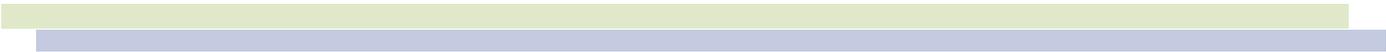
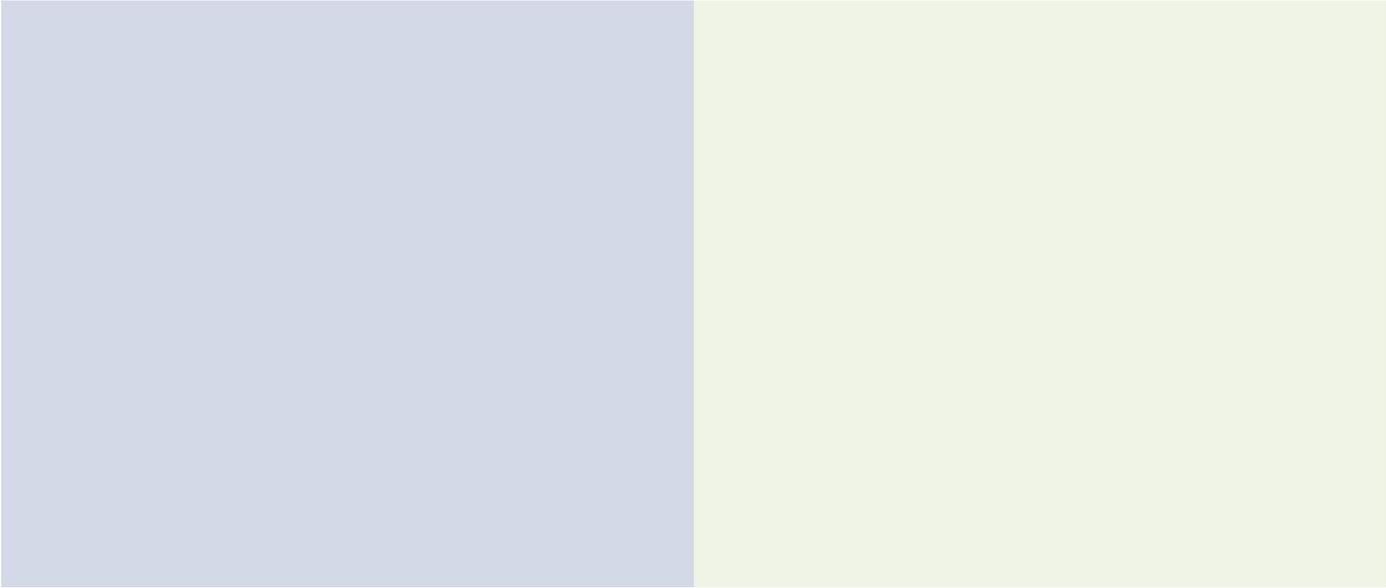


Section II: Court Statistics



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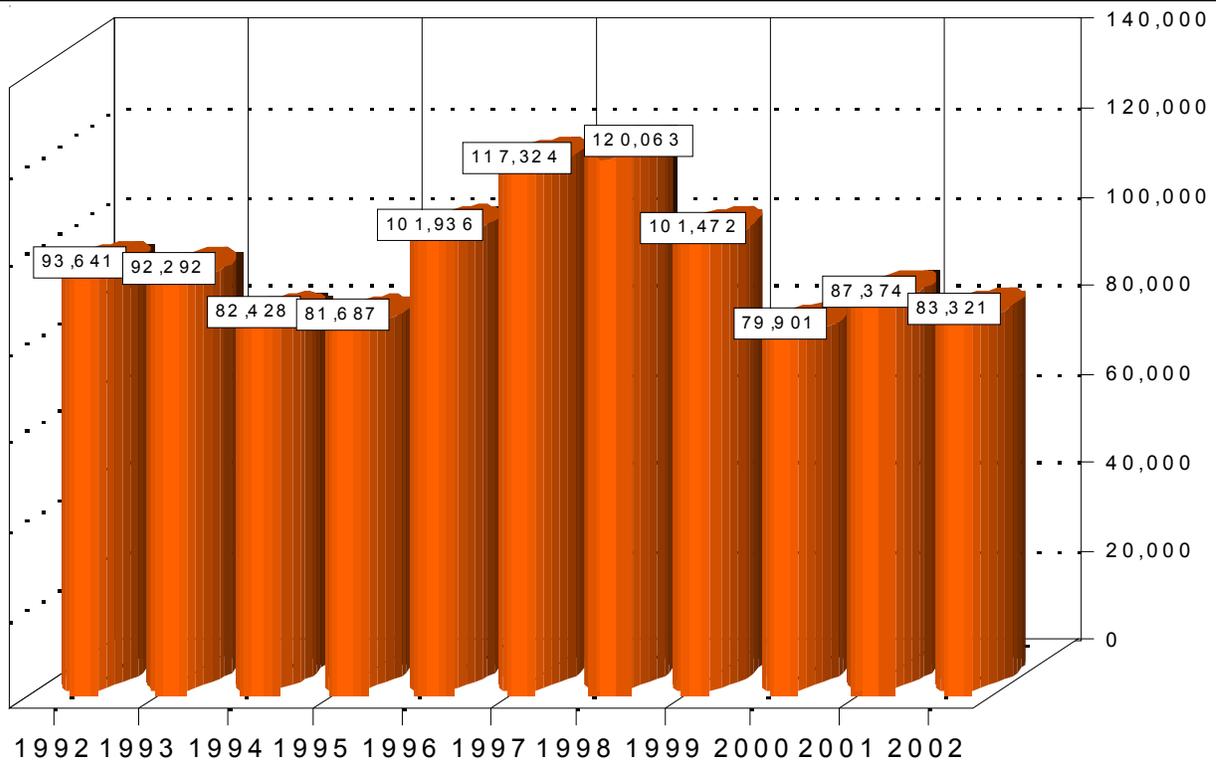
Court Statistics

