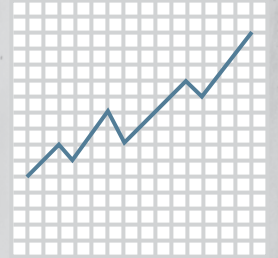




THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO



2013
OHIO COURTS
STATISTICAL
SUMMARY

THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

2013

OHIO COURTS STATISTICAL SUMMARY



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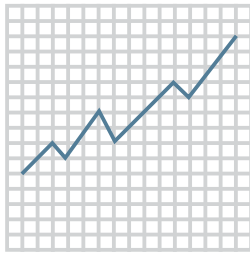
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A MESSAGE

From the Chief Justice

The Supreme Court of Ohio issues an annual statistical summary and detailed report designed to inform and identify trends throughout the Ohio judiciary.

For the fifth consecutive year, the number of new cases filed in Ohio courts declined. The 2.6 million cases filed in 2013 represent a 3-percent decrease over 2012, despite an increase in traffic cases compared to 2012, which constitute nearly half of the state's total caseload.

Among the case types that contributed substantially to the overall decrease last year were contract cases in municipal and county courts (with a one-year decline of 25 percent and 48 percent fewer than the all-time high seen in 2008), a 25-percent decline in foreclosures, and an 8-percent decline in juvenile delinquency.

By analyzing case filing patterns and trends, the Ohio Supreme Court attempts to assist in the efficient administration of justice at all levels of the judiciary. We do not, however, examine or analyze larger social and governmental trends that may contribute to or influence changes in case filing volumes.

What the data can tell those of us who work in the court system is how to better allocate our resources given the current case volume. In addition, providing reliable, transparent and accessible data on the courts assists in enhancing public trust and confidence in the judicial branch.

The Supreme Court of Ohio commends Ohio's courts for their continued assistance in submitting data on caseloads and case terminations.

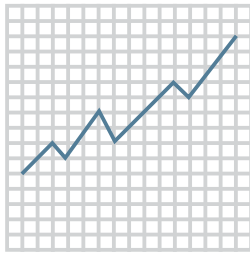
Handwritten signature of Maureen O'Connor in blue ink.

MAUREEN O'CONNOR
Chief Justice, The Supreme Court of Ohio

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NOTE: A history of caseload statistical reporting in Ohio is displayed on pages 26-27 of this publication.



AN OVERVIEW of the Statistical Reporting Process

The obligation for Ohio trial and appellate courts to report caseload statistics to the Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section is established by Rule 37 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio.

The requirement to submit regular caseload reports is fixed upon each individual judge for the cases assigned to him or her. An exception to this requirement exists in multi-judge municipal and county courts where certain activities are permitted to occur in particular sessions of court in which cases are not assigned to individual judges, but instead are grouped by subject category and presided over by a rotation among the several judges of the court.

The reporting obligations established under Sup. R. 37 are as follows:

Court of Appeals

The presiding judge of each court of appeals district must submit quarterly a presiding judge report that describes the status of all cases pending in that district. In addition, each individual judge must submit quarterly an appellate judge report that provides further details on case terminations, as well as the cases assigned to the judge for authoring the district's opinions.

Courts of Common Pleas

Judges with responsibility over general, domestic relations and juvenile subject-matter jurisdiction must submit monthly a report describing the number of new cases assigned to them, the numbers pending at the beginning and end of the month, and the number of cases terminated for reporting purposes over the course of the month. If a judge is responsible for more than one category of subject-matter jurisdiction in his or her court, the judge must submit a report for each such category. For example, a judge with responsibility over domestic relations and juvenile cases must submit two reports: one for domestic relations cases and one for juvenile cases.

Judges with responsibility over probate matters must submit quarterly a report describing the number of cases filed and closed over the quarter, as well as additional statistics.

Municipal and County Courts

As noted above, an exception to the ordinary requirement for judges to submit regular reports of the cases assigned to them exists for multi-judge municipal and county courts. Notwithstanding that exception, all municipal and county court judges must submit monthly an individual judge report describing the number of new cases assigned to them, the numbers pending at the beginning and end of the month, and the number of cases terminated for reporting purposes over the course of the month.

In addition to the individual judge report, each municipal and county court administrative judge must submit monthly a report including the work performed on felony and small claims cases (which are not individually assigned) and the work performed during particular sessions of court on all other case types.

General Notes Concerning Caseload Statistics

The caseload statistics reported to the Supreme Court are summary in nature and consist only of counts of cases. The Supreme Court does not collect lists of individual cases that constitute the counts reported.

The actual report forms and instructions are available on the Supreme Court website. The instructions include detailed information concerning the proper manner of classifying cases by type, how a “case” is defined and how to properly report incoming cases and terminations.

Regarding terminations, it is essential to understand that not all termination categories are dispositive in nature. Some termination categories simply render a case inactive for reporting purposes until such time as a condition in the case changes. An example is a criminal defendant who fails to appear for trial. The court, as long as it reasonably believes the defendant will not be apprehended in the immediate future, may terminate the case for reporting purposes. The court reactivates the case for reporting purposes at such time when that defendant is arrested. This aspect of counting terminations is important to bear in mind when evaluating a court’s case management performance against a time standard for disposing of cases.

Occasionally, a court will discover errors in its case counts following a physical case inventory or during an update to its case management system. Courts may submit amended reports at any time, and the changed data is entered into the Supreme Court’s caseload statistics system immediately. Accordingly, the caseload statistics reported in a particular static report, such as this document, may change in the future following such amendments.

In order to promote accurate and uniform statewide reporting, the staff of the Supreme Court Case Management Section conducts regular training for court staff responsible for preparing monthly and quarterly reports.

Describing Data Using Median and Mean

In this document, data is sometimes described using means and medians. Mean and median are both measures of central tendency, or what value is “typical” across a set of data. The mean is calculated by dividing the sum of the values in a data set by the number of values in the data set. This is often referred to as the “average.” The median is determined by sorting the data set from lowest to highest value and identifying the data point in the middle of the range. It is the midpoint of the data at which half the items are higher and half are lower (the 50th percentile). The median is a particularly useful measure of typicality because unlike the mean, medians are not subject to the skewing effect of outliers (data points at an extreme margin on the range of values).

Statewide Statistics and Population Data

Except where noted in the body of this summary, all data shown are statewide figures. Population data are from the 2010 U.S. Census.

General Notes Concerning Performance Measures

When analyzing the work of Ohio courts and judges, the Case Management Section regularly evaluates two key performance measures readily available using caseload statistics reported by the courts: clearance rates and overage rates. Both measures can be applied to a court's overall docket, individual case types or groups of case types. The clearance rates and overage rates presented in this report represent the courts' monthly averages across the years shown. For example, if the municipal and county courts are reported as demonstrating in 2013 a 3-percent overage rate for a particular case type, that figure represents the average overage rate across each of the 12 months in the year.

Clearance Rate

This measure identifies how well a court keeps up with its incoming caseload. It is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Clearance Rate} = \frac{\text{Total number of outgoing cases}}{\text{Total number of incoming cases}}$$

Clearance rates can be calculated over any time period, as long as the incoming and outgoing values apply to that same time period. Using monthly caseload statistical reports submitted by judges, the total number of outgoing cases is determined using the reported "Total Terminations" values. The total number of incoming cases is determined using the sum of the reported "New Cases Filed" and "Cases Transferred in, Reactivated or Redesignated" values. The ratio of outgoing cases to incoming cases (produced using the above formula) is ordinarily multiplied by 100 and expressed as percentage. The target is a clearance rate of 100 percent.

A clearance rate of 100 percent means a court terminated over a given time period exactly as many cases as it took in during that same time period. If a court's clearance rate is regularly less than 100 percent over an extended period of time, the court will develop a backlog because the pace of incoming cases exceeds the pace of outgoing cases.

While valuable, clearance rates alone do not accurately depict a court's success in moving its entire docket forward in a timely fashion. A court may regularly demonstrate a 100 percent or greater clearance rate while simultaneously keeping a sizable number of cases from being disposed of within applicable time standards. Accordingly, clearance rates should be viewed alongside a measure that gauges the extent to which a court's caseload is pending beyond time standards, such as the overage rate.

Overage Rate

This measure identifies the extent to which a court's pending caseload lags past applicable time standards, or, is overage. The overage rate is a measure of the size of a court's backlog. It is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Overage Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of cases pending beyond time guidelines}}{\text{Total number of cases pending}}$$

Using the monthly caseload statistical reports submitted by judges, the total number of active cases pending for longer than the time guideline (the reported "Cases Pending Beyond Time Guideline" value) is divided by the total number of active cases pending (the reported "Pending End of Period" value). The result is multiplied by 100 and expressed as a percentage.

While the application of clearance rates and overage rates afford a reasonable view of a court's case management performance, the numbers provide an incomplete assessment. The National Center for State Courts developed a set of 10 core court performance measures, packaged into a set of practical tools named CourTools, that provide a balanced perspective on a court's overall performance. Developed through the input of a wide range of court professionals, they are designed to assist courts in laying a solid foundation for self-evaluation and in charting a course for future improvement. The Case Management Section provides CourTools training for court personnel.

Future Plans

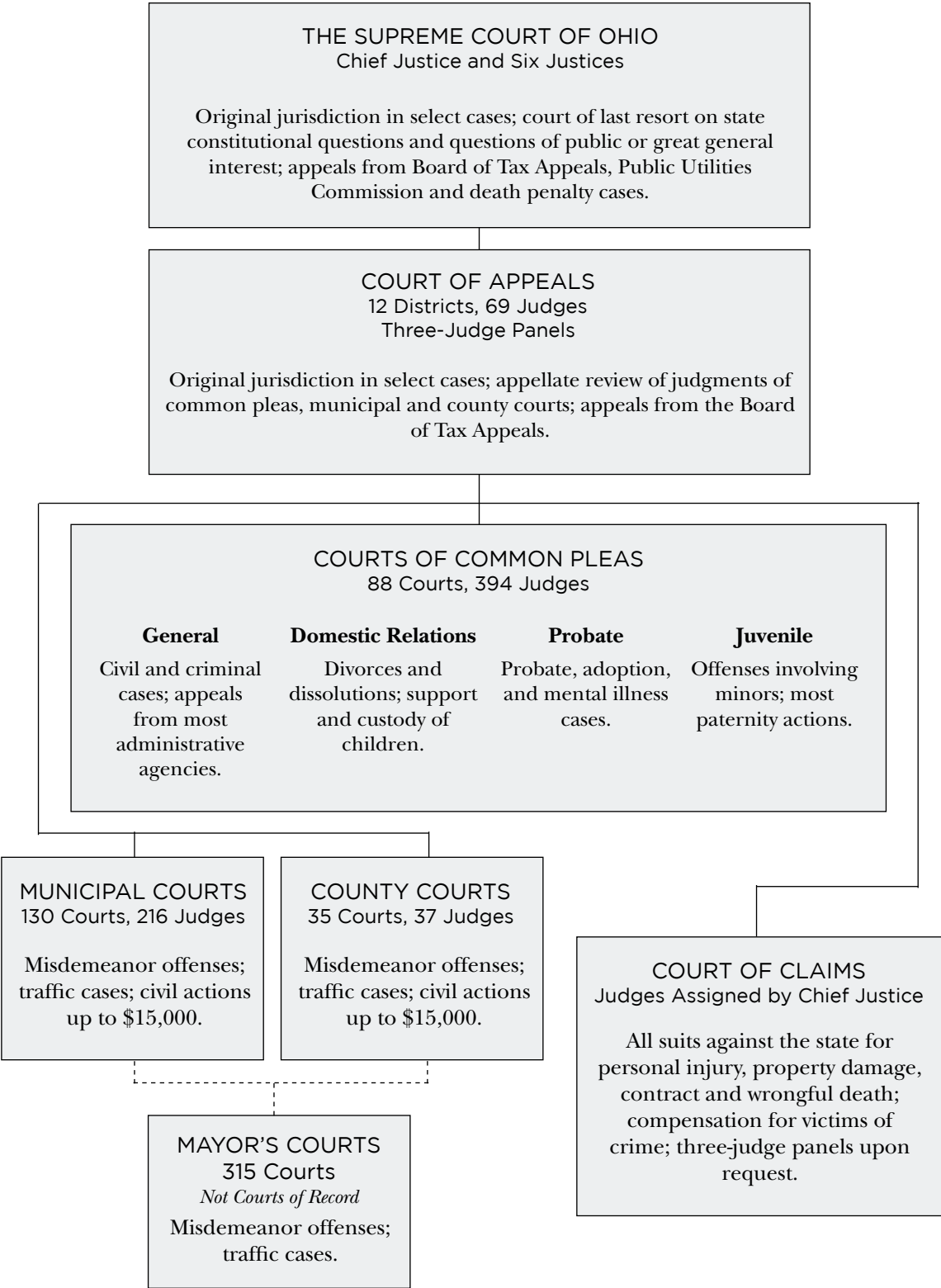
The current configuration of case types and termination categories has remained largely unchanged for 20 years. Changes in the law, changes in society, and changes in the Supreme Court's capacity to collect, analyze, evaluate and report caseload statistics present an opportunity for a careful re-evaluation of the overall caseload statistics reporting process.

In 2011 the Supreme Court established the Advisory Committee on Case Management. The advisory committee is conducting an extensive review of the Supreme Court's entire caseload statistical reporting process, from the data elements collected to the manner in which that data is transformed and communicated back to the courts.

In 2013, the Supreme Court adopted changes to Sup.R. 37 that establishes a new requirement that appellate courts and trial courts submit their statistics to the Supreme Court in electronic format, as and when the technical foundation for each court and division reporting category is developed and made available to the courts. The Case Management Section of the Supreme Court, responsible for collecting statistics from Ohio's judiciary, began implementing this new data collection process, called *eStats*, in July 2014.

As the Supreme Court continues to move forward in these areas, it will tap into the depth of knowledge and experience shared by the Ohio judiciary, court professionals, and justice system partners to fully explore the best means for advancing Ohio's use of caseload statistics.

2013 STRUCTURE OF THE OHIO JUDICIAL SYSTEM





Shown below in **Table 1** is the total number of new cases filed over each of the past 10 years in Ohio courts. Detailed information concerning the variety of cases constituting these figures is contained in the various court sections of this summary.

In 2013, a total of 2,619,139 new cases were filed in Ohio courts, the fewest in the last 10 years, and 3 percent fewer than 2012. Declines in 2013 over 2012 were seen within all court types. The probate divisions of Ohio’s common pleas courts experienced the smallest of the declines, at less than one half of one percent. The largest single-year decline was seen in the general divisions of the common pleas courts, where the 189,358 new filings in 2013 represent a 12-percent decrease over 2012. Municipal and county court caseloads, constituting nearly 80 percent of Ohio’s entire court caseload, reported a slight decrease of 2 percent over 2012. Shown in **Figure 1** below are the percentages of the total statewide volume of new filings in 2013 broken down by court type, sorted from highest to lowest.

