

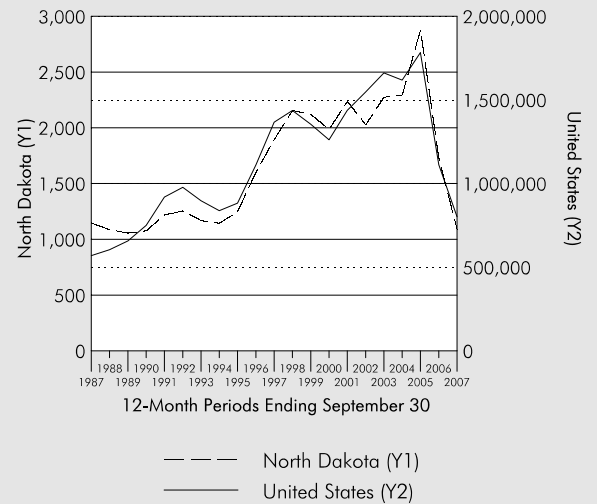
## Bankruptcy Cases Filed by State: Fiscal Years 2000 to 2007

Nationwide, bankruptcy filings dropped abruptly during 2006 after implementation of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act (BAPCPA) of 2005 (Figure 1). On April 20, 2005, President Bush signed into law the BAPCPA which made substantial changes to the bankruptcy code (most provisions took effect in October 2005). For more information, visit [www.usdoj.gov/ust/eo/bapcpa/](http://www.usdoj.gov/ust/eo/bapcpa/).

North Dakota bankruptcy cases filed in federal court totaled 1,090 in fiscal year 2007 (the 12-month period ending September 30, 2007), down 37 percent when compared to the 1,726 filings in fiscal year 2006 (Table 1). Non-business filings, the majority of North Dakota bankruptcy cases, totaled 1,032 in fiscal year 2007, down from the 1,673 non-business filings in fiscal year 2006. Business filings for North Dakota totaled 58 in fiscal year 2007, up five from the 53 business filings in fiscal year 2006.

A look at bankruptcy filings for different 12-month periods shows that although filings for the period ending September 30, 2007 remain well below pre-BAPCPA levels, total filings are increasing (Figure 2). For the 12-month period ending December 2006, North Dakota bankruptcy filings totaled 743. Filings rose steadily to reach 1,090 for the 12-month period ending September 2007.

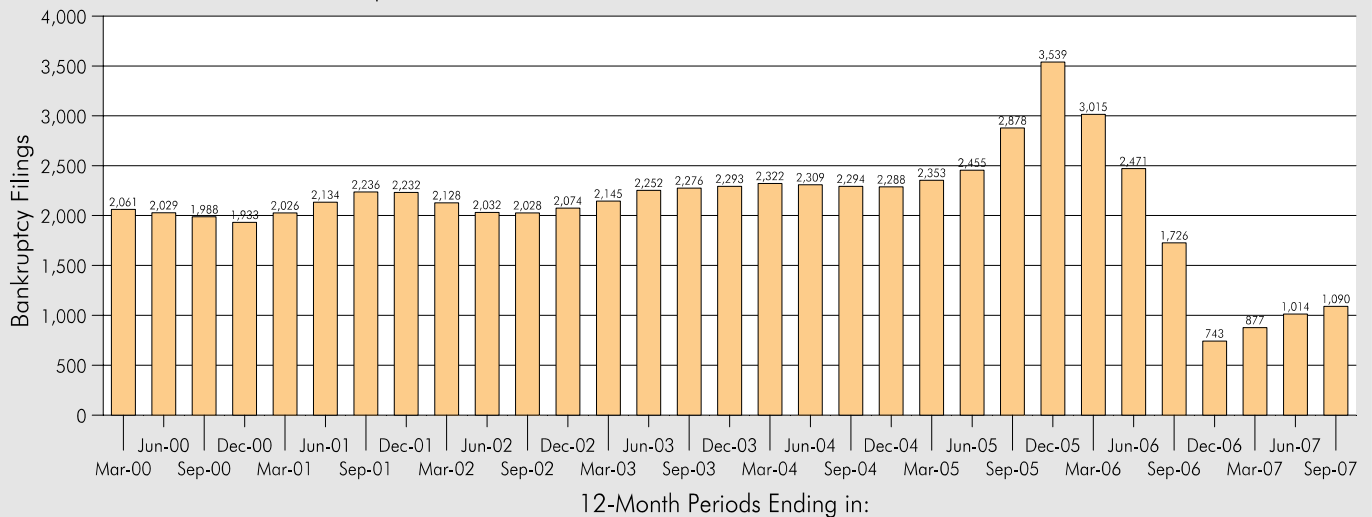
Figure 1. Bankruptcy Filings: Fiscal Years 1987 to 2007  
North Dakota and the United States



