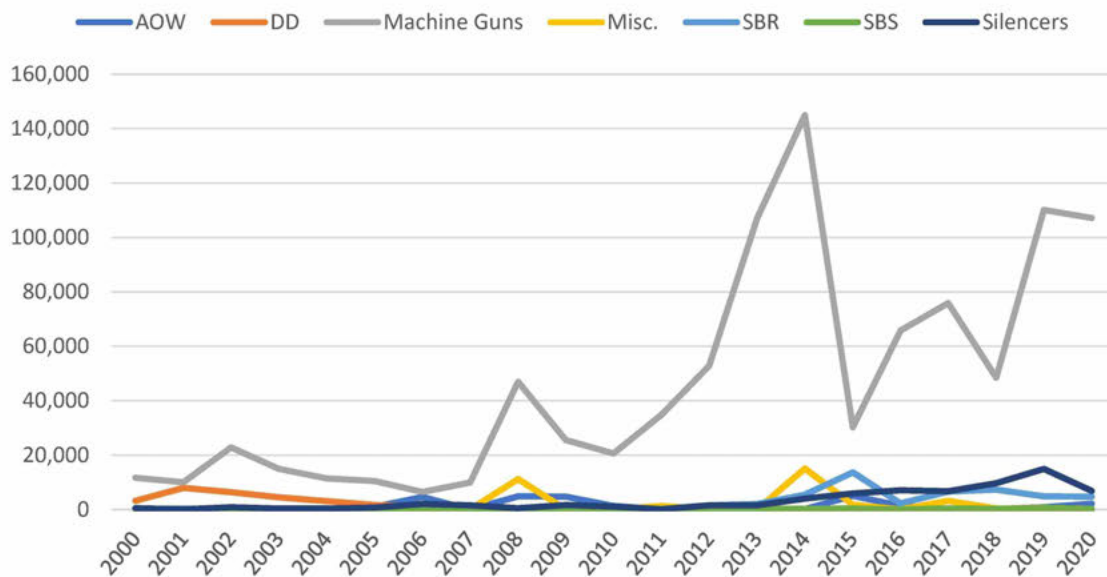
Figure E-04: Total NFA Weapon Exports, 2000 – 2020



See Table E-01 in Appendix E - Exports for a detailed listing of the total number of GCA firearms and NFA weapons exported on an annual basis between 2000 and 2020.

Figure E-05 presents the annual number of NFA weapons exported between 2000 and 2020.

Figure E-05: Total NFA Weapon Exports by Weapon Type, 2000 – 2020

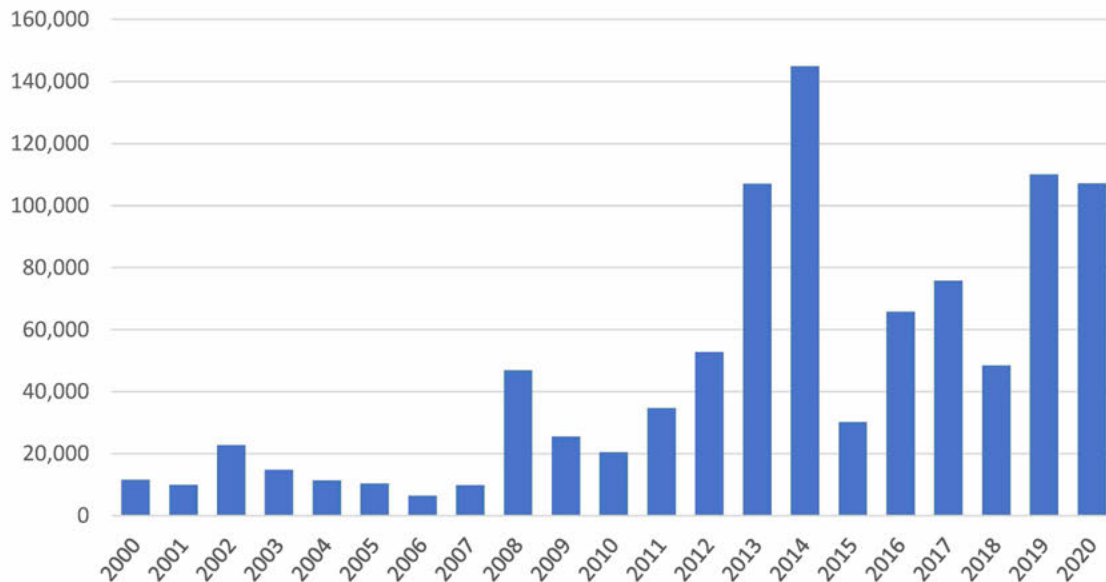


See Table E-05 in Appendix E - Exports for the Total NFA Weapons Exported by Type between 2000 to 2020.

Machinegun Exports

Machineguns accounted for the largest share of NFA weapon exports annually between 2000 and 2020. As reflected in Figure E-06, the sharp increase in NFA weapon exports between 2010 and 2014 was driven by a seven-fold increase in machinegun exports from 2010 (20,555) to 2014 (144,930). In 2000, the 11,719 machineguns exported constituted 74% of the total 15,833 NFA weapons exported from the U.S. In 2020, the 107,154 machineguns exported represented 88% of the total 121,369 NFA weapons exported from the U.S. See Table E-05 in Appendix E - Exports for the total NFA weapons exported by type between 2000 to 2020.

