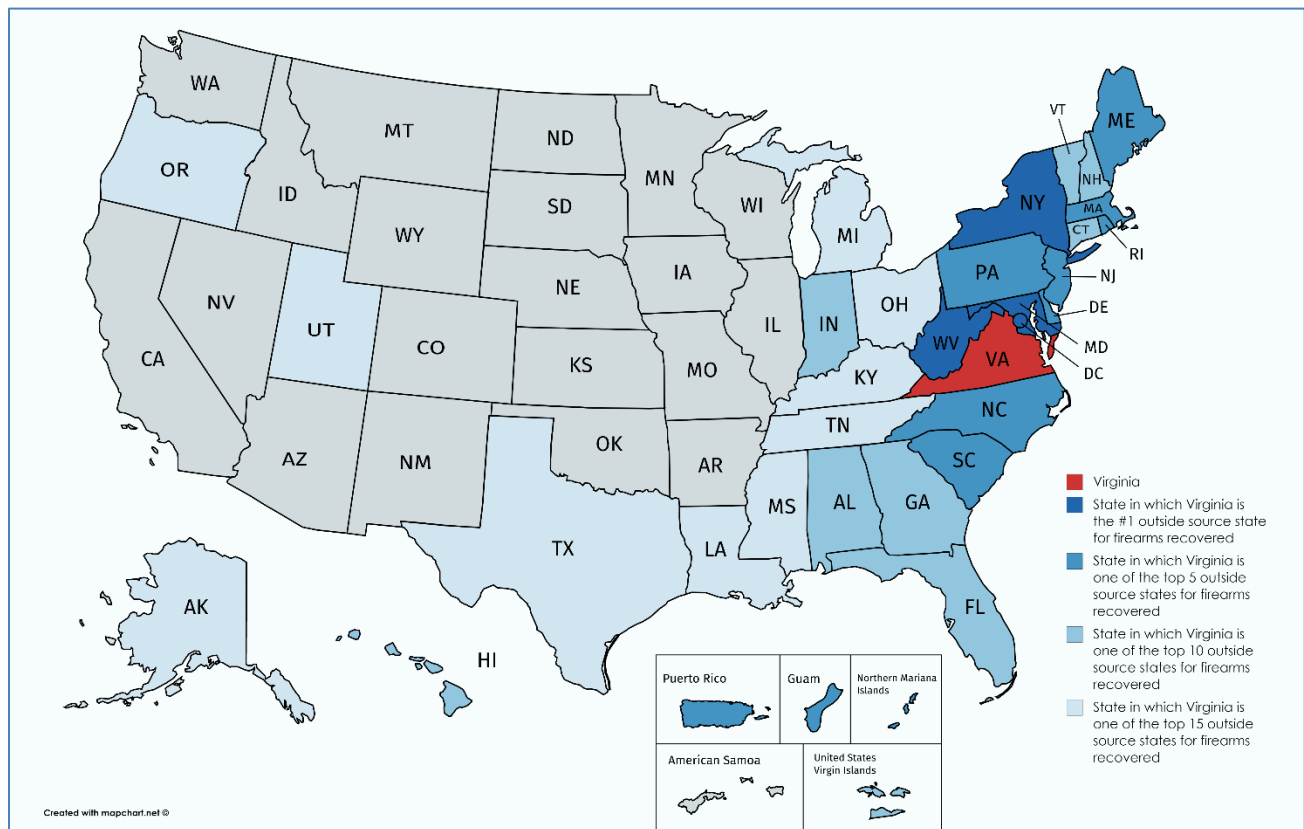


Virginia is a Top Exporter of Crime Guns

Across the country each year, thousands of firearms purchased in Virginia are recovered at crime scenes or are suspected of use in crimes. Virginia is considered a “net exporter” or “supplier state,” since more guns are trafficked out of the state than trafficked into the Commonwealth. One reason Virginia is a top exporter is because of its weak gun laws, including its lack of universal background check laws and its lack of lost and stolen firearm laws.

In 2016, more than 9,000 guns purchased in Virginia were later recovered in crime scenes or suspected of use in crimes. The map below shows the flow of these crime guns from Virginia to other states.

States in Which Virginia Ranked as One of the Top 15 Outside Source States for Crime Guns



Note: The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives’ (ATF) traces firearms on behalf of federal, state, local, and foreign law enforcement agencies. ATF annually prepares state reports using firearms trace data and identifies the top 15 source states for firearms with a recovery in each state. For example, Virginia is one of the top 5 outside source states for firearms recovered in North Carolina, meaning that of all the guns recovered at crime scenes in North Carolina in 2016, Virginia was one of the top 5 states the guns had originally been purchased in.

Source: Author’s analysis of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, “Firearms Trace Data - 2016,” October 11, 2017, available at <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/firearms-trace-data-2016>