TABLE 1

All Courts, All Case Types

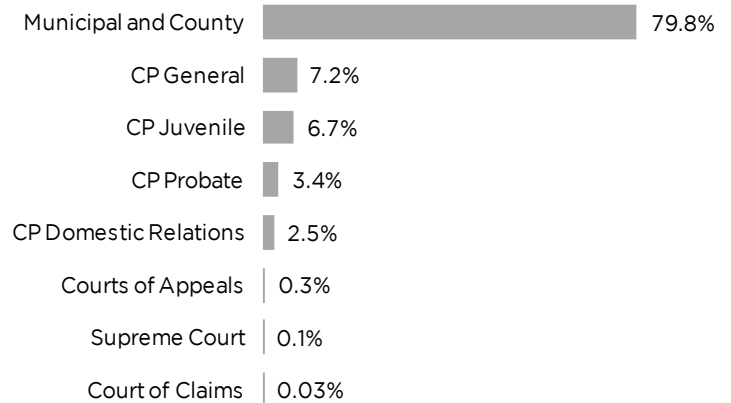
New Filings

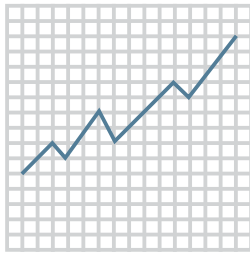
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Supreme Court	2,178	2,444	2,407	2,459	2,506	2,363	2,293	2,207	2,187	2,055
Courts of Appeals	10,713	11,437	11,208	10,512	11,115	10,433	10,277	9,508	9,426	9,076
Court of Claims	1,024	1,138	734	896	1,094	902	1,231	1,337	865	793
Common Pleas	649,348	656,473	677,512	673,240	664,138	639,419	613,043	574,900	558,813	518,148
General	216,094	229,352	247,434	261,677	266,547	258,460	244,743	221,181	214,933	189,358
Domestic Relations	80,389	77,888	76,844	74,157	73,087	73,463	73,327	71,499	68,526	65,296
Probate	94,998	93,708	91,621	88,021	88,621	88,178	85,152	85,866	88,798	88,435
Juvenile	257,867	255,525	261,613	249,385	235,883	219,318	209,821	196,354	186,556	175,059
Municipal and County	2,417,551	2,469,942	2,525,373	2,518,204	2,534,408	2,322,505	2,203,420	2,121,129	2,136,327	2,089,067
Municipal	2,211,094	2,259,479	2,311,044	2,309,559	2,338,119	2,142,154	2,047,841	1,968,708	1,971,837	1,928,334
County	206,457	210,463	214,329	208,645	196,289	180,351	155,579	152,421	164,490	160,733
All Courts Combined	3,080,814	3,141,434	3,217,234	3,205,311	3,213,261	2,975,622	2,830,264	2,709,081	2,707,618	2,619,139

FIGURE 1

All Courts, All Case Types

New Filings in 2013, Percentage of Grand Total





THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

The Supreme Court of Ohio is established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Ohio Constitution, which provides that “the judicial power of the state is vested in a Supreme Court, Courts of Appeals, Courts of Common Pleas and divisions thereof, and such other courts inferior to the Supreme Court as may from time to time be established by law.” Article IV, Section 2, of the Constitution sets the size of the court at seven — a chief justice and six justices — and outlines the jurisdiction of the court.

The Supreme Court is the court of last resort in Ohio. The court may grant leave to appeal criminal cases from the courts of appeals and may direct any court of appeals to certify its record on civil cases found to be “cases of public or great interest.”

The court must accept appeals of cases that originated in the courts of appeals, cases involving the death penalty, cases involving questions arising under the U.S. Constitution or the Ohio Constitution and cases in which there are conflicting opinions from two or more courts of appeals. The court also must accept appeals from such administrative bodies as the Board of Tax Appeals and the Public Utilities Commission.

The court has original jurisdiction for certain special remedies that permit a person to file an action in the Supreme Court. These extraordinary remedies include writs of habeas corpus (involving the release of persons allegedly unlawfully imprisoned or committed), writs of mandamus and procedendo (ordering a public official to do a required act), writs of prohibition (ordering a lower court to cease an unlawful act) and writs of quo warranto (against a person or corporation for usurpation, misuse or abuse of public office or corporate office or franchise).

The Supreme Court makes rules governing practice and procedure in Ohio courts. Procedural rules adopted by the Supreme Court become effective unless both houses of the General Assembly adopt a concurrent resolution of disapproval. The Supreme Court also exercises general superintendence over all Ohio courts through its rule-making authority. The rules of superintendence set minimum standards for court administration. Unlike procedural rules, rules of superintendence do not require General Assembly review or approval to become effective.

The chief justice assigns judges to trial and appellate courts for temporary duty in cases of a court overload, when a judge is removed from a case because of an affidavit of disqualification and when judges recuse themselves from a particular case.

The court has authority over the admission of attorneys to the practice of law in Ohio and may discipline admitted attorneys who violate the rules governing the practice of law.

The chief justice and six justices are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot. Two justices are chosen at the general election in even-numbered years. In the year when the chief justice runs, voters pick three members of the court. A person must be an attorney with at least six years of experience in the practice of law to be elected or appointed to the court. The governor makes appointments for vacancies occurring between elections.

Caseloads

The Supreme Court reports detailed caseload statistics each year in its annual report. Readers are encouraged to review those reports to gain further insight into the work of the court. In the 2013 Annual Report, and here, the court presents performance-related statistics concerning the time to dispose of various case types.

For purposes of this analysis, the court's overall case filings are presented under four categories: All Case Types Combined, Jurisdictional Appeals, Merit Cases and Practice of Law Cases.

All Case Types Combined

For All Case Types Combined, the court saw the filing of 2,055 new cases in 2013, representing a 6-percent decrease from the 2,187 cases filed in 2012 and 13 percent fewer than the five-year high in 2009 of 2,363 cases. (See **Table 1** and **Figure 1**).

Jurisdictional Appeals

In 2013, a total of 1,492 new jurisdictional appeals were filed, representing an 8-percent decrease from the 1,629 cases filed in 2012 and 18 percent fewer than the five-year high of 1,817 cases in 2009. (See **Figure 2**).

Merit Cases

These are cases the court must hear and render a decision on the merits. The general categories of merit cases consist of the following:

- Original actions
- Habeas corpus cases
- Direct appeals (cases originating in courts of appeals)
- Direct appeals involving termination of parental rights/ adoption

TABLE 1

The Supreme Court of Ohio New Filings

Case Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Jurisdictional Appeals	1,817	1,714	1,667	1,629	1,492
Merit Cases	418	432	408	424	451
Practice of Law Cases	128	147	132	134	112
Disciplinary Cases	117	126	119	125	96
All Other	11	21	14	9	16
All Case Types	2,363	2,293	2,207	2,187	2,055

FIGURE 1

All Case Types Combined New Filings

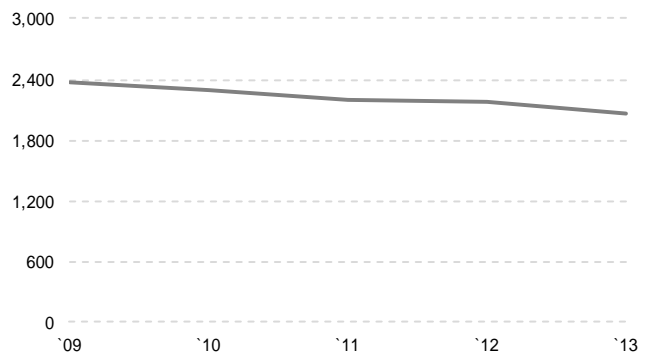


FIGURE 2

Jurisdictional Appeals New Filings

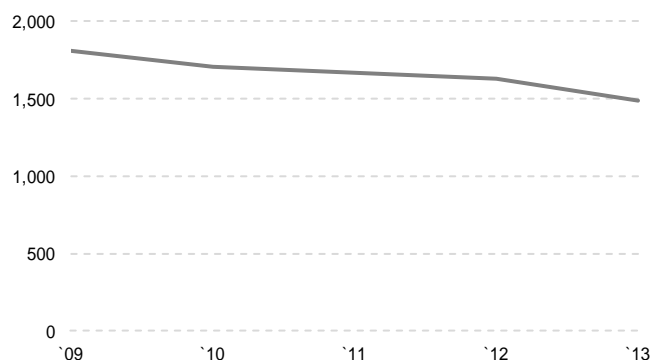


FIGURE 3

Merit Cases
New Filings

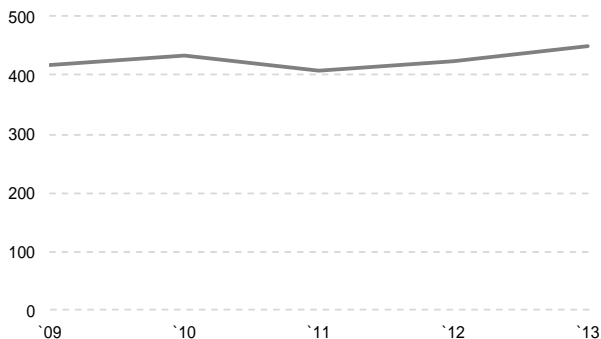
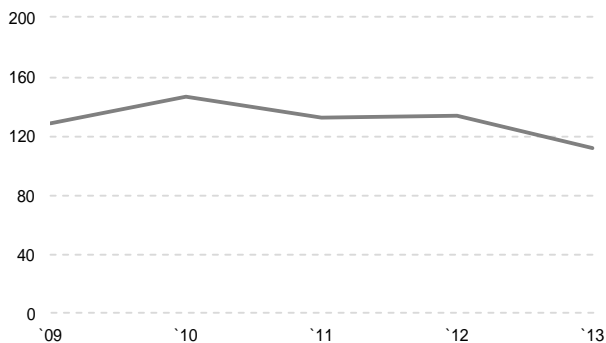


FIGURE 4

Practice of Law Cases
New Filings



- Certified conflicts
- Certified conflicts involving termination of parental rights/ adoption
- Appeals from Board of Tax Appeals
- Appeals from Public Utilities Commission
- Appeals for Power Siting Board
- Death penalty cases
- Certified questions of state law
- Appeals from App.R. 26(B) application in death penalty cases
- Other merit cases

In 2013, 451 merit cases were filed. This represents a 6-percent increase from the 424 cases filed in 2012. A five-year view of the filing trend reveals sizable year-to-year fluctuations with no discernable trend. (See **Figure 3**).

Practice of Law Cases

These cases arise from the court’s responsibility to govern the practice of law in Ohio. Included in this category are disciplinary cases involving allegations of ethical misconduct by attorneys and judges, bar admissions cases involving applications from people seeking admission to the Ohio bar, and cases alleging the unauthorized practice of law. The vast majority of practice of law cases involve attorney discipline. In 2013, a total of 112 practice of law cases were filed, representing a 16-percent decrease from 2012 when 134 cases were filed. Of the 112 cases filed in 2013, a total of 96 (or 86 percent), were disciplinary cases. Despite some relatively sizable year-to-year volatility, the court’s docket of disciplinary cases has remained largely stable over the past five years. (See **Figure 4**).

Time to Disposition Analyses

All Cases

From Filing to Final Disposition

In 2013, the court disposed of 2,040 cases. The mean number of days a case was pending before the court decreased by six days (from 130 days to 124 days) in 2013. (See **Figure 5**).

Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Merit Review

From Filing to Final Disposition

Decisions in 59 jurisdictional appeals following full merit review were released in 2013. The time to disposition averaged 408 days. (See **Figure 6**).

Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Merit Review

From Filing to Final Disposition

The number of days taken by the court to consider and dispose of a jurisdictional appeal not accepted increased by 12 days in 2013, from 84 days in 2012 to 96 days in 2013. (See **Figure 7**).

FIGURE 5

All Cases

Days from Filing to Final Disposition

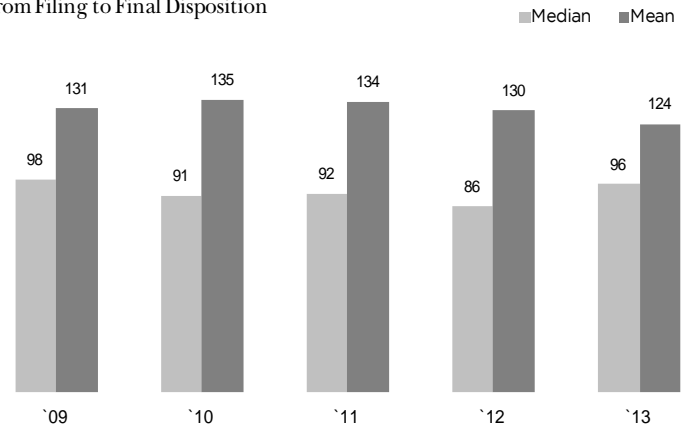


FIGURE 6

Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Full Merit Review

Days from Filing to Final Disposition

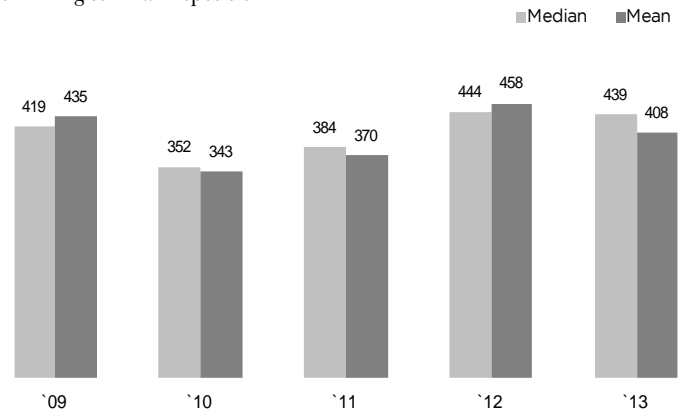


FIGURE 7

Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Full Merit Review

Days from Filing to Final Disposition

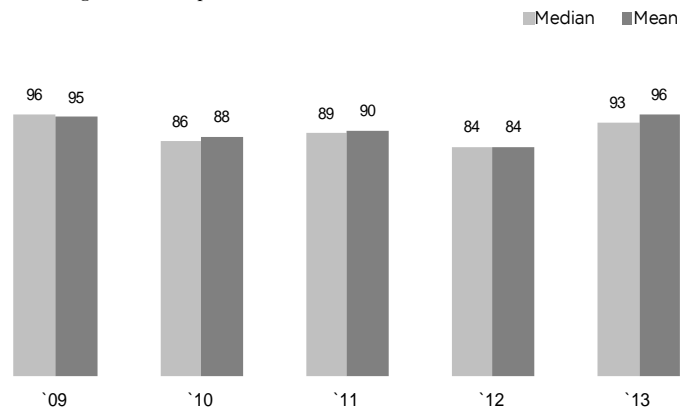
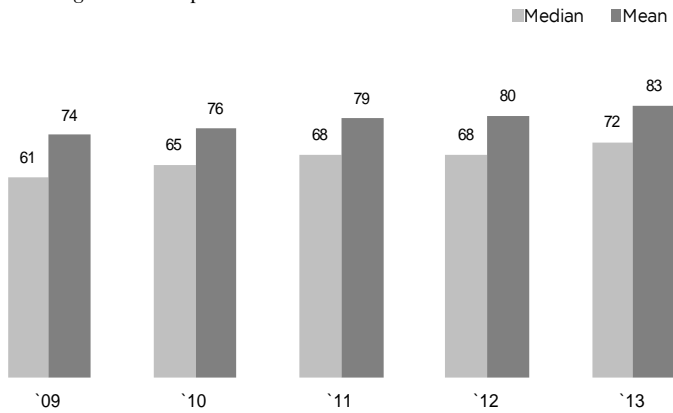


FIGURE 8

Original Actions
Days from Filing to Final Disposition



Original Actions
From Filing to Final Disposition

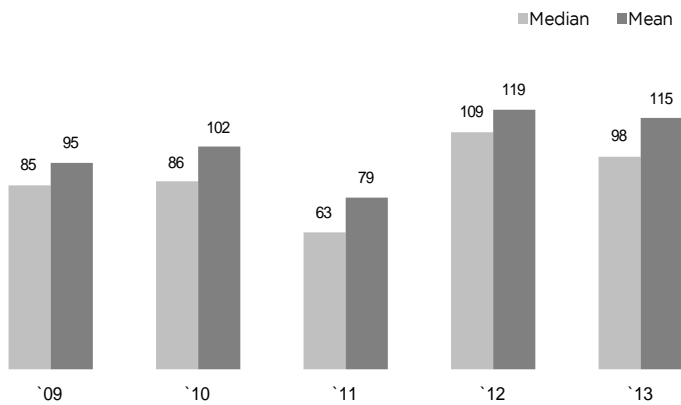
During 2013, a total of 253 original actions were disposed of in an average of 83 days each. (See **Figure 8**).

