



NEWS RELEASE

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

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Bankruptcy Filings Up for Calendar Year Total for Year Misses Historic High

Bankruptcy filings in the federal courts remained high in calendar year 2003, according to data released today by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Total bankruptcies filed in the twelve-month period ending December 31, 2003, totaled 1,660,245, up 5.2 percent from the 1,577,651 bankruptcies filed in the 12-month period ending December 31, 2002. The calendar year total for 2003, however, did not break the historic high for a 12-month period, which was reported in fiscal year 2003 at 1,661,996. The Judiciary's fiscal year ends September 30.

The majority of bankruptcy filings are non-business filings and in calendar year 2003, they numbered 1,625,208. In calendar year 2002, they totaled 1,539,111. The number of business filings continued to decline, totaling 35,037 in 2003. They totaled 38,540 in 2002.

The last three months of calendar year 2003 were the first quarter of the Judiciary's 2004 fiscal year. The number of bankruptcies filed during the first quarter of fiscal year 2004 (October 1-December 31, 2003) was 393,348. That is down

0.5 percent from the 395,129 filings for the first quarter of fiscal year 2003 (October 1-December 31, 2002).

Business and Non-business Filings CY 1999-2003

Year	Business	Non-business	TOTAL
2003	35,037	1,625,208	1,660,245
2002	38,540	1,539,111	1,577,651
2001	40,099	1,452,030	1,492,129
2000	35,472	1,217,972	1,253,444
1999	37,884	1,281,581	1,319,465

New Bankruptcy Judgeships Requested

As the number of bankruptcies filed in federal court has increased, the number of filings per judgeship also has grown. In calendar year 1993, filings per judgeship totaled 2,685. By 2003, filings per judgeship had increased 90.8 percent to 5,124.

Despite the continued increase in bankruptcy filings, no new bankruptcy judgeships have been created since 1992. Legislation that would authorize 36 new bankruptcy judgeships, H.R. 1428, was introduced in the first session of the 108th Congress and is pending in the House. S. 878, which was passed by the Senate in the first session, would create 36 bankruptcy judgeships, in addition to new Article III judgeships. The Senate bill was referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Courts for consideration.

Filings by Chapter

Of the total number of bankruptcy filings for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2003, there were 1,176,905 Chapter 7 filings, up 6.0 percent from the 1,109,923 Chapter 7 filings in the same period in

(MORE)

2002. The next largest group of filings was Chapter 13 filings at 473,137, up 3.8 percent from the 455,877 filings in calendar year 2002. Chapter 11 filings fell 16.6 percent to 9,404, from the 11,270 filings in calendar year 2002. In 2003, Chapter 12 filings rose 46.8 percent to 712, from 485 in 2002. A similar surge in filings was reported for fiscal year 2003 and mostly likely can be traced to the retroactive extension of provisions for filing under this chapter, which has occurred several times since provisions for filing under Chapter 12 first expired in 2000.

**Total Bankruptcy Filings by Bankruptcy Chapter
Calendar Years, Period Ending December 30, 1999-2003**

	<u>Chapter</u>			
Year	7	11	12	13
2003	1,176,905	9,404	712	473,137
2002	1,109,923	11,270	485	455,877
2001	1,054,975	11,424	383	425,292
2000	859,220	9,884	407	383,894
1999	927,074	9,315	834	382,214

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. Chapter 9 provides protection for a financially distressed municipality from its creditors while it develops and negotiates a plan for adjusting its debt. For more on bankruptcy, go to the Judiciary’s web site at www.uscourts.gov/bankbasic.pdf or to <http://www.fjc.gov/federal/courts.nsf>. Local bankruptcy court rules can be found at www.uscourts.gov/rules/bk-localrules.html. A breakdown of the latest data on bankruptcy filings follows and also is available on the Judiciary’s web site at www.uscourts.gov under Newsroom/News Releases. Additional bankruptcy statistics, including bankruptcies by county, can be found on the Judiciary’s PACER system at http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/announcements/general/bkstat_rpt.html

