



NEWS RELEASE

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

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End of Fiscal Year 1997 Shows Bankruptcy Filings Still Climbing

In the 12-month period ending September 30, 1997, bankruptcy filings in federal courts nationwide again hit an all-time high for any 12-month period in the Judiciary's history, according to data released today by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Bankruptcy filings totaled 1,367,364, a 23 percent increase over the same fiscal year period in 1996. Bankruptcy filings first topped the one million mark in the 12-month period ending June 30, 1996, and the number of filings has continued to climb since then.

While filings for the 12-month period increased, filings for the final quarter of the Judiciary's fiscal year dipped slightly when compared to the previous quarter. However, this is still the second highest level ever reported for quarterly bankruptcy filings. The number of bankruptcy cases filed during the fourth quarter (July 1, 1997—September 30, 1997) totaled 353,515. Third quarter (April 1, 1997—June 30, 1997) filings totaled 367,168; second quarter (January 1, 1997—March 31, 1997) bankruptcy filings were 335,073; and filings in the first quarter of fiscal year 1997 (October 1—December 31, 1996) totaled 311,131.

The number of bankruptcy filings has increased the workload of federal bankruptcy courts. The Judiciary has asked Congress for additional bankruptcy judgeships to handle the rising caseload. New bankruptcy judgeships were last created in 1992 and since then bankruptcy petitions filed in one year have exceeded one million. The Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 1997, H.R. 1596, would authorize a total of 18 new bankruptcy judgeships, seven new permanent bankruptcy judgeships and 11 temporary judgeships. The House passed H.R. 1596, but there was no companion bill in the Senate during the first session of the 105th Congress. Congress again will consider the bill when it returns in 1998.

Among the U.S. bankruptcy courts, seven courts experienced increases in filings over 40 percent, with the District of Hawaii and the Northern District of West Virginia each rising over 50 percent at 50.9 and 50.8, respectively. The Northern District of Illinois, the Middle District of Florida and the District of New Jersey all reported total filings greater than 40,000 for the 12-month period ending September 30, 1997, reaching 43,237, 41,253 and 40,872 respectively. The Central District of California remained the district reporting the largest number of filings in the country with 115,686, an increase of 18.9 percent.

Of the total number of bankruptcy filings for the 12-month period ending September 30, 1997, there were 958,045 Chapter 7 filings, an increase of 25.8 percent over the 761,652 filings in the same period in 1996. The next largest group of filings were Chapter 13 filings at 397,097, an 18 percent increase over the 336,615 filings in the same period in 1996. Chapter 11 filings dropped to 11,221 in the 12-month period ended September 30, 1997, down from 12,554 in the same period in 1996. Chapter 12 filings also fell slightly, going from 1,096 in 1996 to 966 in 1997. Business filings totaled 54,252, up 1.4 percent from the September 30, 1996 total of 53,520. Non-business filings totaled 1,313,112, up 24.1

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Bankruptcy Filings

percent from the 1,058,444 filed in the same period for 1996.

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.

A breakdown of the latest data on bankruptcy filings follows.

**Business and Non-business Bankruptcy Cases Filed, by Chapter
During the Three-month Period Ended September 30, 1997**

Total Filings	Chapter 7	Chapter 11	Chapter 12	Chapter 13
353,515	246,800	2,838	188	103,677
Total Business	Chapter 7	Chapter 11	Chapter 12	Chapter 13
13,456	8,023	2,535	188	2,698
Total				
Non-Business	Chapter 7	Chapter 11		Chapter 13
340,059	238,777	303		100,979

Quarterly Bankruptcy Filings

3-Month Period		Ending	Total Filings
Ending	Total Filings	JUN. 30, 1994	216,213
SEPT. 30, 1997	353,515	MAR. 31, 1994	206,565
JUN. 30, 1997	367,168	DEC. 31, 1993	206,570
MAR. 31, 1997	335,073	SEPT. 30, 1993	215,498
DEC. 31, 1996	311,131	JUN. 30, 1993	229,406
SEPT. 30, 1996	303,309	MAR. 31, 1993	222,694
JUN. 30, 1996	297,162	DEC. 31, 1992	228,562
MAR. 31, 1996	266,149	SEPT. 30, 1992	236,810
DEC. 31, 1995	244,494	JUN. 30, 1992	250,622
SEPT. 30, 1995	233,593	MAR. 31, 1992	252,733
JUN. 30, 1995	235,302	DEC. 31, 1991	234,383
MAR. 31, 1995	212,626	SEPT. 30, 1991	231,743
DEC. 31, 1994	201,618	JUN. 30, 1991	246,430
SEPT. 30, 1994	208,187	MAR. 31, 1991	231,017
		DEC. 31, 1990	209,798
		SEPT. 30, 1990	192,555

