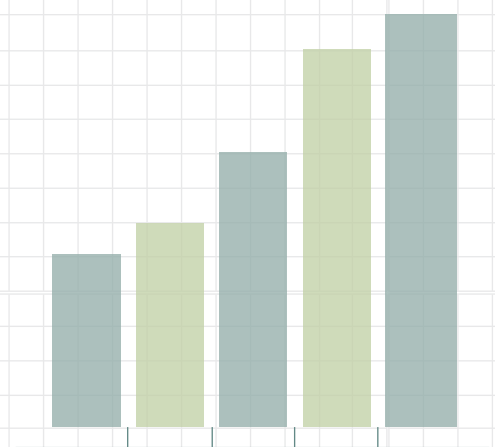




THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO



OHIO COURTS
STATISTICAL SUMMARY

2012

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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 third consecutive year, the number of new cases filed in Ohio courts declined. What's different about 2012 compared to 2011 and 2010 is that the number of traffic cases increased rather than decreased. No single case type was the clear source of the overall slight decrease.

Among the case types that contributed to the decrease were criminal common pleas, contract cases in municipal court, foreclosures, and juvenile delinquency.

From a historical perspective, the last time fewer cases statewide were filed in Ohio's courts was in 1985, 27 years ago.

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 who work in the court system is how to better allocate their 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.

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

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NOTE: An overview of the new eStats reporting process is provided on *pages 26 and 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 a presiding judge report each quarter that describes the status of all cases pending in that district. In addition, each individual judge must submit a quarterly 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 a monthly 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 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 a quarterly 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 individual judge reports 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 a monthly report of 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 case counts. 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 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 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.

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. The Case Management Section of the Supreme Court, responsible for collecting statistics from Ohio’s judiciary, will begin rolling out this new data collection process in 2013. See *pages 26 and 27* for more information on the Supreme Court’s new eStats program.

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 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 2012 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 a 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.

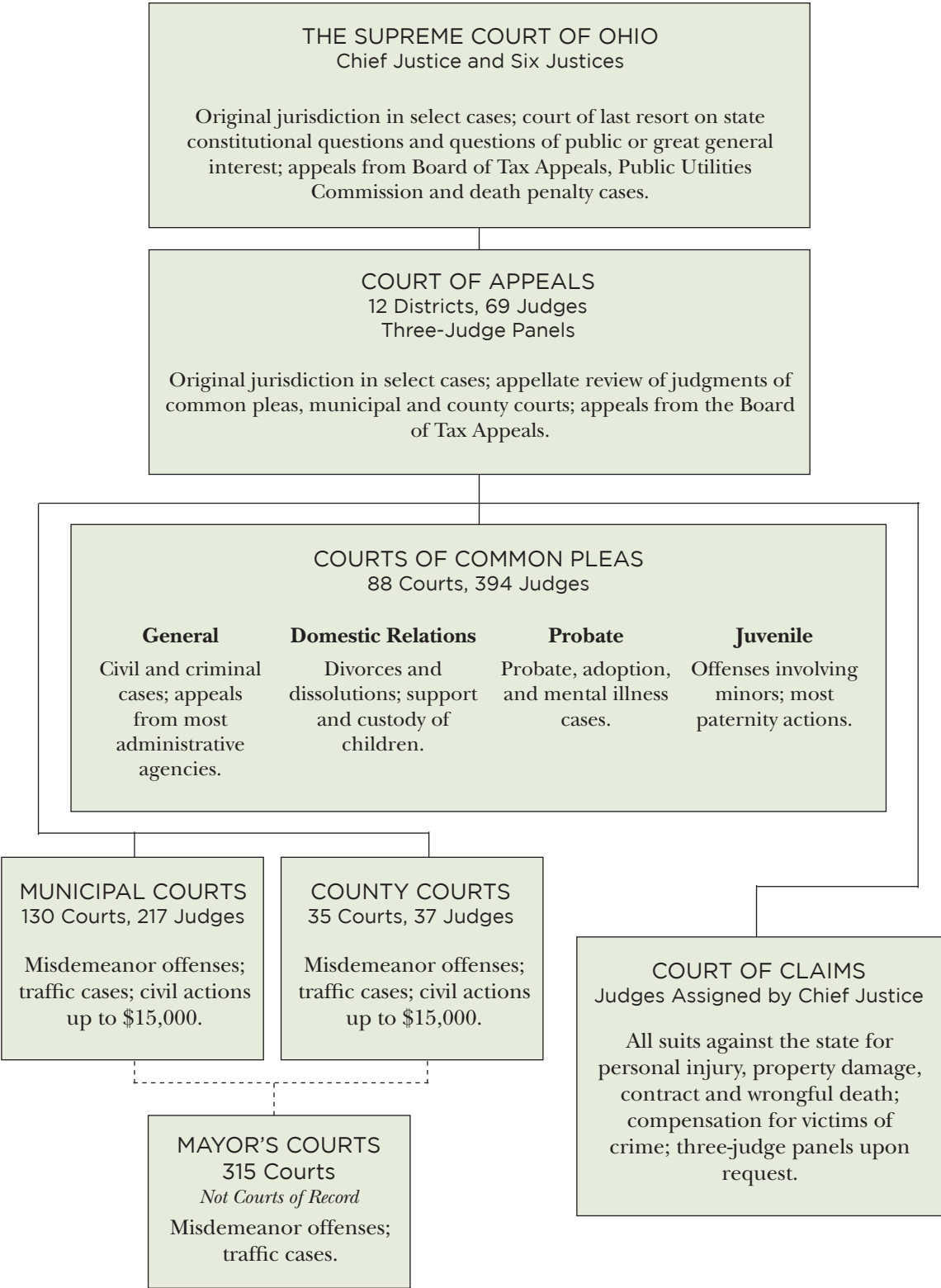
Future Plans

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 and to the public.

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.

2012 STRUCTURE OF THE OHIO JUDICIAL SYSTEM





Shown below 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.

All Courts, All Case Types

New Cases Filed, 2003 to 2012

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Supreme Court	2,237	2,178	2,444	2,407	2,459	2,506	2,363	2,293	2,207	2,187
Court of Appeals	10,905	10,713	11,437	11,208	10,512	11,115	10,433	10,277	9,508	9,426
Court of Claims	1,134	1,024	1,138	734	896	1,094	902	1,231	1,337	865
Common Pleas	653,554	649,348	656,473	677,512	673,240	664,138	639,419	613,043	574,900	558,813
General	211,376	216,094	229,352	247,434	261,677	266,547	258,460	244,743	221,181	214,933
Domestic Relations	79,527	80,389	77,888	76,844	74,157	73,087	73,463	73,327	71,499	68,526
Probate	95,338	94,998	93,708	91,621	88,021	88,621	88,178	85,152	85,866	88,798
Juvenile	267,313	257,867	255,525	261,613	249,385	235,883	219,318	209,821	196,354	186,556
Municipal and County	2,700,538	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
Municipal	2,444,493	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
County	256,045	206,457	210,463	214,329	208,645	196,289	180,351	155,579	152,421	164,490
All Courts Combined	3,368,368	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



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 court 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 court 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 2012 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 2,187 new cases in 2012, representing a 1-percent decrease from the 2,207 cases filed in 2011 and 13 percent fewer than the five-year high in 2008 of 2,506 cases. (See **Table 1** and **Figure 1**).

Jurisdictional Appeals

In 2012, a total of 1,629 new jurisdictional appeals were filed, representing a 2-percent decrease from the 1,667 cases filed in 2011 and 19 percent fewer than the five-year high of 2,004 cases in 2008. (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 the court of appeals)
- Direct appeals involving termination of parental rights/adoption

TABLE 1

The Supreme Court of Ohio New Filings

Case Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Jurisdictional Appeals	2,004	1,817	1,714	1,667	1,629
Merit Cases	369	418	432	408	424
Practice of Law Cases	133	128	147	132	134
Disciplinary Cases	121	117	126	119	125
All Other	12	11	21	14	9
All Case Types	2,506	2,363	2,293	2,207	2,187

FIGURE 1

All Case Types Combined New Filings

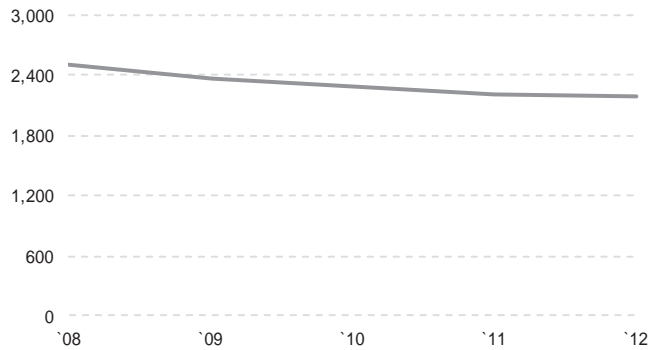


FIGURE 2

Jurisdictional Appeals New Filings

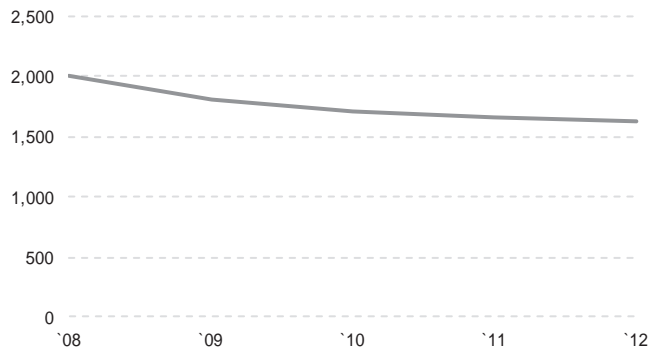


FIGURE 3

Merit Cases
New Filings

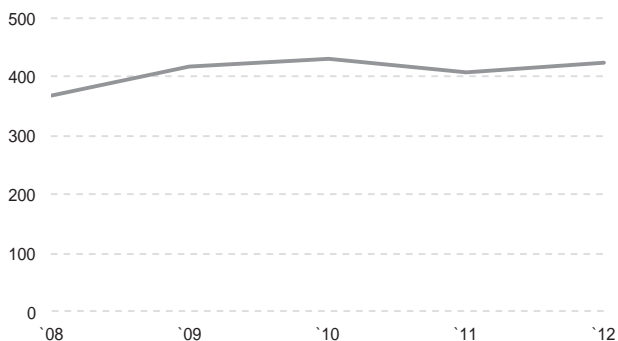
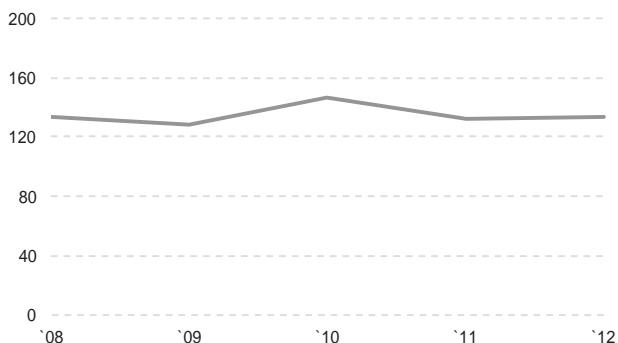


FIGURE 4

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 from 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 2012, 424 merit cases were filed. This represents a 4-percent increase from the 408 cases filed in 2011. A 5-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 2012, a total of 134 practice of law cases were filed, representing a 1.5-percent increase from 2011 when 132 cases were filed. Of those 132 cases, 125 (or 95 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 2012, the court disposed of 2,171 cases. The mean number of days a case was pending before the court decreased by four days (from 134 days to 130 days) in 2012. (See **Figure 5**).

Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Merit Review

From Filing to Final Disposition¹

Decisions in 82 jurisdictional appeals following full merit review were released in 2012. The time to disposition averaged 474 days. (See **Figure 6**)

Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Merit Review

From Filing to Final Disposition²

The number of days taken by the court to consider and dispose of a jurisdictional appeal not accepted decreased by six days in 2012, from 90 days in 2011 to 84 days in 2012. (See **Figure 7**).

FIGURE 5

All Cases

Days from Filing to Final Disposition

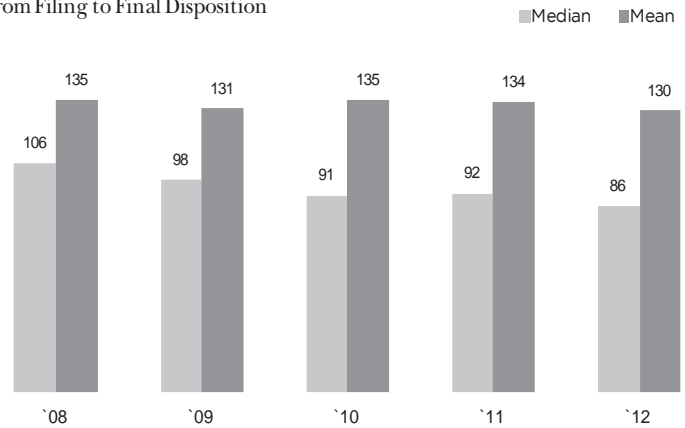


FIGURE 6

Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Full Merit Review

Days from Filing to Final Disposition

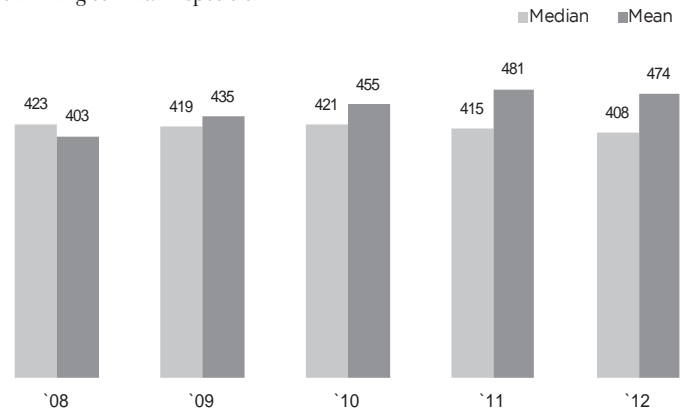


FIGURE 7

Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Full Merit Review

Days from Filing to Final Disposition

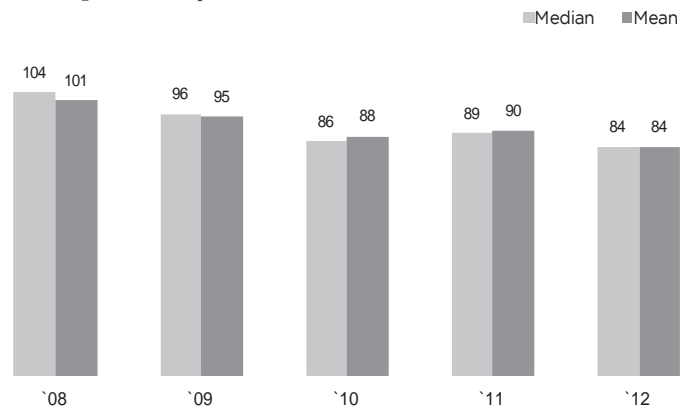
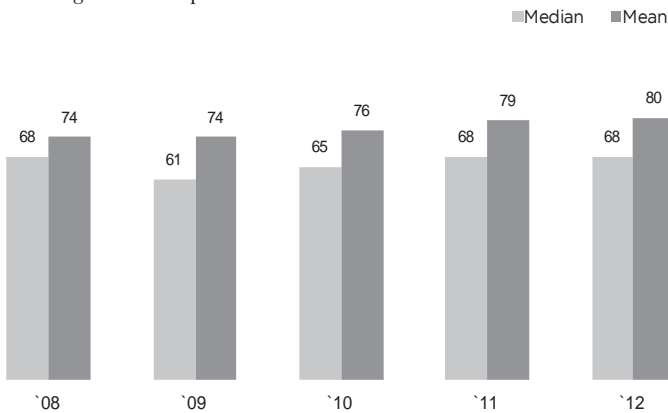


FIGURE 8

Original Actions

Days from Filing to Final Disposition



Original Actions³

From Filing to Final Disposition

During 2012, a total of 196 original actions were disposed of in an average of 80 days. (See **Figure 8**).

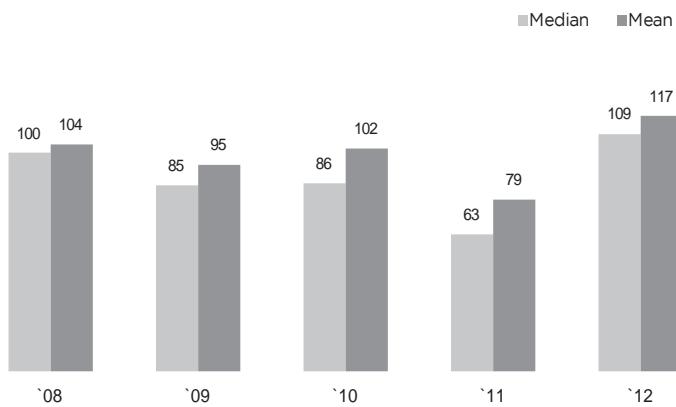
All Cases Decided with an Opinion From Submission to Final Disposition

The number of cases decided with an opinion increased significantly in 2012, from 265 cases to 338 cases. The average number of days to issue an opinion increased by 38 days. (See **Figure 9**).

FIGURE 9

All Cases Decided with an Opinion

Days from Submission to Final Disposition



NOTES

1. The time to disposition for jurisdictional appeals accepted for merit review includes the 29 days before which the court may consider whether to accept jurisdiction because the court must await the filing of a memorandum in response to jurisdiction or a waiver of the memorandum in response.
2. This time includes the 29 days before which the court may consider whether or not to accept jurisdiction, because the court must await the filing of a memorandum in response to the jurisdiction or a waiver of the memorandum in response.
3. This category includes habeas corpus cases. In 2012, 32 of the 196 original actions were habeas corpus cases.



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.

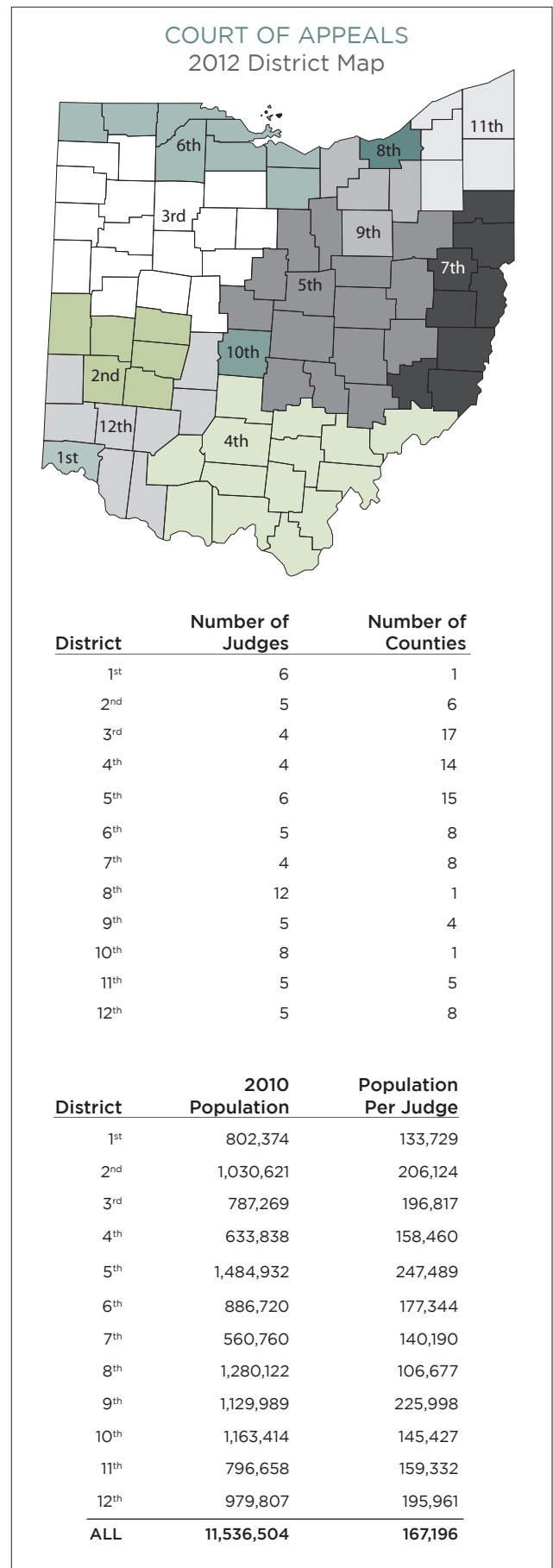
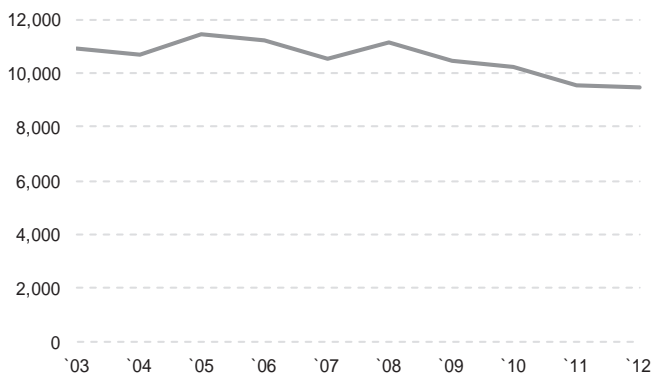


FIGURE 1

All Case Types Combined
New Filings



The overall number of cases heard in Ohio’s court of appeals declined steadily over the past five years. In 2008, a total of 11,115 new cases were filed. In 2012, a total of 9,426 new cases were filed, representing a 15-percent decline and a 10-year low. (See **Figure 1** and **Table 1**).

