



# NEWS RELEASE

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

November 25, 2002

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## Bankruptcy Filings Hit Fiscal Year Historic High in 2002

The number of bankruptcy filings in the federal courts in Fiscal Year 2002 broke records again, and with no new bankruptcy judgeships and funding frozen, the Judiciary is struggling to handle the caseload. According to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, more bankruptcies were filed in the 12-month period ending September 30, 2002 than at any time in history. Bankruptcy cases for FY 2002 totaled 1,547,669, up 7.7 percent from the 1,437,354 bankruptcy filings for FY 2001. The 2002 Fiscal Year bankruptcy filings total breaks the record just set in the 12-month period ending June 30, 2002, when bankruptcies totaled 1,505,306. Non-business or personal bankruptcy filings, which make up the majority of bankruptcy filings, also broke records with a total of 1,508,578, up 7.8 percent from the fiscal year 2001 filings. Business filings in the 12-month period ending September 30, 2002, totaled 39,091, up 1.6 percent from the same period in 2001. The Judiciary's fiscal year is the twelve-month period from October 1 through September 30.

### Caseload Soars, No Relief in Sight

The caseload of bankruptcy judges has increased 59 percent in the past decade with the rise of bankruptcy filings. The average number of cases handled per bankruptcy judgeship has gone from 2,998 in 1992 to 4,777 in 2002. The Judiciary has

requested new bankruptcy judgeships to handle the expanding workload, but no new bankruptcy judges have been added to the federal bench since 1992. The Judiciary is handicapped further by the current long-term continuing resolution. Until Congress passes the Judiciary's FY 2003 appropriations bill, court units must function at rates of operation no more than 95 percent of their fiscal year 2002 levels. No budget relief—or room to address the record growth in bankruptcy filings—can be considered until Congress returns next year.

### Filings Under Chapters 7, 11 and 13 Increase

In Fiscal Year 2002, filings under all chapters of the Bankruptcy Code increased, with the exception of Chapter 12 filings. The number of Chapter 7 filings rose 6.9 percent from the

**Business and Non-Business Filings**  
Years Ended September 30, 1998-2002

<u>FY</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Non-Business</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>2002</b>	<b>39,091</b>	<b>1,508,578</b>	<b>1,547,669</b>
2001	38,490	1,398,864	1,437,354
2000	36,065	1,226,037	1,262,102
1999	38,625	1,315,751	1,354,376
1998	47,125	1,389,839	1,436,964

(MORE)

previous fiscal year to 1,084,336. Chapter 13 filings rose 9.5 percent to 451,258. Chapter 11 filings rose 10.9 percent to 11,669. Chapter 12 filings fell 15 percent to 322.

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.

	<b>Chapter</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b><u>7</u></b>	<b><u>11</u></b>	<b><u>12</u></b>	<b><u>13</u></b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>1,084,336</b>	<b>11,669</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>451,258</b>
2001	1,014,137	10,519	379	412,272
2000	870,805	9,835	551	380,880
1999	959,291	8,982	811	385,262
1998	1,026,134	8,765	879	401,151

#### **Fourth Quarter Filings**

The number of bankruptcy cases filed during the fourth quarter of the Judiciary's fiscal year (July 1, 2002 – September 30, 2002) totaled 401,306. The number of bankruptcy cases filed during the third quarter of the Judiciary's 2002 fiscal year (April 1, 2002—June 30, 2002) totaled 400,686. The number of bankruptcies filed during the second quarter of fiscal year 2002 (January 1, 2002-March 31, 2002) was 379,012. Filings for the Judiciary's first quarter of 2002 (October 1, 2001 -December 31, 2001) totaled 364,921.

For more information on bankruptcy visit the Judiciary's website at [www.uscourts.gov/bankbasic.pdf](http://www.uscourts.gov/bankbasic.pdf). Local bankruptcy court rules can be found at [www.uscourts.gov/rules/bk-localrules.html](http://www.uscourts.gov/rules/bk-localrules.html).

