

# Firearms Briefing: How many guns are in SA?

## Record-keeping is a crime-fighting tool, not an administrative task

### Introduction

In the context of a seeming substantial increase in the number of guns in the country since 2016 according to some police reports, South Africa's most recent annual crime statistics show that violent crime has risen significantly in the past 10 years, with a 62% increase in murder (from 17,023 murders in 2013/14 to 27,494 in 2022/23) and almost 50% increase in attempted murder (from 16,989 to 25,131).<sup>1</sup>

While annual crime statistics provide no detail on the weapon used in these crimes, quarterly crime statistics give some information.<sup>2</sup> Although inconsistently provided, Table 1 (which summarises available weapon-related data) shows that guns are increasingly used to:

**Kill:** Guns were used in 42% of murders across the 10 quarters for which this information is available, while knives were used in 14% of murders; according to the latest quarterly crime statistics, an average of 33 people were shot dead every day in the year between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.

**Injure:** Guns were used in 58% of attempted murders across the 5 quarters for which this information is available, while knives were used in 20% of attempted murders.

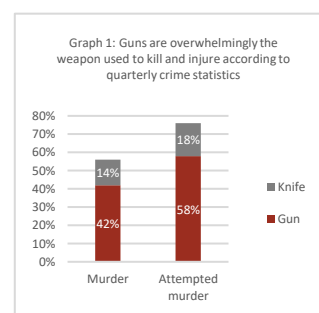


Table 1: Summary of information provided on the weapon used in murder and attempted murder in quarterly crime statistics

Time period	Murder					Attempted murder				
	Total	Firearm (N)	Firearm (%)	Knife (N)	Knife (%)	Total	Firearm (N)	Firearm (%)	Knife (N)	Knife (%)
2020 April to June	3 466	1 089	31%	414	12%	3 487	1 708	49%	135	8%
2022 April to June	6 424	2 766	43%	935	15%	-	-	-	-	-
2022 July to Sept	7 004	2 808	40%	930	13%	-	-	-	-	-
2022 Oct to Dec	7 555	3 144	42%	1 263	17%	-	-	-	-	-
2023 Jan to March	6 289	2 629	42%	919	15%	-	-	-	-	-
2023 April to June	6 228	2 756	44%	862	14%	5 969	3 795	64%	713	19%
2023 July to Sept	6 945	3 106	45%	983	14%	-	-	-	-	-
2023 Oct to Dec	7 710	3 137	41%	1 202	16%	7 927	4 540	57%	1 181	26%
2024 Jan to March	6 536	2 946	45%	962	15%	7 413	4 353	59%	1 138	26%
2024 April to June	6 198	2 686	43%	836	13%	6 867	4 135	60%	935	23%

<sup>1</sup> South African Police Service. 2022-2023 Annual Crime Statistics Report. (Online). Available at <https://www.saps.gov.za/services/downloads/2022-2023-Annual-Crime-Statistics-Report.pdf> (accessed 24 August 2024).

<sup>2</sup> South African Police Service quarterly crime statistics presentations include ad hoc information on weapon used.



Most gun-related crime in SA is committed with illegal firearms, which, by their very nature are outside of any control. While it is impossible to know the number of illegal guns in SA, most, if not all unlicensed guns currently in circulation were once legal before being inadvertently or deliberately leaked into the illegal pool through e.g. loss, theft, fraud or corruption. This link between legal and illegal guns highlights the importance of effectively controlling licensed gun stocks, including keeping accurate records, to reduce the risk of leakage.

However, despite the growing use of firearms to commit crime and the importance of accurate records to reduce diversion, this Briefing – which is an update of a 2019 Briefing<sup>3</sup> – again highlights that South African authorities still do not know how many guns are in the country: As summarised below, reports are contradictory, even for the same year, with some worrying increases in state-owned guns.