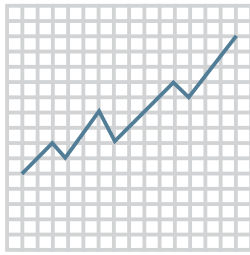
All Cases Decided with an Opinion
From Submission to Final Disposition

The number of cases decided with an opinion decreased significantly in 2013, from 338 cases to 192 cases. The average number of days to issue an opinion was 115 days. (See **Figure 9**).

FIGURE 9

All Cases Decided with an Opinion
Days from Submission to Final Disposition





COURT OF APPEALS

Ohio's court of appeals is established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Ohio Constitution and its jurisdiction is outlined in Article IV, Section 3. The court is divided regionally into 12 districts. As an intermediate-level appellate court, its primary function is to hear appeals from common pleas, municipal and county courts. Each case is heard and decided by a three-judge panel.

In addition to its appellate jurisdiction, the court of appeals has original jurisdiction, as does the Supreme Court, to hear applications for writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, procedendo, prohibition and quo warranto. The 10th appellate district, consisting solely of Franklin County, also hears appeals from the Court of Claims.

The number of judges in each appellate district depends on a variety of factors, including the district's population and its caseload. Appeals court judges are elected to six-year terms in even-numbered years. They must be admitted to the practice of law in Ohio six years prior to the commencement of the term.

Caseloads

The cases heard in Ohio's court of appeals are classified into four broad types:

- Criminal appeals arising from criminal cases heard in the general divisions of the common pleas courts and in municipal and county courts.
- Civil appeals arising from civil cases heard in the general divisions of the common pleas courts and municipal and county courts.
- Family law appeals arising from cases heard in the domestic relations, juvenile and probate divisions of Ohio common pleas courts.
- Miscellaneous appeals include original actions filed in the courts of appeals, habeas corpus cases and appeals from administrative agencies and the Court of Claims.

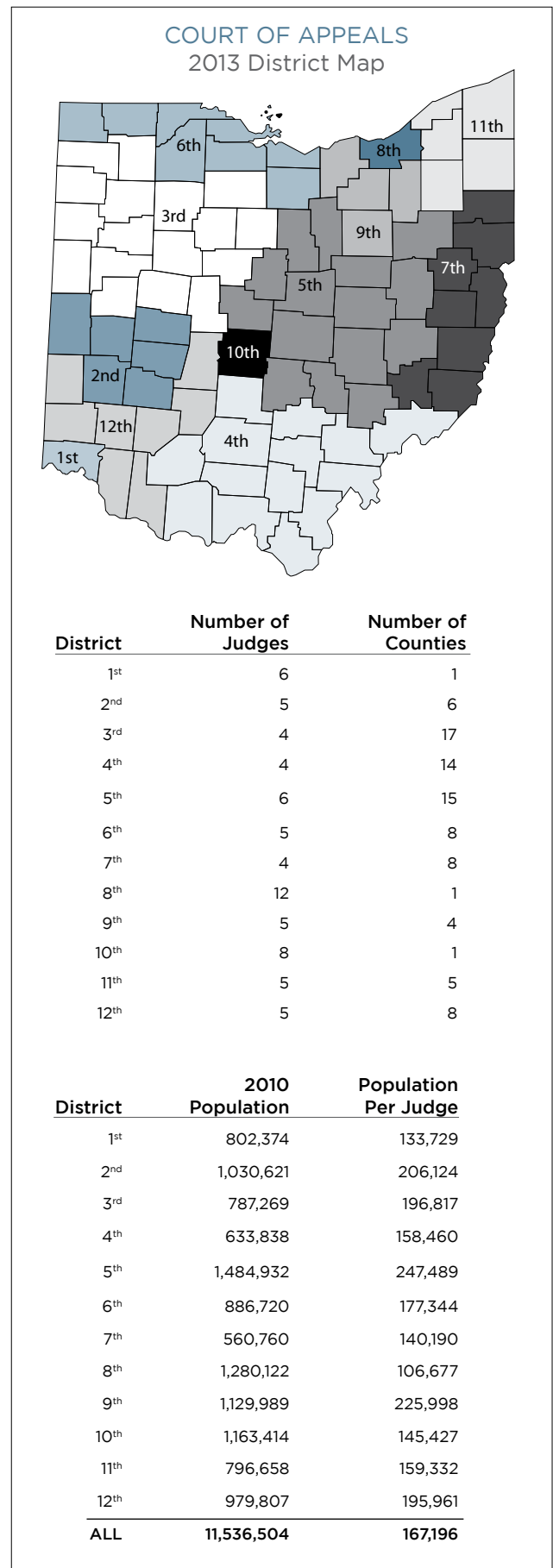
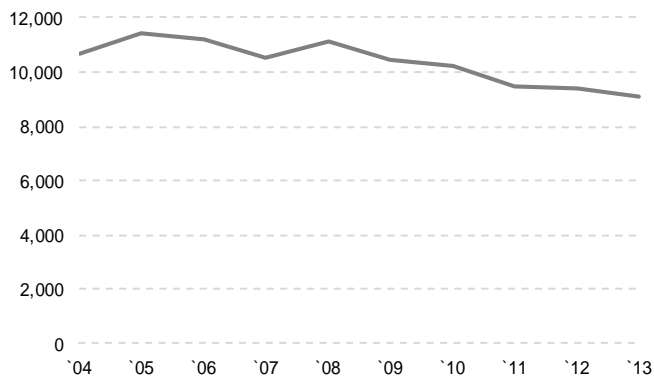


FIGURE 1

All Case Types Combined
New Filings



The overall number of cases heard in Ohio’s court of appeals has been declining fairly steadily for the last 10 years. In 2005, a 10-year high of 11,437 new cases were filed. In 2013, a total of 9,076 new cases were filed, representing a 21-percent decline and a 10-year low. (See **Figure 1** and **Table 1**).

TABLE 1

Court of Appeals
New Filings

Case Type	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Criminal	4,397	5,047	5,189	4,807	5,157	4,670	4,714	4,209	4,181	4,056
Civil	3,562	3,433	3,538	3,335	3,521	3,277	3,050	2,955	2,975	2,807
Family Law	1,758	1,623	1,671	1,538	1,580	1,577	1,490	1,430	1,422	1,454
Miscellaneous	996	1,288	810	832	857	909	973	914	848	759
All Case Types	10,713	11,391	11,208	10,512	11,115	10,433	10,227	9,508	9,426	9,076

Figure 2 shows trends in the number of new filings over the past 10 years within the civil and criminal appeals categories. Criminal appeals exhibited an upward trend between 2004 and 2006 but since then have trended back down to below 2004 levels. In 2013, a total of 4,056 new criminal appeals were filed representing a 22-percent decrease from the 10-year high in 2006, when 5,189 new criminal appeals were filed. Civil appeals have declined at a fairly consistent rate over the past 10 years. In 2013, the courts of appeals saw the filing of 2,807 new civil appeals which represents 21 percent fewer appeals than the 10-year high in 2004 when nearly 3,562 appeals were filed.

Family law-related appeals show similar long-term declines, despite a recent slight upturn. In 2013, a total of 1,454 family law-related appeals were filed, 2 percent more than in 2012 but 17 percent fewer than the 10-year high of 1,758 appeals in 2004. A clear overall downward trend can be seen in **Figure 3**.

Figure 4 shows the 10-year trend in the filing of miscellaneous appeals (consisting of original action, habeas corpus cases, appeals from administrative agencies, and the Court of Claims). Despite the spike seen in 2005, filings in these cases types have remained largely stable, although since 2010, filings have declined by 22 percent.

FIGURE 2

Civil and Criminal Appeals

New Filings

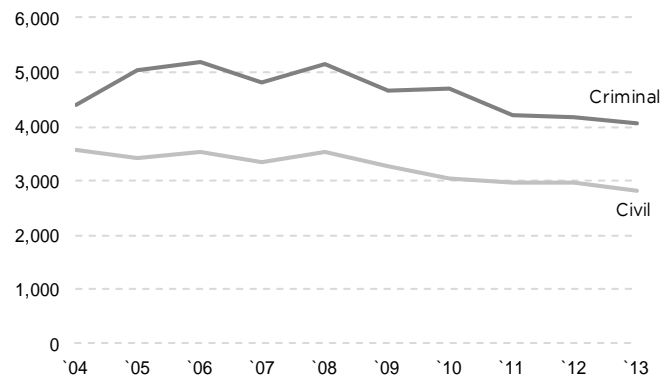


FIGURE 3

Family Law Appeals

New Filings

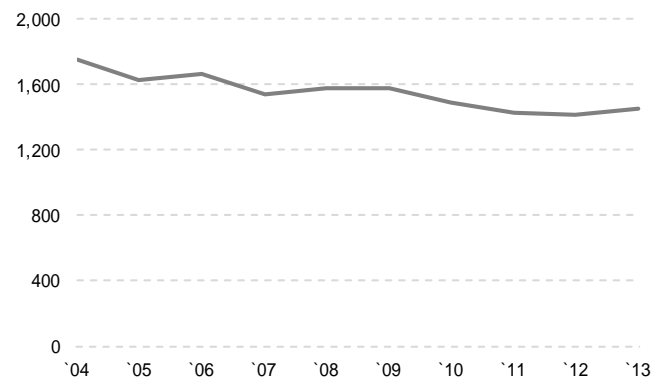
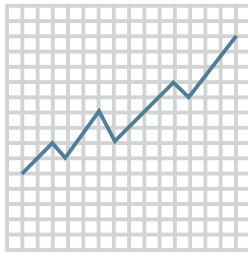


FIGURE 4

Miscellaneous Appeals

New Filings





COURT OF CLAIMS

The Court of Claims has statewide original jurisdiction over all civil actions filed against the state of Ohio. Created pursuant to the Court of Claims Act in 1976, the Court of Claims sits in Franklin County. Appeals from the Court of Claims are heard by the 10th District Court of Appeals in Columbus.

Civil actions in the Court of Claims are determined in one of two ways, depending on the amount of monetary damages claimed.

Civil cases involving \$2,500 or less are determined administratively by the clerk or deputy clerk of the court. Cases involving more than \$2,500 are heard by a judge. A judge of the court also may review and enter final judgment in a civil action determined administratively. Judges on the Court of Claims are assigned by the chief justice.

In addition to civil actions against the state of Ohio, the Court of Claims hears appeals from decisions of the Attorney General regarding claims for reparations by victims of crime.

Viewed over the past five years, the number of new judicial cases is declining overall, with year-over-year decreases each of the last four years. In 2013, a total of 342 cases were filed, which is 26 percent fewer than the five-year high in 2010 of 463 cases. (See **Table 1** and **Figure 1**).

The make-up of the court's caseload in terms of new filings in 2013 is shown in **Figure 2**.

TABLE 1

New Filings
All Case Types

Case Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Judicial Cases	396	463	441	359	342
Administrative Determinations	506	768	796	447	371
Victims of Crime Appeals	99	96	100	59	80
All Case Types	1,001	1,327	1,337	865	793

FIGURE 1

New Filings in 2013
All Case Types

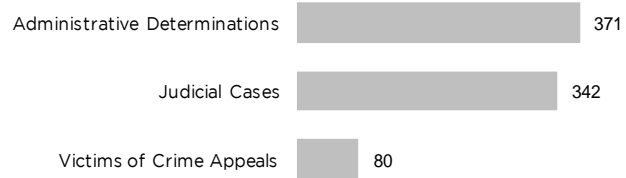


FIGURE 2

Judicial Cases
Cases Filed

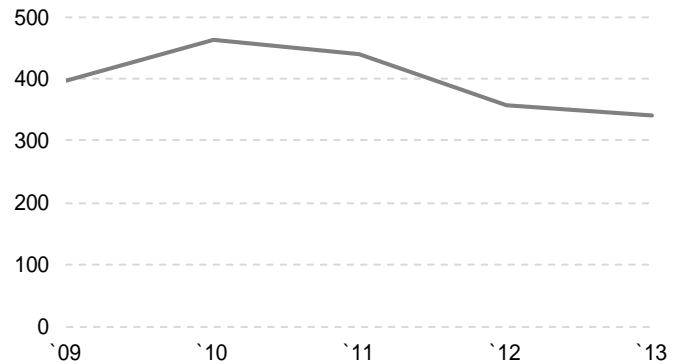
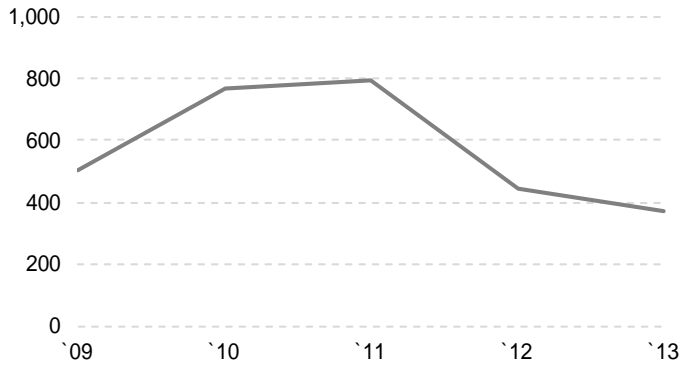


FIGURE 3

Administrative Determinations

Cases Filed



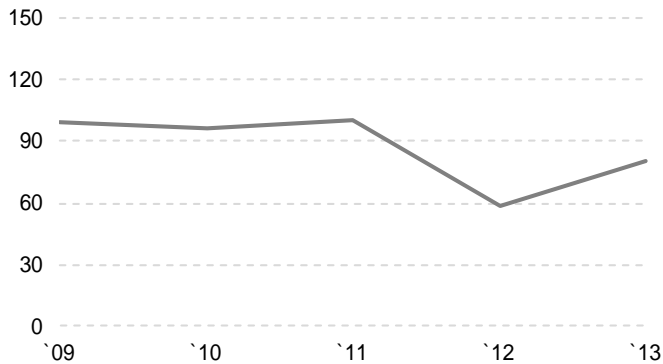
The number of administrative determination cases filed each year varies widely with no discernible trend over the past five years. In 2013, the court saw the filing of 371 new cases, which represents a decline over 2011 of 53 percent. (See **Figure 3**).

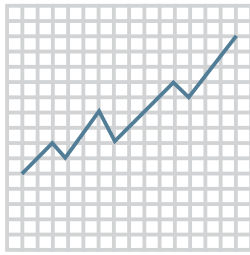
The volume of appeals from victims of crime decisions has experienced similar large fluctuations over the past five years. In 2013, a total of 80 appeals were filed, a 36-percent increase over 2012. (See **Figure 4**).

FIGURE 4

Victims of Crime Appeals

Cases Filed





COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

The court of common pleas, the only trial court created by the Ohio Constitution, is established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Constitution and its duties are outlined in Article IV, Section 4.

There is a court of common pleas in each of Ohio's 88 counties. The courts of common pleas have original jurisdiction in all criminal felony cases and original jurisdiction in all civil cases in which the amount in controversy is generally more than \$15,000. Courts of common pleas have appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of some state administrative agencies.

Common pleas judges are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot. A person must be an attorney with at least six years of experience in the practice of law to be elected or appointed to the court.

