



Oregon State Police

2025 *FICS Program Overview*

Oregon State Police
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Dear Stakeholder

The Oregon State Police (OSP) Firearms Instant Check System (FICS) Program is required by law to conduct criminal background checks for the purpose of determining the eligibility of persons attempting to receive a transferred firearm when requested by Federally Licensed Firearm dealers and residents in the State of Oregon. Oregon statute requires a background check for all transfers including those that take place at a gun show and between private parties.

In addition to the state check, as a Point-of-Contact (POC) state for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), OSP is responsible for conducting a national criminal background check under the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act for each request received.

The goal of the FICS Program is to ensure the timely transfer of firearms to eligible transferees, while also keeping firearms out of the hands of those that are prohibited under state or federal law.

This document is intended to provide a high-level overview of the Oregon Firearms Instant Check System (FICS) Program. Additional firearm background check and eligibility related information can be found on the Oregon State Police website/FICS Program page at:

[Oregon State Police : Firearms Instant Check System \(FICS\) : Criminal Justice Information Services \(CJIS\) : State of Oregon](#)

Thank you for your interest in this program.

Firearms Instant Check System Unit
Criminal Justice Information Services Division
Oregon State Police

**OREGON STATE POLICE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION
FIREARMS INSTANT CHECK SYSTEM (FICS) PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

2025 Year-end Report

Statutory Requirement for Response to Dealers

ORS 166.412 requires that OSP maintain an instant check system for conducting criminal background checks for federally licensed gun dealers and private parties prior to the transfer of a firearm. OSP must immediately determine whether the purchaser is qualified or disqualified to complete the firearm transfer under state or federal law either during the dealer's contact or by return call. Statute also requires that if OSP is unable to determine if the purchaser is approved or denied within 30 minutes, OSP must notify the dealer and provide an estimate of time when the check will be completed. Transactions that require more involved research will be placed into a "Pended" status to allow FICS to complete requests for records and receive responses from other agencies and jurisdictions.

Both state and federal laws provide that the gun dealer may deliver the firearm to the purchaser after a defined period has passed (three business days), if OSP does not provide notice of a transaction decision.

Staffing Levels and Hours of Operation

The FICS Unit operates 14 hours a day, seven days a week, and 363 days a year (excluding Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day) as required by statute. The FICS unit consists of 32 permanent employees to include:

- 28 - Public Service Representative 4 (PSR4) background examiner positions,
- 2 – Supervisor I (shift supervisor) positions,
- 1 - Information Systems Specialist 7 for IT support, and
- 1 – Supervisor II (program manager).

The FICS program currently has one vacant permanent PSR4 position. As of January 1, 2026, all previously funded limited duration PSR4, OS2, and RA2 positions have ended.