### What is record-keeping?

Record-keeping is prescribed in international firearms agreements and firearms control best practice guidelines as an important measure to limit the diversion of legal firearms into the illegal sector. Record-keeping involves the collection and maintenance of information to be able to identify any firearm, including its legal status, ownership, use and movement at a given stage of its life. Records are generally kept across the lifecycle of a firearm: From the point of manufacture, import, commercial sale, possession and use, in case of loss or theft, and finally at destruction.

### South Africa's record-keeping obligations

SA is a signatory to three international instruments aimed at promoting effective record-keeping by states, these are:

1. The legally binding Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials in the Southern African Development Community (SADC Protocol) of 2000, specifically Article 9.<sup>4</sup> An agreement amending the SADC Protocol adopted by SADC member states in 2020 strengthens states' record-keeping requirements by the insertion of *Article 15: Record-Keeping*. This requires that states maintain records of all firearms, including firearms already within their territory and in transit, that records be 'accurate and comprehensive' to 'enable national authorities to trace illicit small arms and light weapons in a timely and reliable manner', and that records, to the extent possible, be kept indefinitely.
2. The politically binding United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA).<sup>5</sup> This calls on states, 'To ensure that comprehensive and accurate records are kept for as long as possible on the manufacture, holding and transfer of small arms and light weapons under their jurisdiction. These records should be organized and maintained in such a way as to ensure that accurate information can be promptly retrieved and collated by competent national authorities.'
3. The legally binding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), specifically Article 12.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Gun Free South Africa. 2019. How many guns are there in SA? The importance of stockpile management. Firearms Control Briefing 1, 5 February. (Online). Available at <https://gfsa.org.za/download/briefing-1-of-2019-how-many-guns-are-there-in-sa-the-importance-of-stockpile-management-2/?wpdmdl=2935&refresh=66c45d4e46dec1724144974>.

<sup>4</sup> The Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and other related Materials in the Southern African Development Community Region is available at <https://www.sadc.int/document/protocol-control-firearms-ammunition-and-other-materials-2001-0> (accessed 24 August 2024).

<sup>5</sup> The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and its International Tracing Instrument is available at <https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/salw/programme-of-action/> (accessed 23 August 2024).

<sup>6</sup> The United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is available at <https://thearmstradetreaty.org/treaty-text.html?templateId=209884> (accessed 23 August 2024).



## Who is responsible for keeping gun-records in SA?

The Central Firearms Registry (CFR), located within the Firearm, Liquor and Second-Hand Goods Control component of the South African Police Service (SAPS), which is part of the larger SAPS Visible Policing Division is responsible for keeping gun-related records. Under South Africa's gun law, the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (FCA), the CFR is required to maintain databases of licensed civilian firearm owners; firearms/ammunition manufacturers; dealers; gunsmiths; and firearms held by official government institutions.

An analysis of how effectively South Africa is upholding its legal and political commitments to maintain accurate firearm-related records highlights a range of failures. The most high profile of these involves former policeman Chris Prinsloo, who sold 2,000+ firearms (though some estimates are as high as 9,000 guns<sup>7</sup>) that SAPS was meant to destroy to criminals over a number of years. According to Prinsloo, firearms were 'removed from the police computer' before being on-sold to criminals.<sup>8</sup> The absence of accurate records therefore facilitated diversion of legal guns into unauthorised possession. 'Prinsloo Guns' have been forensically linked to at least 2,784 crimes committed between 2007 and 2016 in the Western Cape alone. This includes 1,066 murders (of which 187 were children) and 1,403 attempted murders.<sup>9</sup>

Other firearm-related record-keeping failures include:

