



NEWS RELEASE

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

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Second Quarter 1998 Shows Bankruptcy Filings Still Surging

A report released today by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts shows that for the eighth consecutive 12-month period, the number of cases filed in U.S. bankruptcy courts reached an all-time high. Lending support to the acute need to establish new bankruptcy judgeships.

The number of bankruptcy petitions filed in the twelve-month period ending March 31, 1998, was up 14 percent over the same 12-month period ending March 31, 1997. Filings in the twelve-month period ending March 31, 1998 totaled 1,423,128, the eighth consecutive time filings for a 12-month period hit a record-high. The number of bankruptcies filed during the second quarter of fiscal year 1998 (January 1, 1998-March 31, 1998) was 354,118, a 6 percent increase over the second quarter of FY97 (January 1, 1997-March 31, 1997) when filings totaled 335,073.

Faced with an ever-increasing bankruptcy caseload, the Judiciary asked Congress in 1997 for new bankruptcy judgeships. New bankruptcy judgeships were last created in 1992. Last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved S. 1301, the Consumer Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1997, which would create 18 temporary bankruptcy judgeships, in addition to substantially reforming the bankruptcy system. A House bill, H.R. 1596, the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 1997, passed in the first session of the 105th Congress, and would authorize seven new permanent bankruptcy judgeships and 11 temporary judgeships.

Total Filings for the Twelve-Month period ending	
March 31, 1996	980,126
June 30, 1996	1,042,110
Sept.30, 1996	1,111,964
Dec. 31, 1996	1,178,555
March 31, 1997	1,247,065
June 30, 1997	1,316,999
Sept.30, 1997	1,367,364
Dec. 31, 1997	1,404,145
March 31, 1998	1,423,128

Bankruptcy Filings in the District Courts

Among the U.S. bankruptcy courts, the Central District of California remained the district reporting the largest number of filings—119,230—for the 12-month period ending March 31, 1998. This is a 10 percent increase over the 12-month period ending March 31, 1997, when a total of 108,031 bankruptcy cases were filed in the Central District of California.

For the 12-month period ending March 31, 1998, several districts reported bankruptcy filings in excess of
(MORE)

40,000. These districts are the Districts of New Jersey, Illinois-Northern, and Florida-Middle. Several districts report filings over 30,000. These districts are the Districts of New York-Eastern, Maryland, Virginia-Eastern, California-Northern, California-Eastern, and Georgia-Northern. Only two districts reported a decline in filings in this period: the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands and the Southern District of Alabama.

Filings by Chapter

Of the total number of bankruptcy filings for the 12-month period ending March 31, 1998, there were 1,007,213 Chapter 7 filings, an increase of 17 percent over the 862,136 filings in the same period in 1997. The next largest group of filings were Chapter 13 filings at 404,749, a 9 percent increase over the 372,369 filings in the same 12-month period in 1997. Chapter 11 filings dropped to 10,244 in the 12-month period ending March 31, 1998, down from 11,472 in 1997. Chapter 12 filings also fell in this period, from 1,050 in 1997 to 880 in 1998. Business filings totaled 52,638. Non-business filings totaled 1,370,490, up 15 percent from the total non-business filings of 1,193,057 in the 12-month period ending March 31, 1997.

Business and Non-business Bankruptcy Cases Filed, By Chapter During the Three-Month Period Ended March 31, 1998

Total Filings	Chapter 7	Chapter 11	Chapter 12	Chapter 13
354,118	252,498	2,323	212	99,072
Total Business	Chapter 7	Chapter 11	Chapter 12	Chapter 13
12,410	7,600	2,093	212	2,492
Total Non-Business	Chapter 7	Chapter 11		Chapter 13
341,708	244,898	230		96,580

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.

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.

