

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 2021

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year						
	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2015	2010
Total Cases	344,567	470,581	297,877	282,936	267,769	279,036	282,895
Contract Actions, Total	26,455	26,592	25,264	26,768	23,523	26,068	31,109
Franchise ¹	181	247	281	308	263	382	357
Insurance	13,985	11,630	10,757	10,816	8,846	9,711	9,380
Marine	583	745	676	663	652	907	1,344
Miller Act	166	264	260	266	270	398	276
Negotiable Instruments	353	356	431	418	484	505	956
Recovery of Overpayments and Enforcement of Judgments	517	669	969	1,131	1,368	2,186	3,426
Student Loans ²	12	41	260	483	698	1,546	2,741
Veterans' Benefits ³	-	4	-	6	25	7	16
Other	505	624	709	642	645	633	669
Other Contract Actions	10,670	12,681	11,890	13,166	11,640	11,979	15,370
Real Property Actions, Total	3,249	4,790	6,870	7,029	7,920	9,195	7,432
Condemnation of Land	237	341	352	595	210	339	173
Foreclosure	1,004	1,808	2,968	3,042	3,972	4,256	4,267
Rent, Lease, and Ejectment	416	710	1,156	1,016	1,072	688	254
Torts to Land, Including Product Liability	672	740	844	703	606	1,554	661
Other Real Property Actions	920	1,191	1,550	1,673	2,060	2,358	2,077
Tort Actions, Total	145,562	263,231	85,483	67,693	57,467	68,879	83,055
Personal Injury, Total [4]	141,682	259,385	81,530	63,564	53,609	61,093	78,350
Personal Injury/Product Liability	123,644	239,980	56,157	45,863	35,714	41,764	63,203
Other Personal Injury, Total	18,038	19,405	25,373	17,701	17,895	19,329	15,147
Airplane	184	224	271	192	208	191	300

Marine	1,069	1,377	1,400	1,465	1,476	1,125	1,393
Motor Vehicle	5,590	5,459	5,077	4,836	4,425	3,743	3,546
Assault, Libel, and Slander	577	598	594	612	550	591	559
Federal Employers Liability Act	372	355	434	413	379	296	480
Medical Malpractice	1,152	1,019	1,222	1,160	1,252	1,135	1,115
Other	9,094	10,373	16,375	9,023	9,605	12,248	7,754
Personal Property Damage, Total	3,880	3,846	3,953	4,129	3,858	7,786	4,705
Fraud, Including Truth in Lending	2,250	2,263	2,370	2,459	2,349	2,396	2,902
Other Personal Property Damage	1,630	1,583	1,583	1,670	1,509	5,390	1,803
Actions Under Statutes, Total	169,301	175,968	180,260	181,446	178,859	174,894	161,297
Antitrust	555	672	521	557	655	769	544
Bankruptcy, Total	1,865	1,867	2,487	2,144	2,122	2,814	2,696
Appeal (28 U.S.C. 158)	1,629	1,633	2,233	1,846	1,855	2,272	2,177
Withdrawal (28 U.S.C. 157)	236	234	254	298	267	542	519
Banks and Banking	151	145	161	144	191	237	647
Civil Rights, Total [5]	43,333	41,044	43,155	41,741	38,925	37,384	34,872
Voting	172	234	117	93	112	86	102
Employment	11,802	11,174	12,456	12,579	12,053	12,205	14,543
Housing and Accommodations	742	752	970	848	831	775	687
Welfare	-	-	-	-	-	-	58
ADA -- Employment [6]	2,629	2,338	2,561	2,624	2,353	2,076	1,522
ADA -- Other [6]	12,545	11,273	11,833	9,990	8,003	5,156	2,309
Education	828	794	758	745	606	525	-
Other Civil Rights	14,615	14,479	14,460	14,862	14,967	16,561	15,651
Environmental Matters	466	442	590	1,956	988	845	942
Deportation	11	12	10	23	18	20	61
Prisoner Petitions, Total	47,669	56,195	55,018	54,134	57,685	52,531	52,583