- The CFR is still not digitised twenty years after a contract was awarded to a company called Waymark Infotech to develop an electronic Firearms Control System; in 2013 the Auditor-General declared that the R343 million paid to Waymark Infotech<sup>10</sup> amounted to 'wasteful and fruitless expenditure.' In April 2023 the State Information Technology Agency awarded a contract to a company called Providence Software Solutions to develop a 'new Firearm Control System' that 'will provide for the electronic capturing and digitalization of firearm applications.'<sup>11</sup> With 20 years of costly empty promises, the public has every reason to be concerned that mistakes of the past will be repeated and that the current situation of two record-keeping systems – one electronic and the other paper-based will continue, as will the crime loopholes this creates.
- The existence of two gun law record-keeping systems – one for the apartheid Arms and Ammunition Act (1969) and the other for the FCA. This dual system is a result of the state failing to set aside a 2009 interdict that has stopped the full implementation of the FCA. Under the FCA's Transitional Provisions all gun owners with 'green' licences issued under the 1969 Act were given five years to relicence under the new and stricter provisions of the FCA after it was fully implemented in 2004. In mid-2009, as the transitional provisions were about to end, the SA Hunters and Game Conservation Association legally challenged them. On 26 June 2009, the North Gauteng High Court granted an interim interdict to the Association under which 'green' licences remain valid pending the final outcome of the Association's application to have certain sections of the FCA declared unconstitutional. The interim order (under which more than one million firearm

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<sup>7</sup> Shaw, Mark. 2021. Give us more guns: How South Africa's gangs were armed. Cape Town: Jonathan Ball Publishers.

<sup>8</sup> Gun Free South Africa. 2023. Appendix 8: 'Statement of Chris Lodewyk Prinsloo' to Founding Affidavit in application for certification of class action proceedings, 4 May. (Online). Available at <https://prinslooguns.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/AK8-Christiaan-Prinsloos-2015-statement-to-SAPS.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Gun Free South Africa. 2023. Founding Affidavit in application for certification of class action proceedings, 4 May. (Online). Available at <https://prinslooguns.org.za/>.

<sup>10</sup> Knoetze, Daneel. 2014. SAPS: R400 million firearms control system in shambles. GroundUp, 17 October. (Online). Available at [https://groundup.org.za/article/r400-million-firearms-control-system-shambles\\_2359/](https://groundup.org.za/article/r400-million-firearms-control-system-shambles_2359/) (accessed 24 August 2024).

<sup>11</sup> See:

- South African Police Service. 2023. Oversight visit to Central Firearm Register: Briefing to Portfolio Committee, 21 May.
- Portfolio Committee on Police. 2023. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Police on its oversight visit to the SAPS Training Facility at 3 South African infantry (3 SAI) Battalion of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) (Kimberley, Northern Cape Province), the Kimberley Central police station (Northern Cape Province), the Central Firearm Register (CFR) (Gauteng Province) and the SAPS Tshwane training academy (Gauteng Province) on 21 and 22 May 2023, dated 31 May 2023. Parliament of the Republic of South Africa. 2023. Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, 31 May.



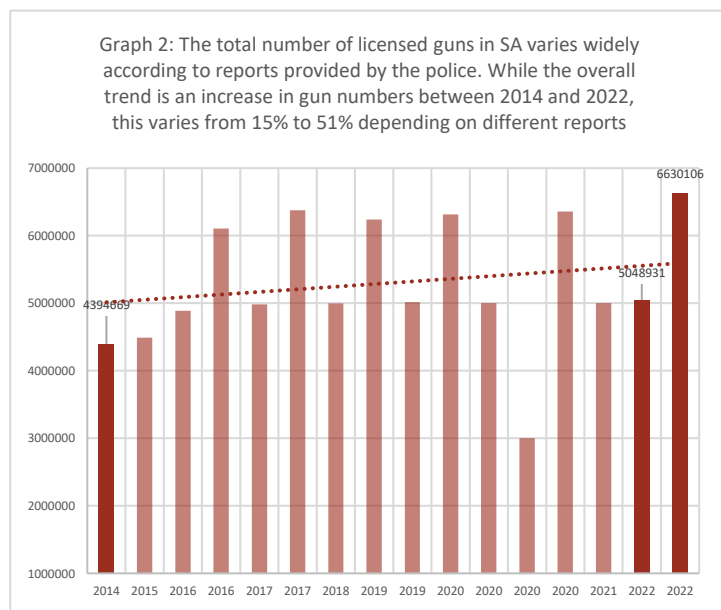
owners have not yet re-applied for licences under the FCA) has still not been set down for a hearing as the Minister of Police has not filed an answer, thereby preventing full implementation of the FCA. A further knock-on impact of the state’s failure to set this interdict aside is that gun owners licensed under the apartheid gun act are exempt from regular licence renewal; Sections 24 and 28 of the FCA requires gun owners to regularly renew their firearm licences or forfeit guns for which licences have expired. Renewals allow the state to update records on who owns what weapons for which purpose, and to verify that gun owners remain ‘fit and proper’ for this responsibility.

