



Violence Policy Center

1140 19th Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036

202.822.8200 voice
202.822.8205 fax
www.vpc.org web

GUNLAND USA

**A State-by-State Ranking of Gun Shows, Gun Retailers,
Machine Guns, and Gun Manufacturers**

June 2000

The Violence Policy Center is a national non-profit educational organization that conducts research and public education on firearms violence and provides information and analysis to policymakers, journalists, grassroots advocates, and the general public. The Center examines the role of firearms in America, analyzes trends and patterns in firearms violence, and works to develop policies to reduce gun-related death and injury.

This report was authored by Marty Langley. Research assistance was provided by Rachel Weston.

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- *Cease Fire: A Comprehensive Strategy to Reduce Firearms Violence* (Revised, October 1997)
- *Kids Shooting Kids: Stories From Across the Nation of Unintentional Shootings Among Children and Youth* (March 1997)

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This report offers a snapshot of the firearms industry at the state level using the most recent data available. States are ranked according to five categories: number of gun shows, number of gun retailers, number of machine gun dealers, number of registered machine guns, and number of gun manufacturers.

The report consists of five sections:

- **Section One: Gun Shows.** This chart lists the 10 states with the highest number of gun shows. Gun shows are a key outlet for criminals to obtain firearms. Unlicensed dealers (anyone not “engaged in the business” of selling guns) may sell without the purchaser undergoing a background check.
- **Section Two: Licensed Firearm Retailers.** This chart lists gun dealers, pawnbrokers licensed to sell firearms, the total number of gun retailers in the state, and the number of gun retailers per 100,000 population. States are ranked according to the total number of gun retailers.
- **Section Three: Machine Guns.** This section consists of two charts. The first ranks states according to the number of machine gun **dealers** in each state. The second ranks states according to the number of registered machine **guns** in each state. Machine guns are regulated by the National Firearms Act of 1934 (NFA) which requires a background check and \$200 transfer tax in order to purchase a machine gun. Production and sale of new machine guns for civilian use was banned in 1986.
- **Section Four: Firearm Manufacturers and Production.** This chart lists the number of gun manufacturers in each state, with production broken out by firearm type (pistol, revolver, rifle, or shotgun). States are ranked by number of manufacturers.
- **Section Five: Summary of State Rankings.** This chart lists states alphabetically with their rankings in each of the five categories.

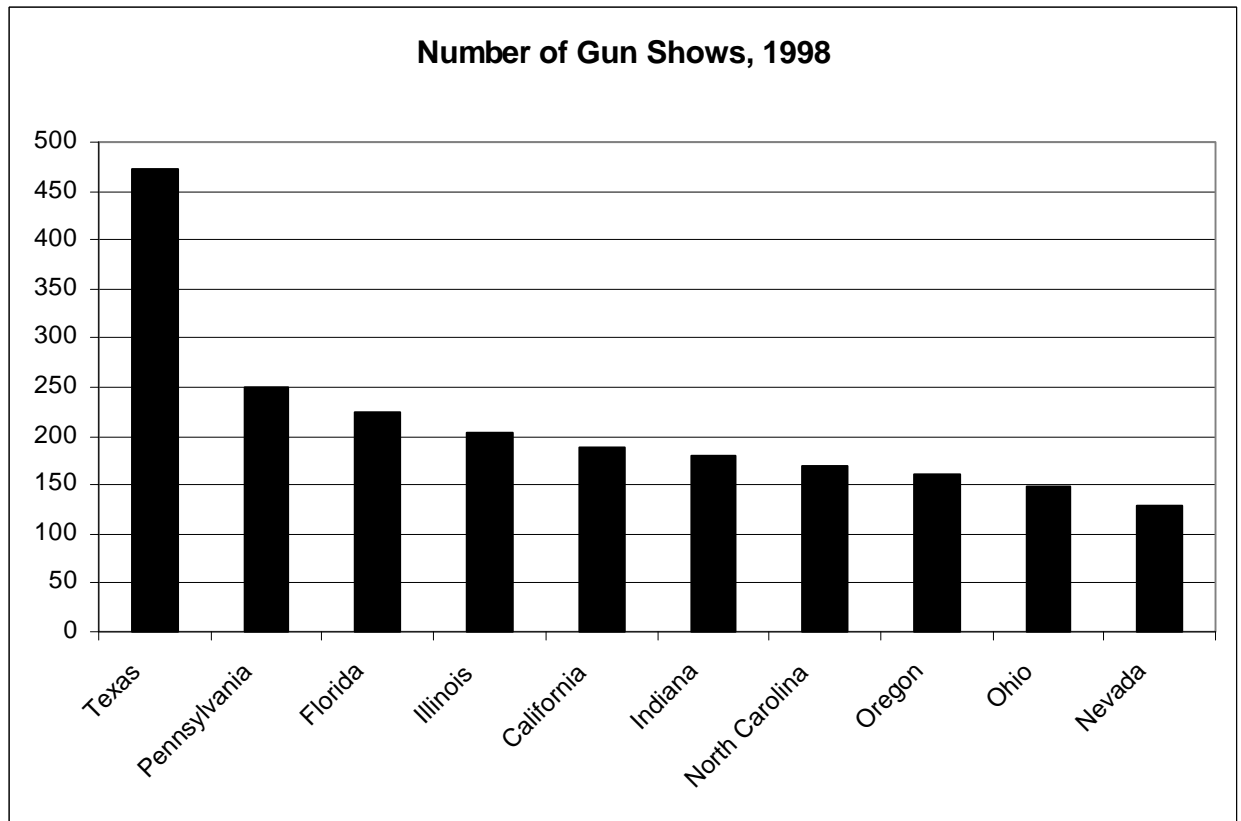
The data reveal that Texas ranks number one in all five categories. In addition to Texas, four states rank in the top 10 in each of the five categories—California, Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Three states—Arizona, Georgia, and Illinois—appear in the top 10 in three categories, and six states appear in the top 10 in two categories (Connecticut, Indiana, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, and Virginia).

