

Table 5.67

Appeals from U.S. District Courts filed in U.S. Courts of Appeals

By nature of suit or offense, 1980, 1985, 1990-2003

Nature of suit or offense	1980	1985	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total cases	19,259	28,560	36,609	37,410	41,543	44,236	42,983	44,365	47,026	45,935	48,057	46,931	46,487	47,327	47,068	46,358
Total civil cases	14,854	23,571	27,116	27,461	30,328	32,374	32,309	34,203	36,137	35,414	37,522	36,680	35,780	36,046	35,499	34,390
U.S. cases	4,654	6,744	6,626	6,663	7,137	7,858	7,533	7,919	8,750	8,986	9,816	9,221	8,695	9,705	9,424	8,589
U.S. plaintiff	869	914	935	991	1,012	985	923	809	728	557	638	634	608	495	466	377
Contract actions	99	99	146	116	165	196	126	95	89	55	50	62	108	62	45	27
Real property actions	101	111	88	98	81	134	102	62	63	37	43	50	29	26	19	23
Civil rights	62	68	121	100	89	53	83	78	80	71	98	64	62	49	57	48
Labor laws	68	68	62	68	59	44	49	37	26	23	25	23	22	25	27	11
All other ^a	539	568	518	609	618	558	563	537	470	371	422	435	387	333	318	268
U.S. defendant	3,785	5,830	5,691	5,672	6,125	6,873	6,610	7,110	8,022	8,429	9,178	8,587	8,087	9,210	8,958	8,212
Contract actions	179	141	133	159	206	232	180	139	131	90	107	106	73	58	68	65
Real property actions	63	77	82	107	91	114	99	97	110	64	74	56	72	57	61	44
Tort actions	324	404	381	384	396	369	376	356	463	350	293	276	273	472	243	256
Civil rights	454	720	693	744	796	899	873	898	948	898	963	990	895	848	876	874
Prisoner petitions:																
Motions to vacate sentence	450	551	1,112	1,154	1,467	1,818	1,774	2,215	3,078	3,870	4,066	3,356	2,671	3,470	3,368	2,907
Habeas corpus ^b	302	531	488	506	432	421	430	462	451	492	677	1,034	1,398	1,612	1,621	1,328
Prisoner civil rights	159	288	408	389	406	416	506	555	624	434	302	303	336	358	384	384
Prison conditions	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	85 ^c	152	154	169	189	186	189
Other prisoner petitions	96	140	253	289	239	247	229	225	293	302	327	364	381	509	506	542
Social Security laws	627	1,188	926	686	683	846	861	925	815	699	862	904	845	710	777	714
Tax suits	197	448	313	332	360	320	306	270	219	248	276	243	189	139	131	167
Environmental matters	NA	102	93	96	99	101	105	110	133	138	113	121	116	127	144	126
Freedom of Information Act	NA	130	93	98	136	142	98	81	94	106	109	78	78	76	65	58
All other ^d	934	1,110	716	728	814	948	773	777	663	653	857	602	591	585	528	558
Private cases	10,200	16,827	20,490	20,798	23,191	24,516	24,776	26,284	27,387	26,428	27,706	27,459	27,085	26,341	26,075	25,801
Federal question	7,728	12,910	16,370	16,668	18,795	19,930	20,824	22,496	23,533	22,630	24,250	24,076	23,885	23,122	23,003	22,640
Contract actions	252	586	561	628	737	631	768	578	642	553	606	633	513	564	445	453
Tort actions	497	749	737	742	750	783	744	813	686	687	666	901	589	641	638	600
Civil rights	2,145	3,648	3,915	3,844	4,339	5,030	5,638	6,001	6,242	6,923	7,405	7,052	6,995	6,393	6,515	5,843
Antitrust	343	310	214	190	162	197	197	164	160	166	169	146	106	121	102	117
Prisoner petitions:																
Habeas corpus ^b	1,020	2,172	3,170	3,391	3,725	3,612	3,642	3,927	4,423	4,475	6,054	6,782	7,234	7,145	7,115	7,304
Prisoner civil rights	1,578	2,772	4,413	4,655	5,396	6,044	6,385	7,528	8,053	5,358	3,814	2,925	2,681	2,585	2,729	2,761
Prison conditions	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,103 ^c	1,937	2,178	2,295	2,366	2,269	2,180
Other prisoner petitions	70	78	53	70	71	104	78	69	70	68	92	93	87	109	94	96
Labor laws	417	1,009	1,085	1,079	1,195	1,181	1,179	1,276	1,190	1,160	1,303	1,185	1,108	1,043	969	1,039
Copyright, patent, and trademark	270	275	349	306	377	394	401	443	447	450	491	465	504	497	485	492
Securities, commodities, exchange	NA	290	417	352	428	323	242	224	242	200	177	196	223	212	197	216
Constitutionality of State statutes	NA	104	96	100	117	87	106	123	96	133	129	121	133	99	110	98
All other	1,136	917	1,360	1,311	1,498	1,544	1,444	1,350	1,282	1,354	1,407	1,399	1,417	1,347	1,335	1,441
Diversity of citizenship	2,427	3,878	4,099	4,088	4,333	4,551	3,898	3,753	3,833	3,776	3,443	3,366	3,190	3,210	3,055	3,153
Contract actions	1,362	2,192	2,413	2,419	2,450	2,398	2,292	2,183	2,235	2,259	2,019	1,958	1,969	1,974	1,997	2,060
Tort actions	996	1,538	1,488	1,415	1,663	1,957	1,410	1,414	1,445	1,379	1,296	1,274	1,099	1,111	937	944
All other ^e	69	148	198	254	220	196	196	156	153	138	128	134	122	125	121	149
General local jurisdiction	45	39	21	42	63	35	54	35	21	22	13	17	10	9	17	8
Contract actions	10	NA	8	10	16	8	13	8	2	7	0	6	0	1	1	3
Tort actions	14	NA	3	18	14	14	21	11	3	4	6	7	6	5	3	0
Prisoner petitions	7	NA	1	0	2	0	0	0	4	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
All other ^e	14	NA	9	14	31	13	20	16	12	10	6	2	4	3	13	5
Total criminal cases	4,405	4,989	9,493	9,949	11,215	11,862	10,674	10,162	10,889	10,521	10,535	10,251	10,707	11,281	11,569	11,968
Homicide	52	49	81	66	79	83	126	114	142	140	119	118	97	90	121	79
Assault	NA	67	97	86	80	116	103	103	80	89	79	71	60	49	61	79
Robbery and burglary	310	300	400	463	547	596	528	353	289	305	319	268	312	318	295	269
Larceny and theft	244	242	267	225	238	262	302	250	278	275	269	221	237	241	211	235
Embezzlement and fraud	826	912	1,221	1,387	1,522	1,561	1,426	1,294	1,581	1,526	1,403	1,276	1,339	1,292	1,331	1,418
Motor vehicle theft	64	55	35	38	49	64	135	92	112	76	94	93	70	58	54	54
Drug offenses	1,369	2,063	5,658	5,570	5,936	5,900	5,104	4,499	5,099	4,750	4,845	4,513	4,450	4,529	4,688	4,562
Extortion, racketeering, and threats	251	263	119	136	167	157	150	122	204	218	163	205	201	149	158	167
Firearms, weapons	175	229	526	715	1,092	1,237	1,139	1,034	1,183	1,135	982	1,070	1,035	1,266	1,386	1,681
Forgery and counterfeiting	214	157	172	128	152	132	127	132	140	143	158	153	130	117	164	147
Immigration	NA	64	140	144	209	226	263	277	353	417	693	934	1,357	1,654	1,679	1,821
All other ^f	900	588	777	991	1,144	1,528	1,271	1,892	1,428	1,447	1,411	1,329	1,419	1,518	1,421	1,456

