

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 2025

Nature of Suit	2025	2020	2015	2010	2005	1995	1990 ¹
Total Cases	303,563	470,581	279,036	282,895	253,273	248,335	226,523
Contract Actions, Total	30,331	26,592	26,068	31,109	28,020	31,182	46,103
Franchise ¹	212	247	382	357	171	-	-
Insurance	13,161	11,630	9,711	9,380	7,804	7,540	6,884
Marine	593	745	907	1,344	1,435	2,622	3,313
Miller Act	143	264	398	276	387	775	1,569
Negotiable Instruments	481	356	505	956	447	1,536	2,997
Recovery of Overpayments and Enforcement of Judgments	778	669	2,186	3,426	3,309	1,822	10,942
Student Loans ²	36	41	1,546	2,741	2,883	1,142	5,365
Veterans' Benefits ³	4	4	7	16	8	253	4,963
Other	738	624	633	669	418	361	550
Other Contract Actions	14,963	12,681	11,979	15,370	14,467	16,887	20,398
Real Property Actions, Total	5,439	4,790	9,195	7,432	4,561	6,869	9,505
Condemnation of Land	186	341	339	173	251	334	462
Foreclosure	2,126	1,808	4,256	4,267	3,012	4,972	7,196
Rent, Lease, and Ejectment	1,139	710	688	254	154	310	349
Torts to Land, Including Product Liability	733	740	1,554	661	380	401	405
Other Real Property Actions	1,255	1,191	2,358	2,077	764	852	1,093
Tort Actions, Total	73,200	263,231	68,879	83,055	51,335	53,986	45,909
Personal Injury, Total [4]	68,522	259,385	61,093	78,350	47,364	50,565	42,743
Personal Injury/Product Liability	44,363	239,980	41,764	63,203	29,537	27,547	18,839
Other Personal Injury, Total	24,159	19,405	19,329	15,147	17,827	23,018	23,904
Airplane	288	224	191	300	351	683	834
Marine	1,087	1,377	1,125	1,393	1,667	2,277	2,961
Motor Vehicle	6,927	5,459	3,743	3,546	4,091	5,374	6,157
Assault, Libel, and Slander	848	598	591	559	647	826	644
Federal Employers Liability Act	310	355	296	480	748	1,903	2,741

Medical Malpractice	847	1,019	1,135	1,115	1,221	1,328	1,375
Other	13,852	10,373	12,248	7,754	9,102	10,627	7,202
Personal Property Damage, Total	4,678	3,846	7,786	4,705	3,971	3,421	3,166
Fraud, Including Truth in Lending	2,715	2,263	2,396	2,902	2,465	1,881	1,492
Other Personal Property Damage	1,963	1,583	5,390	1,803	1,506	1,540	1,674
Actions Under Statutes, Total	194,593	175,968	174,894	161,297	169,265	156,209	124,880
Antitrust	591	672	769	544	818	781	472
Bankruptcy, Total	1,734	1,867	2,814	2,696	3,000	5,046	5,056
Appeal (28 U.S.C. 158)	1,570	1,633	2,272	2,177	2,435	4,312	4,231
Withdrawal (28 U.S.C. 157)	164	234	542	519	565	734	825
Banks and Banking	247	145	237	647	258	432	700
Civil Rights, Total [5]	52,431	41,044	37,384	34,872	36,096	36,600	18,793
Voting	133	234	86	102	166	208	130
Employment	14,540	11,174	12,205	14,543	16,930	19,059	8,413
Housing and Accommodations	1,124	752	775	687	885	735	341
Welfare	-	-	-	58	54	116	129
ADA -- Employment [6]	3,422	2,338	2,076	1,522	586	-	-
ADA -- Other [6]	9,718	11,273	5,156	2,309	1,016	-	-
Education	985	794	525	-	-	-	-
Other Civil Rights	22,509	14,479	16,561	15,651	16,459	16,482	9,780
Environmental Matters	481	442	845	942	714	1,081	958
Deportation	20	12	20	61	201	106	61
Prisoner Petitions, Total	53,781	56,195	52,531	52,583	61,238	63,550	42,630
Motions to Vacate Sentence	3,218	6,834	5,520	5,858	10,361	5,988	2,970
Habeas Corpus--General	14,317	15,960	18,448	19,825	24,633	14,975	12,790
Habeas Corpus--Death Penalty	92	120	194	208	240	-	-
Mandamus and Other	2,132	1,784	837	952	1,390	908	876
Civil Rights	20,870	18,820	17,829	16,951	16,005	41,679	25,992
Prison Condition	10,610	10,182	8,690	8,107	8,609	-	-
Habeas Corpus--Alien Detainees	2,305	2,261	670	682	-	-	-

Civil Detainee--Conditions of Confinement	237	234	343	-	-	-	-
Forfeiture and Penalty, Total	772	985	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	252	483	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	520	502	783	908	852	1,079	3,378
Labor Laws, Total	12,759	15,177	19,322	18,624	18,322	14,954	22,567
Fair Labor Standards Act	4,893	6,663	8,781	6,825	4,039	1,580	1,282
Labor Management Relations Act	444	470	690	1,094	1,674	1,984	2,342
Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act	-	-	-	70	88	161	181
Railway Labor Act	45	71	45	66	104	172	199
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	4,690	5,253	7,228	9,216	11,171	9,517	8,726
Family and Medical Leave Act	1,044	1,274	1,139	-	-	-	-
Other Labor Litigation	1,643	1,446	1,439	1,353	1,246	1,540	9,837
Immigration, Total [7]	10,157	2,588	1,321	1,183	-	-	-
Naturalization Applications	373	357	260	402	-	-	-
Other Immigration Actions	9,784	2,231	1,061	781	-	-	-
Intellectual Property Rights, Total	17,350	9,964	13,751	8,966	12,184	6,866	5,700
Copyright	7,933	3,224	5,035	2,013	5,796	2,417	2,095

Patent	4,121	3,627	5,564	3,301	2,720	1,723	1,187
Patent--Abbreviated New Drug Application	301	282	-	-	-	-	-
Trademark	4,217	2,831	3,152	3,652	3,668	2,726	2,418
Defend Trade Secrets Act	778	-	-	-	-	#ERROR	#ERROR
Securities, Commodities, and Exchanges	938	1,840	1,013	1,397	2,038	1,906	2,629
Social Security Laws, Total [8]	15,641	21,110	18,538	14,016	15,487	9,354	7,439
Disability Insurance	8,259	11,234	8,578	6,141	7,024	5,501	5,212
Supplemental Security Income	6,690	8,917	9,210	7,088	7,675	3,347	1,836
Retirement and Survivors Benefits	604	842	656	715	710	414	249
Other	88	117	94	72	78	-	-
Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act	1,593	991	678	993	781	900	1,214
State Reapportionment Suits	2	5	3	6	8	7	2,604
Tax Suits	631	537	989	1,190	1,385	2,202	38
Customer Challenge	-	-	-	9	21	33	38
Consumer Credit [9]	9,726	10,447	9,801	8,453	1,192	-	-
Cable/Satellite TV [9]	311	322	1,162	1,014	710	-	-
Freedom of Information Act	961	790	514	298	404	467	407
Constitutionality of State Statutes	487	420	383	329	310	309	315
Other Statutory Actions	13,980	10,415	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.

[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*.