

Table 4.4
U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Filed, by Nature of Suit,
During the 12-Month Periods Ending June 30, 1990, and September 30, 1995 Through 2017

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year						
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2010	2005
Total Cases	267,769	291,851	279,036	295,310	284,604	282,895	253,273
Contract Actions, Total	23,523	24,486	26,068	28,557	28,571	31,109	28,020
Franchise ¹	263	342	382	456	477	357	171
Insurance	8,846	8,872	9,711	11,728	10,569	9,380	7,804
Marine	652	805	907	810	987	1,344	1,435
Miller Act	270	331	398	502	473	276	387
Negotiable Instruments	484	481	505	562	654	956	447
Recovery of Overpayments and Enforcement of Judgments	1,368	1,582	2,186	2,352	2,520	3,426	3,309
Student Loans ²	698	950	1,546	1,654	1,855	2,741	2,883
Veterans' Benefits ³	25	4	7	8	4	16	8
Other	645	628	633	690	661	669	418
Other Contract Actions	11,640	12,073	11,979	12,147	12,891	15,370	14,467
Real Property Actions, Total	7,920	9,247	9,195	7,802	10,762	7,432	4,561
Condemnation of Land	210	568	339	149	173	173	251
Foreclosure	3,972	4,809	4,256	3,928	6,264	4,267	3,012
Rent, Lease, and Ejectment	1,072	970	688	773	516	254	154
Torts to Land, Including Product Liability	606	762	1,554	642	687	661	380
Other Real Property Actions	2,060	2,138	2,358	2,310	3,122	2,077	764
Tort Actions, Total	57,467	61,495	68,879	79,990	67,738	83,055	51,335
Personal Injury, Total [4]	53,609	55,283	61,093	76,463	63,316	78,350	47,364
Personal Injury/Product Liability	35,714	39,879	41,764	60,078	49,526	63,203	29,537
Other Personal Injury, Total	17,895	15,404	19,329	16,385	13,790	15,147	17,827
Airplane	208	185	191	214	222	300	351

Marine	1,476	1,515	1,125	1,166	1,200	1,393	1,667
Motor Vehicle	4,425	4,039	3,743	3,741	3,524	3,546	4,091
Assault, Libel, and Slander	550	559	591	495	636	559	647
Federal Employers Liability Act	379	316	296	330	352	480	748
Medical Malpractice	1,252	1,347	1,135	986	1,025	1,115	1,221
Other	9,605	7,443	12,248	9,453	6,831	7,754	9,102
Personal Property Damage, Total	3,858	6,212	7,786	3,527	4,422	4,705	3,971
Fraud, Including Truth in Lending	2,349	3,416	2,396	2,005	2,078	2,902	2,465
Other Personal Property Damage	1,509	2,796	5,390	1,522	2,344	1,803	1,506
Actions Under Statutes, Total	178,859	196,623	174,894	178,961	177,533	161,297	169,265
Antitrust	655	853	769	799	817	544	818
Bankruptcy, Total	2,122	2,304	2,814	2,651	2,633	2,696	3,000
Appeal (28 U.S.C. 158)	1,855	1,952	2,272	2,055	1,992	2,177	2,435
Withdrawal (28 U.S.C. 157)	267	352	542	596	641	519	565
Banks and Banking	191	262	237	294	340	647	258
Civil Rights, Total [5]	38,925	38,002	37,384	35,274	35,307	34,872	36,096
Voting	112	144	86	171	129	102	166
Employment	12,053	11,878	12,205	11,937	13,322	14,543	16,930
Housing and Accommodations	831	900	775	757	667	687	885
Welfare	-	-	-	-	6	58	54
ADA -- Employment [6]	2,353	2,231	2,076	1,894	1,944	1,522	586
ADA -- Other [6]	8,003	7,096	5,156	4,432	3,039	2,309	1,016
Education	606	548	525	455	294	-	-
Other Civil Rights	14,967	15,205	16,561	15,628	15,906	15,651	16,459
Environmental Matters	988	1,755	845	614	1,436	942	714
Deportation	18	10	20	21	25	61	201
Prisoner Petitions, Total	57,685	73,725	52,531	60,675	56,955	52,583	61,238

Motions to Vacate Sentence	7,205	24,837	5,520	7,390	7,924	5,858	10,361
Habeas Corpus--General	17,336	17,356	18,448	19,185	19,356	19,825	24,633
Habeas Corpus--Death Penalty	220	202	194	165	193	208	240
Mandamus and Other	960	892	837	950	883	952	1,390
Civil Rights	18,986	20,622	17,829	18,991	17,514	16,951	16,005
Prison Condition	11,199	8,307	8,690	13,045	10,098	8,107	8,609
Habeas Corpus--Alien Detainees	1,502	1,134	670	736	791	682	-
Civil Detainee--Conditions of Confinement	277	375	343	213	196	-	-
Forfeiture and Penalty, Total	1,184	1,068	1,471	1,901	2,144	2,268	2,298
Agricultural Acts	-	-	-	2	4	32	27
Food and Drug Act	-	-	-	-	3	35	49
Drug-Related Seizure of Property	591	499	688	1,018	1,155	1,273	1,359
Air Traffic Regulations	-	-	-	-	1	5	6
Occupational Safety and Health Act	-	-	-	-	1	15	5
Other Forfeiture and Penalty Suits	593	569	783	881	980	908	852
Labor Laws, Total	17,631	18,929	19,322	18,673	18,043	18,624	18,322
Fair Labor Standards Act	7,742	8,686	8,781	8,160	7,500	6,825	4,039
Labor Management Relations Act	596	675	690	812	883	1,094	1,674
Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act	-	-	-	1	7	70	88
Railway Labor Act	65	60	45	57	64	66	104
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	6,632	6,831	7,228	7,191	7,599	9,216	11,171
Family and Medical Leave Act	1,308	1,255	1,139	1,108	877	-	-
Other Labor Litigation	1,288	1,422	1,439	1,344	1,113	1,353	1,246
Immigration, Total [7]	1,811	1,637	1,321	1,163	1,054	1,183	-
Naturalization Applications	271	307	260	277	272	402	-
Other Immigration Actions	1,540	1,330	1,061	886	782	781	-
Intellectual Property Rights, Total	10,768	12,111	13,751	13,420	13,335	8,966	12,184

