



NEWS RELEASE

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

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Bankruptcy Filings Hit Record High —Again

The number of bankruptcy petitions filed in federal courts rose 15.1 percent in the 12-month period ending March 31, 2002, according to statistics released today by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. The total filings broke the bankruptcy filing record for any 12-month period. Bankruptcy filings rose from 1,307,857 in the 12-month period ended March 2001 to 1,504,806 in the same time period in 2002. The previous highest total of filings for any 12-month period was in the 12-month period ending December 31, 2001, with a total of 1,492,129.

Business filings totaled 39,845, up 10.7 percent from 35,992 in 2001. Non-business filings totaled 1,464,961, up 15.2 percent from the total non-business filings of 1,271,865, in the 12-month period ending March 31, 2001.

Filings per authorized judgeship have risen from 2,965 filings per judgeship in March 1992 to 4,644 in March 2001. 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 27 new bankruptcy judgeships.

Business and Non-business Filings Years Ended March 31, 1997-2002

Year	Total	Non-business	Business
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
1997	1,247,065	1,193,057	54,008

Filings by Quarter

The number of bankruptcies filed during the second quarter of fiscal year 2002 (January 1, 2002-March 31, 2002) was 379,012, a 3.3 percent increase over the 366,841 bankruptcy cases filed during the second quarter of FY 2001. Filings for the Judiciary's first quarter of 2002 (October 1, 2001 -December 31, 2001) totaled 364,921.

Filings by Chapter

Filings increased under all bankruptcy chapters. Chapter 7 filings increased 17.2 percent, from 904,397 in 2001 to 1,059,777 in the 12-month period ending March 31, 2002. Chapter 13 filings rose 10.2 percent, from 393,033 to 433,107 at the end of March 2002. Chapter 11 filings went from 10,139 to 11,477, a 13.2 percent increase; Chapter 12 filings rose 56.9 percent, rising from 248 to 389 in 2002.

(MORE)

Chapter 12 is designed to meet the needs of financially distressed family farmers. Fluctuations in the number of Chapter 12 filings may be tied to the expiration and re-enactment of Chapter 12. The authority to file under Chapter 12 expired on July 1, 2000, but was re-enacted retroactively and extended through May 2001 by P. L. 107-8; through September 2001 by P. L. 107-17; through June 1, 2002 by P.L. 107-170; and to the end of 2002 by P.L. 107-171.

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 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 website at www.uscourts.gov/bankbasic.pdf. 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 home page of the Judiciary at www.uscourts.gov under What's New. Statistics from previous bankruptcy periods can be found at Newsroom.

**Total Bankruptcy Filings by Bankruptcy Chapter
Years Ended March 31, 1997-2002**

Year	Chapter				
	7	11	12	13	Other
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
1997	862,136	11,472	1,050	372,369	38

Quarterly Bankruptcy Filings*

Ending	Total Filings	Ending	Total Filings	Ending	Total Filings
MAR. 31, 2002	379,012	JUN. 30, 1998	373,460	SEPT. 30, 1994	208,187
DEC. 31, 2001	364,921	MAR. 31, 1998	354,118	JUN. 30, 1994	216,213
SEPT. 30, 2001	359,518	DEC. 31, 1997	347,685	MAR. 31, 1994	206,565
JUN. 30, 2001	400,394	SEPT. 30, 1997	353,515	DEC. 31, 1993	206,570
MAR. 31, 2001	366,841	JUN. 30, 1997	367,168	SEPT. 30, 1993	215,498
DEC. 31, 2000	310,169	MAR. 31, 1997	335,073	JUN. 30, 1993	229,406
SEPT. 30, 2000	308,718	DEC. 31, 1996	311,131	MAR. 31, 1993	222,694
JUN. 30, 2000	321,729	SEPT. 30, 1996	303,309	DEC. 31, 1992	228,562
MAR. 31, 2000	312,335	JUN. 30, 1996	297,162	SEPT. 30, 1992	236,810
DEC. 31, 1999	318,634	MAR. 31, 1996	266,149	JUN. 30, 1992	250,622
SEPT. 30, 1999	323,550	DEC. 31, 1995	244,494	MAR. 31, 1992	252,733
JUN. 30, 1999	345,956	SEPT. 30, 1995	233,593	DEC. 31, 1991	234,383
MAR. 31, 1999	330,784	JUN. 30, 1995	235,302	SEPT. 30, 1991	231,743
DEC. 31, 1998	353,108	MAR. 31, 1995	212,626	JUN. 30, 1991	246,496
SEPT. 30, 1998	361,205	DEC. 31, 1994	201,618	MAR. 31, 1991	231,017

