



NEWS RELEASE

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

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Contact: Karen Redmond

Record Breaking Bankruptcy Filings Reported in Calendar Year 2001

Total bankruptcies filed in calendar year 2001 broke all records, shooting up 19 percent to 1,492,129 in the 12-month period ending December 31, 2001. The jump was marked by substantial increases in both business and non-business filings, according to data released today by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

Filings in calendar year 2001 totaled 1,492,129, compared to filings totaling 1,253,444 in CY 2000. Business filings totaled 40,099, up 13 percent from the 35,472 bankruptcy business cases filed in CY 2000. Nonbusiness filings, accounting for 97.3 percent of all filings, totaled 1,452,030 in CY 2001, an increase of 19.2 percent over the 1,217,972 filings in CY 2000. Over the last six years, bankruptcy filings in federal courts have fluctuated, but have never dropped below the million-mark first broken in 1996.

Business and Non-business Filings CY 1996-2001

Year	Business	Non-business	TOTAL
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
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

The number of bankruptcies filed during the first quarter of the Judiciary's 2002 fiscal year (October 1-December 31, 2001) was 364,921, up 17.7 percent from the 310,169 filings for the first fiscal quarter of fiscal year 2001 (October 1-December 31, 2000). The Judiciary's fiscal year begins October 1. The increase in filings during 2001 may be due to a number of reasons, among them a slowing economy and a bankruptcy bill pending in Congress that would impose stricter limits on consumer debt dischargeability. Consumers may have filed for bankruptcy in anticipation of the bill's passage.

Despite the 90.6 percent increase in bankruptcy filings since 1990, no new bankruptcy judgeships have been created since 1992. Bankruptcy reform bills passed by the House and Senate contain new judgeships and extend several temporary bankruptcy judgeships, but a final, conferenced version of the two bills has not been passed by Congress.

(MORE)

Filings by Chapter

Of the total number of bankruptcy filings for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2001, there were 1,054,975 Chapter 7 filings, up 22.8 percent from the 859,220 Chapter 7 filings in the same period in 2000. The next largest group of filings was Chapter 13 filings at 425,292, up 10.8 percent from the 383,894 filings in the same period in 2000. Chapter 11 filings rose 15.6 percent to 11,424 in calendar year 2000, from the 9,884 Chapter 11 filings in 2000. Chapter 12 filings fell again in 2001, from 407 in 2000 to 383 in 2001.

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 website at www.uscourts.gov/bankbasic.pdf. 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 website at www.uscourts.gov under Newsroom.

Total Bankruptcy Filings by Bankruptcy Chapter Calendar Years, Period Ending December 30, 1996-2001

Year	Chapter			
	7	11	12	13
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
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

Quarterly Bankruptcy Filings*

Ending	Total Filings	Ending	Total Filings	Ending	Total Filings
DEC. 31, 2001	364,921	MAR. 31, 1998	354,118	JUN. 30, 1994	216,213
SEPT. 30, 2001	359,518	DEC. 31, 1997	347,685	MAR. 31, 1994	206,565
JUN. 30, 2001	400,394	SEPT. 30, 1997	353,515	DEC. 31, 1993	206,570
MAR. 31, 2001	366,841	JUN. 30, 1997	367,168	SEPT. 30, 1993	215,498
DEC. 31, 2000	310,169	MAR. 31, 1997	335,073	JUN. 30, 1993	229,406
SEPT. 30, 2000	308,718	DEC. 31, 1996	311,131	MAR. 31, 1993	222,694
JUN. 30, 2000	321,729	SEPT. 30, 1996	303,309	DEC. 31, 1992	228,562
MAR. 31, 2000	312,335	JUN. 30, 1996	297,162	SEPT. 30, 1992	236,810
DEC. 31, 1999	318,634	MAR. 31, 1996	266,149	JUN. 30, 1992	250,622
SEPT. 30, 1999	323,550	DEC. 31, 1995	244,494	MAR. 31, 1992	252,733
JUN. 30, 1999	345,956	SEPT. 30, 1995	233,593	DEC. 31, 1991	234,383
MAR. 31, 1999	330,784	JUN. 30, 1995	235,302	SEPT. 30, 1991	231,743
DEC. 31, 1998	353,108	MAR. 31, 1995	212,626	JUN. 30, 1991	246,496
SEPT. 30, 1998	361,205	DEC. 31, 1994	201,618	MAR. 31, 1991	231,017
JUN. 30, 1998	373,460	SEPT. 30, 1994	208,187		