A breakdown of the latest data on bankruptcy filings follows and is also available on the Judiciary's website at [www.uscourts.gov](http://www.uscourts.gov) under Newsroom.

#### **Quarterly Bankruptcy Filings\***

<b><u>Ending</u></b>	<b><u>Total Filings</u></b>	<b><u>Ending</u></b>	<b><u>Total Filings</u></b>	<b><u>Ending</u></b>	<b><u>Total Filings</u></b>
<b>SEPT. 30, 2002</b>	<b>401,306</b>	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	SEPT. 30, 1993	215,498
JUN. 30, 2000	321,729	DEC. 31, 1996	311,131	JUN. 30, 1993	229,406
MAR. 31, 2000	312,335	SEPT. 30, 1996	303,309	MAR. 31, 1993	222,694
DEC. 31, 1999	318,634	JUN. 30, 1996	297,162	DEC. 31, 1992	228,562
SEPT. 30, 1999	323,550	MAR. 31, 1996	266,149	SEPT. 30, 1992	236,810
JUN. 30, 1999	345,956	DEC. 31, 1995	244,494	JUN. 30, 1992	250,622

\*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 12-MONTH PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT TOTAL...	TOTAL FILINGS	TOTAL BUSINESS FILINGS*				TOTAL NON- BUSINESS FILINGS				CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13		
		CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13					
	1,547,669	1,084,336	11,669	322	451,258	39,091	22,574	10,702	322	5,414	1,508,578	1,061,762	967	445,844
DC.....	2,521	1,770	34	-	717	58	26	29	-	3	2,463	1,744	5	714
1ST...	44,149	30,578	390	7	13,173	1,228	712	358	7	150	42,921	29,866	32	13,023
ME.....	4,467	4,059	18	2	388	101	69	18	2	12	4,366	3,990	-	376
MA.....	17,069	14,363	199	3	2,503	433	232	195	3	2	16,636	14,131	4	2,501
NH.....	3,903	3,517	31	-	355	233	196	29	-	8	3,670	3,321	2	347
RI.....	4,830	4,430	6	-	394	68	60	6	-	2	4,762	4,370	-	392
PR.....	13,880	4,209	136	2	9,533	393	155	110	2	126	13,487	4,054	26	9,407
2ND...	83,234	65,495	1,916	10	15,785	2,869	842	1,829	10	160	80,365	64,653	87	15,625
CT.....	11,456	9,513	122	-	1,821	179	69	107	-	3	11,277	9,444	15	1,818
NY,N...	15,941	12,688	87	5	3,161	357	191	83	5	78	15,584	12,497	4	3,083
NY,E...	25,098	19,296	182	-	5,620	315	140	169	-	6	24,783	19,156	13	5,614
NY,S...	15,914	12,586	1,473	1	1,827	1,635	177	1,422	1	8	14,279	12,409	51	1,819
NY,W...	13,051	9,851	45	4	3,150	282	189	41	4	47	12,769	9,662	4	3,103
VT.....	1,774	1,561	7	-	206	101	76	7	-	18	1,673	1,485	-	188
3RD...	98,214	64,333	1,626	3	32,231	3,054	1,214	1,569	3	247	95,160	63,119	57	31,984
DE.....	3,966	1,960	892	-	1,094	981	55	890	-	16	2,985	1,905	2	1,078
NJ.....	40,708	25,611	357	-	14,739	702	363	326	-	12	40,006	25,248	31	14,727
PA,E...	24,390	13,541	114	2	10,733	304	175	105	2	22	24,086	13,366	9	10,711
PA,M...	12,495	9,499	66	-	2,930	620	391	64	-	165	11,875	9,108	2	2,765
PA,W...	16,596	13,693	192	1	2,710	439	227	180	1	31	16,157	13,466	12	2,679
VI.....	59	29	5	-	25	8	3	4	-	1	51	26	1	24