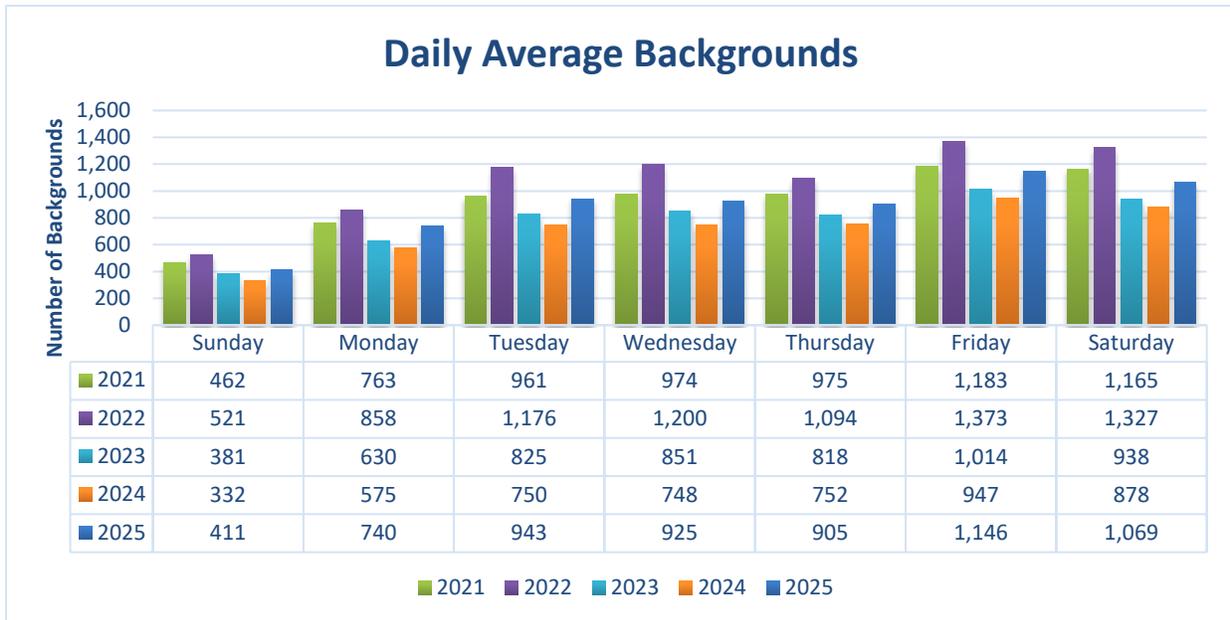
Training Staff

New PSR4s require approximately six months of comprehensive training by experienced FICS staff members. PSR4 training covers the use and understanding of multiple record databases. Training also includes how to read and interpret criminal history records from all states and territories, research of missing information from arrest cycles, FICS program record keeping requirements and support duties.

Average Checks per Day

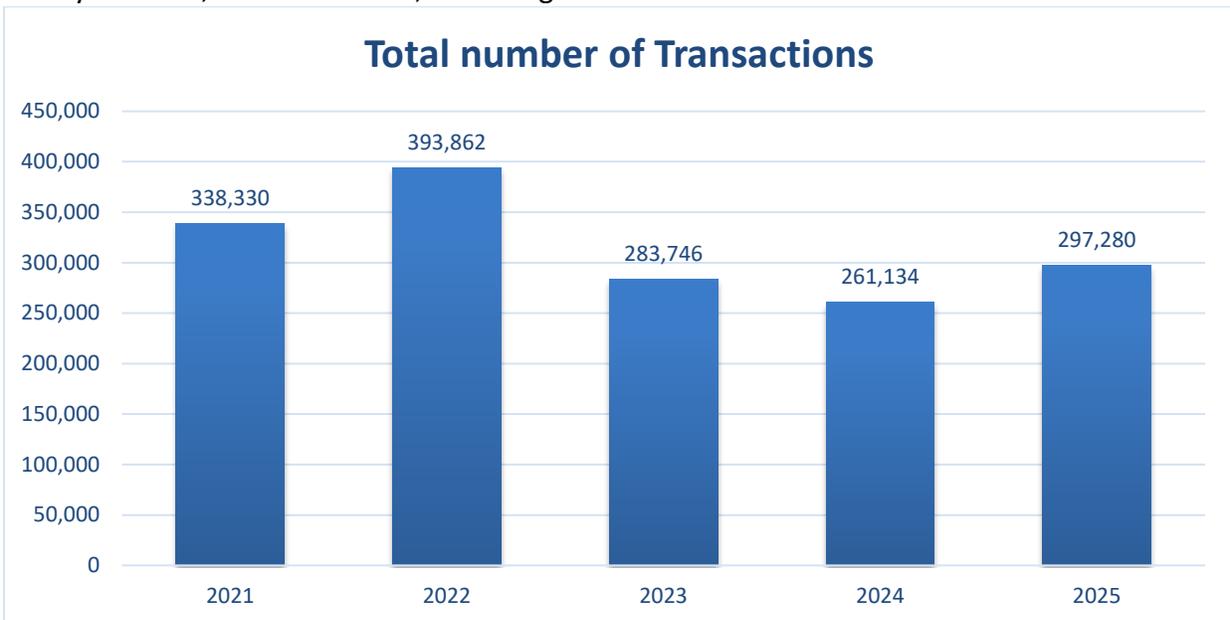
Day of the week volumes have historically guided staffing and scheduling of resources within the unit. Seasonal activity, day of the week, and hour of day have all been consistent historically.

The following chart shows the day-to-day transaction trend for a calendar week.



