

Caseload Highlights

U.S. Courts of Appeals

- Setting yet another record, appeals filings grew 6 percent to 60,847.
- Appeals of administrative agency decisions soared 73 percent, mainly because of cases involving the Board of Immigration Appeals.
- Criminal appeals rose 3 percent, and bankruptcy appeals increased 7 percent.
- Original proceedings fell 7 percent, and civil appeals decreased 3 percent.

U.S. District Courts

- Combined filings of criminal and civil cases in the district courts declined 5 percent to 323,604.

Criminal Filings

- Criminal case filings rose 5 percent to an all-time high of 70,642, and defendants climbed 5 percent to 92,714 (both numbers include transfers).
- Immigration case filings increased 22 percent, with filings in five

southwestern border districts accounting for 68 percent of all immigration cases.

- Firearms case filings jumped 23 percent.
- Although drug case filings dropped 1 percent, filings of defendants in those cases grew 1 percent.

Civil Filings

- Civil filings fell 8 percent to 252,962, largely because of a reduction in personal injury/product liability cases involving asbestos.
- Excluding personal injury cases, civil filings otherwise were relatively stable, decreasing only 1 percent.
- Filings with the United States as plaintiff or defendant dropped 9 percent.

U.S. Bankruptcy Courts

- Bankruptcy filings rose 7 percent to exceed 1.6 million, a new record.
- Nonbusiness petitions grew 8 percent.

- Business petitions dropped 7 percent.
- Filings increased 9 percent under chapter 7 and 5 percent under chapter 13, but fell 13 percent under chapter 11.

Federal Probation and Pretrial Services System

- On September 30, 2003, the number of persons under the supervision of the federal probation system was a record 110,621, a rise of 2 percent over the total one year earlier.
- Persons serving terms of supervised release grew 3 percent and accounted for 68 percent of all persons under supervision.
- The total for defendants in cases opened in the pretrial services system, including pretrial diversion cases, climbed 7 percent to a historic high of 97,317.
- The 221,199 pretrial hearings that took place represented an increase of 7 percent.