The courts of common pleas in most counties across the state have specialized divisions created by statute to which judges are specifically elected in order to hear criminal and civil, domestic relations, juvenile, or probate cases — or some combination of those categories. The use of the term “division” when describing the jurisdictional structure of the various counties’ common pleas courts sometimes is at odds with how that term is applied when describing caseload statistics. For ease of description, it is common to group cases by their overall type — that is, by division. For example, when describing caseloads of matters generally grouped together as “domestic relations cases,” they may be referred to as “domestic relations division” cases, even though a particular county may not technically have a domestic relations division. The courts of common pleas in Adams, Morgan, Morrow, Noble and Wyandot counties have no divisions and the judges elected to those courts have responsibility over all types of cases that come before the common pleas court.

Changes in 2013

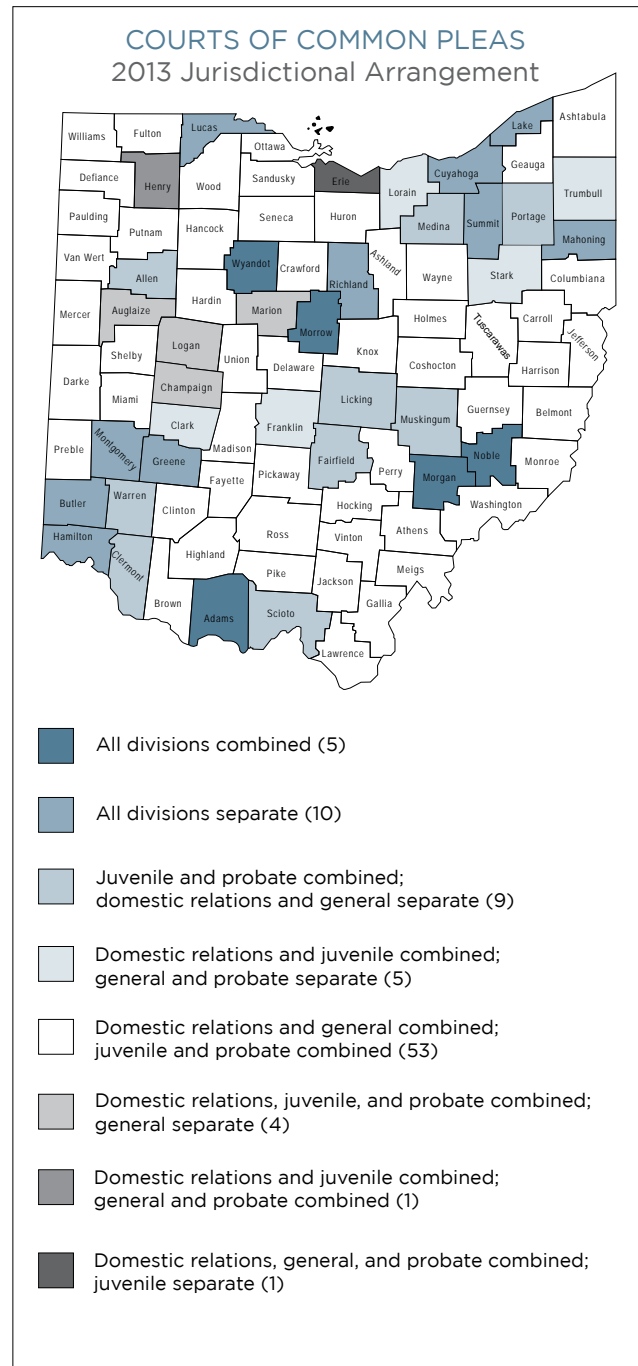
There were no changes to the jurisdictional structure or number of judgeships in Ohio common pleas courts during 2013.

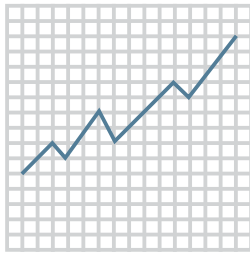
Future Changes

At the time of publication of this report, no laws are in effect that make changes to the jurisdictional structure or number of judgeships in Ohio common pleas courts in the future.

Courts of Common Pleas Jurisdictional Distribution in 2013

JURISDICTIONAL STRUCTURE	NUMBER OF COUNTIES	NUMBER OF JUDGES
Separately Administered General Division	28	162
Separately Administered Domestic Relations Division	19	30
Separately Administered Probate Division	15	16
Separately Administered Juvenile Division	11	20
Combined General and Domestic Relations Division	53	72
Combined Domestic Relations, and Juvenile Division	6	15
Combined Domestic Relations, Probate, and Juvenile Division	4	7
Combined Probate and Juvenile Division	62	62
Combined General, Domestic Relations, and Probate Division	1	3
Combined General and Probate Division	1	1
Combined General, Domestic Relations, Probate, and Juvenile Division	5	6





COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

General Division

The general divisions of the courts of common pleas have original jurisdiction over all criminal felony cases, all civil actions in which the amount in controversy is generally greater than \$15,000 and jurisdiction over the appeals of decisions of certain state administrative agencies.

For statistical reporting purposes, all criminal cases are counted together with no distinction based on specific charges. Civil cases are reported under a number of different case-type categories.

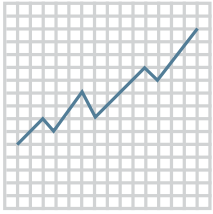
Cases involving tort claims are classified as either:

- Professional Tort — Such as medical and legal malpractice
- Product Liability
- Other Torts — Tort cases not otherwise classifiable as professional tort or product liability cases.

The non-tort case-type categories are:

- Workers' Compensation — Typically involving appeals from a decision of the Industrial Commission
- Foreclosures
- Administrative Appeals
- Complex Litigation — A special case type discussed further below
- Other Civil — Civil cases not otherwise classifiable in other case-type categories.

The complex litigation case type is a special category reserved for civil cases involving novel or complicated issues of law and fact that are not likely to be resolved within the time guidelines established for other cases. A judge assigned to a civil case that meets the criteria prescribed under Sup. R. 42 may reclassify a civil case as a complex litigation case. Accordingly, no cases are filed with the courts as complex litigation cases. Instead, civil cases are first classified under their appropriate case types and then, if applicable, are reclassified as complex litigation cases. Complex litigation cases are rare. Since 2003, on average, approximately one out of every 1,500 civil cases (0.07 percent) in the general divisions of Ohio's common pleas courts are classified each year as complex litigation matters.



A HISTORY

of Court Caseload Statistical Reporting in Ohio

1920s



1923: The Ohio General Assembly establishes the Judicial Council of Ohio. The council is charged with undertaking the “continuous study of the organization, rules and method of procedure and practice of the judicial system in the state of Ohio, the work accomplished and the results produced by that system and its various parts.”

1930s



1931: In its first report to the General Assembly, the Judicial Council, under the leadership of Chief Justice Carrington T. Marshall (pictured), describes the status of an ongoing research study of judicial administration in Ohio including the collection of judicial statistics. Included in the scope of the study is the consideration of designing a standardized routine caseload reporting process.

1934: In its third report to the General Assembly, the Judicial Council describes a lack of adequate funding to support its ongoing work. Subsequent council reports suggest the judicial administration study and efforts to standardize caseload reporting are largely abandoned.

1940s

1950s



1957: Under the direction of Chief Justice Carl V. Weygandt (pictured) and Administrative Assistant John W. McMillan, the Supreme Court begins publishing *Ohio Courts*, a monthly report containing caseload statistics of the Supreme Court, the courts of appeals and the common pleas courts (limited to general and domestic relations cases). Although submission of data is voluntary, by year’s end all 88 county courts of common pleas are submitting regular monthly statistics to the Court.

1960s

1961: In addition to regular monthly issues of *Ohio Courts*, the Supreme Court begins publishing an annual compilation of the caseload statistics reported in the prior year’s issues of *Ohio Courts*, *1960 Summary*.

REFERENCES:

Reports of the Judicial Council of Ohio to the General Assembly of Ohio, 1930-1959

Ohio Courts, 1957-1975

Ohio Courts Summary, 1961-2007

Mayor's Courts Summary, 2004-present

1970s



1971: The Supreme Court, under the leadership of Chief Justice C. William O'Neill (pictured), adopts the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio which, among other things, fixes upon individual judges the responsibility for case disposition and mandates the regular reporting of caseload statistics for appellate courts and courts of common pleas.

1975: The Supreme Court adopts amendments to the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio, which require municipal and county courts to report caseload statistics.

1976: *Ohio Courts* ceases as a monthly publication and instead is published quarterly along with the annual summary report.

1977: The *Ohio Courts, 1976 Summary* is published and contains for the first time municipal and county court caseload statistics. It also contains caseload statistics for the newly created Ohio Court of Claims.

1980s

1980: The quarterly publication of *Ohio Courts* ends. From this point onward, only the annual summary report is published.

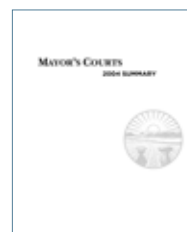


1989: The Supreme Court, under the leadership of Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer (pictured), begins publishing a report on administrative and other activities of the Supreme Court as a section within the *Ohio Courts Summary*.

1990s

1999: The practice of including a section concerning administrative and other activities of the Supreme Court within the *Ohio Courts Summary* ends. Instead, the Supreme Court annual report becomes a stand-alone document.

2000s



2004: The Supreme Court begins collecting caseload statistics from Ohio's mayor's courts and reporting their caseloads each year in the *Mayor's Courts Summary*.



2007: The final issue of the *Ohio Courts Summary* is published. From this point onward, two statistical compilations are published: the *Ohio Courts Statistical Summary* and the *Ohio Courts Statistical Report*.

2008: The Supreme Court implements business intelligence software providing significant enhancements to the Court's ability to analyze and report on the work of Ohio's courts.

2010+



2011: Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor (pictured) initiates the work of the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Case Management to assess the efficacy of the Supreme Court's statistical reporting program and recommend changes to ensure the relevance and usefulness of the data collected.



2014: The Supreme Court begins rolling out its eStats program created pursuant to revisions to Sup.R. 37 requiring courts to submit their caseload statistical reports electronically.

Caseloads

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of new case filings in 2013 within the general divisions of Ohio’s common pleas. Criminal cases, Foreclosures and Other Civil cases constitute 87 percent of all new filings in 2013. See the *Appendix* for a table displaying the number of new filings for each individual case type from 2004 through 2013.

Figure 2 shows 10-year trends in number of new filings of Criminal, Foreclosure, and Other Civil cases. Foreclosure cases rose steadily each year until 2010 when the long-term trend reversed. For the last four years, the number of new foreclosure case filings has decreased. The 53,163 new Foreclosure case filings in 2013 represent a 40-percent decline over the 10-year high seen in 2009. Similarly, filings of Other Civil cases continue to experience sizeable declines. In 2013, at total of 46,113 new cases were filed, a 12-percent decrease over 2012 and a 36-percent decrease over the 10-year high in 2009.

Criminal cases have also been declining at a notably steady rate over the last decade, beginning in 2007. In 2013 a total of 64,943 new criminal cases were filed. This represents a decrease of 21 percent over the 10-year high of 82,370 cases filed in 2006.

Performance Measures

A description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court is available on [page 3](#).

As shown in **Table 1**, average monthly clearance rates in 2013 for all case types exceeded 100 percent with the sole exception of Professional Tort. Average monthly overage rates over each of the last five years are shown in **Table 2**. Average monthly overage rates above

FIGURE 1

New Filings
All Case Types, 2013

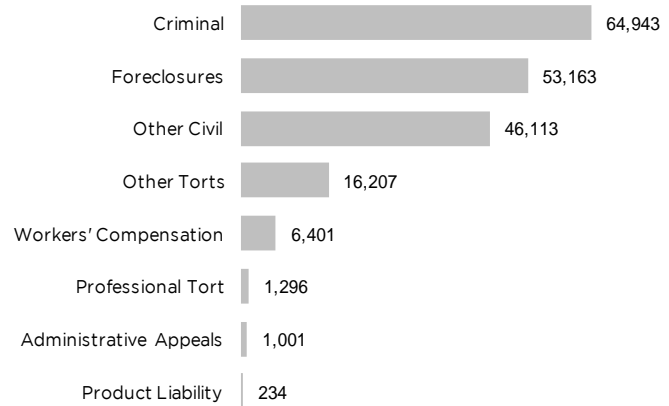


FIGURE 2

New Filings
Major Case Type Categories

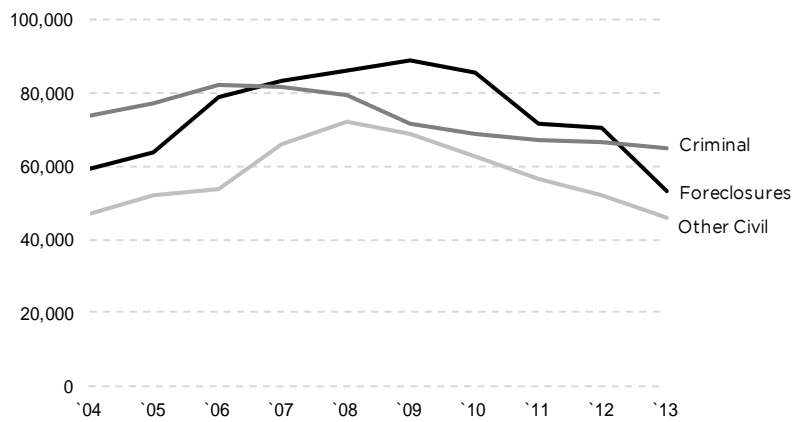


TABLE 1

Clearance Rates

Average Per Month, 2013

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Administrative Appeals	116%
Complex Litigation	146%
Criminal	101%
Foreclosures	113%
Other Civil	104%
Other Torts	102%
Product Liability	123%
Professional Tort	94%
Workers' Compensation	103%

TABLE 2

Overage Rates

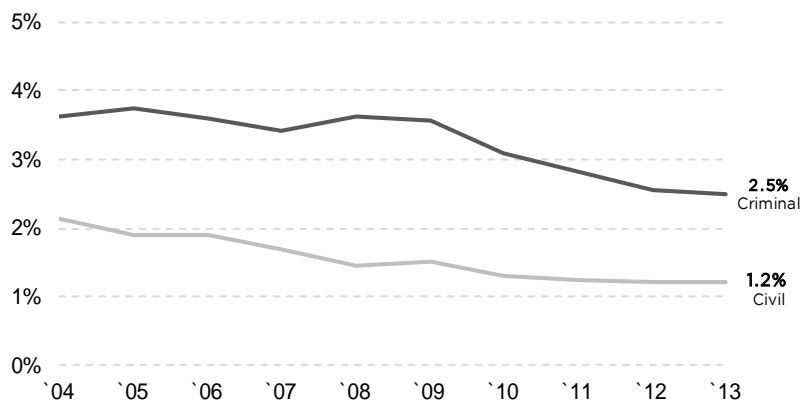
Average Per Month

Case Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Civil	5%	5%	6%	6%	6%
Administrative Appeals	23%	24%	24%	20%	24%
Complex Litigation	7%	8%	10%	15%	16%
Foreclosures	4%	6%	8%	8%	9%
Other Civil	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Other Torts	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Product Liability	7%	8%	7%	8%	5%
Professional Tort	10%	9%	9%	9%	9%
Workers' Compensation	10%	10%	11%	11%	10%
Criminal	14%	14%	15%	15%	16%

FIGURE 3

Trial Rates

Trials as a Percentage of All Final Dispositions



10 percent are seen in four case types (Administrative Appeals, Complex Litigation, Criminal, and Workers' Compensation). Other Civil cases, which constitute 24 percent of the statewide general division caseload, are being managed the most timely, with only four percent of the caseload overage on average each month.

