

Table 329. U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Commenced and Pending: 2000 to 2009

[For years ending June 30]

Type of case	Cases commenced				Cases pending			
	2000	2005	2008	2009	2000	2005	2008	2009
Cases total ¹	263,049	282,758	256,354	257,204	249,692	267,270	286,193	297,257
Contract actions ¹	54,494	28,590	34,818	35,229	38,262	26,712	30,696	30,019
Recovery of overpayments ²	25,636	3,380	3,491	3,214	12,107	1,953	1,686	1,625
Real property actions	6,481	4,541	5,607	5,413	4,249	4,512	4,525	4,719
Tort actions	40,877	75,273	59,588	61,936	63,116	76,821	105,763	116,918
Personal injury	36,867	52,215	55,777	57,332	59,232	72,716	101,181	111,747
Personal injury product liability ¹	15,349	35,615	39,664	43,055	31,772	46,575	74,440	86,662
Asbestos	7,893	1,628	23,726	25,861	4,949	1,073	35,857	47,552
Other personal injury	21,518	16,600	16,113	14,277	27,460	26,141	26,741	25,085
Personal property damage	4,010	23,058	3,811	4,604	3,884	4,105	4,582	5,171
Actions under statutes ¹	161,187	171,922	156,277	154,572	144,053	157,357	145,077	145,512
Civil rights ¹	41,226	36,724	31,632	33,188	44,259	40,596	34,652	35,629
Employment	21,404	17,998	13,036	13,778	24,456	21,344	15,452	15,500
Bankruptcy suits	3,378	3,428	2,630	2,334	2,555	2,650	1,793	1,570
Commerce (ICC rates, etc.)	1,007	492	373	373	444	395	217	168
Environmental matters	894	726	900	735	1,355	1,193	1,219	1,236
Prisoner petitions	57,706	62,698	55,374	52,237	43,560	47,870	46,229	46,080
Forfeiture and penalty	2,246	2,214	2,324	2,322	1,772	2,156	2,237	2,066
Labor laws	14,229	18,643	16,685	17,153	11,267	15,725	15,171	14,954
Protected property rights ³	8,745	11,809	9,636	8,714	7,858	10,507	9,019	8,234
Securities commodities and exchanges	2,500	2,371	1,669	1,720	3,578	5,192	3,621	3,469
Social security laws	14,365	16,066	13,329	13,222	13,667	15,420	13,181	13,216
Tax suits	938	1,348	1,448	1,411	1,068	1,222	1,366	1,306
Freedom of information	335	426	294	279	380	378	365	370

NA Not available. ¹ Includes other types not shown separately. ² Includes enforcement of judgments in student loan cases, and overpayments of veterans' benefits. ³ Includes copyright, patent, and trademark rights.

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, *Statistical Tables for the Federal Judiciary*, annual. See also <<http://www.uscourts.gov/>>.

Table 330. U.S. District Courts—Offenders Convicted and Sentenced to Prison and Length of Sentence: 2000 and 2006

Selected most serious offense of conviction	Offenders convicted ¹		Offenders sentenced to prison ^{1,2}		Mean length of sentence for incarceration (months) ³	
	2000	2006	2000	2006	2000	2006
Total	68,156	79,904	50,451	63,699	56.7	63.7
Violent offenses ⁴	2,557	2,452	2,360	2,311	86.5	108.0
Murder ⁵	283	146	249	140	94.2	123.6
Assault	253	514	188	446	33.0	53.0
Robbery	1579	1323	1,532	1,290	93.0	104.8
Property offenses	12,454	11,303	7,462	6,781	24.2	30.2
Fraudulent	10,396	9,906	6,272	5,987	22.5	29.2
Embezzlement	917	544	506	295	14.8	19.2
Fraud ⁶	8,177	8,280	5,008	5,007	23.5	30.5
Forgery	86	50	41	20	19.1	17.2
Counterfeiting	1,216	1,032	717	665	20.8	24.3
Other ⁴	2,058	1,397	1,190	794	33.2	37.3
Larceny ⁷	1,394	935	689	434	27.3	18.5
Arson	158	187	134	156	71.8	96.0
Transportation of stolen property	272	142	200	108	33.4	34.6
Drug offenses ⁴	24,206	27,361	22,352	25,425	75.5	87.2
Public-order offenses ⁴	4,585	6,045	2,989	4,481	45.8	59.3
Regulatory	1,376	805	647	396	28.4	37.7
Other	3,209	5,240	2,342	4,085	46.5	61.4
Tax law violations ⁸	655	503	355	334	18.5	25.5
Escape	487	1,010	447	647	19.2	21.0
Racketeering and extortion	951	1,660	778	1,406	81.5	74.6
Nonviolent sex offenses	475	1,277	429	1,236	47.1	80.6
Obscene material ⁹	28	16	7	12	(B)	87.1
Weapon offenses ¹⁰	4,196	8,831	3,834	8,201	91.4	88.4
Immigration offenses ¹⁰	11,125	17,017	10,073	15,307	29.5	25.9
Misdemeanors ¹¹	8,961	6,895	1,356	1,193	10.4	5.1

B Base figures too small to meet statistical standards for reliability of a derived figure. ¹ Total may not equal the sum of individual sanctions. ² All sentences to incarceration, including split, mixed, life and indeterminate sentences. ³ Excludes sentences of life, death, and indeterminate sentences. ⁴ Includes offenses not shown separately. ⁵ Includes nonnegligent manslaughter. ⁶ Excludes tax fraud. ⁷ Excludes transportation of stolen property. ⁸ Includes tax fraud. ⁹ Denotes the mail or transport thereof. ¹⁰ Beginning in 2001, "Weapon and Immigration" offenses became major offense categories. Previously, these offenses were classified within "Public-order offenses." ¹¹ Includes misdemeanors, petty offenses, unknown offense levels, and drug possession.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Federal Justice Statistics, 2006*, Series NCJ 225711, September 2009. See also <<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=980>>.