Motions to Vacate Sentence	3,395	6,834	5,877	5,342	7,205	5,520	5,858
Habeas Corpus--General	14,064	15,960	16,902	16,964	17,336	18,448	19,825
Habeas Corpus--Death Penalty	135	120	154	161	220	194	208
Mandamus and Other	1,626	1,784	1,087	1,253	960	837	952
Civil Rights	17,983	18,820	19,350	18,842	18,986	17,829	16,951
Prison Condition	9,301	10,182	10,095	9,708	11,199	8,690	8,107
Habeas Corpus--Alien Detainees	964	2,261	1,346	1,674	1,502	670	682
Civil Detainee--Conditions of Confinement	201	234	207	190	277	343	-
Forfeiture and Penalty, Total	1,187	985	1,123	1,215	1,184	1,471	2,268
Agricultural Acts	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Food and Drug Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Drug-Related Seizure of Property	623	483	626	660	591	688	1,273
Air Traffic Regulations	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Occupational Safety and Health Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Other Forfeiture and Penalty Suits	564	502	497	555	593	783	908
Labor Laws, Total	13,442	15,177	16,641	17,629	17,631	19,322	18,624
Fair Labor Standards Act	5,563	6,663	7,196	7,600	7,742	8,781	6,825
Labor Management Relations Act	446	470	537	660	596	690	1,094
Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	70
Railway Labor Act	38	71	60	46	65	45	66
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	4,658	5,253	6,096	6,705	6,632	7,228	9,216
Family and Medical Leave Act	1,308	1,274	1,316	1,250	1,308	1,139	-
Other Labor Litigation	1,429	1,446	1,436	1,368	1,288	1,439	1,353
Immigration, Total [7]	4,602	2,588	2,161	1,761	1,811	1,321	1,183
Naturalization Applications	304	357	391	350	271	260	402
Other Immigration Actions	4,298	2,231	1,770	1,411	1,540	1,061	781
Intellectual Property Rights, Total	11,584	9,964	12,582	12,690	10,768	13,751	8,966

Copyright	3,746	3,224	5,467	5,756	3,451	5,035	2,013
Patent	3,802	3,627	3,275	3,493	4,182	5,564	3,301
Patent--Abbreviated New Drug Application	222	282	314	337	137	-	-
Trademark	3,205	2,831	3,526	3,104	2,998	3,152	3,652
Defend Trade Secrets Act	609	-	-	-	-	-	-
Securities, Commodities, and Exchanges	2,449	1,840	1,769	1,532	1,455	1,013	1,397
Social Security Laws, Total [8]	19,541	21,110	17,912	18,665	19,020	18,538	14,016
Disability Insurance	10,715	11,234	9,464	9,549	9,147	8,578	6,141
Supplemental Security Income	7,979	8,917	7,401	8,132	8,855	9,210	7,088
Retirement and Survivors Benefits	725	842	985	914	932	656	715
Other	122	117	62	70	86	94	72
Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act	711	991	1,810	2,244	684	678	993
State Reapportionment Suits	4	5	11	6	4	3	6
Tax Suits	551	537	728	925	1,016	989	1,190
Customer Challenge	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Consumer Credit [9]	9,968	10,447	10,870	10,764	10,531	9,801	8,453
Cable/Satellite TV [9]	318	322	432	597	678	1,162	1,014
Freedom of Information Act	641	790	853	872	660	514	298
Constitutionality of State Statutes	391	420	341	338	484	383	329
Other Statutory Actions	9,862	10,415	11,085	11,509	12,349	11,348	10,206

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 due to a change in 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 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 ¹
253,273	248,335	226,523
28,020	31,182	46,103
171	-	-
7,804	7,540	6,884
1,435	2,622	3,313
387	775	1,569
447	1,536	2,997
3,309	1,822	10,942
2,883	1,142	5,365
8	253	4,963
418	361	550
14,467	16,887	20,398
4,561	6,869	9,505
251	334	462
3,012	4,972	7,196
154	310	349
380	401	405
764	852	1,093
51,335	53,986	45,909
47,364	50,565	42,743
29,537	27,547	18,839
17,827	23,018	23,904
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
3,971	3,421	3,166
2,465	1,881	1,492
1,506	1,540	1,674
169,265	156,209	124,880
818	781	472
3,000	5,046	5,056
2,435	4,312	4,231
565	734	825
258	432	700
36,096	36,600	18,793
166	208	130
16,930	19,059	8,413
885	735	341
54	116	129
586	-	-
1,016	-	-
-	-	-
16,459	16,482	9,780
714	1,081	958
201	106	61
61,238	63,550	42,630

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	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
2,298	2,517	6,224
27	155	84
49	197	739
1,359	1,042	1,914
6	11	48
5	33	61
852	1,079	3,378
18,322	14,954	22,567
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
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
12,184	6,866	5,700

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