*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 ENDED SEP. 30, 1997

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	
TOTAL...	1,367,364	958,045	11,221	966	397,097	54,252	31,862	10,092	966	11,297	1,313,112	926,183	1,129 385,800
DC.....	2,413	1,555	66	-	791	109	35	50	-	23	2,304	1,520	16 768
1ST...	51,414	37,075	511	8	13,819	1,756	1,065	466	8	216	49,658	36,010	45 13,603
ME.....	3,990	3,596	16	2	376	315	220	16	2	77	3,675	3,376	- 299
MA.....	23,401	19,955	323	-	3,122	1,000	573	312	-	114	22,401	19,382	11 3,008
NH.....	4,586	4,261	42	3	280	103	58	39	3	3	4,483	4,203	3 277
RI.....	5,273	5,037	24	-	212	177	135	24	-	18	5,096	4,902	- 194
PR.....	14,164	4,226	106	3	9,829	161	79	75	3	4	14,003	4,147	31 9,825
2ND...	87,657	72,321	1,369	48	13,911	3,516	1,798	1,191	48	471	84,141	70,523	178 13,440
CT.....	13,160	11,550	138	3	1,469	206	97	104	3	2	12,954	11,453	34 1,467
NY,N....	15,837	13,262	91	32	2,451	772	483	90	32	166	15,065	12,779	1 2,285
NY,E....	28,535	23,098	404	-	5,033	530	205	319	-	6	28,005	22,893	85 5,027
NY,S....	15,693	13,337	622	1	1,726	868	265	570	1	25	14,825	13,072	52 1,701
NY,W....	12,620	9,413	87	8	3,112	983	642	84	8	249	11,637	8,771	3 2,863
VT.....	1,812	1,661	27	4	120	157	106	24	4	23	1,655	1,555	3 97
3RD...	84,377	60,470	1,458	29	22,417	3,286	1,638	1,277	29	339	81,091	58,832	181 22,078
DE.....	2,545	1,567	227	1	750	252	25	226	1	-	2,293	1,542	1 750
NJ.....	40,872	28,445	671	1	11,753	1,124	554	542	1	25	39,748	27,891	129 11,728
PA,E....	20,873	13,085	294	13	7,480	583	264	270	13	35	20,290	12,821	24 7,445
PA,M....	8,968	7,532	93	7	1,336	836	495	87	7	247	8,132	7,037	6 1,089
PA,W....	11,050	9,795	163	7	1,085	471	290	142	7	32	10,579	9,505	21 1,053
VI.....	69	46	10	-	13	20	10	10	-	-	49	36	- 13
4TH...	117,638	77,528	898	31	39,181	4,411	2,678	828	31	874	113,227	74,850	70 38,307
MD.....	30,508	22,351	304	5	7,848	1,632	1,037	292	5	298	28,876	21,314	12 7,550
NC,E....	9,577	4,520	60	10	4,987	435	220	57	10	148	9,142	4,300	3 4,839
NC,M....	9,025	2,405	27	1	6,592	178	131	26	1	20	8,847	2,274	1 6,572
NC,W....	7,069	2,987	32	2	4,048	83	49	31	2	1	6,986	2,938	1 4,047
SC.....	11,076	5,956	101	5	5,014	335	125	87	5	118	10,741	5,831	14 4,896
VA,E....	31,223	22,698	260	3	8,262	800	419	225	3	153	30,423	22,279	35 8,109
VA,W....	11,032	9,038	69	4	1,921	604	452	66	4	82	10,428	8,586	3 1,839
WV,N....	3,279	3,067	18	1	193	155	112	18	1	24	3,124	2,955	- 169
WV,S....	4,849	4,506	27	-	316	189	133	26	-	30	4,660	4,373	1 286
5TH...	113,133	58,413	982	186	53,550	4,428	1,986	895	186	1,359	108,705	56,427	87 52,191
LA,E....	7,392	4,782	72	2	2,536	120	54	62	2	2	7,272	4,728	10 2,534
LA,M....	2,882	1,837	26	1	1,018	60	30	25	1	4	2,822	1,807	1 1,014
LA,W....	12,830	5,407	45	69	7,309	508	263	43	69	133	12,322	5,144	2 7,176
MS,N....	6,410	3,822	22	15	2,550	138	71	21	15	30	6,272	3,751	1 2,520
MS,S....	12,515	6,862	42	6	5,605	134	67	40	6	21	12,381	6,795	2 5,584
TX,N....	24,740	12,003	261	55	12,420	1,542	690	247	55	549	23,198	11,313	14 11,871
TX,E....	9,572	4,229	61	16	5,266	534	205	57	16	256	9,038	4,024	4 5,010
TX,S....	19,205	10,193	261	11	8,740	724	287	225	11	201	18,481	9,906	36 8,539
TX,W....	17,587	9,278	192	11	8,106	668	319	175	11	163	16,919	8,959	17 7,943