TABLE 1

Court of Appeals
New Filings

Case Type	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Criminal	4,309	4,397	5,047	5,189	4,807	5,157	4,670	4,714	4,209	4,181
Civil	3,947	3,562	3,433	3,538	3,335	3,521	3,277	3,050	2,955	2,975
Family Law	1,702	1,758	1,623	1,671	1,538	1,580	1,577	1,490	1,430	1,422
Miscellaneous	947	996	1,288	810	832	857	909	973	914	848
All Case Types	10,905	10,713	11,437	11,208	10,512	11,115	10,433	10,227	9,508	9,426

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 2003 and 2006, but have since trended back down to below 2003 levels. In 2012, a total of 4,181 new criminal appeals were filed, representing an 19-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 2012, the courts of appeals saw the filing of 2,975 new civil appeals, which represents 25 percent fewer appeals than the 10-year high in 2003 when nearly 4,000 appeals were filed.

Family law-related appeals show similar long-term declines. In 2012, a total of 1,422 family law-related appeals were filed, 19 percent fewer than the 1,758 appeals filed in 2004 (the 10-year high). 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 case types have remained largely stable.

FIGURE 2

Civil and Criminal Appeals
New Filings

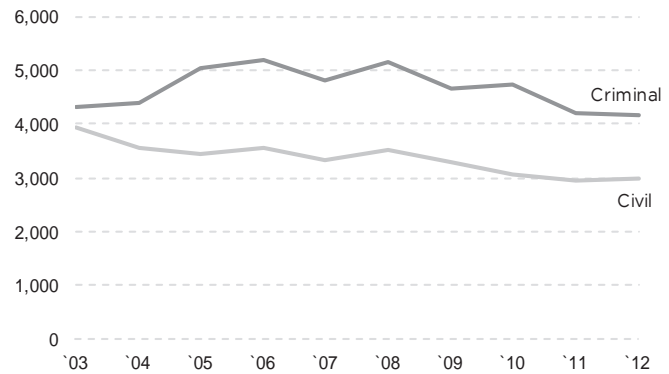


FIGURE 3

Family Law Appeals
New Filings

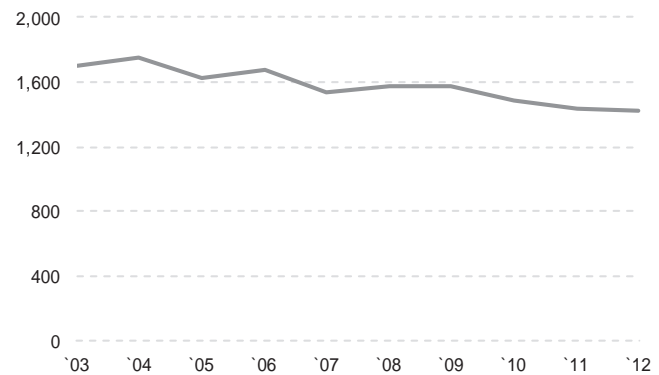


FIGURE 4

Miscellaneous Appeals
New Filings





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 Tenth 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. These appeals are heard by panel commissioners of the Court of Claims, who are appointed by the Supreme Court. If the claimant wishes to appeal further, a Court of Claims judge reviews the claim and issues a final decision. No further appeals are permitted.

Viewed over the past five years, the number of new judicial cases filed each year remained largely stable with periods of fluctuations both up and down. In 2012, a total of 359 new cases were filed, which although is 19 percent fewer than were filed in 2011, it is only slightly less than the number of new cases filed three years earlier in 2009. (See **Table 1** and **Figure 2**).

The make-up of the court's caseload in terms of new filings in 2012 is shown in **Figure 1**.

TABLE 1

New Filings
All Case Types

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Judicial Cases	407	396	463	441	359
Administrative Determinations	687	506	768	796	447
Victims of Crime Appeals	121	99	96	100	59
Total	1,215	1,001	1,327	1,337	865

FIGURE 1

New Filings
All Case Types

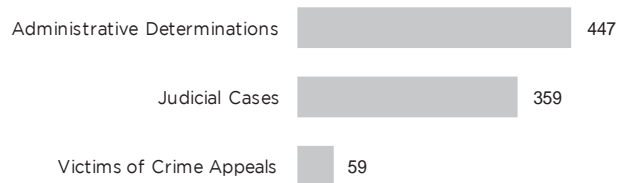


FIGURE 2

Judicial Cases
Cases Filed

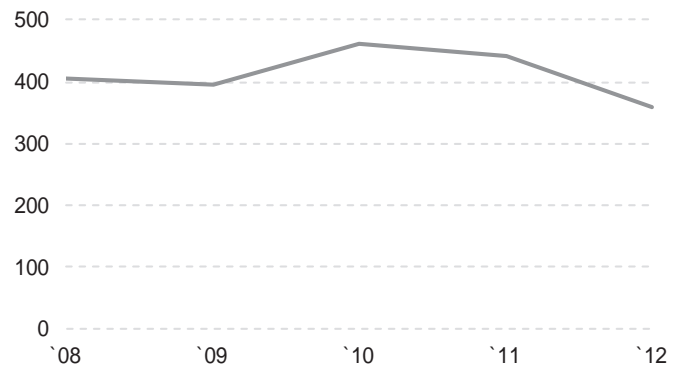
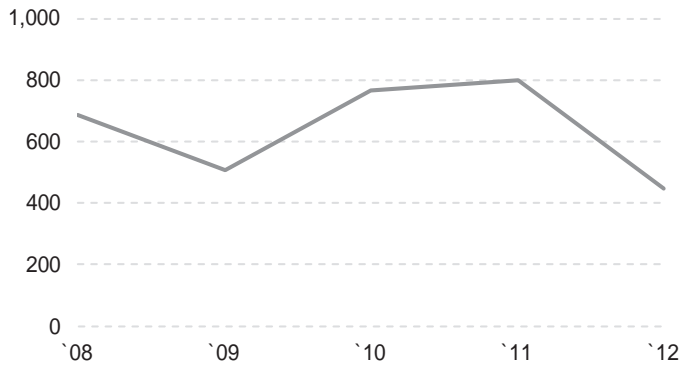


FIGURE 3

Administrative Determinations
Cases Filed

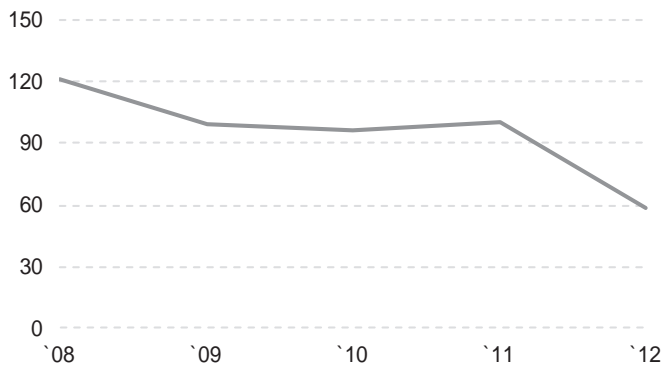


The number of administrative determination cases filed each year varies widely with no discernible trend over the past five years. In 2012, the court saw the filing of 447 new cases, which represents a 44-percent decline from 2011. (See **Figure 3**).

The volume of appeals from victims of crime decisions decreased sizably over the past five years. In 2012, a total of 59 appeals were filed, 41 percent fewer than in 2011 and 51 percent fewer than in 2008. (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 before the common pleas court.

Changes in 2012

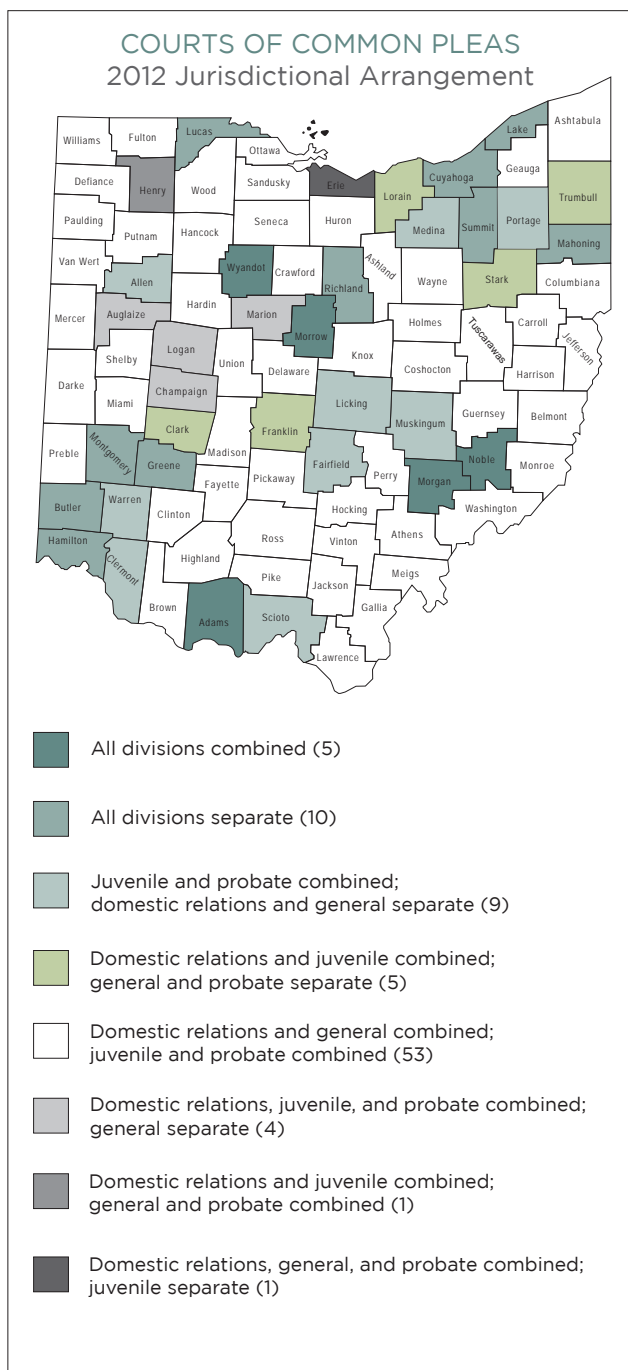
There were no changes to the jurisdictional structure or number of judgeships in Ohio common pleas courts during 2012.

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 2012

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





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 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.

eStats

On July 1, 2013, changes to Rule 37 of the Rules of Superintendence went into effect creating a means for courts to submit electronically caseload statistics required under that rule using the Supreme Court’s new eStats report submission process.

The mandatory process will be rolled out by reporting form type, beginning in 2013 with Form A (used to report cases in the general divisions of the common pleas courts). It is anticipated that by the end of 2014, all courts will be reporting statistics electronically.

