

**Table 323. U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Commenced and Pending:  
2000 to 2008**

[For years ending June 30]

Type of case	Cases commenced				Cases pending			
	2000	2005	2007	2008	2000	2005	2007	2008
<b>Cases total</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>263,049</b>	<b>282,758</b>	<b>272,067</b>	<b>256,354</b>	<b>249,692</b>	<b>267,270</b>	<b>267,774</b>	<b>286,193</b>
Contract actions <sup>1</sup>	54,494	28,590	34,071	34,818	38,262	26,712	30,631	30,696
Recovery of overpayments <sup>2</sup>	25,636	3,380	3,053	3,491	12,107	1,953	1,708	1,686
Real property actions	6,481	4,541	4,456	5,607	4,249	4,512	4,321	4,525
Tort actions	40,877	75,273	77,257	59,588	63,116	76,821	83,046	105,763
Personal injury	36,867	52,215	73,004	55,777	59,232	72,716	78,464	101,181
Personal injury product liability <sup>1</sup>	15,349	35,615	51,557	39,664	31,772	46,575	52,346	74,440
Asbestos	7,893	1,628	15,422	23,726	4,949	1,073	14,525	35,857
Other personal injury	21,518	16,600	21,447	16,113	27,460	26,141	26,118	26,741
Personal property damage	4,010	23,058	4,253	3,811	3,884	4,105	4,582	4,582
Actions under statutes <sup>1</sup>	161,187	171,922	156,152	156,277	144,053	157,357	149,622	145,077
Civil rights <sup>1</sup>	41,226	36,724	31,975	31,632	44,259	40,596	36,469	34,652
Employment	21,404	17,998	13,608	13,036	24,456	21,344	16,863	15,452
Bankruptcy suits	3,378	3,428	3,182	2,630	2,555	2,650	2,533	1,793
Commerce (ICC rates, etc.)	1,007	492	317	373	444	395	276	217
Environmental matters	894	726	763	900	1,355	1,193	1,045	1,219
Prisoner petitions	57,706	62,698	53,222	55,374	43,560	47,870	47,172	46,229
Forfeiture and penalty	2,246	2,214	2,221	2,324	1,772	2,156	2,245	2,237
Labor laws	14,229	18,643	18,630	16,685	11,267	15,725	15,111	15,171
Protected property rights <sup>3</sup>	8,745	11,809	11,132	9,636	7,858	10,507	9,827	9,019
Securities commodities and exchanges	2,500	2,371	1,369	1,669	3,578	5,192	4,030	3,621
Social security laws	14,365	16,066	12,964	13,329	13,667	15,420	13,214	13,181
Tax suits	938	1,348	1,485	1,448	1,068	1,222	1,376	1,366
Freedom of information	335	426	325	294	380	378	380	365

<sup>1</sup> Includes other types not shown separately. <sup>2</sup> Includes enforcement of judgments in student loan cases, and overpayments of veterans benefits. <sup>3</sup> Includes copyright, patent, and trademark rights.

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, *Statistical Tables for the Federal Judiciary*, annual. See also <<http://www.uscourts.gov/>>.