



NEWS RELEASE

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

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Bankruptcy Filings Continue to Increase, Records Broken for Total Filings and Non-Business Filings

The number of bankruptcy petitions filed in federal courts rose 7.1 percent in the 12-month period ending March 31, 2003, according to statistics released today by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Bankruptcy filings rose from 1,504,806 in the 12-month period ending March 2002 to 1,611,268 in the same 12-month time period in 2003. The number of filings continues to break records. The previous highest total of filings for any 12-month period was in the 12-month period ending December 31, 2002, with a total of 1,577,651. Total bankruptcy filings first broke the 1.5 million mark in the 12-month period ending March 31, 2002.

Business filings in March 2003 totaled 37,548, down 5.8 percent from the 39,845 business filings in the 12-month period ending March 31, 2002. Non-business filings totaled 1,573,720, up 7.4 percent from the total non-business filings of 1,464,961 in the 12-month period ending March 31, 2002. This also is a record number of non-business filings for any 12-month period.

Filings per authorized judgeship have risen from 2,965 filings per judgeship in March 1992 to 4,973 in March 2003. No new bankruptcy judgeships, which might be expected to absorb some of the workload, have been created since 1992. The bankruptcy reform bill now being considered in Congress would authorize 29 new permanent bankruptcy judgeships and seven new temporary judgeships in 22 judicial districts.

Business and Non-business Filings Years Ended March 31, 1998-2003

Year	Total	Non-business	Business
2003	1,611,268	1,573,720	37,548
2002	1,504,806	1,464,961	39,845
2001	1,307,857	1,271,865	35,992
2000	1,301,205	1,263,096	38,109
1999	1,419,199	1,378,071	41,128
1998	1,423,128	1,370,490	52,638

Filings by Quarter

The number of bankruptcies filed during the second quarter of the Judiciary's fiscal year 2003 (January 1, 2003-March 31, 2003) was 412,968. Filings for the Judiciary's first quarter of fiscal year 2003 (October 1, 2002 -December 31, 2002) totaled 395,129.

(MORE)

Filings by Chapter

Filings increased under all bankruptcy chapters except chapter 11. Chapter 7 filings increased 7.1 percent, from 1,059,777 in 2002 to 1,135,436 in the 12-month period ending March 31, 2003. Chapter 13 filings rose 7.2 percent, from 433,107 at the end of March 2002 to 464,369 in 2003. Chapter 12 filings rose 62.5 percent, from 389 in 2002 to 632 in 2003. Chapter 11 filings fell, dropping 6.6 percent from 11,477 to 10,722 in March 2003.

Total Bankruptcy Filings by Bankruptcy Chapter Years Ended March 31, 1998-2003

Year	Chapter				
	7	11	12	13	Other
2003	1,135,436	10,722	632	464,369	109
2002	1,059,777	11,477	389	433,107	56
2001	904,397	10,139	248	393,033	40
2000	908,802	10,071	739	381,568	25
1999	1,017,049	8,010	859	393,245	36
1998	1,007,213	10,244	880	404,749	42

Chapter 7 is designed to allow individuals to keep certain exempt property while the remaining property is sold to repay creditors. Under Chapter 13 bankruptcy, creditors may be repaid in installments, in full or in part, over a 3- to 5-year period. Chapter 11 provides for a business to continue operations while formulating a plan to repay its creditors. Chapter 12 is designed to meet the needs of financially distressed family farmers. Chapter 9 provides protection for a financially distressed municipality from its creditors while it develops and negotiates a plan for adjusting its debt.

For more on bankruptcy, go to the Judiciary's web site at www.uscourts.gov/bankbasic.pdf or to <http://www.fjc.gov/federal/courts.nsf>. Local bankruptcy court rules can be found at www.uscourts.gov/rules/bk-localrules.html. A breakdown of the latest data on bankruptcy filings follows and also is available on the Judiciary's web site at www.uscourts.gov under Newsroom/News Releases.