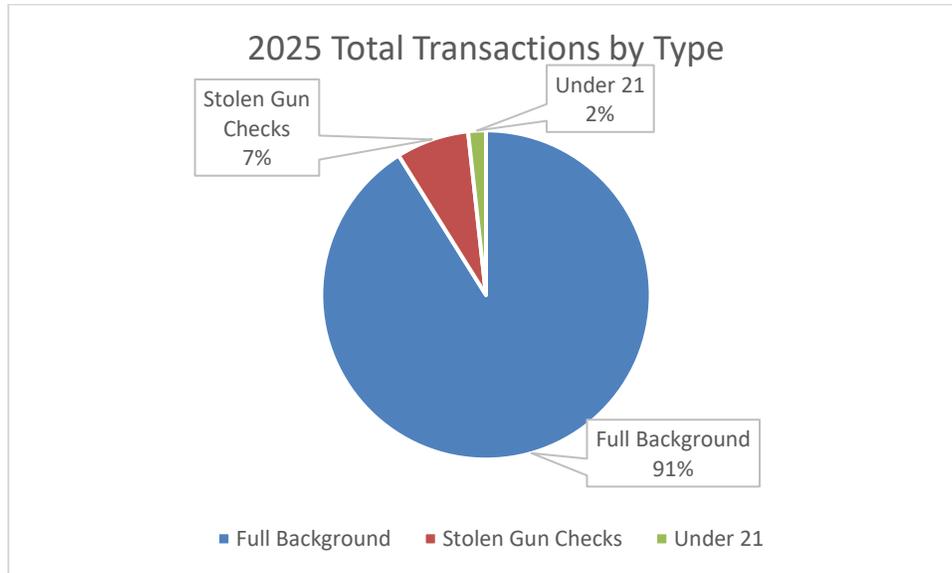
Total Transactions

For calendar year 2025, there were 297,280 background checks submitted.



Checks Requested by Type

A FICS background check for a firearm transfer includes both a criminal history check of the purchaser and a check of the information provided about the firearm being transferred to ensure that the firearm has not been reported stolen. Additionally, firearms that are being traded to firearms dealers or turned into pawn brokers are checked for status to ensure that they are not reported stolen. These stolen gun checks make up approximately 7% of all transactions handled by FICS each year. Firearms transaction checks for buyers under the age of 21 include an additional check required by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022.



In **Appendix B** at the end of this document provides a breakdown of the background checks by type for 2025. This data is also broken down by county based on the zip code from the point of sale provided by the requestor.

Approved, Denied, Pended, or Cancelled Transactions*

The following charts show the number of transactions that were approved, denied, or cancelled for a transaction year at the point of final determination. The chart for pended transactions represents transactions that were pended at initial determination. Due to the indeterminate nature of pended transactions, the final determination status and count for each category will change as ultimately each pended transaction will be approved or denied upon completion. In some cases, a transaction may be cancelled by the dealer or purchaser after being pended. A transaction is cancelled when a background check is submitted and there are identification discrepancies for the purchaser. Two common examples of this are non-matching or invalid identification. This can occur when the purchaser provides identification to the dealer that does not match records being used to validate (such as DMV records) the purchaser’s name, address, date of birth or gender; or the identification provided is not valid (such as suspended, expired).

*Definitions of terms can be found in **Appendix A** at the end of this document.



A breakdown of denied transactions by category can be found in **Appendix C** at the end of this document.





- Total remaining pended transactions for 2021-2025 as of 1/6/2025 is 5,412.

Transactions that are cancelled by the transferee or the gun dealer, prior to final determination will also cause a shift in the number of transactions in “Pended” status.

Top Reasons for Transactions to be Placed in Pended Status

The reason for a pended background check is most often due to incomplete or missing data for an arrest or conviction that could be a potential disqualifier. Historically less than 2% of transactions in Oregon are denied whether they are pended for research or have an immediate determination of “Denied”. While most transactions will ultimately be approved, missing details on the records in question require time to obtain information necessary to resolve. The top contributors to a transaction being pended and the need for additional time to resolve each case include:

- Charges that could involve domestic violence based on statute, but the records immediately available do not include the details needed to make that determination without research.
- Local, state, and federal agencies that do not have the resources to respond in a timely manner to requests for missing information.
- Charges that could be either felony or misdemeanor, but the records immediately available do not include the details needed to determine the level of crime or the disqualification without research.

