

The
SAR
Activity
Review

By the
Numbers

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Table of Contents

Introduction

Section 1: Suspicious Activity Report by Depository Institutions (Form TD F 90-22.47) for April 1, 1996 through June 30, 2006

- Exhibit 1: Filings by Year & Month
- Exhibit 2: Filings by States & Territories
- Exhibit 3: Number of Filings Ranked by States & Territories in Descending Order
- Exhibit 4: Number of Filings by Characterization of Suspicious Activity in Descending Order
- Exhibit 5: Number of Filings by Characterization of Suspicious Activity
- Exhibit 6: Filings by Primary Federal Regulator
- Exhibit 7: Relationship of Suspect to Financial Institution
- Exhibit 8: Characterization of Suspicious Activity by State & Territory by Year

Section 2: Suspicious Activity Report by Money Services Business (Form TD F 90-22.56) for October 1, 2002 through June 30, 2006

- Exhibit 1: Filings by Year & Month
- Exhibit 2: Filings by States & Territories
- Exhibit 3: Number of Filings Ranked by States & Territories in Descending Order
- Exhibit 4: Number of Filings by Character of Suspicious Activity in Descending Order
- Exhibit 5: Number of Filings by Character of Suspicious Activity
- Exhibit 6: Filings by Type of Filer
- Exhibit 7: Filings by Financial Services Involved
- Exhibit 8: Character of Suspicious Activity by State & Territory by Year

Section 3: Suspicious Activity Report by Casinos & Card Clubs (FinCEN Form 102) for August 1, 1996 through June 30, 2006

- Exhibit 1: Filings by Year & Month
- Exhibit 2: Filings by States & Territories
- Exhibit 3: Number of Filings Ranked by States & Territories in Descending Order
- Exhibit 4: Number of Filings by Type of Suspicious Activity in Descending Order
- Exhibit 5: Number of Filings by Type of Suspicious Activity
- Exhibit 6: Filings by Type of Gaming Establishment
- Exhibit 7: Filings by Relationship of Suspect to Financial Institution
- Exhibit 8: Type of Suspicious Activity by State & Territory by Year

Section 4: Suspicious Activity Report by Securities & Futures Industries (FinCEN Form 101) for January 1, 2003 through June 30, 2006

- Exhibit 1: Filings by Year & Month
- Exhibit 2: Filings by States & Territories
- Exhibit 3: Number of Filings Ranked by State & Territories in Descending Order
- Exhibit 4: Number of Filings by Type of Suspicious Activity in Descending Order
- Exhibit 5: Number of Filings by Type of Suspicious Activity
- Exhibit 6: Filings by Instrument Type
- Exhibit 7: Filings by Type of Reporting Institution
- Exhibit 8: Type of Suspicious Activity by State & Territory by Year

Introduction

Welcome to the seventh issue of *The SAR Activity Review – By the Numbers*, a compilation of numerical data gathered from Suspicious Activity Reports filed by depository institutions since April 1996, by certain money services businesses since January 2002, by casinos and card clubs since August 1996, and by certain segments of the securities and futures industries since January 2003. *By the Numbers* serves as a companion piece to *The SAR Activity Review - Trends, Tips & Issues*, which provides information about the preparation, use, and utility of Suspicious Activity Reports.

By the Numbers generally is published twice a year to cover two filing periods: January 1 to June 30 and July 1 to December 31. The numerical data from the filing periods is available for publication on the FinCEN website after the end of each period, usually in the spring and fall. The last issue of *By the Numbers* was published in May 2006 to cover Suspicious Activity Reports filed through December 31, 2005, and may be accessed through the following link: http://www.fincen.gov/sar_review_by_the_numbers_issue6.pdf

A review of the numerical data generated for Issue 7 of *By the Numbers* reveals some interesting facts. As of June 30, 2006, over 3.6 million Suspicious Activity Report forms had been filed with FinCEN.¹ Although the remainder of this publication provides detailed numerical data on those filings, some general observations follow for each type of form.

Number of Suspicious Activity Report Filings by Year											
Form	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Depository Institution	62,388 ²	81,197	96,521	120,505	162,720	203,538	273,823	288,343	381,671	522,655	279,703
Money Services Business	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,723	209,512	296,284	383,567	270,718
Casinos and Card Clubs	85	45	557	436	464	1,377	1,827	5,095	5,754	6,072	3,425
Securities & Futures Industries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,267	5,705	6,936	3,913
Subtotal	62,473	81,242	97,078	120,941	163,184	204,915	281,373	507,217	689,414	919,230	557,759
Total	3,684,826										

¹ The combined number of filings from the four types of Suspicious Activity Report forms: depository institution Suspicious Activity Report (TD F 90-22.47); Suspicious Activity Report by Money Services Business (SAR-MSB/TD F 90-22.56); Suspicious Activity Report by Casinos and Card Clubs (SAR-C/FinCEN Form 102); and Suspicious Activity Report by the Securities and Futures Industries (SAR-SF/FinCEN Form 101).