- While the FCA does not specify turnaround times, the SAPS has self-imposed a 90 working day timeline to process firearm-related applications. As such, every strategy to turn the CFR into a ‘functional unit’ has focused on addressing backlogs in the processing of firearm-related applications rather than ensuring that the CFR meets its record-keeping obligations e.g. a 2010 turnaround hailed the ‘remarkable increase’ in the number of firearms licences, renewals and competency certifications that were processed due to ‘the implementation of a nine-month turnaround strategy that was intended to address outstanding applications, championed by the Minister of Police and the National Commissioner.’<sup>12</sup> Although acclaimed, the risk is that fast-tracking compromised South Africa’s firearms control management system.

### Gun numbers are contradictory

An assessment of reports on the number of guns in South Africa between 2014 and 2022 (see Appendix 1 for a summary) shows that there is no consistency in the number of guns the state has on record – even for the same year.

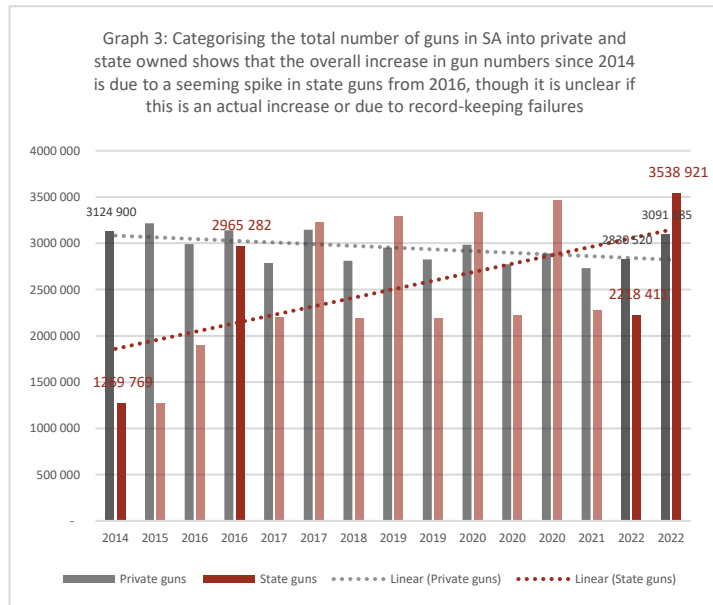
Graph 2 shows that despite reported variations in the total number of licensed guns in SA, there has been an overall increase in gun numbers between 2014 and 2022. However, it is unclear what the exact increase is, as it varies between 15% and 51%: According to CFR reports, there were either 5,048,931 or 6,630,106 licensed guns in SA in 2022 compared to 4,394,669 guns in 2014.



<sup>12</sup> South African Police Service. 2011. Annual Report 2010-2011, p. 71.



Graph 3, which categorises the total number of licensed guns in SA into private or state owned, shows that the 15% to 51% increase in the number of guns in SA is due to a reported increase in state gun numbers. According to the CFR, the number of guns owned by the state increased by as much as 130% between 2014 and 2016 (from 1,269,769 to 2,965,282) and 180% between 2014 and 2023 (from 1,269,769 to 3,538,921), while the number of privately owned guns decreased by between 1% and 10% (from 3,124,900 in 2014 to either 2,830,520 or 3,091,185 in 2022).



