

2002 Caseload Highlights

U.S. Courts of Appeals

- Appeals filings remained at a record level, increasing by only 91 appeals to 57,555.
- Administrative agency appeals surged 75 percent, largely due to cases involving immigration, and criminal appeals rose 3 percent.
- Original proceedings dropped 34 percent, bankruptcy appeals dropped 12 percent, and civil appeals dropped 2 percent.
- The number of appeals filed per authorized three-judge panel was 1,034, and the number terminated was 1,017.
- The median time from notice of appeal to final disposition was 10.7 months, and the median time from filing in a lower court to final appellate disposition was 25.9 months.

U.S. District Courts

- Filings of criminal and civil cases in the district courts grew 9 percent to 341,841.

Civil Filings

- Civil filings climbed 10 percent as personal injury cases surged 98 percent.
- Civil filings per authorized judgeship rose from 377 to 413.
- Filings with the United States as plaintiff or defendant fell 15 percent.
- The median time from filing to disposition for civil cases once again was 9 months.

Criminal Filings

- Criminal case filings increased 7 percent, with growth occurring in 65 of the 94 districts.
- Firearms case filings rose 26 percent, immigration case filings rose 12 percent, drug case filings rose 4 percent, and fraud case filings rose 8 percent.
- Filings in five southwestern border districts accounted for 66 percent of all immigration cases, one percentage point more than in 2001.
- The median case disposition time for defendants rose from 6.0 months to 6.2 months.

U.S. Bankruptcy Courts

- Bankruptcy filings grew 8 percent.
- Nonbusiness petitions climbed 8 percent, and business petitions increased 2 percent.
- Filings increased 11 percent under chapter 11, 9.5 percent under chapter 13, and 7 percent under chapter 7.

Federal Probation and Pretrial Services System

- The number of persons under the supervision of the federal probation system on September 30, 2002, was 108,792, a 4 percent rise over the total one year earlier.
- Persons serving terms of supervised release increased 7 percent and accounted for 67 percent of all persons under supervision.
- The number of defendants in cases opened in the pretrial services system grew 4 percent to 89,421.
- A total of 206,715 pretrial hearings took place, a rise of 6 percent.