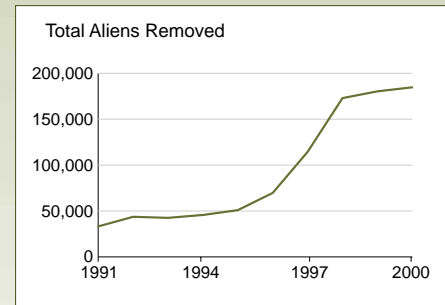
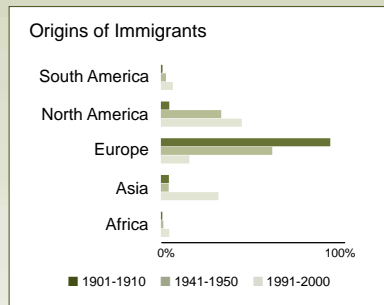
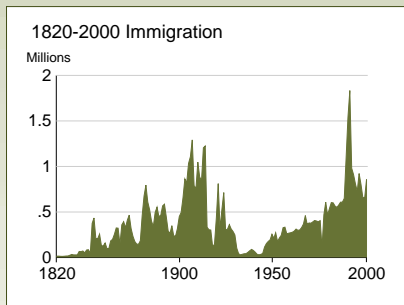


OVERVIEW

The United States has a diverse population mix.



Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, 2000 Statistical Yearbook.

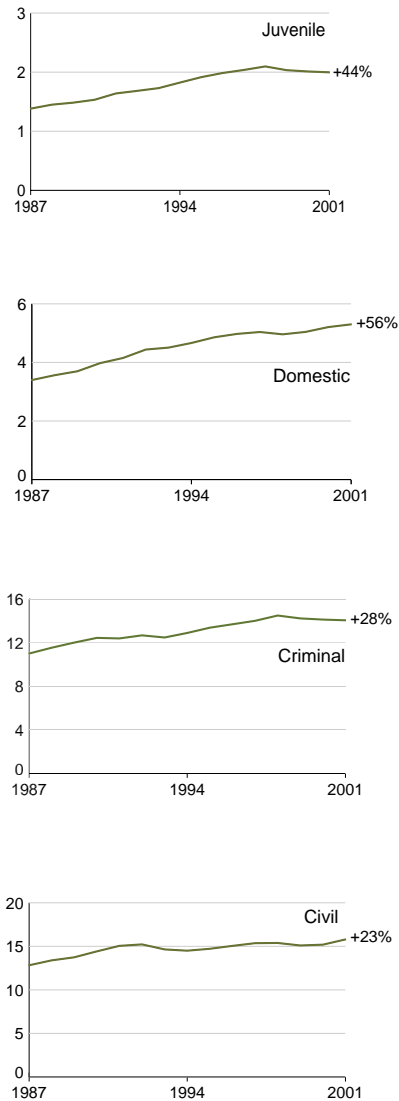
Immigration levels have fluctuated greatly over the past 180 years, with current levels close to those of the early 1900s

...however immigrant populations have shifted from a European to an Asian and North American mix.

The number of aliens removed from the U.S. has increased dramatically since 1995.

Overview of State Trial Court Caseloads

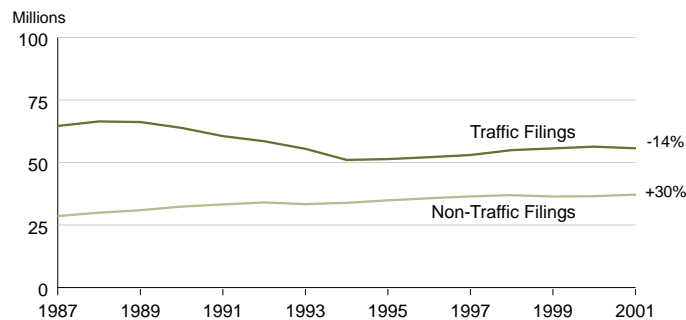
State Court Filings by Type of Case, 1987-2001 (in millions)



93 million state court filings in 2001

The National Court Statistics Project reports the filing of 93 million new cases in our nation's state courts in 2001—about the same number of cases recorded in 2000. Since not all cases exert the same amount of pressure on the courts, it is constructive to separate traffic from non-traffic filings when looking at general trends. Non-traffic filings, those cases requiring more justice system resources, have grown, on average, about 2 percent per year. Traffic filings, on the other hand, experienced a decline of 23 percent between 1988 and 1994. Since then, traffic filings have, on average, increased by about 1 percent per year. Over the last year, juvenile and criminal caseloads saw slight decreases, while domestic and civil caseloads saw slight increases.

Total State Court Caseloads, 1987- 2001



Traditionally, state trial court systems are organized into courts of general and limited jurisdiction. All states have at least one court of general jurisdiction and, in 2001, 34 percent of state court filings were in general jurisdiction courts, the highest trial court in the state, handling the most serious criminal and civil cases. In 2001, 66 percent of state court filings were processed in limited jurisdiction courts, where caseloads are typically comprised of misdemeanor filings and preliminary hearings in felony cases, and the civil docket is primarily small claims cases.