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Quarterly Bankruptcy* Filings 3-Month Period

Ending	Total Filings
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
SEPT. 30, 1990	192,555

*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 ENDING MARCH 31, 1998**

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	TOTAL					TOTAL NON							
		CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13.
TOTAL . . .	1,423,128	1,007,213	10,244	880	404,749	52,638	31,843	9,207	880	10,666	1,370,490	975,370	1,037	394,083
DC.....	2,634	1,722	58	-	853	92	31	46	-	14	2,542	1,691	12	839
1ST...	55,862	39,757	462	9	15,633	1,803	1,189	420	9	184	54,059	38,568	42	15,449
ME.....	4,325	3,944	19	3	359	286	202	19	3	62	4,039	3,742	-	297
MA.....	24,272	20,903	276	1	3,091	937	567	269	1	99	23,335	20,336	7	2,992
NH.....	4,941	4,636	38	3	264	254	209	37	3	5	4,687	4,427	1	259
RI.....	5,488	5,243	16	-	229	167	134	16	-	17	5,321	5,109	-	212
PR.....	16,836	5,031	113	2	11,690	159	77	79	2	1	16,677	4,954	34	11,689
2ND...	91,796	76,147	1,229	44	14,366	3,347	1,736	1,073	44	484	88,449	74,411	156	13,882
CT.....	13,431	11,871	118	3	1,438	184	89	90	3	1	13,247	11,782	28	1,437
NY,N....	16,376	13,811	72	22	2,471	737	468	69	22	178	15,639	13,343	3	2,293
NY,E....	30,299	24,698	396	-	5,205	572	233	332	-	7	29,727	24,465	64	5,198
NY,S....	16,295	14,012	540	-	1,734	776	260	484	-	23	15,519	13,752	56	1,711
NY,W....	13,482	10,017	76	9	3,380	921	590	72	9	250	12,561	9,427	4	3,130
VT.....	1,913	1,738	27	10	138	157	96	26	10	25	1,756	1,642	1	113
3RD...	90,907	65,999	1,313	27	23,565	3,170	1,664	1,144	27	332	87,737	64,335	169	23,233
DE.....	2,736	1,770	193	1	772	212	18	193	1	-	2,524	1,752	-	772
NJ.....	43,673	30,739	613	1	12,318	1,069	548	502	1	16	42,604	30,191	111	12,302
PA,E....	22,303	14,134	258	11	7,899	543	257	232	11	42	21,760	13,877	26	7,857
PA,M....	10,000	8,537	90	10	1,363	862	525	83	10	244	9,138	8,012	7	1,119
PA,W....	12,122	10,763	151	4	1,204	468	308	126	4	30	11,654	10,455	25	1,174
VI.....	73	56	8	-	9	16	8	8	-	-	57	48	-	9

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	TOTAL					TOTAL NON								
		CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINES FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13	
4TH...	123,215	82,208	816	31	40,160	4,367	2,690	749	31	897	118,848	79,518	67	39,263	
MD.....	33,290	24,355	275	4	8,656	1,618	1,053	261	4	300	31,672	23,302	14	8,356	
NC,E....	10,061	4,803	50	9	5,199	418	194	48	9	167	9,643	4,609	2	5,032	
NC,M....	9,292	2,606	30	3	6,653	199	151	28	3	17	9,093	2,455	2	6,636	
NC,W....	7,054	3,157	30	1	3,866	83	50	30	1	2	6,971	3,107	-	3,864	
SC.....	11,271	6,138	85	5	5,043	338	145	75	5	113	10,933	5,993	10	4,930	
VA,E....	32,283	23,711	233	5	8,334	737	392	198	5	142	31,546	23,319	35	8,192	
VA,W....	11,280	9,293	67	2	1,918	605	443	63	2	97	10,675	8,850	4	1,821	
WV,N....	3,575	3,371	20	2	182	191	139	20	2	30	3,384	3,232	-	152	
WV,S....	5,109	4,774	26	-	309	178	123	26	-	29	4,931	4,651	-	280	
5TH...	115,306	61,502	940	139	52,723	4,304	2,050	861	139	1,252	111,002	59,452	79	51,471	
LA,E....	7,212	4,733	89	5	2,385	158	73	77	5	3	7,054	4,660	12	2,382	
LA,M....	2,846	1,890	25	1	930	57	29	23	1	4	2,789	1,861	2	926	
LA,W....	13,163	5,615	49	41	7,458	475	253	47	41	134	12,688	5,362	2	7,324	
MS,N....	6,678	3,979	37	11	2,650	146	70	36	11	28	6,532	3,909	1	2,622	
MS,S....	12,559	7,129	29	4	5,397	146	93	27	4	22	12,413	7,036	2	5,375	
TX,N....	25,386	12,572	266	46	12,501	1,496	700	252	46	497	23,890	11,872	14	12,004	
TX,E....	9,835	4,551	60	12	5,212	481	197	55	12	217	9,354	4,354	5	4,995	
TX,S....	19,509	10,995	238	11	8,265	744	311	209	11	213	18,765	10,684	29	8,052	
TX,W....	18,118	10,038	147	8	7,925	601	324	135	8	134	17,517	9,714	12	7,791	
6TH...	170,949	112,895	744	76	57,233	3,605	2,033	710	76	785	167,344	110,862	34	56,448	
KY,E....	9,562	8,283	18	4	1,257	276	199	18	4	55	9,286	8,084	-	1,202	
KY,W....	12,434	9,901	46	9	2,478	185	110	46	9	20	12,249	9,791	-	2,458	
MI,E....	28,465	20,946	214	7	7,298	568	319	206	7	36	27,897	20,627	8	7,262	
MI,W....	12,363	9,289	71	12	2,991	494	290	66	12	126	11,869	8,999	5	2,865	
OH,N....	27,005	22,089	75	10	4,831	513	334	75	10	94	26,492	21,755	-	4,737	
OH,S....	28,033	21,177	99	12	6,745	516	325	91	12	88	27,517	20,852	8	6,657	
TN,E....	16,381	8,386	56	9	7,930	425	174	55	9	187	15,956	8,212	1	7,743	
TN,M....	12,607	6,753	97	7	5,750	415	192	92	7	124	12,192	6,561	5	5,626	
TN,W....	24,099	6,071	68	6	17,953	213	90	61	6	55	23,886	5,981	7	17,898	

