

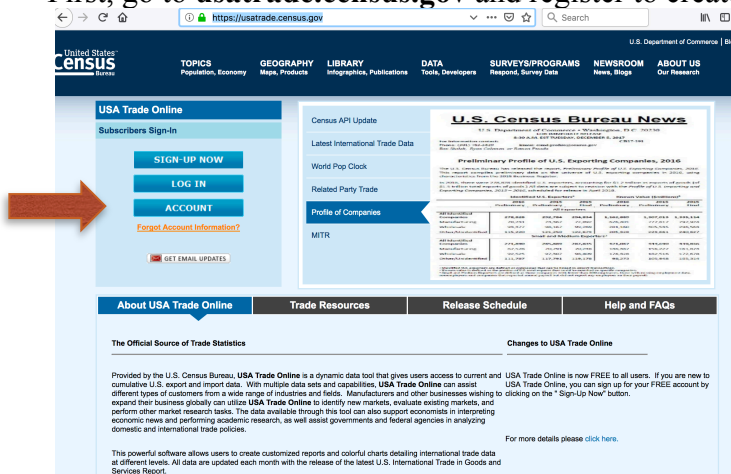
Guide to using U.S. Census Bureau online trade data to research U.S. gun exports

<https://usatrade.census.gov>

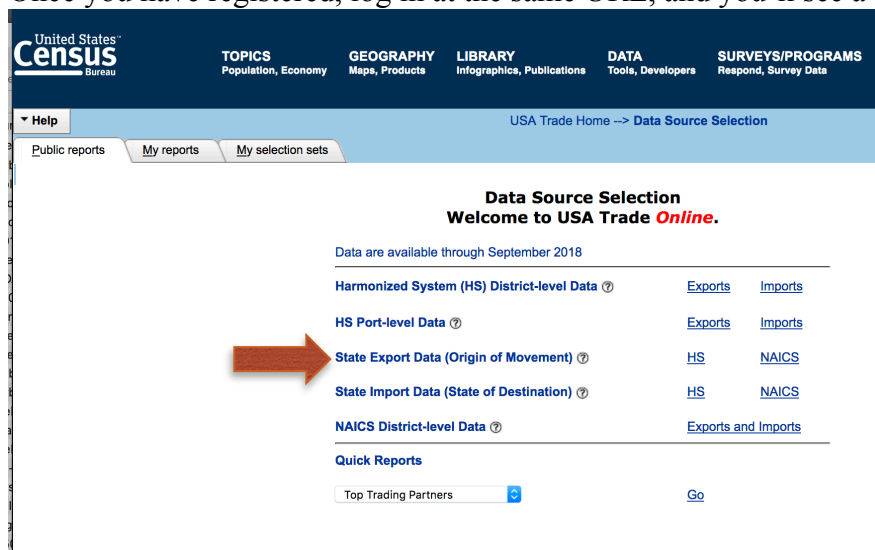
The U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) publishes monthly data on the value of U.S. exported commodities, since 2002, that is extraordinarily fine-grained, and easy to use. The online platform yields data on exports by commodity (for firearms, broken down by type, guns or parts, ammo and explosives, for civilian and military arms), time period, country exported to, state exported from, and port of egress. Users can easily generate spreadsheets to download.

The USCB platform has dollar values but not numbers of items exported; for that, go to <https://dataweb.usitc.gov/>. USCB also doesn't identify companies. Companies that export guns, types and numbers exported (though not to where) are reported annually (delayed a year) in the Annual Firearms Manufacturers and Export Report at www.atf.gov/resource-center/data-statistics.

First, go to usatrade.census.gov and register to create an account.