Section One: Gun Shows

States with the Highest Number of Gun Shows, 1998

Rank	State	Number of Shows ¹
1	Texas	472
2	Pennsylvania	250
3	Florida	224
4	Illinois	203
5	California	188
6	Indiana	180
7	North Carolina	170
8	Oregon	160
9	Ohio	148
10	Nevada	129

Source: *Gun Shows: Brady Checks and Crime Gun Traces*, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, January 1999.



¹ Gun show data available only for the top 10 states.

Section Two: Licensed Firearm Retailers

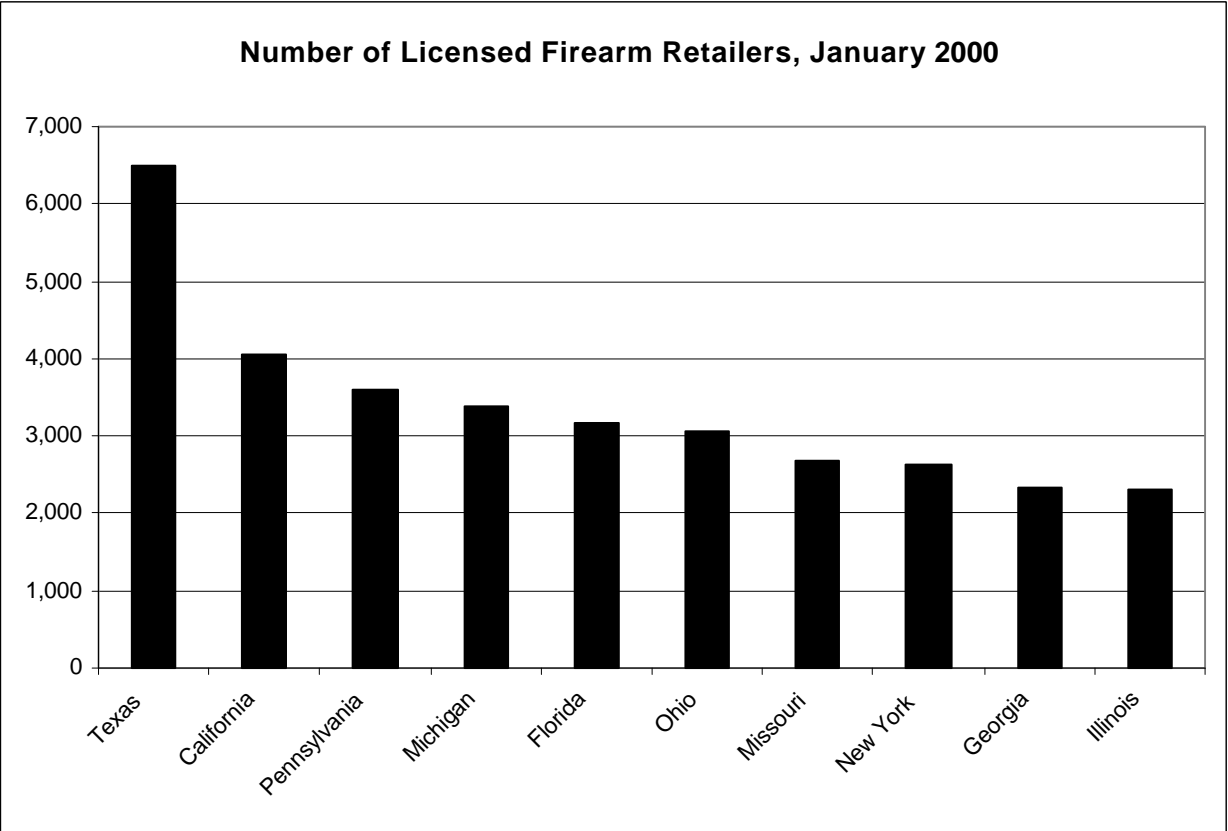
Licensed Firearm Retailers, January 2000

