



# NEWS RELEASE

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

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## Second Quarter 2000 Shows Bankruptcy Filings Still Sliding

The number of bankruptcy petitions filed in federal courts dropped over 8 percent in the 12-month period ending March 31, 2000, according to statistics released today by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Bankruptcy filings went from 1,419,199 in the 12-month period ended March 1999 to 1,301,205 in the same time period in 2000, a decline of 8.3 percent. Both business and non-business filings were down. Business filings totaled 38,109, down from 41,128 in 1999. Non-business filings totaled 1,263,096, down 8.3 percent from the total non-business filings of 1,378,071 in the 12-month period ending March 31, 1999.

Total bankruptcy filings for the years ending March 31, have slipped from a ten-year high of 1,423,128 in March 1998. However, the number of petitions filed this year was still 33 percent greater than the number filed in 1996, and well over one million bankruptcy cases continue to be filed in federal courts each year. The workload has strained a Judiciary where new bankruptcy judgeships were last created in 1992. Filings per authorized judgeship have risen from 3,007 filings per judgeship in March 1996 to 3,991 in March 2000. The

Judicial Conference has recommended the creation of 24 additional bankruptcy judgeships. Legislation currently before Congress would authorize 18 bankruptcy judgeships.

### Business and Non-business Filings

#### Years Ended March 31, 1995-2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Non-business</u>	<u>Business</u>
2000	1,301,205	1,263,096	38,109
1999	1,419,199	1,378,071	41,128
1998	1,423,128	1,370,490	52,638
1997	1,247,065	1,193,057	54,008
1996	980,126	927,916	52,210
1995	838,959	787,291	51,668

### Filings by Chapter

Reductions in filings under all chapters, except Chapter 11, were responsible for the overall drop in bankruptcy filings. Of the total number of bankruptcy filings for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2000, there were 908,802 Chapter 7 filings, a 10.6 percent decrease over the 1,017,049 filings in the same period in 1999. The next largest group consisted of Chapter 13 filings at 381,568, a 3 percent

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decrease over the 393,245 filings in the same 12-month period in 1999. Chapter 12 filings fell in this period, from 859 in 1999 to 739 in 2000, a 14 percent decrease. For the first time in 7 years, Chapter 11 filings rose, up 25.7 percent from 8,010 in 1999 to total 10,071 in the 12-month period ending March 31, 1999.

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.

**Total Bankruptcy Filings by Bankruptcy Chapter  
 Years Ended March 31, 1995-2000**

Year	Chapter				
	7	11	12	13	Other
2000	908,802	10,071	739	381,568	25
1999	1,017,049	8,010	859	393,245	36
1998	1,007,213	10,244	880	404,749	42
1997	862,136	11,472	1,050	372,369	38
1996	665,310	12,901	988	300,901	26
1995	568,565	14,055	916	255,382	41

**Filings by Quarter**

The number of bankruptcies filed during the second quarter of fiscal year 2000 (January 1, 2000—March 31, 2000) was 312,335 a 5.6 percent decrease over the 330,784 bankruptcy cases filed during the second quarter of FY99. First quarter filings for FY 2000 (October 1, 1999 — December 31, 1999) totaled 318,634.

**Quarterly Bankruptcy Filings\***

Ending	Total Filings	Ending	Total Filings	Ending	Total Filings
MAR. 31, 2000	312,335	MAR. 31, 1997	335,073	MAR. 31, 1994	206,565
DEC. 31, 1999	318,634	DEC. 31, 1996	311,131	DEC. 31, 1993	206,570
SEPT. 30, 1999	323,550	SEPT. 30, 1996	303,309	SEPT. 30, 1993	215,498
JUN. 30, 1999	345,956	JUN. 30, 1996	297,162	JUN. 30, 1993	229,406
MAR. 31, 1999	330,784	MAR. 31, 1996	266,149	MAR. 31, 1993	222,694
DEC. 31, 1998	353,108	DEC. 31, 1995	244,494	DEC. 31, 1992	228,562
SEPT. 30, 1998	361,205	SEPT. 30, 1995	233,593	SEPT. 30, 1992	236,810
JUN. 30, 1998	373,460	JUN. 30, 1995	235,302	JUN. 30, 1992	250,622
MAR. 31, 1998	354,118	MAR. 31, 1995	212,626	MAR. 31, 1992	252,733
DEC. 31, 1997	347,685	DEC. 31, 1994	201,618	DEC. 31, 1991	234,383
SEPT. 30, 1997	353,515	SEPT. 30, 1994	208,187	SEPT. 30, 1991	231,743
JUN. 30, 1997	367,168	JUN. 30, 1994	216,213	JUN. 30, 1991	246,496
				MAR. 31, 1991	231,017

