

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PAC'S INCREASE IN NUMBER

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Election Commission today announced its twice yearly count of political action committees (PAC's) registered with the agency. As of January 1, there were 3371 PAC's in existence, an increase of 7% over the 3149 registered in mid-year.

Yearly increases, since 1976, have averaged 20%, with the exception of 1979-80, when the growth actually increased by 28%. The most dramatic increase was between 1974 and 1976, when PAC ranks swelled by 88%.

PAC's are viewed by many campaign finance experts as a dominant force in politics. Their numbers and the amount of money they spend in Federal campaigns have continued to increase with each election cycle.

According to FEC data, PAC's of corporations-without-stock showed the greatest growth in 1982.

Information on the amount of money raised and spent by PAC's during 1981-82 through mid-October, was recently released by the FEC. Updated figures on PAC activity for the 1981-82 election cycle will be released in the near future.



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"PAC" GROWTH--FROM 1974

COMMITTEE TYPE	12/31/74	11/24/75 ¹	5/10/76 ²	12/31/76	12/31/77	12/31/78	8/79	12/31/79	7/1/80	12/31/80	7/1/81	12/31/81	7/1/82	12/31/82	7/1/83	12/31/83	7/1/84
CORPORATE	89	139	294	433	550	784	884	949	1,106	1,204	1,251	1,327	1,415	1,467			
LABOR	201	226	246	224	234	217	226	240	255	297	303	318	350	380			
TRADE/MEMBERSHIP HEALTH	318*	357*	452*	489*	438	451	481	512	542	574	577	608	613	628			
NON-CONNECTED					110	165	209	250	312	378	445	539	644	746			
COOPERATIVE					8	12	13	17	23	42	38	41	45	47			
CORPORATION W/O STOCK					20	24	27	32	41	58	64	68	82	103			
TOTAL	608	722	992	1,146	1,360	1,653	1,840	2,000	2,279	2,551	2,678	2,901	3,149	3,371			

¹ On November 24, 1975, the Commission issued Advisory Opinion 1975-23 "SUNPAC."

² On May 11, 1976, the President signed the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1976, P.L. 94-283.

* For the years 1974-1976, these numbers represent all other political committees . . . no further categorization is available.