Bankruptcy Case Filings Decrease in 2002

Bankruptcy case filings in the district decreased slightly. The Court received a total of 83,321 new bankruptcy case filings during 2002 representing a 4.6% decrease from the 87,374 cases filed in 2001. Filings decreased in all chapters, with the largest percentage decrease occurring in the number of chapter 11 filings (approximately 15%).

Filings of adversary proceedings in the district, however, increased during the year. The Court received a total of 5,776 adversary proceedings for 2002, a 44.5% increase over the previous year.

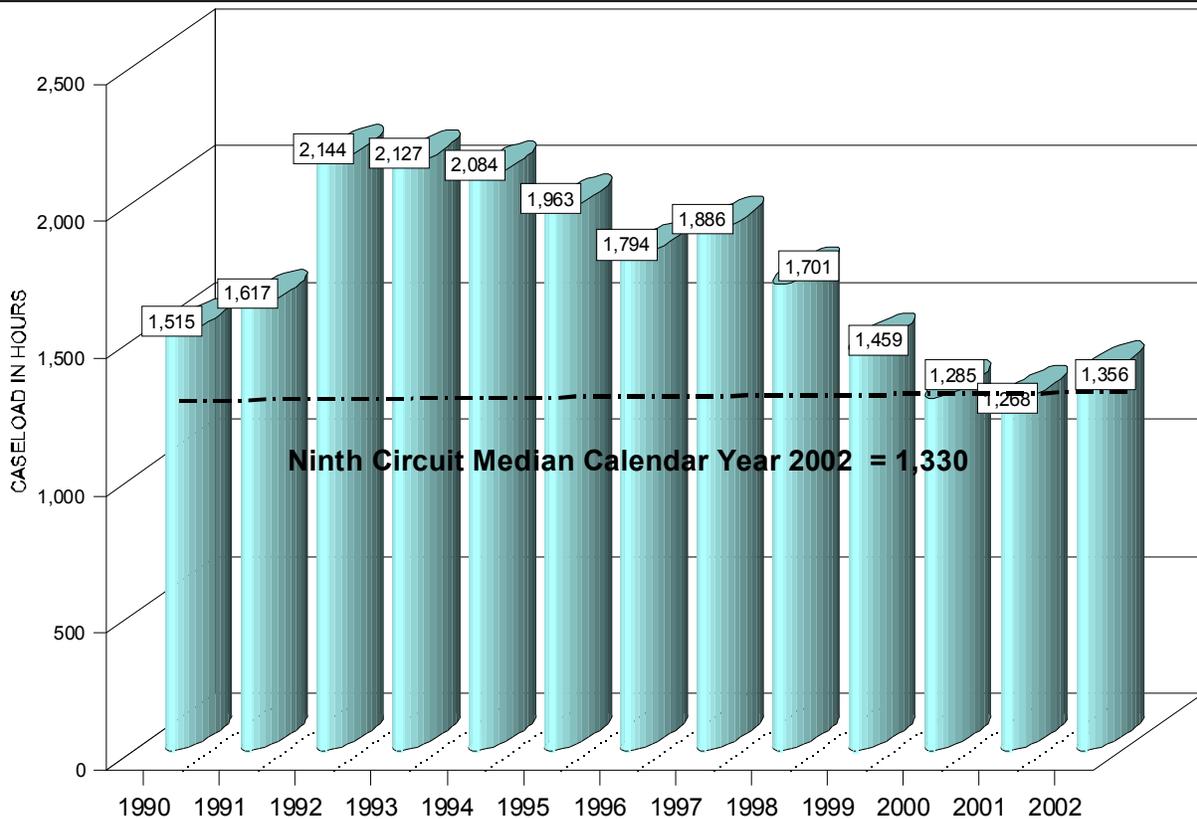
Figure 6
Central District of California
Bankruptcy Cases Filed: 1992- 2002