Quarterly Bankruptcy Filings*

Ending	Total Filings	Ending	Total Filings	Ending	Total Filings
MAR. 31, 2003	412,968	MAR. 31, 2000	312,335	MAR. 31, 1997	335,073
DEC. 31, 2002	395,129	DEC. 31, 1999	318,634	DEC. 31, 1996	311,131
SEPT. 30, 2002	401,306	SEPT. 30, 1999	323,550	SEPT. 30, 1996	303,309
JUN. 30, 2002	400,686	JUN. 30, 1999	345,956	JUN. 30, 1996	297,162
MAR. 31, 2002	379,012	MAR. 31, 1999	330,784	MAR. 31, 1996	266,149
DEC. 31, 2001	364,921	DEC. 31, 1998	353,108	DEC. 31, 1995	244,494
SEPT. 30, 2001	359,518	SEPT. 30, 1998	361,205	SEPT. 30, 1995	233,593
JUN. 30, 2001	400,394	JUN. 30, 1998	373,460	JUN. 30, 1995	235,302
MAR. 31, 2001	366,841	MAR. 31, 1998	354,118	MAR. 31, 1995	212,626
DEC. 31, 2000	310,169	DEC. 31, 1997	347,685	DEC. 31, 1994	201,618
SEPT. 30, 2000	308,718	SEPT. 30, 1997	353,515	SEPT. 30, 1994	208,187
JUN. 30, 2000	321,729	JUN. 30, 1997	367,168	JUN. 30, 1994	216,213
				MAR. 31, 1994	206,565

*Because of ongoing corrections to the bankruptcy database, the quarterly data may not total to the most recent annual figures.

(MORE)

TABLE F-2 U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURTS
 BUSINESS AND NONBUSINESS BANKRUPTCY CASES COMMENCED, BY CHAPTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE,
 DURING THE 12-MONTH PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2003

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	TOTAL			TOTAL NON-					
						CHAP. BUSINESS*	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13
TOTAL...	1,611,268	1,135,436	10,722	632	464,369	37,548	21,649	9,762	632	5,404	1,573,720	1,113,787	960	458,965
DC.....	2,465	1,749	31	-	685	47	20	25	-	2	2,418	1,729	6	683
IST....	44,820	31,249	353	10	13,208	1,128	651	314	10	153	43,692	30,598	39	13,055
ME.....	4,468	4,064	19	1	384	111	74	19	1	17	4,357	3,990	-	367
MA.....	17,574	14,972	163	2	2,437	359	198	157	2	2	17,215	14,774	6	2,435
NH.....	4,122	3,715	26	-	381	220	175	24	-	21	3,902	3,540	2	360
RI.....	4,849	4,469	7	-	373	60	50	6	-	4	4,789	4,419	1	369
PR.....	13,807	4,029	138	7	9,633	378	154	108	7	109	13,429	3,875	30	9,524
2ND...	87,315	68,599	1,834	20	16,813	2,762	795	1,740	20	159	84,553	67,804	94	16,654
CT.....	11,947	9,836	112	3	1,996	166	60	99	3	4	11,781	9,776	13	1,992
NY,N....	16,508	13,116	71	11	3,309	336	191	68	11	66	16,172	12,925	3	3,243
NY,E....	26,310	20,179	216	-	5,915	324	118	197	-	9	25,986	20,061	19	5,906
NY,S....	16,897	13,507	1,365	-	1,977	1,537	167	1,310	-	12	15,360	13,340	55	1,965
NY,W....	13,793	10,315	63	6	3,409	306	190	59	6	51	13,487	10,125	4	3,358
VT.....	1,860	1,646	7	-	207	93	69	7	-	17	1,767	1,577	-	190
3RD...	101,212	66,535	1,138	6	33,511	2,352	1,080	1,067	6	177	98,860	65,455	71	33,334
DE.....	3,773	2,076	409	-	1,267	496	56	407	-	12	3,277	2,020	2	1,255
NI.....	41,389	26,114	324	1	14,949	659	347	293	1	17	40,730	25,767	31	14,932
PA,E....	25,225	13,803	135	2	11,285	341	181	121	2	37	24,884	13,622	14	11,248
PA,M....	13,075	9,894	76	-	3,105	335	195	73	-	67	12,740	9,699	3	3,038
PA,W....	17,690	14,611	189	3	2,887	514	298	169	3	44	17,176	14,313	20	2,843
VT.....	60	37	5	-	18	7	3	4	-	-	53	34	1	18

