

Table 3.164

Explosives incidents reported to or investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

By type of incident, United States, 1976-95

	Type of incident									
	Total	Bombings	Recoveries and seizures of explosives	Incendiary bombings	Thefts of explosives	Attempted bombings	Attempted incendiary bombings	Hoax devices	Noncriminal accidents	Threats to U.S. Department of the Treasury facilities
1976	2,706	870	579	352	327	319	101	67	47	44
1977	3,177	1,058	853	339	227	319	81	105	62	33
1978	3,256	963	987	446	362	287	71	47	71	22
1979	3,093	901	1,167	346	335	179	44	26	60	35
1980	2,875	922	908	368	349	163	68	11	64	22
1981	2,338	805	637	329	243	152	99	12	37	24
1982	1,762	597	503	235	201	127	41	8	40	10
1983	1,690	575	499	164	208	131	40	15	49	9
1984	1,828	648	566	155	212	144	34	10	52	7
1985	2,226	720	828	151	219	169	63	17	51	8
1986	2,432	842	879	204	170	167	58	75	31	6
1987	2,228	816	740	169	122	157	45	127	42	10
1988	2,507	912	684	196	191	189	35	253	40	7
1989	2,960	1,065	769	319	126	268	47	317	44	5
1990	3,541	1,275	896	389	138	298	100	404	36	5
1991	3,961	1,585	848	414	127	380	111	438	56	2
1992	4,638	1,911	1,066	582	93	384	112	448	39	3
1993	4,862	1,880	1,350	538	83	375	187	404	36	9
1994	5,290	1,916	1,538	545	81	522	180	474	33	1
1995	5,196	1,562	1,997	406	97	417	192	481	28	16

Note: These figures are from reports to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) and other law enforcement agencies; these reports may not include all explosives incidents that occurred each year. "Explosives incidents" are any explosives-involved situations that have an impact on BATF jurisdiction. "Bombings" are any incidents in which a device constructed with criminal intent and using high explosives, low explosives, or blasting agents explodes. This includes incidents where premature detonation occurs during preparation, transportation, or placement of a device so constructed. "Attempted bombings" are incidents in which a device designed or purposely contrived to detonate/ignite fails to function; intent of activity was criminal in nature. This pertains to malfunctioning, recovered, and/or disarmed devices. "Incendiary bombings" are criminally-motivated bombing incidents in which an incendiary/chemical

device that induces burning is used. "Hoax devices" are inactive or "dummy" devices designed to appear as bombs or explosive materials. (Source, **1993**, p. 89.)

Bombing figures for the years 1976 and 1977 include 30 and 21 criminal accidents, respectively, that were separately enumerated by the Source.

Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, **Explosives Incidents Report 1985**, p. 9; **1990**, p. 11; **1993**, p. 13 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Treasury); and U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, **1995 Arson and Explosives Incidents Report** (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Treasury, 1997), p. 13. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.