Copyright	3,451	3,936	5,035	4,041	3,666	2,013	5,796
Patent	4,182	5,080	5,564	5,686	6,497	3,301	2,720
Patent--Abbreviated New Drug Application	137	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trademark	2,998	3,095	3,152	3,693	3,172	3,652	3,668
Securities, Commodities, and Exchanges	1,455	1,119	1,013	947	1,113	1,397	2,038
Social Security Laws, Total [8]	19,020	18,716	18,538	19,146	19,977	14,016	15,487
Disability Insurance	9,147	8,616	8,578	8,513	8,407	6,141	7,024
Supplemental Security Income	8,855	9,151	9,210	9,813	10,634	7,088	7,675
Retirement and Survivors Benefits	932	851	656	692	784	715	710
Other	86	98	94	128	152	72	78
Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act	684	771	678	735	645	993	781
State Reapportionment Suits	4	6	3	11	9	6	8
Tax Suits	1,016	938	989	941	1,113	1,190	1,385
Customer Challenge	-	-	-	-	3	9	21
Consumer Credit [9]	10,531	9,745	9,801	8,547	8,974	8,453	1,192
Cable/Satellite TV [9]	678	691	1,162	1,367	1,489	1,014	710
Freedom of Information Act	660	490	514	446	382	298	404
Constitutionality of State Statutes	484	358	383	323	322	329	310
Other Statutory Actions	12,349	13,133	11,348	11,013	11,417	10,206	11,800

¹ Collection of data for this category began in 2008.

² Filings for recovery of defaulted student loans decreased from 1990 to 1995 due to a change in Department of Education (DOE) policy on collection of delinquent loans. Renewed growth peaked in 2000. In 2001, DOE implemented new administrative measures that caused fewer student loan cases to be filed in federal courts.

³ Filings for recovery of overpayments of veterans' benefits have decreased significantly as the Department of Veterans' Affairs has used administrative actions and the Internal Revenue Service to re district court. For additional information, see the 1991 Annual Report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States Courts, page 86.

[4] The increase in personal injury filings between 1990 and 1995 was attributable mostly to breast implant cases and a large number of cases related to an oil refinery explosion in Louisiana. In 2006 percent, primarily as a result of 15,000 additional asbestos cases, of which over 14,000 were multidistrict litigation filings in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

[5] Civil rights filings increased significantly after 1990 largely because of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

[6] Collection of data for this category began in 2005.

[7] Collection of data for this category began in 2006.

[8] Collection of data for this category began in 2005.

[9] Collection of data for this category began in 2008.

Source: Table C-2 for 1995 to present, *Annual report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States Courts*.

2000	1995	1990 ¹
259,517	248,335	226,523
53,625	31,182	46,103
-	-	-
7,517	7,540	6,884
2,446	2,622	3,313
769	775	1,569
495	1,536	2,997
24,838	1,822	10,942
24,404	1,142	5,365
43	253	4,963
391	361	550
17,560	16,887	20,398
6,711	6,869	9,505
1,243	334	462
4,209	4,972	7,196
175	310	349
377	401	405
707	852	1,093
36,586	53,986	45,909
32,621	50,565	42,743
14,428	27,547	18,839
18,193	23,018	23,904
747	683	834

2,006	2,277	2,961
4,690	5,374	6,157
801	826	644
1,108	1,903	2,741
1,526	1,328	1,375
7,315	10,627	7,202
3,965	3,421	3,166
2,265	1,881	1,492
1,700	1,540	1,674
162,583	156,209	124,880
858	781	472
3,361	5,046	5,056
2,785	4,312	4,231
576	734	825
205	432	700
40,908	36,600	18,793
167	208	130
21,032	19,059	8,413
1,284	735	341
80	116	129
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
18,345	16,482	9,780
886	1,081	958
213	106	61
58,257	63,550	42,630

6,341	5,988	2,970
24,945	14,975	12,790
274	-	-
1,192	908	876
14,151	41,679	25,992
11,354	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
2,320	2,517	6,224
57	155	84
110	197	739
1,117	1,042	1,914
7	11	48
4	33	61
1,025	1,079	3,378
14,142	14,954	22,567
1,935	1,580	1,282
1,542	1,984	2,342
101	161	181
137	172	199
9,124	9,517	8,726
-	-	-
1,303	1,540	9,837
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
8,738	6,866	5,700

2,050	2,417	2,095
2,484	1,723	1,187
-	-	-
4,204	2,726	2,418
2,678	1,906	2,629
15,829	9,354	7,439
8,122	5,501	5,212
6,762	3,347	1,836
855	414	249
90	-	-
829	900	1,214
2	7	2,604
907	2,202	38
12	33	38
-	-	-
-	-	-
341	467	407
288	309	315
11,809	9,098	8,211

2000 as a result of streamlining of the loan-
cover overpayments rather than filing suit in
, personal injury/product liability filings rose 64

