

Arizona Judicial Branch

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2014



Fiscal Year 2014 Caseload and Financial Highlights

Statewide

- The Arizona Judicial Branch comprised 1.25% of the overall state budget.
- Arizona's courts handled an average of 8,477 new cases each business day.
- Arizona's courts handled an average of 45 Jury Trials and an average of 254 Non-Jury Trials each week.
- Arizona's courts reduced their pending caseload - cases awaiting a final disposition - by 129,915 cases compared to the 2013 fiscal year.
- Over 79,000 defendants report to Arizona's Adult Probation Departments.
- Statewide, there were 2,127,823 case filings in FY 2014 in the Arizona Courts (Appellate, Superior, Tax, Justice and Municipal Courts) resulting in 9,742 more filings compared to FY 2013, an increase of 0.5%. That equates to an average of 8,477 cases filed among the Arizona courts every working day.
- Statewide, case filings increased by 0.5%, while revenue decreased by 1.7%. The trend in decreasing revenue continues to be driven by the overall decline in both criminal and civil traffic in the limited jurisdiction courts.

General Jurisdiction

- Superior Court case filings increased by 0.6% statewide. In Maricopa county, filings increased by 1.8%, while Pima county and the rural counties reported a decrease of 3.2% and 0.7%, respectively. The statewide increase was driven by increased filings in the Criminal and Domestic Relations case type categories, while the remaining categories experienced a decreased filing.
- Superior Court mental health filings decreased by 2.8% from FY 2013 to FY 2014. During the same period, terminations of mental health cases increased by 29.3%.
- Within Superior Court, the case type categories with the most significant case filing increase include Felony (8.8%), other domestic relations (7.7%), Tort-Motor Vehicle (9.6%), adoption (9.1%) and juvenile dependency (8.0%).
- Superior Court criminal jury trials increased by 14.2% in FY 2014 when compared with FY 2013
- In FY 2014, juvenile dependency filings increased by 8.0% compared to FY 2013 and 82.7% when compared to FY 2011. During the same period, juvenile delinquency filings decreased by 10.1% and 32.5%, respectively.

Limited Jurisdiction

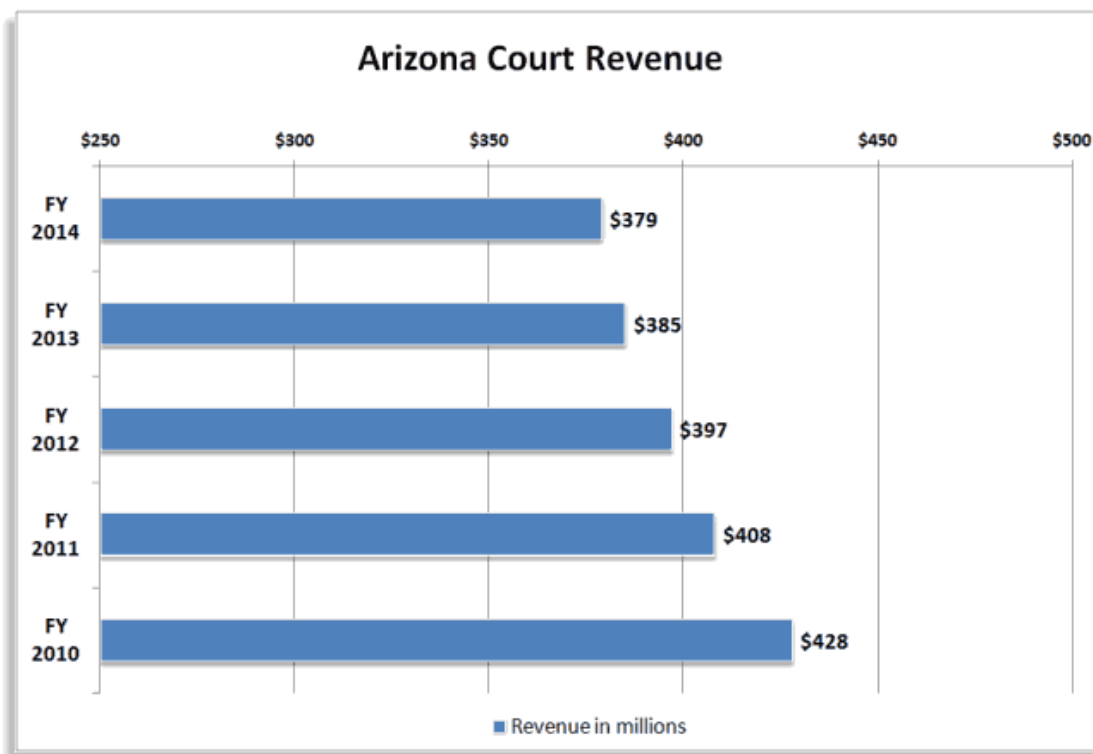
- Statewide, civil traffic case filings account for 56.5% of all case filings in Justice and Municipal Courts. Civil traffic filings decreased by 3,990, or 0.4% from FY 2013 to FY 2014.
- There were 66,831 DUI charges filed in Justice and Municipal Courts. This represents a decrease of 4,507 case filings from FY 2013, or a 6.3% decrease. (Case filings in Justice and Municipal Courts are primarily counted by charge, not by defendant).
- Justice Courts reduced the pending caseload by 5.4%.
- Over 859,000 criminal and civil traffic filings were filed into municipal courts across the state during the 2014 fiscal year. These filing types make up about three quarters of the municipal court cases.

