



Home Office

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Statistical News Release
Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2009/10

The latest National Statistics on firearm and shotgun certificates in England and Wales are released today. The figures show that there were more firearm and shotgun certificates on issue at the end of March 2010 compared with the end of March 2009. There were 141,775 firearm certificates on issue at the end of March 2010, a two per cent increase compared with a year earlier, and 580,653 shotgun certificates, a one per cent increase over the same period.

The figures also show that the numbers of new applications granted for both firearm and shotgun certificates fell by six per cent between 2008/09 and 2009/10.

There were 3,182 registered firearm dealers in England and Wales at the end of March 2010, an increase of 12 per cent compared with the previous year.

During 2009/10, there were 2,209 people who were covered by firearm visitors' permits, an increase of 12 per cent compared with 2008/09. There was also a rise (2%) in the number of people covered by shotgun visitors' permits, with 7,186 people covered in 2009/10.

The Statistical Bulletin, 'Firearm Certificates England and Wales 2009/10' also contains statistics at police force area level on numbers of firearm and shotgun certificates on issue under the Firearms Acts 1968 and 1997.

Notes to editors

'Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2009/10' is available online on the UK Statistics Authority website as well as the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/hosb0511.pdf>

Statistics on crimes involving the use of a firearm during 2009/10 are published separately in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 01/10 'Homicides, Firearms Offences and Intimate Violence 2009/2010 – Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2009/10': <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/hosb0111.pdf>