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

**TABLE F-2 U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURTS
BUSINESS AND NONBUSINESS BANKRUPTCY CASES COMMENCED, BY CHAPTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE,
DURING THE TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2002**

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	TOTAL				TOTAL NON-				CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13		
		CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12				CHAP. 13	
TOTAL...	1,504,806	1,059,777	11,477	389	433,107	39,845	23,367	10,623	389	5,414	1,464,961	1,036,410	854	427,693
DC.....	2,556	1,760	36	-	760	58	21	32	-	5	2,498	1,739	4	755
1ST...	44,300	30,888	371	5	13,034	1,230	787	346	5	90	43,070	30,101	25	12,944
ME.....	4,552	4,205	16	2	329	119	92	16	2	9	4,433	4,113	-	320
MA.....	17,205	14,525	205	2	2,471	456	246	200	2	6	16,749	14,279	5	2,465
NH.....	3,904	3,532	28	-	344	300	263	28	-	9	3,604	3,269	-	335
RI.....	4,804	4,395	7	-	402	62	52	6	-	4	4,742	4,343	1	398
PR.....	13,835	4,231	115	1	9,488	293	134	96	1	62	13,542	4,097	19	9,426
2ND...	81,795	65,634	1,409	10	14,711	2,529	967	1,338	10	184	79,266	64,667	71	14,527
CT.....	11,387	9,644	97	1	1,645	169	85	81	1	2	11,218	9,559	16	1,643
NY,N....	15,929	12,856	83	5	2,984	419	248	80	5	85	15,510	12,608	3	2,899
NY,E....	24,902	19,366	204	-	5,332	338	138	194	-	6	24,564	19,228	10	5,326
NY,S....	14,964	12,328	965	1	1,641	1,168	204	928	1	7	13,796	12,124	37	1,634
NY,W....	12,865	9,878	56	3	2,927	335	218	51	3	62	12,530	9,660	5	2,865
VT.....	1,748	1,562	4	-	182	100	74	4	-	22	1,648	1,488	-	160
3RD...	97,698	64,850	1,932	3	30,913	3,572	1,407	1,865	3	297	94,126	63,443	67	30,616
DE.....	4,079	1,910	1,180	-	989	1,259	65	1,180	-	14	2,820	1,845	-	975
NJ.....	41,322	26,359	379	-	14,584	734	384	343	-	7	40,588	25,975	36	14,577
PA,E....	24,076	13,778	113	2	10,183	303	182	100	2	19	23,773	13,596	13	10,164
PA,M....	12,182	9,468	79	-	2,635	841	535	76	-	230	11,341	8,933	3	2,405
PA,W....	15,981	13,301	177	1	2,502	423	233	163	1	26	15,558	13,068	14	2,476
VI.....	58	34	4	-	20	12	8	3	-	1	46	26	1	19