Quarterly Bankruptcy Filings*

PERIOD	FILINGS	PERIOD	FILINGS	PERIOD	FILINGS
DEC. 31, 2003	393,348	JUN. 30, 2000	321,729	DEC. 31, 1996	311,131
SEPT. 30, 2003	412,989	MAR. 31, 2000	312,335	SEPT. 30, 1996	303,309
JUN. 30, 2003	440,257	DEC. 31, 1999	318,634	JUN. 30, 1996	297,162
MAR. 31, 2003	412,968	SEPT. 30, 1999	323,550	MAR. 31, 1996	266,149
DEC. 31, 2002	395,129	JUN. 30, 1999	345,956	DEC. 31, 1995	244,494
SEPT. 30, 2002	401,306	MAR. 31, 1999	330,784	SEPT. 30, 1995	233,593
JUN. 30, 2002	400,686	DEC. 31, 1998	353,108	JUN. 30, 1995	235,302
MAR. 31, 2002	379,012	SEPT. 30, 1998	361,205	MAR. 31, 1995	212,626
DEC. 31, 2001	364,921	JUN. 30, 1998	373,460	DEC. 31, 1994	201,618
SEPT. 30, 2001	359,518	MAR. 31, 1998	354,118	SEPT. 30, 1994	208,187
JUN. 30, 2001	400,394	DEC. 31, 1997	347,685	JUN. 30, 1994	216,213
MAR. 31, 2001	366,841	SEPT. 30, 1997	353,515	MAR. 31, 1994	206,565
DEC. 31, 2000	310,169	JUN. 30, 1997	367,168	DEC. 31, 1993	206,570
SEPT. 30, 2000	308,718	MAR. 31, 1997	335,073		

*Because of ongoing corrections to the bankruptcy database, the quarterly data may not total to the most recent annual figures.

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**TABLE F-2 U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURTS
BUSINESS AND NONBUSINESS CASES COMMENCED, BY CHAPTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE,
DURING THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2003**

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		
TOTAL...	1,660,245	1,176,905	9,404	712	473,137	35,037	20,631	8,474	712	5,138	1,625,208	1,156,274	930	467,999
DC.....	2,311	1,662	32-		617	55	24	27	-	4	2,256	1,638	5	613
1ST...	46,176	32,196	380	11	13,589	981	587	335	11	48	45,195	31,609	45	13,541
ME.....	4,660	4,237	11	1	411	105	74	11	1	19	4,555	4,163-		392
MA.....	18,260	15,570	219-		2,471	396	181	213-		2	17,864	15,389	6	2,469
NH.....	4,426	3,945	15-		466	178	152	12-		14	4,248	3,793	3	452
RI.....	4,557	4,206	7-		344	48	40	7-		1	4,509	4,166-		343
PR.....	14,273	4,238	128	10	9,897	254	140	92	10	12	14,019	4,098	36	9,885
2ND...	89,948	71,403	1,289	33	17,180	2,252	799	1,232	33	146	87,696	70,604	57	17,034
CT.....	12,246	10,050	103	4	2,088	187	89	87	4	7	12,059	9,961	16	2,081
NY,N....	17,403	13,676	68	17	3,642	333	192	64	17	60	17,070	13,484	4	3,582
NY,E....	25,950	20,245	193	1	5,511	293	108	179	1	5	25,657	20,137	14	5,506
NY,S....	17,552	14,611	867	1	2,031	1,059	166	844	1	6	16,493	14,445	23	2,025
NY,W....	14,894	11,179	53	9	3,653	302	189	53	9	51	14,592	10,990-		3,602
VT.....	1,903	1,642	5	1	255	78	55	5	1	17	1,825	1,587-		238
3RD...	105,770	70,020	1,183	14	34,548	2,435	1,095	1,097	14	225	103,335	68,925	86	34,323
DE.....	3,918	2,046	423-		1,445	505	48	423-		30	3,413	1,998-		1,415
NJ.....	42,377	27,256	354	3	14,764	734	391	311	3	29	41,643	26,865	43	14,735
PA,E....	25,800	14,251	144	4	11,400	350	180	129	4	37	25,450	14,071	15	11,363
PA,M....	14,003	10,559	57	2	3,385	280	156	53	2	69	13,723	10,403	4	3,316
PA,W....	19,620	15,876	205	5	3,534	563	318	181	5	59	19,057	15,558	24	3,475
VI.....	52	32-	-		20	3	2-	-		1	49	30-		19