See notes on next page.

Table 5.67

Appeals from U.S. District Courts filed in U.S. Courts of Appeals

By nature of suit or offense, 1980, 1985, 1990-2003--Continued

Note: See Note, [table 5.65](#). These data exclude bankruptcy appeals, appeals from administrative agencies, and original proceedings, and therefore will differ from figures presented in [table 5.66](#). "Private cases" brought in U.S. District Courts include suits wherein litigation is between States and/or private citizens. "Prisoner petitions" included in this category are those filed by State prisoners naming a State or its representative(s) as the defendant(s). "Diversity of citizenship" refers to lawsuits between residents of different States. Since 1987, totals include reopened, remanded, and reinstated appeals as well as original appeals. Data for 1980 and 1985-91 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.

^aIncludes tort actions; forfeiture and penalty; securities, commodities, and exchange; and tax suits.

^bIncludes death sentence cases.

^cCollection of data for this category began on Jan. 1, 1997; therefore reported data are for 9 months.

^dIncludes labor suits.

^eIncludes real property actions.

^fIncludes sex offenses, bribery, gambling, lottery, kidnaping, escape, perjury, drunk driving/traffic, other miscellaneous general offenses, and Federal statutes such as agricultural acts and antitrust violations.

Source: Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Annual Report of the Director*, **1980**, pp. 366-369; **1985**, p. 118; **1995**, pp. 122-126; **1998**, pp. 126-130; **1999**, pp. 120-124 (Washington, DC: Administrative Office of the United States Courts); Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Annual Report of the Director*, **1990**, pp. 130-132; **1991**, pp. 183, 184; **1992**, pp. 166-170; **1993**, pp. A1-38--A1-42; **1994**, Table B-7; **1996**, pp. 119-123; **1997**, pp. 112-116 (Washington, DC: USGPO); and Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Judicial Business of the United States Courts: 2000 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 114-118; **2001 Annual Report of the Director**, pp. 110-114; **2002 Annual Report of the Director**, pp. 109-113; **2003 Annual Report of the Director**, pp. 106-110 (Washington, DC: USGPO). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.