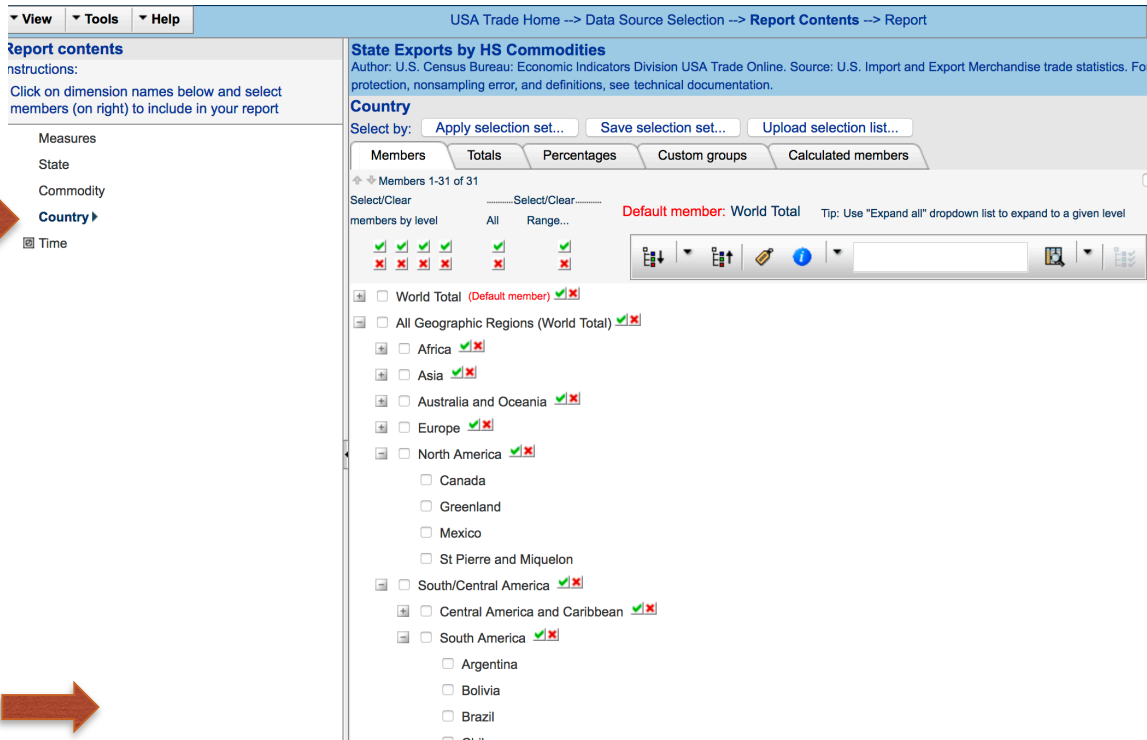


Once you have registered, log in at the same URL, and you'll see a data source selection page.



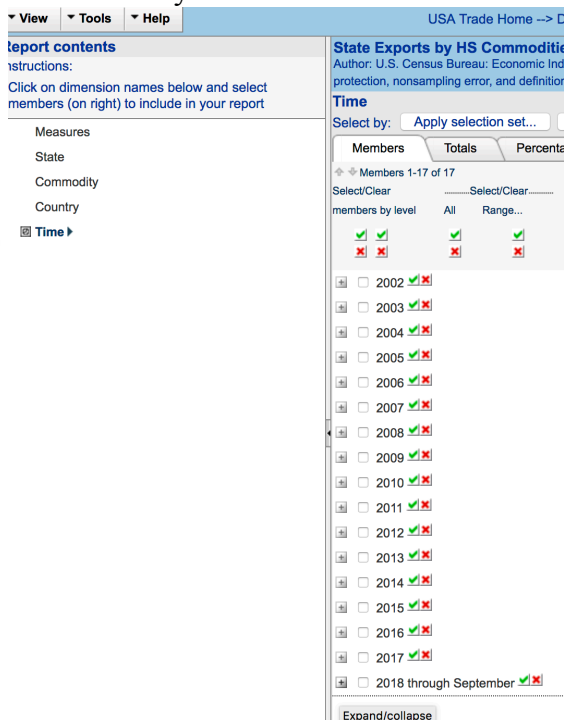
For the purposes of this guide, select “State Export Data – HS”, which tracks exports by U.S. state.

On the left side, you'll see a menu for choosing "State," "Commodity," "Country" and "Time." Choose "Country" to choose which country receiving U.S. exports you want data on.



The screenshot shows the 'USA Trade Home' interface. On the left, a sidebar titled 'Report contents' lists dimensions: Measures, State, Commodity, Country, and Time. A red arrow points to the 'Country' option. The main panel is titled 'State Exports by HS Commodities' and shows a 'Country' selection menu. The menu includes a 'Select by:' dropdown with options 'Apply selection set...', 'Save selection set...', and 'Upload selection list...'. Below this are tabs for 'Members', 'Totals', 'Percentages', 'Custom groups', and 'Calculated members'. The 'Members' tab is active, showing a list of countries and regions with checkboxes and status icons. The 'Default member' is set to 'World Total'. A red arrow points to the 'Country' dimension in the sidebar.