\*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 ENDING MARCH 31, 2000**

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					
<b>TOTAL...</b>	<b>1,301,205</b>	<b>908,802</b>	<b>10,071</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>381,568</b>	<b>38,109</b>	<b>22,170</b>	<b>9,357</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>5,818</b>	<b>1,263,096</b>	<b>886,632</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>375,750</b>
<b>DC.....</b>	2,683	1,768	35	-	880	68	24	32	-	12	2,615	1,744	3	868
<b>1ST...</b>	48,636	32,552	293	4	15,787	1,411	943	278	4	186	47,225	31,609	15	15,601
<b>ME.....</b>	4,065	3,766	14	1	284	184	137	14	1	32	3,881	3,629	-	252
<b>MA.....</b>	17,812	15,309	175	1	2,327	546	332	175	1	38	17,266	14,977	-	2,289
<b>NH.....</b>	4,002	3,683	19	1	299	336	302	19	1	14	3,666	3,381	-	285
<b>RI.....</b>	4,990	4,646	18	-	326	111	89	18	-	4	4,879	4,557	-	322
<b>PR.....</b>	17,767	5,148	67	1	12,551	234	83	52	1	98	17,533	5,065	15	12,453
<b>2ND...</b>	77,846	63,589	793	24	13,433	2,015	1,059	696	24	229	75,831	62,530	97	13,204
<b>CT.....</b>	11,651	10,128	70	2	1,451	132	72	58	2	-	11,519	10,056	12	1,451
<b>NY,N....</b>	14,222	11,846	48	14	2,314	393	246	42	14	91	13,829	11,600	6	2,223
<b>NY,E....</b>	25,172	19,814	249	-	5,109	389	164	216	-	9	24,783	19,650	33	5,100
<b>NY,S....</b>	13,893	11,876	373	1	1,638	542	193	329	1	14	13,351	11,683	44	1,624
<b>NY,W....</b>	11,206	8,375	43	3	2,784	498	352	41	3	101	10,708	8,023	2	2,683
<b>VT.....</b>	1,702	1,550	10	4	137	61	32	10	4	14	1,641	1,518	-	123
<b>3RD...</b>	89,046	58,577	3,788	17	26,663	5,194	1,294	3,659	17	223	83,852	57,283	129	26,440
<b>DE.....</b>	5,348	1,618	2,978	-	752	2,998	33	2,962	-	3	2,350	1,585	16	749
<b>NJ.....</b>	39,630	25,873	464	1	13,291	838	433	395	1	8	38,792	25,440	69	13,283
<b>PA,E....</b>	21,635	12,329	160	2	9,144	334	168	141	2	23	21,301	12,161	19	9,121
<b>PA,M....</b>	10,303	8,303	68	3	1,929	678	432	65	3	178	9,625	7,871	3	1,751
<b>PA,W....</b>	12,050	10,391	114	11	1,534	336	221	93	11	11	11,714	10,170	21	1,523
<b>VI.....</b>	80	63	4	-	13	10	7	3	-	-	70	56	1	13