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		
4TH...	144,177	91,359	708	34	52,073	2,439	1,577	615	34	210	141,738	89,782	93	51,863
MD.....	34,231	22,853	194	2	11,182	523	292	175	2	54	33,708	22,561	19	11,128
NC,E....	15,875	8,000	73	21	7,781	209	118	62	21	8	15,666	7,882	11	7,773
NC,M....	12,681	5,770	25-		6,886	182	132	25-		25	12,499	5,638-		6,861
NC,W....	10,609	5,571	112	2	4,922	137	33	100	2-		10,472	5,538	12	4,922
SC.....	16,212	7,056	64	4	9,088	142	87	44	4	7	16,070	6,969	20	9,081
VA,E....	30,528	21,018	160	1	9,348	406	249	134	1	21	30,122	20,769	26	9,327
VA,W....	12,940	10,641	28	2	2,269	550	453	26	2	69	12,390	10,188	2	2,200
WV,N....	4,654	4,350	21	1	282	101	69	20	1	11	4,553	4,281	1	271
WV,S....	6,447	6,100	31	1	315	189	144	29	1	15	6,258	5,956	2	300
5TH...	143,661	81,235	1,209	105	61,107	3,934	1,991	1,111	105	722	139,727	79,244	98	60,385
LA,E....	10,135	6,849	49-		3,237	124	89	35-	-		10,011	6,760	14	3,237
LA,M....	4,047	2,899	16	1	1,131	30	16	11	1	2	4,017	2,883	5	1,129
LA,W....	15,393	8,304	53	39	6,997	345	142	49	39	115	15,048	8,162	4	6,882
MS,N....	8,391	5,878	36	17	2,460	127	66	35	17	9	8,264	5,812	1	2,451
MS,S....	13,855	9,251	63	2	4,539	155	81	55	2	17	13,700	9,170	8	4,522
TX,N....	31,469	15,385	405	26	15,650	1,223	582	383	26	229	30,246	14,803	22	15,421
TX,E....	13,264	7,607	77	8	5,572	326	179	70	8	69	12,938	7,428	7	5,503
TX,S....	25,996	13,191	338	3	12,463	786	380	308	3	94	25,210	12,811	30	12,369
TX,W....	21,111	11,871	172	9	9,058	818	456	165	9	187	20,293	11,415	7	8,871
6TH...	247,766	171,556	839	43	75,323	3,034	1,864	741	43	381	244,732	169,692	98	74,942
KYE....	13,388	11,430	29-		1,929	158	119	28-		11	13,230	11,311	1	1,918
KY,W....	16,509	13,088	58	8	3,354	169	98	54	8	8	16,340	12,990	4	3,346
MI,E....	45,755	30,894	175	5	14,677	390	205	153	5	23	45,365	30,689	22	14,654
MI,W....	16,999	13,152	57	5	3,785	294	196	51	5	42	16,705	12,956	6	3,743
OH,N....	48,456	39,921	127	7	8,401	878	639	120	7	112	47,578	39,282	7	8,289
OH,S....	41,315	31,148	84	12	10,071	548	337	80	12	119	40,767	30,811	4	9,952
TN,E....	20,495	12,936	66	5	7,488	247	143	62	5	37	20,248	12,793	4	7,451
TN,M....	16,498	10,126	136	1	6,235	201	76	103	1	21	16,297	10,050	33	6,214
TN,W....	28,351	8,861	107-		19,383	149	51	90-		8	28,202	8,810	17	19,375~

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		
7TH...	169,552	132,436	563	64	36,488	2,353	1,614	507	64	167	167,199	130,822	56	36,321
IL,N....	59,068	42,858	263	3	15,944	681	435	237	3	6	58,387	42,423	26	15,938
IL,C....	16,367	13,983	35	22	2,327	166	105	35	22	4	16,201	13,878-		2,323
IL,S....	10,076	7,297	26	6	2,746	144	92	17	6	28	9,932	7,205	9	2,718
IN,N....	21,155	17,650	60	7	3,438	203	117	57	7	22	20,952	17,533	3	3,416
IN,S....	34,640	27,047	110	7	7,476	437	291	104	7	35	34,203	26,756	6	7,441
WI,E....	18,850	15,393	22	5	3,430	191	139	22	5	25	18,659	15,254-		3,405
WI,W....	9,396	8,208	47	14	1,127	531	435	35	14	47	8,865	7,773	12	1,080
8TH...	109,471	82,859	297	146	26,166	2,962	2,048	277	146	488	106,509	80,811	20	25,678
AR,E....	15,641	8,491	35	9	7,106	254	107	31	9	107	15,387	8,384	4	6,999
AR,W....	8,666	5,981	17	2	2,665	175	90	15	2	67	8,491	5,891	2	2,598
IA,N....	4,940	4,734	12	6	188	211	181	11	6	13	4,729	4,553	1	175
IA,S....	7,642	7,161	16	6	459	112	83	16	6	7	7,530	7,078-		452
MN.....	20,987	17,522	49	24	3,392	1,379	1,108	49	24	198	19,608	16,414-		3,194
MO,E....	20,217	13,375	71	9	6,761	168	76	67	9	15	20,049	13,299	4	6,746
MO,W....	17,613	14,134	48	9	3,422	210	125	46	9	30	17,403	14,009	2	3,392
NE.....	8,625	6,638	30	55	1,901	238	126	25	55	31	8,387	6,512	5	1,870
ND.....	2,293	2,170	5	20	98	105	75	5	20	5	2,188	2,095-		93
SD.....	2,847	2,653	14	6	174	110	77	12	6	15	2,737	2,576	2	159
9TH...	279,692	229,504	1,605	125	48,445	8,382	5,007	1,401	125	1,837	271,310	224,497	204	46,608
AK.....	1,510	1,362	18-		130	121	87	17-		17	1,389	1,275	1	113
AZ.....	31,811	25,432	297	3	6,079	701	363	253	3	82	31,110	25,069	44	5,997
CA,N....	22,948	16,378	221	2	6,347	1,079	593	182	2	302	21,869	15,785	39	6,045
CA,E....	31,166	26,177	83	37	4,867	1,111	712	76	37	284	30,055	25,465	7	4,583
CA,C....	75,712	65,230	375	8	10,089	2,041	1,542	343	8	138	73,671	63,688	32	9,951
CA,S....	11,833	9,721	111	1	2,000	270	144	103	1	22	11,563	9,577	8	1,978
HI.....	3,795	3,294	39-		462	72	35	35-		2	3,723	3,259	4	460
ID.....	9,660	8,368	44	23	1,225	225	134	36	23	32	9,435	8,234	8	1,193
MT.....	4,385	3,867	17	15	486	98	53	16	15	14	4,287	3,814	1	472
NV.....	20,561	15,371	137-		5,052	321	176	123-		22	20,240	15,195	14	5,030
OR.....	25,370	21,541	41	14	3,774	1,591	701	38	14	838	23,779	20,840	3	2,936
WA,E....	10,480	8,037	70	22	2,351	260	156	55	22	27	10,220	7,881	15	2,324
WA,W....	30,075	24,390	150-		5,535	477	298	122-		57	29,598	24,092	28	5,478
GUAM....	367	319	2-		46	12	10	2-	-		355	309-		46
NMI.....	19	17-	-		2	3	3-	-	-		16	14-		2

