

**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 2022**

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year						
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2015	2010
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>274,771</b>	<b>344,567</b>	<b>470,581</b>	<b>297,877</b>	<b>282,936</b>	<b>279,036</b>	<b>282,895</b>
<b>Contract Actions, Total</b>	<b>29,134</b>	<b>26,455</b>	<b>26,592</b>	<b>25,264</b>	<b>26,768</b>	<b>26,068</b>	<b>31,109</b>
Franchise <sup>1</sup>	212	181	247	281	308	382	357
Insurance	16,969	13,985	11,630	10,757	10,816	9,711	9,380
Marine	817	583	745	676	663	907	1,344
Miller Act	181	166	264	260	266	398	276
Negotiable Instruments	289	353	356	431	418	505	956
<b>Recovery of Overpayments and Enforcement of Judgments</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>2,186</b>	<b>3,426</b>
Student Loans <sup>2</sup>	7	12	41	260	483	1,546	2,741
Veterans' Benefits <sup>3</sup>	4	-	4	-	6	7	16
Other	529	505	624	709	642	633	669
Other Contract Actions	10,126	10,670	12,681	11,890	13,166	11,979	15,370
<b>Real Property Actions, Total</b>	<b>3,973</b>	<b>3,249</b>	<b>4,790</b>	<b>6,870</b>	<b>7,029</b>	<b>9,195</b>	<b>7,432</b>
Condemnation of Land	233	237	341	352	595	339	173
Foreclosure	1,286	1,004	1,808	2,968	3,042	4,256	4,267
Rent, Lease, and Ejectment	463	416	710	1,156	1,016	688	254
Torts to Land, Including Product Liability	856	672	740	844	703	1,554	661
Other Real Property Actions	1,135	920	1,191	1,550	1,673	2,358	2,077
<b>Tort Actions, Total</b>	<b>80,957</b>	<b>145,562</b>	<b>263,231</b>	<b>85,483</b>	<b>67,693</b>	<b>68,879</b>	<b>83,055</b>
<b>Personal Injury, Total [4]</b>	<b>76,825</b>	<b>141,682</b>	<b>259,385</b>	<b>81,530</b>	<b>63,564</b>	<b>61,093</b>	<b>78,350</b>
<b>Personal Injury/Product Liability</b>	<b>60,062</b>	<b>123,644</b>	<b>239,980</b>	<b>56,157</b>	<b>45,863</b>	<b>41,764</b>	<b>63,203</b>
<b>Other Personal Injury, Total</b>	<b>16,763</b>	<b>18,038</b>	<b>19,405</b>	<b>25,373</b>	<b>17,701</b>	<b>19,329</b>	<b>15,147</b>
Airplane	119	184	224	271	192	191	300

Marine	763	1,069	1,377	1,400	1,465	1,125	1,393
Motor Vehicle	5,429	5,590	5,459	5,077	4,836	3,743	3,546
Assault, Libel, and Slander	569	577	598	594	612	591	559
Federal Employers Liability Act	353	372	355	434	413	296	480
Medical Malpractice	1,000	1,152	1,019	1,222	1,160	1,135	1,115
Other	8,530	9,094	10,373	16,375	9,023	12,248	7,754
<b>Personal Property Damage, Total</b>	<b>4,132</b>	<b>3,880</b>	<b>3,846</b>	<b>3,953</b>	<b>4,129</b>	<b>7,786</b>	<b>4,705</b>
Fraud, Including Truth in Lending	2,395	2,250	2,263	2,370	2,459	2,396	2,902
Other Personal Property Damage	1,737	1,630	1,583	1,583	1,670	5,390	1,803
<b>Actions Under Statutes, Total</b>	<b>160,707</b>	<b>169,301</b>	<b>175,968</b>	<b>180,260</b>	<b>181,446</b>	<b>174,894</b>	<b>161,297</b>
<b>Antitrust</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>544</b>
<b>Bankruptcy, Total</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>1,865</b>	<b>1,867</b>	<b>2,487</b>	<b>2,144</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>2,696</b>
Appeal (28 U.S.C. 158)	1,440	1,629	1,633	2,233	1,846	2,272	2,177
Withdrawal (28 U.S.C. 157)	169	236	234	254	298	542	519
<b>Banks and Banking</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>647</b>
<b>Civil Rights, Total [5]</b>	<b>39,126</b>	<b>43,333</b>	<b>41,044</b>	<b>43,155</b>	<b>41,741</b>	<b>37,384</b>	<b>34,872</b>
Voting	177	172	234	117	93	86	102
Employment	10,037	11,802	11,174	12,456	12,579	12,205	14,543
Housing and Accommodations	823	742	752	970	848	775	687
Welfare	-	-	-	-	-	-	58
ADA -- Employment [6]	2,119	2,629	2,338	2,561	2,624	2,076	1,522
ADA -- Other [6]	10,240	12,545	11,273	11,833	9,990	5,156	2,309
Education	790	828	794	758	745	525	-
Other Civil Rights	14,940	14,615	14,479	14,460	14,862	16,561	15,651
<b>Environmental Matters</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>1,956</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>942</b>
<b>Deportation</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Prisoner Petitions, Total</b>	<b>46,941</b>	<b>47,669</b>	<b>56,195</b>	<b>55,018</b>	<b>54,134</b>	<b>52,531</b>	<b>52,583</b>