Trial Rates

The rate of trials occurring in a court is a useful statistic when assisting courts in understanding the fundamentals of effective caseload management. Although it is not a measure of a court's performance, per se, this statistic routinely is used by the Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section as part of its caseload management training curriculum.

In order to calculate trial rates, the various termination categories reported by the courts first are separated into termination categories that are truly dispositive of the case and categories that instead simply render the case no longer active for reporting purposes. The number of dispositive terminations are then summed. The resulting sum is divided into the number of trials (either by jury, by court, or both) to produce the trial rate, expressed as a percentage.

It is conventionally understood among court observers at the national level that approximately 2 percent of civil cases and 5 percent of criminal cases ultimately go to trial.

Ohio trial rates fall below those figures. As shown in **Figure 3**, the trial rate for civil cases heard in the common pleas, general division courts in 2013 was 1.2 percent and 2.5 percent for criminal cases. When viewed over the last 10 years, the rates of civil and criminal cases proceeding to trial have declined considerably. Although the overall rates are certainly small regardless of the year, the generally continuing year-to-year decreases can be clearly seen.

Cuyahoga County's Asbestos Docket

Not reflected in the caseload statistics in this report is a special group of asbestos-related cases pending in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. This docket chiefly consists of product liability cases involving alleged exposure to products containing asbestos and, to a smaller extent, silica. Also included in this docket are premises liability cases against owners or possessors of property on which plaintiffs allege injury from exposure to asbestos-containing products.

The volume of these cases filed over the years in Cuyahoga County necessitated certain extraordinary means for managing it. The cases are heard by retired assigned judges with special designated staff and are not counted among Cuyahoga County's traditional caseload statistics.

The number of new cases filed each year over the past 10 years varied widely from a 10-year high in 2004 of 6,416 new cases to a low of 102 new cases in 2012. In 2005, the court saw a precipitous drop in the number of new cases filed and the incoming volume of new filings has remained extremely low each year since. (See **Table 3** and **Figure 4**).

The number of cases pending at the end of each year over the past 10 years reached a peak in 2004 when there were 46,384 cases pending. The lowest number of pending cases over the past 10 years occurred in 2012, with 4,805 cases pending at the end of the year. The number of pending cases stayed relatively stable until 2008 when 34,813 cases were terminated. (See **Table 3** and **Figure 5**). The majority (about 31,000) of those terminations were "administrative dismissals" rendering the cases inactive, pursuant to the passage of special asbestos-related tort reform legislation. The court found those cases did not contain the requisite medical evidence to warrant keeping the cases in active status. It should be noted that a given case, which can contain dozens of defendants, cannot be counted as being terminated until every defendant in the case is subject to a condition causing a reportable termination. Consequently, the number of cases terminated each year does not align as typically expected against the number of cases filed.

TABLE 3

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket

Overall Caseloads

Year	New Filings	Pending at End of Year	Cases Terminated
2004	6,416	46,384	1,906
2005	404	45,486	1,303
2006	444	44,755	1,180
2007	266	44,744	279
2008	176	9,966	34,813
2009	152	6,894	3,000
2010	114	6,851	321
2011	105	6,699	490
2012	102	4,805	1,635
2013	113	4,970	120

FIGURE 4

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket

New Filings

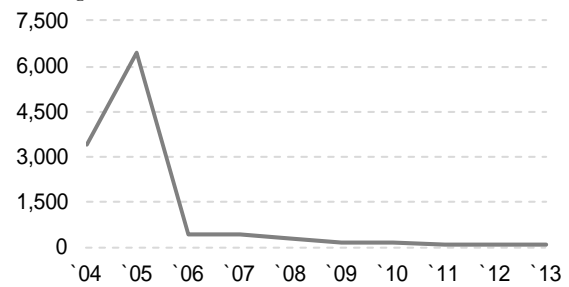
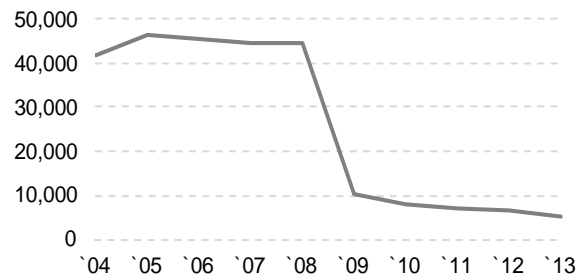
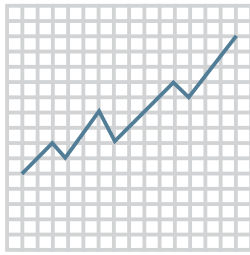


FIGURE 5

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket

Cases Pending at End of Year





COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

Domestic Relations Division

Domestic relations divisions of the courts of common pleas have jurisdiction over all proceedings involving divorce or dissolution of marriages, annulment, legal separation, spousal support and allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children. The domestic relations divisions of the courts of common pleas exist in most counties together with another division. The following counties have separately administered domestic relations divisions:

Allen	Lake	Muskingum
Butler	Licking	Portage
Clermont	Lucas	Richland
Cuyahoga	Mahoning	Scioto
Fairfield	Medina	Summit
Greene	Montgomery	Warren
Hamilton		

Domestic relations cases are grouped into three general categories of cases:

Marriage Terminations and Dissolutions

Marriage Terminations and Marriage Dissolutions involve the cessation of a marriage relationship. Both of these case categories are further broken down for caseload reporting purposes depending on whether the married couple seeking a divorce or dissolution has any children.

Post-Decree Case Types

Following the cessation of a marriage, further activities can occur subsequent to the final decree and are classified under either the Change of Custody, Visitation Enforcement or Modification (Visitation), or Support Enforcement or Modification categories (Support). In some instances, a person may file a motion under more than one of these categories. For statistical reporting purposes, such matters are counted only under the category of the earliest filed motion. When that motion is resolved, the matter is reclassified under the case type for the motion filed after the first, and so on.

Miscellaneous Case Types

The remaining domestic relations case types are:

- Domestic Violence – Petitions for civil protection orders
- Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (U.I.F.S.A.) cases
- Parentage
- All Others – Cases not otherwise classifiable in other case-type categories.

Caseloads

The core work performed in domestic relations courts involves divorces and dissolutions. In 2013, 42,254 new divorce and dissolution cases were filed. This represents a decrease of 5 percent from 2012 and a 14-percent decline from the 10-year high of 49,267 cases in 2004. New filings across the state in all case types from 2004 through 2013 are shown in a table in the *Appendix*.

Of particular note is the increasing differential in the rates in which new divorce and dissolution filings involve married couples with children and married couples without children. (See **Figure 1**). Beginning with 2005, more cases began being filed that do not involve children than cases that do. As seen in the graph, the difference between the two types of cases is widening.

FIGURE 1

Marriage Terminations and Dissolutions New Filings (both case types combined)



TABLE 1

Post-Decree Cases

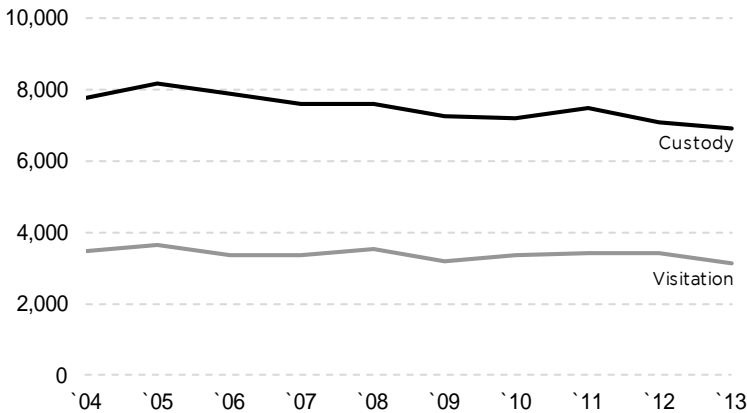
New Filings and Reactivations

Metric/Case Type	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
New Filings										
Change of Custody	991	939	661	611	562	448	433	418	492	463
Support - Enforce or Modify	5,134	5,130	3,731	3,444	3,204	2,534	2,251	2,034	1,704	1,641
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	312	284	313	259	153	108	127	146	141	150
Reactivations										
Change of Custody	6,785	7,240	7,234	6,980	7,007	6,804	6,790	7,046	6,598	6,446
Support - Enforce or Modify	35,859	35,581	33,730	33,410	34,659	35,169	32,500	29,832	29,314	28,334
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	3,171	3,341	3,079	3,120	3,370	3,085	3,210	3,268	3,292	2,967
Total New Filings and Reactivations										
Change of Custody	7,776	8,179	7,895	7,591	7,569	7,252	7,223	7,464	7,090	6,909
Support - Enforce or Modify	40,993	40,711	37,461	36,854	37,863	37,703	34,751	31,866	31,018	29,975
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	3,483	3,625	3,392	3,379	3,523	3,193	3,337	3,414	3,433	3,117

FIGURE 2

Custody and Visitation Cases

New Filings and Reactivations



Under the Supreme Court statistical reporting scheme for domestic relations cases, post-decree cases generally are reported as “reactivations,” rather than “new filings.” If a divorce case is heard in another state or county, any post-decree filing is reported as a new filing. Accordingly, for purposes of analyzing long-term trends in the caseloads of these post-decree matters, both sets of data (new filings and reactivations) are presented.

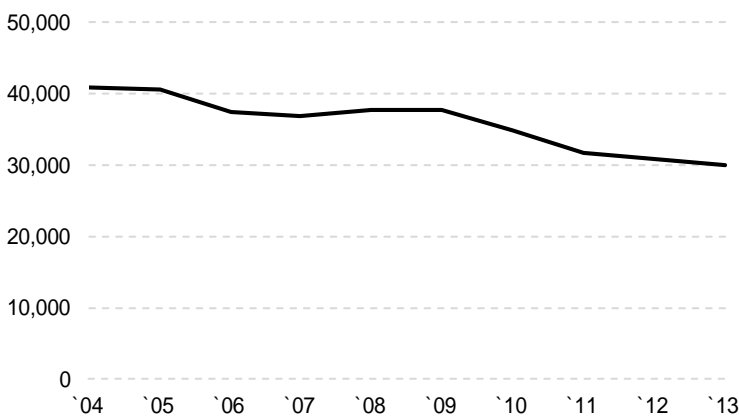
Since 2005, the number of motions filed each year seeking a change of custody has experienced a general downward trend. During 2013, a total of 6,909 filings were reported, representing a decrease of 3 percent over 2012 and a decline of 16 percent over the 10-year high in 2005 of 8,179 filings. The rate of filing of incoming Visitation matters has remained relatively stable. (See **Table 1** and **Figure 2**).

Of note is the contrast in the number of post-decree matters involving children (Custody and Visitation) and the number of Support matters. It follows that because fewer marriage terminations involving children are being filed, fewer Custody and Visitation matters are subsequently being presented. Support matters, not strictly involving the presence of children, would be expected to demonstrate less of a decline. Between 2004 and 2013, the number of filings seeking the enforcement or modification of a support order declined by 24 percent. (See **Table 1** and **Figures 2** and **3**).

FIGURE 3

Support Cases

New Filings and Reactivations



Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

As shown in **Table 2**, average monthly clearance rates in 2013 for all case types exceeded 100 percent. Average monthly overage rates over each of the last five years are shown in **Table 3**. While the overage rates for divorces and dissolutions along with several other case types in 2013 are well below 10 percent, the overage rates for Domestic Violence, Custody, U.I.F.S.A., Visitation, and All Others are above 10 percent. Due to the limitations in the Supreme Court's reporting instructions and time guidelines for Domestic Violence and U.I.F.S.A. cases, the overage rates for those cases can appear spuriously elevated and without conducting additional research, they should be discounted as measures of the courts' actual case processing timeliness performance.

TABLE 2

Clearance Rates

Average Per Month, 2013

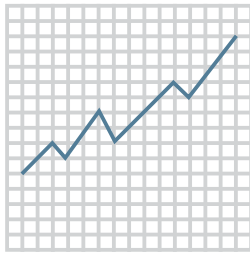
Case Type	Clearance Rate
All Others	101%
Change of Custody	103%
Domestic Violence	100%
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children	103%
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children	101%
Marriage Terminations w/Children	107%
Marriage Terminations w/o Children	103%
Parentage	103%
Support - Enforce or Modify	101%
U.I.F.S.A.	105%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	104%

TABLE 3

Overage Rates

Average Per Month

Case Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
All Others	18%	15%	17%	18%	16%
Change of Custody	15%	13%	12%	13%	12%
Domestic Violence	32%	35%	33%	36%	36%
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Marriage Terminations w/Children	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Marriage Terminations w/o Children	7%	6%	6%	5%	6%
Parentage	3%	4%	4%	5%	6%
Support - Enforce or Modify	6%	6%	6%	5%	4%
U.I.F.S.A.	25%	34%	26%	25%	26%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	16%	14%	13%	13%	13%



COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

Probate Division

In 1968, the Modern Courts Amendment to the Ohio Constitution transformed probate courts to a division of the courts of common pleas. In addition to jurisdiction over wills, estate matters and guardianships, probate divisions have jurisdiction over the issuance of marriage licenses, adoption proceedings, determination of sanity or mental competency, and certain eminent domain proceedings. Probate judges also can solemnize marriages.

The probate divisions of the courts of common pleas exist in most counties together with another division. However, the following counties have separately administered probate divisions:

Butler	Hamilton	Montgomery
Clark	Lake	Richland
Cuyahoga	Lorain	Stark
Franklin	Lucas	Summit
Greene	Mahoning	Trumbull

Caseloads

Across the state, probate caseloads generally have declined over the past 10 years. As shown in a table in the *Appendix*, 88,435 new probate cases were filed in 2013, representing 7 percent fewer than the number of cases filed in 2004 and less than 1 percent more than one year earlier in 2012.

New filings of Guardianships of Incompetents (adult guardianships), displayed in **Figure 1**, have remained largely stable over the past 10 years although a notable series of increase over each of the last two years can be seen. In 2011, a total of 6,393 Guardianships of Incompetents were filed and in 2013, a total of 7,036 were filed, representing a two-year increase of 10 percent.

Guardianships of Minors, also shown in **Figure 1**, have trended generally downward, with year-over-year declines in almost each year over the last 10 years. In 2013, a total of 2,409 new cases were filed, compared with 2,329 new filings in 2012 (a 3-percent increase). However, compared to the 10-year high of 3,950 cases, the 2013 filings represent a decline of 39 percent.

Decedents' Estates cases, shown in **Figure 2**, exhibit a very slight downward trend from 2004 to 2010. Slight increases were seen between 2011 and 2012. The 56,243 cases filed in 2013 represent an 8-percent decline over the 10-year high of 61,196 cases filed in 2004.

Adoption cases demonstrated marked declines with between 2004 and 2009 but have since leveled off the past four years. The 4,194 filings in 2013 represent a 26-percent decline from the 10-year high of 5,663 cases in 2004. (See **Figure 3**).

