

Table 2.9

U.S. District Courts. Prisoner Petitions Filed by Nature of Suit

Fiscal Year	Grand Total	U.S. Cases					Private Cases				
		Total	Motions to Vacate Sentence	Habeas Corpus General*	Prison Conditions & Civil Rights	Mandamus and Other	Total	Habeas Corpus General	Death Penalty	Prison Conditions & Civil Rights	Mandamus and Other
1988	39,732	5,183	2,183	1,800	860	340	34,549	10,251	3	24,025	270
1989	41,503	5,760	2,628	1,784	1,029	319	35,743	10,596	24	24,792	331
1990	43,209	7,103	3,087	2,333	1,130	553	36,106	10,656	79	25,030	341
1991	42,316	6,318	3,385	1,660	884	389	35,998	10,288	71	25,364	275
1992	48,423	6,997	3,983	1,507	910	597	41,426	11,163	136	29,646	481
1993	53,451	8,456	5,379	1,467	915	695	44,995	11,487	100	33,018	390
1994	57,940	7,700	4,628	1,441	1,140	491	50,240	11,774	144	37,925	397
1995	63,550	8,951	5,988	1,343	1,110	510	54,599	13,462	170	40,569	398
1996	68,235	13,095	9,729	1,703	1,219	444	55,140	14,500	226	39,996	418
1997	62,966	14,952	11,675	1,902	974	401	48,014	19,724	232	27,661	397
1998	54,715	9,937	6,287	2,321	983	346	44,778	18,588	250	25,479	461
1999	56,603	10,859	5,752	3,590	962	555	45,744	20,251	248	24,732	513
2000	58,257	11,880	6,341	3,870	1,041	628	46,377	21,090	259	24,464	564
2001	58,805	14,619	8,644	4,440	1,019	516	44,186	20,254	192	23,099	641
2002	55,292	12,190	6,107	4,483	1,046	554	43,102	19,390	225	22,918	569
2003	54,378	11,981	5,832	4,341	1,257	551	42,397	18,744	228	22,816	609

*Includes U.S. death penalty cases.

NOTE: Prisoner petitions have risen steadily for years and increased 72 percent from 1988 to 1996. The Supreme Court decision in *Bailey vs U.S.*, which resulted in increases in motions to vacate sentence and habeas corpus filings, added to the increase in 1995. As a result of the Prison Litigation Reform Act and Title I of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, both of which passed in April 1996, filings decreased in 1997 and 1998, then increased through 2001 in response to *Apprendi v. New Jersey*, 530, U.S. 466. In 2002 and 2003 these filings again decreased, mostly due to large drops in motions to vacate sentences and habeas corpus petitions. For additional information, see the September 1997 Report to the Subcommittee on Judicial Statistics on Prisoner Petition Filings.

Source: Statistical Table C-3. Fiscal year 1993 and 1997 special 5 year C-3 Table for habeas corpus and civil rights. Total prisoner petitions do not match exactly the data reported on the C-2 Table for 1989 and 1990.