Types of Cases Filed in State Courts, 2001 (in millions)

Case Type	Total	Jurisdiction	
		General	Limited
Traffic	55.7	14.1	41.6
Civil	15.8	7.4	8.4
Criminal	14.1	4.8	9.2
Domestic	5.3	3.8	1.5
Juvenile	2.0	1.3	0.7
Total	92.8	31.4	61.4

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

There are more than 15,500 state courts in the United States with just over 29,000 judicial officers

The 93 million cases filed in 2001 were processed through 15,555 individual state trial courts. Limited jurisdiction courts outnumbered their general jurisdiction counterparts six to one.

13,515 limited jurisdiction courts
2,040 general jurisdiction courts

Changes in the total number of limited and general jurisdiction courts in the United States often occur as a result of changes in court system classification rather than from actually creating or closing courts. This occurred in California when court unification was completed in 1999; all limited jurisdiction courts are now classified as general jurisdiction courts.

In 2001, there were 29,266 trial judges and quasi-judicial officers (e.g., commissioners, magistrates, and referees) in the nation's state trial courts. The number of state court judges has averaged about 1 percent growth each year from 1990 until 2000. In 2001, new judgeships were very rare, with only about 25 general jurisdiction judges added nationwide.

The table on the following page shows the number of general jurisdiction court judges in each state for 2001. The number does not represent quasi-judicial officers such as magistrates or referees. Ten states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have unified court structures in which trial courts are consolidated into a single general jurisdiction court level. Because there is no distinction between trial levels in these states, it often appears that they have more general jurisdiction court judges than the 40 remaining states with multilevel court systems.

Judicial Officers in State Trial Courts by Court Jurisdiction, 1990-2001

Year	Number of Judicial Officers		Total	Growth Rate
	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction		
1990	9,325	18,234	27,559	0.0%
1991	9,502	18,289	27,791	0.8
1992	9,602	18,272	27,874	0.3
1993	9,751	18,316	28,067	0.7
1994	9,793	18,317	28,110	0.2
1995	10,153	17,974	28,127	0.1
1996	10,114	18,301	28,415	1.0
1997	10,007	18,553	28,560	0.5
1998	10,163	18,630	28,793	0.8
1999*	11,118	17,905	29,023	0.8
2000	11,300	17,943	29,243	0.8
2001	11,323	17,943	29,266	0.1

* Most of the shift between the general and limited jurisdiction courts was caused by the unification of the California trial courts in 1999.

Number and Rate of Judges in Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts in 49 States, 2001

State	Number of Judges	Judges per 100,000 Population	Filings per Judge
Unified Courts			
California	1,498	4.3	1,501
Illinois	834	6.7	1,492
Puerto Rico	328	8.6	750
Missouri	314	5.6	1,533
Minnesota	260	5.2	1,845
Wisconsin	241	4.5	1,807
Iowa	192	6.6	1,448
Connecticut	180	5.3	1,581
Kansas	159	5.9	1,571
District of Columbia	58	10.1	2,501
North Dakota	42	6.6	1,807
South Dakota	38	5.0	2,540
General Jurisdiction Courts			
New York	524	2.8	926
Florida	493	3.0	2,210
Texas	418	2.0	1,606
New Jersey	407	4.8	2,620
Pennsylvania*	386	3.1	1,527
Ohio	376	3.3	1,466
Indiana	289	4.7	2,308
Louisiana	224	5.0	1,529
Michigan	210	2.1	1,375
Georgia	188	2.2	1,658
Washington	175	2.9	1,136
Oregon	164	4.7	1,871
Arizona	160	3.0	1,019
Virginia	150	2.1	1,832
Maryland	143	2.7	1,742
Alabama	142	3.2	1,294
Colorado	126	2.9	1,056
Tennessee	118	2.1	1,986
Arkansas	115	4.3	1,387
Kentucky	111	2.7	928
North Carolina	105	1.3	2,880
Massachusetts	80	1.3	379
New Mexico	72	3.9	1,202
Utah	70	3.1	3,198
West Virginia	65	3.6	942
Nevada	56	2.7	1,375
Nebraska	55	3.2	717
South Carolina	51	1.3	3,378
Montana	46	5.1	677
Hawaii	45	3.7	734
Idaho	39	3.0	484
Alaska	32	5.0	472
New Hampshire	29	2.3	2,095
Vermont	29	4.7	1,968
Rhode Island	22	2.1	686
Delaware	19	2.4	1,134
Maine	16	1.2	758

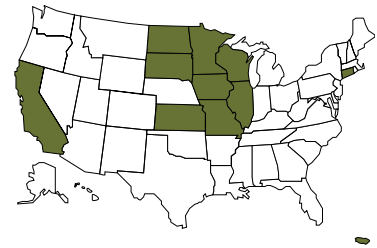
*This figure is based upon preliminary numbers supplied by the Pennsylvania Administrative Office of the Courts. No data were available for Mississippi, Oklahoma, or Wyoming for 2001.