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT 4TH...	TOTAL FILINGS	TOTAL BUSINESS FILINGS*					TOTAL NON- BUSINESS FILINGS							
		CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13		
	142,892	90,440	977	20	51,453	2,914	1,731	884	20	278	139,978	88,709	93	51,175
MD.....	35,661	23,361	420	5	11,875	873	386	401	5	81	34,788	22,975	19	11,794
NC,E....	15,269	7,735	71	12	7,451	215	115	63	12	25	15,054	7,620	8	7,426
NC,M....	12,254	5,235	27	-	6,992	255	186	27	-	42	11,999	5,049	-	6,950
NC,W....	9,868	5,144	56	1	4,667	95	46	48	1	-	9,773	5,098	8	4,667
SC.....	15,616	6,771	90	-	8,754	170	94	74	-	2	15,446	6,677	16	8,752
VA,E....	30,862	21,436	195	1	9,230	409	223	157	1	28	30,453	21,213	38	9,202
VA,W....	12,757	10,775	35	1	1,945	569	461	34	1	72	12,188	10,314	1	1,873
WV,N....	4,443	4,138	41	-	264	129	75	39	-	15	4,314	4,063	2	249
WV,S....	6,162	5,845	42	-	275	199	145	41	-	13	5,963	5,700	1	262
5TH...	135,005	76,254	1,341	113	57,294	3,923	1,903	1,214	113	690	131,082	74,351	127	56,604
LA,E....	9,776	6,606	68	2	3,100	153	94	55	2	2	9,623	6,512	13	3,098
LA,M....	3,812	2,732	54	-	1,026	71	19	51	-	1	3,741	2,713	3	1,025
LA,W....	13,927	7,630	38	26	6,233	387	203	33	26	125	13,540	7,427	5	6,108
MS,N....	8,234	5,591	55	23	2,565	153	69	54	23	7	8,081	5,522	1	2,558
MS,S....	14,446	9,414	62	7	4,963	166	93	52	7	14	14,280	9,321	10	4,949
TX,N....	29,432	14,248	374	28	14,782	1,218	596	353	28	241	28,214	13,652	21	14,541
TX,E....	12,645	7,026	67	9	5,543	301	157	60	9	75	12,344	6,869	7	5,468
TX,S....	23,268	12,174	442	4	10,647	756	294	393	4	64	22,512	11,880	49	10,583
TX,W....	19,465	10,833	181	14	8,435	718	378	163	14	161	18,747	10,455	18	8,274
6TH...	231,174	158,761	993	38	71,382	3,373	1,997	905	38	433	227,801	156,764	88	70,949
KY,E....	12,305	10,686	108	2	1,509	238	128	105	2	3	12,067	10,558	3	1,506
KY,W....	15,291	12,141	43	4	3,103	140	85	37	4	14	15,151	12,056	6	3,089
MI,E....	41,943	28,268	189	4	13,482	459	243	179	4	33	41,484	28,025	10	13,449
MI,W....	16,308	12,458	71	3	3,776	336	211	69	3	53	15,972	12,247	2	3,723
OH,N....	43,559	35,766	116	4	7,673	917	683	112	4	118	42,642	35,083	4	7,555
OH,S....	37,634	28,484	115	14	9,021	581	331	108	14	128	37,053	28,153	7	8,893
TN,E....	19,904	12,334	57	6	7,507	260	148	54	6	52	19,644	12,186	3	7,455
TN,M....	15,953	9,915	186	-	5,852	262	101	147	-	14	15,691	9,814	39	5,838
TN,W....	28,277	8,709	108	1	19,459	180	67	94	1	18	28,097	8,642	14	19,441