In 2025 approximately 50 percent of pended transactions received a final “Approved” or “Denied” determination within ten days of the transaction being submitted. Only about 25 percent of all pended transactions in 2025 required more than 45 days to receive a final determination.

Pended Transaction Record Research

A background check will be placed in a “Submitted” status when an auto-approval determination cannot be completed instantly, due to potentially prohibiting activity on a person’s criminal record, the record is missing details or has incomplete information necessary to make a final determination. A note is provided to the FFL that the transaction is “delayed.” If further research is required to approve or deny a transaction, the transaction will be placed in a “Pended” status until the records required to make a final determination of “Approved” or “Denied” have been received. The time necessary to research missing information can vary significantly depending on the type of record, age of the offense, number of states or agencies involved, and the ability of the agency(s) holding the record to respond to OSP’s request for information. There is no limitation regarding the date the offense occurred. All resources must be exhausted before a final determination to approve or deny the transfer can be made. In total, the research process can take days, weeks, months or even years from start to finish. However, every transaction will be assigned a final determination and closed upon the completion of research. The Oregon criminal history will be updated, when applicable, when documentation is received in response to requests sent for research.

The decision to transfer a firearm without a final decision after 3 days is at the *sole discretion* of the gun dealer. Regardless of the dealer’s decision to transfer or not transfer the firearm, OSP will continue to research missing information to complete the background check request and provide either an approval number or notice that the person is denied for the gun dealer’s records.

Challenge Process

When a transaction is denied, the transferee can request the reason for the decision by emailing FICS at denied.firearm@osp.gov to appeal the denial. Information required in the written appeal includes the NICS transaction number (NTN) provided by the FFL, the transferee’s name and date of birth, and a phone number with area code. Due to confidentiality rules, the reason that a transaction was placed in “Pended” or “Denied” status will not be provided to the gun dealer.

Individuals who have been pended for a firearm transfer may provide documents such as court records or police reports and other information to help resolve any missing information by emailing delayed.docs@osp.oregon.gov.

Appendix A

Background Check Definition of Terms

Approved:	No state or federal disqualifications found as result of a completed background check. Federally licensed dealers are provided an approval number for their records as required by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.
Denied:	One or more state or federal disqualifications (or both) were found as the result of a completed background check. Dealer notified of denied status for their records.
Submitted:	A transaction that has not been auto approved or reviewed by a FICS examiner and placed into a status category.
Delayed:	A note appended to a transaction in the dealer portal that indicates that the transaction not auto approved and requires a FICS background examiner to make the determination of "Approved" or "Denied".
Pended:	A transaction that cannot be approved or denied immediately due to incomplete records or missing data. Requires further research to make a final determination.
Cancelled:	A transaction that is requested to be cancelled by the dealer or purchaser after the check has been initiated; or cancelled due to an error submitted on the transaction.
Challenge:	The action a purchaser may take to dispute and/or obtain details about the reason their purchase was delayed or denied.
Challenge Line:	OSP established a telephone number for customers to contact us, outside of the 1-800 background check number, to request information regarding their pended/delayed transaction. A series of message options are available with general information to assist customers when an operator is not available. A message box allows customers to leave their question and contact information so that OSP staff can get back to them if they are not available directly to take their call. Beginning in 2024, use of this phone line was discontinued, and customers are no longer able to leave a voice mail. All challenge requests are now completed via email.
ORS:	Oregon Revised Statute – Chapter 166 SALE OR TRANSFER OF FIREARMS ORS 166.410 – 166.490 https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors166.html