² The 1996 filings now include Criminal Referral Forms filed in that year that were subsequently converted to Suspicious Activity Reports by the Internal Revenue Service's Detroit Computing Center.

Depository Institution Suspicious Activity Report / TD F 90-22.47

(from the mandated reporting date in April 1996 through June 30, 2006)

- Between April 1, 1996 and June 30, 2006, depository institutions filed 2,473,064 Suspicious Activity Reports.
- The volume of Suspicious Activity Report filings in the first six months of 2006 increased 11% over those filed during the same period in 2005.
- “Bank Secrecy Act/Structuring/Money Laundering” continues to be the leading characterization of suspicious activity reported by depository institutions.
- Since April 1996, 45,716 Suspicious Activity Reports have been filed identifying “Consumer Loan Fraud” as the characterization of suspicious activity. Of these reports, 34% were filed in 2005 and 2006. In the first six months of 2006, “Consumer Loan Fraud” filings increased 94% from the corresponding six-month reporting period in 2005.
- In the first six months of 2006, “False Statement” filings increased 75% from the corresponding six-month period in 2005.
- The suspicious activity characterization “Mortgage Loan Fraud” increased 51% from the corresponding six-month period in 2005.
- In the first six months of 2006, “Bribery/Gratuities” filings decreased 56% from the corresponding six-month period in 2005.

Suspicious Activity Report by Money Services Business / TD F 90-22.56

(from the mandated reporting date in October 2002 through June 30, 2006)

- Money services businesses filed 1,165,804 Suspicious Activity Reports between October 1, 2002 and June 30, 2006.
- The volume of Suspicious Activity Report filings in the first six months of 2006 increased 52% over those filed during the same period in 2005.
- In the first six months of 2006, money transmitters filed 156,221 of all Suspicious Activity Reports, followed by issuers of money orders with 79,292, and United States Postal Service with 33,139.
- Filers reported money transfers as the most frequent type of financial service involved in the suspicious activity.
- In the first six months of 2006, suspicious activity characterized as “Same individual(s) using multiple locations over a short time period” increased 138% over the same period in 2005.
- In the first six months of 2006, suspicious activity characterized as “Comes in frequently and purchases less than \$3,000” increased 94% over the same period in 2005.

Suspicious Activity Report by Casinos and Card Clubs / FinCEN Form 102 and, previously, TD F 90-22.49

(from the mandated reporting date in October 1997 through June 30, 2006)³

- Casinos and card clubs filed 25,137 Suspicious Activity Reports between August 1, 1996 and June 30, 2006.
- The volume of Suspicious Activity Report filings in the first six months of 2006 increased 14% over those filed during the same period in 2005.
- “Structuring” (31%) was the most reported type of suspicious activity during the first six months of 2006.
- State-licensed casinos submitted 68% of the total Suspicious Activity Reports filed by casinos and card clubs in the first six months of 2006.
- In the first six months of 2006, the suspicious activity type “Credit/debit card fraud (incl. counterfeit)” increased 438% over the same period in 2005.

Suspicious Activity Report by the Securities and Futures Industries / FinCEN Form 101
(from the mandated reporting date in January 2003 through June 30, 2006)

- Securities and futures industries filers submitted 20,821 Suspicious Activity Reports between January 1, 2003 and June 30, 2006.
- The volume of Suspicious Activity Report filings in the first six months of 2006 increased 18% over those filed during the same period in 2005.
- Between January 2003 and June 2006, the most prevalent type of suspicious activity was “Other (Describe in Part VI)” (22.62%) followed by “Money laundering/Structuring” (16.64%).
- In the first six months of 2006, the suspicious activity type “Wash or other fictitious trading” increased 204% over the same period in 2005.
- In the first six months of 2006, the suspicious activity type “Prearranged or other non-competitive trading” increased 195% over the same period in 2005.

The numerical data in this publication is presented in an Excel format to allow readers to download and manipulate the information to support maximum management and compliance needs for their institution or agency.

As always, we welcome your suggestions and comments. Questions regarding present, past, or future issues of *By the Numbers* may be directed to FinCEN’s Regulatory Policy and Programs Division, Office of Regulatory Analysis at (703) 905-3968 or by contacting webmaster@fincen.gov.

³ Also includes 85 forms filed in August 1996.