To submit reports, judges or authorized staff will log in to a secure Web portal and download the Excel template (which is virtually identical to the traditional forms). Courts will enter their data into the Excel form and upload it through the portal. This process will not require modifications to existing case management systems.

Under the current process, any errors existing within a report are not identified until after pending for a period of time in the Supreme Court’s data entry queue. With eStats, errors are automatically identified upon electronic

submission of the report, and can be corrected immediately.

Plans are in development to incorporate additional reporting methods for courts that wish to upload their data via flat files through an FTP process.

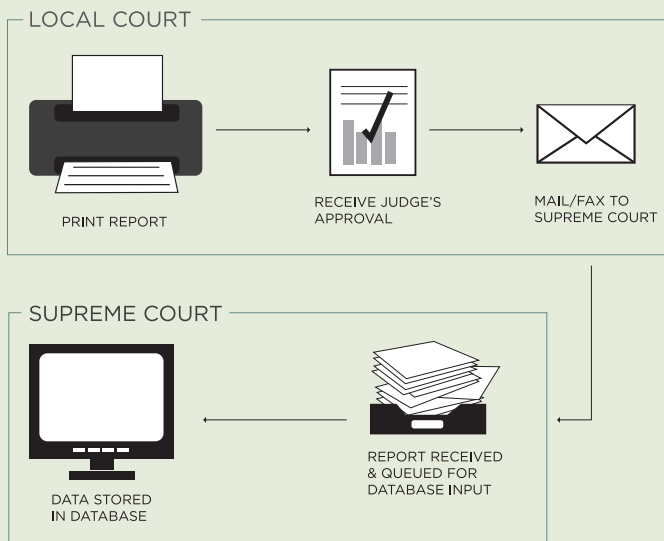
E-mail notifications will be sent confirming receipt of the reports.

Under the traditional paper-based system, more than 2.2 million individual points of data must be reviewed and manually keyed into the Supreme Court’s database each year, creating the potential for erroneous data becoming part of the official database of court statistics. Directly populating the database eliminates the potential for error.

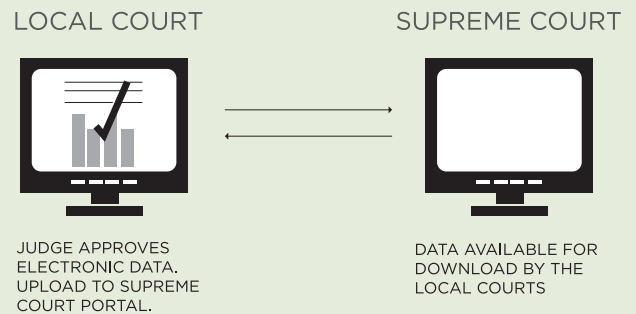
As a result of no longer being required to devote significant resources to the data collection, Supreme Court staff will be able to provide a greater level of service to courts by helping them learn how to use their statistics to enhance the administration of justice in their courts.

Reports will be available to courts for download to provide them with clear and understandable summaries of their court’s statistics. Meaningful measures will be included, such as long-term trends in new filings, effects on the court’s pending caseload in relation to annual and short-term clearance rates, statistics showing the age of the courts’ pending caseloads in relation to the Supreme Court’s case processing time guidelines, and trial rates, among other things. These reports will be available for download at any time through the eStats portal.

CURRENT SUBMISSION PROCESS



eSTATS SUBMISSION PROCESS



For more information about eStats, visit:
www.sc.ohio.gov/JCS/casemng/statisticalReporting

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2013, the Supreme Court will roll out the eStats process first for the general divisions of Ohio's courts of common pleas that use Form A to report statistics. The amount of data collected from Form A exceeds the amount collected from any other reporting form. To put into perspective the problematic nature of a paper-based reporting system, consider the following numbers.

11,564

The number of Individual REPORT FORMS from all courts of appeals and trial courts that the Supreme Court receives each year.

2.2 MILLION DATA POINTS collected through the 8 standard court statistics reporting forms (see box at right).

FORM A

244 JUDGES

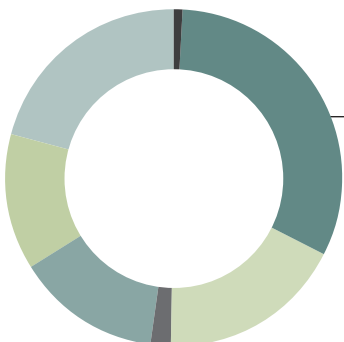
Submit Form A each month.

2,928 Form A reports collected by the Supreme Court each year.

240 DATA POINTS PER FORM

702,720

DATA POINTS manually entered from Form A reports into the Supreme Court's database EACH YEAR.



32%

Form A constitutes nearly one-third of all reports collected each year.

8 STANDARD REPORTING FORMS

APPELLATE

Form PJ
Presiding Judge
12 judges, filed quarterly
11,760 data points (1%)

Form IJ
Individual Judge
69 judges, filed quarterly
5,244 data points (0.2%)

COMMON PLEAS

Form A
General Division
244 judges, filed monthly
702,720 data points (32%)

Form B
Domestic Relations Division
133 judges, filed monthly
394,212 data points (18%)

Form C
Probate Division
95 judges, filed quarterly
38,380 data points (2%)

Form D
Juvenile Division
110 judges, filed quarterly
319,440 data points (14%)

MUNICIPAL/COUNTY

Form AJ
Administrative Judge
165 judges, filed monthly
283,140 data points (13%)

Form IJ
Individual Judge
253 judges, filed monthly
461,472 data points (21%)

Caseloads

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of new case filings in 2012 within the general divisions of Ohio’s common pleas. Criminal cases, Foreclosures and Other Civil cases constitute 88 percent of all new filings in 2012. See the *Appendix* for a table displaying the number of new filings for each individual case type from 2003 through 2012.

Figure 2 shows the 10-year trends in the 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 past three years, the number of new foreclosure case filings decreased. Similarly, Other Civil case filings experienced a sizeable overall decline since 2008, when 72,121 new cases were filed. In 2012, a total of 52,251 new cases were filed, representing 28 percent fewer cases over 2008.

Criminal cases also declined. In 2012, a total of 66,552 new criminal cases were filed. This represents a 19-percent decrease from 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**, clearance rates in 2012 for all case types exceeded 100 percent. Average monthly overage rates over each of the past five years are shown in **Table 2**. The courts demonstrated improved overage rates in criminal cases, with an average in 2012 of 8 percent compared with approximately 15 percent in the four prior years.

FIGURE 1

New Filings All Case Types, 2012

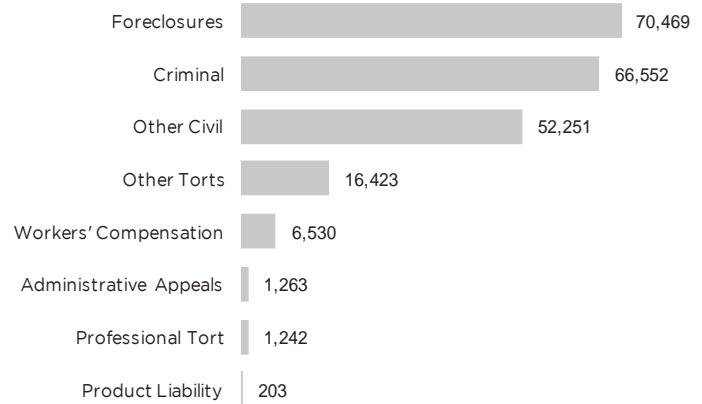


FIGURE 2

New Filings Major Case Type Categories

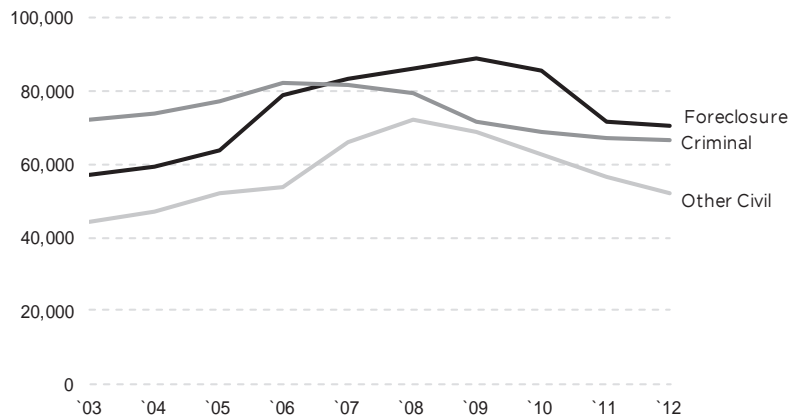


TABLE 1

Clearance Rates All Case Types, 2012

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Administrative Appeals	107%
Complex Litigation	127%
Criminal	105%
Foreclosures	103%
Other Civil	102%
Other Torts	101%
Product Liability	102%
Professional Tort	103%
Workers' Compensation	100%

TABLE 2

Overage Rates

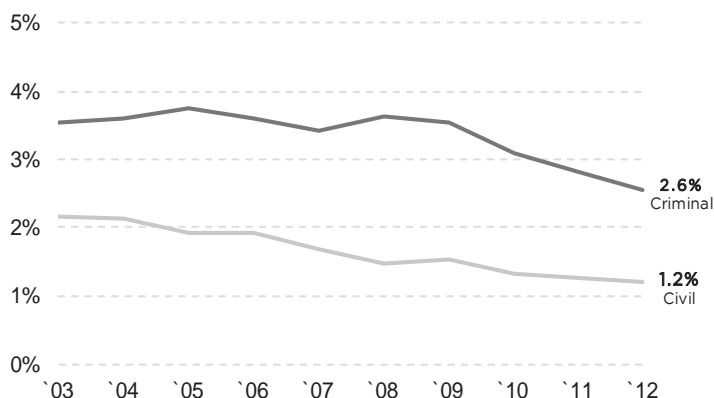
All Case Types, Average Per Month

Case Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Administrative Appeals	21%	23%	24%	24%	20%
Complex Litigation	12%	7%	8%	10%	15%
Criminal	16%	14%	14%	15%	8%
Foreclosures	5%	4%	6%	8%	4%
Other Civil	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%
Other Torts	4%	3%	3%	3%	8%
Product Liability	7%	7%	8%	7%	9%
Professional Tort	10%	10%	9%	9%	11%
Workers' Compensation	13%	10%	10%	11%	15%

FIGURE 3

Trial Rates

Trials as a Percentage of All Final Dispositions



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 2012 was 1.2 percent and 2.6 percent for criminal cases. When viewed over the past 10 years, the rates of civil and criminal cases proceeding to trial declined considerably. Although the overall rates are certainly small regardless of the year, their generally continuing year-to-year decreases can clearly be 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 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
2003	3,396	41,865	1,347
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

