

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

Table 5.79.2011

Federal prosecutions of persons involved in corruption of public office

By level of government, 1973-2011

	Total			Elected or appointed official									Others involved		
	In-dicted	Awaiting trial on Dec. 31	Con-victed	Federal			State			Local			In-dicted	Awaiting trial on Dec. 31	Con-victed
				In-dicted	Awaiting trial on Dec. 31	Con-victed	In-dicted	Awaiting trial on Dec. 31	Con-victed	In-dicted	Awaiting trial on Dec. 31	Con-victed			
1973	191	18	144	60	2	48	19	0	17	85	2	64	27	14	15
1974	305	5	213	59	1	51	36	0	23	130	4	87	80	0	52
1975	294	27	211	53	5	43	36	5	18	139	15	94	66	2	56
1976	391	199	260	111	1	101	59	30	35	194	98	100	27	70	24
1977	535	210	440	129	32	94	50	33	38	157	62	164	199	83	144
1978	530	205	418	133	42	91	55	20	56	171	72	127	171	71	144
1979	579	178	419	114	21	102	56	29	31	211	63	151	198	65	135
1980	727	213	602	123	16	131	72	28	51	247	82	168	285	87	252
1981	808	231	730	198	23	159	87	36	66	244	102	211	279	70	294
1982	813	186	671	158	38	147	49	18	43	257	58	232	349	72	249
1983	1,076	222	972	460 ^a	58	424	81	26	65	270	61	226	265	77	257
1984	931	269	934	408	77	429	58	21	52	203	74	196	262	97	257
1985	1,157	256	997	563	90	470	79	20	66	248	49	221	267	97	240
1986	1,208	246	1,026	596	83	523	88	24	71	232	55	207	292	84	225
1987	1,276	368	1,081	651	118	545	102	26	76	246	89	204	277	135	256
1988	1,274	288	1,067	629	86	529	66	14	69	276	79	229	303	109	240
1989	1,348	375	1,149	695	126	610	71	18	54	269	122	201	313	109	284
1990	1,176	300	1,084	615	103	583	96	28	79	257	98	225	208	71	197
1991	1,452	346	1,194	803	149	665	115	42	77	242	88	180	292	67	272
1992	1,189	380	1,081	624	139	532	81	24	92	232	91	211	252	126	246
1993	1,371	403	1,362	627	133	595	113	39	133	309	132	272	322	99	362
1994	1,165	332	969	571	124	488	99	17	97	248	96	202	247	95	182
1995	1,051	323	878	527	120	438	61	23	61	236	89	191	227	91	188
1996	984	244	902	456	64	459	109	40	83	219	60	190	200	80	170
1997	1,057	327	853	459	83	392	51	20	49	255	118	169	292	106	243
1998	1,174	340	1,014	442	85	414	91	37	58	277	90	264	364	128	278
1999	1,134	329	1,065	480	101	460	115	44	80	237	95	219	302	89	306
2000	1,000	327	938	441	92	422	92	37	91	211	89	183	256	109	242
2001	1,087	437	920	502	131	414	95	75	61	224	110	184	266	121	261
2002	1,136	413	1,011	478	119	429	110	50	132	299	118	262	249	126	188
2003	1,150	412	868	479	129	421	94	38	87	259	106	119	318	139	241
2004	1,213	419	1,020	424	98	381	111	48	81	268	105	252	410	168	306
2005	1,163	453	1,027	445	118	390	96	51	94	309	148	232	313	136	311
2006	1,150	439	1,030	463	112	407	101	38	116	291	141	241	295	148	266
2007	1,141	487	1,014	426	116	405	128	65	85	284	127	275	303	179	249
2008	1,304	489	1,129	518	117	458	144	61	123	287	127	246	355	184	302
2009	1,082	473	1,061	425	107	426	93	57	102	270	148	257	294	161	276
2010	1,184	554	1,036	422	103	397	168	105	108	296	146	280	298	200	251
2011	1,082	469	1,107	412	110	392	93	41	143	282	127	276	295	191	296

Note: Questionnaires are sent annually to the U.S. attorneys' offices in each of the Federal judicial districts eliciting data concerning indictments and convictions during the year as well as prosecutions awaiting trial on December 31 of each year. "Corruption of public office" involves criminal abuse of the public trust by government officials and includes offenses such as fraud, extortion, bribery, criminal conflict of interest, election ballot fraud, and campaign finance offenses. These data cover persons elected or appointed to office and career (staff) government employees; "others involved" include individuals who hold no official position, but who participated in an offense aimed at corrupting another's public office. Some data have been revised by the Source and may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

^aThe 1983 figures were reviewed to attempt to identify the reason for the substantial increase in prosecutions of Federal officials. The explanation appeared to be two-fold: there had been a greater focus on Federal corruption nationwide, and there appeared to have been more consistent reporting of lower-level employees who abused their office, cases that may have been overlooked in the past. For reference, the U.S. attorneys' offices were told: "For purposes of this questionnaire, a public corruption case includes any case involving abuse of office by a public employee. We are not excluding low-level employees or minor crimes, but rather focusing on the job-relatedness of the offense and whether the offense involves abuse of the public trust placed in the employee."

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, "Report to Congress on the Activities and Operations of the Public Integrity Section for 1991," pp. 28, 29; "1992," pp. 36, 37; "1999," pp. 38, 39; "2010," pp. 29, 30; "2011," p. 26 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.