

**Table 327. U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Commenced and Pending:  
2000 to 2006**

[For years ending **June 30**]

Type of case	Cases commenced				Cases pending			
	2000	2004	2005	2006	2000	2004	2005	2006
<b>Cases total</b> <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	<b>263,049</b>	<b>258,117</b>	<b>282,758</b>	<b>244,343</b>	<b>249,692</b>	<b>267,881</b>	<b>267,270</b>	<b>246,547</b>
Contract actions <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	54,494	29,687	28,590	28,139	38,262	28,413	26,712	26,671
Recovery of overpayments <sup>2</sup> . . .	25,636	2,914	3,380	2,856	12,107	2,146	1,953	1,789
Real property actions . . . . .	6,481	6,341	4,541	4,761	4,249	5,651	4,512	4,178
Tort actions . . . . .	40,877	51,881	75,273	53,809	63,116	74,589	76,821	64,701
Personal injury <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	36,867	45,948	52,215	49,834	59,232	68,928	72,716	60,569
Personal injury product liability <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	15,349	29,089	35,615	32,515	31,772	42,886	46,575	34,280
Asbestos . . . . .	7,893	1,208	1,628	8,709	4,949	2,528	1,073	856
Other personal injury . . . . .	21,518	16,859	16,600	17,319	27,460	26,042	26,141	26,289
Personal property damage . . . .	4,010	5,933	23,058	3,975	3,884	5,661	4,105	4,132
Actions under statutes <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	161,187	170,168	171,922	157,536	144,053	159,200	157,357	150,891
Civil rights <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	41,226	40,118	36,724	33,417	44,259	43,431	40,596	38,384
Employment . . . . .	21,404	19,670	17,998	14,851	24,456	22,964	21,344	18,591
Bankruptcy suits . . . . .	3,378	3,982	3,428	3,193	2,555	2,684	2,650	2,565
Commerce (ICC rates, etc.) . . .	1,007	483	492	404	444	427	395	351
Environmental matters . . . . .	894	999	726	874	1,355	2,282	1,193	1,148
Prisoner petitions . . . . .	57,706	53,132	62,698	55,775	43,560	44,317	47,870	46,655
Forfeiture and penalty . . . . .	2,246	2,112	2,214	2,318	1,772	2,017	2,156	2,309
Labor laws . . . . .	14,229	18,189	18,643	16,853	11,267	15,131	15,725	14,014
Protected property rights <sup>3</sup> . . . .	8,745	9,289	11,809	11,745	7,858	8,992	10,507	10,274
Securities commodities and exchanges . . . . .	2,500	3,081	2,371	1,654	3,578	5,325	5,192	4,463
Social security laws . . . . .	14,365	15,935	16,066	14,052	13,667	14,853	15,420	14,202
Tax suits . . . . .	938	1,291	1,348	1,498	1,068	1,158	1,222	1,331
Freedom of information . . . . .	335	300	426	309	380	360	378	370

<sup>1</sup> Includes other types not shown separately. <sup>2</sup> Includes enforcement of judgments in student loan cases, and overpayments of veterans' benefits. <sup>3</sup> Includes copyright, patent, and trademark rights.