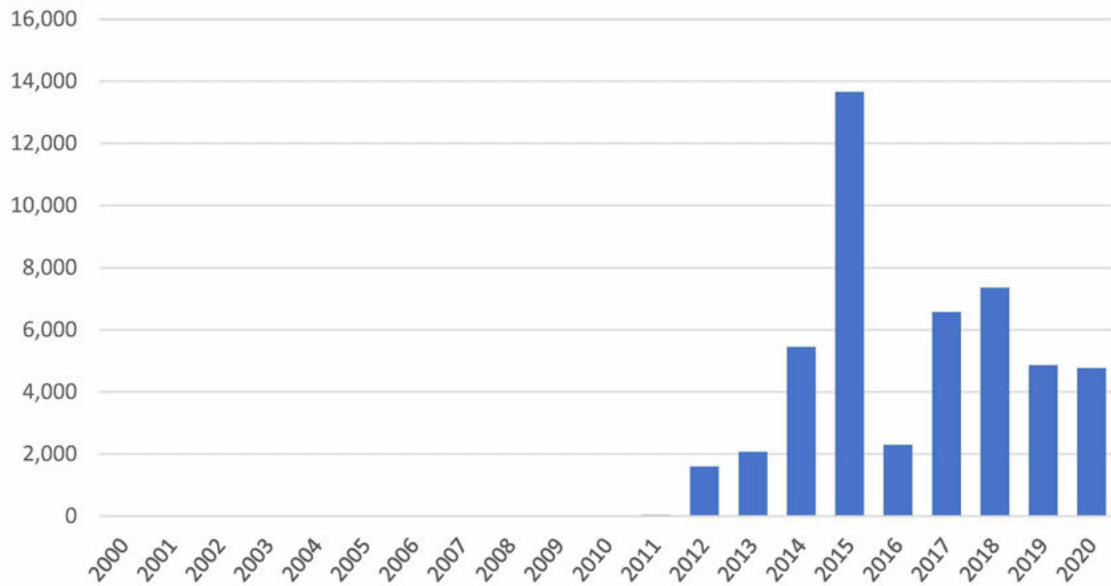
Figure E-06: Total Machinegun Exports, 2000 – 2020



Short-Barreled Rifle Exports

As reflected in Figure E-07, annual SBR exports increased substantially between 2000 (3) and 2020 (4,778) with the bulk of this growth taking place since 2011. The number of SBR exports increased overall by 108% from 2016 (2,297) to 2020 (4,778). However, 2015 (13,667) had the largest number of SBR exports followed by 2018 (7,367).

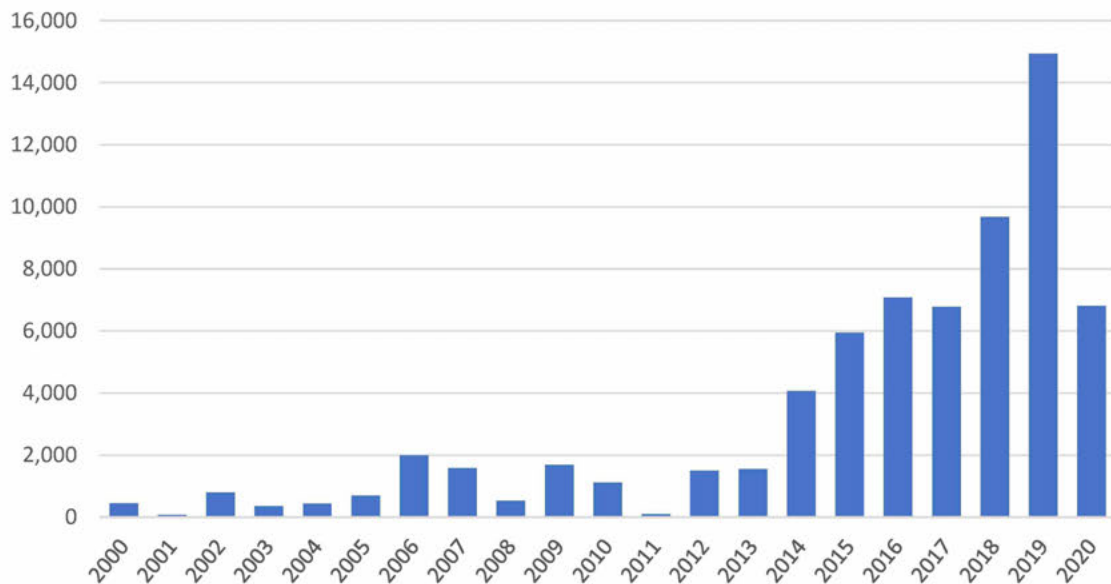
Figure E-07: Total SBR Exports, 2000 – 2020



Silencer Exports

As reflected in Figure E-08, there were 15 times as many silencers exported from the U.S. in 2020 (6,811) when compared to the number of silencers exported in 2000 (448). Most of this increase occurred after 2013. The number of silencer exports increased by 860% between 2013 (1,556) and 2019 (14,937) and then decreased by 54% in 2020 (6,811).

Figure E-08: Total Silencer Exports, 2000 – 2020



Summary

The total number of firearms exported by U.S. manufacturers more than doubled between 2000 and 2020. In 2020, the number of GCA firearms and NFA weapons manufactured for exportation were approximately 5% (650,485) of the total GCA firearms and NFA weapons manufactured in the U.S. (11,953,312). Like in domestic manufacturing, pistol exports accounted for a majority of the GCA export growth and represented nearly three quarters of all GCA exports in 2020.

Ten companies manufactured nearly all the pistols exported between 2016 and 2020. While representing a small share of total firearm exports from the U.S., the annual number of NFA weapon exports grew by 667% between 2000 and 2020. Moreover, machinegun, SBR, and silencer exports increased notably during this 20-year period.