*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 DECEMBER 31, 2001**

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	BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13
TOTAL...	1,492,129	1,054,975	11,424	383	425,292	40,099	23,482	10,641	383	5,542	1,452,030	1,031,493	783	419,750
DC.....	2,559	1,789	34	-	736	49	15	30	-	4	2,510	1,774	4	732
1ST...	45,362	31,689	376	4	13,291	1,309	855	351	4	97	44,053	30,834	25	13,194
ME.....	4,548	4,209	23	2	314	151	114	23	2	12	4,397	4,095	-	302
MA.....	17,654	15,137	184	1	2,330	427	235	180	1	9	17,227	14,902	4	2,321
NH.....	3,931	3,582	32	-	317	334	294	32	-	8	3,597	3,288	-	309
RI.....	4,883	4,483	11	-	389	64	49	10	-	5	4,819	4,434	1	384
PR.....	14,346	4,278	126	1	9,941	333	163	106	1	63	14,013	4,115	20	9,878
2ND...	82,421	66,494	1,521	13	14,367	2,685	1,005	1,445	13	196	79,736	65,489	76	14,171
CT.....	11,613	9,993	88	2	1,530	156	81	72	2	1	11,457	9,912	16	1,529
NY,N....	15,760	12,865	72	7	2,815	425	257	70	7	90	15,335	12,608	2	2,725
NY,E....	25,491	19,903	256	-	5,332	384	136	243	-	5	25,107	19,767	13	5,327
NY,S....	14,904	12,228	1,042	1	1,609	1,236	201	1,003	1	7	13,668	12,027	39	1,602
NY,W....	12,905	9,940	58	2	2,904	387	261	52	2	71	12,518	9,679	6	2,833
VT.....	1,748	1,565	5	1	177	97	69	5	1	22	1,651	1,496	-	155
3RD...	97,746	65,738	2,043	4	29,961	3,657	1,410	1,974	4	269	94,089	64,328	69	29,692
DE.....	4,259	1,958	1,289	-	1,012	1,374	75	1,289	-	10	2,885	1,883	-	1,002
NJ.....	41,484	26,766	384	1	14,333	730	378	346	1	5	40,754	26,388	38	14,328
PA,E....	24,014	14,040	144	2	9,828	319	172	131	2	14	23,695	13,868	13	9,814
PA,M....	12,232	9,604	79	-	2,549	811	522	75	-	214	11,421	9,082	4	2,335
PA,W....	15,692	13,329	142	1	2,220	411	256	129	1	25	15,281	13,073	13	2,195
VI.....	65	41	5	-	19	12	7	4	-	1	53	34	1	18

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...	135,235	87,610	678	17	46,928	2,764	1,815	592	17	338	132,471	85,795	86	46,590
MD.....	35,388	24,356	174	-	10,858	758	479	152	-	127	34,630	23,877	22	10,731
NC,E...	13,917	6,835	55	8	7,019	231	128	49	8	46	13,686	6,707	6	6,973
NC,M...	10,908	4,300	56	-	6,552	257	159	56	-	42	10,651	4,141	-	6,510
NC,W...	8,887	4,427	51	2	4,407	125	75	46	2	2	8,762	4,352	5	4,405
SC.....	14,149	6,508	80	2	7,559	147	73	65	2	7	14,002	6,435	15	7,552
VA,E...	29,271	20,866	174	-	8,231	311	169	138	-	4	28,960	20,697	36	8,227
VA,W...	12,492	10,678	37	4	1,771	613	489	36	4	82	11,879	10,189	1	1,689
WV,N...	4,101	3,847	14	1	239	133	105	14	1	13	3,968	3,742	-	226
WV,S...	6,122	5,793	37	-	292	189	138	36	-	15	5,933	5,655	1	277
5TH...	126,156	72,364	1,227	36	52,525	4,160	2,242	1,162	36	716	121,996	70,122	65	51,809
LA,E...	10,236	7,000	74	1	3,161	169	98	68	1	2	10,067	6,902	6	3,159
LA,M...	3,343	2,365	18	-	960	33	17	16	-	-	3,310	2,348	2	960
LA,W...	13,440	7,238	53	6	6,143	514	304	51	6	153	12,926	6,934	2	5,990
MS,N...	7,841	5,071	30	3	2,737	96	61	28	3	4	7,745	5,010	2	2,733
MS,S...	14,275	9,204	88	2	4,981	193	99	80	2	12	14,082	9,105	8	4,969
TX,N...	27,146	13,866	327	17	12,935	1,099	639	317	17	125	26,047	13,227	10	12,810
TX,E...	11,504	6,257	71	2	5,174	427	218	66	2	141	11,077	6,039	5	5,033
TX,S...	20,243	11,243	406	2	8,591	1,061	487	390	2	181	19,182	10,756	16	8,410
TX,W...	18,128	10,120	160	3	7,843	568	319	146	3	98	17,560	9,801	14	7,745
6TH...	204,435	141,443	1,040	10	61,941	3,842	2,394	964	10	473	200,593	139,049	76	61,468
KY,E...	11,550	10,044	97	-	1,409	299	181	94	-	24	11,251	9,863	3	1,385
KY,W...	14,633	11,877	69	1	2,686	175	101	69	1	4	14,458	11,776	-	2,682
MI,E...	32,785	23,223	172	-	9,390	401	224	166	-	11	32,384	22,999	6	9,379
MI,W...	14,041	10,656	71	3	3,311	287	185	71	3	28	13,754	10,471	-	3,283
OH,N...	37,012	30,676	114	-	6,222	1,218	929	113	-	176	35,794	29,747	1	6,046
OH,S...	34,074	26,789	142	3	7,139	576	336	134	3	102	33,498	26,453	8	7,037
TN,E...	19,272	11,774	76	2	7,420	379	227	70	2	80	18,893	11,547	6	7,340
TN,M...	14,599	9,062	141	-	5,396	237	113	112	-	12	14,362	8,949	29	5,384
TN,W...	26,469	7,342	158	1	18,968	270	98	135	1	36	26,199	7,244	23	18,932

