



NEWS RELEASE

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Increase in Bankruptcy Filings Slowed in Calendar Year 1998

The number of bankruptcy petitions filed in calendar year 1998—the 12-month period ending December 31, 1998—increased 2.7 percent over filings in calendar year 1997, according to data released today by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. In comparison, calendar filings for 1997 showed a 19.1 percent increase over the same time period in 1996. This may be an indication that, while the total number of filings remains high, the rate of increase in filings appears to be slowing.

Filings in the calendar year 1998 totaled 1,442,549, while filings in the calendar year 1997, totaled 1,404,145. Bankruptcy filings passed the one-million mark for the first time in the 12-month period ending June 30, 1996 and have risen steadily since.

The number of bankruptcies filed during the first quarter of FY99 (October 1-December 31, 1998)—353,108—was down slightly from the final quarter of FY98 when filings totaled 361,205, but 3-month filings were up slightly when compared to the first quarter of FY98, when filings totaled 347,685.

Business and Non-business Filings CY 1994-98

<u>CY</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Non-business</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1998	44,367	1,398,182	1,442,549
1997	54,027	1,350,118	1,404,145
1996	53,549	1,125,006	1,178,555
1995	51,959	874,642	926,601
1994	52,374	780,455	832,829

Filings by Chapter

Of the total number of bankruptcy filings for the 12-month period ending December 31, 1998, there were 1,035,696 Chapter 7 filings, the only category of chapter filings to rise, an increase of 4.7 percent over the 989,372 filings in the same period in 1997. The next largest group of filings were Chapter 13 filings at 397,619, which dropped 1.3 percent when compared to the 403,025 filings in the same period in 1997. Chapter 11 filings dropped to 8,386 in calendar year 1998, down from 10,765 in 1997. Chapter 12 filings also fell in this period, from 949 in 1997 to 807 in 1998. The number of business filings fell, down to 44,367 in 1998 from 54,027 in 1997. Non-business filings increased, to a total of 1,398,182 in 1998, up 3.6 percent from the total non-business filings of 1,350,118 in calendar year 1997.

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
Calendar Years, Period Ending December 30, 1994-1998

Year	Chapter			
	7	11	12	13
1998	1,035,696	8,386	807	397,619
1997	989,372	10,765	949	403,025
1996	810,400	11,911	1,083	355,123
1995	626,150	12,904	926	286,588
1994	567,240	14,773	900	249,877

A breakdown of the latest data on bankruptcy filings follows and also is available on the home page of the Judiciary at www.uscourts.gov.

Quarterly Bankruptcy Filings*

3-Month Period

Ending	Total Filings
DEC. 31, 1998	353,108
SEPT. 30, 1998	361,205
JUN. 30, 1998	373,460
MAR. 31, 1998	354,118
DEC. 31, 1997	347,685
SEPT. 30, 1997	353,515
JUN. 30, 1997	367,168
MAR. 31, 1997	335,073
DEC. 31, 1996	311,131
SEPT. 30, 1996	303,309
JUN. 30, 1996	297,162
MAR. 31, 1996	266,149
DEC. 31, 1995	244,494
SEPT. 30, 1995	233,593
JUN. 30, 1995	235,302
MAR. 31, 1995	212,626
DEC. 31, 1994	201,618
SEPT. 30, 1994	208,187
JUN. 30, 1994	216,213
MAR. 31, 1994	206,565
DEC. 31, 1993	206,570
SEPT. 30, 1993	215,498
JUN. 30, 1993	229,406
MAR. 31, 1993	222,694
DEC. 31, 1992	228,562
SEPT. 30, 1992	236,810
JUN. 30, 1992	250,622
MAR. 31, 1992	252,733
DEC. 31, 1991	234,383
SEPT. 30, 1991	231,743
JUN. 30, 1991	246,496
MAR. 31, 1991	231,017
DEC. 31, 1990	209,798

*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 ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998**