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	TOTAL BUSINESS FILINGS*					TOTAL NON- BUSINESS FILINGS							
		CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13		
7TH...	165,660	128,659	595	78	36,326	2,552	1,742	547	78	184	163,108	126,917	48	36,142
IL,N...	59,473	42,461	310	2	16,699	745	450	283	2	9	58,728	42,011	27	16,690
IL,C...	16,167	13,794	45	35	2,293	193	109	44	35	5	15,974	13,685	1	2,288
IL,S...	9,299	6,752	22	10	2,515	121	66	20	10	25	9,178	6,686	2	2,490
IN,N...	21,218	17,766	35	4	3,413	208	149	30	4	25	21,010	17,617	5	3,388
IN,S...	33,031	25,829	107	2	7,093	429	299	100	2	28	32,602	25,530	7	7,065
WI,E...	17,731	14,383	30	9	3,308	217	160	30	9	18	17,514	14,223	-	3,290
WI,W...	8,741	7,674	46	16	1,005	639	509	40	16	74	8,102	7,165	6	931
8TH...	104,806	79,315	273	107	25,109	3,086	2,282	249	107	446	101,720	77,033	24	24,663
AR,E...	15,364	8,223	31	5	7,105	188	91	21	5	71	15,176	8,132	10	7,034
AR,W...	8,498	5,801	18	1	2,677	153	74	17	1	60	8,345	5,727	1	2,617
IA,N...	4,818	4,628	12	8	170	206	178	12	8	8	4,612	4,450	-	162
IA,S...	7,277	6,845	12	8	412	152	126	12	8	6	7,125	6,719	-	406
MN.....	20,136	16,808	43	13	3,272	1,582	1,306	41	13	222	18,554	15,502	2	3,050
MO,E...	18,933	12,633	53	8	6,239	183	110	47	8	18	18,750	12,523	6	6,221
MO,W...	16,771	13,485	41	7	3,237	186	112	38	7	28	16,585	13,373	3	3,209
NE.....	8,156	6,302	47	35	1,772	186	86	45	35	20	7,970	6,216	2	1,752
ND.....	2,145	2,038	9	16	82	126	98	9	16	3	2,019	1,940	-	79
SD.....	2,708	2,552	7	6	143	124	101	7	6	10	2,584	2,451	-	133
9TH...	284,093	231,472	1,775	120	50,707	9,067	5,384	1,554	120	1,993	275,026	226,088	221	48,714
AK.....	1,509	1,361	19	-	129	134	99	18	-	17	1,375	1,262	1	112
AZ.....	30,544	24,221	293	9	6,020	787	407	255	9	115	29,757	23,814	38	5,905
CA,N...	21,866	15,469	228	-	6,169	1,259	704	208	-	347	20,607	14,765	20	5,822
CA,E...	31,725	26,887	101	40	4,696	1,190	755	90	40	304	30,535	26,132	11	4,392
CA,C...	82,726	69,412	439	1	12,864	2,276	1,698	401	1	167	80,450	67,714	38	12,697
CA,S...	12,698	10,381	53	1	2,263	231	167	44	1	19	12,467	10,214	9	2,244
HI.....	4,198	3,735	20	-	440	47	28	18	-	-	4,151	3,707	2	440
ID.....	9,051	7,756	47	18	1,230	257	153	42	18	44	8,794	7,603	5	1,186
MT.....	4,178	3,669	21	10	478	116	74	18	10	14	4,062	3,595	3	464
NV.....	20,122	14,995	266	-	4,859	441	174	237	-	28	19,681	14,821	29	4,831
OR.....	25,069	21,403	31	17	3,617	1,608	709	30	17	851	23,461	20,694	1	2,766
WA,E...	10,371	7,831	73	22	2,444	236	122	46	22	45	10,135	7,709	27	2,399
WA,W...	29,656	24,019	178	2	5,457	465	279	143	2	41	29,191	23,740	35	5,416
GUAM...	359	316	6	-	37	19	14	4	-	1	340	302	2	36
NMI.....	21	17	-	-	4	1	1	-	-	-	20	16	-	4