Select "Time" to choose the time frame you want data for. You can expand years to select months within those years.



The screenshot shows the 'USA Trade Home' interface. On the left, a sidebar titled 'Report contents' lists dimensions: Measures, State, Commodity, Country, and Time. A red arrow points to the 'Time' option. The main panel is titled 'State Exports by HS Commodities' and shows a 'Time' selection menu. The menu includes a 'Select by:' dropdown with options 'Apply selection set...', 'Save selection set...', and 'Upload selection list...'. Below this are tabs for 'Members', 'Totals', and 'Percentages'. The 'Members' tab is active, showing a list of years from 2002 to 2017, along with a '2018 through September' option. Each year has a checkbox and status icons. A red arrow points to the 'Time' dimension in the sidebar.

Select “Commodity”. For weapons exports, scroll down to “93 – Arms and Ammunition”
 You can expand “93” to see and select categories – military weapons (9301), handguns (9302), long guns (9303), other firearms (9304), firearm parts (9305), ammo and explosives (9306).
 For definitions of categories: <https://www.foreign-trade.com/reference/hscode.htm?code=93>

Report contents
 Instructions:
 Click on dimension names below and select members (on right) to include in your report

Measures
 State
Commodity
 Country
 Time

State Exports by HS Commodities
 Author: U.S. Census Bureau; Economic Indicators Division USA Trade Online. Source: U.S. Import protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see technical documentation.

Commodity
 Select by: Apply selection set... Save selection set... Upload selection list

Members Totals Percentages Custom groups Calculated members

Members 1-111 of 111

Select/Clear members by level All Range... Default member: All Commodities

- ☐ 93 Arms And Ammunition; Parts And Accessories Thereof
- ☐ 9301 Military Weapons Ex Revolvers Pistols Lances Etc
- ☐ 9302 Revolvers & Pistols, Designed To Fire Live Ammo
- ☐ 9303 Sport Shotguns & Rifles Etc, Very Pistols Etc
- ☐ 9304 Arms Nesoi, Other Than Side Arms And Similar Arms
- ☐ 9305 Parts & Accessories Of Arms Of Head 9301 To 9304
- ☐ 9306 Bombs, Grenades Etc; Cartridges Etc And Parts
 - ☐ 930610 Cartridges For Riveting Or Similar Tools & Parts
 - ☐ 930621 Shotgun Cartridges
 - ☐ 930629 Air Gun Pellets And Parts Of Shotgun Cartridges
 - ☐ 930630 Cartridges And Parts Thereof, Nesoi
 - ☐ 930690 Bomb Mines Ot Ammtnion Projctions Etc And Parts
- ☐ 9307 Swords, Cutlasses, Bayonets, & Siml Arms & Parts
- ☐ 94 Furniture; Bedding Etc; Lamps Nesoi Etc; Prefab Bd

Select “State” to choose the exporting U.S. state(s) you want data on (or “all states” for all of U.S.).

United States Census Bureau

TOPICS Population, Economy GEOGRAPHY Maps, Products LIBRARY Infographics, Publications DATA Tools, Developers

View Tools Help USA Trade Home --> Data Source Selection --> Report

Report contents
 Instructions:
 Click on dimension names below and select members (on right) to include in your report

Measures
State
 Commodity
 Country
 Time

State Exports by HS Commodities
 Author: U.S. Census Bureau; Economic Indicators Division USA Trade Online. Source: U.S. Import protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see technical documentation.

State
 Select by: Save selection set...

Members Totals Percentages Custom groups

Members 1-55 of 55

Select/Clear members by level All Range... Default member: All States

- ☒ All States (Default member)
- ☐ Alabama
- ☐ Alaska
- ☒ Arizona
- ☐ Arkansas
- ☒ California
- ☐ Colorado
- ☐ Connecticut
- ☐ Delaware
- ☐ Dist of Columbia
- ☐ Florida
- ☐ Georgia
- ☐ Hawaii
- ☐ Idaho
- ☒ Illinois
- ☐ Indiana
- ☐ Iowa
- ☐ Kansas

Click on the blue “Report” link at the top to generate a report on what you’ve selected, yielding this:

The screenshot shows the 'Report Contents' sidebar on the left with dimensions: State, Commodity, Country, and Time. The main report area displays 'State Exports by HS Commodities'. The table has columns for Commodity, Country, Time, and State. The data is filtered for '2018 through September'.