Motions to Vacate Sentence	3,392	3,395	6,834	5,877	5,342	5,520	5,858
Habeas Corpus--General	13,225	14,064	15,960	16,902	16,964	18,448	19,825
Habeas Corpus--Death Penalty	116	135	120	154	161	194	208
Mandamus and Other	1,664	1,626	1,784	1,087	1,253	837	952
Civil Rights	18,638	17,983	18,820	19,350	18,842	17,829	16,951
Prison Condition	9,429	9,301	10,182	10,095	9,708	8,690	8,107
Habeas Corpus--Alien Detainees	327	964	2,261	1,346	1,674	670	682
Civil Detainee--Conditions of Confinement	150	201	234	207	190	343	-
<b>Forfeiture and Penalty, Total</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1,123</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>2,268</b>
Agricultural Acts	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Food and Drug Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Drug-Related Seizure of Property	443	623	483	626	660	688	1,273
Air Traffic Regulations	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Occupational Safety and Health Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Other Forfeiture and Penalty Suits	518	564	502	497	555	783	908
<b>Labor Laws, Total</b>	<b>13,529</b>	<b>13,442</b>	<b>15,177</b>	<b>16,641</b>	<b>17,629</b>	<b>19,322</b>	<b>18,624</b>
Fair Labor Standards Act	6,133	5,563	6,663	7,196	7,600	8,781	6,825
Labor Management Relations Act	422	446	470	537	660	690	1,094
Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	70
Railway Labor Act	40	38	71	60	46	45	66
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	4,742	4,658	5,253	6,096	6,705	7,228	9,216
Family and Medical Leave Act	938	1,308	1,274	1,316	1,250	1,139	-
Other Labor Litigation	1,254	1,429	1,446	1,436	1,368	1,439	1,353
<b>Immigration, Total [7]</b>	<b>7,763</b>	<b>4,602</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>2,161</b>	<b>1,761</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>1,183</b>
Naturalization Applications	390	304	357	391	350	260	402
Other Immigration Actions	7,373	4,298	2,231	1,770	1,411	1,061	781
<b>Intellectual Property Rights, Total</b>	<b>12,742</b>	<b>11,584</b>	<b>9,964</b>	<b>12,582</b>	<b>12,690</b>	<b>13,751</b>	<b>8,966</b>

Copyright	5,151	3,746	3,224	5,467	5,756	5,035	2,013
Patent	3,639	3,802	3,627	3,275	3,493	5,564	3,301
Patent--Abbreviated New Drug Application	257	222	282	314	337	-	-
Trademark	3,059	3,205	2,831	3,526	3,104	3,152	3,652
Defend Trade Secrets Act	636	609	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Securities, Commodities, and Exchanges</b>	<b>1,955</b>	<b>2,449</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>1,532</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>1,397</b>
<b>Social Security Laws, Total [8]</b>	<b>13,385</b>	<b>19,541</b>	<b>21,110</b>	<b>17,912</b>	<b>18,665</b>	<b>18,538</b>	<b>14,016</b>
Disability Insurance	7,123	10,715	11,234	9,464	9,549	8,578	6,141
Supplemental Security Income	5,599	7,979	8,917	7,401	8,132	9,210	7,088
Retirement and Survivors Benefits	569	725	842	985	914	656	715
Other	94	122	117	62	70	94	72
<b>Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>993</b>
<b>State Reapportionment Suits</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Tax Suits</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>1,190</b>
<b>Customer Challenge</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Consumer Credit [9]</b>	<b>9,423</b>	<b>9,968</b>	<b>10,447</b>	<b>10,870</b>	<b>10,764</b>	<b>9,801</b>	<b>8,453</b>
<b>Cable/Satellite TV [9]</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>1,014</b>
<b>Freedom of Information Act</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>298</b>
<b>Constitutionality of State Statutes</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>329</b>
<b>Other Statutory Actions</b>	<b>9,512</b>	<b>9,862</b>	<b>10,415</b>	<b>11,085</b>	<b>11,509</b>	<b>11,348</b>	<b>10,206</b>