Only 10 states have more than five judges per 100,000 population

The center column in the adjacent table adjusts for differences in population across the country by showing the number of judges per 100,000 population. The result is a dramatic narrowing in the range of judges (1.2 in Maine to 10.1 in D.C.). In fact, states with non-unified courts average three judges per 100,000 population, whereas states with unified courts have an average of six judges per 100,000 population.

The last column shows the number of civil (including domestic relations) and criminal filings per general jurisdiction judge. More than half (57 percent) of the states report between 1,000 and 2,000 filings per judge.

States with Unified Court Systems



In federal courts, bankruptcy filings increased 14 percent in 2001

The table below compares caseload sizes across the state and federal court systems. Criminal filings barely dropped for both federal and state courts (-.1 percent), while civil filings decreased on the federal level (just over 3 percent) and increased on the state level (almost 6 percent). A sign of our economic times, bankruptcy filings in the federal courts jumped 14 percent from 2000 to 2001.

Federal and State Court Filings, 2001

		Filings	Change Since 2000
Federal Courts	Criminal	62,708	-0.1%
	Civil	250,907	-3.3
	Bankruptcy	1,437,354	13.9
	Magistrates	873,948	8.2
	Total	2,624,917	9.7
State Courts	Criminal	14,054,945	-0.1
	Civil	15,792,277	5.6
	Domestic	5,300,114	2.2
	Juvenile	1,997,403	-0.4
	Traffic	55,685,616	-0.1
	Total	92,830,355	0.9

Source for federal court data: Judicial Business of the United States, Annual Report of the Director, 2001

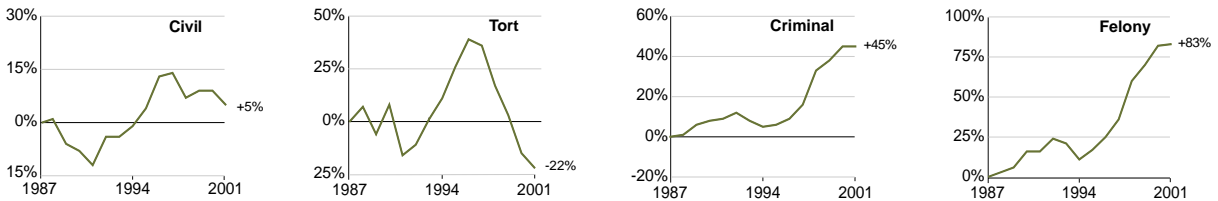
A comparison of the yearly growth in state and federal trial court filing rates is shown below. The cases included in this comparison come from courts of general jurisdiction on the state side and from the U.S. district courts on the federal side in order to maximize comparability between the two systems. With respect to criminal cases, both the U.S. district courts and the state trial courts of general jurisdiction primarily handle felonies; on the civil side, the dollar limits and case types of the state trial courts of general jurisdiction resemble the \$50,000 jurisdictional limit of private civil suits faced by the U.S. district courts. With 1987 as the base year, the charts show the growth rates in total civil, tort, total criminal, and felony filings.

Civil filings in state trial courts of general jurisdiction have grown by 17 percent since 1987, while civil filings in the U.S. district courts rose 5 percent over the same period. At the state level, tort filings stayed fairly flat until 1996, at which time they began steadily decreasing; on the federal side, growth occurred in the early 1990s, with a sharp decline since 1996.

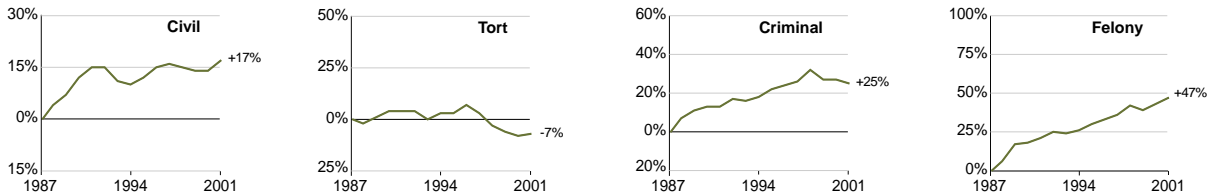
Criminal caseloads have increased steadily in both federal (45 percent) and state (25 percent) court systems since 1987. The most dramatic increases in filings occurred in felony caseloads. Similar growth rates in the mid-1980s diverged in 1987 as state felony filing rates began to outpace federal filing rates. Beginning in the mid-1990s, however, growth rates in federal felony caseloads began to climb quickly, with the sharpest increases occurring between 1998 and 2001.

Caseload Growth Rates of U.S. District and State General Jurisdiction Courts, 1987-2001

Federal Filings



State Filings



Source for federal data: Judicial Business of the United States, Annual Report of the Director, 2001