

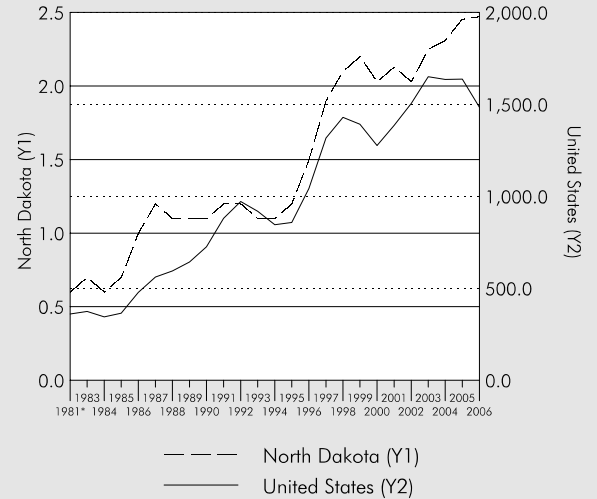
Bankruptcy Cases Filed by State: 2000 to 2006

In 2006, a total of 2,471 bankruptcy cases were filed in North Dakota, an increase of 16 cases from 2005 and 442 cases since 2000, or an average increase of 3.5 percent per year between 2000 and 2006 (Table 1). Nationally, 40 states and the District of Columbia reported decreases in the number of bankruptcy cases filed between 2005 and 2006. Bankruptcy cases filed in the United States overall dropped 9.3 percent in the last year, however, increased by an average of 2.8 percent per year between 2000 and 2006 (Figure 2).

In 1981, approximately 600 bankruptcy cases were filed in North Dakota. The number of bankruptcy cases rose dramatically during the latter half of the 1990s reaching a peak in 1999 at 2,200 (Figure 1). Cases showed a modest decline, then increased to 2,471 by 2006. North Dakota's trend in bankruptcy filings has closely followed the national pattern of change.

The numbers in this report are for 12-month periods ending June 30 and cover only bankruptcy cases filed under the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978. Bankruptcy is defined as a legal recognition that a company or individual is insolvent and must restructure or liquidate. "Cases filed" refers to the commencement of a proceeding through the presentation of a petition to the clerk of court. United States totals include outlying areas, not shown separately.

Figure 1. Bankruptcy Cases Filed in North Dakota and United States: 1981 to 2006 (Numbers in Thousands)



Notes: Numbers in thousands, thus 2.5=2,500 and 2,000.0=2,000,000.
*Non-consecutive years.
Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Statistical Tables for the Federal Judiciary at www.uscourts.gov/bnkrpctystats/bankruptcytstats.htm

Figure 2. Average Annual Percent Change in the Number of Bankruptcy Cases Filed by State: 2000 to 2006

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Statistical Tables for the Federal Judiciary at www.uscourts.gov/bnkrpctystats/bankruptcytstats.htm