FIGURE 4

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket

New Filings

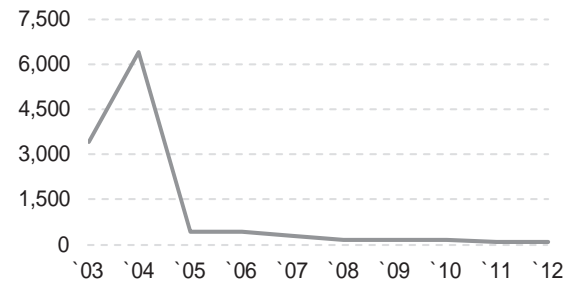
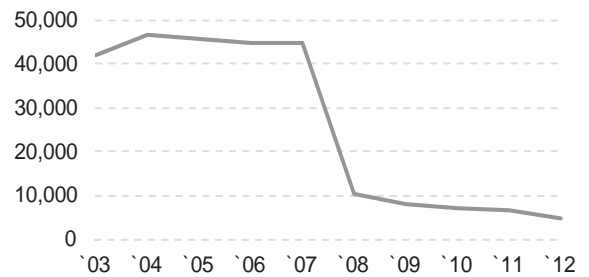


FIGURE 5

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket

Cases Pending at End of Year





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 2012, 44,436 new divorce and dissolution cases were filed. This represents 4-percent decrease from 2011 and a 12-percent decline from the 10-year high of 50,214 cases in 2003. New filings across the state in all case types from 2003 through 2012 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 or without children. (See **Figure 1**). Beginning with 2006, more cases are 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)

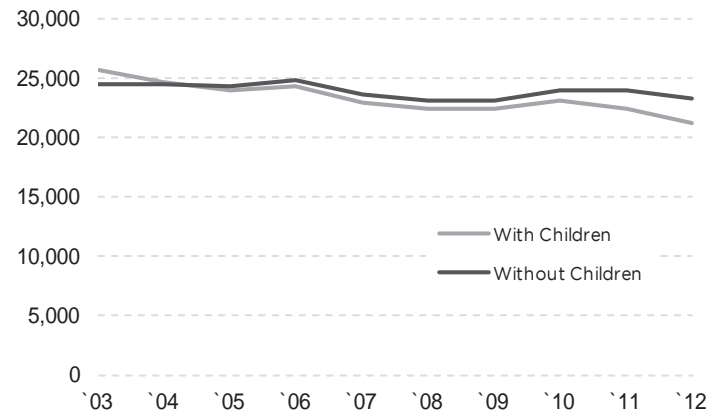


TABLE 1

Post-Decree Cases

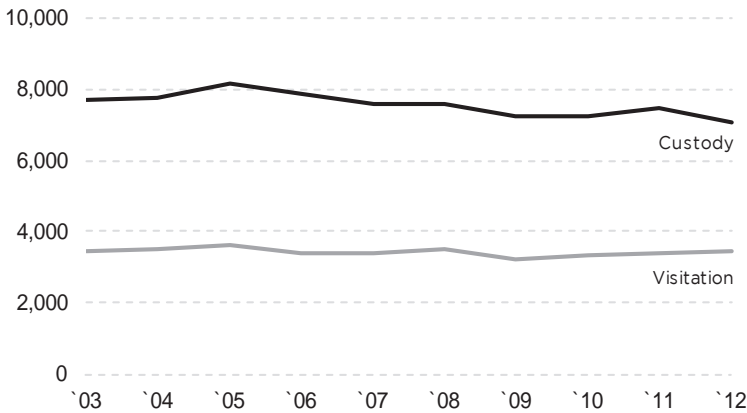
New Filings and Reactivations

Metric/Case Type	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
New Filings										
Change of Custody	1,067	991	939	661	611	562	448	433	418	492
Support - Enforce or Modify	5,194	5,134	5,130	3,731	3,444	3,204	2,534	2,251	2,034	1,704
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	368	312	284	313	259	153	108	127	146	141
Reactivations										
Change of Custody	6,635	6,785	7,240	7,234	6,980	7,007	6,804	6,790	7,046	6,598
Support - Enforce or Modify	32,407	35,859	35,581	33,730	33,410	34,659	35,169	32,500	29,832	29,314
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	3,075	3,171	3,341	3,079	3,120	3,370	3,085	3,210	3,268	3,292
Total New Filings and Reactivations										
Change of Custody	7,702	7,776	8,179	7,895	7,591	7,569	7,252	7,223	7,464	7,090
Support - Enforce or Modify	37,601	40,993	40,711	37,461	36,854	37,863	37,703	34,751	31,866	31,018
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	3,443	3,483	3,625	3,392	3,379	3,523	3,193	3,337	3,414	3,433

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.

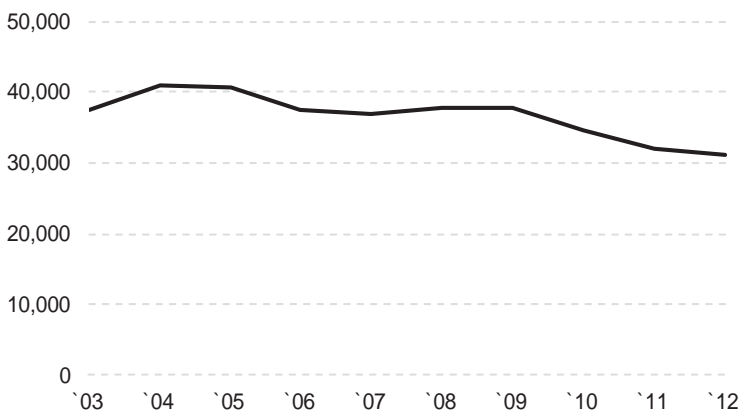
Since 2005, the number of motions filed each year seeking a change of custody experienced a general downward trend. During 2012, a total of 7,090 filings were reported, representing a modest decrease of 5 percent from 2011 and a decline of 13 percent from the 10-year high in 2005 of 8,179 filings. Incoming volumes in Visitation matters remained 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, Support matters, not strictly involving the presence of children, would be expected to demonstrate a decline. Between 2004 and 2012, 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**, clearance rates in 2012 for all case types exceeded 100 percent with the exception of Parentage cases and All Others.

Average monthly overage rates over each of the past five years are shown in **Table 3**. While the overage rates for divorces and dissolutions, along with several other case types in 2012 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 for particular case types.

TABLE 2

Clearance Rates

All Case Types, 2012

Case Type	Clearance Rate
All Others	98%
Change of Custody	101%
Domestic Violence	101%
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children	102%
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children	101%
Marriage Terminations w/Children	102%
Marriage Terminations w/o Children	101%
Parentage	99%
Support - Enforce or Modify	101%
U.I.F.S.A.	102%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	100%

TABLE 3

Overage Rates

All Case Types, Average Per Month

Case Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
All Others	14%	18%	15%	17%	18%
Change of Custody	17%	15%	13%	12%	13%
Domestic Violence	36%	32%	35%	33%	36%
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Marriage Terminations w/Children	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%
Marriage Terminations w/o Children	7%	7%	6%	6%	5%
Parentage	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%
Support - Enforce or Modify	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%
U.I.F.S.A.	29%	25%	34%	26%	25%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	14%	16%	14%	13%	13%



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 declined over the past 10 years. As shown in a table in the *Appendix*, 88,798 new probate cases were filed in 2012, representing 7 percent fewer than the number of cases filed in 2003, but 3 percent more than one year earlier, in 2011. The increases in 2012 over 2011 were seen in 10 of the 12 categories of cases heard in probate courts.

New filings of Guardianships of Incompetents (adult guardianships), displayed in **Figure 1**, remained largely stable over the past 10 years, although a clear increase of 9 percent is seen in 2012 over 2011.

Guardianships of Minors, also shown in **Figure 1**, trend steadily downward, with year-over-year declines in almost each year over the last 10 years. In 2012, a total of 2,329 new cases were filed, compared with 3,980 new filings in 2003 (a 41-percent decrease). Compared to one year earlier in 2010, the number of new filings decreased by 2 percent.

Decedents' Estates cases, shown in **Figure 2**, exhibited a steady but very slight downward trend from 2003 to 2010. Slight increases were seen over the past two years. The 57,241 cases filed in 2012 represent a 2-percent increase over the number filed in 2011.

Adoption cases continue to demonstrate marked long-term declines with 4,060 cases filed in 2012, representing a 30-percent decline from 2003. (See **Figure 3**).