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		
<b>4TH...</b>	114,926	73,894	518	38	40,475	2,417	1,569	451	38	358	112,509	72,325	67	40,117
<b>MD.....</b>	31,899	21,924	146	1	9,828	721	453	134	1	133	31,178	21,471	12	9,695
<b>NC,E....</b>	10,065	4,664	43	12	5,346	265	134	38	12	81	9,800	4,530	5	5,265
<b>NC,M....</b>	8,630	2,996	21	1	5,612	132	104	20	1	7	8,498	2,892	1	5,605
<b>NC,W....</b>	6,925	3,175	15	-	3,735	61	43	15	-	3	6,864	3,132	-	3,732
<b>SC.....</b>	11,510	5,591	55	9	5,855	183	109	44	9	21	11,327	5,482	11	5,834
<b>VA,E....</b>	27,731	19,697	151	10	7,872	335	184	118	10	22	27,396	19,513	33	7,850
<b>VA,W....</b>	10,041	8,230	35	4	1,772	458	352	33	4	69	9,583	7,878	2	1,703
<b>WV,N....</b>	3,400	3,173	17	1	209	127	98	15	1	13	3,273	3,075	2	196
<b>WV,S....</b>	4,725	4,444	35	-	246	135	92	34	-	9	4,590	4,352	1	237
<b>5TH...</b>	104,676	58,022	754	101	45,794	3,160	1,702	715	101	637	101,516	56,320	39	45,157
<b>LA,E....</b>	7,974	5,115	84	3	2,772	150	68	79	3	-	7,824	5,047	5	2,772
<b>LA,M....</b>	2,775	1,895	16	1	863	39	21	16	1	1	2,736	1,874	-	862
<b>LA,W....</b>	12,305	5,912	46	14	6,332	440	264	44	14	117	11,865	5,648	2	6,215
<b>MS,N....</b>	5,830	3,588	25	15	2,202	114	59	25	15	15	5,716	3,529	-	2,187
<b>MS,S....</b>	11,999	7,003	20	12	4,964	65	38	15	12	-	11,934	6,965	5	4,964
<b>TX,N....</b>	21,076	11,018	216	27	9,815	931	521	210	27	173	20,145	10,497	6	9,642
<b>TX,E....</b>	9,180	4,600	38	8	4,533	318	167	37	8	105	8,862	4,433	1	4,428
<b>TX,S....</b>	17,436	9,821	197	10	7,407	637	295	182	10	149	16,799	9,526	15	7,258
<b>TX,W....</b>	16,101	9,070	112	11	6,906	466	269	107	11	77	15,635	8,801	5	6,829
<b>6TH...</b>	157,890	106,442	654	51	50,743	2,912	1,784	606	51	471	154,978	104,658	48	50,272
<b>KY,E....</b>	8,908	7,760	18	4	1,126	130	97	18	4	11	8,778	7,663	-	1,115
<b>KY,W....</b>	11,880	9,545	39	12	2,284	143	85	38	12	8	11,737	9,460	1	2,276
<b>MI,E....</b>	25,350	17,977	117	8	7,248	341	197	110	8	26	25,009	17,780	7	7,222
<b>MI,W....</b>	11,404	8,436	51	9	2,908	275	164	50	9	52	11,129	8,272	1	2,856
<b>OH,N....</b>	27,860	22,562	45	2	5,251	839	658	45	2	134	27,021	21,904	-	5,117
<b>OH,S....</b>	25,828	19,715	59	10	6,044	424	252	59	10	103	25,404	19,463	-	5,941
<b>TN,E....</b>	14,962	8,496	44	1	6,421	212	118	40	1	53	14,750	8,378	4	6,368
<b>TN,M....</b>	10,937	6,477	86	4	4,370	238	133	59	4	42	10,699	6,344	27	4,328
<b>TN,W....</b>	20,761	5,474	195	1	15,091	310	80	187	1	42	20,451	5,394	8	15,049

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<b>7TH...</b>	119,324	91,685	350	96	27,192	2,512	1,795	318	96	302	116,812	89,890	32	26,890
<b>IL,N....</b>	44,311	30,176	180	2	13,953	555	370	165	2	18	43,756	29,806	15	13,935
<b>IL,C....</b>	11,690	9,935	16	45	1,694	151	78	16	45	12	11,539	9,857	-	1,682
<b>IL,S....</b>	7,340	5,306	22	16	1,996	617	437	21	16	143	6,723	4,869	1	1,853
<b>IN,N....</b>	14,155	11,994	30	6	2,125	127	81	26	6	14	14,028	11,913	4	2,111
<b>IN,S....</b>	23,719	18,836	63	8	4,812	323	226	52	8	37	23,396	18,610	11	4,775
<b>WI,E....</b>	12,341	10,239	14	5	2,083	182	151	14	5	12	12,159	10,088	-	2,071
<b>WI,W....</b>	5,768	5,199	25	14	529	557	452	24	14	66	5,211	4,747	1	463
<b>8TH...</b>	76,998	57,831	224	168	18,774	2,762	1,954	206	168	433	74,236	55,877	18	18,341
<b>AR,E....</b>	10,126	5,495	18	4	4,609	125	63	15	4	43	10,001	5,432	3	4,566
<b>AR,W....</b>	6,203	4,313	12	3	1,875	127	73	12	3	39	6,076	4,240	-	1,836
<b>IA,N....</b>	3,445	3,301	13	15	116	134	104	10	15	5	3,311	3,197	3	111
<b>IA,S....</b>	4,916	4,525	9	6	376	71	55	9	6	1	4,845	4,470	-	375
<b>MN.....</b>	15,722	12,420	38	21	3,243	1,569	1,242	38	21	268	14,153	11,178	-	2,975
<b>MO,E....</b>	15,639	9,837	23	4	5,774	205	147	21	4	32	15,434	9,690	2	5,742
<b>MO,W....</b>	11,125	9,240	61	7	1,817	164	84	57	7	16	10,961	9,156	4	1,801
<b>NE.....</b>	5,540	4,642	39	61	798	139	34	33	61	11	5,401	4,608	6	787
<b>ND.....</b>	2,061	1,944	7	21	89	88	54	7	21	6	1,973	1,890	-	83
<b>SD.....</b>	2,221	2,114	4	26	77	140	98	4	26	12	2,081	2,016	-	65
<b>9TH...</b>	275,794	220,212	1,578	103	53,897	10,236	6,711	1,423	103	1,995	265,558	213,501	155	51,902
<b>AK.....</b>	1,474	1,337	13	-	124	111	80	13	-	18	1,363	1,257	-	106
<b>AZ.....</b>	22,410	17,984	344	3	4,079	809	379	311	3	116	21,601	17,605	33	3,963
<b>CA,N....</b>	24,965	17,993	174	4	6,793	1,304	702	152	4	445	23,661	17,291	22	6,348
<b>CA,E....</b>	33,694	28,717	96	21	4,859	1,107	753	87	21	245	32,587	27,964	9	4,614
<b>CA,C....</b>	98,100	78,679	486	-	18,935	2,342	1,676	435	-	231	95,758	77,003	51	18,704
<b>CA,S....</b>	14,706	11,491	54	-	3,161	178	123	42	-	13	14,528	11,368	12	3,148
<b>HI.....</b>	5,223	4,675	23	-	524	75	47	22	-	5	5,148	4,628	1	519
<b>ID.....</b>	7,303	5,799	39	37	1,428	331	178	35	37	81	6,972	5,621	4	1,347
<b>MT.....</b>	3,408	2,938	12	12	446	140	101	10	12	17	3,268	2,837	2	429
<b>NV.....</b>	14,550	10,676	111	5	3,758	292	156	103	5	28	14,258	10,520	8	3,730

