

RCMP



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

SOURCE OF FIREARMS TRACED BY THE CNFTC

The RCMP Canadian
Firearms Program

2025



Royal Canadian
Mounted Police

Gendarmerie royale
du Canada

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Purpose

This statistical summary is based on an analysis of data captured by RCMP's Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre (CNFTC) for crime guns traced by the Centre in 2024. It provides an overview of firearms traced by the CNFTC, with a focus on the source of crime guns deemed to have been smuggled or domestically sourced, to contribute to the national picture on the origin of crime guns in Canada.

Background

The Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre (CNFTC) is the tracing body responsible for completing firearm investigations in Canada (with the exception of Ontario and Quebec) on behalf of Canadian, American, and international law enforcement agencies. The CNFTC receives trace requests from law enforcement partners and conducts extensive firearm traces to determine the history of a firearm, including its source (whether it was domestically sourced or smuggled), if it had been previously used in the commission of the crime, and its registration status in Canada.

Key Findings

- ❖ In 2024, the CNFTC completed 6,951 firearm traces overall.
- ❖ There were 4,197 traces that were identified as crime guns¹, of these, 2,814 had a known firearm source.
- ❖ Where the crime gun's source could be identified, 80% were deemed to be domestically sourced, and 20% smuggled. *(Table 1)*
- ❖ 
- ❖ When looking at firearm source and type 71% were domestically sourced long guns, 17% Smuggled Handguns, 9% domestically sourced handguns and 2% smuggled long guns. *(Chart 1)*
- ❖ Sixty-seven crime gun traces were identified as PMFs (2% of overall crime gun traces). *(Chart 3)*
- ❖ When circumstance of seizure and time-to-crime were known, Search Warrant (21%) was most frequent circumstance of seizure. *(Table 2)*
- ❖ Semi-automatic was the most common firearm action for both domestically sourced (34%) and smuggled (84%) crime guns. *(Table 3)*
- ❖ Where a linkage to organized crime was identified² (4% of overall crime gun traces), 45% were related to street gangs, 22% Outlaw Motorcycle gangs and 9% Traditional Organized Crime. *(Table 5)*

¹ For the purpose of reporting, when a firearm is submitted to the CNFTC for tracing, it is categorized as "crime gun" when: 1) there is an obliterated, altered or removed serial number, or; 2) the firearm was found but not reported lost or stolen, or; 3) is a replica, toy, 3D printed, pellets or air gun that has been used in a criminal offence or; 4) a firearm that was used or suspected to have been used in a criminal offence.

² If a file is deemed to be related to organized crime it is identified by the Trace requestor on the Firearm Trace request form sent to the CNFTC.

Crime guns traced by the CNFTC, by source, 2024

In 2024, the CNFTC completed 6,951 firearm traces overall. There were 4,197 traces that were identified as crime guns³, of these, 2,814 had a known firearm source. This represents an 9% increase in the number of crime gun traces completed by the CNFTC when compared to 2023 (3,865).

Where the crime gun’s source could be identified, 80% were deemed to be domestically sourced, and 20% smuggled. When compared to 2023, in 2024, the number of crime gun traces determined to have been domestically sourced increased by 1%, whereas the number deemed smuggled increased by 49%.

Table 1: Source of Crime guns traced by the CNFTC, by type, 2024

Origin by Firearm Type	Handgun	Long gun	Other	Total		
	n	n	n	2024	2023	% Change from 2023 to 2024
Domestically Sourced	242	2,001	14	2,257	2,225	1
Smuggled	488	60	9	557	373	49
Total	730	2,061	23	2,814	2,598	8

Note: This table only includes completed firearm traces where the source of the firearm and its type were known.
Source: Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre, RCMP Canadian Firearms Program

When looking at crime guns by firearm source and type, the majority (71%) were domestically sourced long guns – a slight decrease from 2023 (73%).

Smuggled handguns recorded (17%), domestically sourced handguns (9%) and smuggled long guns (2%).
 (Chart 1)

