



**A Ban On Modern Sporting Rifles and Semi-Automatic Shotguns
Will Have Direct Economic Consequences for the United States
– As Well As Significant Unintended Consequences**

The United States is currently considering a ban on firearms such as semi-automatic rifles, modern sporting rifles, and semi-automatic shotguns. The implementation of such a ban ensures that the firearms industry will not be able to continue to operate effectively in the country – this includes manufacturers as well as wholesalers and retailers. The industry currently sells an estimated 1.3 million modern sporting rifles and similar types of guns and 247,790 semi-automatic shotguns per year that would be affected by various legislative proposals.¹ A prohibition on the sale of guns in these categories will impact the country’s economy.

Impact of Banning Modern Sporting Rifles and Semi-Automatic Shotguns in the United States²

	Lost Jobs	Lost Wages	Lost Output
Direct	11,753	\$486,734,458	\$1,714,325,680
Supplier	5,424	\$337,777,031	\$1,041,691,084
Induced	9,235	\$434,417,928	\$1,333,889,634
Total	26,413	\$1,258,929,416	\$4,089,906,398
		Federal Business Taxes	\$309,766,990
		State Business Taxes	\$254,243,057
		Pittman–Robertson Aid	\$82,336,534

The Firearms Industry and Its Suppliers are an Important Part of the Country’s Economy

- ❖ The Firearms industry directly employs about 99,822 people and generates an additional 120,310 jobs in supplier and other firms.³ In total the firearms industry and its suppliers generate \$10.41 billion in wages for employees in the United States. These are good jobs, paying an average of \$47,280 in wages and benefits.
- ❖ In the United States, the industry and its employees pay over \$2.10 billion in property, income, and sales taxes. They also pay \$2.54 billion in federal taxes and \$459.54 million in federal excise taxes – which contribute to federal programs, many of which are reallocated in the form of Federal domestic assistance programs.
- ❖ Beyond creating jobs, in 2012 the industry was responsible for as much as \$33.36 billion in total economic activity in the United States. This broader activity flows through businesses well beyond firearms. Industries as varied as banking, retail, accounting, metal working, and even in printing, all benefit from the firearms industry for their livelihood.

The Loss of Modern Sporting Rifles Will Be Detrimental for the Nation’s Economy

- ❖ A ban on modern sporting rifles and semi-automatic shotguns could lead to 26,413 jobs lost, paying an estimated \$1.26 billion in wages. These jobs include not only those directly employed by the firearms industry but also industries far removed from the firearms industry which depend on it.
- ❖ In addition to jobs lost, an estimated \$309.77 million will be lost in federal business taxes and another \$254.24 million in state business taxes. The ban would mean a reduction of about \$82.34 million in Pittman-Robertson aid for wildlife conservation.
- ❖ With the national unemployment rate at 7.8 percent, this means that there are already 12,102,000 people trying to find jobs in the country and possibly collecting unemployment benefits.⁴ The loss of this segment of the industry will cause further unemployment problems for the country.

¹ Estimates on the number of firearms affected calculated using sales data provided by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the Small Arms Survey 2007 and 2011 available at <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/>. Due to unclear drafting of the proposed bill, it is difficult to determine the exact models of guns which are affected. This model assumes all semi-automatic shotguns and modern sporting rifles.

² Based on figures developed for the National Shooting Sports Foundation by John Dunham & Associates, 2013.

³ Direct jobs are those involved in the manufacturing, wholesaling, and retailing of firearms and related goods. Supplier jobs are defined as jobs that provide essential goods and services to the firearms industry, such as metal processors, engineers, and even janitors. Induced jobs are the result of spending of wages earned by employees in the direct and supplier sectors. These can range from jobs in restaurants that these employees frequent to movie theaters and retail outlets.

⁴ The Bureau of Labor Statistics. Available on-line at: www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm. Data for January-13