

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 2023

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year									
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2015	2010	2005	1995	1990 ¹
Total Cases	339,731	274,771	344,567	470,581	297,877	279,036	282,895	253,273	248,335	226,523
Contract Actions, Total	31,372	29,134	26,455	26,592	25,264	26,068	31,109	28,020	31,182	46,103
Franchise ¹	175	212	181	247	281	382	357	171	-	-
Insurance	17,620	16,969	13,985	11,630	10,757	9,711	9,380	7,804	7,540	6,884
Marine	701	817	583	745	676	907	1,344	1,435	2,622	3,313
Miller Act	195	181	166	264	260	398	276	387	775	1,569
Negotiable Instruments	425	289	353	356	431	505	956	447	1,536	2,997
Recovery of Overpayments and Enforcement of Judgments	614	540	517	669	969	2,186	3,426	3,309	1,822	10,942
Student Loans ²	10	7	12	41	260	1,546	2,741	2,883	1,142	5,365
Veterans' Benefits ³	8	4	-	4	-	7	16	8	253	4,963
Other	596	529	505	624	709	633	669	418	361	550
Other Contract Actions	11,642	10,126	10,670	12,681	11,890	11,979	15,370	14,467	16,887	20,398
Real Property Actions, Total	4,515	3,973	3,249	4,790	6,870	9,195	7,432	4,561	6,869	9,505
Condemnation of Land	79	233	237	341	352	339	173	251	334	462
Foreclosure	1,353	1,286	1,004	1,808	2,968	4,256	4,267	3,012	4,972	7,196
Rent, Lease, and Ejectment	742	463	416	710	1,156	688	254	154	310	349
Torts to Land, Including Product Liability	1,249	856	672	740	844	1,554	661	380	401	405
Other Real Property Actions	1,092	1,135	920	1,191	1,550	2,358	2,077	764	852	1,093
Tort Actions, Total	131,770	80,957	145,562	263,231	85,483	68,879	83,055	51,335	53,986	45,909
Personal Injury, Total [4]	127,437	76,825	141,682	259,385	81,530	61,093	78,350	47,364	50,565	42,743
Personal Injury/Product Liability	104,060	60,062	123,644	239,980	56,157	41,764	63,203	29,537	27,547	18,839
Other Personal Injury, Total	23,377	16,763	18,038	19,405	25,373	19,329	15,147	17,827	23,018	23,904
Airplane	158	119	184	224	271	191	300	351	683	834
Marine	1,042	763	1,069	1,377	1,400	1,125	1,393	1,667	2,277	2,961
Motor Vehicle	5,836	5,429	5,590	5,459	5,077	3,743	3,546	4,091	5,374	6,157
Assault, Libel, and Slander	650	569	577	598	594	591	559	647	826	644
Federal Employers Liability Act	340	353	372	355	434	296	480	748	1,903	2,741
Medical Malpractice	1,022	1,000	1,152	1,019	1,222	1,135	1,115	1,221	1,328	1,375
Other	14,329	8,530	9,094	10,373	16,375	12,248	7,754	9,102	10,627	7,202
Personal Property Damage, Total	4,333	4,132	3,880	3,846	3,953	7,786	4,705	3,971	3,421	3,166

Fraud, Including Truth in Lending	2,495	2,395	2,250	2,263	2,370	2,396	2,902	2,465	1,881	1,492
Other Personal Property Damage	1,838	1,737	1,630	1,583	1,583	5,390	1,803	1,506	1,540	1,674
Actions Under Statutes, Total	172,074	160,707	169,301	175,968	180,260	174,894	161,297	169,265	156,209	124,880
Antitrust	400	346	555	672	521	769	544	818	781	472
Bankruptcy, Total	1,486	1,609	1,865	1,867	2,487	2,814	2,696	3,000	5,046	5,056
Appeal (28 U.S.C. 158)	1,346	1,440	1,629	1,633	2,233	2,272	2,177	2,435	4,312	4,231
Withdrawal (28 U.S.C. 157)	140	169	236	234	254	542	519	565	734	825
Banks and Banking	225	158	151	145	161	237	647	258	432	700
Civil Rights, Total [5]	41,404	39,126	43,333	41,044	43,155	37,384	34,872	36,096	36,600	18,793
Voting	109	177	172	234	117	86	102	166	208	130
Employment	12,152	10,037	11,802	11,174	12,456	12,205	14,543	16,930	19,059	8,413
Housing and Accommodations	977	823	742	752	970	775	687	885	735	341
Welfare	-	-	-	-	-	-	58	54	116	129
ADA -- Employment [6]	2,566	2,119	2,629	2,338	2,561	2,076	1,522	586	-	-
ADA -- Other [6]	8,776	10,240	12,545	11,273	11,833	5,156	2,309	1,016	-	-
Education	744	790	828	794	758	525	-	-	-	-
Other Civil Rights	16,080	14,940	14,615	14,479	14,460	16,561	15,651	16,459	16,482	9,780
Environmental Matters	411	434	466	442	590	845	942	714	1,081	958
Deportation	18	5	11	12	10	20	61	201	106	61
Prisoner Petitions, Total	50,353	46,941	47,669	56,195	55,018	52,531	52,583	61,238	63,550	42,630
Motions to Vacate Sentence	3,763	3,392	3,395	6,834	5,877	5,520	5,858	10,361	5,988	2,970
Habeas Corpus--General	14,224	13,225	14,064	15,960	16,902	18,448	19,825	24,633	14,975	12,790
Habeas Corpus--Death Penalty	123	116	135	120	154	194	208	240	-	-
Mandamus and Other	1,614	1,664	1,626	1,784	1,087	837	952	1,390	908	876
Civil Rights	19,618	18,638	17,983	18,820	19,350	17,829	16,951	16,005	41,679	25,992
Prison Condition	10,476	9,429	9,301	10,182	10,095	8,690	8,107	8,609	-	-
Habeas Corpus--Alien Detainees	356	327	964	2,261	1,346	670	682	-	-	-
Civil Detainee--Conditions of Confinement	179	150	201	234	207	343	-	-	-	-
Forfeiture and Penalty, Total	842	961	1,187	985	1,123	1,471	2,268	2,298	2,517	6,224
Agricultural Acts	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	27	155	84
Food and Drug Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	49	197	739
Drug-Related Seizure of Property	345	443	623	483	626	688	1,273	1,359	1,042	1,914
Air Traffic Regulations	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	11	48
Occupational Safety and Health Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	5	33	61