<sup>1</sup> Collection of data for this category began in 2008.

<sup>2</sup> 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 due to a processing system. In 2001, DOE implemented new administrative measures that caused fewer student loan cases to be filed in federal courts.

<sup>3</sup> 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 resolve cases in 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, the increase was 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*.

2005	1995	1990 <sup>1</sup>
<b>253,273</b>	<b>248,335</b>	<b>226,523</b>
<b>28,020</b>	<b>31,182</b>	<b>46,103</b>
171	-	-
7,804	7,540	6,884
1,435	2,622	3,313
387	775	1,569
447	1,536	2,997
<b>3,309</b>	<b>1,822</b>	<b>10,942</b>
2,883	1,142	5,365
8	253	4,963
418	361	550
14,467	16,887	20,398
<b>4,561</b>	<b>6,869</b>	<b>9,505</b>
251	334	462
3,012	4,972	7,196
154	310	349
380	401	405
764	852	1,093
<b>51,335</b>	<b>53,986</b>	<b>45,909</b>
<b>47,364</b>	<b>50,565</b>	<b>42,743</b>
<b>29,537</b>	<b>27,547</b>	<b>18,839</b>
<b>17,827</b>	<b>23,018</b>	<b>23,904</b>
351	683	834

1,667	2,277	2,961
4,091	5,374	6,157
647	826	644
748	1,903	2,741
1,221	1,328	1,375
9,102	10,627	7,202
<b>3,971</b>	<b>3,421</b>	<b>3,166</b>
2,465	1,881	1,492
1,506	1,540	1,674
<b>169,265</b>	<b>156,209</b>	<b>124,880</b>
<b>818</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>472</b>
<b>3,000</b>	<b>5,046</b>	<b>5,056</b>
2,435	4,312	4,231
565	734	825
<b>258</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>36,096</b>	<b>36,600</b>	<b>18,793</b>
166	208	130
16,930	19,059	8,413
885	735	341
54	116	129
586	-	-
1,016	-	-
-	-	-
16,459	16,482	9,780
<b>714</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>958</b>
<b>201</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>61,238</b>	<b>63,550</b>	<b>42,630</b>

10,361	5,988	2,970
24,633	14,975	12,790
240	-	-
1,390	908	876
16,005	41,679	25,992
8,609	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
<b>2,298</b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>6,224</b>
27	155	84
49	197	739
1,359	1,042	1,914
6	11	48
5	33	61
852	1,079	3,378
<b>18,322</b>	<b>14,954</b>	<b>22,567</b>
4,039	1,580	1,282
1,674	1,984	2,342
88	161	181
104	172	199
11,171	9,517	8,726
-	-	-
1,246	1,540	9,837
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
<b>12,184</b>	<b>6,866</b>	<b>5,700</b>



5,796	2,417	2,095
2,720	1,723	1,187
-	-	-
3,668	2,726	2,418
-	#ERROR	#ERROR
<b>2,038</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>2,629</b>
<b>15,487</b>	<b>9,354</b>	<b>7,439</b>
7,024	5,501	5,212
7,675	3,347	1,836
710	414	249
78	-	-
<b>781</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1,214</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2,604</b>
<b>1,385</b>	<b>2,202</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>1,192</b>	-	-
<b>710</b>	-	-
<b>404</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>407</b>
<b>310</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>315</b>
<b>11,800</b>	<b>9,098</b>	<b>8,211</b>

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