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
7TH...	122,102	98,265	561	76	23,198	3,634	2,587	537	76	432	118,468	95,678	24	22,766
IL,N....	44,213	32,500	274	1	11,437	870	563	261	1	44	43,343	31,937	13	11,393
IL,C....	12,917	11,259	34	14	1,610	231	158	33	14	26	12,686	11,101	1	1,584
IL,S....	7,192	5,451	28	10	1,703	678	496	28	10	144	6,514	4,955	-	1,559
IN,N....	13,974	12,069	51	14	1,840	205	121	48	14	22	13,769	11,948	3	1,818
IN,S....	24,146	19,976	86	9	4,074	470	307	83	9	70	23,676	19,669	3	4,004
WI,E....	13,323	11,269	28	4	2,022	322	241	28	4	49	13,001	11,028	-	1,973
WI,W....	6,337	5,741	60	24	512	858	701	56	24	77	5,479	5,040	4	435
8TH...	83,054	61,971	306	185	20,590	4,583	3,220	285	185	891	78,471	58,751	21	19,699
AR,E....	10,289	5,401	28	7	4,853	269	136	26	7	100	10,020	5,265	2	4,753
AR,W....	5,963	3,944	20	9	1,990	245	120	15	9	101	5,718	3,824	5	1,889
IA,N....	3,986	3,841	8	7	130	224	193	7	7	17	3,762	3,648	1	113
IA,S....	5,800	5,252	21	3	524	199	160	18	3	18	5,601	5,092	3	506
MN.....	19,797	15,125	76	29	4,567	2,374	1,812	76	29	457	17,423	13,313	-	4,110
MO,E....	15,437	9,571	46	5	5,815	301	210	44	5	42	15,136	9,361	2	5,773
MO,W....	11,469	9,803	62	6	1,598	382	252	56	6	68	11,087	9,551	6	1,530
NE.....	6,030	5,026	23	62	917	272	152	21	62	35	5,758	4,874	2	882
ND.....	1,954	1,854	7	33	60	132	81	7	33	11	1,822	1,773	-	49
SD.....	2,329	2,154	15	24	136	185	104	15	24	42	2,144	2,050	-	94
9TH...	317,895	253,956	2,338	131	61,456	16,199	10,466	2,033	131	3,555	301,696	243,490	305	57,901
AK.....	1,416	1,262	16	-	138	145	100	16	-	29	1,271	1,162	-	109
AZ.....	24,941	19,617	308	7	5,009	793	391	269	7	126	24,148	19,226	39	4,883
CA,N....	34,328	24,844	307	2	9,175	1,939	985	247	2	705	32,389	23,859	60	8,470
CA,E....	37,500	32,139	165	39	5,154	2,591	1,747	151	39	651	34,909	30,392	14	4,503
CA,C....	119,230	97,181	850	4	21,190	5,991	4,256	719	4	1,007	113,239	92,925	131	20,183
CA,S....	19,346	14,521	87	-	4,737	203	125	68	-	9	19,143	14,396	19	4,728
HI.....	4,744	4,217	41	-	485	186	131	39	-	15	4,558	4,086	2	470
ID.....	7,225	5,553	43	55	1,574	535	273	41	55	166	6,690	5,280	2	1,408
MT.....	3,641	2,871	20	13	737	232	139	16	13	64	3,409	2,732	4	673
NV.....	13,874	9,908	162	-	3,800	424	187	156	-	77	13,450	9,721	6	3,723

