

Introduction

Firearms are one of America's most common consumer products. Yet surprisingly little is known about the manufacture of handguns, rifles, and shotguns in America. Information is difficult to obtain and detailed knowledge of the industry is often required to even know where to look. This study examines America's firearms industry on a state-by-state basis, breaking out each state's production by firearm type (pistol, revolver, rifle, and shotgun), and by caliber for pistols and revolvers.

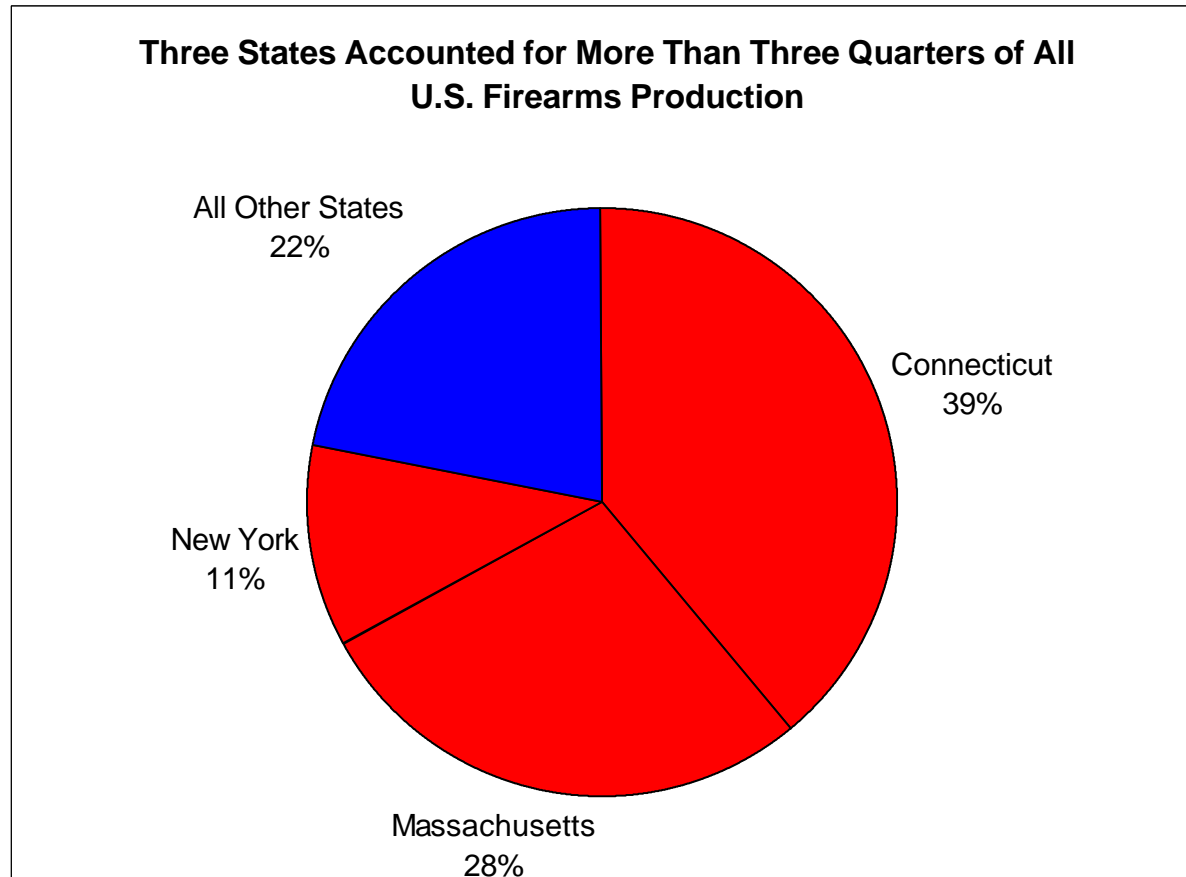
Production figures listed in this study are taken from the VPC publication *Firearms Production in America: 1999 Edition* which examines U.S. firearms production by manufacturer. The data was obtained under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Imported weapons are not included in this publication. The states with the highest production figures in each category are:

Handguns	
1	Massachusetts
2	California
3	Connecticut
4	Florida
5	Maryland

Long Guns	
1	Connecticut
2	New York
3	Massachusetts
4	Texas
5	Illinois

All Guns	
1	Connecticut
2	Massachusetts
3	New York
4	California
5	Florida

Three states—Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York—accounted for more than three quarters of the firearms produced in the United States during the period studied.



Caliber listings include not only all handguns produced of that caliber, but also intermediate calibers that are greater than the previous caliber listing. For example, the 45 caliber pistol listing would also include 40 caliber pistols and 10mm pistols. The 45 caliber listing also contains all calibers greater than 45 and up to 50 caliber. Handgun caliber is the only information available from ATF regarding type of pistol or revolver. Caliber and gauge are not available for rifles or shotguns.

In some cases percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. Furthermore, manufacturers may produce firearms in more than one state, or may have moved their manufacturing location during the period of time covered by this study. In this case, the company's production will be added to the state which is currently home to the company's headquarters.

Some ATF source documents obtained for this study were less than complete and at times contradictory or redundant. As a result, the figures sometimes needed to be interpreted with choices made as to how to tally the reported numbers. We have done this to the best of our ability and feel that the numbers contained herein offer the most accurate picture possible based on the information available.