FIGURE 1

Guardianships New Filings

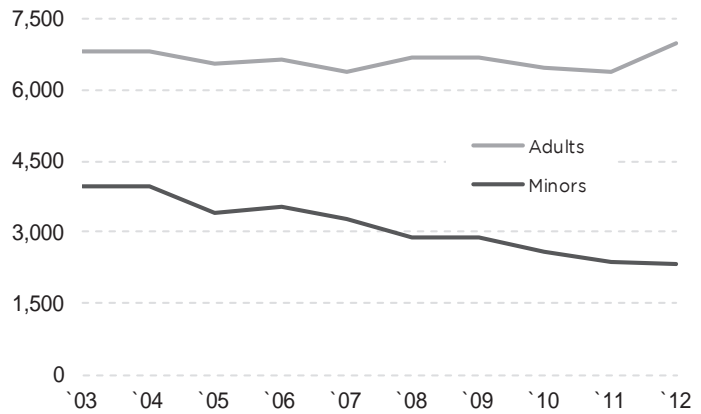


FIGURE 2

Decedents' Estates New Filings

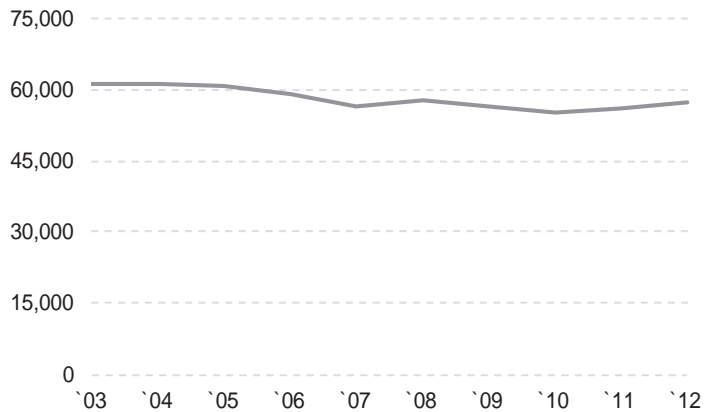


FIGURE 3

Adoptions New Filings

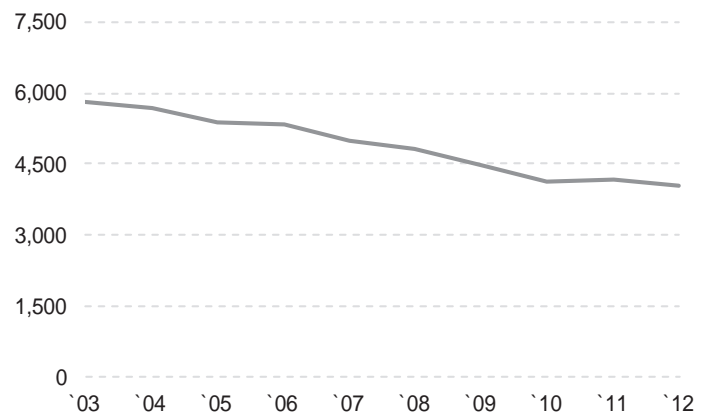


FIGURE 4

Mental Illness and Mental Retardation Cases

New Filings

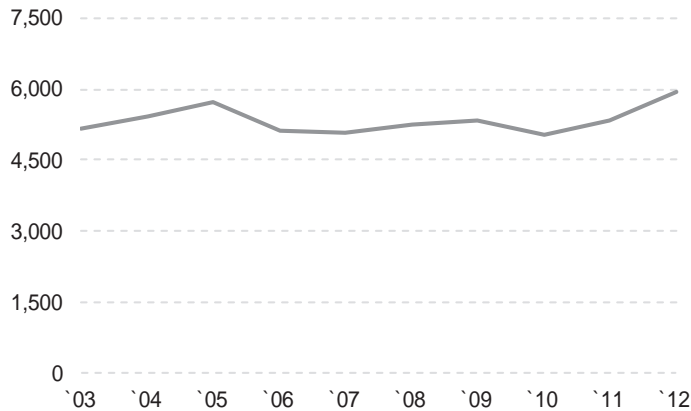


FIGURE 5

Marriage Applications Granted

New Filings

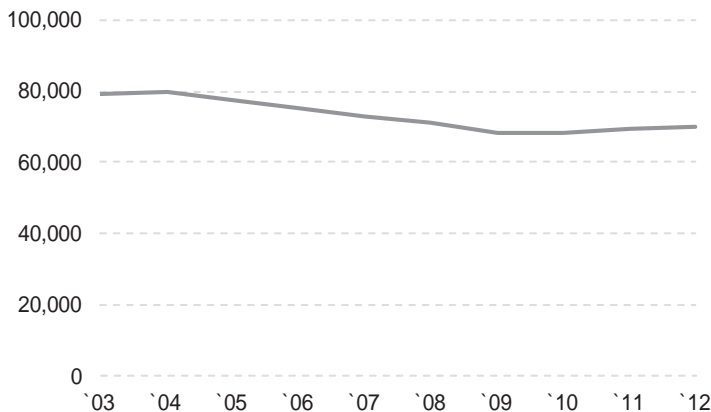


TABLE 1

Clearance Rates

All Case Types, 2012

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Adoptions	98%
Birth (Correction or Delayed Reg.)	100%
Change of Name	97%
Civil Actions	102%
Conservatorships	77%
Decedents' Estates	98%
Guardianships of Incompetents	73%
Guardianships of Minors	119%
Mental Illness and Mental Retardation	97%
Minors' Settlements	90%
Testamentary Trusts	189%
Wrongful Death	96%

Constituting a significant segment of the probate division workload are Mental Illness and Mental Retardation matters. In 2012, a total of 5,923 new matters were filed representing an increase of 11 percent over 2011 and a 17-percent increase over 2010 when 5,052 new cases were filed. (See **Figure 4**).

In 2012, probate courts granted a total of 70,058 marriage applications. This represents a 1-percent increase over 2011 and 3-percent increase over the 10-year low of 68,019 in 2009. As shown in **Figure 5**, the past three years of increases reversed the long-term declines seen between 2003 and 2009 in the number of marriage applications.

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 2012 exhibited satisfactory clearance rates in many case types, although in the Conservatorships, Guardianships of Incompetents, and Minors' Settlements categories, notably lower clearance rates were reported, which are suggestive of a growth in a backlog of these types of cases. Because the Supreme Court does not promulgate time standards for probate cases, overage rates are not calculable.



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 case type from 2003 to 2012. A variety of sizable changes in the number of new filings is seen. Overall, the state saw a 5-percent decline in the total number of new filings of juvenile cases in 2012 from 2011, largely attributable to decreases in Delinquency and Traffic cases, which make up nearly 60 percent of the juvenile courts' caseloads. Over the past 10 years, there was a general sizable decline amounting to a 10-year decrease of 30 percent. Again, significant drivers of that overall decline were decreases in Delinquency and Traffic cases, which exhibited a 10-year decrease of 30 and 51 percent, respectively. (See **Figures 1 and 2**).

FIGURE 1

Delinquency Cases New Filings

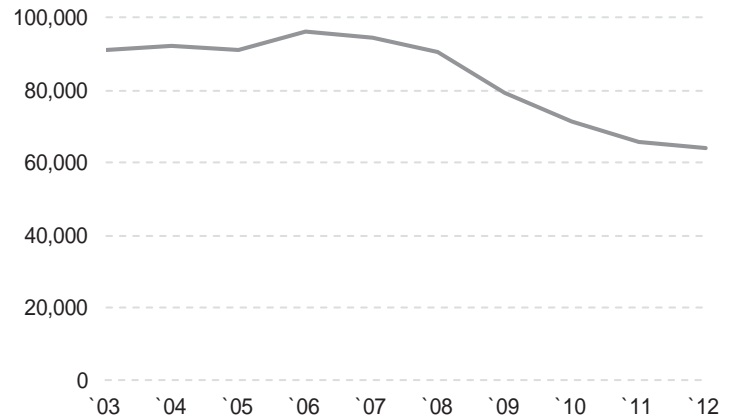


FIGURE 2

Juvenile Traffic Cases New Filings

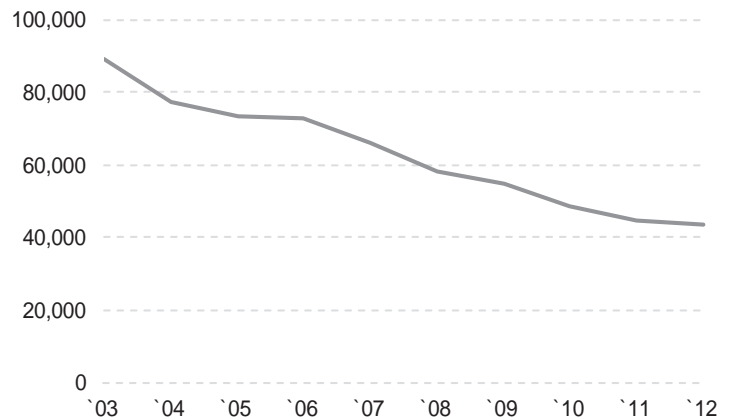


FIGURE 3

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

New Filings (plus reactivated motions for permanent custody cases)

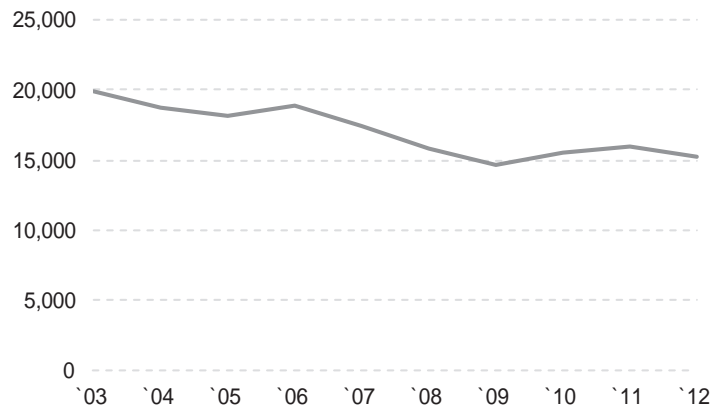


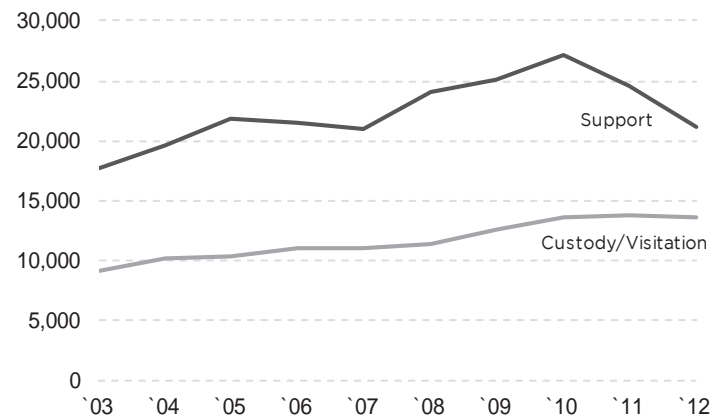
Figure 3 shows new filings of Abuse, Neglect and Dependency cases, combined with new filings and reactivations of Motions for Permanent Custody cases. The downward trend shown in this data mirrors the general decline seen nationally in the number of new filings of these case types. Notable are the upticks in 2010 and 2011 over the 10-year low in 2009. In 2012, the state saw the filing of 15,321 Abuse, Neglect and Dependency and Motions for Permanent Custody cases.

Over much of the past 10 years, sizable upward trends are seen in those case types involving child support (Support Enforcement or Modification), and custody and visitation issues (Custody/Visitation). Clearly visible, however, in Figure 4 is a recent reversal of that upward trend in the Support Enforcement or Modification case type category. In 2012, a total of 43,470 support matters were filed, representing a 3-percent decrease from 2011 and a 22-percent decline from the 10-year high of 27,143 cases filed in 2010. Although the long-term upward trend in Custody/Visitation is not as sharp, there appears to be a leveling off occurring over the past two years following a series of year-over-year increases between 2003 and 2010. Over the 10 years shown, Custody/Visitation cases rose 48 percent.

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 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 clearance rates during 2012 for each case type. The average monthly overage rates for the past five years are shown in **Table 2**. For 2012, the overage rates in 8 of the 11 case types heard in Ohio's juvenile courts 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

All Case Types, 2012

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	99%
Adult Cases	98%
All Others	98%
Custody/Visitation	98%
Delinquency	100%
Motion for Permanent Custody	101%
Parentage	109%
Support - Enforce or Modify	100%
Traffic	101%
U.I.F.S.A.	105%
Unruly	98%

TABLE 2

Overage Rates

All Case Types, Average Per Month

Case Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	21%	20%	19%	16%	17%
Adult Cases	17%	14%	15%	16%	16%
All Others	11%	10%	9%	9%	15%
Custody/Visitation	17%	16%	13%	9%	9%
Delinquency	7%	6%	6%	7%	7%
Motion for Permanent Custody	17%	17%	19%	13%	12%
Parentage	10%	7%	5%	9%	15%
Support - Enforce or Modify	4%	5%	4%	4%	6%
Traffic	23%	13%	15%	18%	14%
U.I.F.S.A.	35%	22%	18%	20%	22%
Unruly	20%	17%	16%	17%	18%



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 2012, there were 130 municipal courts with 217 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 extending across more than one county. In 2012, 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 the Montgomery County Municipal Court are part-time judgeships.

Changes in 2012

In 2012, no changes were made concerning the existence and nature of Ohio's municipal and county courts.