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
OR.....	17,925	14,545	47	1	3,332	1,793	1,317	44	1	431	16,132	13,228	3	2,901
WA,E....	7,309	6,026	56	7	1,220	440	279	54	7	100	6,869	5,747	2	1,120
WA,W....	26,296	21,180	232	3	4,881	903	516	210	3	174	25,393	20,664	22	4,707
GUAM....	115	88	3	-	24	22	19	2	-	1	93	69	1	23
NMI.....	5	4	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	3	3	-	-
10TH..	77,573	59,283	379	88	17,819	3,044	2,007	355	88	590	74,529	57,276	24	17,229
CO.....	18,863	15,696	86	15	3,064	474	339	84	15	34	18,389	15,357	2	3,030
KS.....	13,247	10,531	65	22	2,629	393	225	55	22	91	12,854	10,306	10	2,538
NM.....	7,724	5,490	50	3	2,181	346	201	47	3	95	7,378	5,289	3	2,086
OK,N....	5,818	4,795	32	3	988	619	470	27	3	119	5,199	4,325	5	869
OK,E....	3,549	3,262	20	10	256	174	124	19	10	20	3,375	3,138	1	236
OK,W....	13,300	10,427	46	22	2,805	465	316	45	22	82	12,835	10,111	1	2,723
UT.....	12,982	7,246	64	7	5,664	477	277	62	7	130	12,505	6,969	2	5,534
WY.....	2,090	1,836	16	6	232	96	55	16	6	19	1,994	1,781	-	213
11TH..	171,835	93,508	1,098	74	77,153	4,490	2,170	994	74	1,250	167,345	91,338	104	75,903
AL,N....	22,618	8,234	93	3	14,288	421	167	86	3	165	22,197	8,067	7	14,123
AL,M....	6,705	2,869	24	11	3,801	261	141	24	11	85	6,444	2,728	-	3,716
AL,S....	4,729	2,218	20	1	2,490	114	53	16	1	44	4,615	2,165	4	2,446
FL,N....	4,848	4,010	27	-	811	122	58	25	-	39	4,726	3,952	2	772
FL,M....	42,898	33,518	327	11	9,041	1,275	702	295	11	266	41,623	32,816	32	8,775
FL,S....	27,163	20,417	342	3	6,400	825	459	315	3	47	26,338	19,958	27	6,353
GA,N....	34,981	13,693	194	1	21,093	1,020	429	166	1	424	33,961	13,264	28	20,669
GA,M....	15,172	5,627	30	38	9,477	181	64	28	38	51	14,991	5,563	2	9,426
GA,S....	12,721	2,922	41	6	9,752	271	97	39	6	129	12,450	2,825	2	9,623

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

DC.....	SECTION	304 = 01	MA.....	SECTION	304 = 01	CT.....	SECTION	304 = 01
NY,S...	SECTION	304 = 09	NJ.....	SECTION	304 = 02	PA,E...	CHAPTE	9 = 01
MS,N...	CHAPTER	9 = 01	TX,N...	CHAPTE 9	= 01	TN,W...	CHAPTE 9	= 01
IL,N...	SECTION	304 = 01	IN,S...	SECTION	304 = 01	NE.....	CHAPTE	9 = 02
CA,E...	CHAPTER	9 = 01	CA,E...	SECTION	304 = 02	CA,C...	SECTION	304 = 05
CA,S...	SECTION	304 = 01	HI.....	SECTION	304 = 01	NV.....	SECTION	304 = 04
CO.....	CHAPTER	9 = 01	CO.....	SECTION	304 = 01	OK,E...	CHAPTE	9 = 01
UT.....	SECTION	304 = 01	FL,M...	SECTION	304 = 01	FL,S...	SECTION	304 = 01