

Table 5.67

Petitions filed in U.S. District Courts by Federal and State prisoners

By type of petition, 1977-96

	Petitions by Federal prisoners						Petitions by State prisoners				
	Total	Total	Motions to vacate sentence	Habeas corpus	Mandamus, etc.	Civil rights	Total	Motions to vacate sentence	Habeas corpus	Mandamus, etc.	Civil rights
1977	19,537	4,691	1,921	1,745	542	483	14,846	NA	6,866	228	7,752
1978	21,924	4,955	1,924	1,851	544	636	16,969	NA	7,033	206	9,730
1979	23,001	4,499	1,907	1,664	340	588	18,502	NA	7,123	184	11,195
1980	23,287	3,713	1,322	1,465	323	603	19,574	NA	7,031	146	12,397
1981	27,711	4,104	1,248	1,680	342	834	23,607	NA	7,790	178	15,639
1982	29,303	4,328	1,186	1,927	381	834	24,975	NA	8,059	175	16,741
1983	30,775	4,354	1,311	1,914	339	790	26,421	NA	8,532	202	17,687
1984	31,107	4,526	1,427	1,905	372	822	26,581	NA	8,349	198	18,034
1985	33,468	6,262	1,527	3,405	373	957	27,206	NA	8,534	181	18,491
1986	33,765	4,432	1,556	1,679	427	770	29,333	0	9,045	216	20,072
1987	37,316	4,519	1,669	1,812	313	725	32,797	7	9,542	276	22,972
1988	38,839	5,130	2,071	1,867	330	862	33,709	0	9,880	270	23,559
1989	41,481	5,577	2,526	1,818	315	918	35,904	0	10,554	311	25,039
1990	42,630	6,611	2,970	1,967	525	1,149	36,019	0	10,823	353	24,843
1991	42,462	6,817	3,328	2,112	378	999	35,645	0	10,331	268	25,046
1992	48,423	6,997	3,983	1,507	597	910	41,426	0	11,299	481	29,646
1993	53,451	8,456	5,379	1,467	695	915	44,995	0	11,587	390	33,018
1994	57,940	7,700	4,628	1,441	491	1,140	50,240	0	11,918	397	37,925
1995	63,550	8,951	5,988	1,343	510	1,110	54,599	0	13,632	398	40,569
1996	68,235	13,095	9,729	1,703	444	1,219	55,140	0	14,726	418	39,996
Percent change 1996 over 1995	7.4%	46.3%	62.5%	26.8%	-12.9%	9.8%	1.0%	X	8.0%	5.0%	-1.4%

Note: Petitions by Federal prisoners are suits brought against the Federal Government. Petitions by State prisoners are those petitions in which the State or its representative(s) is (are) named as the defendant(s). "Habeas corpus" is a writ whose object is to bring a party before a court or a judge. "Mandamus" is a writ from a superior court to an inferior court or to a public official, a corporation, etc., commanding that a specified action be taken. Data for 1977-91 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. Some data have been revised by the Source and may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

Source: Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Annual Report of the Director*, 1985, p. 149; 1986, p. 176; 1995, p. 139 (Washington, DC: Administrative Office of the United States Courts); and Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Annual Report of the Director*, 1987, p. 179; 1988, p. 182; 1989, p. 178; 1990, p. 138; 1991, p. 191; 1992, p. 179; 1993, p. A1-55; 1994, Table C-2; 1996, p. 136 (Washington, DC: USGPO). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.