Commodity	Country	Time	State
9301 Military Weapons Ex Revolvers Pistols Lances ...	Mexico	2018 through September	3,742
9302 Revolvers & Pistols, Designed To Fire Live Am...	Colombia	2018 through September	119,850
9303 Sport Shotguns & Rifles	Mexico	2018 through September	
9304 Arms Nesoi, Other Th...	Colombia	2018 through September	
9305 Par	Mexico	2018 through September	

The generated report is usually not wholly visible until you click to “Rearrange report” under the “chart” box.

The screenshot shows the 'Rearrange report' dialog box open over the report table. The dialog has sections for 'Rows', 'Columns', and 'Other'. The 'Columns' section is highlighted with a red arrow, showing 'Commodity', 'Country', and 'Time' selected.

Commodity	Country	Time	State
9301 Military Weapons Ex Revolvers Pistols Lances ...	Mexico	2018 through September	3,742
9302 Revolvers & Pistols, Designed To Fire Live A	Colombia	2018 through September	119,850
9303 Sport Shotguns & Rifles	Mexico	2018 through September	
9304 Arms Nesoi, Other Th...	Colombia	2018 through September	
9305 Par	Mexico	2018 through September	

You can organize the spreadsheet by choosing what you want in rows or columns.

The screenshot shows the 'Rearrange report' dialog box open over the report table. The 'Rows' section is highlighted with a red arrow, showing 'State' selected.

Commodity	Country	Time	State
9301 Military Weapons Ex Revolvers Pistols Lances ...	Mexico	2018 through September	3,742
9302 Revolvers & Pistols, Designed To Fire Live A	Colombia	2018 through September	119,850
9303 Sport Shotguns & Rifles	Mexico	2018 through September	
9304 Arms Nesoi, Other Th...	Colombia	2018 through September	
9305 Par	Mexico	2018 through September	

Once it is formatted as you want it, you can click on the green arrow to download the report.

The screenshot shows the 'Download report data' button highlighted with a red arrow. The report table is visible below it.

Commodity	Country	Time	State
9301 Military Weapons Ex Revolvers Pistols Lances ...	Mexico	2018 through September	3,742
9302 Revolvers & Pistols, Designed To Fire Live A	Colombia	2018 through September	119,850
9303 Sport Shotguns & Rifles	Mexico	2018 through September	
9304 Arms Nesoi, Other Th...	Colombia	2018 through September	
9305 Par	Mexico	2018 through September	

For “Download format” choose .csv or another format.

Report contents

Instructions:

Click on dimension names below to change or edit report contents

Measures

State ☐

Commodity ☐

Country ☐

Time ☐

Download report data to:

Download format: ☒ XML spreadsheet for Excel (*.xml)

Comma-delimited ASCII format (*.csv)

Semicolon-delimited ASCII format (*.csv)

Data format: One

OK

Cancel

Help

View as: Table

Chart

Email report definition...

State Exports by HS Commodities

Author: U.S. Census Bureau; Economic Indicators Division USA Trade Online. Source: U.S. Import and Export Merchandise trade statistics. For information protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see technical documentation.

Current date: 11/11/2018 7:08 PM (Eastern Standard Time)

Measures: Total Value (\$US)

Rows 1-6 of 6

Columns 1-6 of 6

Drag dimensions here so they do not show as a row or column in table

Commodity ☐

Time ☐

State ☐

Country ☐

9301 Military Weapons Ex...

9302 Revolvers & Pistols...

9303 Sport Shotguns & Rif...

9304 Arms Nesso, Other Th...

9305 ...

2018 through September

2018 through September

2018 through September

2018 through September

2018 through September

Arizona

California

Illinois

Mexico

Mexico

Mexico

3,742

2,798

36,163

215,472

7,189

119,850

For “Data format” choose “Multi-dimensional” or another format. Then enter your email address, and click OK.