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...	144,730	111,695	593	44	32,397	2,885	1,971	548	44	321	141,845	109,724	45	32,076
IL,N....	51,348	35,863	276	1	15,207	770	486	257	1	25	50,578	35,377	19	15,182
IL,C....	14,465	12,369	49	16	2,031	195	119	47	16	13	14,270	12,250	2	2,018
IL,S....	8,770	6,281	25	9	2,455	582	406	22	9	145	8,188	5,875	3	2,310
IN,N....	18,890	15,832	65	2	2,991	189	104	59	2	24	18,701	15,728	6	2,967
IN,S....	29,176	22,867	108	3	6,198	415	285	100	3	27	28,761	22,582	8	6,171
WI,E....	14,612	11,908	14	1	2,689	236	198	14	1	23	14,376	11,710	-	2,666
WI,W....	7,469	6,575	56	12	826	498	373	49	12	64	6,971	6,202	7	762
8TH...	94,108	71,557	381	68	22,101	3,394	2,464	362	68	499	90,714	69,093	19	21,602
AR,E....	13,702	7,281	23	3	6,395	174	77	21	3	73	13,528	7,204	2	6,322
AR,W....	7,782	5,360	13	3	2,406	116	71	11	3	31	7,666	5,289	2	2,375
IA,N....	4,377	4,210	13	3	151	185	164	13	3	5	4,192	4,046	-	146
IA,S....	6,699	6,249	15	4	431	104	79	15	4	6	6,595	6,170	-	425
MN.....	18,704	15,460	59	8	3,177	1,887	1,530	59	8	290	16,817	13,930	-	2,887
MO,E....	16,868	11,128	131	5	5,603	296	146	123	5	21	16,572	10,982	8	5,582
MO,W....	13,836	11,103	66	4	2,663	209	105	61	4	39	13,627	10,998	5	2,624
NE.....	7,202	6,015	46	27	1,114	144	61	45	27	11	7,058	5,954	1	1,103
ND.....	2,232	2,157	7	11	57	115	91	7	11	6	2,117	2,066	-	51
SD.....	2,706	2,594	8	-	104	164	140	7	-	17	2,542	2,454	1	87
9TH...	276,516	225,108	2,003	86	49,306	9,100	5,451	1,811	86	1,742	267,416	219,657	192	47,564
AK.....	1,473	1,317	18	-	138	104	68	16	-	20	1,369	1,249	2	118
AZ.....	25,489	20,448	296	2	4,741	753	407	257	2	87	24,736	20,041	39	4,654
CA,N....	19,838	13,973	310	2	5,551	1,220	637	294	2	286	18,618	13,336	16	5,265
CA,E....	32,259	27,568	117	24	4,549	1,273	839	109	24	300	30,986	26,729	8	4,249
CA,C....	88,195	73,153	573	3	14,460	2,553	1,846	524	3	174	85,642	71,307	49	14,286
CA,S....	13,367	10,599	66	1	2,699	192	129	56	1	4	13,175	10,470	10	2,695
HL.....	5,039	4,509	23	-	507	68	45	21	-	2	4,971	4,464	2	505
ID.....	8,265	7,012	81	9	1,163	303	174	74	9	46	7,962	6,838	7	1,117
MT.....	4,002	3,531	18	4	449	149	114	14	4	17	3,853	3,417	4	432
NV.....	18,102	13,429	230	1	4,442	419	174	219	1	25	17,683	13,255	11	4,417
OR.....	23,038	19,769	48	12	3,209	1,389	633	48	12	696	21,649	19,136	-	2,513
WA,E....	10,149	7,692	58	27	2,372	332	202	43	27	60	9,817	7,490	15	2,312
WA,W....	26,986	21,852	155	1	4,978	310	162	126	1	21	26,676	21,690	29	4,957
GUAM....	288	232	9	-	47	27	14	9	-	4	261	218	-	43
NML....	26	24	1	-	1	8	7	1	-	-	18	17	-	1

