

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

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Table 5.65.2010

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

By type of petition, 1977-2010

	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 ^a	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
2009	52,304	10,457	5,771	2,883	488	912	403	41,847	17,681	593	16,436	7,134
2010	51,901	10,543	5,858	2,991	410	914	370	41,358	17,042	542	16,037	7,736
Percent change												
2009 to 2010	-0.8%	0.8%	1.5%	3.7%	-16.0%	0.2%	-8.2%	-1.2%	-3.6%	-8.6%	-2.4%	8.4%

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.

^aIncludes 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. 130; 2001 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 131; 2002 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 133; 2003 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 127; 2004 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 163; 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; 2009 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 142; 2010 *Annual Report of the Director*, p. 145 (Washington, DC: USGPO). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.