Revenue & Expenditure Summary

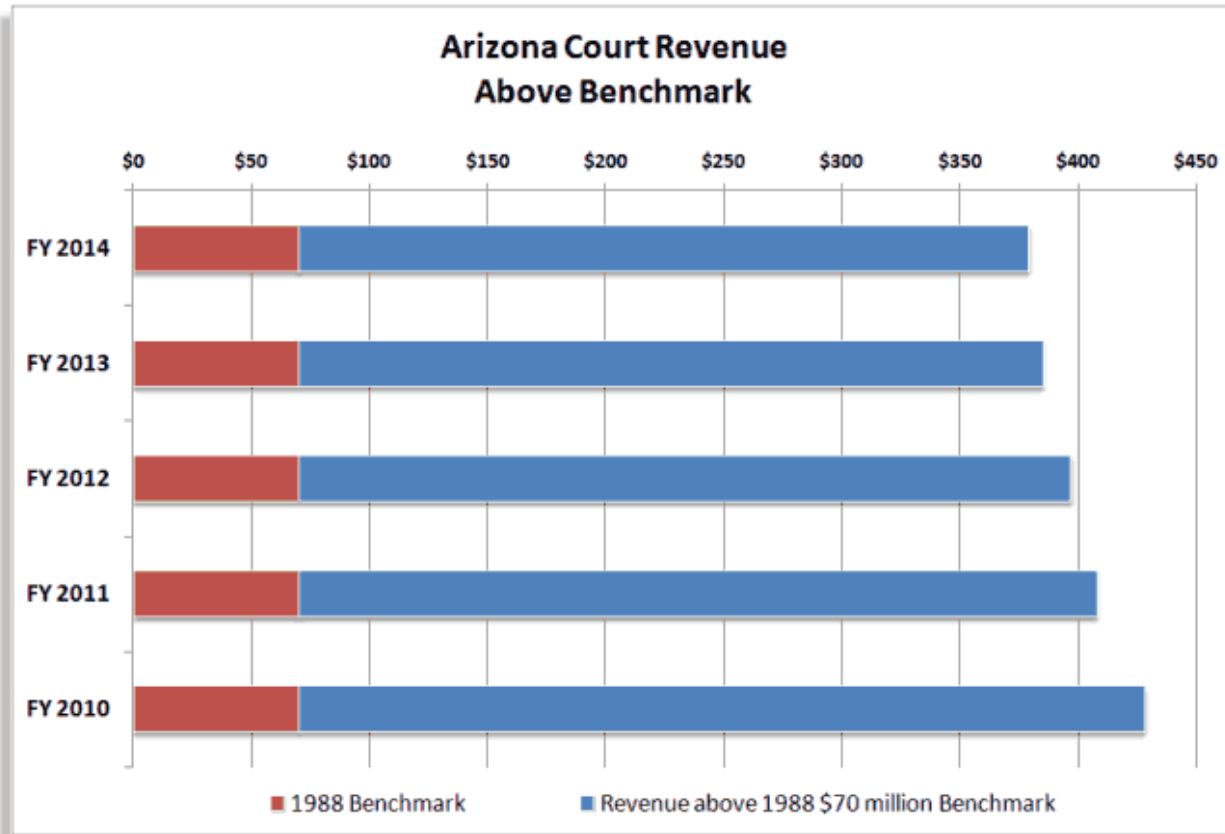
Revenue

- Total statewide court revenue decreased 1.7% from \$385.4 million in FY 2013 to \$378.7 million in FY 2014. The decrease in revenue was driven by the overall decline in both criminal and civil traffic in the limited jurisdiction courts. *See Graph A.*
- Graph B represents the trend in increased court revenue above the \$70 million benchmark established in FY 1988. Since that time, courts have collected approximately \$4.437 billion in additional revenue. *See Graph B.*
- Of the total court system revenue, the state received 44.3%, counties received 30.5% and cities and towns received 25.3%. *See Graph C.*
- 48.1% of total court revenue was generated by municipal courts, 28.1% by justice courts, 22.6% by Superior Court and 1.2% by appellate courts. *See Graph D.*
- Total restitution payments for victims collected by Courts increased by 9.5% from \$17.8 million in FY 2013 to \$19.5 million in FY 2014.

