

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

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Table 5.9.2008

Criminal cases filed, terminated, and pending in U.S. District Courts

1955-2008

	Pending at beginning of reporting period	Total filed			Pending at end of reporting period		Pending at beginning of reporting period	Total filed			Pending at end of reporting period
		Original proceeding <sup>a</sup>	Received by transfer	Total terminated				Original proceeding <sup>a</sup>	Received by transfer	Total terminated	
1955	10,100	35,310	1,813	38,580	8,643	1980	15,124	27,910	1,022	29,297	14,759
1956	8,643	28,739	1,914	32,053	7,243	1981	14,759	30,353	975	30,221	15,866
1957	7,243	28,120	1,958	29,826	7,495	1982	15,866	31,623	1,059	31,889	16,659
1958	7,495	28,897	1,840	30,781	7,451	1983	16,659	34,681	1,191	33,985	18,546
1959	7,451	28,729	1,924	30,377	7,727	1984	18,587	35,911	934	35,494	19,938
						1985	19,938	38,546	954	37,139	22,299
1960	7,727	28,137	1,691	29,864	7,691	1986	22,299	40,427	1,063	39,333	24,456
1961	7,691	28,460	1,808	29,881	8,078	1987	24,453	42,156	1,136	42,287	25,458
1962	8,078	29,274	1,743	30,013	9,082	1988	25,263	43,503	1,082	42,115	27,733
1963	9,082	29,858	1,888	31,546	9,282	1989	27,722	44,891	1,104	42,810	30,907
1964	9,282	29,944	1,789	31,437	9,578						
1965	9,578	31,569	1,765	32,078	10,834	1990	30,910	47,962	942	44,295	35,519
1966	10,834	29,729	1,765	30,644	11,684	1991	35,021	45,055	680	42,788	37,968
1967	11,684	30,534	1,673	30,350	13,541	1992	39,562	47,472	894	44,147	43,781
1968	13,541	30,714	1,857	31,349	14,763	1993	34,078	45,903	883	44,800	36,064
1969	14,763	33,585	1,828	32,406	17,770	1994	28,701	44,667	806	45,129	29,045
						1995	26,328	45,053	735	41,527	30,589
1970	17,770	38,102	1,857	36,819	20,910	1996	28,738	47,146	743	45,499	31,128
1971	20,910	41,290	1,867	39,582	24,485	1997	32,156	49,655	708	46,887	35,632
1972	24,485	47,043	2,011	48,101	25,438	1998	37,237	57,023	668	51,428	43,500
1973	25,438	40,367	2,067	43,456	24,416	1999	40,277	59,251	672	56,511	43,689
1974	24,416	37,667	2,087	41,526	22,644						
1975	22,644	41,108	2,174	43,515	22,411	2000	42,966	62,152	593	58,102	47,609
1976	22,411	39,147	1,911	43,675	19,794	2001	47,677	62,134	574	58,718	51,667
1977	19,794	40,000	1,589	44,233	17,150	2002	49,696	66,452	548	60,991	55,705
1978	17,150	34,624	1,359	37,286	15,847	2003	55,518	70,092	550	65,628	60,532
1979	15,847	31,536	1,152	33,411	15,124	2004	59,218	70,397	625	64,621	65,619
						2005	65,900	68,996	579	66,561	68,914
						2006	69,932	66,365	495	67,499	69,293
						2007	71,916	67,910	503	67,851	72,478
						2008	73,418	70,429	467	70,629	73,685

Note: Two reporting changes were made during fiscal year 1976. Beginning Oct. 1, 1975, all minor offenses (offenses involving penalties that do not exceed 1 year imprisonment or a fine of more than \$1,000), with the exception of most petty offenses (offenses involving penalties that do not exceed 6 months incarceration and/or a fine of not more than \$500), are included. Minor offenses are generally disposed of by magistrate judges and, in past years, most of these minor offenses would not have been counted in the workload of the district courts. Second, when the Federal Government's motion to dismiss an original indictment or information is granted, the superseding indictment or information does not become a new case as in the years prior to 1976, but remains the same case. (An indictment is the charging document of the grand jury, and an information is the charging document of the U.S. attorney.) Data for 1955-91 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. These data were taken from the first year they were reported and do not reflect revisions made in subsequent years. Therefore, these data may differ from figures presented in table 5.8.2008.

<sup>a</sup>Received by transfer" includes defendants transferred by Rule 20, *Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure*, which provides that defendants who (1) are arrested or held in a district other than that in which an indictment or information is pending against them or in which the warrant for their arrest was issued and (2) state in writing that they wish to

plead guilty or nolo contendere, may consent to disposition of the case in the district in which they are arrested or are held, subject to the approval of the U.S. attorney for both districts.

<sup>a</sup>Includes reopens.

Source: Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Annual Report of the Director*, 1981, p. 94; 1983, pp. 302, 303; 1985, pp. 336, 337; 1986, pp. 232, 233; 1995, pp. 195, 196; 1998, pp. 198, 199; 1999, pp. 192, 193 (Washington, DC: Administrative Office of the United States Courts); Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Annual Report of the Director*, 1982, pp. 272, 273; 1984, pp. 310, 311; 1987, pp. 238, 239; 1988, pp. 241, 242; 1989, pp. 239, 240; 1990, pp. 176, 177; 1991, pp. 230, 231; 1992, pp. 232, 233; 1993, pp. A1111, A1112; 1994, Table D-1; 1996, pp. 191, 192; 1997, pp. 184, 185 (Washington, DC: USGPO); and Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Judicial Business of the United States Courts: 2001 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 181-186; *2002 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 181, 182; *2003 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 181, 182; *2004 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 187, 188; *2005 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 213, 214; *2006 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 217, 218; *2007 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 214, 215; *2008 Annual Report of the Director*, pp. 212, 213 (Washington, DC: USGPO). Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.