Note: The federal Judiciary's fiscal year is the 12-month period ending September 30.  
Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Statistical Tables for the Federal Judiciary at [www.uscourts.gov/bnkrpctstats/bankruptcystats.htm](http://www.uscourts.gov/bnkrpctstats/bankruptcystats.htm)

The numbers presented in this report are for 12-month periods ending in the month and year as indicated and cover only bankruptcy cases filed under the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978. The federal Judiciary's fiscal year is the 12-month period ending September 30. Bankruptcy is defined as a legal recognition that a company or individual is insolvent and must restructure or liquidate. "Cases filed" refers to the commencement of a proceeding through the presentation of a petition to the clerk of court. United States totals in Table 1 include outlying areas, not shown separately.

Figure 2. North Dakota Bankruptcy Filings  
12-Month Periods, March 2000 to September 2007



Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Statistical Tables for the Federal Judiciary at [www.uscourts.gov/bnkrpctstats/bankruptcystats.htm](http://www.uscourts.gov/bnkrpctstats/bankruptcystats.htm)

**Table 1. Bankruptcy Cases Filed by State: Fiscal Years 2000 to 2007**

Notes: <sup>1</sup>Includes outlying areas not shown separately. The federal Judiciary's fiscal year is the 12-month period ending September 30.

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Statistical Tables for the Federal Judiciary at [www.uscourts.gov/bnrprctystats/bankruptcystats.htm](http://www.uscourts.gov/bnrprctystats/bankruptcystats.htm)

Area	12-Month Period Ending September 30 <sup>th</sup>								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Change: 2006-07
United States <sup>1</sup>	1,262,102	1,437,354	1,547,669	1,661,996	1,618,987	1,782,643	1,112,542	801,269	-28.0
Alabama	32,345	37,504	41,322	42,360	41,907	44,884	27,738	23,176	-16.4
Alaska	1,412	1,467	1,432	1,541	1,468	1,885	1,300	696	-46.5
Arizona	21,205	24,001	28,738	31,994	31,686	35,570	17,457	9,749	-44.2
Arkansas	16,683	20,476	22,694	24,346	24,396	27,608	15,762	11,494	-27.1
California	150,870	150,311	149,954	146,130	127,864	135,872	85,223	62,951	-26.1
Colorado	15,458	18,117	20,303	25,243	27,879	34,772	22,207	14,238	-35.9
Connecticut	10,968	11,523	11,456	12,272	11,644	12,777	8,895	5,572	-37.4
Delaware	4,849	3,951	3,966	3,978	3,740	3,798	2,562	1,897	-26.0
Dist. of Columbia	2,501	2,522	2,521	2,381	1,987	1,951	1,313	670	-49.0
Florida	73,438	83,585	90,330	95,478	88,370	93,898	52,146	36,572	-29.9
Georgia	58,574	67,436	75,067	79,985	79,299	79,245	50,462	48,104	-4.7
Hawaii	4,667	4,975	4,684	3,908	3,237	3,716	2,233	1,281	-42.6
Idaho	7,155	8,124	8,686	9,630	9,445	10,462	5,865	3,716	-36.6
Illinois	61,953	70,750	80,197	86,802	80,665	91,160	57,023	39,147	-31.3
Indiana	37,587	45,142	52,686	55,605	55,681	63,158	44,906	29,656	-34.0
Iowa	8,245	10,547	11,473	12,577	12,988	16,083	9,123	6,660	-27.0
Kansas	11,509	13,329	14,519	16,177	16,401	18,936	12,179	7,730	-36.5
Kentucky	20,895	25,233	26,839	29,659	28,555	33,103	22,494	16,216	-27.9
Louisiana	22,832	26,447	26,840	29,164	29,985	32,134	19,735	13,534	-31.4
Maine	4,036	4,400	4,467	4,593	4,637	5,459	3,096	2,143	-30.8
Maryland	30,833	34,610	34,963	35,173	30,438	30,448	18,608	12,509	-32.8
Massachusetts	16,125	17,455	17,069	18,174	18,054	21,952	15,181	13,011	-14.3
Michigan	36,575	44,048	52,529	62,305	63,882	75,760	53,354	43,806	-17.9
Minnesota	15,320	17,812	19,655	20,483	18,451	22,025	13,631	11,139	-18.3
Mississippi	18,220	21,475	22,099	22,856	21,351	21,842	13,117	10,789	-17.7
Missouri	25,978	29,584	32,808	38,000	37,646	43,981	28,865	20,141	-30.2
Montana	3,358	3,823	4,102	4,345	4,376	4,929	3,246	1,934	-40.4
Nebraska	5,552	6,888	7,443	8,555	8,906	10,515	6,678	5,204	-22.1
Nevada	14,182	17,265	19,095	20,689	18,397	18,220	12,759	9,445	-26.0
New Hampshire	3,784	3,869	3,903	4,390	4,573	5,341	3,214	2,804	-12.8
New Jersey	37,956	41,059	40,708	42,921	41,262	42,829	25,982	18,702	-28.0
New Mexico	7,039	8,426	8,975	9,967	9,360	10,921	5,559	3,232	-41.9
New York	60,002	67,537	70,004	75,349	80,854	90,648	57,686	38,823	-32.7
North Carolina	26,315	32,146	35,917	38,811	37,339	39,917	24,523	19,420	-20.8
<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>1,988</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>2,028</b>	<b>2,276</b>	<b>2,294</b>	<b>2,878</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>-36.8</b>
Ohio	53,592	67,757	76,122	87,833	90,556	109,413	72,603	48,527	-33.2
Oklahoma	19,082	22,799	23,833	26,737	27,236	31,222	19,519	8,966	-54.1
Oregon	18,040	22,008	24,034	25,723	24,589	27,909	16,236	8,993	-44.6
Pennsylvania	44,096	50,611	53,481	58,493	59,566	67,087	43,282	29,111	-32.7
Rhode Island	4,702	4,790	4,830	4,712	4,222	4,855	3,047	2,521	-17.3
South Carolina	11,725	13,506	15,531	16,335	15,632	15,209	8,527	7,139	-16.3
South Dakota	2,099	2,565	2,673	2,867	2,862	3,530	1,920	1,302	-32.2
Tennessee	48,138	57,488	62,810	65,974	62,461	63,058	40,785	37,779	-7.4
Texas	61,809	72,736	79,745	89,469	93,703	104,815	65,474	42,487	-35.1
Utah	14,738	18,522	21,444	22,444	21,312	20,611	10,015	6,182	-38.3
Vermont	1,497	1,754	1,774	1,919	1,773	1,948	1,498	849	-43.3
Virginia	36,509	40,431	42,650	43,842	41,329	40,587	22,958	17,893	-22.1
Washington	31,325	35,763	38,408	40,907	39,215	40,536	23,764	14,632	-38.4
West Virginia	8,447	10,142	10,021	11,102	11,511	14,482	8,173	4,230	-48.2
Wisconsin	17,901	21,170	24,242	28,415	27,444	32,718	19,831	14,952	-24.6
Wyoming	2,010	2,489	2,232	2,513	2,438	2,733	1,611	784	-51.3

