



ABA National Lawyer Population Survey
Historical Trend in Total National Lawyer Population
1878 - 2017

Year	Resident Active Attorney Total	% Change from Prior Year
2017	1,335,963	1.6%
2016	1,315,561	1.1%
2015	1,300,705	1.5%
2014	1,281,432	1.1%
2013	1,268,011	1.8%
2012	1,245,205	1.6%
2011	1,225,452	1.9%
2010	1,203,097	1.9%
2009	1,180,386	1.6%
2008	1,162,124	1.6%
2007	1,143,358	2.4%
2006	1,116,967	1.1%
2005	1,104,766	1.9%
2004	1,084,504	2.4%
2003	1,058,662	0.8%
2002	1,049,751	0.1%
2001	1,048,903	2.6%
2000	1,022,462	2.2%
1999	1,000,440	1.5%
1998	985,921	3.4%
1997	953,260	0.7%
1996	946,499	5.6%
1995	896,140	3.5%
1994	865,614	2.3%
1993	846,036	5.8%
1992	799,760	2.9%
1991	777,119	2.8%
1990	755,694	4.2%
1989	725,579	1.7%
1988	713,456	2.7%
1987	695,020	2.7%
1986	676,584	3.5%
1985	653,686	0.9%
1984	647,575	4.0%
1983	622,625	0.9%
1982	617,320	0.8%
1981	612,593	6.6%
1980	574,810	15.4%
1979	498,249	7.2%

Year	Resident Active Attorney Total	% Change from Prior Year
1978	464,851	7.6%
1977	431,918	1.6%
1976	424,980	5.0%
1975	404,772	5.0%
1974	385,515	5.4%
1973	365,875	2.1%
1972	358,520	4.5%
1971	342,980	4.9%
1970	326,842	1.7%
1969	321,473	1.7%
1968	316,104	1.7%
1967	310,736	1.8%
1966	305,368	1.8%
1965	300,000	0.9%
1964	297,186	1.0%
1963	294,372	1.0%
1962	291,559	1.0%
1961	288,746	1.0%
1960	285,933	2.6%
1959	278,746	2.6%
1958	271,560	2.7%
1957	264,373	2.8%
1956	257,186	2.9%
1955	250,000	12.8%
1950	221,605	10.8%
1945	200,000	10.4%
1940	181,220	13.3%
1935	160,000	15.1%
1930	139,059	6.2%
1925	131,000	6.9%
1920	122,519	0.4%
1915	122,000	-0.1%
1910	122,149	3.5%
1905	118,000	3.1%
1900	114,460	27.7%
1890	89,630	39.7%
1880	64,137	0.0%
1878	64,137	N/A

* Data Source: 1998 forward - American Bar Association's National Lawyer Population Survey, prior to 1998 - ABA Archives, specific source unknown.

** For data from 1998 forward, individual state bar associations or licensing agencies are asked to provide the number of resident and active attorneys as of December 31st of the prior year, e.g. 2017 data is as of 12/31/2016. The numbers reflected here are the best available data provided to us from the respective associations or agencies.

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