Weighted Caseload

In March 1991, the Judicial Conference approved the bankruptcy case weights developed in the *Bankruptcy Judge Time Study* by the Federal Judicial Center. Initially established primarily for evaluating requests for additional judgeships, the weights also provide useful information about judicial workloads and facilitate judicial workload comparisons with other bankruptcy courts. For the 12 months ending December 2002, the average weighted caseload per Central District authorized judgeship was 1,356 caseload hours or 2.0% more than the 1,330 hour Ninth Circuit median. (See Figure 7.)

Figure 7
United States Bankruptcy Court - Central District of California
Annualized Weighted Caseload per Judgeship: 1990-2002



Bankruptcy and Adversary Closings

The Court closed 85,277 bankruptcy cases during 2002, a slight increase over the 85,126 cases closed in 2001. The decrease in bankruptcy filings during 2002 resulted in fewer cases needing to be closed, making the improvement over the 2001 closing figure even more impressive. The Court also closed 4,821 adversary proceedings during 2002, a 7.5% increase over the number of closings in 2001. (See Figures 8 and 9.)

Figure 8
Central District of California
Bankruptcy Cases Closed vs. Filed: 1991-2002

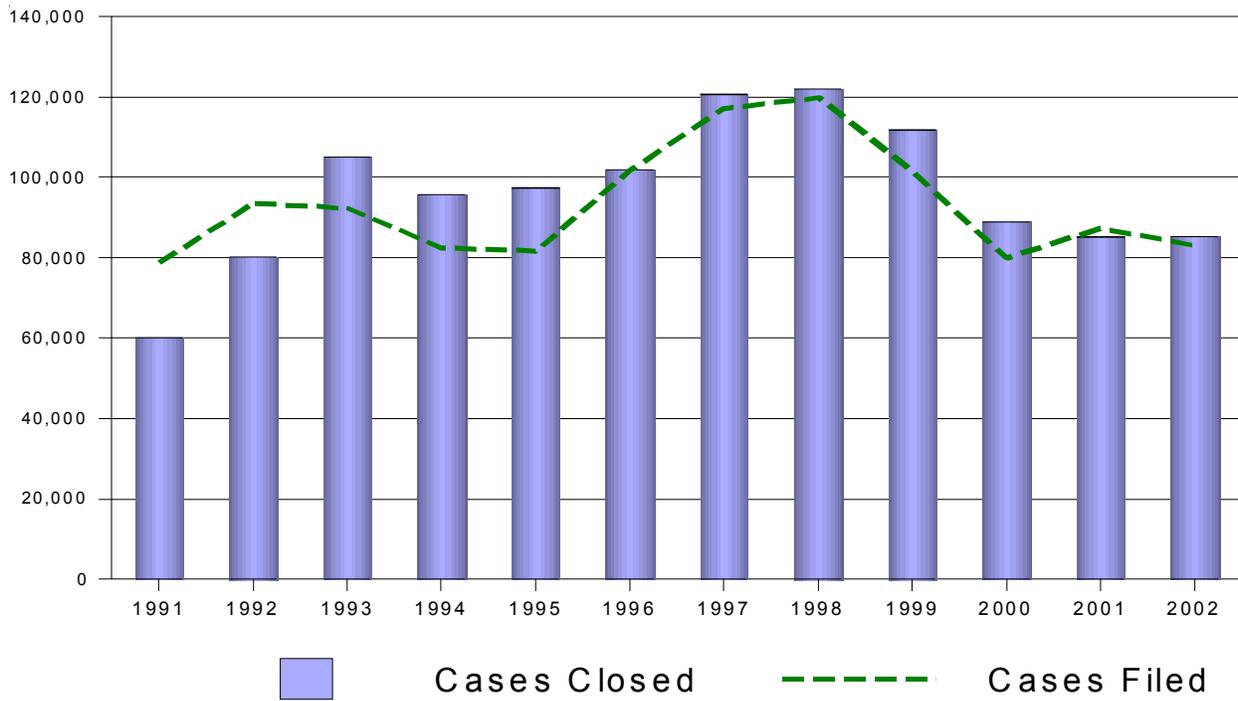
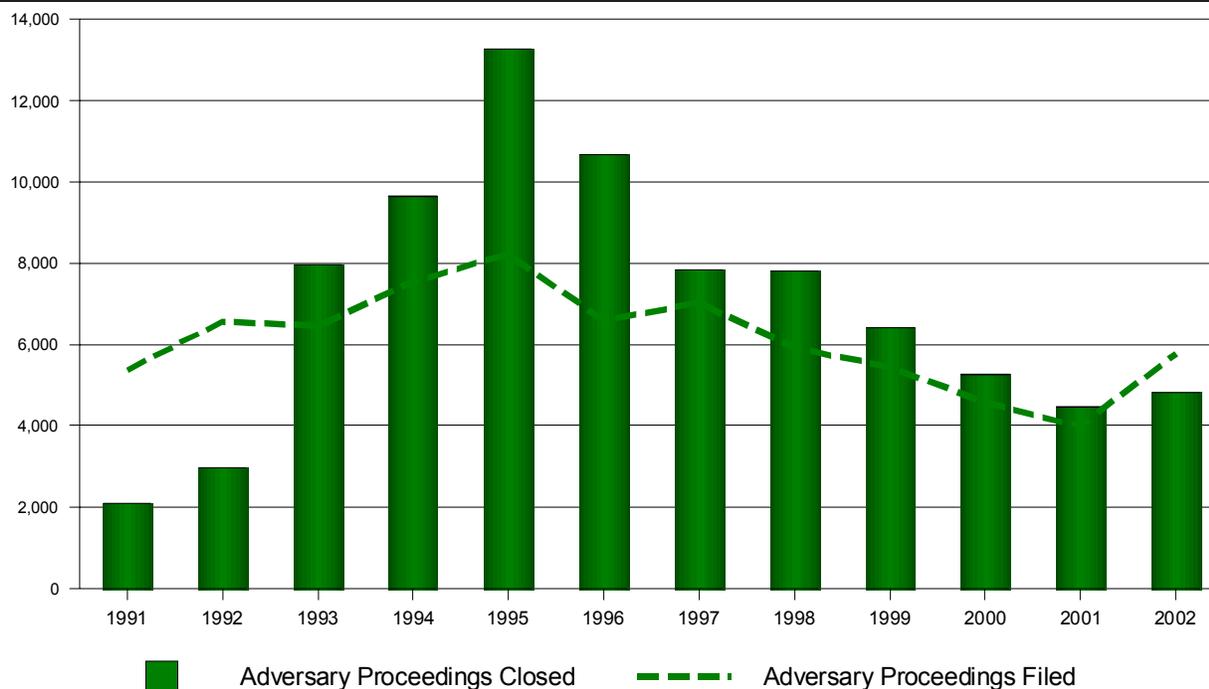


Figure 9
Central District of California
Adversary Proceedings Closed vs. Filed: 1991-2002