Ranked by Total Number of Retailers

Rank	State	Firearm Dealers	Pawnbrokers	Total Retailers	Rate of Retailers per 100,000 population
1	Texas	5,196	1,296	6,492	32.4
2	California	3,780	266	4,046	12.2
3	Pennsylvania	3,581	16	3,597	30.0
4	Michigan	3,294	79	3,373	34.2
5	Florida	2,363	789	3,152	20.9
6	Ohio	2,891	158	3,049	27.1
7	Missouri	2,360	335	2,695	49.3
8	New York	2,625	12	2,637	14.5
9	Georgia	1,537	785	2,322	29.8
10	Illinois	2,227	87	2,314	19.1
11	North Carolina	1,773	494	2,267	29.6
12	Indiana	1,970	131	2,101	35.4
13	Minnesota	1,935	128	2,063	43.2
14	Virginia	1,876	175	2,051	29.8
15	Wisconsin	1,900	40	1,940	36.9
16	Oregon	1,840	52	1,892	57.1
17	Tennessee	1,437	418	1,855	33.8
18	Kentucky	1,317	376	1,693	42.7
19	Oklahoma	1,187	468	1,655	49.3
20	Colorado	1,308	240	1,548	38.2
21	Washington	1,344	196	1,540	26.8
22	Louisiana	1,225	254	1,479	33.8
23	Iowa	1,371	102	1,473	51.3
24	Arizona	1,276	139	1,415	29.6

Rank	State	Firearm Dealers	Pawnbrokers	Total Retailers	Rate of Retailers per 100,000 population
25	Alabama	960	422	1,382	31.6
26	Mississippi	1,030	340	1,370	49.5
27	Montana	1,211	153	1,364	154.5
28	Arkansas	840	475	1,315	51.5
29	West Virginia	1,063	213	1,276	70.6
30	Kansas	1,128	123	1,251	47.1
31	Alaska	1,087	65	1,152	186.0
32	Idaho	824	167	991	79.2
33	Massachusetts	927	3	930	15.1
34	South Carolina	683	241	924	23.8
35	Nebraska	832	47	879	52.8
36	New Mexico	660	143	803	46.2
37	Maryland	720	51	771	14.9
38	Utah	635	120	755	35.4
39	Wyoming	629	80	709	147.8
40	Connecticut	661	13	674	20.5
41	Maine	591	43	634	50.6
42	Nevada	514	90	604	33.4
43	North Dakota	551	39	590	93.1
44	South Dakota	516	58	574	78.3
45	New Hampshire	528	7	535	44.5
46	New Jersey	498	1	499	6.1
47	Vermont	484	1	485	81.7
48	Hawaii	148	1	149	12.6
49	Delaware	130	6	136	18.0
50	Rhode Island	128	2	130	13.1
	Total	69,591	9,940	79,531	29.2

Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; rates and rankings computed by the Violence Policy Center.