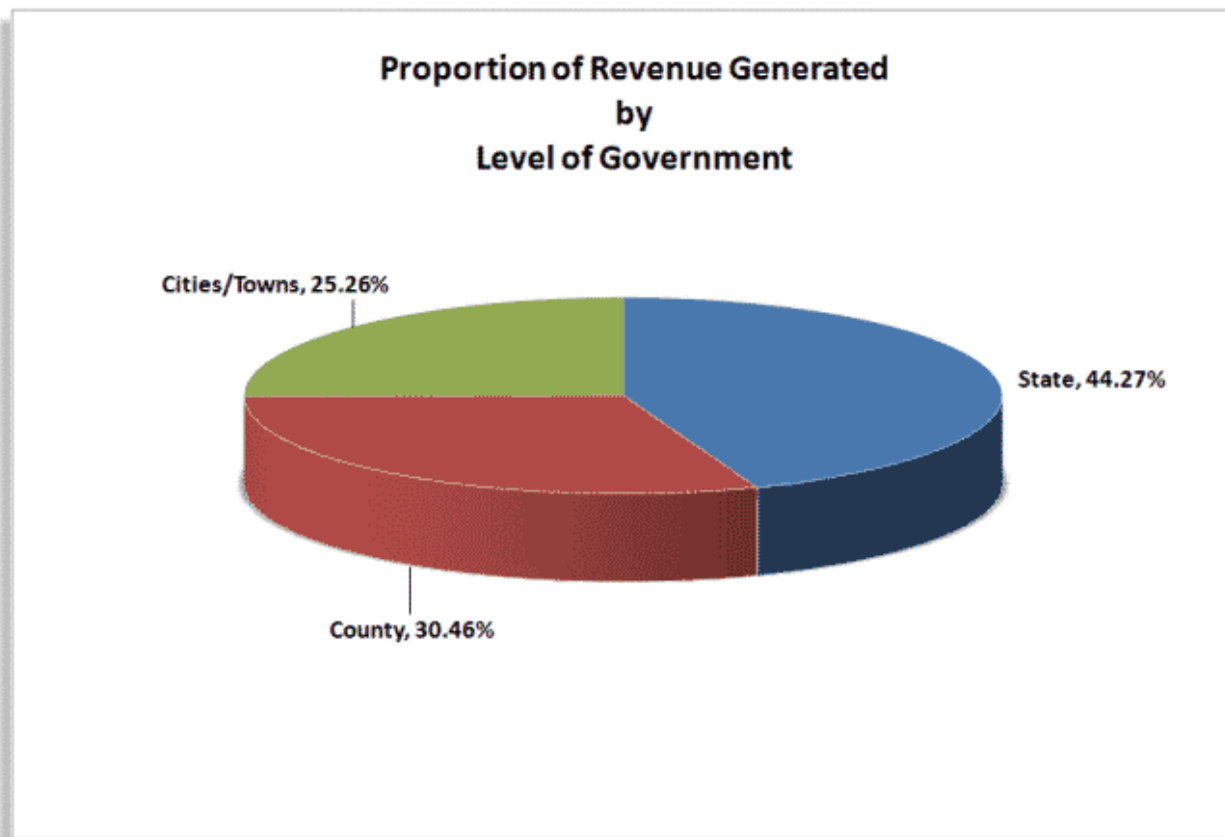
Graph A



Graph B

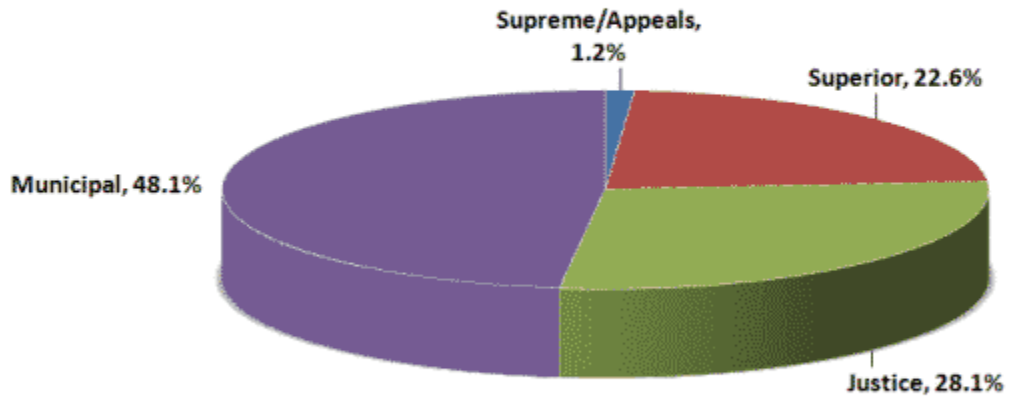


Graph C



Graph D

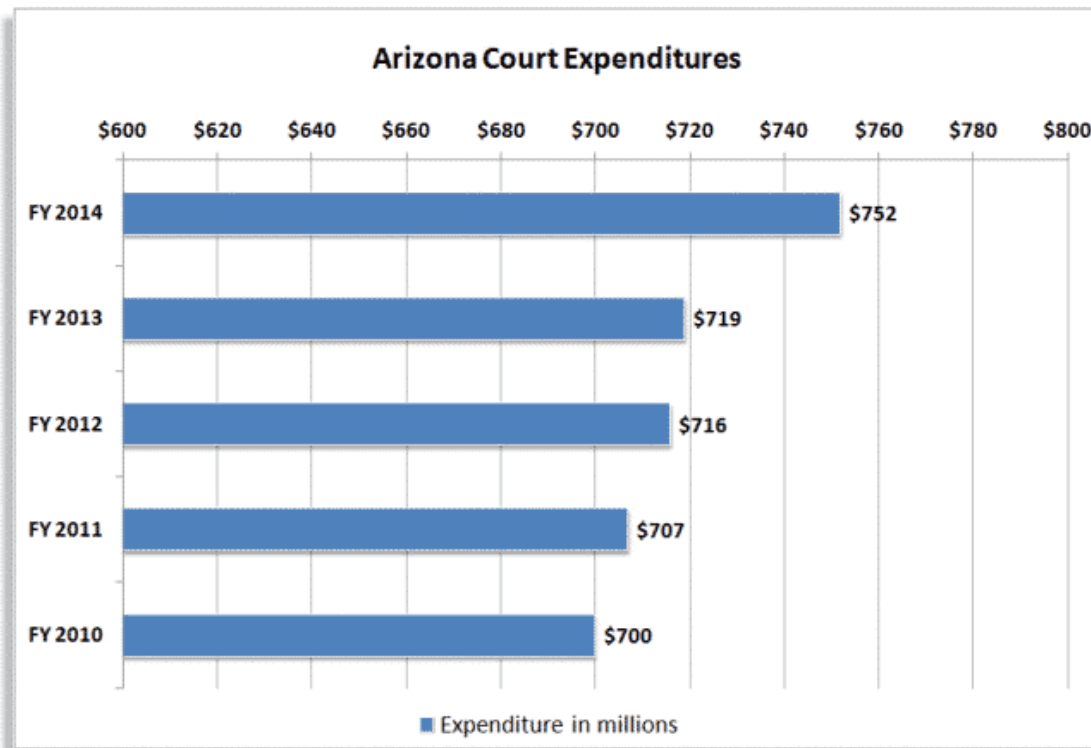
Proportion of Revenue Generated by Court Level



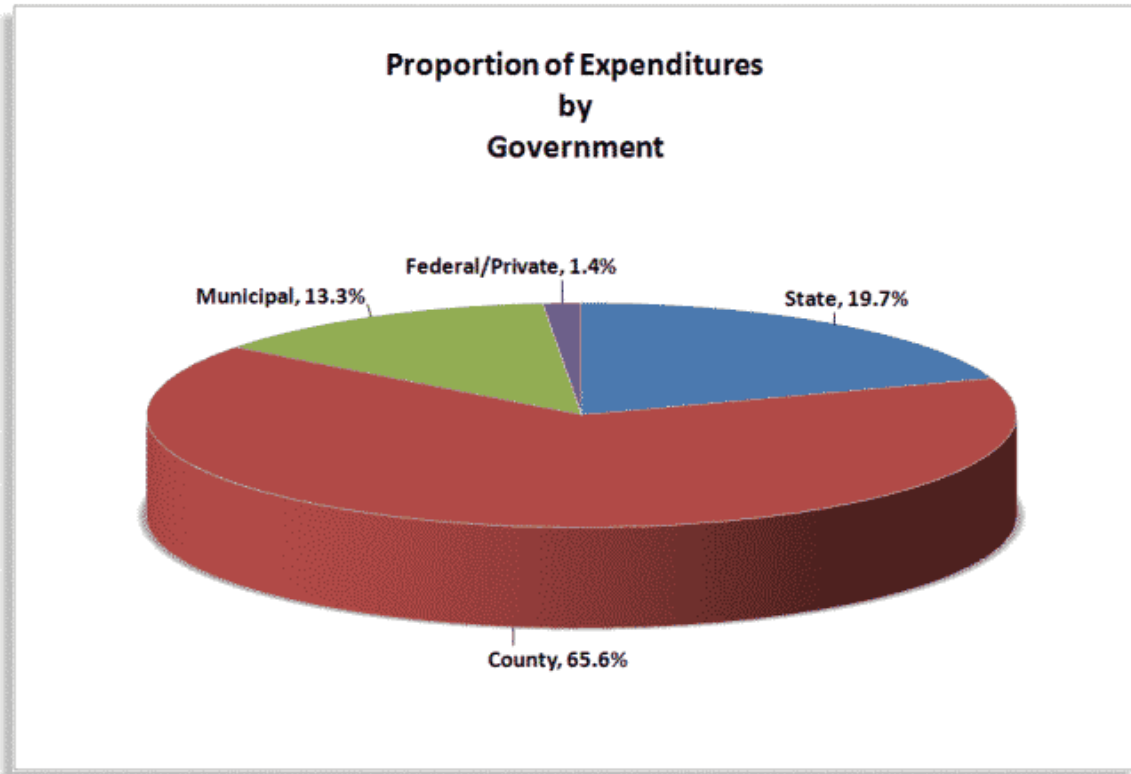
Expenditures

- Total statewide court expenditures increased 4.6% from \$719.0 million in FY 2013 to \$752.4 million in FY 2014. *See Graph A.*
- 65.6% of the total funds spent by the court system were from the counties, 19.7% from the state, 13.3% from cities and towns, and 1.4% from federal and private sources. *See Graph B.*
- 69.1% of total court expenditures were in Superior Court (including probation), 13.3% in municipal courts, 10.6% at the appellate level and 7.0% in the justice courts *See Graph C.*