Other Forfeiture and Penalty Suits	497	518	564	502	497	783	908	852	1,079	3,378
Labor Laws, Total	13,287	13,529	13,442	15,177	16,641	19,322	18,624	18,322	14,954	22,567
Fair Labor Standards Act	5,794	6,133	5,563	6,663	7,196	8,781	6,825	4,039	1,580	1,282
Labor Management Relations Act	382	422	446	470	537	690	1,094	1,674	1,984	2,342
Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	88	161	181
Railway Labor Act	38	40	38	71	60	45	66	104	172	199
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	4,716	4,742	4,658	5,253	6,096	7,228	9,216	11,171	9,517	8,726
Family and Medical Leave Act	851	938	1,308	1,274	1,316	1,139	-	-	-	-
Other Labor Litigation	1,506	1,254	1,429	1,446	1,436	1,439	1,353	1,246	1,540	9,837
Immigration, Total [7]	11,134	7,763	4,602	2,588	2,161	1,321	1,183	-	-	-
Naturalization Applications	442	390	304	357	391	260	402	-	-	-
Other Immigration Actions	10,692	7,373	4,298	2,231	1,770	1,061	781	-	-	-
Intellectual Property Rights, Total	13,839	12,742	11,584	9,964	12,582	13,751	8,966	12,184	6,866	5,700
Copyright	6,237	5,151	3,746	3,224	5,467	5,035	2,013	5,796	2,417	2,095
Patent	3,016	3,639	3,802	3,627	3,275	5,564	3,301	2,720	1,723	1,187
Patent--Abbreviated New Drug Application	243	257	222	282	314	-	-	-	-	-
Trademark	3,678	3,059	3,205	2,831	3,526	3,152	3,652	3,668	2,726	2,418
Defend Trade Secrets Act	665	636	609	-	-	-	-	-	#ERROR	#ERROR
Securities, Commodities, and Exchanges	1,566	1,955	2,449	1,840	1,769	1,013	1,397	2,038	1,906	2,629
Social Security Laws, Total [8]	15,017	13,385	19,541	21,110	17,912	18,538	14,016	15,487	9,354	7,439
Disability Insurance	7,745	7,123	10,715	11,234	9,464	8,578	6,141	7,024	5,501	5,212
Supplemental Security Income	6,556	5,599	7,979	8,917	7,401	9,210	7,088	7,675	3,347	1,836
Retirement and Survivors Benefits	628	569	725	842	985	656	715	710	414	249
Other	88	94	122	117	62	94	72	78	-	-
Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act	1,220	816	711	991	1,810	678	993	781	900	1,214
State Reapportionment Suits	1	4	4	5	11	3	6	8	7	2,604
Tax Suits	543	551	551	537	728	989	1,190	1,385	2,202	38
Customer Challenge	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	21	33	38
Consumer Credit [9]	8,108	9,423	9,968	10,447	10,870	9,801	8,453	1,192	-	-
Cable/Satellite TV [9]	380	299	318	322	432	1,162	1,014	710	-	-
Freedom of Information Act	846	775	641	790	853	514	298	404	467	407
Constitutionality of State Statutes	414	373	391	420	341	383	329	310	309	315
Other Statutory Actions	10,580	9,512	9,862	10,415	11,085	11,348	10,206	11,800	9,098	8,211

Note: Due to a change in methodology, numbers for years prior to 2015 may not match numbers previously published in this table.

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 as a result of streamlining of the loan-processing system. 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 recover overpayments rather than filing suit 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, personal injury/product liability filings rose 64 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.

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