

Table 5.65.2008

## Petitions filed in U.S. District Courts by Federal and State prisoners

	Petitions by Federal prisoners							Petitions by State prisoners					
	Total	Total	Motions to vacate sentence	Habeas corpus	Mandamus, etc.	Civil rights	Prison conditions	Total	Habeas corpus	Mandamus, etc.	Civil rights	Prison conditions	
1977	19,537	4,691	1,921	1,745	542	483	NA	14,846	6,866	228	7,752	NA	
1978	21,924	4,955	1,924	1,851	544	636	NA	16,969	7,033	206	9,730	NA	
1979	23,001	4,499	1,907	1,664	340	588	NA	18,502	7,123	184	11,195	NA	
1980	23,287	3,713	1,322	1,465	323	603	NA	19,574	7,031	146	12,397	NA	
1981	27,711	4,104	1,248	1,680	342	834	NA	23,607	7,790	178	15,639	NA	
1982	29,303	4,328	1,186	1,927	381	834	NA	24,975	8,059	175	16,741	NA	
1983	30,775	4,354	1,311	1,914	339	790	NA	26,421	8,532	202	17,687	NA	
1984	31,107	4,526	1,427	1,905	372	822	NA	26,581	8,349	198	18,034	NA	
1985	33,468	6,262	1,527	3,405	373	957	NA	27,206	8,534	181	18,491	NA	
1986	33,765	4,432	1,556	1,679	427	770	NA	29,333	9,045	216	20,072	NA	
1987	37,316	4,519	1,669	1,812	313	725	NA	32,797 <sup>a</sup>	9,542	276	22,972	NA	
1988	38,839	5,130	2,071	1,867	330	862	NA	33,709	9,880	270	23,559	NA	
1989	41,481	5,577	2,526	1,818	315	918	NA	35,904	10,554	311	25,039	NA	
1990	42,630	6,611	2,970	1,967	525	1,149	NA	36,019	10,823	353	24,843	NA	
1991	42,462	6,817	3,328	2,112	378	999	NA	35,645	10,331	268	25,046	NA	
1992	48,423	6,997	3,983	1,507	597	910	NA	41,426	11,299	481	29,646	NA	
1993	53,451	8,456	5,379	1,467	695	915	NA	44,995	11,587	390	33,018	NA	
1994	57,940	7,700	4,628	1,441	491	1,140	NA	50,240	11,918	397	37,925	NA	
1995	63,550	8,951	5,988	1,343	510	1,110	NA	54,599	13,632	398	40,569	NA	
1996	68,235	13,095	9,729	1,703	444	1,219	NA	55,140	14,726	418	39,996	NA	
1997	62,966	14,952	11,675	1,902	401	974	NA	48,014	19,956	397	27,661	NA	
1998	54,715	9,937	6,287	2,321	346	641	342	44,778	18,838	461	13,115	12,364	
1999	56,603	10,859	5,752	3,590	555	642	320	45,744	20,493	513	13,441	11,291	
2000	58,257	11,880	6,341	3,870	628	736	305	46,377	21,349	564	13,415	11,049	
2001	58,805	14,619	8,644	4,440	516	732	287	44,186	20,446	641	12,703	10,396	
2002	55,295	12,190	6,107	4,483	554	771	275	43,105	19,616	571	13,268	9,650	
2003	54,378	11,981	5,832	4,341	551	982	275	42,397	18,872	609	13,708	9,108	
2004	55,330	13,908	7,137	4,923	514	1,082	252	41,422	18,646	661	14,396	7,719	
2005	61,238	18,010	10,361	5,683	680	1,012	274	43,228	19,190	710	14,993	8,335	
2006	54,955	12,032	6,515	3,789	612	897	219	42,923	19,195	605	15,531	7,592	
2007	53,945	11,296	5,896	3,299	855	1,001	245	42,649	19,139	731	15,715	7,064	
2008	54,786	11,289	6,352	3,035	598	938	366	43,492	18,450	667	17,131	7,244	
Percent change													
2007 to 2008	1.6%	-0.1%	7.7%	-8.0%	-30.1%	-6.3%	49.4%	2.0%	-3.6%	-8.8%	9.0%	2.5%	

Percent change

2007 to 2008

Note: Petitions by Federal prisoners are suits brought against the Federal Government. Petitions by State prisoners are those petitions in which the State or its representative(s) is (are) named as the defendant(s). "Habeas corpus" is a writ utilized to bring a party before a court. In this case, the government must ensure that an individual's imprisonment conforms with the law. "Mandamus" is a writ issued by a superior court to an inferior court or to a public official, directing that a specified action be taken. Prisoners file mandamus petitions in order to compel a government official to perform a duty owed to the prisoner. "Civil rights" petitions are a means to seek relief from constitutional deprivations. Data for 1977-91 are reported for the 12-month period ending June 30. Beginning in 1992, data are reported for the Federal fiscal year, which is the 12-month period ending September 30. Some data have been revised by the Source and may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

<sup>a</sup>Includes 7 motions to vacate sentence.

Source: Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Annual Report of the Director*, 1985, p. 149; 1986, p. 176; 1995, p. 139; 1998, p. 143; 1999, p. 137 (Washington, DC: Administrative Office of the United States Courts); Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Annual Report of the Director*, 1987, p. 179; 1988, p. 182; 1989, p. 178; 1990, p. 138; 1991, p. 191; 1992, p. 179; 1993, p. A1-55; 1994, Table C-2; 1996, p. 136; 1997, p. 129 (Washington, DC: USGPO); and Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Judicial Business of the United States Courts: 2000 Annual Report of the Director*, p. 136; 2001 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 131; 2002 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 130; 2003 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 127; 2004 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 133; 2005 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 159; 2006 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 163; 2007 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 146; 2008 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 144 (Washington, DC: USGPO). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.