

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

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Defendants in criminal cases filed and terminated by U.S. attorneys in U.S. Magistrate Courts

United States, fiscal years 1992-2008

	Criminal cases	
	Filed	Terminated
1992	18,652	16,045
1993	18,026	16,165
1994	15,242	13,967
1995	14,786	13,171
1996	13,075	11,248
1997	15,480	11,023
1998	18,706	14,159
1999	20,522	16,964
2000	19,464	15,316
2001	20,557	16,254
2002	19,970	16,256
2003	20,865	16,928
2004	35,157	31,048
2005	34,777	29,653
2006	34,940	31,072
2007	36,377	31,078
2008	70,082	63,598

Note: In addition to the criminal cases filed in U.S. District Courts, U.S. attorneys also handle a considerable criminal caseload filed in U.S. Magistrate Courts. Congress created the judicial office of Federal Magistrate in 1968. The U.S. District Court judges in each district appoint magistrate judges, who discharge many of the ancillary duties of the district judges. Magistrate judges are authorized by statute to perform a variety of judicial duties as assigned by U.S. District Courts, including conducting misdemeanor trials and preliminary hearings, and entering rulings or recommended dispositions on pretrial motions. In order to meet the dictates of the Federal Speedy Trial Act, district courts are referring an increasing number of motions, hearings, and conferences in felony cases to magistrate courts.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for United States Attorneys, **United States Attorneys' Annual Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 1998** (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1999), pp. 20, 21; and U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for United States Attorneys, **United States Attorneys' Annual Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 2008** (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2009), pp. 16, 17. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.