

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

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Table 5.72.2010

Executive clemency applications for Federal offenses handled by the Office of the U.S. Pardon Attorney

By Presidential Administration, fiscal years 1969-2010

Fiscal year/ Administration	Pending from previous fiscal year ^a			Received			Granted			Denied or closed without Presidential action		
	Total	Pardon	Commutation	Total	Pardon	Commutation	Total	Pardon	Commutation	Total	Pardon	Commutation
Richard M. Nixon												
1969	1,205	1,021	184	251	136	115	0	X	X	180	123	57
1970	1,276	1,034	242	459	337	122	96	82	14	698	432	266
1971	941	857	84	454	266	188	173	157	16	648	436	212
1972	574	530	44	516	346	170	255	235	20	410	252	158
1973	425	389	36	485	323	162	207	202	5	341	198	143
1974	362	312	50	426	291	135	195	187	8	337	209	128
1975	256	207	49	0	X	X	0	X	X	0	X	X
Gerald R. Ford												
1975	256	207	49	610	351	259	156	147	9	325	166	159
1976	385	245	140	742	502	240	117	106	11	442	199	243
1977	568	442	126	175	125	50	136	129	7	133	70	63
James E. Carter												
1977	474	368	106	563	292	271	1	0	1	168	119	49
1978	868	541	327	641	379	262	165	162	3	836	381	455
1979	508	377	131	710	436	274	153	143	10	448	193	255
1980	617	477	140	523	355	168	166	155	11	498	311	187
1981	474	366	108	190	119	71	81	74	7	106	53	53
Ronald W. Regan												
1981	477	358	119	357	220	137	2	2	0	153	66	87
1982	679	510	169	462	283	179	86	83	3	547	339	208
1983	174	37	137	447	298	149	93	91	2	306	170	136
1984	556	409	147	447	289	158	42	37	5	326	194	132
1985	635	467	168	407	256	151	35	32	3	279	152	127
1986	728	540	188	362	222	140	55	55	0	290	159	131
1987	745	548	197	410	227	183	23	23	0	311	167	144
1988	824	588	236	384	236	148	38	38	0	497	273	224
1989	673	513	160	128	68	60	32	32	0	95	61	34
George H.W. Bush												
1989	674	488	186	245	115	130	10	9	1	297	163	134
1990	616	432	184	354	206	148	0	X	X	289	153	136
1991	681	485	196	318	172	146	29	29	0	681	452	229
1992	289	180	109	379	174	205	0	X	X	192	85	107
1993	476	269	207	170	64	106	38	36	2	162	43	119
William J. Clinton												
1993	452	260	192	698	172	526	0	X	X	89	34	55
1994	1,048	392	656	808	228	580	0	X	X	785	249	536
1995	1,071	371	700	612	209	403	56	53	3	588	197	391
1996	1,039	330	709	512	204	308	0	X	X	371	95	276
1997	1,174	438	736	685	209	476	0	X	X	555	107	448
1998	1,304	540	764	608	201	407	21	21	0	278	91	187
1999	1,512	628	884	1,009	261	748	48	34	14	601	162	439
2000 ^b	1,872	693	1,179	1,388	336	1,052	76	70	6	1,027	61	966
2001 ^c	2,153	894	1,259	1,169	181	988	258	218	40	160	12	148
George W. Bush												
2001	2,986	923	2,063	658	110	548	0	X	X	323	45	278
2002	3,320	988	2,332	1,248	152	1,096	0	X	X	2,278	572	1,706
2003	2,280	565	1,715	1,023	172	851	7	7	0	1,050	72	978
2004	2,247	659	1,588	1,186	235	951	14	12	2	960	150	810
2005	2,461	733	1,728	1,059	252	807	39	39	0	831	124	707
2006	2,651	822	1,829	1,013	254	759	39	39	0	1,402	308	1,094
2007	2,224	729	1,495	1,259	334	925	18	16	2	411	75	336
2008	3,055	972	2,083	2,325	555	1,770	46	44	2	3,162	620	2,542
2009	2,173	864	1,309	1,303	434	869	37	32	5	1,497	227	1,270
Barack H. Obama												
2009	1,943	1,040	903	1,318	232	1,086	0	X	X	252	132	120
2010	3,009	1,140	1,869	2,164	262	1,902	0	X	X	457	116	341

Note: Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution authorizes the President to grant executive clemency for Federal criminal convictions. The U.S. Pardon Attorney, in consultation with the U.S. Attorney General's office, receives and reviews all petitions for executive clemency, initiates the necessary investigations, and prepares a report and recommendation for the President. Clemency may be a reprieve, remission of fine or restitution, commutation, or pardon. A "pardon," which is generally considered only after sentence completion, restores basic civil rights and may aid in the reinstatement of professional or trade licenses that may have been lost as a result of the conviction. A "commutation" is a reduction of sentence. Commutations include remission of fines. Cases in which multiple forms of relief were granted are counted in only one category. The figures presented in this table do not include clemency actions on draft resisters, or military deserters and absentees during the Vietnam war era. Also excluded from the above data are persons granted clemency by President Ford's Presidential Clemency Board. The data for 1969-75 are reported for the 12-month period ending June 30. Beginning in 1976, the 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.

^aIn inaugural years, the pending applications are transferred from the outgoing to the incoming Administration.

^bIn addition to the six commutations, President Clinton granted one reprieve of an execution date during fiscal year 2000.

^cIn addition to the 40 commutations, President Clinton granted 1 reprieve of an execution date during fiscal year 2001.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Pardon Attorney [Online]. Available: http://www.usdoj.gov/pardon/actions_administration.htm [Jan. 12, 2011]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.