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	TOTAL BUSINESS FILINGS*					TOTAL NON- BUSINESS FILINGS*							
		CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	TOTAL BUSINESS FILINGS*	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	TOTAL NON- BUSINESS FILINGS*	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13
10TH..	103,671	86,637	345	88	16,600	2,804	2,055	325	88	335	100,867	84,582	20	16,265
CO.....	25,956	23,230	79	8	2,638	552	429	76	8	38	25,404	22,801	3	2,600
KS.....	16,192	12,984	58	28	3,122	303	177	52	28	46	15,889	12,807	6	3,076
NM.....	9,777	8,853	35	4	885	774	634	32	4	104	9,003	8,219	3	781
OK,N....	7,710	7,041	17	5	647	280	234	16	5	25	7,430	6,807	1	622
OK,E....	5,129	4,701	14	5	409	70	43	14	5	8	5,059	4,658-		401
OK,W....	14,363	12,471	39	36	1,817	262	175	35	36	16	14,101	12,296	4	1,801
UT.....	22,084	15,106	88	1	6,889	519	341	85	1	92	21,565	14,765	3	6,797
WY.....	2,460	2,251	15	1	193	44	22	15	1	6	2,416	2,229-		187
11TH..	218,050	126,038	954	49	91,001	3,406	1,970	806	49	575	214,644	124,068	148	90,426
AL,N....	26,027	13,054	113	2	12,858	158	77	74	2	5	25,869	12,977	39	12,853
AL,M....	8,824	4,419	19	2	4,384	73	47	15	2	9	8,751	4,372	4	4,375
AL,S....	7,570	3,143	25	1	4,401	56	20	20	1	15	7,514	3,123	5	4,386
FL,N....	7,121	5,686	43-		1,392	72	36	34-		2	7,049	5,650	9	1,390
FL,M....	55,511	39,869	237	5	15,398	646	383	192	5	65	54,865	39,486	45	15,333
FL,S....	31,792	22,647	249-		8,891	816	544	223-		45	30,976	22,103	26	8,846
GA,N....	46,756	24,275	178	3	22,299	1,239	723	163	3	349	45,517	23,552	15	21,950
GA,M....	18,142	8,401	53	31	9,657	193	69	51	31	42	17,949	8,332	2	9,615
GA,S....	16,307	4,544	37	5	11,721	153	71	34	5	43	16,154	4,473	3	11,678

* THESE FIGURES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING CASES NOT REFLECTED ELSEWHERE:

CT..... SECTION 304 = 01	NY,S.... SECTION 304 = 42	DE..... SECTION 304	4
PA,E.... SECTION 304 = 01	NC,W.... SECTION 304 = 02	VA,E.... SECTION 304	1
TX,N.... SECTION 304 = 03	TX,S.... CHAPTER 9 = 01	TX,W.... SECTION 304	1
KY,W.... SECTION 304 = 01	MI,E.... SECTION 304 = 04	IL,S.... CHAPTER 9	1
AR,W.... CHAPTER 9 = 01	MO,E.... CHAPTER 9 = 01	NE..... SECTION 304	1
CA,E.... CHAPTER 9 = 02	CA,C.... SECTION 304 = 10	NV..... SECTION 304	1
CO..... SECTION 304 = 01	FL,M.... SECTION 304 = 02	FL,S.... SECTION 304	5
GA,N.... SECTION 304 = 01			