

III. SPECIFIC SPORTING ARMS CATEGORIES

A. Imports of Rifles and Shotguns

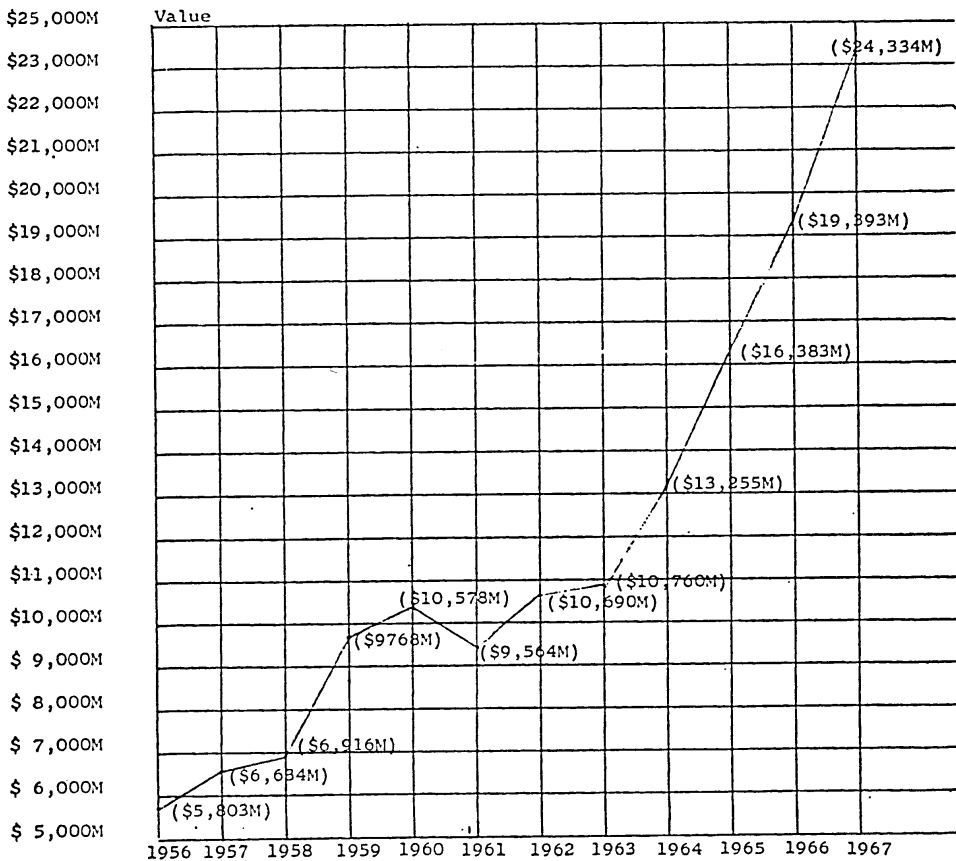
During 1966 and 1967, imports of rifles and shotguns (as depicted in chart 2) increased substantially above 1964 levels. By the end of 1967, total rifle and shotgun imports increased over 3½ times from the 1956 level to \$24,336,408.

1. *Rifle Imports*.—Imports of rifles have increased from a 1964 level of \$3,400,000 to over \$5,500,000 in 1967, continuing the steady upsurge from the 1958 level of only \$1,431,000. (See Exhibits 2 and 3.)

2. *Shotgun Imports*.—In no sector of the shoulder arms industry is the need for maintaining adequate tariffs better demonstrated than in the shotgun segment. Here it is clear that the pre-Kennedy Round 16 percent *ad valorem*¹ duty was a relatively ineffective barrier to imports. From a recent low of 107,000 units and \$6,708,000 value in 1961, the importation of shotguns into the U.S. has climbed to 192,000 units in 1966, with a value of \$14,300,000. During 1967, shotgun imports were approximately 221,000 units, valued at over \$16,300,000. (See Appendix, Exhibits 4 and 5.) Almost all of this total is accounted for by shotguns valued at over \$50. (TSUS Nos. 730.4530, 730.4540, 730.5900.)

¹ Shotguns value over \$50 each now bear a straight 14 percent *ad valorem* duty; those valued at \$25 to \$50 are assessed at \$1.83 each + 9 percent *ad valorem*; lesser priced shotguns have a \$0.50 to \$1.80 each rate + 15 or 13 percent *ad valorem*.

CHART 2
IMPORTS OF RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS



Source: Census Data