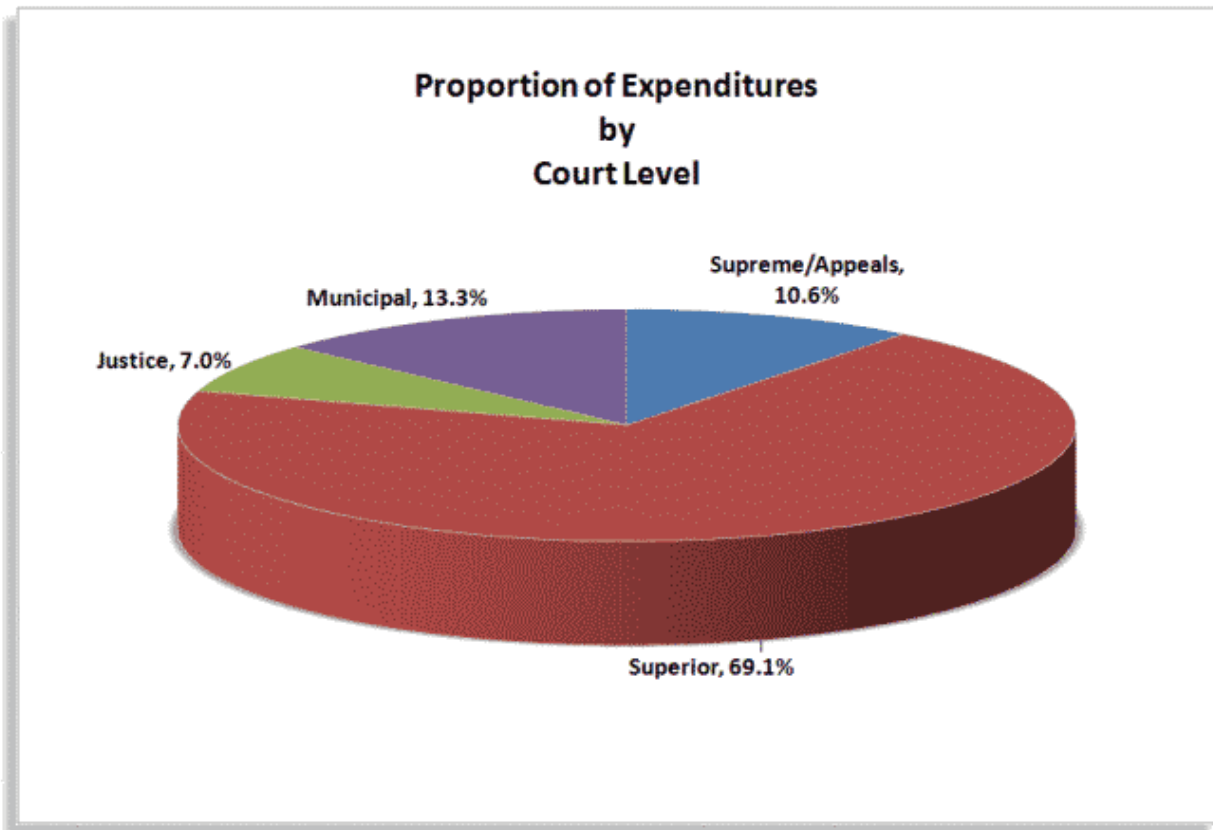
Graph A



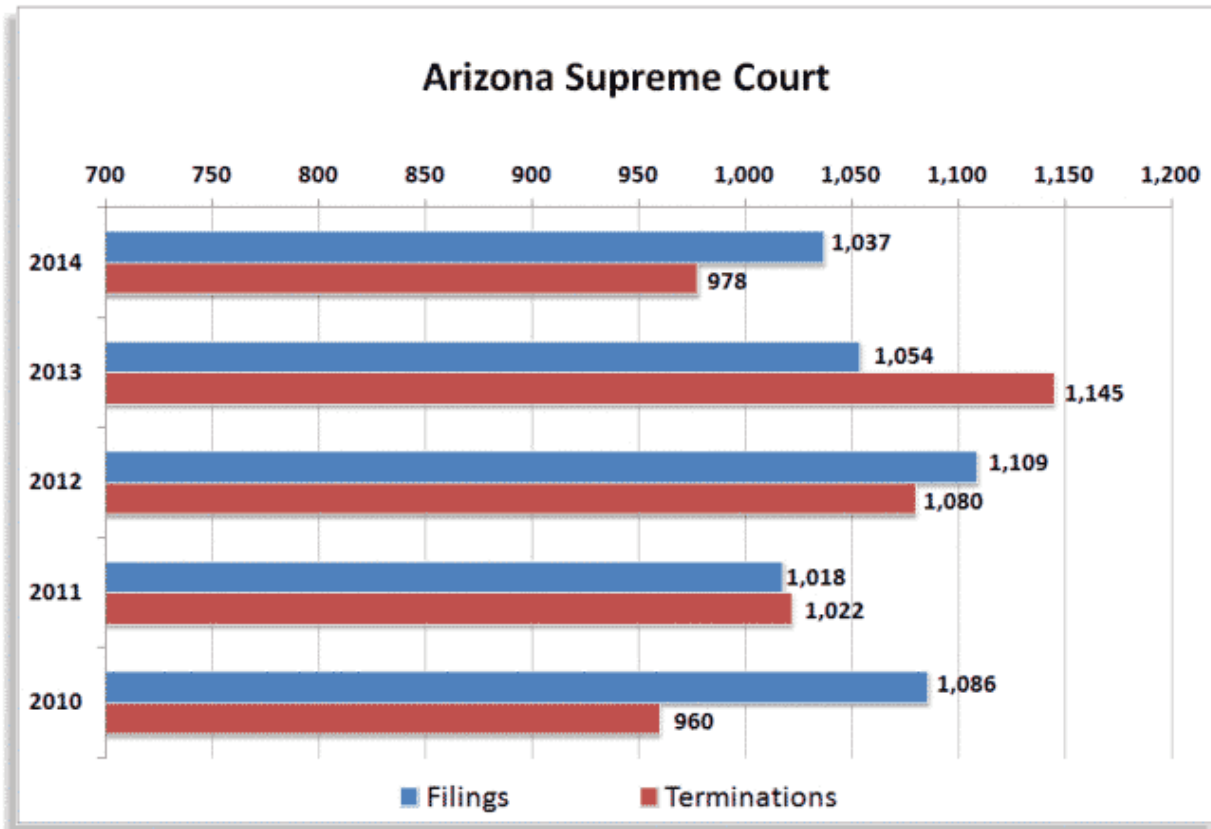
Graph B



Graph C

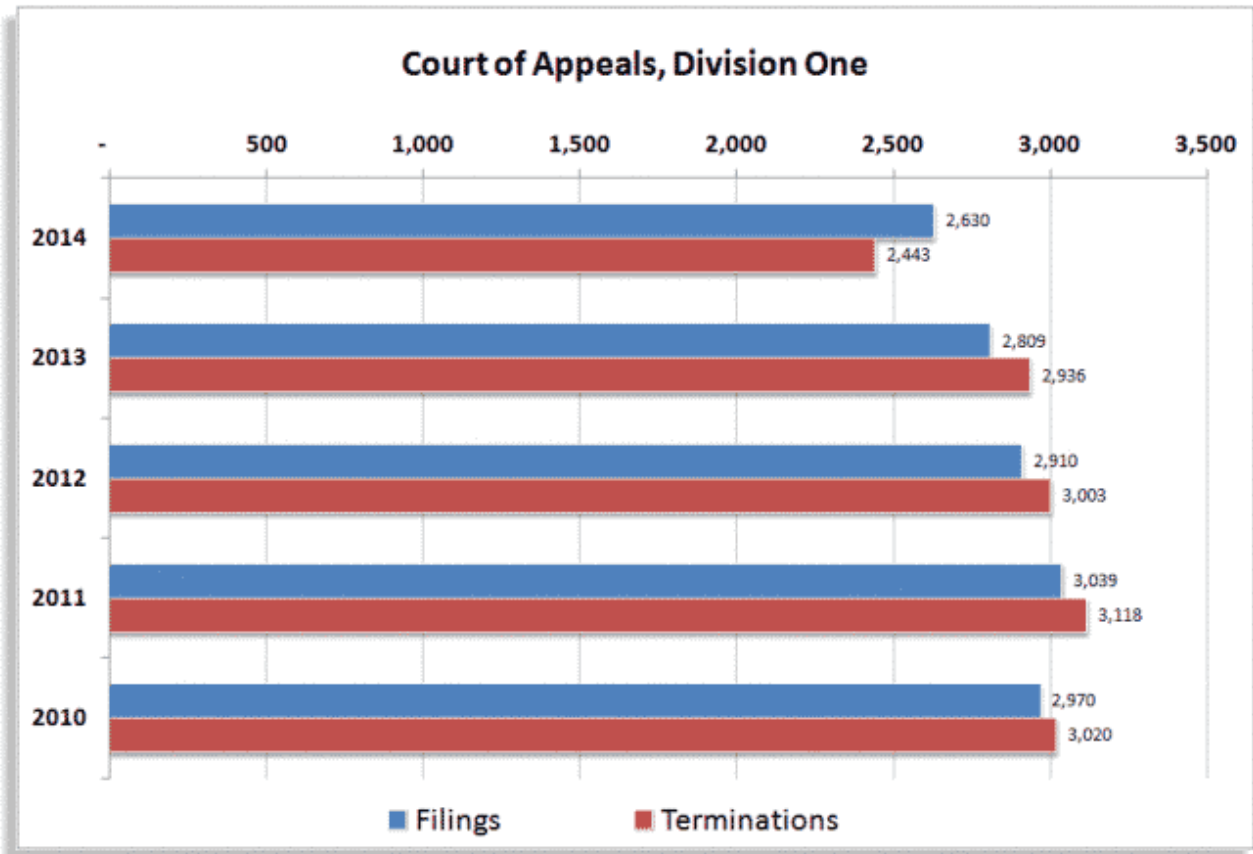


Arizona Supreme Court Case Filings Chart



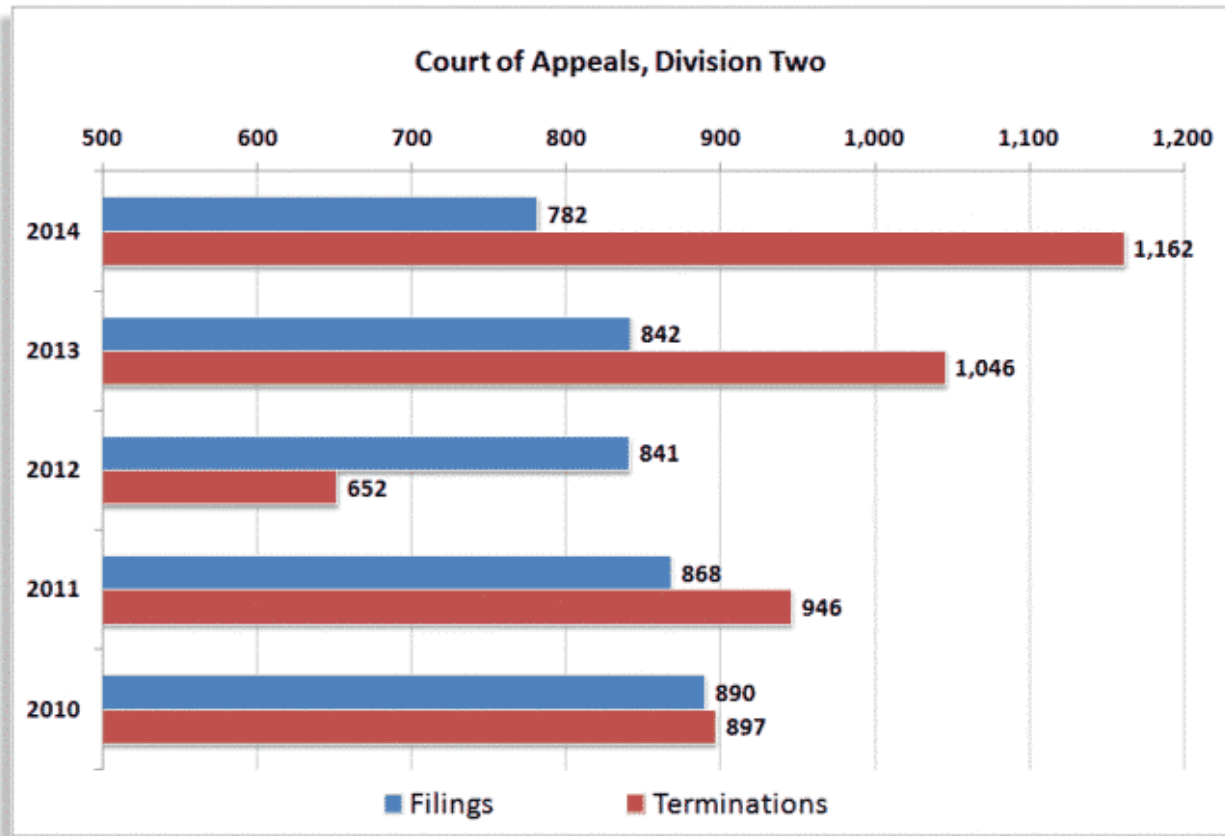
- Supreme Court case filings decreased by 1.6% from FY2013 to FY 2014.
- Cases terminated by the court in FY 2014 decreased 14.6% over case terminations in FY 2013.