Section Three: Machine Guns

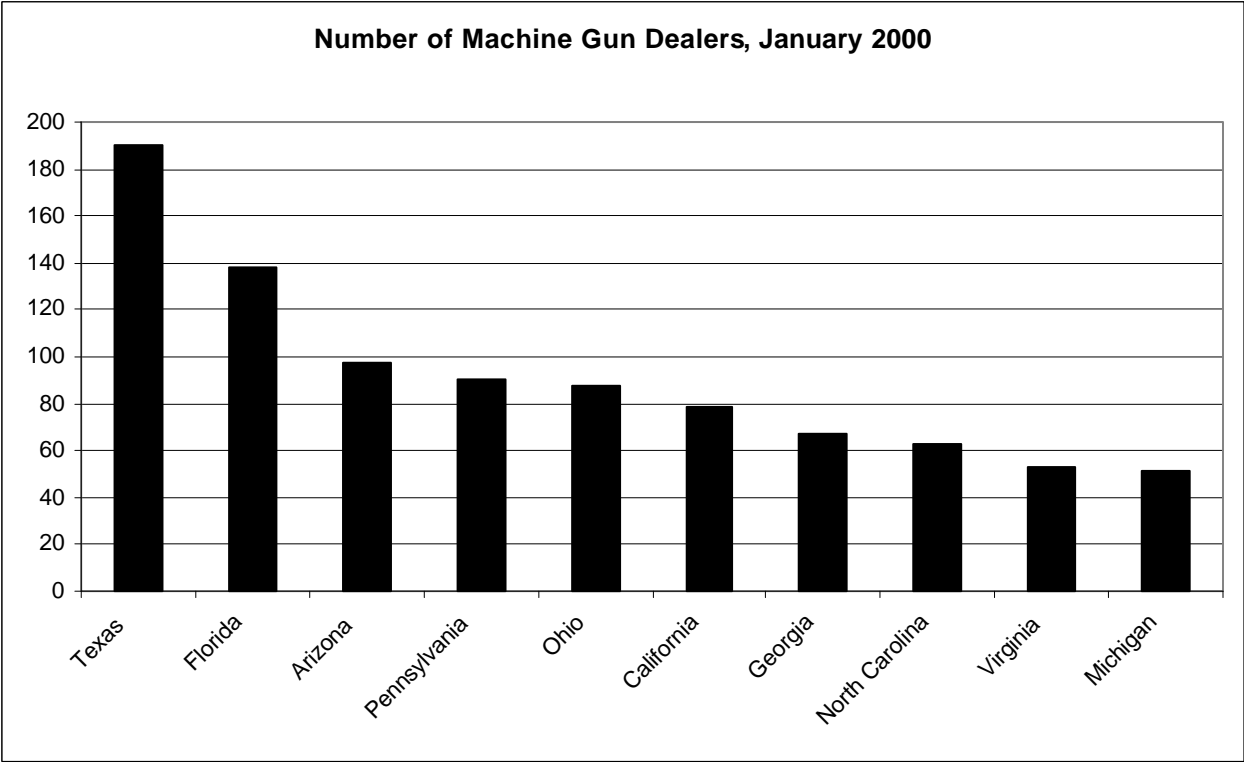
Number of Machine Gun Dealers, January 2000

Ranked by Number of Dealers

Rank	State	Dealers
1	Texas	190
2	Florida	138
3	Arizona	97
4	Pennsylvania	90
5	Ohio	88
6	California	79
7	Georgia	67
8	North Carolina	63
9	Virginia	53
10	Michigan	51
11	Illinois	50
12	Missouri	48
13	Indiana	46
13	Oregon	46
15	Louisiana	40
16	Tennessee	37
17	Maryland	36
18	Connecticut	35
19	Alabama	34
20	Oklahoma	30
21	Kentucky	29
22	Colorado	28
23	Massachusetts	27
23	New Hampshire	27
23	Wisconsin	27

Rank	State	Dealers
26	Nevada	25
27	Mississippi	22
28	New Mexico	21
29	Kansas	17
30	Arkansas	16
30	Minnesota	16
32	Alaska	15
33	New Jersey	12
34	Montana	11
34	West Virginia	11
34	South Dakota	11
37	Idaho	8
37	Iowa	8
37	Nebraska	8
40	Maine	7
40	Wyoming	7
42	New York	5
42	Rhode Island	5
42	Utah	5
42	Vermont	5
42	Washington	5
47	North Dakota	4
48	South Carolina	3
49	Hawaii	1
50	Delaware	0

Source: *Commerce in Firearms in the United States*, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, February 2000; ranking computed by the Violence Policy Center.