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	TOTAL BUSINESS FILINGS*				TOTAL NON-								
		CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13	
<b>4TH...</b>	139,082	88,505	682	6	49,888	2,701	1,814	590	6	290	136,381	86,691	92	49,598
<b>MD.....</b>	34,963	23,353	171	-	11,439	636	393	150	-	93	34,327	22,960	21	11,346
<b>NC,E....</b>	14,820	7,310	63	6	7,441	232	139	55	6	32	14,588	7,171	8	7,409
<b>NC,M....</b>	11,668	4,869	26	-	6,773	269	201	26	-	42	11,399	4,668	-	6,731
<b>NC,W....</b>	9,429	4,840	54	-	4,535	98	51	46	-	1	9,331	4,789	8	4,534
<b>SC.....</b>	15,531	6,776	96	-	8,659	183	99	82	-	2	15,348	6,677	14	8,657
<b>VA,E....</b>	30,141	21,168	169	-	8,804	391	226	134	-	31	29,750	20,942	35	8,773
<b>VA,W....</b>	12,509	10,780	35	-	1,693	566	460	34	-	71	11,943	10,320	1	1,622
<b>WV,N....</b>	4,200	3,912	23	-	265	108	78	20	-	10	4,092	3,834	3	255
<b>WV,S....</b>	5,821	5,497	45	-	279	218	167	43	-	8	5,603	5,330	2	271
<b>5TH...</b>	128,684	72,092	1,212	47	55,329	4,009	2,110	1,102	47	746	124,675	69,982	110	54,583
<b>LA,E....</b>	9,579	6,478	66	-	3,035	177	115	59	-	3	9,402	6,363	7	3,032
<b>LA,M....</b>	3,678	2,595	54	-	1,029	68	17	50	-	1	3,610	2,578	4	1,028
<b>LA,W....</b>	13,583	7,269	47	12	6,255	470	267	44	12	147	13,113	7,002	3	6,108
<b>MS,N....</b>	8,080	5,372	47	2	2,659	122	67	45	2	8	7,958	5,305	2	2,651
<b>MS,S....</b>	14,019	8,920	85	6	5,008	173	87	70	6	10	13,846	8,833	15	4,998
<b>TX,N....</b>	28,195	13,572	290	13	14,319	1,142	645	276	13	207	27,053	12,927	14	14,112
<b>TX,E....</b>	12,243	6,555	77	2	5,609	358	167	73	2	116	11,885	6,388	4	5,493
<b>TX,S....</b>	20,812	11,112	364	3	9,332	815	369	325	3	117	19,997	10,743	39	9,215
<b>TX,W....</b>	18,495	10,219	182	9	8,083	684	376	160	9	137	17,811	9,843	22	7,946
<b>6TH...</b>	218,300	149,170	1,046	18	68,066	3,556	2,128	953	18	457	214,744	147,042	93	67,609
<b>KY,E....</b>	11,905	10,310	107	-	1,488	246	129	105	-	12	11,659	10,181	2	1,476
<b>KY,W....</b>	14,934	11,920	57	1	2,956	126	67	51	1	7	14,808	11,853	6	2,949
<b>MI,E....</b>	37,517	25,551	184	3	11,779	442	230	177	3	32	37,075	25,321	7	11,747
<b>MI,W....</b>	15,012	11,326	72	3	3,611	325	202	69	3	51	14,687	11,124	3	3,560
<b>OH,N....</b>	40,341	33,090	128	-	7,123	1,035	782	125	-	128	39,306	32,308	3	6,995
<b>OH,S....</b>	35,781	27,532	106	5	8,138	557	329	99	5	124	35,224	27,203	7	8,014
<b>TN,E....</b>	19,466	11,904	74	4	7,484	320	189	70	4	57	19,146	11,715	4	7,427
<b>TN,M....</b>	15,360	9,500	194	-	5,666	273	104	154	-	15	15,087	9,396	40	5,651
<b>TN,W....</b>	27,984	8,037	124	2	19,821	232	96	103	2	31	27,752	7,941	21	19,790

