

**Table 2.8**  
**U.S. District Courts. Product Liability Cases Filed by Nature of Suit**

Fiscal Year	Total	Contract Actions	Torts to Land	Property Damage	Personal Injury				
					Airline	Marine	Motor Vehicle	Asbestos	Other
1988	18,054	455	80	434	174	108	649	11,812	4,342
1989	13,672	401	85	406	190	73	643	7,818	4,056
1990	19,621	383	65	334	191	277	589	13,809	3,973
1991	11,691	324	50	365	111	55	533	5,596	4,657
1992	13,159	286	72	364	114	75	567	5,131	6,550
1993	19,774	309	81	425	95	65	630	5,683	12,486
1994	22,988	233	83	384	115	42	534	6,518	15,079
1995	28,226	249	64	366	155	53	566	6,916	19,857
1996	28,329	277	56	412	135	55	550	7,289	19,555
1997	33,649	294	60	439	161	43	537	7,143	24,972
1998	27,775	293	61	535	177	68	438	9,111	17,092
1999	19,664	304	60	519	163	48	433	8,948	9,189
2000	15,318	350	72	468	164	54	421	7,187	6,602
2001	13,206	280	94	525	118	39	654	5,041	6,455
2002	41,934	291	83	425	120	42	564	26,818	13,591
2003	22,509	314	90	494	101	34	609	1,562	19,305

NOTE: These filings increased significantly between 1990 and 1997, primarily due to a rise in the number of breast implant cases and because some of these cases were reported as new filings more than one time. (For additional information refer to the civil section of the 1999 Annual Report of the Director.) In 2001, product liability cases reached their lowest level since 1992 as a result of continued declines in asbestos and breast implant cases, but more than tripled in 2002 due to a large number of plaintiffs seeking relief in the expectation that new laws may be enacted making it more difficult to file cases related to injuries involving asbestos. A significant increase in filings in which plaintiffs are seeking relief due to the injurious side effects of the anti-cholesterol drug Baycol also continues to contribute to the increase in product liability filings.

Source: Personal injury product liability data from Statistical Table C-2, contract actions, torts to land, and property damage Table S-7 (1990-1993) and Table S-10 (1994-2003).