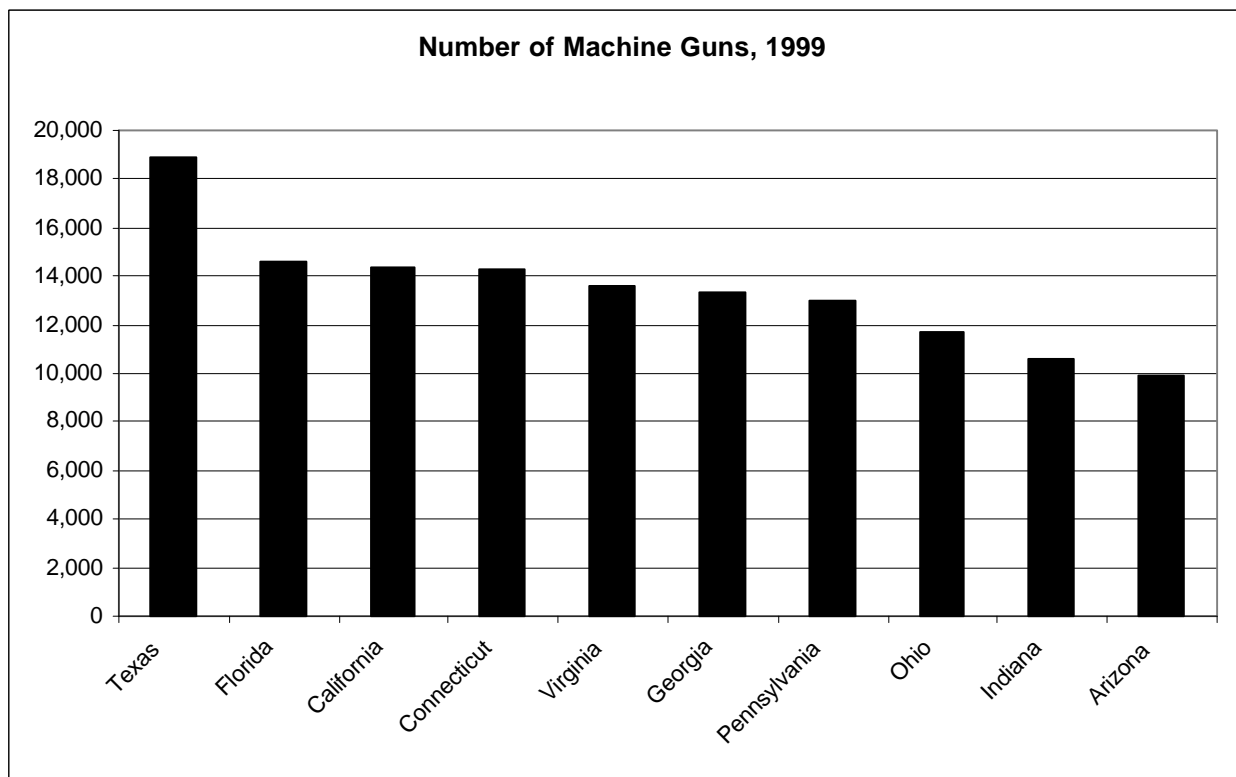
Number of Registered Machine Guns, 1999

Ranked by Number of Machine Guns

Rank	State	Machine Guns
1	Texas	18,919
2	Florida	14,602
3	California	14,326
4	Connecticut	14,266
5	Virginia	13,591
6	Georgia	13,360
7	Pennsylvania	13,028
8	Ohio	11,671
9	Indiana	10,576
10	Arizona	9,921
11	Alabama	9,890
12	Illinois	9,035
13	Maryland	8,112
14	Utah	7,073
15	Oklahoma	6,719
16	North Carolina	6,449
17	Michigan	6,370
18	Tennessee	6,036
19	Missouri	5,175
20	Oregon	4,725
21	New York	4,642
22	New Hampshire	4,477
23	Kentucky	4,419
24	Massachusetts	4,333
25	Wisconsin	4,061
26	Minnesota	3,823
27	Colorado	3,573

Rank	State	Machine Guns
28	Louisiana	3,543
29	New Jersey	3,531
30	Nevada	3,255
31	New Mexico	2,918
32	Mississippi	2,846
33	Arkansas	2,805
34	South Carolina	2,753
35	Maine	2,529
36	Washington	2,195
37	Idaho	2,069
38	West Virginia	1,723
39	Nebraska	1,461
40	Kansas	1,392
41	Wyoming	1,283
42	Montana	1,270
43	Alaska	1,238
44	Iowa	1,198
45	South Dakota	1,008
46	North Dakota	998
47	Vermont	989
48	Rhode Island	390
49	Hawaii	246
50	Delaware	147
	Total	274,959

Source: *Commerce in Firearms in the United States*, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, February 2000; ranking computed by the Violence Policy Center.