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL BUSINESS FILINGS					TOTAL NON BUSINESS FILINGS								
	TOTAL FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	TOTAL FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13				
TOTAL...	1,442,549	1,035,696	8,386	807	397,619	44,367	27,774	7,524	807	8,221	1,398,182	1,007,922	862	389,398
DC.....	2,885	1,986	49	-	850	88	32	44	-	12	2,797	1,954	5	838
1ST...	54,761	38,755	357	1	15,647	1,656	1,161	333	1	160	53,105	37,594	24	15,487
ME.....	4,515	4,130	16	1	368	244	173	16	1	54	4,271	3,957		314
MA.....	22,325	19,314	216	-	2,794	739	461	215	-	62	21,586	18,853	1	2,732
NH.....	4,994	4,639	29	-	326	417	358	29	-	30	4,577	4,281		296
RI.....	5,480	5,174	14	-	292	130	106	12	-	12	5,350	5,068	2	280
RR.....	17,447	5,498	82	-	11,867	126	63	61	-	2	17,321	5,435	21	11,865
2ND...	94,569	79,267	894	37	14,354	2,531	1,396	776	37	305	92,038	77,871	118	14,049
CT.....	13,962	12,458	97	1	1,404	164	89	70	1	2	13,798	12,369	27	1,402
NY,N....	16,703	14,287	53	17	2,346	505	332	50	17	106	16,198	13,955	3	2,240
NY,E....	31,494	25,771	277	-	5,445	461	215	237	-	8	31,033	25,556	40	5,437
NY,S....	17,047	14,918	385	3	1,727	586	218	342	3	9	16,461	14,700	43	1,718
NY,W....	13,398	10,044	66	8	3,280	727	493	61	8	165	12,671	9,551	5	3,115
VT.....	1,965	1,789	16	8	152	88	49	16	8	15	1,877	1,740		137
3RD...	95,476	68,889	1,170	18	25,397	2,944	1,551	1,053	18	320	92,532	67,338	117	25,077
DE.....	2,871	1,756	362	-	753	372	13	359	-	-	2,499	1,743	3	753
NJ.....	45,880	32,137	455	4	13,283	876	479	382	4	10	45,004	31,658	73	13,273
PA,E....	23,187	14,576	149	4	8,457	392	228	131	4	28	22,795	14,348	18	8,429
PA,M....	10,693	9,025	63	5	1,600	837	527	59	5	246	9,856	8,498	4	1,354
PA,W....	12,772	11,339	135	5	1,293	456	299	116	5	36	12,316	11,040	19	1,257
VA.....	73	56	6	-	11	11	5	6	-	-	62	51		11

CIRCUIT		TOTAL							TOTAL NON					
AND	TOTAL	CHAP.	CHAP.	CHAP.	CHAP.	BUSINESS	CHAP.	CHAP.	CHAP.	CHAP.	BUSINESS	CHAP.	CHAP.	CHAP.
DISTRICT	FILINGS	7	11	12	13	FILINGS	7	11	12	13	FILINGS	7	11	13
4TH...	126,171	84,666	675	32	40,798	3,486	2,212	593	32	649	122,685	82,454	82	40,149
MD.....	35,430	26,011	209	2	9,208	1,231	802	188	2	239	34,199	25,209	21	8,969
NC,E....	10,914	5,064	34	13	5,803	321	153	32	13	123	10,593	4,911	2	5,680
NC,M....	9,014	2,968	18	-	6,028	144	120	18	-	6	8,870	2,848		6,022
NC,W....	7,056	3,246	33	2	3,775	69	33	32	2	2	6,987	3,213	1	3,773
SC.....	11,627	6,203	71	8	5,345	254	121	61	8	64	11,373	6,082	10	5,281
VA,E....	32,398	23,824	204	3	8,367	545	293	167	3	82	31,853	23,531	37	8,285
VA,W....	11,041	9,157	51	4	1,829	593	451	47	4	91	10,448	8,706	4	1,738
WV,N....	3,550	3,358	18	-	174	179	142	18	-	19	3,371	3,216		155
WV,S....	5,141	4,835	37	-	269	150	97	30	-	23	4,991	4,738	7	246
5TH...	113,445	63,809	769	118	48,748	3,540	1,923	705	118	793	109,905	61,886	64	47,955
LA,E....	7,119	4,742	60	3	2,314	120	63	52	3	2	6,999	4,679	8	2,312
LA,M....	2,940	2,059	16	-	865	41	25	14	-	2	2,899	2,034	2	863
LA,W....	12,887	5,829	34	26	6,998	439	255	33	26	125	12,448	5,574	1	6,873
MS,N....	6,226	3,859	32	15	2,320	135	71	32	15	17	6,091	3,788		2,303
MS,S....	12,474	7,312	35	3	5,124	109	74	29	3	3	12,365	7,238	6	5,121
TX,N....	24,934	13,230	216	50	11,437	1,191	655	205	50	280	23,743	12,575	11	11,157
TX,E....	9,817	4,884	45	5	4,883	360	180	40	5	135	9,457	4,704	5	4,748
TX,S....	19,352	11,665	187	7	7,493	657	333	167	7	150	18,695	11,332	20	7,343
TX,W....	17,696	10,229	144	9	7,314	488	267	133	9	79	17,208	9,962	11	7,235
6TH...	170,830	115,510	593	77	54,650	3,107	1,885	543	77	602	167,723	113,625	50	54,048
KY,E....	9,594	8,330	25	3	1,236	182	130	24	3	25	9,412	8,200	1	1,211
KY,W....	12,592	10,153	41	12	2,386	174	96	41	12	25	12,418	10,057		2,361
MI,E....	28,198	21,123	133	8	6,934	373	218	127	8	20	27,825	20,905	6	6,914
MI,W....	12,546	9,517	50	13	2,966	348	222	47	13	66	12,198	9,295	3	2,900
OH,N....	28,353	23,377	60	9	4,907	649	468	58	9	114	27,704	22,909	2	4,793
OH,S....	28,351	21,369	71	11	6,900	512	323	67	11	111	27,839	21,046	4	6,789
TN,E....	15,984	8,696	44	9	7,235	336	174	44	9	109	15,648	8,522		7,126
TN,M....	12,131	6,810	114	9	5,198	292	141	89	9	53	11,839	6,669	25	5,145
TN,W....	23,081	6,135	55	3	16,888	241	113	46	3	79	22,840	6,022	9	16,809