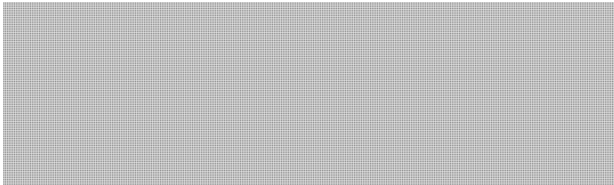
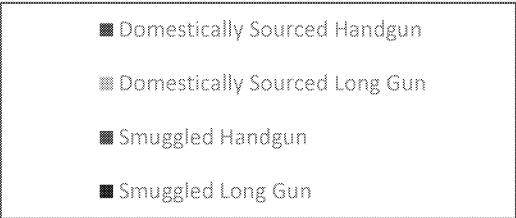
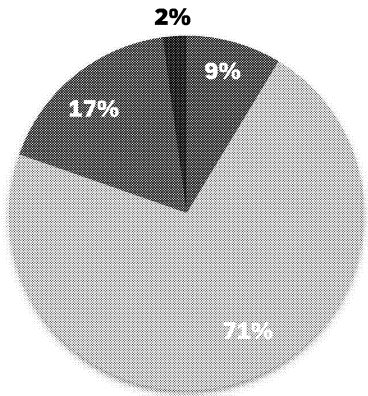
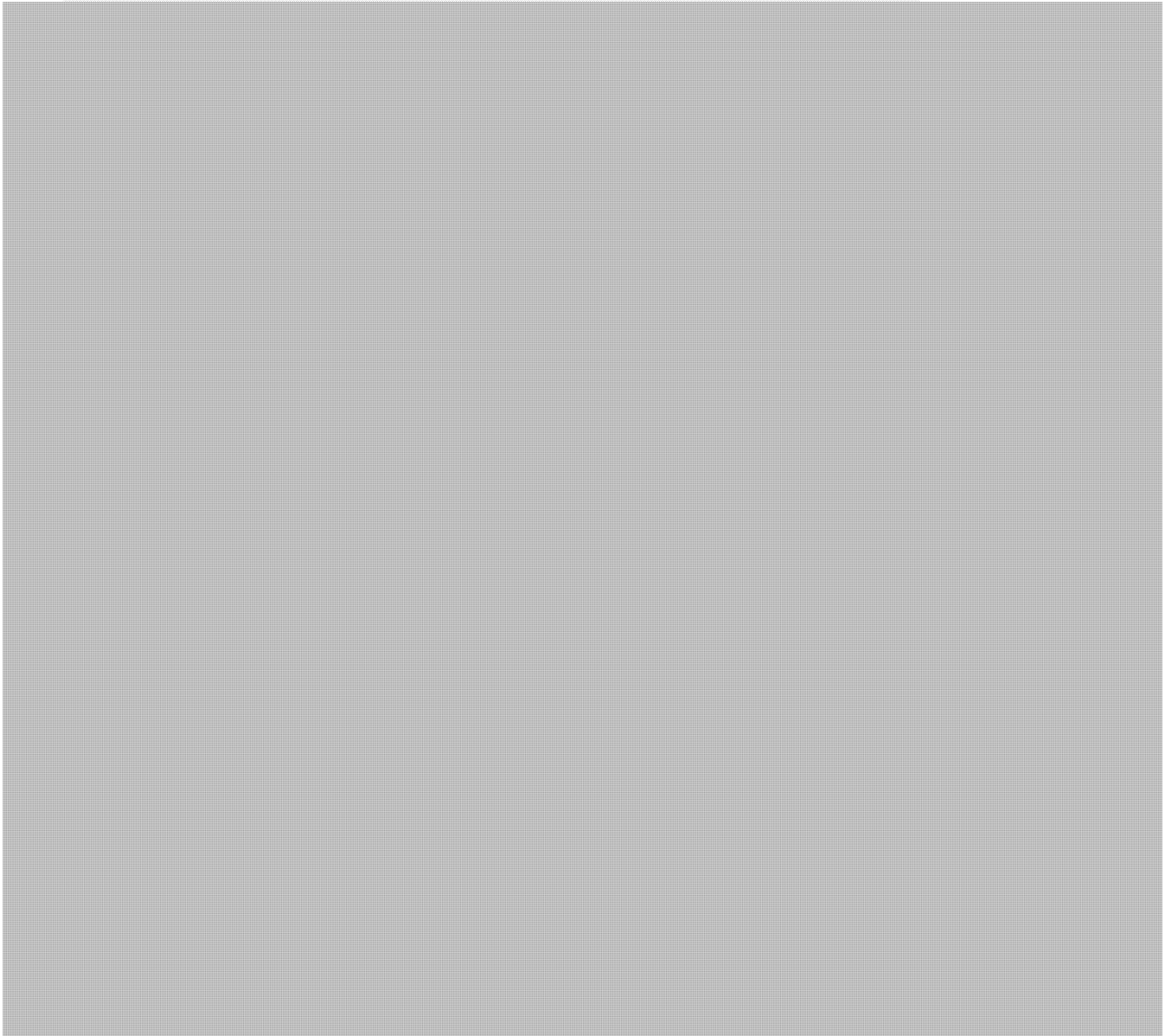


Chart 1: Crime guns traced by the CNFTC, by source, 2024



For handguns, overall, 67% were deemed to be smuggled, and 33% domestically sourced; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Crime guns traced by the CNFTC, Privately Manufactured Firearms (PMFs), 2024

Sixty-seven crime gun traces were identified as PMFs (2% of crime gun traces).