When the sudden and significant increase in state gun numbers was first published in a 2021 parliamentary reply<sup>13</sup> and repeated in a global briefing paper,<sup>14</sup> GFSA questioned its accuracy, as police and parliamentary oversight reports made no mention of procurement, an audit or major gun recovery operation to account for it. Rather, it seems likely that the elevated numbers were incorrect, and were due to record-keeping failures, such as:

- Records not being updated e.g. stocks that have been destroyed not being removed.
- Poor reports being generated from good records.
- Human error/incompetence e.g. putting commas or spaces where they shouldn't be.

GFSA approached various government departments, including SAPS and the Civilian Secretariat for Police Services to get clarity on whether the numbers were correct, and if yes, to understand:

- Why there has been such a sudden and significant increase in state gun numbers.
- What measures have been put in place to prevent loss, theft and misuse of firearms held by the state.

Finally, following a PAIA application, a response was given by CFR (attached as Appendix 2), with two numbers given for state guns as of 2022: 2,218,411 and 3,538,921. In explaining the 1,320,510 difference, the CFR distinguished between two categories of state guns, with the latter including firearms 'that are not physically present', but which are 'recorded for future reference.' Despite this explanation, which is copied in full in Table 2, it is still unclear how many guns are physically held by the state, which has risk implications considering the state's poor record of managing its stockpiles.

Table 2: Explanation from the Central Firearms Registry on why there are two different numbers for state-owned guns as of 2022

Category	NO OF STATE OWNED FIREARMS ON THE FIREARM REGISTRY	ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
Number of guns	2,218,411	3,538,921
Explanation	Described as 'a detailed representation of all firearms within all government departments, with the exception of firearms that are in	Described as a 'comprehensive overview of all firearms across all government departments recorded on the EFRS (Enhanced Firearms Registry System), including those in non-physical state

<sup>13</sup> South African Police Service. 2021. Reply to question 1666 from Mr AG Whitfield (DA).

<sup>14</sup> Lamb, Guy. 2022. Small arms and ammunition in South Africa, Briefing Paper, August. Saferworld.



	Non-physical state departments under the Central Firearms Register.’	departments under the Central Firearms Register. The firearms in these state departments are not physically present, but are recorded for future reference’ and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Confiscated firearms</li> <li>– Destroyed firearms</li> <li>– Previous amnesty firearms</li> <li>– Failed to renew</li> <li>– Unclaimed firearms</li> </ul> ‘It’s important to note that the number of firearms registered under government departments increases whenever firearms are destroyed.’
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In sum, and as the appendices, graphs and tables in this briefing show, the numbers are contradictory, which creates confusion and opens loopholes allowing for diversion. Moreover, the inflated figure for state guns has already been published in a global report<sup>15</sup> and will be published in November this year in an update to the Small Arms Survey global firearms holding database; this is the ‘go to’ source used by media, researchers and agencies like the United Nations, and once published there it will be very difficult for the South African government to correct inaccuracies resulting from contradictory record-keeping reports.

### Solutions

Addressing SA’s current gun violence crisis requires a two-pronged approach of recovering illegal guns already in circulation and putting measures in place to close the taps leaking legal guns into the illegal pool. Government’s focus has been on the former, as the frequent updates on SAPS’ Operation Shanela attest, though gun recovery rates have shown only marginal increases since Shanela launched on 8 May 2023<sup>16</sup> – see Box.

Accurate record-keeping to track firearms from cradle to grave is globally recognised as a cornerstone to effectively manage legal gun stocks and ensure they don’t leak into criminal hands. Without accurate data on firearms and ammunition, the South African government is failing to meet its legal and political obligations, is facilitating the illicit trade, ownership and use of firearms and ammunition and is contributing to gun crime and violence in South Africa.