FIGURE 1

Guardianships New Filings

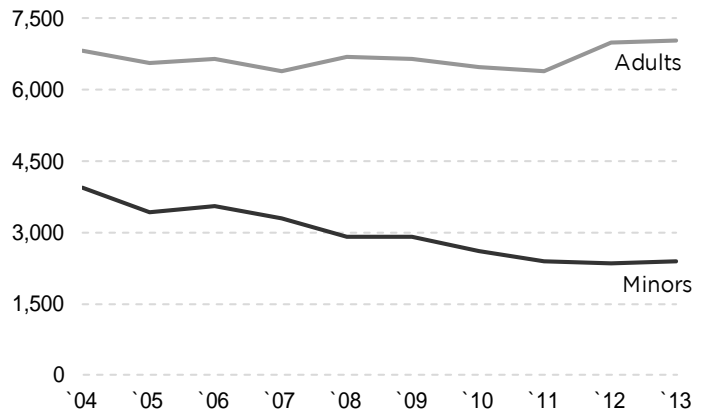


FIGURE 2

Decedents' Estates New Filings

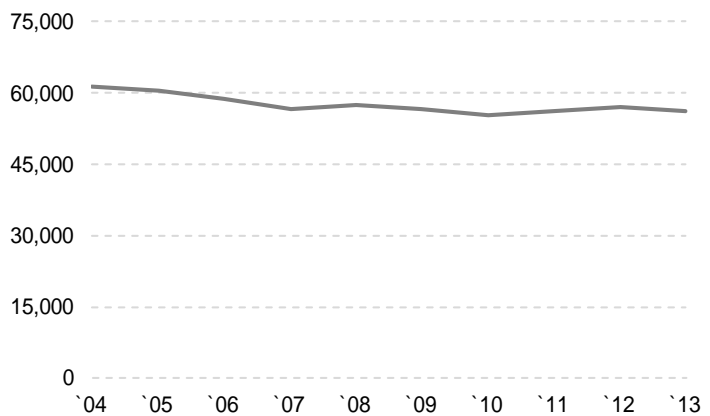


FIGURE 3

Adoptions New Filings

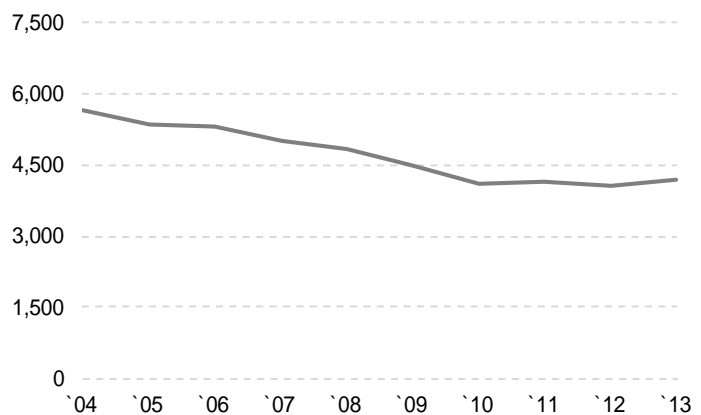
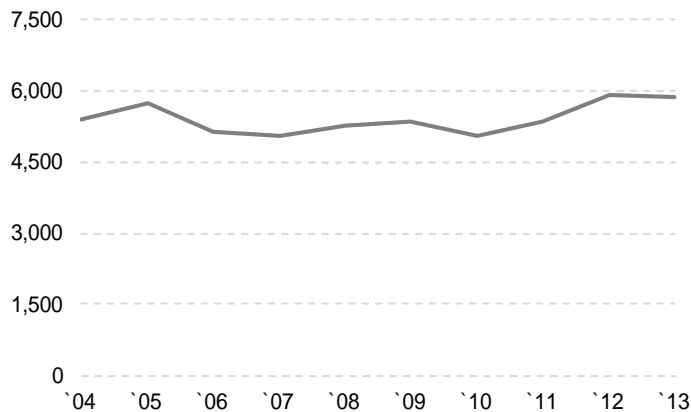


FIGURE 4

Mental Illness and Mental Retardation Cases

New Filings



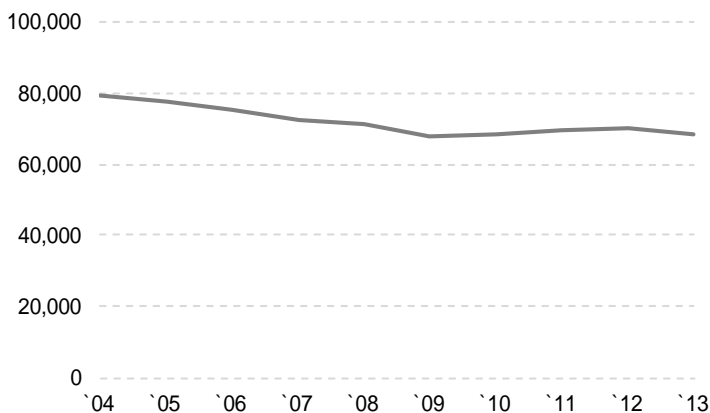
Constituting a significant segment of the probate division workload are Mental Illness and Mental Retardation matters. In 2013 a total of 5,883 new matters were filed representing an slight decrease of 1 percent over 2012 but a 16-percent increase over 2010 when 5,052 new cases were filed. (See **Figure 4**).

In 2013, a total of 68,208 marriage applications were granted by the probate courts. This represents 3 percent fewer than the 70,058 applications granted in 2012 and 14 percent fewer than the 79,463 applications granted in 2004 (the 10-year high). As shown in **Figure 5**, the number of applications granted declined steadily between 2004 and 2009 and then between 2010 and 2012 slight increases were seen from year to year.

FIGURE 5

Marriage Applications Granted

New Filings



Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see **page 3**.

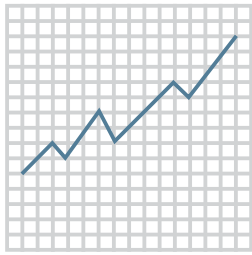
As shown in **Table 1**, probate divisions statewide in 2013 exhibited satisfactory clearance rates in many of the case types although in the Guardianships of Incompetents and Wrongful Death case types, average quarterly clearance rates of 79 and 87 percent are suggestive of a growth in a backlog. Because the Supreme Court does not promulgate time standards for probate cases, overage rates are not calculable.

TABLE 1

Clearance Rates

Average Per Quarter, 2013

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Adoptions	98%
Birth (Correction or Delayed Reg.)	100%
Change of Name	98%
Civil Actions	96%
Conservatorships	109%
Decedents' Estates	99%
Guardianships of Incompetents	79%
Guardianships of Minors	133%
Mental Illness and Mental Retardation	103%
Minors' Settlements	103%
Testamentary Trusts	163%
Wrongful Death	87%



COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

Juvenile Division

Juvenile divisions of courts of common pleas hear cases involving delinquent, unruly and neglected and dependent children and have jurisdiction in adult cases involving paternity, child abuse, non-support, contributing to the delinquency of minors and the failure to send children to school.

Juvenile divisions exist in most counties together with another division. However, the following counties have separately administered juvenile divisions:

Butler	Hamilton	Montgomery
Cuyahoga	Lake	Richland
Erie	Lucas	Summit
Greene	Mahoning	

Caseloads

The *Appendix* contains a table showing the number of statewide new filings by type of case from 2004 to 2013. A variety of sizable changes in the number of new filings is seen. Overall, the state saw a 6-percent decline in the total number of new filings of juvenile cases in 2013 over 2012, largely attributable to decreases in Delinquency and Traffic cases which make up 56 percent of the juvenile courts' caseloads. Over the past 10 years, there was a general sizable decline amounting to a 10-year decrease of 32 percent. Again, significant drivers of that overall decline were decreases in Delinquency and Traffic cases which exhibited 10-year decreases of 37 and 48 percent, respectively. (See **Figures 1 and 2**).

FIGURE 1

Delinquency Cases

New Filings

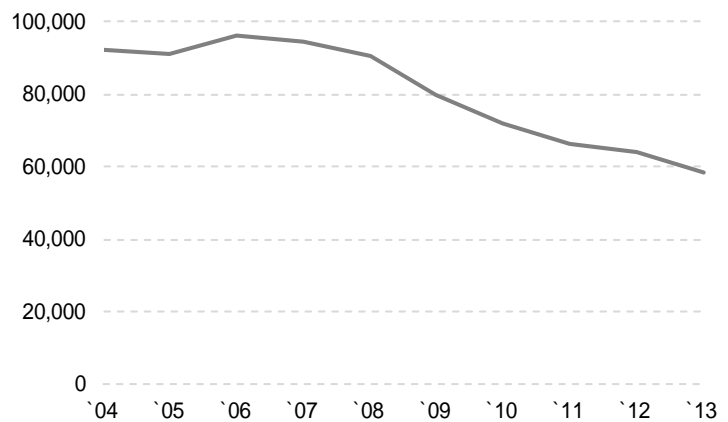


FIGURE 2

Juvenile Traffic Cases

New Filings

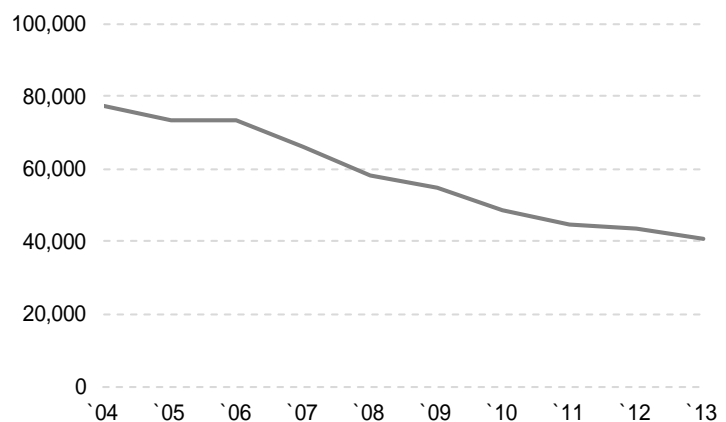


FIGURE 3

Abuse, Neglect and Dependency and Motions for Permanent Custody Cases (Combined)

New Filings (plus reactivated motions for permanent custody cases)

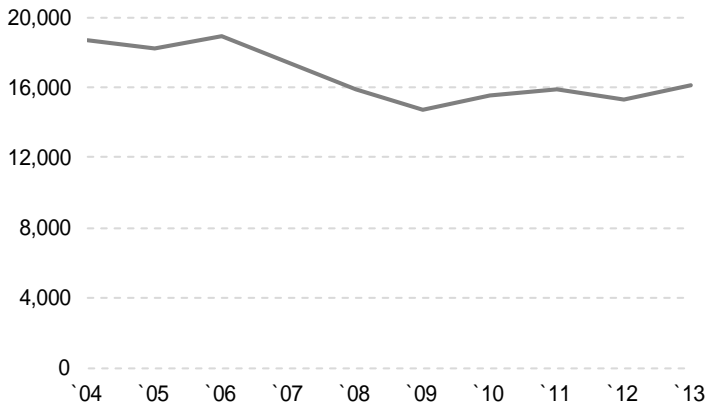


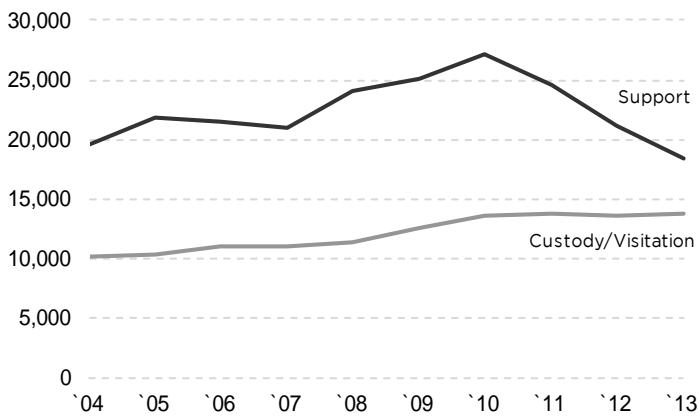
Figure 3 shows new filings of Abuse, Neglect and Dependency cases, combined with new filings and reactivations of Motions for Permanent Custody cases. Between 2004 and 2009, a general downward trend can be seen in the data which mirrored the general decline seen nationally in the number of new filings of these case types over that time period. However, since 2010, there has been a general reversal of that downward trend, with increases from year to year with the exception of 2012. In 2013, a total of 16,140 incoming cases were reported which represents an increase of 10 percent over the 10-year low of 14,673 cases in 2009.

Over much of the last 10-year period, sizable upward trends can be seen in those case types involving child support (Support Enforcement or Modification), and custody and visitation issues (Custody/Visitation). (See **Figure 4**). In 2013, a total of 18,480 support matters were filed representing a 32-percent decline from the 10-year high of 27,143 cases filed in 2010. In the Custody/Visitation case category, a total of 13,820 cases were filed in 2013, which also constitutes the 10-year high.

FIGURE 4

Custody/Visitation and Support Cases

New Filings



The generally long-term upward trends in Custody/Visitation and Support matters align with the downward trends in related case types heard in Ohio's domestic relations divisions. The critical difference here is that the matters heard in juvenile divisions involve unmarried persons, whereas the related case types heard in domestic relations divisions necessarily are an outgrowth of a divorce or dissolution. Because Divorces and Dissolutions are trending down, it is perhaps not surprising to see an increase in the volume of child support, custody and visitation litigation involving unmarried persons.

Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

Table 1 shows the average monthly clearance rates over 2013 for each case type. In all case types except Motions for Permanent Custody, the courts exhibited clearance rates at or above 100 percent. The average monthly overage rates over each of the past five years are shown in **Table 2**. For 2013, the overage rates in 8 of the 11 case types heard in Ohio's juvenile courts meet or exceed 10 percent. Due to the limitations in the Supreme Court's reporting instructions for U.I.F.S.A. cases, the overage rates for those cases can appear spuriously elevated and without conducting additional research, they should be discounted as measures of the courts' actual case processing timeliness performance.

TABLE 1

Clearance Rates

Average Per Month, 2013

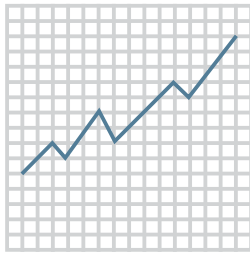
Case Type	Clearance Rate
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	102%
Adult Cases	113%
All Others	105%
Custody/Visitation	100%
Delinquency	102%
Motion for Permanent Custody	81%
Parentage	108%
Support - Enforce or Modify	100%
Traffic	101%
U.I.F.S.A.	103%
Unruly	104%

TABLE 2

Overage Rates

Average Per Month

Case Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	20%	19%	16%	17%	17%
Adult Cases	14%	15%	16%	16%	15%
All Others	10%	9%	9%	15%	17%
Custody/Visitation	16%	13%	9%	9%	9%
Delinquency	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%
Motion for Permanent Custody	17%	19%	13%	12%	12%
Parentage	7%	5%	9%	15%	19%
Support - Enforce or Modify	5%	4%	4%	6%	6%
Traffic	13%	15%	18%	14%	10%
U.I.F.S.A.	22%	18%	20%	22%	31%
Unruly	17%	16%	17%	18%	22%



Municipal & County Courts

The Ohio Constitution of 1851 established the Supreme Court and four types of lower courts: district courts of appeals, courts of common pleas, probate courts and justice courts. In 1910, the General Assembly established the first municipal court in Cleveland. In 1957, the General Assembly replaced justice courts with county courts. Each county court was established to have under its territorial jurisdiction those regions of a county not otherwise served by a municipal court. The General Assembly, over the ensuing years, reduced the number of county courts and expanded the territorial jurisdiction and number of municipal courts.

The subject-matter jurisdiction of municipal and county courts is identical. Municipal and county courts have the authority to conduct preliminary hearings in felony cases, and both have jurisdiction over traffic and non-traffic misdemeanors. These courts also have limited civil jurisdiction. They hear civil cases in which the amount of money in dispute does not exceed \$15,000. Judges of municipal and county courts also have statewide authority to solemnize marriage ceremonies.

In 2013, there were 130 municipal courts with 216 judges, and 35 county courts with 37 judges. Three municipal courts have specialized divisions: Cleveland Municipal Court — Housing Division, Toledo Municipal Court — Housing Division and Franklin County Municipal Court — Environmental Division.