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	TOTAL				TOTAL NON-								
		CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINESS FILINGS*	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13
<b>7TH...</b>	157,125	121,383	724	52	34,963	2,874	1,880	677	52	263	154,251	119,503	47	34,700
<b>IL,N....</b>	55,985	39,360	385	1	16,237	831	466	356	1	6	55,154	38,894	29	16,231
<b>IL,C....</b>	15,353	13,071	41	21	2,220	193	125	39	21	8	15,160	12,946	2	2,212
<b>IL,S....</b>	8,859	6,304	26	8	2,521	286	173	23	8	82	8,573	6,131	3	2,439
<b>IN,N....</b>	20,591	17,239	48	2	3,302	215	142	47	2	24	20,376	17,097	1	3,278
<b>IN,S....</b>	32,095	25,156	159	-	6,780	491	304	153	-	34	31,604	24,852	6	6,746
<b>WI,E....</b>	16,079	13,076	16	7	2,979	229	186	16	7	20	15,850	12,890	-	2,959
<b>WI,W....</b>	8,163	7,177	49	13	924	629	484	43	13	89	7,534	6,693	6	835
<b>8TH...</b>	98,774	74,601	350	53	23,768	3,203	2,382	319	53	447	95,571	72,219	31	23,321
<b>AR,E....</b>	14,546	7,646	22	2	6,876	131	72	14	2	43	14,415	7,574	8	6,833
<b>AR,W....</b>	8,148	5,489	18	1	2,639	109	53	15	1	39	8,039	5,436	3	2,600
<b>IA,N....</b>	4,451	4,272	15	2	162	198	173	14	2	9	4,253	4,099	1	153
<b>IA,S....</b>	7,022	6,568	11	4	439	136	113	11	4	8	6,886	6,455	-	431
<b>MN.....</b>	19,655	16,337	56	6	3,256	1,825	1,501	55	6	263	17,830	14,836	1	2,993
<b>MO,E....</b>	17,538	11,651	79	5	5,802	216	123	72	5	15	17,322	11,528	7	5,787
<b>MO,W....</b>	15,270	12,319	84	2	2,865	226	107	81	2	36	15,044	12,212	3	2,829
<b>NE.....</b>	7,443	5,844	52	19	1,528	132	55	44	19	14	7,311	5,789	8	1,514
<b>ND.....</b>	2,028	1,940	8	9	71	108	87	8	9	4	1,920	1,853	-	67
<b>SD.....</b>	2,673	2,535	5	3	130	122	98	5	3	16	2,551	2,437	-	114
<b>9TH...</b>	279,561	226,434	2,163	58	50,890	9,319	5,502	1,891	58	1,854	270,242	220,932	272	49,036
<b>AK.....</b>	1,432	1,291	18	-	123	112	80	16	-	16	1,320	1,211	2	107
<b>AZ.....</b>	28,738	22,788	323	6	5,620	733	372	271	6	83	28,005	22,416	52	5,537
<b>CA,N....</b>	20,719	14,512	260	-	5,945	1,277	706	241	-	329	19,442	13,806	19	5,616
<b>CA,E....</b>	31,455	26,584	117	20	4,733	1,265	823	104	20	317	30,190	25,761	13	4,416
<b>CA,C....</b>	84,936	70,142	614	1	14,170	2,545	1,806	561	1	169	82,391	68,336	53	14,001
<b>CA,S....</b>	12,844	10,336	64	-	2,443	223	159	50	-	13	12,621	10,177	14	2,430
<b>HI.....</b>	4,684	4,181	21	-	482	57	38	19	-	-	4,627	4,143	2	482
<b>ID.....</b>	8,686	7,440	64	8	1,174	287	171	52	8	56	8,399	7,269	12	1,118
<b>MT.....</b>	4,102	3,584	19	8	491	122	87	15	8	12	3,980	3,497	4	479
<b>NV.....</b>	19,095	14,000	312	-	4,782	447	147	281	-	18	18,648	13,853	31	4,764
<b>OR.....</b>	24,034	20,626	70	10	3,327	1,515	679	70	10	755	22,519	19,947	-	2,572
<b>WA,E....</b>	10,059	7,596	87	5	2,371	295	169	62	5	59	9,764	7,427	25	2,312
<b>WA,W....</b>	28,349	22,980	187	-	5,182	409	241	143	-	25	27,940	22,739	44	5,157
<b>GUAM....</b>	400	350	6	-	44	26	19	5	-	2	374	331	1	42
<b>NMI....</b>	28	24	1	-	3	6	5	1	-	-	22	19	-	3

