

COURT ANNUAL CASE ACTIVITY

Narrative Summary

State Fiscal Year 2021

Statewide fiscal year (FY) 2021 statistics across all court levels – Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Superior Court and limited jurisdiction courts – are summarized for case filings, dispositions and protective orders.

Case Filings

Case filings in Arizona’s courts decreased by 11.8%, from 1,591,987 in FY 2020 to 1,404,839 in FY 2021. During the same period, traffic filings decreased by 76,970 filings or 9.1%. Criminal filings decreased by 15.0% from 326,593 in FY 2020 to 277,355 in FY 2021. Civil filings decreased this year, down from 325,220 in FY 2020 to 298,961 in FY 2021, a decrease of 8.1%. The category for “Other” filings which includes various appellate cases, local non-criminal violations in the limited jurisdiction courts and other miscellaneous filings, decreased by 37.9%.

Appellate court filings decreased during FY 2021 by 6.9%. Superior Court filings decreased by 3.4%. Filings in the limited jurisdiction courts decreased by 13.6% from last fiscal year, justice court filings decreased 12.2% while municipal court filings decreased 14.7% during the same period.

Dispositions

Total case dispositions (including transfers out) decreased by 13.5%, from 1,679,304 in FY 2020 to 1,452,378 in FY 2021. Criminal dispositions decreased by 16.5% and civil dispositions decreased by 13.3%. Traffic dispositions decreased by 10.6%.

Protective Orders

Petitions for Orders of Protection decreased from 31,390 in FY 2019 to 29,189 in FY 2021, a decrease of 7.0%. In addition, 12,959 petitions for Injunctions Against Harassment were filed statewide during FY 2021, down 1,190 filings

Figure 1

Filings and Terminations FY 2021 Compared to FY 2020

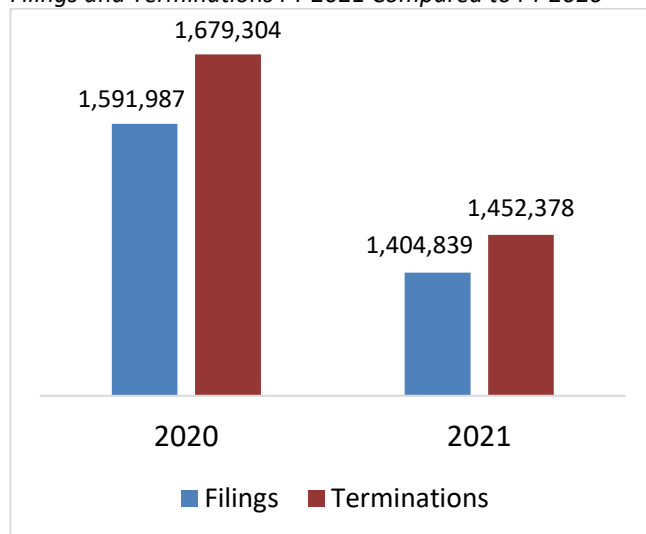
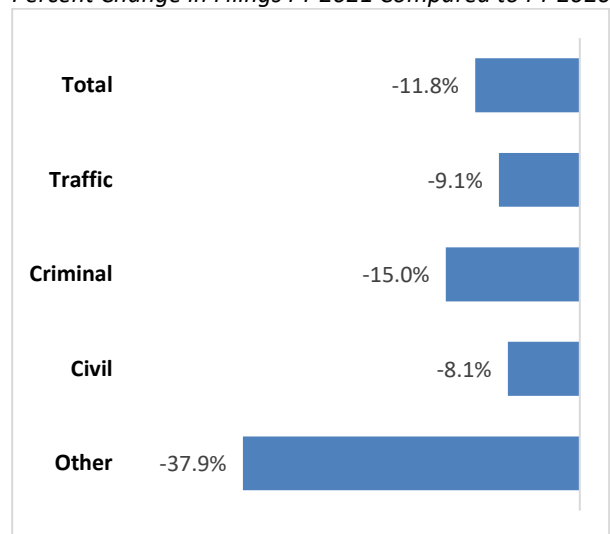


Figure 2

Percent Change in Filings FY 2021 Compared to FY 2020



Note. Some of the FY 2020 figures may not correspond to figures published in last year's Data Report due to corrected information received subsequent to publication of the report. Statistical reports received from courts are checked for mathematical accuracy but are not audited by the Supreme Court.

**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
COURT SERVICES DIVISION**

Annual Case Activity Summary Fiscal Year 2021							
Categories	2021						2020 Total
	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Superior Court	Justice Court	Municipal Court	Total	
Case Filings							
Criminal[2]	7	694	39,548	96,963	140,232	277,444	326,593
Civil[3]	14	2272	129,082	167,593		298,961	325,220
Tax Court			657			657	773
Traffic[4]				298,337	472,575	770,912	847,882
Other[5]	1105		10,031	1,110	44,619	56,865	91,519
Subtotal	1,126	2,966	179,318	564,003	657,426	1,404,839	1,591,987
Protective Order Petitions							
Orders of Protection / Emergency Orders of Protection			10,908	7,745	10,536	29,189	31,390
Injunctions Against Harassment			3,133	4,951	4,875	12,959	14,149
Total	1,126	2,966	193,359	576,699	672,837	1,446,987	1,637,526
Case Dispositions							
Criminal[2]	16	1,048	35,599	95,222	156,622	288,507	345,430
Civil[3]	15	2,367	118,865	169,360		290,607	335,091
Tax Court	0		636	0		636	749
Traffic[4]	0			337,611	473,003	810,614	906,612
Other[5]	1138		10,930	1,610	48,336	62,014	91,422
Subtotal	1,169	3,415	166,030	603,803	677,961	1,452,378	1,679,304
Protective Order Petitions							
Orders of Protection / Emergency Orders of Protection			10,456	7,678	10,423	28,557	30,983
Injunctions Against Harassment			2,801	4,850	4,751	12,402	13,776
Total	1,169	3,415	179,287	616,331	693,135	1,493,337	1,724,063

NOTES.

- [1] SOME FIGURES DIFFER FROM THOSE IN THE FY 2020 DATA REPORT DUE TO CORRECTED INFORMATION RECIEVED SUBSEQUENT TO ITS PUBLICATION.
- [2] CRIMINAL DATA INCLUDE POST-CONVICTION RELIEF CASES IN THE SUPREME COURT AND COURT OF APPEALS, BOTH MISDEMEANORS AND FELONIES IN SUPERIOR AND JUSTICE COURTS, MISDEMEANORS IN MUNICIPAL COURTS. MISDEMEANORS INCLUDE ALL FAILURE-TO-APPEAR COMPLAINTS REGARDLESS OF THE ORIGINAL CHARGE
- [3] CIVIL DATA INCLUDE CIVIL, DOMESTIC RELATIONS, PROBATE, AND MENTAL HEALTH CASES IN SUPERIOR COURT, AND CIVIL, SMALL CLAIMS AND FORCIBLE DETAINER CASES IN JUSTICE COURTS.
- [4] TRAFFIC DATA INCLUDE BOTH CIVIL AND CRIMINAL TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS.
- [5] OTHER DATA INCLUDE PETITIONS FOR REVIEW IN THE SUPREME COURT, ALL CASES EXCEPT CRIMINAL, POST-CONVICTION RELIEF, AND CIVIL APPEALS IN THE SUPREME COURT AND COURT OF APPEALS, JUVENILE AND ARIZONA TAX COURT CASES IN SUPERIOR COURT, AND NON-CRIMINAL LOCAL ORDINANCES IN JUSTICE AND MUNICIPAL COURTS.