

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 _____

4e. Firearms Manufacturer* _____

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

Part V - Suspect Information

6a. Name (Last, first, middle) _____

6b. Alias _____ 6c. Alias Date of Birth _____

6d. Height _____ 6e. Address - Route Number _____

6f. Apt. Number 6g. Street No. 6h. Direction _____ 6i. City _____

6j. County _____ 6k. State _____

6l. Date of Birth _____ 6m. 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 – 2011
(As of March 12, 2012)



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; and CY 2011, over 319,000 firearms. Over this time period the NTC has traced firearms for the United States and 110 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 2011 but the trace was not initiated until 2012, the data will be organized in the year of recovery, 2011. 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 2011, the raw trace numbers for 2011 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, 2011 were included.
 - If a recovery date was not provided, traces with an entered date between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2011 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.
- 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, 2012.

Firearms Recovered in Mexico and Submitted to ATF for Tracing

Calendar Year	CY 2007			CY 2008			CY 2009			CY 2010			CY 2011		
	# 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	9,121	52.6	68.3	16,192	50.4	65.5	11,057	51.3	66.7	4,383	52.6	76.8	10,514	51.7	71.3
Imported into the United States	2,721	15.7		4,843	15.1		3,319	15.4		2,021	24.2		3,990	19.6	
Subtotal	11,842			21,035			14,376			6,404			14,504		
Category - Undetermined Source Country for Firearms															
Non-U.S. Manufacturer	1,846	10.6	31.7	3,476	10.8	34.5	2,136	9.9	33.3	1,161	13.9	23.2	3,641	17.9	28.7
Undetermined Country of Origin	3,664	21.1		7,600	23.7		5,043	23.4		773	9.3		2,190	10.8	
Subtotal	5,510			11,076			7,179			1,934			5,831		
Total	17,352	100		32,111	100		21,555	100		8,338	100		20,335	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. 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, if the firearms were imported directly into Mexico, or if the firearms were legally imported into the U.S. and they 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	
	# 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	4,424	37.4	8,039	38.2	5,517	38.4	3,112	48.6	6,733	46.4
Traced to a Foreign Country	278	2.3	360	1.7	268	1.9	113	1.8	442	3.1
Unable to Determine a Purchaser	7,140	60.3	12,636	60.1	8,591	59.7	3,179	49.6	7,329	50.5
Total	11,842	100	21,035	100	14,376	100	6,404	100	14,504	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 2011 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	
	# 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	7,796	44.9	12,699	39.5	6,994	32.4	2,238	26.8	7,723	38.0
Revolvers	2,412	13.9	3,530	11.0	2,090	9.7	368	4.4	2,171	10.7
Rifles	4,885	28.2	11,457	35.7	9,542	44.3	4,883	58.6	8,804	43.3
Shotguns	2,141	12.3	4,119	12.8	2,701	12.5	662	8.0	1,230	6.0
Other	118	0.7	306	1.0	228	1.1	187	2.2	407	2.0
Total	17,352	100	32,111	100	21,555	100	8,338	100	20,335	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 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.