

Table 3.177

Results of airline passenger screening

United States, 1977-96

	Persons screened (in millions)	Weapons detected					Persons arrested		
		Firearms	Handguns	Long guns	Other	Explosive/ incendiary devices	Other dangerous articles	For carrying firearms/ explosives	For giving false information
1977	508.8	2,034	1,730	64	240	5	NA	810	44
1978	579.7	2,058	1,827	67	164	3	NA	896	64
1979	592.5	2,161	1,962	55	144	3	NA	1,060	47
1980	585.0	2,022	1,878	36	108	8	NA	1,031	32
1981	598.5	2,255	2,124	44	87	11	NA	1,187	49
1982	630.2	2,676	2,559	57	60	1	NA	1,314	27
1983	709.1	2,784	2,634	67	83	4	NA	1,282	34
1984	775.6	2,957	2,766	100	91	6	NA	1,285	27
1985	992.9	2,987	2,823	90	74	12	NA	1,310	42
1986	1,055.3	3,241	2,981	146	114	11	NA	1,415	89
1987	1,095.6	3,252	3,012	99	141	14	NA	1,581	81
1988	1,054.9	2,773	2,591	74	108	11	NA	1,493	222
1989	1,113.3	2,879	2,397	92	390	26	NA	1,436	83
1990	1,145.1	2,853	2,490	59	304	15	NA	1,337	18
1991	1,015.1	1,919	1,597	47	275	94	NA	893	28
1992	1,110.8	2,608	2,503	105	NA	167	2,341	1,282	13
1993	1,150.0	2,798	2,707	91	NA	251	3,867	1,354	31
1994	1,261.3	2,994	2,860	134	NA	505	6,051	1,433	35
1995	1,263.0	2,390	2,230	160	NA	631	4,414	1,194	68
1996	1,382.1	2,147	1,999	148	NA	NA	NA	999	131

Note: Screening consists of "the systematic examination of persons and property using weapons-detecting procedures or facilities (electronic or physical search) for the purpose of detecting weapons and dangerous articles and to prevent their unauthorized introduction into sterile areas or aboard aircraft." (Source, 1993, p. 42.) Prior to 1992, the firearm category of "other" included items such as starter pistols, flare pistols, and BB guns. Beginning in 1992, this category was expanded and now also includes stunning devices, chemical agents, martial arts equipment, knives, bludgeons, and certain other designated items. From 1992 to 1994, the method of counting "explosive/incendiary devices" was revised. Individual items were counted rather than packages (i.e., one box of firecrackers counted as 20 firecrackers; one box of ammunition counted as 50 cartridges).

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, *Semiannual Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of the Civil Aviation Security Program, July 1 to December 31, 1978*, Exhibit 10; *July 1 to December 31, 1982*, Exhibit 10; *July 1 to December 31, 1984*, Exhibit 7; *July 1 to December 31, 1989*, p. 11 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation); U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, *Annual Report to Congress on Civil Aviation Security, January 1, 1993-December 31, 1993*, p. 9; *January 1, 1995-December 31, 1995*, p. 11 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation); and data provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.