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	TOTAL				TOTAL NON-								
		CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13
4TH..	136,312	87,521	678	17	48,095	2,773	1,850	591	17	314	133,539	85,671	87	47,781
MD.....	35,294	24,003	186	-	11,105	728	452	161	-	115	34,566	23,551	25	10,990
NC,E....	14,290	7,044	58	8	7,180	233	131	52	8	42	14,057	6,913	6	7,138
NC,M....	11,112	4,541	53	-	6,518	260	164	53	-	43	10,852	4,377	-	6,475
NC,W....	9,000	4,450	49	2	4,499	119	73	43	2	1	8,881	4,377	6	4,498
SC.....	14,820	6,626	81	2	8,111	166	92	66	2	6	14,654	6,534	15	8,105
VA,E....	29,070	20,513	162	-	8,395	346	201	132	-	13	28,724	20,312	30	8,382
VA,W....	12,559	10,774	31	4	1,749	598	486	29	4	78	11,961	10,288	2	1,671
WV,N....	4,176	3,900	14	1	261	117	94	13	1	9	4,059	3,806	1	252
WV,S....	5,991	5,670	44	-	277	206	157	42	-	7	5,785	5,513	2	270
5TH..	126,069	71,977	1,164	38	52,886	4,137	2,294	1,089	38	712	121,932	69,683	75	52,174
LA,E....	10,030	6,856	66	1	3,107	170	107	60	1	2	9,860	6,749	6	3,105
LA,M....	3,441	2,414	19	-	1,008	34	17	17	-	-	3,407	2,397	2	1,008
LA,W....	13,489	7,191	55	8	6,235	499	298	53	8	140	12,990	6,893	2	6,095
MS,N....	7,959	5,174	33	3	2,749	103	65	30	3	5	7,856	5,109	3	2,744
MS,S....	14,194	9,187	98	2	4,907	193	92	86	2	13	14,001	9,095	12	4,894
TX,N....	27,279	13,734	288	17	13,239	1,095	662	276	17	139	26,184	13,072	12	13,100
TX,E....	11,674	6,288	76	2	5,308	427	216	71	2	138	11,247	6,072	5	5,170
TX,S....	20,013	11,037	386	2	8,587	1,017	487	367	2	160	18,996	10,550	19	8,427
TX,W....	17,990	10,096	143	3	7,746	599	350	129	3	115	17,391	9,746	14	7,631
6TH..	209,053	143,841	1,056	10	64,146	3,780	2,326	977	10	467	205,273	141,515	79	63,679
KYE....	11,681	10,076	111	-	1,494	282	153	108	-	21	11,399	9,923	3	1,473
KY,W....	14,682	11,847	56	1	2,778	143	83	56	1	3	14,539	11,764	-	2,775
MI,E....	34,228	23,844	193	-	10,191	443	236	187	-	20	33,785	23,608	6	10,171
MI,W....	14,188	10,787	71	3	3,327	299	189	70	3	37	13,889	10,598	1	3,290
OH,N....	38,117	31,504	114	-	6,499	1,167	893	111	-	163	36,950	30,611	3	6,336
OH,S....	34,793	27,173	136	3	7,481	578	344	130	3	101	34,215	26,829	6	7,380
TN,E....	19,262	11,812	76	2	7,372	354	207	70	2	75	18,908	11,605	6	7,297
TN,M....	14,819	9,216	155	-	5,448	247	112	123	-	12	14,572	9,104	32	5,436
TN,W....	27,283	7,582	144	1	19,556	267	109	122	1	35	27,016	7,473	22	19,521

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT 7TH...	TOTAL					TOTAL NON-								
	TOTAL FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13
	148,845	114,685	792	51	33,316	3,041	1,923	748	51	318	145,804	112,762	44	32,998
IL,N....	52,833	36,853	416	2	15,561	903	485	394	2	21	51,930	36,368	22	15,540
IL,C....	14,741	12,596	42	20	2,083	195	123	40	20	12	14,546	12,473	2	2,071
IL,S....	8,844	6,276	29	12	2,527	527	357	25	12	133	8,317	5,919	4	2,394
IN,N....	19,275	16,125	64	2	3,084	186	102	61	2	21	19,089	16,023	3	3,063
IN,S....	30,517	23,869	174	2	6,472	477	279	166	2	30	30,040	23,590	8	6,442
WI,E....	14,888	12,129	13	1	2,745	235	200	13	1	21	14,653	11,929	-	2,724
WI,W....	7,747	6,837	54	12	844	518	377	49	12	80	7,229	6,460	5	764
8TH...	94,892	72,141	362	67	22,321	3,332	2,448	333	67	483	91,560	69,693	29	21,838
AR,E....	13,822	7,371	21	3	6,427	138	68	17	3	50	13,684	7,303	4	6,377
AR,W....	7,750	5,291	12	3	2,444	110	64	9	3	34	7,640	5,227	3	2,410
IA,N....	4,335	4,155	13	3	164	190	170	12	3	5	4,145	3,985	1	159
IA,S....	6,870	6,419	15	3	433	112	87	15	3	7	6,758	6,332	-	426
MN.....	18,815	15,578	57	8	3,172	1,888	1,530	56	8	294	16,927	14,048	1	2,878
MO,E....	16,963	11,249	103	5	5,605	270	147	94	5	23	16,693	11,102	9	5,582
MO,W....	14,265	11,479	85	4	2,697	237	118	80	4	35	14,028	11,361	5	2,662
NE.....	7,213	5,937	46	27	1,203	129	50	40	27	12	7,084	5,887	6	1,191
ND.....	2,128	2,051	5	11	61	109	87	5	11	6	2,019	1,964	-	55
SD.....	2,731	2,611	5	-	115	149	127	5	-	17	2,582	2,484	-	98
9TH...	277,341	225,170	2,113	88	49,957	9,230	5,528	1,882	88	1,722	268,111	219,642	231	48,235
AK.....	1,454	1,305	17	-	132	106	74	15	-	17	1,348	1,231	2	115
AZ.....	26,265	20,832	310	2	5,119	734	394	266	2	72	25,531	20,438	44	5,047
CA,N....	19,931	13,974	295	2	5,657	1,236	669	273	2	290	18,695	13,305	22	5,367
CA,E....	31,702	26,921	120	26	4,634	1,271	842	109	26	293	30,431	26,079	11	4,341
CA,C....	87,634	72,533	602	4	14,490	2,581	1,861	548	4	163	85,053	70,672	54	14,327
CA,S....	13,334	10,605	70	1	2,656	214	149	56	1	6	13,120	10,456	14	2,650
HL.....	4,977	4,420	27	-	530	68	42	25	-	1	4,909	4,378	2	529
ID.....	8,389	7,165	77	8	1,139	283	154	67	8	54	8,106	7,011	10	1,085
MT.....	3,962	3,481	15	4	462	141	110	12	4	15	3,821	3,371	3	447
NV.....	18,458	13,629	253	1	4,575	422	162	235	1	24	18,036	13,467	18	4,551
OR.....	23,470	20,186	80	12	3,192	1,475	681	80	12	702	21,995	19,505	-	2,490
WA,E....	10,068	7,671	72	27	2,298	342	198	59	27	58	9,726	7,473	13	2,240
WA,W....	27,338	22,150	166	1	5,021	323	170	128	1	24	27,015	21,980	38	4,997
GUAM...	332	274	8	-	50	27	16	8	-	3	305	258	-	47
NML....	27	24	1	-	2	7	6	1	-	-	20	18	-	2

