



Federal Justice Statistics, 2022

SUMMARY NCJ 307553

JANUARY 2024

Federal law enforcement agencies made 96,857 arrests during fiscal year (FY) 2022, up 24% from 78,068 arrests in FY 2021 (the lowest number in 2 decades). Federal arrests had gradually risen from FY 2000 to FY 2013 before decreasing from FY 2014 to FY 2017. Arrests then increased sharply, reaching a 20-year high of 206,630 in FY 2019, before falling in FY 2020 and FY 2021 amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Federal arrests

Immigration offenses (illegally entering or reentering the United States, failing to leave when ordered, or illegally transporting or harboring non-U.S. citizens) accounted for 24% of all federal arrests in FY 2022. About 23% of arrests were for supervision violations (violating bail or probation or failing to appear in court), and 21% involved drug offenses (manufacturing, importing, exporting, distributing, or dispensing a controlled or counterfeit substance or possessing it with intent to manufacture or distribute).

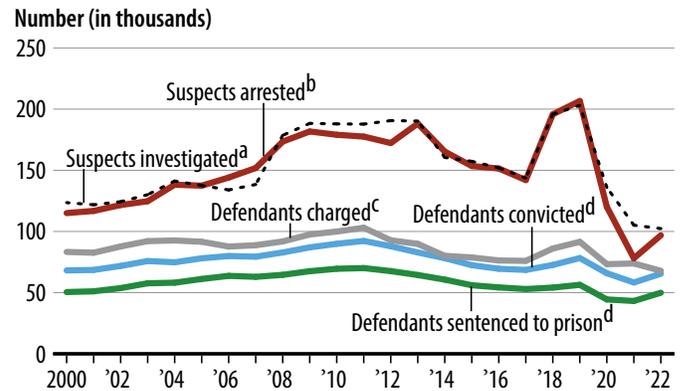
U.S. district court cases

U.S. attorneys took a median of 60 days to decide whether to prosecute or decline a case they received in FY 2022, down from 70 days in FY 2021. Cases took a median of 314 days from filing in U.S. district court to disposition in FY 2022, up from 300 days in FY 2021. Most suspects in federal immigration (74%), drug (71%), and weapons (71%) cases in FY 2022 were prosecuted. Between 42% and 55% of suspects in other federal cases went on to be prosecuted. Nearly all immigration (98%), weapons (94%), and drug (92%) cases resulted in the defendant being convicted.

Federal corrections

A total of 50,655 persons were admitted to federal prison in FY 2022. Of these, 40,194 had entered on a U.S. district court commitment and 10,461 were admitted for other reasons, such as violating conditions of probation

Suspects and defendants processed in the federal criminal justice system, FY 2000–2022



Note: Suspects or defendants who had more than one arrest, charge, or case are counted separately for each occurrence.

^aSuspects in matters investigated by U.S. attorneys.

^bSuspects arrested by federal law enforcement. Excludes District of Columbia Superior Court arrests. For 2020 to 2022 arrests, the custody start date is used instead of the arrest date.

^cDefendants charged with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court.

^dDefendants in cases adjudicated with a felony or a misdemeanor offense in U.S. district court.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the U.S. Marshals Service, Prisoner Tracking, Justice Detainee, and CAPTURE information systems; Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National Legal Information Office Network System database; and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2000–2022.

or parole. A total of 19,518 persons entered federal prison for a drug offense, most of whom (15,824 or 81%) had been sentenced to more than 1 year. Among persons released from federal prison in FY 2022, those incarcerated for nonregulatory public order offenses, including sex offenses, served more time (66 months) than those imprisoned for violent offenses (56 months) or drug offenses (53 months).

The full report (*Federal Justice Statistics, 2022*, NCJ 307553), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at www.bjs.ojp.gov.