CIRCUIT		TOTAL					TOTAL NON							
AND	TOTAL	CHAP.	CHAP.	CHAP.	CHAP.	BUSINESS	CHAP.	CHAP.	CHAP.	CHAP.	BUSINESS	CHAP.	CHAP.	CHAP.
DISTRICT	FILINGS	7	11	12	13	FILINGS	7	11	12	13	FILINGS	7	11	13
7TH...	125,362	99,727	452	89	25,094	3,224	2,331	429	89	375	122,138	97,396	23	24,719
IL,N....	46,503	33,382	205	2	12,914	646	432	193	2	19	45,857	32,950	12	12,895
IL,C....	12,685	10,971	27	21	1,666	114	62	26	21	5	12,571	10,909	1	1,661
IL,S....	7,499	5,790	19	5	1,685	714	518	19	5	172	6,785	5,272		1,513
IN,N....	14,550	12,599	37	13	1,901	190	122	35	13	20	14,360	12,477	2	1,881
IN,S....	24,711	20,150	86	9	4,466	423	282	82	9	50	24,288	19,868	4	4,416
WI,E....	12,962	10,958	22	9	1,973	267	203	22	9	33	12,695	10,755		1,940
WI,W....	6,452	5,877	56	30	489	870	712	52	30	76	5,582	5,165	4	413
8TH...	84,308	63,924	200	180	20,003	3,492	2,433	182	180	696	80,816	61,491	18	19,307
AR,E....	10,789	5,978	28	10	4,773	215	102	24	10	79	10,574	5,876	4	4,694
AR,W....	6,263	4,538	16	7	1,702	193	117	12	7	57	6,070	4,421	4	1,645
IA,N....	3,880	3,723	10	7	140	180	146	9	7	18	3,700	3,577	1	122
IA,S....	5,638	5,142	9	3	484	103	86	7	3	7	5,535	5,056	2	477
MN.....	18,866	14,508	37	18	4,303	1,975	1,514	37	18	406	16,891	12,994		3,897
MO,E....	16,423	10,565	36	5	5,817	255	165	34	5	51	16,168	10,400	2	5,766
MO,W....	11,842	10,101	39	9	1,692	169	99	36	9	24	11,673	10,002	3	1,668
NE.....	6,116	5,166	16	49	885	129	58	14	49	8	5,987	5,108	2	877
ND.....	2,192	2,080	1	32	79	87	45	1	32	9	2,105	2,035		70
SD.....	2,299	2,123	8	40	128	186	101	8	40	37	2,113	2,022		91
9TH...	323,382	261,968	1,963	102	59,336	14,246	9,388	1,726	102	3,017	309,136	252,580	237	56,319
AK.....	1,479	1,333	10	-	136	127	88	9	-	30	1,352	1,245	1	106
AZ.....	24,191	19,383	312	7	4,489	762	370	279	7	106	23,429	19,013	33	4,383
CA,N....	34,082	25,212	245	1	8,621	1,567	766	200	1	597	32,515	24,446	45	8,024
CA,E....	39,345	34,147	142	26	5,029	2,012	1,403	132	26	450	37,333	32,744	10	4,579
CA,C....	120,981	99,466	618	2	20,891	4,787	3,463	529	2	789	116,194	96,003	89	20,102
CA,S....	18,805	14,363	69	1	4,372	180	118	58	1	3	18,625	14,245	11	4,369
HI.....	5,829	5,283	27	-	517	114	82	24	-	6	5,715	5,201	3	511
ID.....	7,612	5,916	54	37	1,604	435	207	53	37	137	7,177	5,709	1	1,467
MI.....	3,717	3,037	18	12	650	145	115	14	12	4	3,572	2,922	4	646
NV.....	15,708	11,514	164	1	4,028	428	208	159	1	59	15,280	11,306	5	3,969
OR.....	18,103	14,758	60	5	3,279	2,660	1,942	57	5	655	15,443	12,816	3	2,624