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		
OR.....	18,325	15,231	30	6	3,057	2,886	2,107	29	6	743	15,439	13,124	1	2,314
WA,E....	7,992	6,162	41	15	1,774	320	242	37	15	26	7,672	5,920	4	1,748
WA,W....	23,476	18,394	151	-	4,931	306	142	144	-	20	23,170	18,252	7	4,911
GUAM....	152	126	4	-	22	26	21	3	-	2	126	105	1	20
NMI.....	16	10	-	-	6	9	4	-	-	5	7	6	-	1
<b>10TH..</b>	<b>70,262</b>	<b>55,978</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>13,934</b>	<b>2,386</b>	<b>1,658</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>67,876</b>	<b>54,320</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13,540</b>
CO.....	15,872	13,410	66	13	2,383	335	237	65	13	20	15,537	13,173	1	2,363
KS.....	11,426	9,192	29	21	2,184	169	103	26	21	19	11,257	9,089	3	2,165
NM.....	7,228	6,165	35	8	1,020	543	423	30	8	82	6,685	5,742	5	938
OK,N....	4,977	4,344	18	3	612	355	280	17	3	55	4,622	4,064	1	557
OK,E....	3,566	3,281	9	13	263	94	59	9	13	13	3,472	3,222	-	250
OK,W....	11,029	9,114	34	19	1,862	349	243	32	19	55	10,680	8,871	2	1,807
UT.....	14,152	8,612	56	8	5,476	476	272	54	8	142	13,676	8,340	2	5,334
WY.....	2,012	1,860	16	2	134	65	41	14	2	8	1,947	1,819	2	126
<b>11TH..</b>	<b>163,124</b>	<b>88,252</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>73,996</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>1,677</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>160,088</b>	<b>86,575</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>73,418</b>
AL,N....	19,481	7,446	65	3	11,967	275	132	48	3	92	19,206	7,314	17	11,875
AL,M....	6,601	2,807	19	8	3,767	147	77	18	8	44	6,454	2,730	1	3,723
AL,S....	4,787	2,107	15	-	2,664	30	14	15	-	-	4,757	2,093	-	2,664
FL,N....	5,005	3,993	38	1	973	77	36	34	1	6	4,928	3,957	4	967
FL,M....	41,673	30,130	273	8	11,262	954	558	251	8	137	40,719	29,572	22	11,125
FL,S....	28,155	20,397	239	2	7,514	671	452	209	2	5	27,484	19,945	30	7,509
GA,N....	31,668	12,972	124	1	18,570	611	285	107	1	217	31,057	12,687	17	18,353
GA,M....	14,000	5,674	29	24	8,273	142	61	26	24	31	13,858	5,613	3	8,242
GA,S....	11,754	2,726	19	3	9,006	129	62	18	3	46	11,625	2,664	1	8,960

\*THESE FIGURES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING CASES NOT REFLECTED ELSEWHERE:

NY,S....	SECTION 304 = 05	NY,W...	SECTION 304 = 01	VT.....	SECTION 304 = 01
NJ.....	CHAPTER 9 = 01	VA,E...	SECTION 304 = 01	LA,W...	CHAPTER 9 = 01
TX,E....	SECTION 304 = 01	TX,S...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	TX,W...	SECTION 304 = 02
WI,W....	SECTION 304 = 01	MO,E...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	CA,N...	SECTION 304 = 01
CA,E....	CHAPTER 9 = 01	HI.....	SECTION 304 = 01	OR.....	SECTION 304 = 01
AL,S....	CHAPTER 9 = 01	FL,S...	SECTION 304 = 03	GA,N...	SECTION 304 = 01