



## U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

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### EEOC Litigation Statistics, FY 1997 through FY 2012

The table below reflects EEOC enforcement suits filed and resolved in the federal district courts over the past ten years. The table divides the suits by the various statutes enforced by the EEOC and provides aggregate data on monetary relief obtained. Note that many EEOC suits are brought on behalf of multiple aggrieved individuals. The lawsuits are filed under the various statutes enforced by the Commission:

- [Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 \(Title VII\)](#)
- [The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 \(ADA\)](#)
- [The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 \(ADEA\)](#)
- [The Equal Pay Act of 1963 \(EPA\)](#)

	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
<b>Suits</b>																
All Suits Filed	332	414	465	329	428	370	400	421	416	403	362	325	314	271	300	155
Merits Suits	300	374	438	292	388	342	366	378	381	371	336	290	281	250	261	122
Suits with Title VII Claims	182	254	341	236	289	268	298	297	295	294	268	224	188	192	162	66
Suits with ADA Claims	83	87	55	29	66	44	49	46	49	42	46	37	76	41	80	45
Suits with ADEA Claims	42	44	47	33	42	39	27	46	44	50	32	38	24	29	26	12
Suits with EPA Claims	4	10	9	9	14	12	12	5	13	10	7	0	2	2	2	2

	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
<b>Resolutions</b>																
All Resolutions	243	331	350	440	362	381	381	380	378	418	387	366	349	315	312	283
Merits Suits	214	295	320	407	321	351	351	346	338	383	364	339	321	287	276	254
Suits with Title VII Claims	132	189	211	315	232	266	275	277	259	295	297	265	251	199	215	162
Suits with ADA Claims	49	73	74	53	48	65	50	43	41	50	40	47	40	60	42	72
Suits with ADEA Claims	38	38	51	41	39	26	35	34	45	50	35	41	38	38	26	30
Suits with EPA Claims	7	4	7	6	15	9	13	9	12	8	14	3	5	0	2	2
Suits filed under multiple statutes	12	9	22	8	12	15	21	14	18	17	18	16	13	10	8	12
Subpoena and Preliminary Relief Actions	29	36	30	33	41	30	30	34	40	35	23	27	28	28	36	29
Monetary Benefits (\$ in millions) <sup>2</sup>	114.7	95.6	98.7	52.2	49.8	56.2	146.6	168.6	104.8	44.3	54.8	102.2	82.1	\$85.1	\$91.0	\$44.2
Title VII	95	62	49.2	35	33.6	29.2	85.1	158.5	98	34.3	38.9	65.6	64.9	\$74.0	\$54.3	\$34.3
ADA	1.1	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.3	15.1	2.3	2.5	3.4	2.8	2.4	3.6	9.5	\$2.9	\$27.1	\$5.4
ADEA	18	29.8	42.8	13.8	3.1	1.4	57.8	5.4	2.4	5.1	3.1	30.3	6.7	\$5.3	\$8.4	\$3.6
EPA	0	0	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.1	0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Suits filed under multiple statutes <sup>3</sup>	0.5	1	3.8	0.4	10.7	10.3	1.5	2.3	1	2.1	10.2	1.7	0.9	\$2.9	\$1.1	\$0.9

1 Suits filed or resolved under multiple statutes are also included in the tally of suits filed under the particular statutes.

2 The sum of the statute benefits in some years will be different from total benefits for the year due to rounding.

3 Monetary benefits recovered in suits filed under multiple statutes are counted separately and are not included in the tally of suits filed under

any particular statute.

Note that to improve the clarity and completeness of the data on our litigation activities, we have changed the format for presenting the count of cases filed and resolved by statute. Previously, cases were included in a statute's count only if that statute was the only statute involved. Suits filed under multiple statutes were listed in a separate "concurrent" category. The new format includes suits under each statute alleged, resulting in some suits being counted in more than one statute. There is no longer a concurrent category.

In addition, recent data validation efforts have caused changes in some of the counts, and in the annual amounts of monetary benefits.

[Historical data](#)

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## Definitions

**Merits suits** include direct suits and interventions alleging violations of the substantive provisions of the statutes enforced by the Commission and suits to enforce administrative settlements.

**Intervention** is where the [EEOC](#) joins a lawsuit that has been filed by a private plaintiff.

**Subpoena enforcement actions** are filed during the course of the investigation of a charge of discrimination where the Respondent refuses to provide information relevant to the charge.

**Suits to enforce administrative settlements** involve a Respondent's breach of an agreement with the EEOC to settle a charge during the administrative process.

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