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL						TOTAL NON							
	TOTAL FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13
WA,E....	7,838	6,444	53	6	1,335	442	289	49	6	98	7,396	6,155	4	1,237
WA,W....	25,565	21,003	185	4	4,373	554	312	158	4	80	25,011	20,691	27	4,293
GUAM....	109	93	4	-	12	25	19	3	-	3	84	74	1	9
NMI.....	18	16	2	-	-	8	6	2	-	-	10	10	-	-
10TH..	77,578	60,193	319	84	16,982	2,386	1,608	296	84	398	75,192	58,585	23	16,584
CO.....	18,262	15,406	63	15	2,778	402	295	63	15	29	17,860	15,111		2,749
KS.....	13,208	10,425	63	25	2,695	264	148	50	25	41	12,944	10,277	13	2,654
NM.....	7,915	5,914	38	4	1,959	338	232	36	4	66	7,577	5,682	2	1,893
OK,N....	5,372	4,582	32	2	756	459	349	29	2	79	4,913	4,233	3	677
OK,E....	3,812	3,546	9	7	250	120	89	8	7	16	3,692	3,457	1	234
OK,W....	12,756	10,148	27	18	2,563	254	183	27	18	26	12,502	9,965		2,537
UT.....	13,996	8,141	71	11	5,773	460	262	68	11	119	13,536	7,879	3	5,654
WY.....	2,257	2,031	16	2	208	89	50	15	2	22	2,168	1,981	1	186
11TH..	173,782	97,002	945	69	75,760	3,667	1,854	844	69	894	170,115	95,148	101	74,866
AL,N....	20,912	7,675	92	5	13,139	380	159	80	5	135	20,532	7,516	12	13,004
AL,M....	6,753	2,895	11	6	3,841	159	93	10	6	50	6,594	2,802	1	3,791
AL,S....	4,803	2,172	18	-	2,613	64	35	12	-	17	4,739	2,137	6	2,596
FL,N....	5,344	4,446	18	5	875	91	49	18	5	19	5,253	4,397		856
FL,M....	45,472	35,248	320	5	9,898	1,090	632	289	5	163	44,382	34,616	31	9,735
FL,S....	29,373	22,065	262	2	7,040	686	423	237	2	20	28,687	21,642	25	7,020
GA,N....	33,763	13,895	152	4	19,712	834	335	127	4	368	32,929	13,560	25	19,344
GA,M....	14,921	5,716	29	36	9,140	161	56	29	36	40	14,760	5,660		9,100
GA,S....	12,441	2,890	43	6	9,502	202	72	42	6	82	12,239	2,818	1	9,420

*THESE FIGURES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING CASES NOT REFLECTED ELSEWHERE:

MA.... SECTION 304 = 01 CT.... SECTION 304 = 02 NY,E... SECTION 304 = 01
NY,S... SECTION 304 = 14 NJ.... SECTION 304 = 01 PA,E... SECTION 304 = 01
TX,N... SECTION 304 = 01 MO,W... CHAPTER 9 = 01 CA,N... SECTION 304 = 03
CA,E... SECTION 304 = 01 CA,C... SECTION 304 = 04 HI.... SECTION 304 = 02
ID.... CHAPTER 9 = 01 NV..... SECTION 304 = 01 OR.... SECTION 304 = 01
AL,N... CHAPTER 9 = 01 FL,M... SECTION 304 = 01 FL,S... SECTION 304 = 04