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	TOTAL BUSINESS FILINGS*					TOTAL NON- BUSINESS FILINGS							
		CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13		
10TH..	97,865	80,923	356	89	16,496	2,740	2,003	339	89	308	95,125	78,920	17	16,188
CO.....	22,648	19,942	97	10	2,599	562	425	93	10	34	22,086	19,517	4	2,565
KS.....	15,390	12,431	37	27	2,895	239	150	35	27	27	15,151	12,281	2	2,868
NM.....	9,632	8,700	43	5	884	684	568	43	5	68	8,948	8,132	-	816
OK,N...	6,849	6,252	11	-	586	268	235	11	-	22	6,581	6,017	-	564
OK,E...	4,927	4,541	10	8	368	80	54	9	8	9	4,847	4,487	1	359
OK,W...	13,555	11,777	53	33	1,691	285	188	48	33	15	13,270	11,589	5	1,676
UT.....	22,479	15,066	91	6	7,316	577	358	87	6	126	21,902	14,708	4	7,190
WY.....	2,385	2,214	14	-	157	45	25	13	-	7	2,340	2,189	1	150
11TH..	213,961	121,480	1,056	31	91,385	3,604	2,061	924	31	581	210,357	119,419	132	90,804
AL,N...	25,117	12,138	134	3	12,840	192	88	94	3	5	24,925	12,050	40	12,835
AL,M...	9,633	4,997	16	-	4,620	106	72	14	-	20	9,527	4,925	2	4,600
AL,S...	7,542	3,210	38	-	4,294	67	28	30	-	9	7,475	3,182	8	4,285
FL,N...	6,757	5,413	35	2	1,307	78	43	32	2	1	6,679	5,370	3	1,306
FL,M...	54,109	38,888	231	5	14,984	789	485	205	5	94	53,320	38,403	26	14,890
FL,S...	32,593	22,856	273	1	9,457	889	582	250	1	51	31,704	22,274	23	9,406
GA,N...	44,172	21,463	234	2	22,473	1,142	620	207	2	313	43,030	20,843	27	22,160
GA,M...	18,415	8,185	58	14	10,158	196	79	57	14	46	18,219	8,106	1	10,112
GA,S...	15,623	4,330	37	4	11,252	145	64	35	4	42	15,478	4,266	2	11,210

*THESE FIGURES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING CASES NOT REFLECTED ELSEWHERE:

NY,N...	SECTION 304 = 01	NY,S...	SECTION 304 = 48	DE.....	SECTION 304 = 21
NJ.....	SECTION 304 = 01	SC.....	SECTION 304 = 01	VA,W...	SECTION 304 = 01
TX,S...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	TX,W...	SECTION 304 = 02	IL,N...	SECTION 304 = 01
WI,E...	SECTION 304 = 01	AR,W...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	MO,W...	CHAPTER 9 = 01
AZ.....	SECTION 304 = 01	CA,E...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	CA,C...	SECTION 304 = 10
HI.....	SECTION 304 = 03	NV.....	SECTION 304 = 02	OR.....	SECTION 304 = 01
WA,E...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	OK,W...	SECTION 304 = 01	AL,N...	CHAPTER 9 = 02
FL,M...	SECTION 304 = 01	FL,S...	SECTION 304 = 06		