

**Table 4.6**  
**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
1990**	43,209	7,103	3,087	2,333	1,130	553	36,106	10,656	79	25,030	341
1995	63,550	8,951	5,988	1,343	1,110	510	54,599	13,462	170	40,569	398
2000	58,257	11,880	6,341	3,870	1,041	628	46,377	21,090	259	24,464	564
2004	55,330	13,908	7,137	4,923	1,334	514	41,422	18,432	214	22,115	661
2005	61,238	18,010	10,361	5,683	1,286	680	43,228	18,961	229	23,328	710
2006	54,955	12,032	6,515	3,789	1,116	612	42,923	18,959	236	23,123	605
2007	53,931	11,282	5,896	3,285	1,246	855	42,649	18,907	232	22,779	731
2008	54,781	11,284	6,352	3,030	1,304	598	43,497	18,268	187	24,375	667

Note: Prisoner petitions increased 47 percent between 1990 and 1995. Since 1995, fluctuations have occurred in prisoner petitions as a result of legislation (the Prison Litigation Reform Act and Title I of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, both of which were passed in April 1996) and Supreme Court decisions (*Bailey v. United States* in 1995, *Apprendi v. New Jersey* in 2000; and *United States v. Booker* in 2005). The 45 percent increase in motions to vacate sentence in 2005 likely resulted from the *Booker* decision. In 2006, motions to vacate sentence and habeas corpus petitions filed by federal prisoners both declined more than 30 percent. The total provided here for prisoner petitions does not match exactly the data reported on the C-3 Table for 1990 because the data for this table were recomputed for the fiscal year.

\* Includes U.S. death penalty cases.

\*\* Twelve-month period ending June 30.

Source: Table C-3, *Annual Report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States Courts*.