Municipal court judges and county court judges must be attorneys with at least six years of experience in the practice of law. They are elected on a non-partisan judicial ballot. Municipal court judges serve on either a full-time or part-time basis, depending on the statutes establishing the individual municipal courts. All county court judges serve on a part-time basis. A municipal court's territorial jurisdiction may be limited to one municipality or may extend across a range of municipalities, townships, or be countywide. A small number of municipal courts have territories that extend across more than one county. In 2013, statutes provided for the judgeships in the following 13 municipal courts to be part-time.

Avon Lake	Lebanon
Bellevue	Mason
Campbell	Oakwood
Franklin	Shelby
Hardin County	Struthers
Huron	Vermilion
Lawrence County	

In addition to the 13 courts identified above, two of the four judgeships in Montgomery County Municipal Court are part-time judgeships.

Changes in 2013

On March 20, 2013, one of the three judgeships in the Youngstown Municipal Court was abolished. Accordingly, as of that date, there then existed a total of 216 municipal court judgeships across the state.

Changes in 2014

On January 1, 2014, Tiffin Municipal Court and Fostoria Municipal Court were merged and became Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court. The judgeship that existed in Fostoria Municipal Court was abolished as part of the merger. Accordingly, as of that date, there exists a total of 215 municipal court judgeships across the state.

Future Changes

In 2010, legislation was enacted converting the Montgomery County Court into the Montgomery County Municipal Court. The legislation includes a judgeship conversion and abolishment process which will, by December 31, 2021 at the latest, yield a total of three full-time judgeships in the court.

The case types heard in municipal and county courts are grouped into three general categories:

Civil Cases

Civil cases heard in municipal and county courts are Personal Injury and Property Damage, Contracts, Forcible Entry and Detainer (F.E.D) (filed by landlords for eviction and possible recovery of money), Other Civil (a catchall for civil cases not otherwise classifiable in the other case type categories), and Small Claims cases (involving recovery of small debts and accounts not exceeding \$3,000).

Criminal Cases

This category includes Felonies (preliminary hearings only) and Misdemeanors.

Traffic Cases

This category includes Operating a Vehicle While Under the Influence (O.V.I.) and Other Traffic (all other cases involving the use of motor vehicles). Caseload statistics concerning parking violations and other vehicle-related infractions are not reported to the Supreme Court.

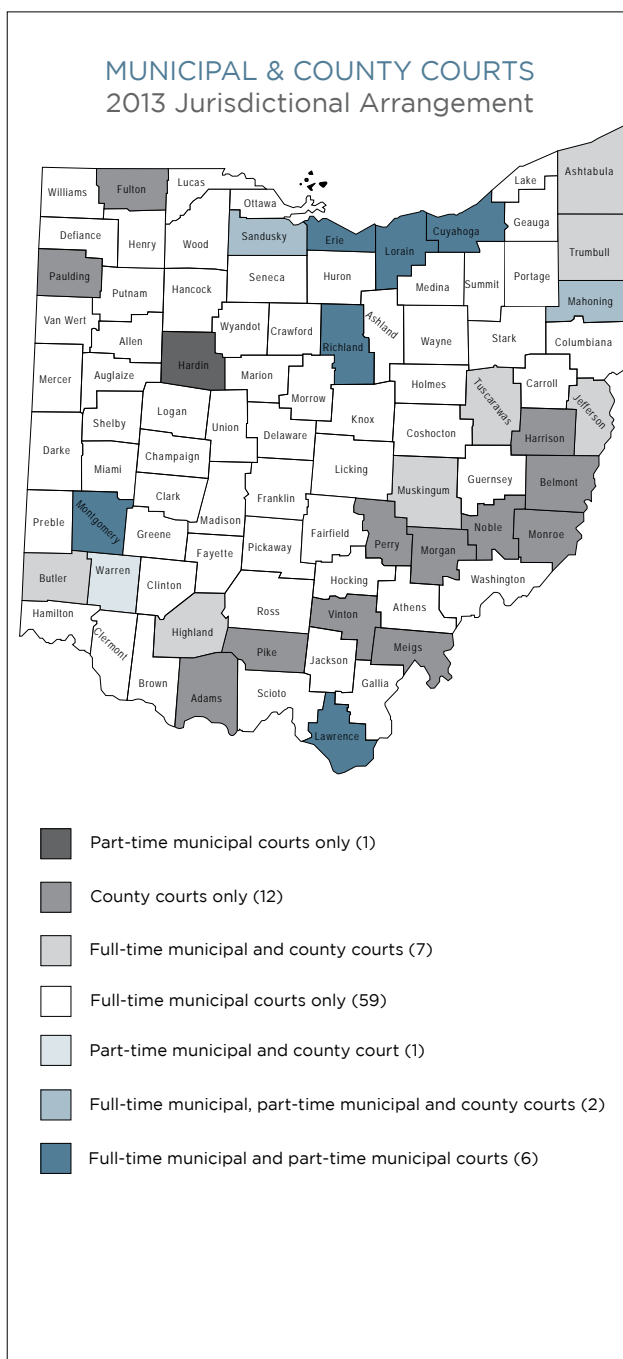


FIGURE 1

Felonies
New Filings

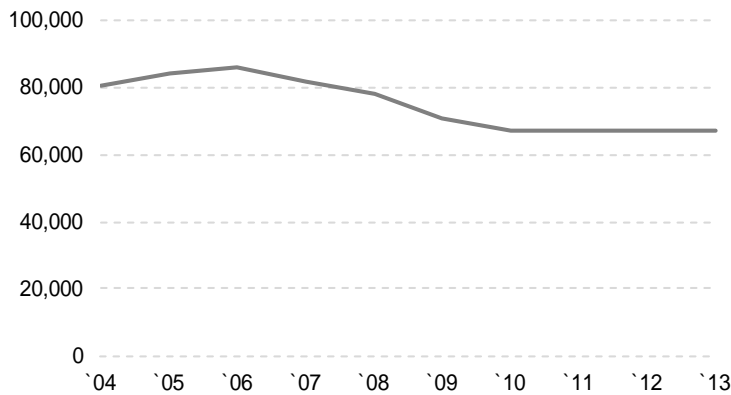


FIGURE 2

Misdemeanors
New Filings

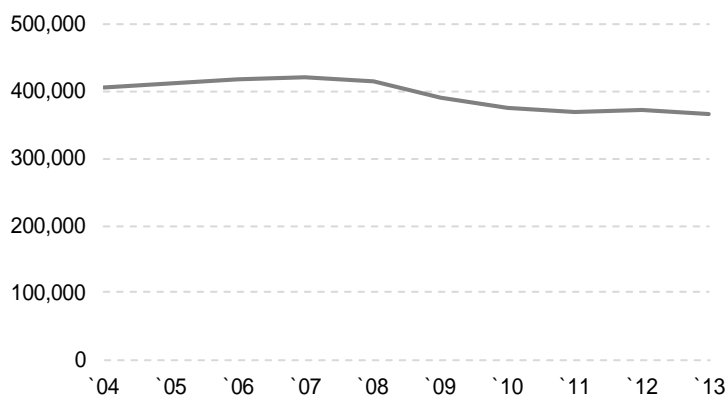
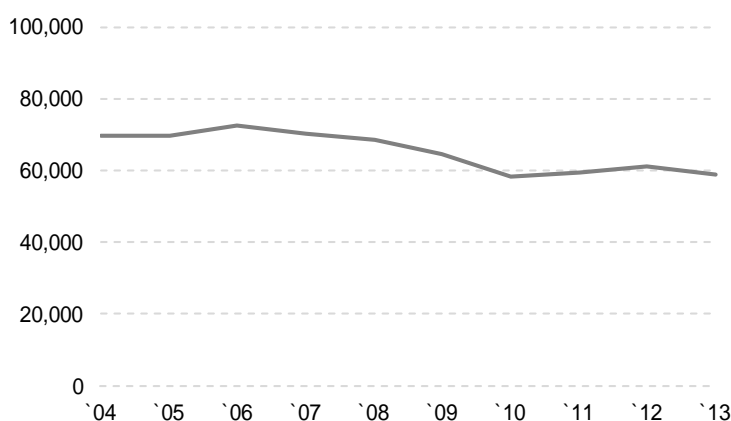


FIGURE 3

O.V.I. Cases
New Filings



Caseloads

For purposes of presenting 10-year trend data concerning caseloads heard in Ohio municipal and county courts, the data reported by municipal courts and county courts are combined here to present a single unified perspective over the caseloads heard in Ohio's limited jurisdiction trial courts.

As shown in a table in the *Appendix*, the total number of new filings each year in Ohio's municipal and county courts has generally decreased overall during the past 10 year. Since 2008, the number of new case filings has decreased by 18 percent. However, there was substantial growth in certain case types at least during certain periods over the past 10 years.

Felony cases, in which municipal and county courts conduct preliminary hearings only, exhibited a notable shift in their growth rate over the 10-year period shown in **Figure 1**. From 2004 to 2006, new filings increased. Beginning in 2006, however, that trend reversed and there was a notable decline between 2006 and 2010. In the last three years, the volume of new filings has remained remarkably level. In 2013, a total of 67,112 new cases were filed.

Misdemeanor cases, constituting a sizable 17 percent of the courts' total caseload, have experienced a slight downward trend over the past 6 years. A total of 365,359 new filings were reported in 2013, which represents a 2-percent decrease over 2012 and a 13-percent decrease from the 10-year high of 419,601 cases filed in 2007. (See **Figure 2**).

O.V.I. cases exhibit an overall downward trend over the last 10 years. In 2013, a total of 59,016 new cases were filed, representing a 3-percent decrease over 2012 and a 19-percent decrease from the 10-year high in 2006 when the courts experienced the filing of 72,475 new O.V.I. cases. (See **Figure 3**).

Other Traffic cases (all moving violations other than O.V.I.), constituted 61 percent of the municipal and county courts' total caseload filed in 2013. Other Traffic cases trended downward from 2006 through 2011. For the last two years, there has been a reversal of that trend. In 2013, a total of 1,266,815 new Other Traffic cases were filed, representing an 8-percent increase over 2011 when 1,173,672 new cases were filed. (See **Figure 4**).

Small Claims case filings have trended remarkably down over the past 10 years, with particularly sharp declines each year beginning in 2008. The 54,409 new Small Claims cases filed in 2013 represent a decrease of 38 percent from the 10-year high of 87,538 cases filed in 2004. (See **Figure 5**).

New filings of Contracts cases, which in 2013 constituted about 7 percent the courts' total caseloads, have demonstrated considerable volatility over the last 10 years and are, in 2013, at their lowest point in 10 years. There was, however, significant growth in Contracts cases over the years between 2004 and 2008, but for the past five years the volume of new cases has dropped markedly. In 2013, a total 140,696 new cases were filed, representing a 25-percent decrease over 2011 and a 48-percent decrease from the 10-year high in 2008 when 271,982 new Contracts cases were filed. (See **Figure 6**).

FIGURE 4

Other Traffic Cases
New Filings

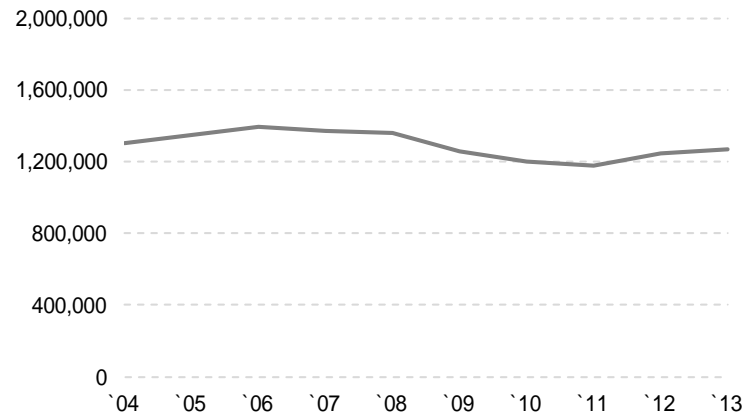


FIGURE 5

Small Claims Cases
New Filings

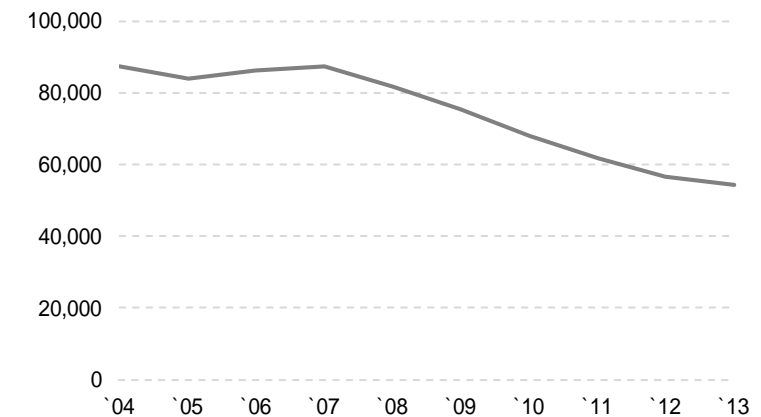


FIGURE 6

Contracts Cases
New Filings



TABLE 1

Clearance Rates

Average Per Month, 2013

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Contracts	109%
F.E.D.	99%
Other Civil	107%
Pers. Inj./Prop. Damage	99%
Small Claims	101%
Felonies	100%
Misdemeanors	100%
O.V.I.	100%
Other Traffic	100%

TABLE 2

Overage Rates

Average Per Month

Case Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Contracts	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%
F.E.D.	7%	6%	5%	5%	2%
Other Civil	1%	1%	2%	6%	5%
Pers. Inj./Prop. Damage	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Small Claims	8%	8%	9%	9%	8%
Felonies	12%	14%	15%	17%	17%
Misdemeanors	3%	4%	5%	6%	5%
O.V.I.	5%	5%	5%	6%	5%
Other Traffic	2%	3%	4%	4%	3%

Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

As shown in **Table 1**, the clearance rates for all cases types in 2013 are near or equal to the 100 percent target. Average monthly overage rates for the last five years are displayed in **Table 2**. The overage rate for Felonies in 2013, at 17 percent, is the only double-digit overage rate.

Trial Rates

The rate of trials occurring in a court is a useful statistic when assisting courts in understanding the fundamentals of effective caseload management. Although it is not a measure of a court's performance, per se, this statistic routinely is used by the Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section as part of its caseload management training curriculum.

In order to calculate trial rates, the various termination categories reported by the courts first are separated into termination categories that truly are dispositive of the case and categories that instead simply render the case no longer active for reporting purposes. The number of dispositive terminations are then summed. The resulting sum is divided into the number of trials (either by jury, by court, or both) in order to produce the trial rate, expressed as a percentage.

Figures 7, 8 and 9 display the trial rates in Ohio's municipal and county courts in Misdemeanors, non-Small Claims civil cases, and traffic cases (O.V.I. and Other Traffic combined). The methodology for calculating trial rates in civil cases has been refined from that used in prior editions of the Ohio Courts Statistical Summary. Previously, only dispositions reported by the judges for their individually-assigned dockets were included in the calculations. Here, dispositions reported by the courts' administrative judges regarding cases disposed during particular sessions of court and prior to any assignment to an individual judge have been included so as to form a complete accounting of dispositions. Accordingly, the trial rate shown in Figure 8 is substantially smaller than what has been previously reported.

