

2001 Caseload Highlights

U.S. Courts of Appeals

- Rising for the seventh consecutive year, appeals filings grew 5 percent to an all-time high of 57,464.
- Original proceedings surged 48 percent, criminal appeals grew 5 percent, administrative agency appeals increased 2 percent, and civil appeals rose 1 percent.
- Bankruptcy appeals fell 5 percent.
- Both the number of appeals filed and the number terminated were 1,032 per authorized three-judge panel.

U.S. District Courts

- Filings of criminal and civil cases in the district courts dropped 3 percent to 313,615.

Criminal Filings

- Criminal case filings changed little, decreasing by 37 cases to 62,708, and the number of defendants dropped less than 1 percent.
- Drug case filings rose 5 percent, weapons and firearms case filings jumped 9 percent, and the numbers of new robbery and sex offense cases each increased 8 percent.
- Immigration case filings fell for the first time since 1992, decreasing 7 percent.
- The median case disposition time for defendants rose slightly to 6.0 months.

Civil Filings

- Civil filings declined 3 percent, largely because cases with the United States as plaintiff dropped 34

percent, primarily due to a reduction in student loan recovery filings.

- Filings with the United States as defendant climbed 10 percent.
- Private case filings remained stable, decreasing less than 1 percent.
- The median disposition time for civil cases was 8.7 months, up from 8.2 months in 2000.

U.S. Bankruptcy Courts

- Bankruptcy filings grew 14 percent to 1,437,354.
- Nonbusiness petitions rose 14 percent, and business petitions increased 7 percent.
- Filings jumped 16.5 percent under chapter 7, grew 7 percent under chapter 11, and rose 8 percent under chapter 13.

Federal Probation and Pretrial Services System

- The number of persons under the supervision of the federal probation system on September 30, 2001, was 104,715, a rise of 4 percent over the previous year's total.
- Persons serving terms of supervised release increased 7 percent and constituted 65 percent of all persons under supervision.
- The number of defendants in cases opened in the pretrial services system remained stable, growing 1 percent to 86,140.
- The number of pretrial hearings rose less than 1 percent to 194,693.