Quarterly crime statistics show just 207 more guns/ammunition recovered incidents under Operation Shanela, which was launched on 8 May 2023:

	1 April 2022 to 31 May 2023	1 April 2023 to 31 May 2024
Crimes detected due to police action: Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition	15,598	15,805

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> South African Government News Agency. 2024. Festive Season crime operations yield results. SANews.gov.za, 16 February. (Online). Available at <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/festive-season-crime-operations-yield-results> (accessed 4 September 2024).





With gun violence reaching levels last seen in the late nineties, it is imperative that government see firearm-related record-keeping as a key crime-fighting tool and not an administrative function for the police. This means either taking the CFR away from the police as was explored in a 2023 research report,<sup>17</sup> (see Box) or strengthening SAPS' ability to keep accurate firearm-related records.

[The State of the Central Firearms Registry in South Africa: Challenges and Opportunities](#) explores the feasibility of outsourcing SA's Central Firearms Registry. This includes several possibilities ranging from privatisation of the record-keeping system, to devolving the responsibility for registering firearms to local level structures and locating the registration system as an independent authority that reports to the police.

In this regard, government and business have been working together on a Joint Initiative to Combat Crime and Corruption (JICC), with a focus on strengthening structures like the Investigating

Directorate in the National Prosecuting Authority to reassert the rule of law nationally. JICC is perfectly placed to partner with government to establish an effective firearms record-keeping system for the country, and GFSA urges JICC to take on firearm-related record-keeping as an integral part of addressing crime and corruption in South Africa.

Other actions to bolster firearm-related record-keeping include:

- Undertaking a comprehensive audit of all state and privately owned firearms in South Africa so that the government knows how many guns and gun owners there are, who owns them and where they are. As part of this, the government must act to set down the 2009 North Gauteng High Court interdict which exempts gun owners with 'green' licences issued under the Arms and Ammunition Act from having to relicense under the stricter FCA.
- Holding a no-questions asked national firearms amnesty so that gun owners whose licences have expired, those who have failed to bring themselves under the FCA and those who don't have licences e.g. in the case of deceased estate firearms can surrender these to the state without fear of prosecution.

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<sup>17</sup> Taylor, Claire, Guy Lamb, Haylene Bossau, and Tarryn Bannister. 2023. The State of the Central Firearms Registry in South Africa: Challenges and Opportunities. Cape Town: African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum. (Online). Available at <https://gfsa.org.za/download/research-central-firearms-registry-challenges-and-opportunities/?wpdmdl=4547&refresh=66ca019a2e8681724514714>.



## Appendix 1: Summary of the number of guns in South Africa from a range of sources

Red text highlights outliers

Year	Total number of guns in SA*	Number of guns owned by individuals	Number of guns owned by non-official institutions	Number of private firearms (non-state)#	Number of guns owned by official institutions/ state	Source
2014	4 394 669	2 990 256	134 644	3 124 900	1 269 769	Wits School of Governance
2015	4 487 837	3 081 173	136 259	3 217 432	1 270 405	SAPS Firearms Summit
2015	NA	3 002 858	141 400	3 144 258	NA	Q 1666 of 2021
2016	4 887 262	NA	NA	2 991 681	1 895 581	PAIA December 2023
2016	6 106 531	2 993 425	147 824	3 141 249	2 965 282	Q 1666 of 2021
2017	4 981 454	NA	NA	2 785 589	2 195 865	PAIA December 2023
2017	6 374 756	2 993 425	152 385	3 145 810	3 228 946	Q 1666 of 2021
2018	4 998 371	NA	NA	2 809 853	2 188 518	PAIA December 2023
2019	2 582 656	NA	NA	NA	NA	Q 330 August 2019
2019	6 238 465	2 791 972	159 917	2 951 889	3 286 576	Q 1666 of 2021
2019	5 014 645	NA	NA	2 824 731	2 189 914	PAIA December 2023
2020	6 312 740	2 819 004	163 653	2 982 657	3 330 083	Q 1666 of 2021
2020	5 000 534	NA	NA	2 774 826	2 225 708	PAIA December 2023
2020	NA	2 718 300	NA	NA	NA	Q 1639 of 2021
2020	2 999 268	2 718 300	164 249	2 882 549	116 719	Van Zyl-Gous, Nicolette, 2021
2020	6 358 998	2 727 620	163 980	2 891 600	3 467 398	Q 1666 of 2021
2021	5 001 564	NA	NA	2 730 096	2 271 468	PAIA December 2023
2022	5 048 931	NA	NA	2 830 520	2 218 411	PAIA December 2023
2022	6 630 106	2 888 615	202 570	3 091 185	3 538 921	PAIA December 2023