- The difference between filings and terminations resulted in a pending caseload increase of 18.6%. There were 334 pending cases on July 1, 2013, compared to 396 pending cases on June 30, 2014.

Court of Appeals, Division One Case Filings Chart



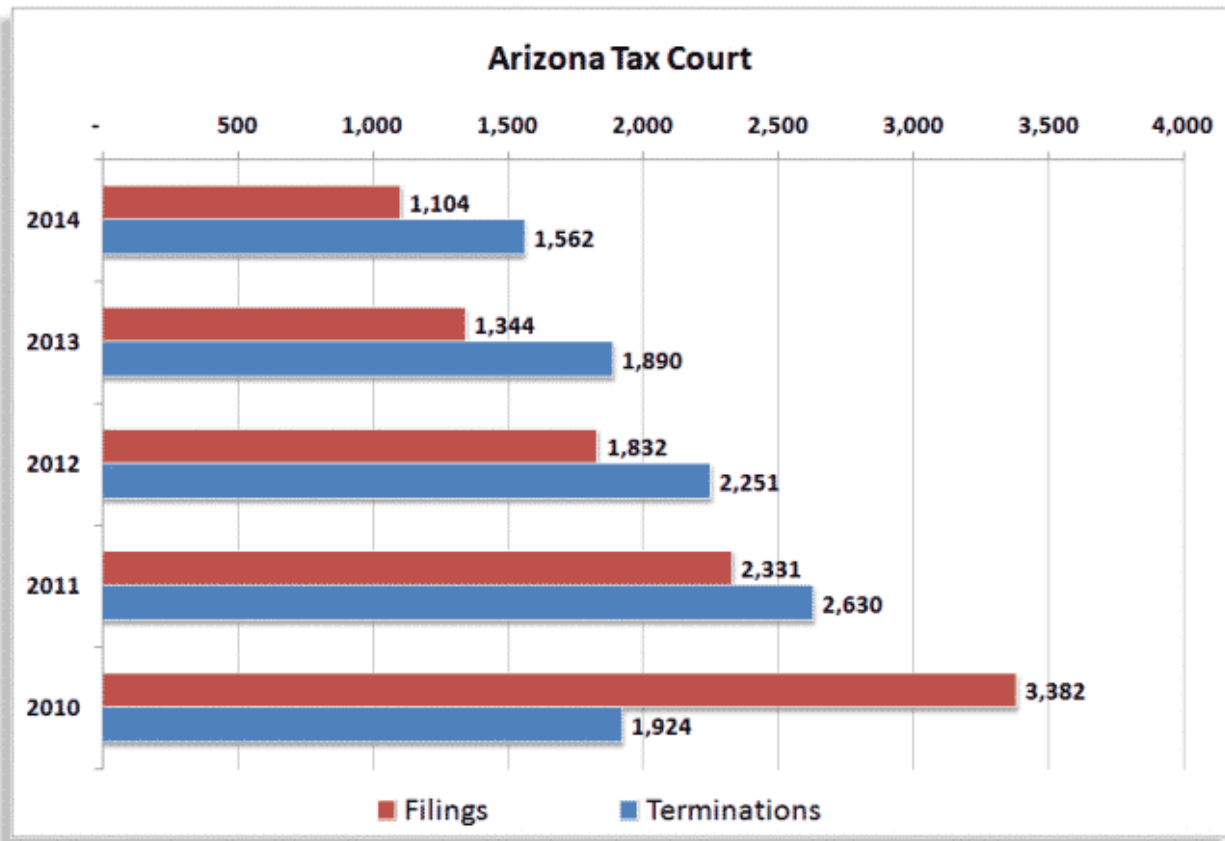
- Total filings during FY 2014 represented a 6.4% decrease from FY 2013.
- Case terminations decreased by 16.8% in FY 2014.
- Pending caseload increased by 2.8%, from 2,051 on July 1, 2013 to 2,108 on June 30, 2014.