When compared to 2023, PMF crime gun counts for 2024 are down by 34% (from 102 recorded in 2023 to 67 in 2024).

Crime guns traced by the CNFTC, by circumstance of seizure, 2024

When circumstance of seizure and time-to-crime were known, overall, Search Warrant (21%) was the most frequent circumstance of seizure. This is followed by Firearm Trafficking/Smuggling (17%). When looking at time-to-crime, the circumstance of seizure with the highest percentage within 1-7 days is Break and Enter/Theft (46%) and Unlawful Possession (23%). When looking at a time-to-crime from 8-365 days and 365+ days, the most prevalent circumstance of seizure was Search Warrant (21%; 22%) and Firearm Trafficking/Smuggling (17%; 17%). (Table 2)

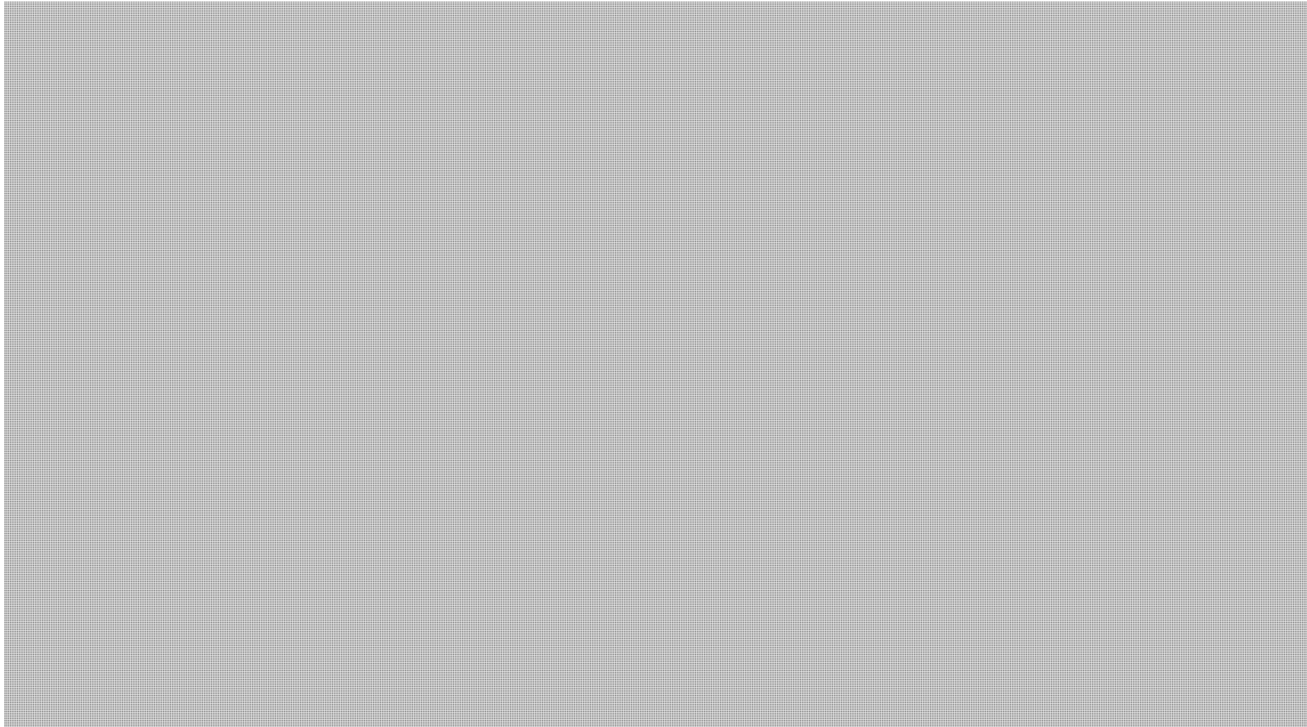
Source: Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre. RCMP

Table 2: Number of completed crime gun traces by time-to-crime, and circumstance of seizure, 2024