Number of Relief from Stay Motions Increases

The Court received 17,429 relief from stay motions during 2002, a 2.7% increase from 2001. This is the first increase the Court has experienced in recent years, although the total number of motions filed in 2002 was significantly less than the number of motions filed per year prior to 1999. The ability of the Court to handle relief from stay motions promptly is attributable to the immediate dismissal of incomplete petitions before creditors file a motion for relief from stay.

Pro Se Filings Continue at High Levels in the District

The percentage of *pro se* debtors (debtors filing without legal assistance) decreased slightly from 28% in 2001 to 27% in 2002. From 1994 through 2002, the percentage of chapter 7 and 13 cases filed *pro se* averaged about 33%, one of the highest rates in the country. Table 7 shows the estimated number of *pro se* filings from 1994 through 2002. The number of *pro se* filings is significant because it adversely impacts the judicial and Clerk's Office workloads in the Court.

Table 7
Central District of California
Estimated Percentage of *Pro Se* Filings
District-Wide: 1994-2002

Year	Chapter 7	Chapter 13	Total
1994	41%	44%	42%
1995	36%	35%	36%
1996	35%	38%	36%
1997	37%	37%	37%
1998	32%	32%	32%
1999	33%	29%	31%
2000	27%	19%	24%
2001	29%	24%	28%
2002	28%	22%	27%
Average	33%	31%	33%

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