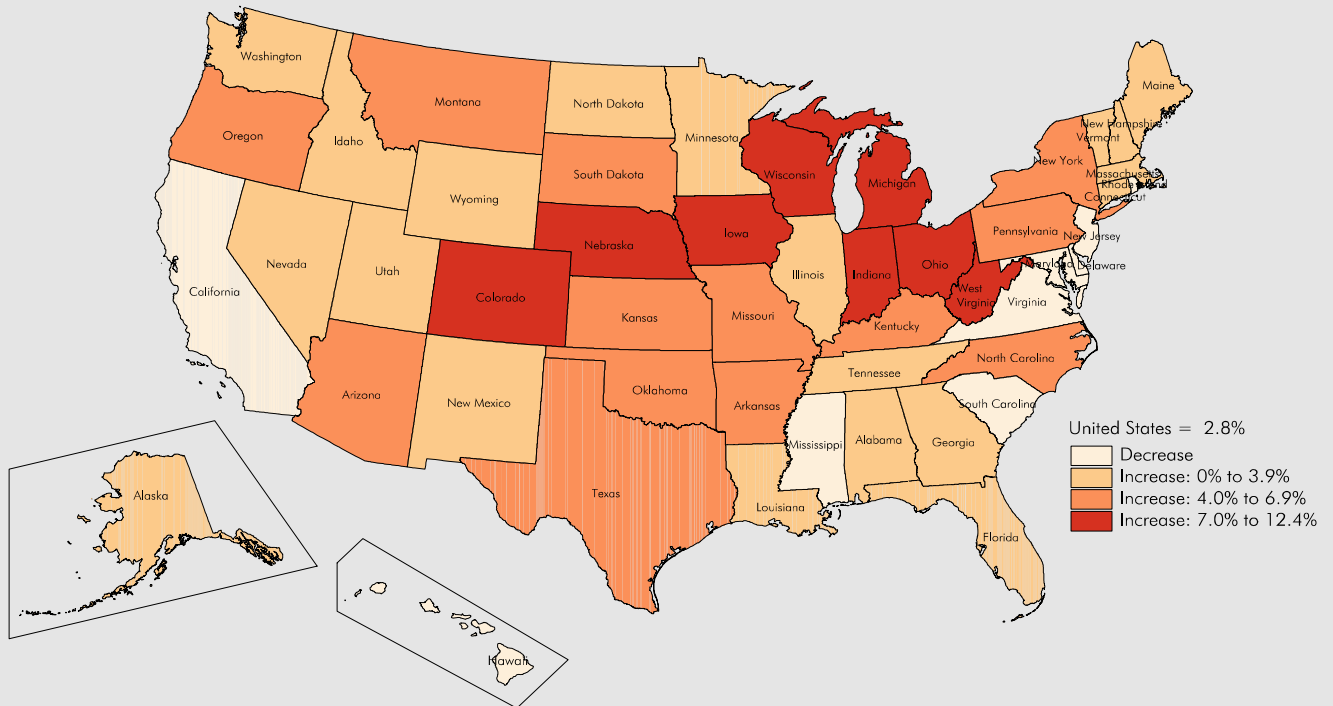


Table 1. Bankruptcy Cases Filed by State: 2000 to 2006

Note: ¹Includes outlying areas not shown separately.

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Statistical Tables for the Federal Judiciary at www.uscourts.gov/bnkrpctystats/bankruptcystats.htm

Area	12-Month Period Ending June 30 th							Average Annual Percent Change: 2000 to 2006
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
United States ¹	1,276,922	1,386,606	1,505,306	1,650,279	1,635,725	1,637,254	1,484,570	2.8
Alabama	31,422	36,553	39,566	41,971	42,426	42,640	34,839	2.3
Alaska	1,425	1,476	1,405	1,563	1,483	1,608	1,748	3.7
Arizona	21,669	22,806	27,318	31,712	31,799	32,425	26,655	4.3
Arkansas	16,298	19,735	21,767	24,463	24,176	25,469	21,467	5.4
California	160,564	147,920	148,393	148,646	132,464	122,588	117,622	-5.0
Colorado	15,610	17,358	19,209	24,210	27,428	30,244	31,120	12.4
Connecticut	11,373	11,310	11,182	12,192	11,848	11,772	11,468	0.2
Delaware	4,874	3,975	3,955	3,920	3,835	3,597	3,252	-6.3
Dist. of Columbia	2,614	2,457	2,450	2,497	2,078	1,892	1,670	-7.0
Florida	73,991	80,369	87,956	94,923	92,184	85,849	73,499	0.3
Georgia	57,934	64,874	72,553	80,164	79,766	77,300	61,265	1.7
Hawaii	5,004	4,780	4,745	4,126	3,473	3,182	3,195	-7.0
Idaho	7,270	7,857	8,465	9,334	9,653	9,690	8,189	2.4
Illinois	62,332	68,180	77,342	86,887	81,335	83,551	76,570	3.9
Indiana	37,480	43,021	50,611	55,271	55,672	55,884	59,969	8.3
Iowa	8,184	9,930	11,191	12,357	12,974	14,308	12,767	8.2
Kansas	11,448	12,751	14,035	15,976	16,333	17,342	16,272	6.3
Kentucky	20,842	24,096	26,259	28,687	29,250	29,206	29,994	6.4
Louisiana	23,125	25,411	26,497	28,436	30,186	31,100	25,286	2.0
Maine	4,053	4,375	4,352	4,597	4,647	4,702	4,612	2.2
Maryland	31,098	33,685	34,531	35,761	32,007	28,503	24,643	-3.4
Massachusetts	16,742	17,049	16,892	17,994	18,153	19,624	19,559	2.7
Michigan	36,424	41,838	50,197	60,841	62,983	68,512	67,197	11.1
Minnesota	15,445	16,941	19,109	20,556	19,067	19,353	18,548	3.4
Mississippi	17,917	20,841	21,954	22,992	21,196	21,822	16,235	-0.7
Missouri	26,283	28,385	31,538	37,280	37,951	39,176	38,635	6.8
Montana	3,307	3,710	4,052	4,260	4,438	4,413	4,323	4.7
Nebraska	5,590	6,512	7,289	8,266	8,812	9,645	8,659	7.9
Nevada	14,304	16,266	18,568	20,685	19,439	16,262	17,235	3.8
New Hampshire	3,934	3,861	3,741	4,334	4,502	4,886	4,245	1.7
New Jersey	38,727	40,286	40,500	41,953	42,533	40,719	34,184	-1.8
New Mexico	7,088	7,999	8,714	10,019	9,387	10,053	8,164	3.1
New York	61,748	66,047	67,881	75,039	80,209	81,739	77,398	4.0
North Carolina	25,789	30,719	34,897	38,617	37,737	37,543	31,584	4.1
North Dakota	2,029	2,134	2,032	2,252	2,309	2,455	2,471	3.5
Ohio	53,555	63,609	73,206	85,391	90,941	95,762	98,775	10.9
Oklahoma	19,304	21,872	23,330	26,069	27,203	28,204	27,691	6.3
Oregon	18,077	20,913	23,488	25,530	24,927	25,304	22,944	4.4
Pennsylvania	43,835	49,210	51,982	57,883	59,060	62,262	56,448	4.6
Rhode Island	4,843	4,759	4,734	4,798	4,312	4,449	4,043	-2.8
South Carolina	11,662	13,004	15,149	15,924	15,925	15,224	10,857	0.0
South Dakota	2,148	2,389	2,677	2,800	2,913	2,914	2,969	5.6
Tennessee	47,097	55,466	61,523	65,869	62,917	60,848	49,169	1.5
Texas	62,927	69,137	77,000	88,372	92,237	97,516	86,794	5.9
Utah	14,399	17,362	20,687	22,795	21,342	20,514	13,966	1.3
Vermont	1,601	1,666	1,707	1,917	1,842	1,746	1,953	3.6
Virginia	37,064	39,225	41,906	44,066	42,058	38,788	30,939	-2.5
Washington	31,248	34,758	37,321	40,706	40,070	37,743	32,337	1.0
West Virginia	8,208	9,948	9,749	10,989	11,384	12,574	12,086	7.0
Wisconsin	17,965	20,313	23,178	27,746	27,746	29,043	27,181	7.5
Wyoming	1,997	2,395	2,243	2,467	2,436	2,549	2,242	2.5