BUSINESS AND NONBUSINESS BANKRUPTCY CASES COMMENCED, BY CHAPTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE,
 DURING THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD ENDED SEP. 30, 1997
 TABLE F-2 U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURTS
 (CONTINUED)

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
6TH...	164,489	106,619	852	66	56,951	3,755	2,069	812	66	807	160,734	104,550
KY,E....	9,425	8,167	27	3	1,228	273	200	26	3	44	9,152	7,967
KY,W....	11,763	9,355	47	5	2,356	180	115	47	5	13	11,583	9,240
MI,E....	26,163	19,273	253	13	6,624	650	338	244	13	55	25,513	18,935
MI,W....	11,720	8,615	83	14	3,008	505	284	82	14	125	11,215	8,331
OH,N....	25,329	20,734	79	10	4,506	494	320	76	10	88	24,835	20,414
OH,S....	26,947	20,089	112	8	6,738	549	327	107	8	107	26,398	19,762
TN,E....	16,320	8,138	59	8	8,115	416	182	56	8	170	15,904	7,956
TN,M....	12,599	6,569	115	2	5,913	497	232	108	2	155	12,102	6,337
TN,W....	24,223	5,679	77	3	18,463	191	71	66	3	50	24,032	5,608
												11 18,413
7TH...	116,540	93,749	558	74	22,158	3,721	2,674	532	74	440	112,819	91,075
IL,N....	43,237	32,020	274	-	10,942	832	526	257	-	48	42,405	31,494
IL,C....	12,347	10,743	28	20	1,556	364	270	28	20	46	11,983	10,473
IL,S....	6,783	5,041	23	5	1,714	593	442	23	5	123	6,190	4,599
IN,N....	13,037	11,213	55	7	1,762	215	131	53	7	24	12,822	11,082
IN,S....	22,475	18,706	95	10	3,664	483	311	91	10	71	21,992	18,395
WI,E....	12,464	10,426	23	7	2,008	374	292	23	7	52	12,090	10,134
WI,W....	6,197	5,600	60	25	512	860	702	57	25	76	5,337	4,898
												3 436
8TH...	80,428	59,369	355	203	20,499	5,004	3,438	341	203	1,020	75,424	55,931
AR,E....	9,808	4,962	42	7	4,797	282	132	41	7	102	9,526	4,830
AR,W....	5,452	3,525	23	11	1,893	245	125	19	11	90	5,207	3,400
IA,N....	3,950	3,782	14	9	145	247	202	14	9	22	3,703	3,580
IA,S....	5,839	5,250	18	5	566	308	257	17	5	29	5,531	4,993
MN.....	20,248	15,321	82	22	4,823	2,486	1,846	82	22	536	17,762	13,475
MO,E....	14,380	8,702	59	3	5,616	315	200	57	3	55	14,065	8,502
MO,W....	10,774	9,194	73	12	1,495	440	273	70	12	85	10,334	8,921
NE.....	5,835	4,807	19	55	952	281	163	17	55	44	5,554	4,644
ND.....	1,895	1,765	8	45	77	167	99	7	45	16	1,728	1,666
SD.....	2,247	2,061	17	34	135	233	141	17	34	41	2,014	1,920
												- 94
9TH...	309,150	245,236	2,565	134	61,206	16,192	10,159	2,215	134	3,675	292,958	235,077
AK.....	1,361	1,222	20	-	119	159	101	19	-	39	1,202	1,121
AZ.....	24,534	18,920	307	7	5,299	868	447	275	7	138	23,666	18,473
CA,N....	34,559	24,914	338	1	9,304	2,200	1,095	273	1	829	32,359	23,819
CA,E....	36,080	30,649	175	35	5,219	2,608	1,711	161	35	699	33,472	28,938
CA,C....	115,686	94,091	946	7	20,641	6,189	4,328	787	7	1,066	109,497	89,763
CA,S....	19,159	14,314	104	1	4,740	231	142	73	1	15	18,928	14,172
HI.....	4,161	3,702	50	-	409	189	121	45	-	23	3,972	3,581
ID.....	6,604	5,028	38	40	1,498	514	282	35	40	157	6,090	4,746
MT.....	3,379	2,582	25	23	749	267	139	20	23	85	3,112	2,443
NV.....	12,896	9,160	175	2	3,556	429	180	169	2	75	12,467	8,980
OR.....	18,044	14,404	48	5	3,587	1,082	758	46	5	273	16,962	13,646
WA,E....	6,898	5,715	67	9	1,107	518	333	66	9	110	6,380	5,382
WA,W....	25,674	20,443	270	4	4,957	913	499	244	4	166	24,761	19,944
GUAM...	111	88	2	-	21	23	21	2	-	-	88	67
NMI....	4	4	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	2	2