FIGURE 7

Trial Rates in Misdemeanors (non-traffic)
Trials as a Percentage of All Final Dispositions

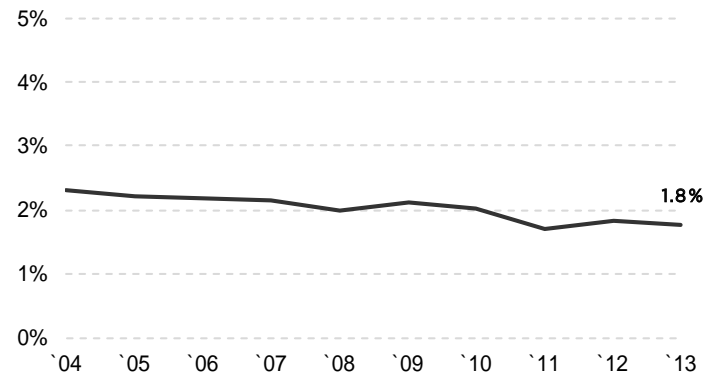


FIGURE 8

Trial Rates in Non-Small Claims Civil Cases
Trial Rates as a Percentage of All Final Dispositions

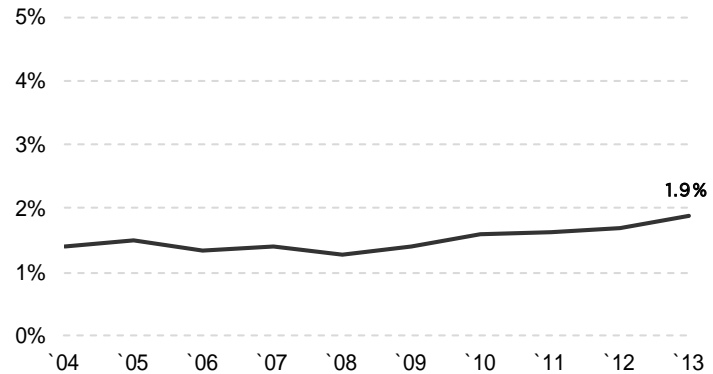
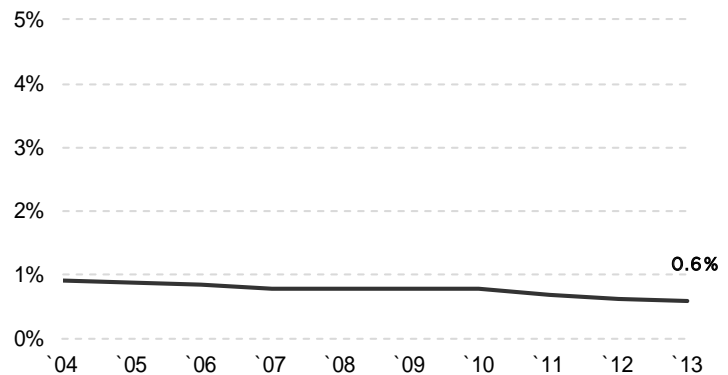
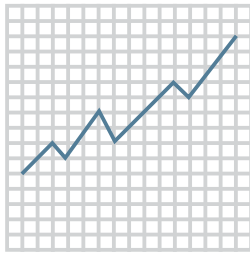


FIGURE 9

Trial Rates in Traffic Cases
Trial Rates as a Percentage of All Final Dispositions



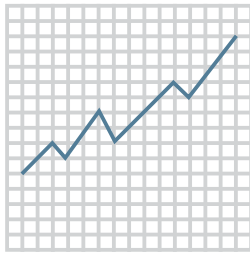


MAYOR'S COURTS

In general, Ohio law allows mayors of municipal corporations populated by more than 200 people to conduct mayor's court where there are no municipal courts. These courts, which are not courts of record, only hear cases involving violations of local ordinances and state traffic laws. A person convicted in a mayor's court may appeal his or her conviction to the municipal or county court having jurisdiction within the municipal corporation.

Mayor's courts are required by law to register annually with and submit caseload statistical reports quarterly to the Supreme Court. At the request of the General Assembly, the Supreme Court adopted rules providing court procedures and basic legal education for mayors. Mayors whose courts hear alcohol- and drug-related traffic offenses have additional educational requirements. A mayor is not required to be a lawyer, but may appoint an attorney who has practiced law for at least three years to hear cases in mayor's court.

Mayor's court caseload statistics are published annually in a separate report.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A

Abuse, Neglect and Dependency: Juvenile cases concerning the neglected child, as defined by R.C. 2151.03; the dependent child, as defined by R.C. 2151.04; or the abused child, as defined by R.C. 2151.031.

Adult Cases: Juvenile court cases brought against an adult who is the defendant accused of contributing to the neglect, unruliness, or delinquency of a minor.

All Others: Any case that cannot appropriately be recorded in a listed category.

C

Change of Custody: Post-decree domestic relations cases in which the court must adjudicate a motion for change of custody, including requests for change of custody based upon an election by the child and cases where custody is contested. Juvenile cases are included where there is an application for writ of habeas corpus involving the custody of a child or where a motion for change of custody is filed pursuant to Juv.R. 10(A).

Clearance Rate: Clearance rates are statistical calculations measuring a court's performance in keeping up with its incoming caseload. A clearance rate of 100 percent indicates the court terminates an equal number of cases as it takes in. It is determined by dividing the total number of terminations by the total number of new filings, reactivations, and transfers. It is expressed as a percentage. For example, if 90 terminations and 100 total incoming cases are reported, the clearance rate is 90 percent.

Court Trial: A case is considered terminated by trial to the court (i.e., judge) if judgment is rendered after the first witness is sworn.

Criminal: Cases in which a person is charged with violation of a state law or local ordinance other than a traffic law or ordinance. For purposes of tracking the age of the case for these reports, the case begins at arraignment.

D

Delinquency: Juvenile cases filed concerning a delinquent child, as defined by R.C. 2152.02.

Domestic Violence: Domestic violence actions filed as separate cases pursuant to R.C. 3113.31. This does not include miscellaneous matters filed in pending cases, such as motions to evict.

F

Felony: This type is defined by R.C. 2901.02 and Crim.R. 2 as an offense specifically classified as a felony, regardless of penalty, or an offense in which imprisonment for more than one year can be imposed. When transferred to the common pleas court, these cases are reported as criminal cases by the receiving court.

Forcible Entry and Detainer (F.E.D.): A summary proceeding initiated under R.C. 1923 or 5321 for restoring possession of real property to one who is wrongfully kept out or wrongfully deprived of possession.

J

Jury Trial: A case is considered terminated by jury trial if judgment is rendered after the jury is sworn, regardless of the outcome of the trial.

M

Marriage Dissolutions: Domestic relations cases in which a petition for dissolution of marriage is filed pursuant to R.C. 3105.63.

Marriage Terminations: Domestic relations cases in which a complaint for divorce is filed pursuant to R.C. 3105.01.

Misdemeanors: A misdemeanor is defined by R.C. 2901.02 and Crim.R. 2 as an offense specifically classified as a misdemeanor, or an offense in which imprisonment for not more than one year can be imposed. While traffic offenses fall within this definition, they are reported as operating a vehicle while under the influence or other traffic offenses and not as misdemeanors.

Motion for Permanent Custody: Juvenile cases in which a complaint or motion for permanent custody is filed when custody is contested. This does not include voluntary placements.

O

Operating a Vehicle While Under the Influence (O.V.I.): Cases that include violating R.C. 4511.19 or any local ordinance that prohibits operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or any drug of abuse.

Other Civil: Civil cases not included within any of the other categories. Ancillary proceedings are not reported as cases.

Other Traffic: Cases dealing with matters involving traffic offenders. Juveniles, as defined by R.C. 2152.02(N), and adult traffic cases include any violation of state law or local ordinance arising out of the use of a motor vehicle, except those involving operating a vehicle while under the influence charges.

Overage Rates: Overage rates are a measure of a court's backlog. At any point in time, a court will have some number of active pending cases. Of those, some percentage may be pending beyond the time guidelines prescribed by the Supreme Court pursuant to Sup.R. 39. That percentage of overage cases is referred to as the overage rate.

P

Parentage: Cases brought pursuant to R.C. Chapter 3111, the Uniform Parentage Act. Once paternity is established, the parentage case is considered terminated for reporting purposes.

Personal Injury and Property Damage: Civil cases in which the principal issue is liability for, or the amount of damages to be received for, allegedly tortious conduct resulting in personal injury.

S

Small Claims: Civil actions brought under R.C. 1925 for the recovery of small debts and accounts, not exceeding \$3,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

Support Enforcement/Modification: Post-decree domestic relations cases in which it is alleged there is disobedience of, or resistance to, a lawful judgment of the court requiring the payment of support. A case is reported only once, regardless of the number of pending motions.

T

Trial Rate: Trial rates are statistical calculations describing the rates at which trials occur compared against all other termination categories that are dispositive of a case.

U

Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (U.I.F.S.A.): Cases brought pursuant to R.C. Chapter 3115, the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, handled by the domestic relations or juvenile divisions, including cases initiated in Ohio and cases in which Ohio is the responding state.

Unruly: Juvenile cases concerning unruly children, as defined by R.C. 2151.022.

V

Visitation Enforcement/Modification: Post-decree domestic relations cases in which it is alleged there is disobedience of, or resistance to, lawful judgment of the court relative to child-visitation rights. A case is listed only once, regardless of the number of pending motions.

W

Workers' Compensation: Appeals filed under R.C. 4123.512, including noncompliance actions by the state, for recovery of benefits or of premiums, and mandamus actions arising from claims or awards.

Courts of Common Pleas, General Division

New Filings

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Administrative Appeals	1,219	1,054	1,166	1,192	1,600	1,300	1,306	1,304	1,263	1,001
Criminal	73,822	77,042	82,370	81,785	79,240	71,490	69,014	67,040	66,552	64,943
Foreclosures	59,041	63,996	79,059	83,230	85,773	89,061	85,483	71,553	70,469	53,163
Other Civil	46,813	51,780	53,635	65,822	72,121	69,004	62,859	56,493	52,251	46,113
Other Torts	23,890	23,830	21,289	19,480	18,663	18,351	17,228	16,596	16,423	16,207
Product Liability	436	928	348	320	290	208	228	185	203	234
Professional Tort	2,250	1,908	1,502	1,483	1,411	1,368	1,422	1,230	1,242	1,296
Workers' Compensation	8,623	8,814	8,065	8,365	7,449	7,678	7,203	6,780	6,530	6,401
Total	216,094	229,352	247,434	261,677	266,547	258,460	244,743	221,181	214,933	189,358

Courts of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division

New Filings

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
All Others	2,868	1,443	1,258	996	776	486	499	520	593	319
Change of Custody	991	939	661	611	562	448	433	418	492	463
Domestic Violence	17,447	18,255	18,219	18,862	19,457	20,551	19,860	19,189	18,194	17,912
Marriage Disso. w/Children	8,451	8,213	8,171	7,905	7,800	7,780	8,409	8,198	7,759	7,234
Marriage Disso. w/o Children	11,170	10,891	10,886	10,274	10,061	10,280	10,618	10,364	10,034	9,898
Marriage Term. w/Children	16,239	15,767	16,195	15,125	14,653	14,726	14,644	14,218	13,415	12,304
Marriage Term. w/o Children	13,407	13,493	13,961	13,457	13,085	12,935	13,375	13,586	13,228	12,818
Parentage	1,676	1,570	1,530	1,747	2,045	2,103	2,064	1,831	1,837	1,601
Support - Enforce or Modify	5,134	5,130	3,731	3,444	3,204	2,534	2,251	2,034	1,704	1,641
U.I.F.S.A.	2,694	1,903	1,919	1,477	1,291	1,512	1,047	995	1,129	956
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	312	284	313	259	153	108	127	146	141	150
Total	80,389	77,888	76,844	74,157	73,087	73,463	73,327	71,499	68,526	65,296

APPENDIX

Courts of Common Pleas, Probate Division

New Filings

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Adoptions	5,663	5,375	5,323	4,999	4,825	4,487	4,120	4,159	4,060	4,194
Birth (Correc./Delayed Reg.)	1,017	1,143	1,217	1,374	1,159	1,126	1,086	988	1,157	1,108
Change of Name	4,939	5,031	5,151	5,154	5,151	5,324	5,514	5,491	5,880	6,070
Civil Actions	2,841	2,721	2,704	2,437	2,332	2,439	2,402	2,462	2,581	2,772
Conservatorships	84	85	96	86	111	95	91	76	122	101
Decedents' Estates	61,196	60,596	58,932	56,487	57,573	56,686	55,199	56,188	57,241	56,243
Guardianships of Incompetents	6,832	6,562	6,646	6,386	6,685	6,668	6,488	6,393	6,993	7,036
Guardianships of Minors	3,950	3,407	3,551	3,291	2,898	2,896	2,608	2,372	2,329	2,409
Mental Illness/Retardation	5,409	5,741	5,139	5,072	5,253	5,360	5,052	5,360	5,923	5,883
Minors' Settlements	1,917	1,916	1,836	1,706	1,535	1,506	1,345	1,287	1,349	1,425
Testamentary Trusts	782	577	571	499	527	552	530	462	475	495
Wrongful Death	368	554	455	530	572	1,039	717	628	688	699
Total	94,998	93,708	91,621	88,021	88,621	88,178	85,152	85,866	88,798	88,435
Marriage Applications Granted	79,463	77,573	75,223	72,601	71,401	68,019	68,248	69,334	70,058	68,208

Courts of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division

New Filings (plus reactivated motions for permanent custody cases)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	15,132	14,827	15,423	14,934	13,846	12,727	13,896	13,891	13,103	13,736
Adult Cases	5,659	5,972	6,111	6,454	5,913	5,611	5,417	5,926	5,715	5,807
All Others	1,854	1,881	2,179	2,395	2,090	2,228	2,634	2,930	2,976	3,119
Custody/Visitation	10,128	10,269	11,021	11,064	11,426	12,609	13,596	13,780	13,562	13,820
Delinquency	92,458	91,065	96,127	94,466	90,509	79,527	71,768	66,022	63,913	58,585
Motion for Permanent Custody	3,587	3,374	3,452	2,466	2,003	1,946	1,677	2,053	2,218	2,404
Parentage	13,289	13,623	13,674	11,949	9,605	9,390	10,806	8,998	7,746	6,795
Support - Enforce or Modify	19,603	21,890	21,436	21,044	24,017	25,092	27,143	24,599	21,132	18,480
Traffic	77,377	73,613	73,208	66,411	58,495	54,917	48,504	44,834	43,470	40,596
U.I.F.S.A.	1,033	876	898	1,003	1,008	996	1,277	1,322	965	970
Unruly	17,747	18,135	18,084	17,199	16,971	14,275	13,103	12,104	11,756	10,747
Total	257,867	255,525	261,613	249,385	235,883	219,318	209,821	196,459	186,556	175,059

Municipal and County Courts

New Filings

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Contracts	192,119	200,173	211,390	238,246	271,982	224,180	210,470	193,580	187,864	140,696
F.E.D.	110,579	115,854	114,642	116,284	116,173	108,325	107,040	112,153	111,919	113,583
Other Civil	153,727	144,153	131,895	127,615	138,415	122,938	106,610	79,216	23,348	16,134
Personal Inj./Property Damage	15,330	12,013	8,307	7,454	6,521	6,607	6,334	5,270	5,842	5,943
Small Claims	87,538	84,205	86,164	87,269	81,901	75,253	67,824	61,733	56,875	54,409
Felonies	80,583	83,864	85,695	81,434	77,859	70,647	67,190	67,219	67,175	67,112
Misdemeanors	406,311	410,236	418,691	419,601	415,287	389,726	374,637	368,480	373,137	365,359
O.V.I.	69,927	70,015	72,475	70,062	68,874	64,704	58,279	59,806	60,959	59,016
Other Traffic	1,301,437	1,349,429	1,396,114	1,370,239	1,357,396	1,260,125	1,205,036	1,173,672	1,249,208	1,266,815
Total	2,417,551	2,469,942	2,525,373	2,518,204	2,534,408	2,322,505	2,203,420	2,121,129	2,136,327	2,089,067

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