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>10TH..</b>	91,306	74,488	413	53	16,350	2,750	1,987	390	53	318	88,556	72,501	23	16,032
<b>CO.....</b>	20,303	17,666	110	4	2,523	560	416	107	4	33	19,743	17,250	3	2,490
<b>KS.....</b>	14,519	11,790	48	18	2,663	243	148	45	18	32	14,276	11,642	3	2,631
<b>NM.....</b>	8,975	8,084	54	2	835	665	549	51	2	63	8,310	7,535	3	772
<b>OK,N...</b>	6,374	5,808	24	-	542	322	275	21	-	26	6,052	5,533	3	516
<b>OK,E...</b>	4,500	4,143	10	3	344	79	52	10	3	14	4,421	4,091	-	330
<b>OK,W...</b>	12,959	10,985	41	20	1,912	252	173	39	20	19	12,707	10,812	2	1,893
<b>UT.....</b>	21,444	13,922	116	6	7,399	590	347	108	6	128	20,854	13,575	8	7,271
<b>WY.....</b>	2,232	2,090	10	-	132	39	27	9	-	3	2,193	2,063	1	129
<b>11TH..</b>	206,719	115,487	1,113	15	90,098	3,470	1,977	995	15	479	203,249	113,510	118	89,619
<b>AL,N...</b>	24,514	11,336	105	3	13,068	194	100	81	3	8	24,320	11,236	24	13,060
<b>AL,M...</b>	9,552	4,900	12	-	4,640	133	99	10	-	24	9,419	4,801	2	4,616
<b>AL,S...</b>	7,256	3,112	29	-	4,115	63	29	28	-	6	7,193	3,083	1	4,109
<b>FL,N...</b>	6,394	5,047	36	-	1,311	74	40	34	-	-	6,320	5,007	2	1,311
<b>FL,M...</b>	51,706	37,314	304	2	14,085	961	555	280	2	124	50,745	36,759	24	13,961
<b>FL,S...</b>	32,230	22,789	323	-	9,115	840	520	293	-	25	31,390	22,269	30	9,090
<b>GA,N...</b>	41,945	19,169	213	-	22,563	914	489	186	-	239	41,031	18,680	27	22,324
<b>GAM...</b>	17,832	7,625	60	7	10,140	160	72	55	7	26	17,672	7,553	5	10,114
<b>GAS...</b>	15,290	4,195	31	3	11,061	131	73	28	3	27	15,159	4,122	3	11,034

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

MA.....	SECTION 304 = 01	NY,S...	SECTION 304 = 27	NY,W...	SECTION 304 = 01
DE.....	SECTION 304 = 20	NJ.....	SECTION 304 = 01	VA,W...	SECTION 304 = 01
TX,N...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	TX,S...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	TX,W...	SECTION 304 = 02
IL,N...	SECTION 304 = 02	WI,E...	SECTION 304 = 01	AR,W...	CHAPTER 9 = 01
MO,E...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	AZ.....	SECTION 304 = 01	CA,N...	SECTION 304 = 02
CA,E...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	CA,C...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	CA,C...	SECTION 304 = 08
CA,S...	SECTION 304 = 01	NV.....	SECTION 304 = 01	OR.....	SECTION 304 = 01
OK,W...	SECTION 304 = 01	UT.....	SECTION 304 = 01	AL,N...	CHAPTER 9 = 02
FL,M...	SECTION 304 = 01	FL,S...	SECTION 304 = 03		