Section Four: Firearm Manufacturers and Production

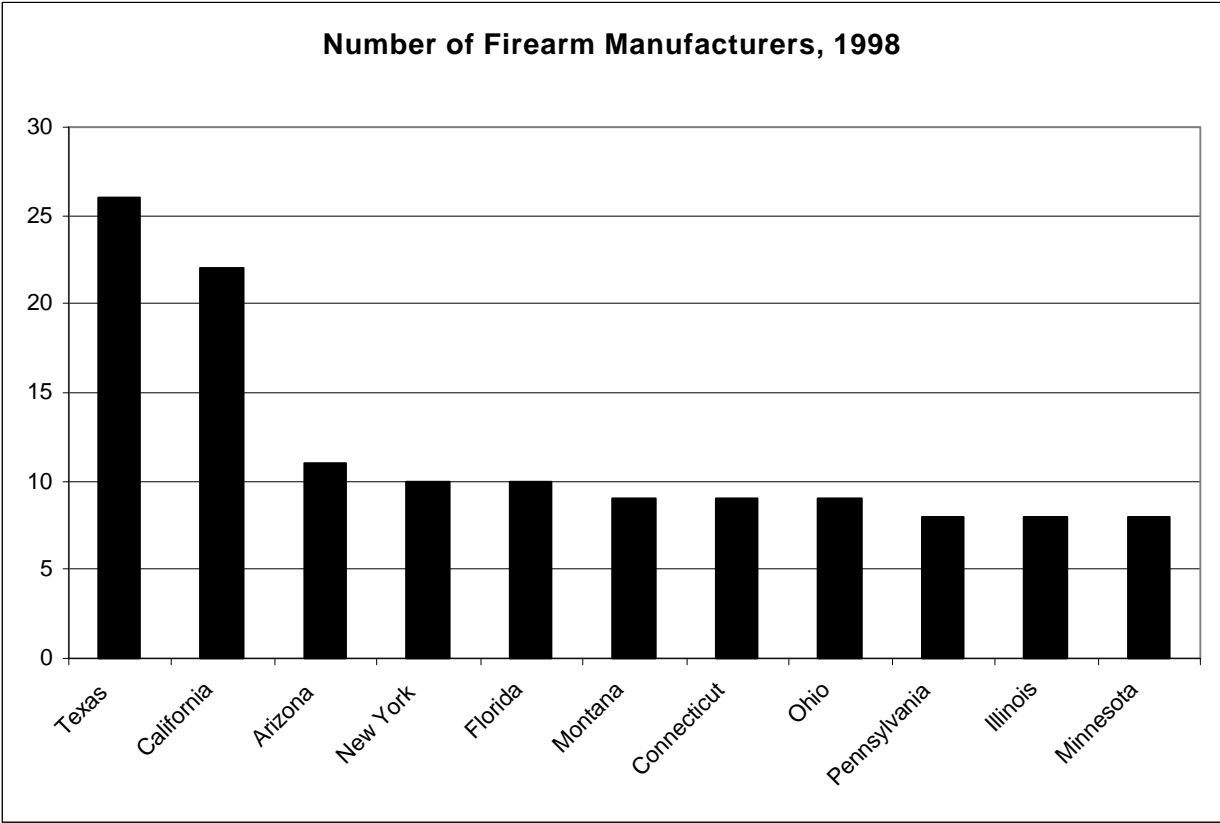
Number of Firearm Manufacturers and Production, 1998