Court of Appeals, Division Two Case Filings Chart



- Total filings decreased 7.1% from 842 in FY 2013 to 782 in FY 2014. Criminal filings, the largest category, comprising 30.7% of total filings decreased 4.0% from 250 in FY 2013 to 240 in FY 2014.
- Case terminations increased by 11.1% in FY 2014.
- Pending caseload decreased by 24.6%, from 870 on July 1, 2013 to 656 on June 30, 2014.

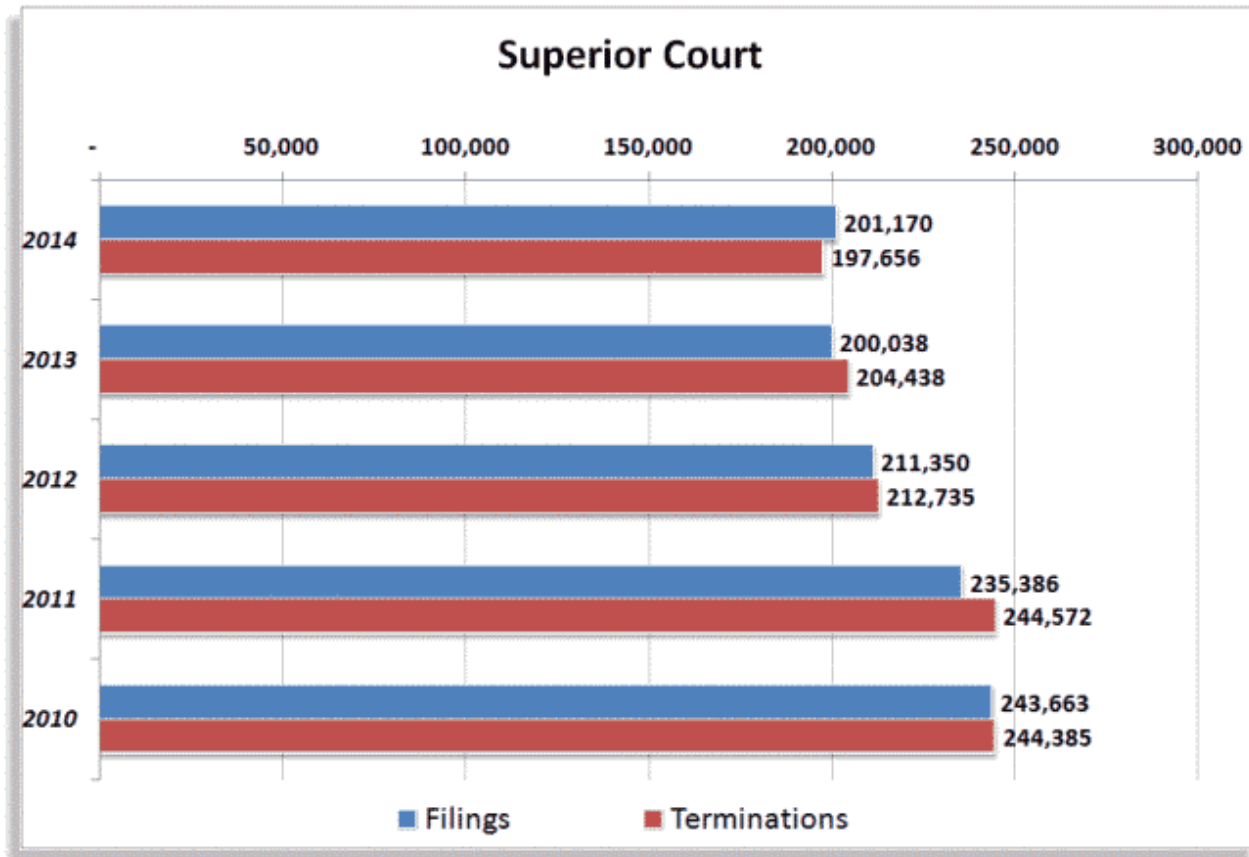
Arizona Tax Court Case Filings Chart



The Arizona Tax Court serves as the statewide venue for all civil actions involving a tax, impost, or assessment.

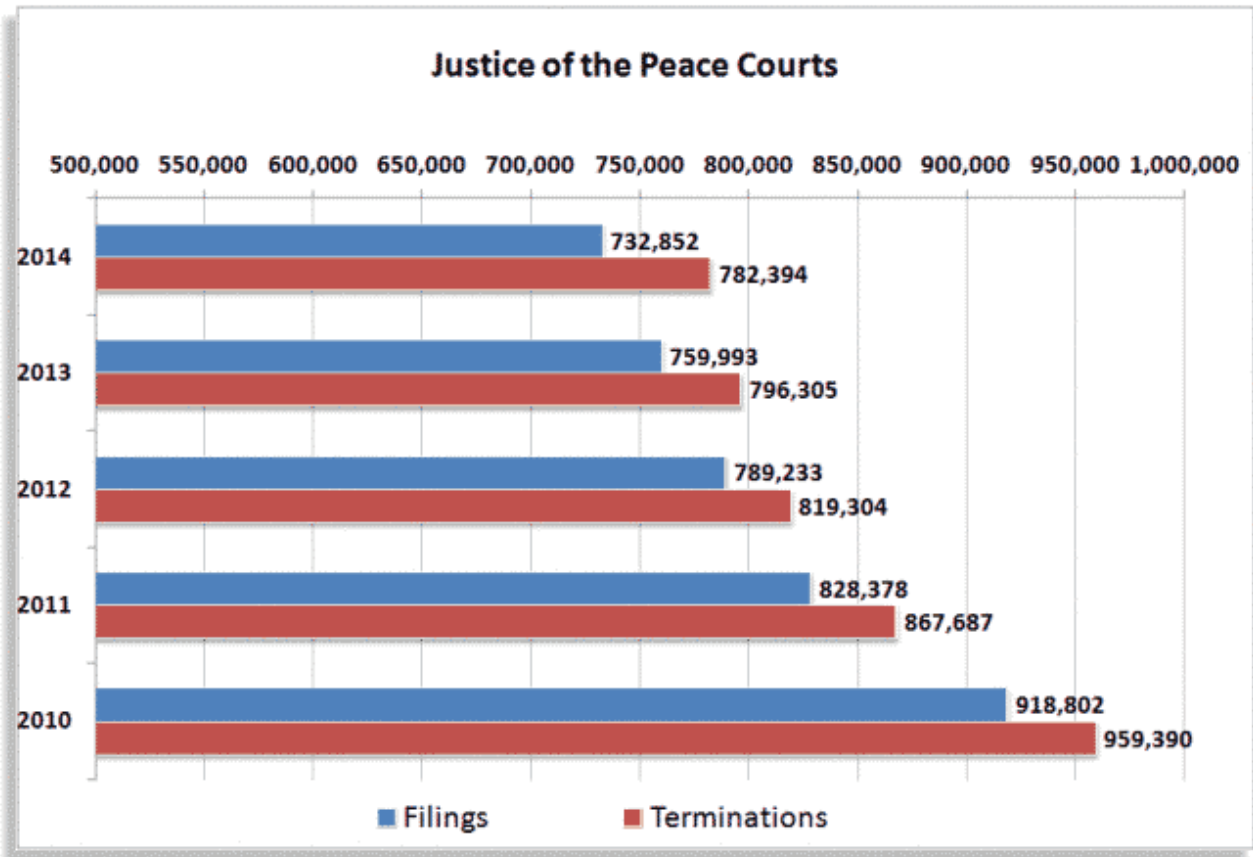
- A total of 1,104 original cases were filed in the court during FY 2014, a decrease of 17.9% from the 1,344 cases filed in FY 2013.
- Of the 1,104 FY 2014 original cases filed, 922 were property tax actions, accounting for 83.5% of the total original filings.
- A total of 1,562 cases were terminated, 715 or 45.8% by judgment. Cases terminated by judgement decreased 16.1% from FY 2013.
- As of June 30, 2014, there were 786 cases pending in the tax court. Total cases pending decreased 34.2% from FY 2013.