Circumstance of Seizure	1-7 Days		8-365 Days		365+ Days		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Abandoned / Found	0	0	12	6	101	9	113	8
Attempt Homicide / Shooting / Assault	0	0	9	4	36	3	45	3
Break And Enter / Theft	6	46	5	2	12	1	23	2
Drug Crime	1	8	13	6	52	4	66	5
Family Violence	1	8	7	3	60	5	68	5
Firearm Trafficking / Smuggling	1	8	34	17	198	17	233	17
Homicide	0	0	3	1	18	2	21	2
Investigation	0	0	2	1	14	1	16	1
Mental Health Act / Self Harm	0	0	3	1	28	2	31	2
Other	0	0	14	7	120	10	134	10
Public Disturbance	0	0	2	1	4	0	6	0
Public Safety	0	0	3	1	30	3	33	2
Robbery	0	0	1	0	8	1	9	1
Search Warrant	1	8	44	22	250	21	295	21
Turned In for Destruction	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Unlawful Possession	3	23	31	15	189	16	223	16
Unsafe Storage / Regulatory Offence	0	0	19	9	54	5	73	5
Uttering Threats	0	0	0	0	8	1	8	1
Total	13	100	202	100	1,183	100	1,398	100

Note: This chart only includes completed firearm traces where the circumstance of seizure and time-to-crime were known.

Source: Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre, RCMP Canadian Firearms Program

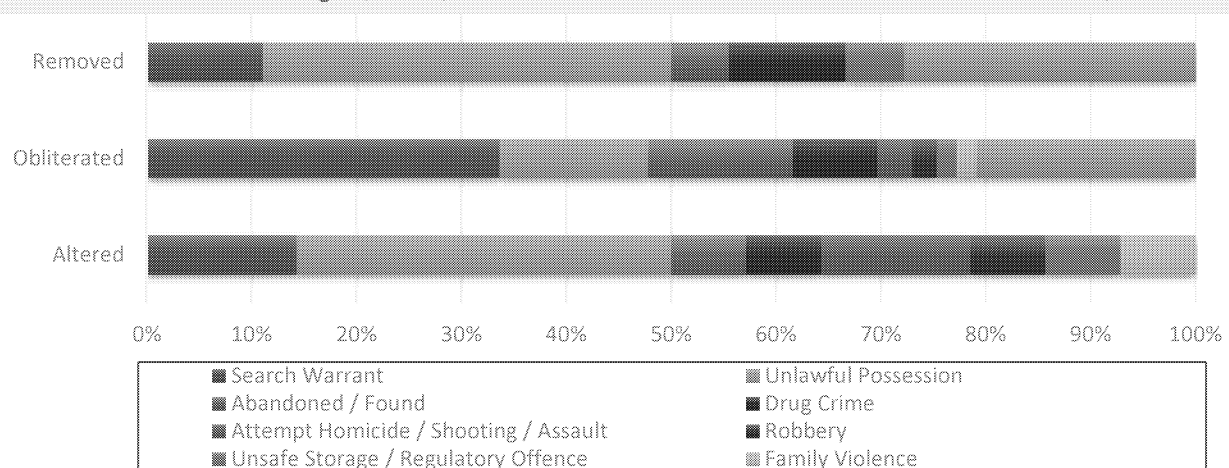


Note: This chart only includes completed firearm traces where the jurisdiction and circumstance of seizure were known.
Source: Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre, RCMP Canadian Firearms Program

Of crime gun traces where the firearm was identified as having an altered, obliterated or removed serial number (243), obliterated represented 87% of these traces, followed by removed (7%) and altered (6%). The most common circumstance of seizure for the firearm being altered being Unlawful Possession (36%).

When looking at obliterated serial numbers, Search Warrant (34%) was most common, and Unlawful Possession (39%) represented the highest for removed serial number. (*Chart 5*)

Chart 5: Percent of traced crime guns, altered, obliterated or removed serial numbers and circumstances of seizures, 2024



Note: This chart only includes completed firearm traces where the serial number status and circumstance of seizure were known.
Source: Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre, RCMP Canadian Firearms Program