Ranked by Number of Manufacturers

Rank	State	Number of Manufacturers	Pistol Production	Revolver Production	Rifle Production	Shotgun Production	Total Firearms Production
1	Texas	26	8,347	567	634	65,799	75,347
2	California	22	228,184	232	190	22	228,628
3	Arizona	11	161,710	0	4,172	0	165,882
4	Florida	10	52,755	0	1,781	21	54,557
4	New York	10	33,336	165	235,833	337,853	607,187
6	Connecticut	9	65,101	24,468	451,780	400,183	941,532
6	Montana	9	0	0	1,930	43	1,973
6	Ohio	9	29,840	1	29,299	0	59,140
9	Illinois	8	13,023	0	12,672	6,831	32,526
9	Minnesota	8	30	0	9,456	0	9,486
9	Pennsylvania	8	0	4	6,279	27	6,310
12	Massachusetts	7	109,639	143,573	110,409	207,186	570,807
12	Oregon	7	0	0	9,530	12	9,542
12	South Dakota	7	0	417	611	9	1,037
15	Tennessee	6	3,943	673	1,939	641	7,196
15	Virginia	6	1	0	44	6	51
17	Georgia	5	981	0	28	0	1,009
17	Kansas	5	56	0	62	0	118
17	Maryland	5	110,719	0	377	37	111,133
17	Missouri	5	37	0	34	11	82
17	New Hampshire	5	65,827	120,417	348,327	17,441	552,012
22	Arkansas	4	1,071	22	68	0	1,161
22	Colorado	4	3	0	20	0	23
22	Oklahoma	4	177	0	11	0	188

Rank	State	Number of Manufacturers	Pistol Production	Revolver Production	Rifle Production	Shotgun Production	Total Firearms Production
22	Utah	4	26,619	32,667	153	5	59,444
22	Washington	4	280	0	4,738	184	5,202
27	Idaho	3	0	0	37	0	37
27	Maine	3	31,224	0	25,610	5	56,839
29	Alabama	2	14,076	0	1	0	14,077
29	Indiana	2	1	13	0	0	14
29	Kentucky	2	0	0	78,008	0	78,008
29	Louisiana	2	79	8	83	1	171
29	Michigan	2	0	0	1	3	4
29	Nevada	2	62	0	302	0	364
29	North Carolina	2	0	0	4	0	4
29	Vermont	2	2,450	0	0	0	2,450
29	Wisconsin	2	0	0	321	200	521
29	Wyoming	2	0	1,163	51	0	1,214
39	Iowa	1	0	0	10,965	0	10,965
39	Nebraska	1	36	0	0	0	36
39	New Mexico	1	0	0	4	0	4
39	South Carolina	1	758	0	0	0	758
39	West Virginia	1	0	0	135	0	135
44	Alaska	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	Hawaii	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	Mississippi	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	New Jersey	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	North Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	Rhode Island	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	238	960,365	324,390	1,345,899	1,036,520	3,667,174

Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; ranking computed by the Violence Policy Center.



Section Five: Summary of State Rankings

State	Gun Shows ²	Retailers	Machine Gun Dealers	Machine Guns	Manufacturers
Alabama		25	19	11	29
Alaska		31	32	43	44
Arizona		24	3	10	3
Arkansas		28	30	33	22
California	5	2	6	3	2
Colorado		20	22	27	22
Connecticut		40	18	4	6
Delaware		49	50	50	44
Florida	3	5	2	2	4
Georgia		9	7	6	17
Hawaii		48	49	49	44
Idaho		32	37	37	27
Illinois	4	10	11	12	9
Indiana	6	12	13	9	29
Iowa		23	37	44	39
Kansas		30	29	40	17
Kentucky		18	21	23	29
Louisiana		22	15	28	29
Maine		41	40	35	27
Maryland		37	17	13	17
Massachusetts		33	23	24	12
Michigan		4	10	17	29
Minnesota		13	30	26	9
Mississippi		26	27	32	44
Missouri		7	12	19	17
Montana		27	34	42	6
Nebraska		35	37	39	39

State	Gun Shows ²	Retailers	Machine Gun Dealers	Machine Guns	Manufacturers
Nevada		42	26	30	29
New Hampshire		45	23	22	17
New Jersey		46	33	29	44
New Mexico		36	28	31	39
New York		8	42	21	4
North Carolina	7	11	8	16	29
North Dakota		43	47	46	44
Ohio	9	6	5	8	6
Oklahoma		19	20	15	22
Oregon	8	16	13	20	12
Pennsylvania	2	3	4	7	9
Rhode Island		50	42	48	44
South Carolina		34	48	34	39
South Dakota		44	34	45	12
Tennessee		17	16	18	15
Texas	1	1	1	1	1
Utah		38	42	14	22
Vermont		47	42	47	29
Virginia		14	9	5	15
Washington		21	42	36	22
West Virginia		29	34	38	39
Wisconsin		15	23	25	29
Wyoming		39	40	41	29

² Gun show data available only for the top 10 states.