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 exists 216 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 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.

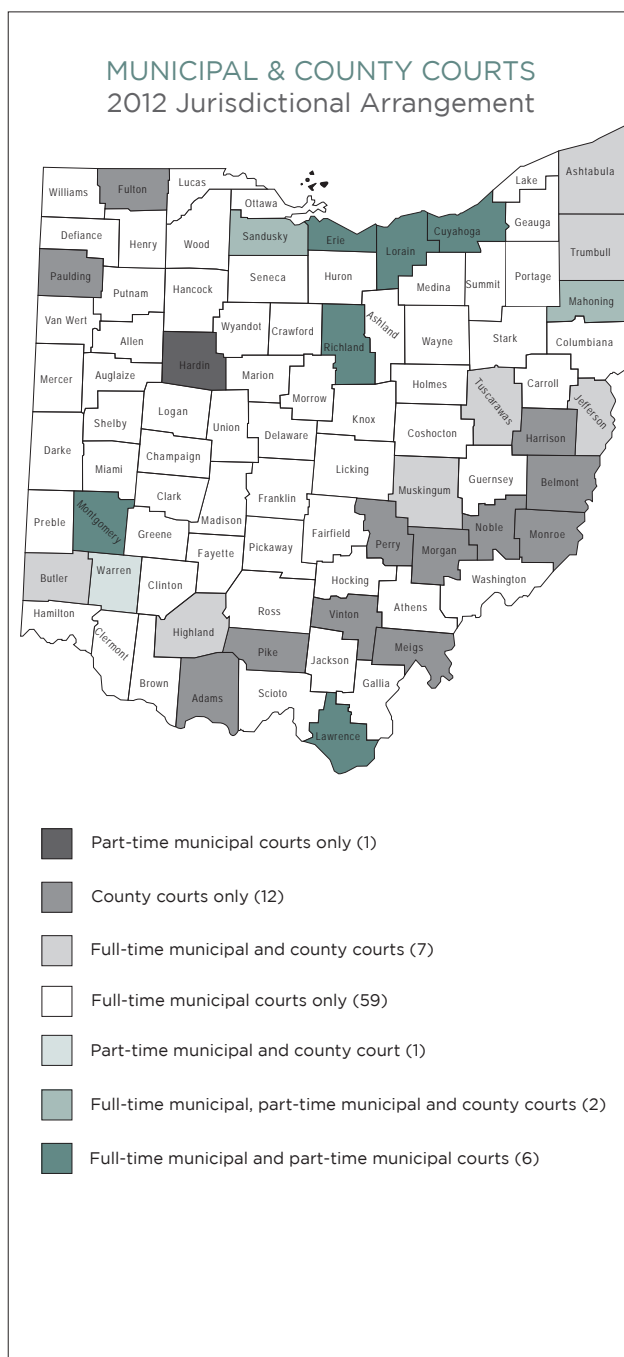


FIGURE 1

Felonies

New Filings

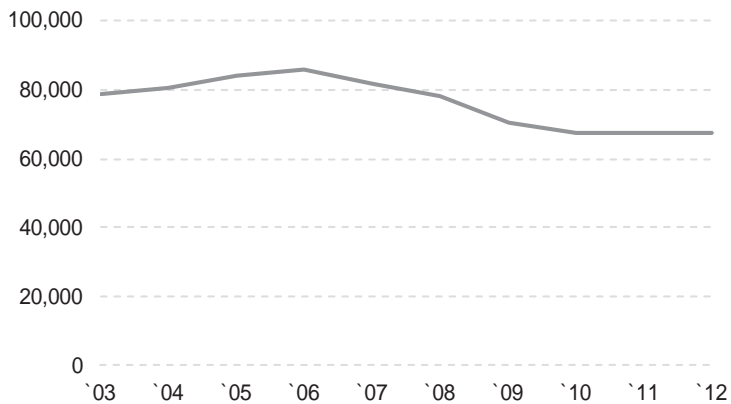


FIGURE 2

Misdemeanors

New Filings

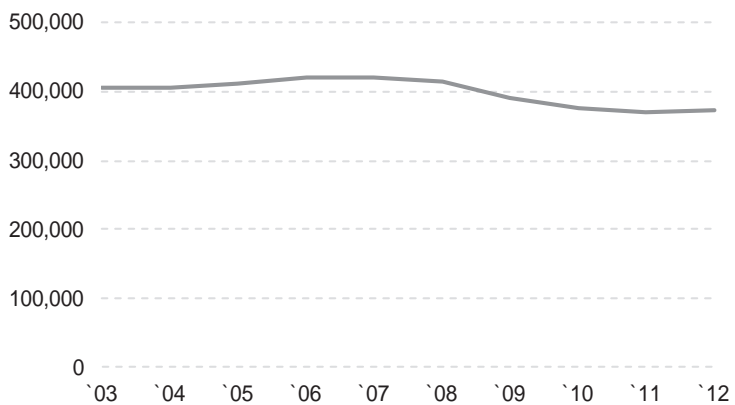
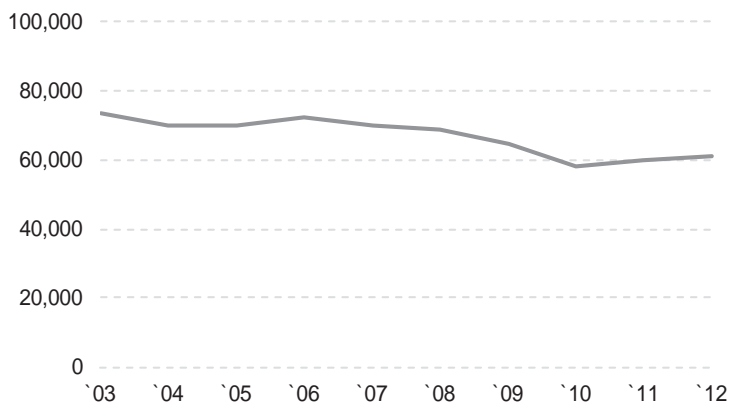


FIGURE 3

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 generally decreased during the past 10 years. Since 2008, the number of new case filings has decreased by 16 percent. However, certain case types experienced substantial growth during periods over the past 10 years.

Felony cases, in which municipal and county courts conduct preliminary matters only, exhibited a notable shift in their growth rate over the 10-year period shown in **Figure 1**. From 2003 to 2006, the rate of increase was fairly sharp. Beginning in 2006, however, that trend reversed. The 67,219 Felony cases filed in 2012 represent a 22-percent decline from the 10-year high in 2006 when 85,695 cases were filed.

Misdemeanor cases, constituting a sizable 17 percent of the courts’ total caseload, experienced a slight downward trend over the past 10 years. A total of 373,137 new filings were reported in 2012, which represents a 1-percent increase over 2011. The 10-year high of slightly more than 419,000 cases were filed in 2007. (See **Figure 2**).

O.V.I. cases exhibit an overall downward trend over the past 10 years, although in 2012, the courts experienced two upticks over the last two years of 2 and 3 percent respectively, following four years of continued decreases. (See **Figure 3**).

Other Traffic cases (all moving violations except for O.V.I.), constitute 58 percent of the municipal and county courts' total caseload filed in 2012. Other Traffic cases have, on the whole, trended downward from 2003 through 2012, with a particularly sharp decline between 2003 and 2004, and consistent year-over-year decreases between 2006 and 2011. The total of 1,249,208 new Other Traffic case filings in 2012 represent a 6-percent increase over 2011, but remain 22 percent fewer than the 10-year high seen in 2003 when 1,598,804 new cases were filed. (See **Figure 4**).

Small Claims case filings trended downward over the past 10 years, with particularly sharp declines each year beginning in 2008. The 56,875 new Small Claims cases filed in 2012 represent a decrease of 8 percent from 2011 and 36 percent fewer than 10 years ago. (See **Figure 5**).

New filings of Contracts cases, which in 2012 constituted about 9 percent the courts' total caseloads, demonstrated considerable volatility over the last 10 years. There was significant growth in Contracts cases between 2003 and 2008, but for the past four years the volume of new cases dropped markedly. In 2012, a total 187,864 new cases were filed, representing a 3-percent decrease from 2011 and a 31-percent decrease from the 10-year high in 2008. (See **Figure 6**).

FIGURE 4

Other Traffic Cases
New Filings

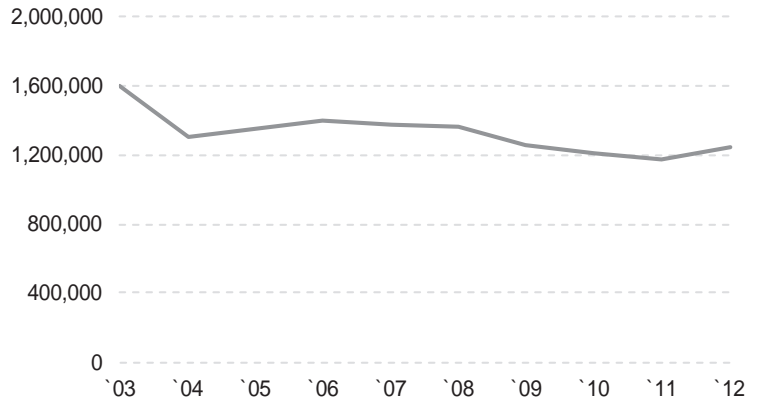


FIGURE 5

Small Claims Cases
New Filings

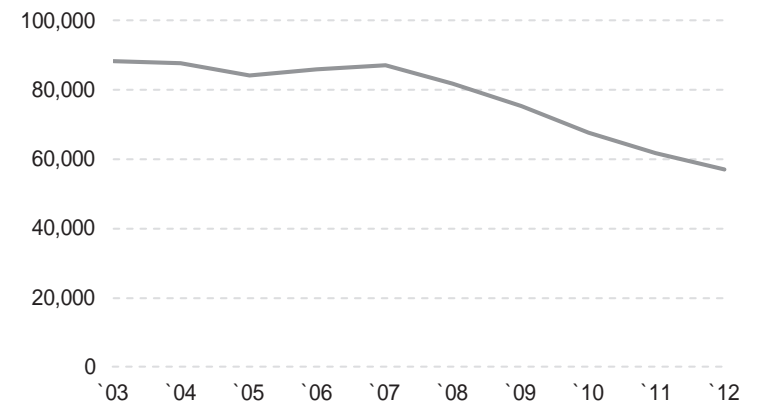


FIGURE 6

Contracts Cases
New Filings

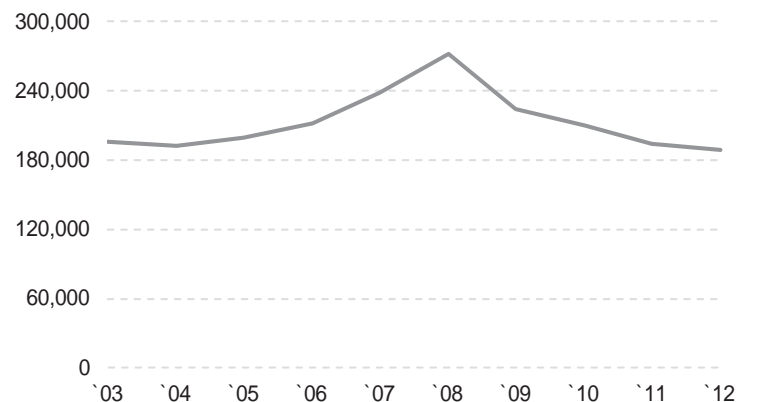


TABLE 1

Clearance Rates

All Case Types, 2012

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Contracts	99%
F.E.D.	102%
Other Civil	166%
Pers. Inj./Prop. Damage	95%
Small Claims	101%
Felonies	100%
Misdemeanors	100%
O.V.I.	98%
Other Traffic	100%

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 each case type in 2012, except Personal Injury/Property Damage are all near or equal to the 100-percent target. Overage rates are displayed in **Table 2**. The overage rate for Felonies, at 17 percent (a slight increase over the 2011 monthly average) is the only overage rate in double digits in 2012.