Crime guns traced by the CNFTC, by action, 2024

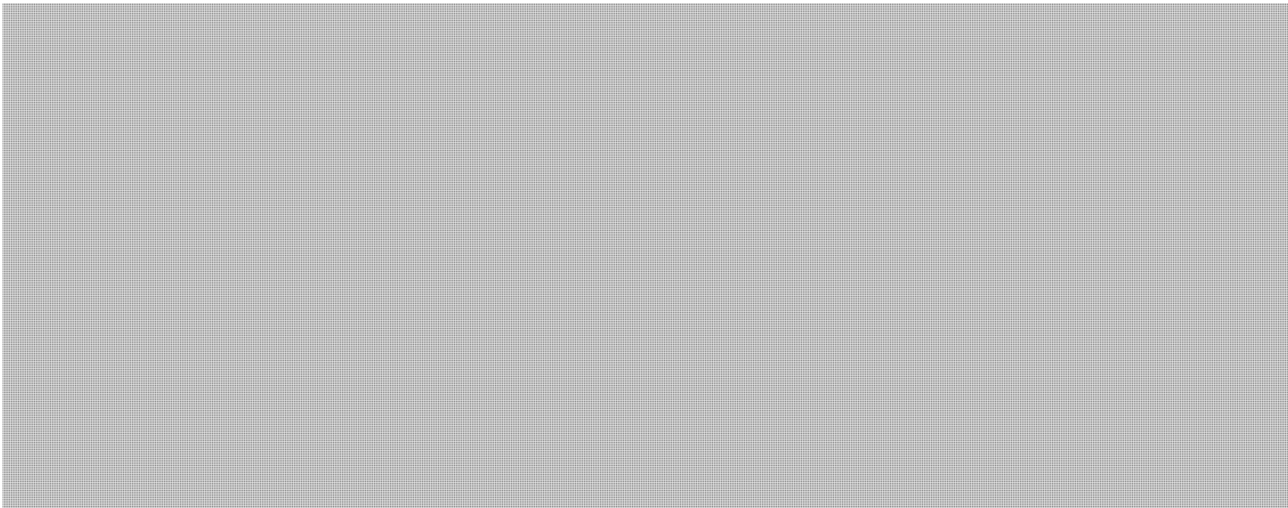
When considering firearm action and source of crime guns traced by the CNFTC, semi-automatic was the most common firearm action for both domestically sourced (34%) and smuggled (84%) crime guns. Semi-automatic was also the most common firearm action in 2023. (Table 3)

Table 3: Number of completed crime gun firearm traces, by source and firearm action, 2024

Firearm Source	Action	n	%
Domestically Sourced	Semi-Automatic	768	34%
	Bolt Action	544	24%
	Pump Action	471	21%
	Hinge / Break Action	273	12%
	Lever Action	117	5%
	Revolver Action	64	3%
	Other	20	1%
	Total	2,257	100%
Smuggled	Semi-Automatic	466	84%
	Revolver Action	50	9%
	Hinge / Break Action	15	3%
	Bolt Action	10	2%
	Pump Action	9	2%
	Other	7	1%
	Total	557	100%

Note: This chart only includes completed firearm traces where the source of the firearm and its action were known.
Source: Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre, RCMP Canadian Firearms Program.

Crime guns traced by the CNFTC, by Smuggled source States, 2024



Source: Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre, RCMP Canadian Firearms Program

Crime guns traced by the CNFTC, by linkage to Organized Crime, 2024

Of crime gun traces completed by the CNFTC, a total of 4% of overall traces (184) were identified as having a linkage to organized crime. Of these traces, 45% were related to street gangs, 22% Outlaw Motorcycle gangs and 9% Traditional Organized Crime. This constitutes a 22% decrease from 2023 (236). (Table 5)

Table 5: Number of completed crime gun traces, by sources, type and linkage to organized crime, 2024

Organized Crime Related		Domestically Sourced	Smuggled	Total
Outlaw Motorcycle Gang	Handgun	5	2	7
	Long Gun	33	0	33
Street Gang	Handgun	8	22	30
	Long Gun	50	0	50
	Other	0	3	3
Traditional Organized Crime	Handgun	4	4	8
	Long Gun	8	0	8
	Other	1	0	1
Other	Handgun	6	6	12
	Long Gun	32	0	32
Total		147	37	184

Note: This chart only includes completed firearm traces where organized crime, firearm type and firearm source were known.

Source: Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre, RCMP Canadian Firearms Program.

Caveat for Information

This analysis only includes completed firearm traces by the CNFTC and is not representative of the total number of firearm traces for Ontario and Quebec. For Ontario firearm-related tracing statistics and analyses, please refer to the Firearms Analysis & Tracing Enforcement (FATE) program of Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario (CISO) and Centre Québécois de dépistage des armes à feu (CQDAAF) for Quebec Traces. Numbers provided include traces received and completed within the calendar year and were accurate as of March 13, 2025.

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Limitations

The statistical summary provided herein is subject to limitations of the data sources consulted. These include the following:

- ❖ Statistics on traced firearms and their source are limited to completed trace requests submitted by public agencies to the RCMP's Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre (CNFTC) in 2024. These include firearms traced for all jurisdictions, with the exception of Ontario and Quebec. Crime guns seized within Ontario are traced by the Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario's Firearms Analysis & Tracing Enforcement (FATE) program and the Centre Québécois de dépistage des armes à feu (CQDAAF) completes traces for Quebec. These two tracing centres produce similar statistics on the source of their traced firearms.