Date of Release: January 18, 2007

Bankruptcy Cases Continue to Increase in North Dakota

In 2006, a total of 2,471 bankruptcy cases were filed in North Dakota, the vast majority of which were personal rather than business (97.3 percent). Total bankruptcy cases throughout the state increased by 16 cases from 2005 and by 442 since 2000, or an average increase of 3.5 percent per year between 2000 and 2006.

This month's "Economic Briefs," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, focuses on the number of bankruptcy cases filed by state as reported by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Nationally, 40 states and the District of Columbia reported decreases in the number of bankruptcy cases filed between 2005 and 2006. Bankruptcy cases filed in the United States overall dropped 9.3 percent in the last year, however, increased by an average of 2.8 percent per year between 2000 and 2006.

In 1981, 600 bankruptcy cases were filed in North Dakota. The number of filings rose dramatically during the latter half of the 1990s reaching a peak in 1999 at 2,200. Cases showed a modest decline, then increased to 2,471 by 2006. North Dakota's trend in bankruptcy filings has closely followed the national pattern of annual change. By comparing the rate of personal bankruptcy cases to total households, one can assess the proportion of bankruptcy cases relative to other states. "This rather broad indicator suggests that fewer than 1 percent of households in North Dakota filed for bankruptcy in 2006. Only 9 states and the District of Columbia had a lower percentage," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center.

An important factor in bankruptcy cases is debt. According to data from the 2004 Survey of Consumer Finances, three out of four families in the United States have some form of debt. In 2004, mortgage debt throughout the nation totaled \$10.5 trillion, up 54.2 percent from 2000. While credit card debt represents only 3.0 percent of all family debt nationwide, the median balance for cardholding families carrying a balance was \$2,200 in 2004. And one in four families with credit cards hardly ever pays off the balance. "Those under age 35 are the most likely to carry a balance on their credit card, with 35 percent saying they hardly ever pay off the balance," said Rathge.

<p>North Dakota State Data Center North Dakota State University IACC Building, Room 424 or PO Box 5636 Fargo, North Dakota 58105-5636 Ph: (701) 231-7980 Fax: (701) 231-9730</p>	<p>For more information, contact:</p>		
<p>Dr. Richard Rathge, Director (701) 231-8621 richard.rathge@ndsu.edu</p>	<p>Karen Olson, Information Specialist (701) 231-1060 k.olson@ndsu.edu</p>	<p>View publication online at: www.ndsu.edu/sdc/publications.htm</p>	