TABLE F-2 U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURTS
BUSINESS AND NONBUSINESS BANKRUPTCY CASES COMMENCED, BY CHAPTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE,
DURING THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD ENDED SEP. 30, 1997
(CONTINUED)

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	TOTAL BUSINESS FILINGS*				TOTAL NON- BUSINESS FILINGS				CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13		
		CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13					
10TH..	74,164	56,422	459	116	17,164	3,360	2,142	436	116	663	70,804	54,280	23	16,501
CO.....	18,722	15,168	123	23	3,406	625	432	119	23	49	18,097	14,736	4	3,357
KS.....	12,856	10,110	72	22	2,652	416	229	66	22	99	12,440	9,881	6	2,553
NM.....	7,259	5,152	59	7	2,041	404	230	54	7	113	6,855	4,922	5	1,928
OK,N....	5,955	4,898	42	5	1,010	648	483	39	5	121	5,307	4,415	3	889
OK,E....	3,231	2,905	18	16	291	157	96	18	16	26	3,074	2,809	-	265
OK,W....	12,645	9,961	64	33	2,587	605	391	63	33	118	12,040	9,570	1	2,469
UT.....	11,442	6,426	66	7	4,943	411	229	63	7	112	11,031	6,197	3	4,831
WY.....	2,054	1,802	15	3	234	94	52	14	3	25	1,960	1,750	1	209
11TH..	165,961	89,288	1,148	71	75,450	4,714	2,180	1,049	71	1,410	161,247	87,108	99	74,040
AL,N....	22,518	8,226	95	2	14,195	438	171	87	2	178	22,080	8,055	8	14,017
AL,M....	6,634	2,602	27	8	3,997	276	131	27	8	110	6,358	2,471	-	3,887
AL,S....	4,822	2,141	31	1	2,649	185	72	28	1	84	4,637	2,069	3	2,565
FL,N....	4,563	3,739	41	1	782	125	56	37	1	31	4,438	3,683	4	751
FL,M....	41,253	32,785	338	10	8,119	1,213	641	302	10	259	40,040	32,144	36	7,860
FL,S....	24,867	18,876	331	3	5,654	774	441	303	3	24	24,093	18,435	28	5,630
GA,N....	34,257	12,888	209	4	21,156	1,173	487	192	4	490	33,084	12,401	17	20,666
GA,M....	14,782	5,288	43	33	9,418	180	55	41	33	51	14,602	5,233	2	9,367
GA,S....	12,265	2,743	33	9	9,480	350	126	32	9	183	11,915	2,617	1	9,297

* THESE FIGURES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING CASES NOT REFLECTED ELSEWHERE:

DC..... SECTION 304 = 01	MA..... SECTION 304 = 01	NY,N.... SECTION 304 = 01
NY,S.... SECTION 304 = 07	NJ..... SECTION 304 = 02	PA,E.... CHAPTER 9 = 01
MS,N.... CHAPTER 9 = 01	TX,N.... CHAPTER 9 = 01	TN,W.... CHAPTER 9 = 01
IL,N.... SECTION 304 = 01	NE..... CHAPTER 9 = 02	AZ..... CHAPTER 9 = 01
CA,N.... SECTION 304 = 02	CA,E.... CHAPTER 9 = 01	CA,E.... SECTION 304 = 01
CA,C.... SECTION 304 = 01	NV..... SECTION 304 = 03	CO..... CHAPTER 9 = 01
CO..... SECTION 304 = 01	OK,E.... CHAPTER 9 = 01	FL,M.... SECTION 304 = 01
FL,S.... SECTION 304 = 03		