Superior Court Case Filings Chart



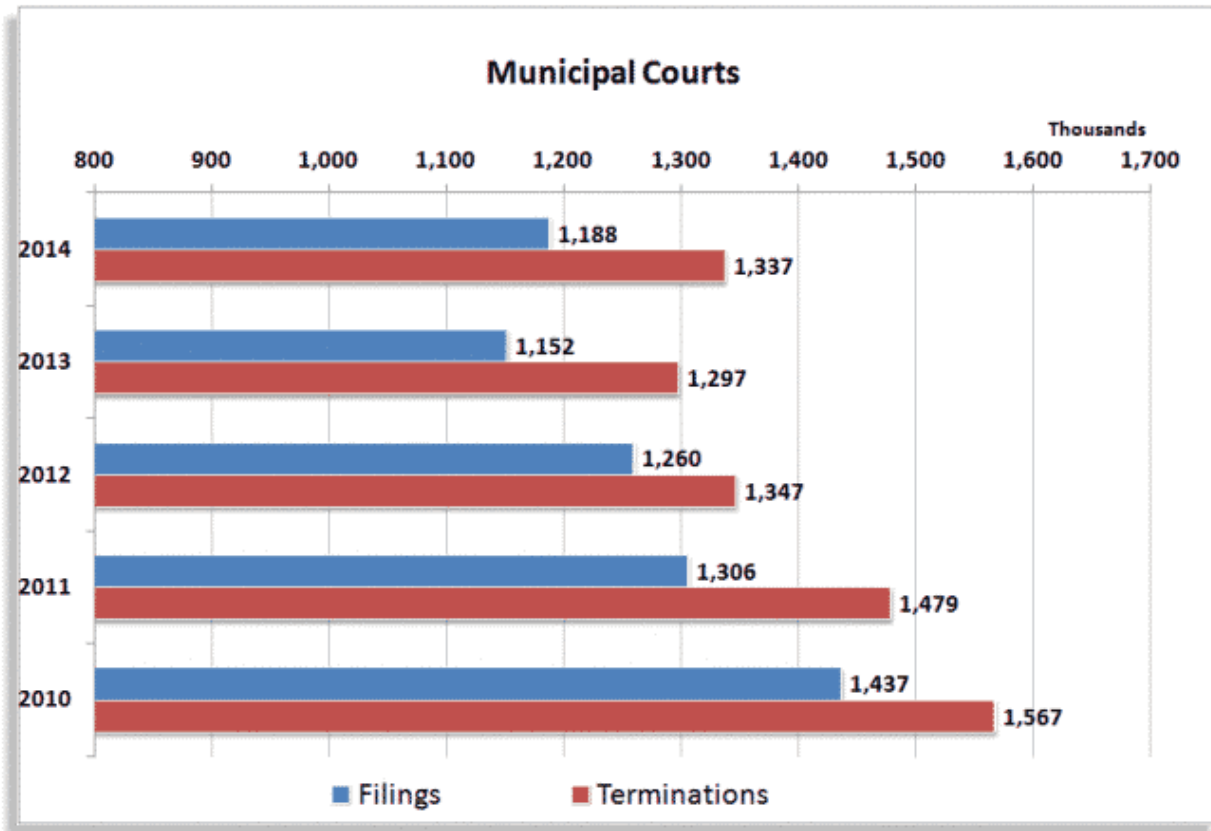
- In FY 2014, total case filings increased by 0.6% from FY 2013.
- Total case terminations decreased by 3.3% during the same period.
- Criminal case filings increased 7.6% from 48,654 in FY 2013 to 52,363 in FY 2014. Criminal case terminations increased 10.2% during the same period from 49,782 to 54,847.
- Domestic relations cases increased 3.0% from 49,860 in FY 2013 to 51,354 in FY 2014, and domestic relations case terminations increased 1.2% from 50,259 to 50,860. Domestic violence petition filings increased 2.9% in Superior Court from 12,021 to 12,364 in FY 2014.
- Civil case filings decreased 5.6% from 62,770 in FY 2013 to 59,267 in FY 2014. During the same period, civil case terminations also decreased by 11.8% from 65,148 to 57,431.
- There were 204,784 total cases pending on July 1, 2013, compared with 209,410 cases pending on June 30, 2014, an increase of 2.3%.
- Juvenile cases with direct filings to adult court decreased 22.2%, from 257 in FY 2013 to 200 in FY 2014. Juvenile cases transferred to adult court decreased 14.3%, from 14 in FY 2013 to 12 in FY 2014. A total of 212 juvenile cases were either transferred or directly filed in adult court in FY 2014 compared to 271 in FY 2013, a decrease of 21.8%.

Justice of the Peace Courts Case Filings Chart



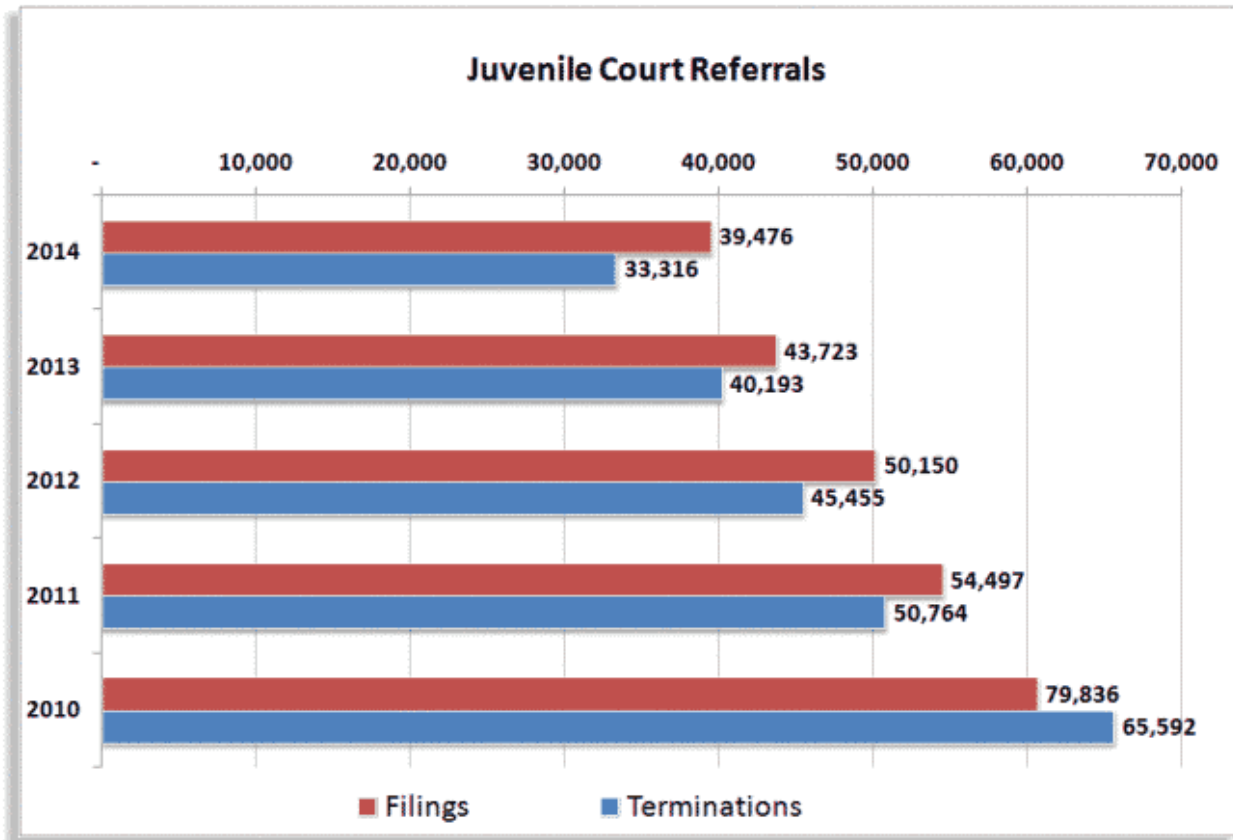
- Total filings in Justice Courts decreased from 759,993 in FY 2013 to 732,852 in FY 2014, a decrease of 3.6%.
- During the same period, case terminations decreased 1.7% from 796,305 in FY 2013 to 782,394 in FY 2014.
- Criminal and civil traffic filings, which comprise almost two-thirds of all justice court filings, decreased 5.2% from 450,455 in FY 2013 to 427,148 in FY 2014.
- Criminal (misdemeanor and felony) case filings decreased 3.3% from 109,091 in FY 2013 to 105,543 in FY 2014. Criminal case terminations increased 1.4% from 115,627 in FY 2013 to 117,229 in FY 2014.
- Domestic Violence petition filings decreased 3.9% in justice courts, from 9,198 to 8,837. Petitions for Injunctions Against Harassment decreased 5.0% from 6,671 to 6,335.
- Total cases pending dropped by 5.4% from 615,281 on July 1, 2013 to 581,964 on June 30, 2014.