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## North Dakota Bankruptcy Cases Down After Implementation of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005

North Dakota bankruptcy cases filed in federal court totaled 1,090 in fiscal year 2007 (the 12-month period ending September 30, 2007), down 37 percent when compared to the 1,726 filings in fiscal year 2006. Nationwide, bankruptcy filings dropped abruptly during 2006 after implementation of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act (BAPCPA) of 2005. On April 20, 2005, President Bush signed into law the BAPCPA which made substantial changes to the bankruptcy code. For more information on the BAPCPA, visit [www.usdoj.gov/ust/eo/bapcpa/](http://www.usdoj.gov/ust/eo/bapcpa/).

This month's "Economic Brief," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, focuses on the number of bankruptcy cases filed by state as reported by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

"There has been an ebb and flow in bankruptcy filings over the past 25 years," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center. In fiscal year 1987, North Dakota bankruptcy filings totaled 1,148. The number of filings rose dramatically during the latter half of the 1990s reaching a peak in fiscal year 1998 at 2,157. After minimal change in bankruptcy filings in the early 2000s, the number of filings rapidly rose to 2,878 in fiscal year 2005. The implementation of BAPCPA produced a sharp drop in filings to 1,090 in fiscal year 2007. North Dakota's trend in bankruptcy filings has closely followed the national pattern of change.

Non-business filings, the majority of North Dakota bankruptcy cases, totaled 1,032 in fiscal year 2007, down from the 1,673 non-business filings in fiscal year 2006. Business filings for North Dakota totaled 58 in fiscal year 2007, up five from the 53 business filings in fiscal year 2006.

A look at bankruptcy filings for different 12-month periods shows that although filings for the period ending September 30, 2007 remain well below pre-BAPCPA levels, total filings are increasing. For the 12-month period ending December 30, 2006, North Dakota bankruptcy filings totaled 743. Filings have been rising steadily each quarter to reach 1,090 for the 12-month period ending September 30, 2007. "This increase is occurring despite a robust economy in North Dakota that is largely fueled by the state's energy production and favorable crop prices," said Rathge.

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