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL					TOTAL NON-								
	TOTAL FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13
10TH..	87,243	70,906	410	60	15,866	2,681	1,935	382	60	303	84,562	68,971	28	15,563
CO.....	18,856	16,374	119	2	2,361	446	310	114	2	20	18,410	16,064	5	2,341
KS.....	13,947	11,417	42	20	2,468	225	138	38	20	29	13,722	11,279	4	2,439
NM.....	8,668	7,672	68	3	925	659	523	64	3	69	8,009	7,149	4	856
OK,N...	5,936	5,423	28	3	482	434	372	25	3	34	5,502	5,051	3	448
OK,E...	4,192	3,873	8	6	305	90	61	8	6	15	4,102	3,812	-	290
OK,W...	13,130	11,048	39	25	2,018	292	205	37	25	25	12,838	10,843	2	1,993
UT.....	20,120	12,848	98	1	7,172	499	302	89	1	106	19,621	12,546	9	7,066
WY.....	2,394	2,251	8	-	135	36	24	7	-	5	2,358	2,227	1	130
11TH..	198,702	110,404	1,154	40	87,102	3,482	1,881	1,040	40	519	195,220	108,523	114	86,583
AL,N...	23,966	10,775	95	4	13,092	194	100	73	4	17	23,772	10,675	22	13,075
AL,M...	8,288	3,901	17	-	4,370	138	101	14	-	23	8,150	3,800	3	4,347
AL,S...	6,845	2,972	32	-	3,841	74	27	30	-	17	6,771	2,945	2	3,824
FL,N...	6,286	4,953	43	3	1,287	91	42	41	3	5	6,195	4,911	2	1,282
FL,M...	49,948	36,280	306	3	13,359	1,038	608	279	3	148	48,910	35,672	27	13,211
FL,S...	31,851	22,517	365	-	8,967	784	443	335	-	4	31,067	22,074	30	8,963
GA,N...	39,641	17,703	202	1	21,735	882	442	182	1	257	38,759	17,261	20	21,478
GA,M...	17,155	7,345	61	25	9,724	157	56	57	25	19	16,998	7,289	4	9,705
GA,S...	14,722	3,958	33	4	10,727	124	62	29	4	29	14,598	3,896	4	10,698

*THESE FIGURES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING CASES NOT REFLECTED ELSEWHERE:

MA.....	SECTION 304=02	NY,N...	SECTION 304=01	NY,S...	SECTION 304=29
NY,W...	SECTION 304=01	VA,W...	CHAPTER 9 =01	TX,N...	CHAPTER 9 =01
TX,S...	CHAPTER 9 =01	TX,W...	CHAPTER 9 =01	TX,W...	SECTION 304=01
IL,N...	SECTION 304=01	MO,E...	CHAPTER 9 =01	AZ.....	SECTION 304=02
CA,N...	CHAPTER 9 =01	CA,N...	SECTION 304=02	CA,E...	CHAPTER 9 =01
CA,C...	CHAPTER 9 =01	CA,C...	SECTION 304=04	CA,S...	SECTION 304=02
UT.....	SECTION 304=01	FL,S...	SECTION 304=02		