

**Table 322. U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Commenced and Pending: 2000 to 2007**

[For years ending June 30]

| Type of case                                   | Cases commenced |                |                |                | Cases pending  |                |                |                |
|--|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | 2000            | 2005           | 2006           | 2007           | 2000           | 2005           | 2006           | 2007           |
| <b>Cases total</b> <sup>1</sup>                | <b>263,049</b>  | <b>282,758</b> | <b>244,343</b> | <b>272,067</b> | <b>249,692</b> | <b>267,270</b> | <b>246,547</b> | <b>267,774</b> |
| Contract actions <sup>1</sup>                  | 54,494          | 28,590         | 28,139         | 34,071         | 38,262         | 26,712         | 26,671         | 30,631         |
| Recovery of overpayments <sup>2</sup>          | 25,636          | 3,380          | 2,856          | 3,053          | 12,107         | 1,953          | 1,789          | 1,708          |
| Real property actions                          | 6,481           | 4,541          | 4,761          | 4,456          | 4,249          | 4,512          | 4,178          | 4,321          |
| Tort actions                                   | 40,877          | 75,273         | 53,809         | 77,257         | 63,116         | 76,821         | 64,701         | 83,046         |
| Personal injury                                | 36,867          | 52,215         | 49,834         | 73,004         | 59,232         | 72,716         | 60,569         | 78,464         |
| Personal injury product liability <sup>1</sup> | 15,349          | 35,615         | 32,515         | 51,557         | 31,772         | 46,575         | 34,280         | 52,346         |
| Asbestos                                       | 7,893           | 1,628          | 8,709          | 15,422         | 4,949          | 1,073          | 856            | 14,525         |
| Other personal injury                          | 21,518          | 16,600         | 17,319         | 21,447         | 27,460         | 26,141         | 26,289         | 26,118         |
| Personal property damage                       | 4,010           | 23,058         | 3,975          | 4,253          | 3,884          | 4,105          | 4,132          | 4,582          |
| Actions under statutes <sup>1</sup>            | 161,187         | 171,922        | 157,536        | 156,152        | 144,053        | 157,357        | 150,891        | 149,622        |
| Civil rights <sup>1</sup>                      | 41,226          | 36,724         | 33,417         | 31,975         | 44,259         | 40,596         | 38,384         | 36,469         |
| Employment                                     | 21,404          | 17,998         | 14,851         | 13,608         | 24,456         | 21,344         | 18,591         | 16,863         |
| Bankruptcy suits                               | 3,378           | 3,428          | 3,193          | 3,182          | 2,555          | 2,650          | 2,565          | 2,533          |
| Commerce (ICC rates, etc.)                     | 1,007           | 492            | 404            | 317            | 444            | 395            | 351            | 276            |
| Environmental matters                          | 894             | 726            | 874            | 763            | 1,355          | 1,193          | 1,148          | 1,045          |
| Prisoner petitions                             | 57,706          | 62,698         | 55,775         | 53,222         | 43,560         | 47,870         | 46,655         | 47,172         |
| Forfeiture and penalty                         | 2,246           | 2,214          | 2,318          | 2,221          | 1,772          | 2,156          | 2,309          | 2,245          |
| Labor laws                                     | 14,229          | 18,643         | 16,853         | 18,630         | 11,267         | 15,725         | 14,014         | 15,111         |
| Protected property rights <sup>3</sup>         | 8,745           | 11,809         | 11,745         | 11,132         | 7,858          | 10,507         | 10,274         | 9,827          |
| Securities commodities and exchanges           | 2,500           | 2,371          | 1,654          | 1,369          | 3,578          | 5,192          | 4,463          | 4,030          |
| Social security laws                           | 14,365          | 16,066         | 14,052         | 12,964         | 13,667         | 15,420         | 14,202         | 13,214         |
| Tax suits                                      | 938             | 1,348          | 1,498          | 1,485          | 1,068          | 1,222          | 1,331          | 1,376          |
| Freedom of information                         | 335             | 426            | 309            | 325            | 380            | 378            | 370            | 380            |

<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.

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, *Statistical Tables for the Federal Judiciary*, annual; <<http://www.uscourts.gov/>>.