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The Government's Growing Police Force

Government agencies of all stripes have become the front-line enforcers for many of the laws Congress has written the past four decades. Currently, there are believed to be around 25,000 sworn law enforcement officers in federal agencies not traditionally associated with crime-fighting. Among them are 3,812 criminal investigators working for departments other than Treasury, Justice, Defense and what is now Homeland Security. See how the number of criminal investigators in those other federal departments has changed over time. Click on column headers to sort.

Agency	1973	1978	1983	1988	1993	1998	2003	2008	2011
Armed Forces Retirement Home	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Corporation for National and Community Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	9
Department of Agriculture	225	366	341	381	467	378	315	292	291
Department of Commerce	16	18	82	111	86	118	232	256	253
Department of Education	0	0	54	59	86	78	77	89	95
Department of Energy	0	33	26	26	65	42	67	69	77
Department of Health and Human Services	1	73	143	265	346	398	567	577	686
Department of Housing and Urban Development	66	74	75	80	106	171	240	228	264
Department of Interior	77	109	147	175	248	235	518	495	547
Department of Labor	2	14	145	162	168	127	141	239	225
Department of State	1	24	39	36	43	46	37	91	109
Department of Transportation	0	6	39	66	74	96	97	99	101
Department of Veterans Affairs	5	3	55	69	94	103	147	181	207
Environmental Protection Agency	0	1	52	103	172	258	270	239	265
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	0	0	0	3	1	1	2	2	2
Export-Import Bank of the United States	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Farm Credit Administration	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	0	0
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	0	0	0	0	95	37	33	35	45
Federal Home Loan Bank Board	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Housing Finance Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
General Accounting Office	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0
General Services Administration	62	64	111	119	146	116	53	65	69
Government Printing Office	0	0	0	7	9	6	7	5	7
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	0	0	14	38	56	50	52	52	62
National Archives and Records Administration	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	7
National Credit Union Administration	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1
National Labor Relations Board	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
National Science Foundation	0	0	0	0	3	2	6	6	7
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	0	5	37	40	55	53	49	46	44
Office of Personnel Management	0	0	0	0	11	10	13	26	30
Panama Canal Commission	6	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Peace Corps	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	3	4
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	4	5
Railroad Retirement Board	0	0	0	16	37	17	18	16	19
Securities and Exchange Commission	0	4	3	3	24	10	5	1	1
Small Business Administration	0	0	32	38	38	38	32	34	38
Smithsonian Institution	0	0	0	4	4	4	6	6	4
Social Security Administration	7	4	0	0	0	228	276	283	289
U.S. Agency for International Development	39	26	21	25	29	19	24	27	30
U.S. Information Agency	0	0	1	5	8	0	0	0	0
TOTAL criminal investigators in non-traditional civilian agencies	507	832	1,420	1,858	2,479	2,652	3,298	3,479	3,812

Source: U.S. Office of Personnel Management - <http://www.wsj.com/news/interactive/REGS121520111215>