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT 10TH..	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		
	86,805	70,712	396	60	15,636	2,768	2,005	375	60	327	84,037	68,707	21	15,309
CO.....	18,800	16,303	105	3	2,389	467	340	102	3	22	18,333	15,963	3	2,367
KS.....	13,937	11,477	51	20	2,389	220	126	46	20	28	13,717	11,351	5	2,361
NM.....	8,660	7,541	62	3	1,054	620	478	59	3	80	8,040	7,063	3	974
OK,N....	5,896	5,372	29	3	492	503	431	28	3	41	5,393	4,941	1	451
OK,E....	4,275	3,977	11	6	281	95	66	11	6	12	4,180	3,911	-	269
OK,W....	13,333	11,184	40	24	2,085	343	241	39	24	39	12,990	10,943	1	2,046
UT.....	19,411	12,526	86	1	6,797	475	294	80	1	99	18,936	12,232	6	6,698
WY.....	2,493	2,332	12	-	149	45	29	10	-	6	2,448	2,303	2	143
11TH..	196,056	108,776	1,132	41	86,103	3,486	1,855	1,027	41	560	192,570	106,921	105	85,543
AL,N....	23,918	10,621	99	3	13,195	219	111	78	3	27	23,699	10,510	21	13,168
AL,M....	8,236	3,835	20	-	4,381	135	99	15	-	21	8,101	3,736	5	4,360
AL,S....	6,695	2,969	32	1	3,693	74	26	30	1	17	6,621	2,943	2	3,676
FL,N....	6,182	4,897	52	3	1,230	91	35	48	3	5	6,091	4,862	4	1,225
FL,M....	49,187	35,914	313	4	12,956	1,048	612	287	4	145	48,139	35,302	26	12,811
FL,S....	31,743	22,423	346	-	8,972	757	431	320	-	4	30,986	21,992	26	8,968
GA,N....	38,437	16,920	188	1	21,327	908	435	173	1	298	37,529	16,485	15	21,029
GA,M....	17,132	7,309	49	25	9,749	140	48	46	25	21	16,992	7,261	3	9,728
GA,S....	14,526	3,888	33	4	10,600	114	58	30	4	22	14,412	3,830	3	10,578

*THESE FIGURES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING CASES NOT REFLECTED ELSEWHERE:

MA.....	SECTION 304 = 02	NY,N...	SECTION 304 = 01	NY,S...	SECTION 304 = 24
NY,W...	SECTION 304 = 01	VA,W...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	VA,W...	SECTION 304 = 01
TX,N...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	TX,S...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	TX,W...	CHAPTER 9 = 01
TX,W...	SECTION 304 = 01	OH,S...	SECTION 304 = 01	IL,N...	SECTION 304 = 01
MO,E...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	AZ.....	SECTION 304 = 02	CA,N...	CHAPTER 9 = 01
CA,N...	SECTION 304 = 01	CA,E...	CHAPTER 9 = 01	CA,C...	CHAPTER 9 = 01
CA,C...	SECTION 304 = 05	CA,S...	SECTION 304 = 02	UT.....	SECTION 304 = 01
FL,S...	SECTION 304 = 02	GA,N...	SECTION 304 = 01	GA,S...	SECTION 304 = 01