Appendix B

BREAKDOWN OF OREGON FIREARMS DEALER AND PRIVATE PARTY TRANSACTIONS BY COUNTY 2025			
COUNTY	STOLEN GUN CHECK	FULL BACKGROUND CHECK	TOTAL ALL TRANSACTIONS
Baker	173	1,698	1,871
Benton	370	4,793	5,163
Clackamas	1,985	28,727	30,712
Clatsop	355	3,201	3,556
Columbia	88	3,397	3,485
Coos	544	6,130	6,674
Crook	82	2,876	2,958
Curry	137	2,254	2,391
Deschutes	1,197	22,055	23,252
Douglas	1,081	12,777	13,858
Gilliam	0	107	107
Grant	18	804	822
Harney	110	1,013	1,123
Hood River	32	1,538	1,570
Jackson	2,094	21,678	23,772
Jefferson	102	1,470	1,572
Josephine	319	8,054	8,373
Klamath	377	8,325	8,702
Lake	8	350	358
Lane	1,185	28,824	30,009
Lincoln	847	3,540	4,387
Linn	872	13,049	13,921
Malheur	178	2,173	2,351
Marion	1,604	26,027	27,631
Morrow	2	381	383
Multnomah	2,764	17,777	20,541
Polk	843	3,848	4,691
Sherman	0	33	33
Tillamook	156	2,021	2,177
Umatilla	178	7,653	7,831
Union	387	3,500	3,887
Wallowa	1	1,020	1,021
Wasco	231	2,242	2,473
Washington	3,364	44,223	47,587
Wheeler	0	0	0
Yamhill	1,180	8,928	10,108
Grand Total	22,864	296,486	319,350

Appendix C

5-Year BREAKDOWN OF OREGON FIREARMS TRANSACTIONS DENIED BY CATEGORY						
CATEGORY	DENIED DETAIL	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
MENTAL HEALTH	MENTAL HEALTH ADJUDICATION ¹	100	139	96	98	90
	WANTED PERSON					
	OUTSTANDING FELONY WARRANT	26	40	41	36	26
	FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE	47	18	21	16	24
	CONVICTED OF A FELONY	1,069	1,237	973	1,456	1,045
	PRE-TRIAL FOR A FELONY CRIME	119	74	68	66	62
	ASSAULT IV CONVICTION WITHIN LAST 4 YEARS	60	52	34	38	40
	RECKLESS ENDANGERING CONVICTION WITHIN LAST 4 YEARS	89	76	70	70	68
	MENACING CONVICTION WITHIN LAST 4 YEARS	37	25	19	18	29
	STRANGULATION CONVICTION WITHIN LAST 4 YEARS	4	5	3	2	0
	INTIMIDATION II CONVICTION WITHIN LAST 4 YEARS	0	0	1	1	0
	RESTRAINING ORDER	54	66	70	45	57
	PROBATION	385	380	307	344	353
	CONVICTED WITHIN LAST 4YRS FELONY WHILE A JUVENILE	27	36	29	47	61
	DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM ARMED FORCES	7	7	0	4	2
	NON-U.S. CITIZEN	61	76	68	89	73
	CONVICTED DOMESTIC ABUSE*	528	796	472	552	477
	CONVICTED FELON/INSANITY	0	0	0	0	0
	CONVICTED MISD/INSANITY	0	0	0	0	0
	OTHER STATES MISD DISQUALIFIER	5	9	4	2	7
	UNLAWFUL USER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE	45	56	52	50	71
	FEDERAL FLAG (IFFS)	1	0	0	1	2
	NICS INDEX	2	0	15	4	1
	OREGON COURT FIREARM PROHIBITION	38	37	32	41	27
	CONVICTED STALKING**	6	5	4	4	3
	TOTAL DENIED TRANSACTIONS	2,678	3,134	2,379	2,984	2,518
STOLEN GUN	FIREARM HIT AGAINST POSSIBLE STOLEN GUN	124	186	169	181	163

Note: This data is based on the transaction status at the time this report was generated. Due to the nature of pended transactions being completed throughout the reporting period, as well as outside of the reporting period, totals on this document may differ from a final total denied count for any given period.

**Reports prior to 2022 only reported Oregon Misdemeanor Domestic Violence convictions. OSP has updated reporting to reflect both Federal and Oregon Misdemeanor Domestic Violence convictions.*

¹ 18 U.S.C §922(g)(4) defines a federal prohibition for persons adjudicated as a “Mental Defective” or committed to a mental institution. Previous years reports had split out denials for “COMMITTED TO MENTAL INSTITUTION”, “FOND MENTALLY ILL AFTER 1/90”, and “MENTAL DEFECTIVE”. Currently FICS uses the terminology “MENTAL HEALTH ADJUDICATION”.