Municipal Courts Case Filings Chart



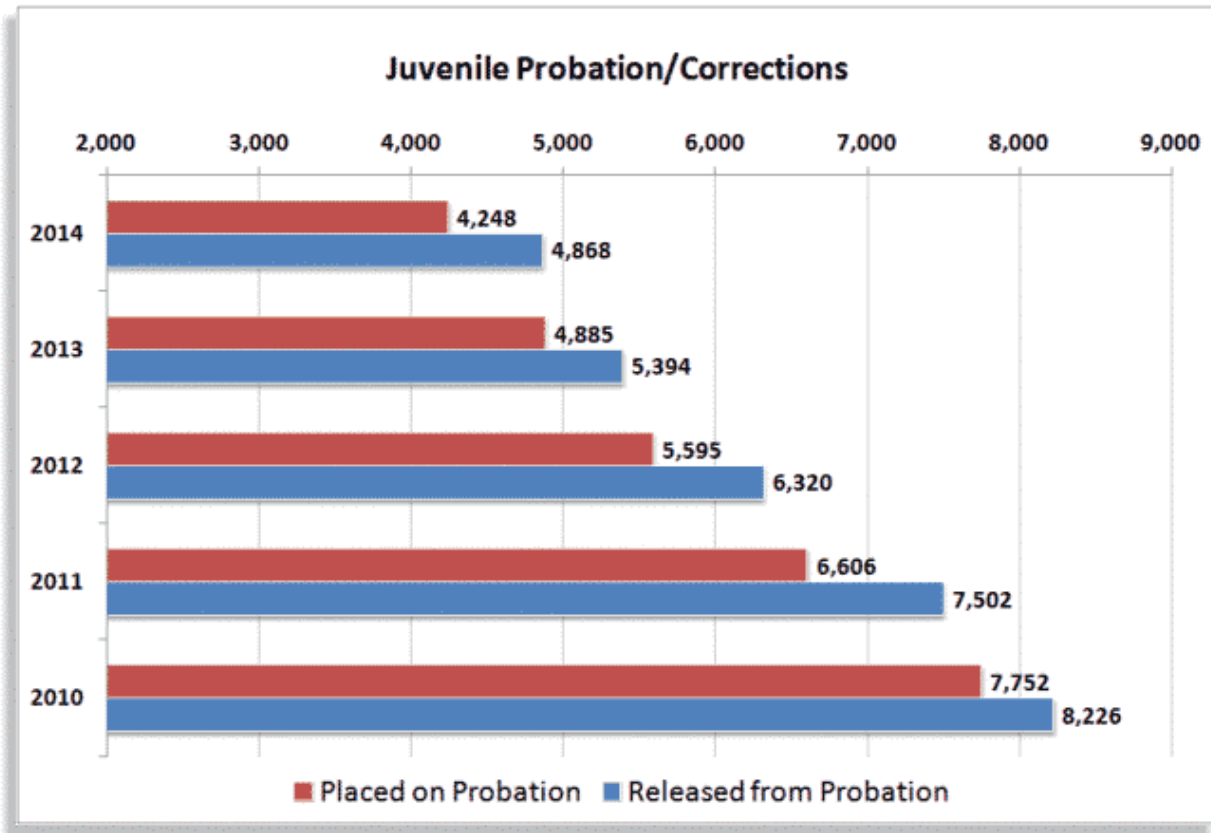
- Case filings in FY 2014 increased 3.2% from FY 2013. Total case terminations increased 3.1% during the same period.
- Civil and criminal traffic filings, which comprise about three-fourths of all municipal court cases, increased 1.5%, from 846,377 in FY 2013 to 859,373 in FY 2014.
- Criminal misdemeanor case filings increased 7.9% from 211,174 in FY 2013 to 227,869 in FY 2014. Criminal misdemeanor case terminations increased 3.7% from 255,472 in FY 2013 to 264,874 in FY 2014.
- Domestic Violence petitions increased 2.5% from 12,927 in FY 2013 to 13,256 in FY 2014. Petitions for Injunctions Against Harassment increased 1.6%, from 7,144 in FY 2013 to 7,256 in FY 2014.
- Total cases pending decreased 14.1%, from 713,520 on July 1, 2013 to 612,800 on June 30, 2014.

Juvenile Court Referrals Chart



- There were 39,476 referrals to juvenile court in FY 2014, a 9.7% decrease compared to 43,723 in the previous year.
- 33,316 referrals were terminated in FY 2014, a 17.1% decrease compared to the 40,193 referrals terminated in FY 2013.

Juvenile Probation/Corrections Case Filings Chart



- The number of juveniles on probation at the end of FY 2014 decreased 12.8% from 4,853 on July 1, 2013 to 4,233 on June 30, 2014.
- A total of 4,248 adjudicated juveniles were placed on probation in FY 2014, a 13.0% decrease from the 4,885 youths placed on probation in FY 2013.
- 4,868 juveniles were released from probation, a decrease of 9.8% from the 5,394 terminated last year.
- 470 juveniles were committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections during FY 2014, a decrease of 0.6% from the 473 committed last year.

Adult Probation

- The number of individuals under the jurisdiction of Arizona adult probation departments at the end of FY 2014 increased 0.9% from 78,499 on July 1, 2013 to 79,185 on June 30, 2014.
- Of the 79,185 individuals under the jurisdiction of adult probation, 41,614 were on standard probation (36,266 were under direct supervision in the state and 5,388 were under indirect supervision as they were out going interstate compact or in long term residential treatment), 2,557 on intensive probation (2,373 were direct supervision and 184 were on indirect supervision), and 35,014 were on administrative supervision (unsupervised, report only, deported, etc.).

Juvenile Court Petitions

- A total of 14,953 petitions were filed in FY 2014, a 11.3% decrease from the 16,849 petitions filed in FY 2013.
- A total of 14,928 petitions were terminated in FY 2014, a 14.0% decrease from the 16,624 terminated in FY 2013.