Report contents
Instructions:
Click on dimension names below to change or edit report contents

Measures
State
Commodity
Country
Time

Download report data to:
Download format:
Data format:
Email to:

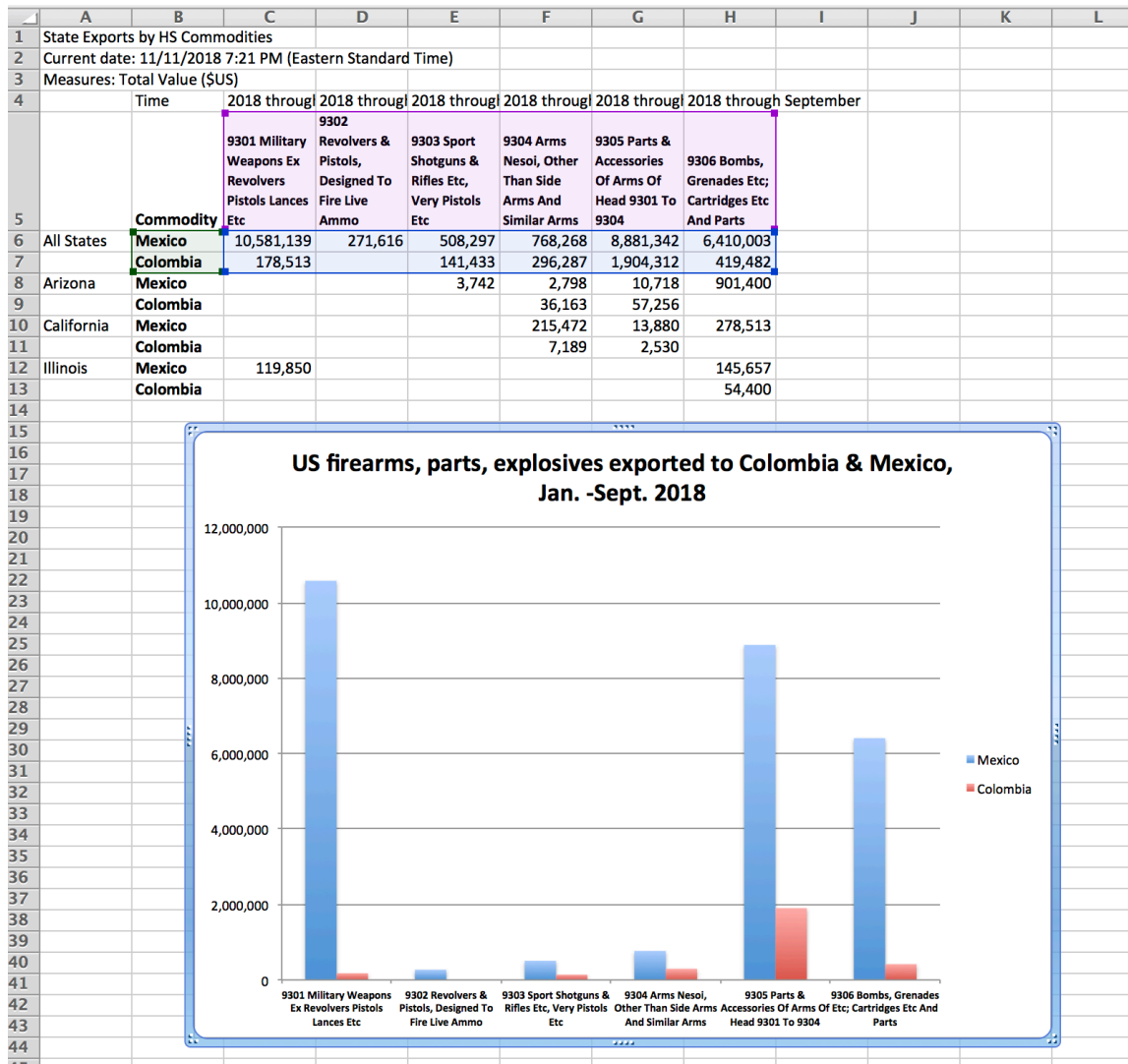
View as:

State Exports by HS Commodities
Author: U.S. Census Bureau; Economic Indicators Division USA Trade Online. Source: U.S. Import and Export Merchandise Data. This report provides a summary of U.S. exports by state and commodity. For more information on data collection, protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see technical documentation.
Current date: 11/11/2018 7:08 PM (Eastern Standard Time)
Measures: Total Value (\$US)

The report will be emailed to your computer. When you open it, it will look something like this:

[illegible]

From the Excel spreadsheet, you can generate a chart from the data to illustrate it.



This guide was produced in November 2018 by the Stop US Arms to Mexico project: stopusarmstomexico.org. For information, contact John Lindsay-Poland, johnlindsaypoland@gmail.com.