\* Number of private firearms (non-state) + Number of guns owned by official institutions/ state  
# Number of guns owned by individuals + Number of guns owned by non-official institutions

Source of information	
Wits School of Governance	Wits School of Governance. 2015. Analysis of the effect of the Firearms Control Act on crime: 2000-2014. Pretoria: Civilian Secretariat for Police Service.
SAPS Firearms Summit	South African Police Service. 2015. Implementing the Firearms Control Act. National Firearms Summit, 24-25 March.
Q 1666 of 2021	South African Police Service. 2021. Reply to question 1666 from Mr AG Whitfield (DA).
PAIA December 2023	Central Firearms Registry. 2023. Current number of registered firearms and owners in South Africa. Promotion of Access to Information Act response, 6 December. Attached as Appendix 2.
Q 330 August 2019	South African Police Service. 2019. Reply to question 330 from Dr A Lotriet (DA).
Q 1639 of 2021	South African Police Service. 2021. Reply to question 1639 from Dr PJ Groenewald (FF Plus).
Van Zyl-Gous, Nicolette, 2021	Van Zyl-Gous, Nicolette. 2021. Firearm-related concerns: Central Firearms Register (CFR) Veritas Building, applications, backlogs and modernisation, firearm amnesties and lost/stolen SAPS-owned firearms, 23 August. Cape Town: Parliament Research Unit.





## Appendix 2: Response from the Central Firearms Registry to a PAIA request submitted by GFSA to clarify the number of guns in South Africa

**Subject:** Current number of registered firearms and owners in South Africa

**Date:** 6 December 2023

*Information appears exactly as in response, including typos and highlighted text*

### Email cover letter

Please find the below clarification on the differences between the two figures as provided on the attached report.

1. The stats on table **“ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS”** with **3 538 921** firearms.
  - ✓ The table provided a comprehensive overview of all firearms across all government departments recorded on the EFRS, including those in non-physical state departments under the Central Firearms Register. The firearms in these state departments are not physically present, but are recorded for future reference. Namely:
    - Government department 1: Confiscated firearms
    - Government department 10: Destroyed firearms
    - Government department 17 & 21: Previous Amnesty firearms
    - Government department 25 & 983: Failed to renew
    - Government department 85: unclaimed firearms
  - ✓ It's important to note that the number of firearms registered under government departments increases whenever firearms are destroyed .
2. The stats on table **“ NO OF STATE OWNED FIREARMS ON THE FIREARM REGISTRY ”** with **2 218 411** firearms,
  - ✓ The table presented provides a detailed representation of all firearms within all government departments, with the exception of firearms that are in Non-physical state departments under the Central Firearms Register.
  - ✓ It's also worth mentioning that the report in question covers information up until the year 2022, as request on the access to records.



**1. CURRENT NUMER OF REGISTERED FIREARMS AND OWNERS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

INDIVIDUAL OWNERS		
FIREARM_TYPE	FIREARM_OWNERS	TOTAL_FIREARMS
ADAPTOR	7	8
COMBINATION	1022	12086
FULL-AUTO: PIST CAL - RIFLE/CARB	4	6
FULL-AUTO:RIFLE CAL-RIFLE/CARB	14	40
HUMANE KILLER	1	1
LIGHT MACHINE GUN	3	3
MACHINE GUN	2	4
MAIN FIREARM COMPONENT	432	2822
PISTOL	2483	1310251
REVOLVER	2319	466802
RIFLE	1997	779027
S/L: PIST CAL - RIFLE/CARB	809	5132
S/L: RIFLE CAL - RIFLE/CARBINE	1096	24731
SHOTGUN	1989	287685
TOTAL NUMBER OF ONWERS		1 680 181
TOTAL NUMBER OF FIREARMS		2 888 615

ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (According to EFRS records)		
FIREARM_TYPE	FIREARM_OWNERS	TOTAL-FIREARMS
ADAPTOR	5	34
CABLE SPIKING GUN	2	4
COMBINATION	62	10886
FULL-AUTO: PIST CAL - RIFLE/CARB	5	20
FULL-AUTO:RIFLE CAL-RIFLE/CARB	6	4981
HOME MANUFACTURED FIREARM	4	57
HUMANE KILLER	3	25
LIGHT MACHINE GUN	13	1531
MACHINE GUN	5	101
MAIN FIREARM COMPONENT	23	26269
PEN FLARE	2	2
PISTOL	452	1356892
PRIMERS	1	2
REVOLVER	254	369939
RIFLE	241	1179049
S/L: PIST CAL - RIFLE/CARB	67	45592
S/L: RIFLE CAL - RIFLE/CARBINE	118	296641
SHOTGUN	288	246419
TOTAL NUMBER OF ONWERS		502
TOTAL NUMBER OF FIREARMS		3 538921

- The table provided gives a comprehensive overview of all firearms across all government departments recorded on the EFRS, including those in non-physical state departments under the Central Firearms Register.
- It's important to note that the number of firearms registered under government departments increases whenever firearms are destroyed.

NON-OFFICIAL INSTITUTIONS		
FIREARM_TYPE	FIREARM_OWNERS	TOTAL_FIREARMS
ADAPTOR	1	1
COMBINATION	66	80
FULL-AUTO: PIST CAL - RIFLE/CARB	1	1
FULL-AUTO:RIFLE CAL-RIFLE/CARB	1	1
HUMANE KILLER	1	1
MACHINE GUN	1	1
MAIN FIREARM COMPONENT	28	50
PISTOL	7532	109763
REVOLVER	4080	32458
RIFLE	2106	8640
S/L: PIST CAL - RIFLE/CARB	580	2535
S/L: RIFLE CAL - RIFLE/CARBINE	1835	15510
SHOTGUN	4596	33529
TOTAL NUMBER OF ONWERS		11089
TOTAL NUMBER OF FIREARMS		2 02570

**2. CIVILIANS: current number of licenced civilian firearm owners in South Africa**

- I. Total Civilian Owner: 1 680 181
- II. Female Civilians owners: 290 078
- III. Male Civilian Owners: 1 385 811
- IV. Undetermined: 4 892 (These firearms were issued under either Old Transkei, Ciskei ,Bophuthatswana and Venda, there was no separation between male and female)



## Attachment page 4

Number of new firearms acquired by civilians, by year Civilians

<b>NO OF PRIVATELY HELD FIREARMS (NON-STATE) ON THE FIREARM REGISTRY</b>	
PERIOD	TOTAL NUMBER OF FIREARMS
2016	2 991 681
2017	2 785 589
2018	2 809 853
2019	2 824 731
2020	2 774 826
2021	2 730 096
2022	2 830 520

<b>NO OF STATE OWNED FIREARMS ON THE FIREARM REGISTRY</b> (According to EFRS records)	
PERIOD	STATE OWNED FIREARMS
2016	1 895 581
2017	2 195 865
2018	2 188 518
2019	2 189 914
2020	2 225 708
2021	2 271 468
2022	2 218 411
2023 (JUNE)	2 218 957

- The table presented provides a detailed representation of all firearms within all government departments, with the exception of firearms that are in non-physical state departments under the Central Firearms Register.
- It's also worth mentioning that the report in question covers information up until the year 2022.

## Attachment page 5

<b>SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE</b> (According to EFRS records)	
NUMBER OF OWNERS	TOTAL FIREARMS
01	395 574