TABLE 2

Overage Rates

All Case Types, Average Per Month

Case Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Contracts	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%
F.E.D.	17%	7%	6%	5%	5%
Other Civil	1%	1%	1%	2%	6%
Pers. Inj./Prop. Damage	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Small Claims	11%	8%	8%	9%	9%
Felonies	12%	12%	14%	15%	17%
Misdemeanors	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%
O.V.I.	4%	5%	5%	5%	6%
Other Traffic	2%	2%	3%	4%	4%

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 was 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 are included to form a complete accounting of dispositions. Accordingly, the trial rate shown in Figure 8 is substantially smaller than what was previously reported.

FIGURE 7

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

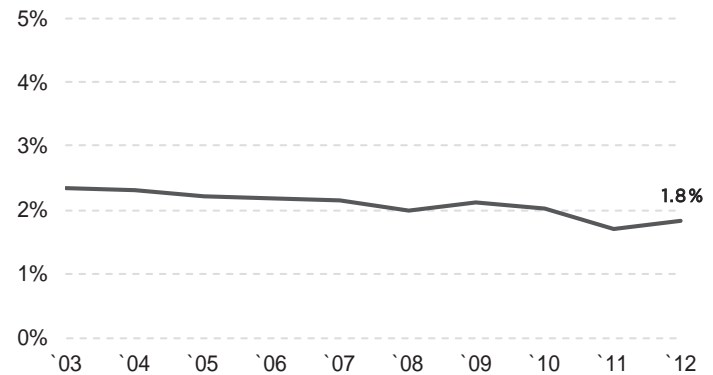


FIGURE 8

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

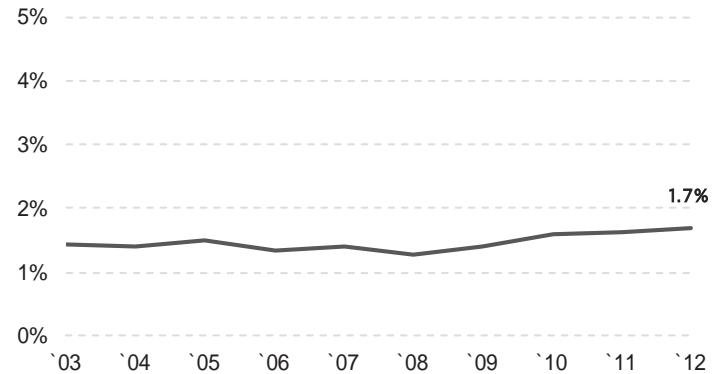
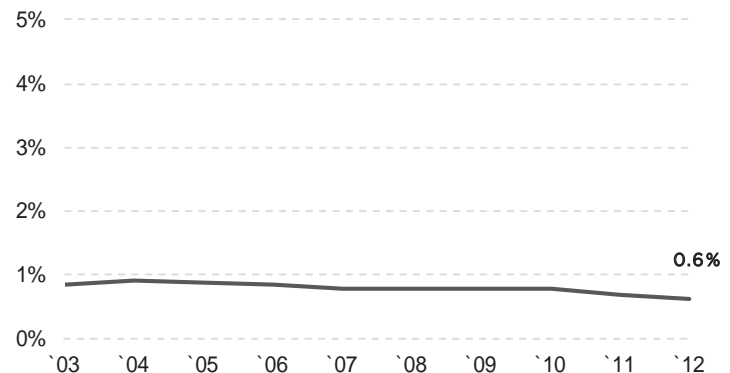


FIGURE 9

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





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 quarterly caseload statistical reports 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 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

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Administrative Appeals	1,238	1,219	1,054	1,166	1,192	1,600	1,300	1,306	1,304	1,263
Criminal	72,261	73,822	77,042	82,370	81,785	79,240	71,490	69,014	67,040	66,552
Foreclosures	57,083	59,041	63,996	79,059	83,230	85,773	89,061	85,483	71,553	70,469
Other Civil	44,138	46,813	51,780	53,635	65,822	72,121	69,004	62,859	56,493	52,251
Other Torts	25,314	23,890	23,830	21,289	19,480	18,663	18,351	17,228	16,596	16,423
Product Liability	396	436	928	348	320	290	208	228	185	203
Professional Tort	2,683	2,250	1,908	1,502	1,483	1,411	1,368	1,422	1,230	1,242
Workers' Compensation	8,263	8,623	8,814	8,065	8,365	7,449	7,678	7,203	6,780	6,530
Total	211,376	216,094	229,352	247,434	261,677	266,547	258,460	244,743	221,181	214,933

Courts of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division

New Filings

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
All Others	2,763	2,868	1,443	1,258	996	776	486	499	520	593
Change of Custody	1,067	991	939	661	611	562	448	433	418	492
Domestic Violence	16,219	17,447	18,255	18,219	18,862	19,457	20,551	19,860	19,189	18,194
Marriage Disso. w/Children	8,870	8,451	8,213	8,171	7,905	7,800	7,780	8,409	8,198	7,759
Marriage Disso. w/o Children	11,148	11,170	10,891	10,886	10,274	10,061	10,280	10,618	10,364	10,034
Marriage Term. w/Children	16,857	16,239	15,767	16,195	15,125	14,653	14,726	14,644	14,218	13,415
Marriage Term. w/o Children	13,339	13,407	13,493	13,961	13,457	13,085	12,935	13,375	13,586	13,228
Parentage	1,653	1,676	1,570	1,530	1,747	2,045	2,103	2,064	1,831	1,837
Support - Enforce or Modify	5,194	5,134	5,130	3,731	3,444	3,204	2,534	2,251	2,034	1,704
U.I.F.S.A.	2,049	2,694	1,903	1,919	1,477	1,291	1,512	1,047	995	1,129
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	368	312	284	313	259	153	108	127	146	141
Total	79,527	80,389	77,888	76,844	74,157	73,087	73,463	73,327	71,499	68,526

APPENDIX

Courts of Common Pleas, Probate Division

New Filings

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoptions	5,817	5,663	5,375	5,323	4,999	4,825	4,487	4,120	4,159	4,060
Birth (Correc./Delayed Reg.)	1,050	1,017	1,143	1,217	1,374	1,159	1,126	1,086	988	1,157
Change of Name	5,130	4,939	5,031	5,151	5,154	5,151	5,324	5,514	5,491	5,880
Civil Actions	2,722	2,841	2,721	2,704	2,437	2,332	2,439	2,402	2,462	2,581
Conservatorships	121	84	85	96	86	111	95	91	76	122
Decedents' Estates	61,115	61,196	60,596	58,932	56,487	57,573	56,686	55,199	56,188	57,241
Guardianships of Incompetents	6,797	6,832	6,562	6,646	6,386	6,685	6,668	6,488	6,393	6,993
Guardianships of Minors	3,980	3,950	3,407	3,551	3,291	2,898	2,896	2,608	2,372	2,329
Mental Illness/Retardation	5,173	5,409	5,741	5,139	5,072	5,253	5,360	5,052	5,360	5,923
Minors' Settlements	2,082	1,917	1,916	1,836	1,706	1,535	1,506	1,345	1,287	1,349
Testamentary Trusts	980	782	577	571	499	527	552	530	462	475
Wrongful Death	371	368	554	455	530	572	1,039	717	628	688
Total	95,338	94,998	93,708	91,621	88,021	88,621	88,178	85,152	85,866	88,798

Courts of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division

New Filings (plus reactivated motions for permanent custody cases)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	16,669	15,132	14,827	15,423	14,934	13,846	12,727	13,896	13,891	13,103
Adult Cases	6,111	5,659	5,972	6,111	6,454	5,913	5,611	5,417	5,926	5,715
All Others	2,068	1,854	1,881	2,179	2,395	2,090	2,228	2,634	2,930	2,976
Custody/Visitation	9,161	10,128	10,269	11,021	11,064	11,426	12,609	13,596	13,780	13,562
Delinquency	91,112	92,458	91,065	96,127	94,466	90,509	79,527	71,768	66,022	63,913
Motion for Permanent Custody	3,278	3,587	3,374	3,452	2,466	2,003	1,946	1,677	2,053	2,218
Parentage	13,127	13,289	13,623	13,674	11,949	9,605	9,390	10,806	8,998	7,746
Support - Enforce or Modify	17,720	19,603	21,890	21,436	21,044	24,017	25,092	27,143	24,599	21,132
Traffic	89,499	77,377	73,613	73,208	66,411	58,495	54,917	48,504	44,834	43,470
U.I.F.S.A.	1,275	1,033	876	898	1,003	1,008	996	1,277	1,322	965
Unruly	17,293	17,747	18,135	18,084	17,199	16,971	14,275	13,103	12,104	11,756
Total	267,313	257,867	255,525	261,613	249,385	235,883	219,318	209,821	196,459	186,556

Municipal and County Courts

New Filings

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Contracts	195,072	192,119	200,173	211,390	238,246	271,982	224,180	210,470	193,580	187,864
F.E.D.	104,393	110,579	115,854	114,642	116,284	116,173	108,325	107,040	112,153	111,919
Felonies	78,395	80,583	83,864	85,695	81,434	77,859	70,647	67,190	67,219	67,175
Misdemeanors	403,602	406,311	410,236	418,691	419,601	415,287	389,726	374,637	368,480	373,137
O.V.I.	73,504	69,927	70,015	72,475	70,062	68,874	64,704	58,279	59,806	60,959
Other Civil	142,221	153,727	144,153	131,895	127,615	138,415	122,938	106,610	79,216	23,348
Other Traffic	1,598,804	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
PI/PD	17,955	15,330	12,013	8,307	7,454	6,521	6,607	6,334	5,270	5,842
Small Claims	88,462	87,538	84,205	86,164	87,269	81,901	75,253	67,824	61,733	56,875
Total	2,702,408	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

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