

COVID-19 Impact Analyzer 2020 – May 25 to May 31

This app highlights some key metrics of the federal district court system that have been impacted by COVID-19. Understand weekly changes in new case filings, Findings (i.e., court-enforceable determinations), and complaints that mention COVID-19.

Case Filings

This section highlights changes in the rate of new case filings.

Specifically, these charts show the number of cases filed during the same week this year, the previous year, and two years ago.

To ensure an apples-to-apples comparison, we align dates so that all weeks start on Monday and end on Sunday. The three weeks being compared below are:

- 2018 – May 28 to June 3
- 2019 – May 27 to June 2
- 2020 – May 25 to May 31

Total Case Filings

This chart compares all new federal district court case filings, except Prisoner Rights and Social Security cases.

Year	Filings	Change
2018	3,667	
2019	4,596	25%
2020	10,436	127%

Total Case Filings Excluding Product Liability

Because of the nature of Product Liability cases, the high volume of cases can distort a meaningful picture of overall filing trends. This chart excludes Product Liability cases.

Year	Filings	Change
2018	2,902	
2019	3,185	10%
2020	2,602	-18%

Case Filings by Selected Practice Areas

The COVID-19 situation affects practice areas in different ways. This chart compares filings of new federal district court cases by practice area.

Practice Area	May 28 - June 3	May 27 - June 2	May 25 - May 31		
	2018	2019	Change	2020	Change
Antitrust	11	9	-18%	14	56%
Bankruptcy	58	108	86%	32	-70%
Consumer Protection	255	319	25%	246	-23%
Contracts	162	196	21%	202	3%
Copyright	120	102	-15%	74	-27%
ERISA	111	90	-19%	82	-9%
Employment	400	389	-3%	333	-14%
Environmental	39	6	-85%	5	-17%
Insurance	184	185	1%	202	9%
Patent	39	95	144%	118	24%
Product Liability	765	1,411	84%	7,834	455%
Securities	26	24	-8%	32	33%
Tax	10	10	0%	15	50%
Trade Secret	23	20	-13%	10	-50%
Trademark	68	76	12%	55	-28%

Findings




This section highlights changes in the progression of cases through the court system.

Specifically, these charts show the number of cases with a Finding (i.e., court-enforceable determination) at a particular judgment event occurring within the relevant time periods. These are the Findings that Lex Machina tracks based on our practice areas, e.g. "Breach of Contract" or "FLSA Violation." Visit [Findings documentation](#) to learn more.




To ensure an apples-to-apples comparison, we align dates so that all weeks start on Monday and end on Sunday. The three weeks being compared below are:

- 2018 – May 28 to June 3
- 2019 – May 27 to June 2
- 2020 – May 25 to May 31




Consent Judgment

Year	Findings
2018	22 
2019	20 
2020	19 

Default Judgment

Year	Findings
2018	51 
2019	58 
2020	40 

Judgment on the Pleadings

Year	Findings
2018	39 
2019	33 
2020	24 

Summary Judgment

Year	Findings
2018	91 
2019	70 
2020	103 

Trial

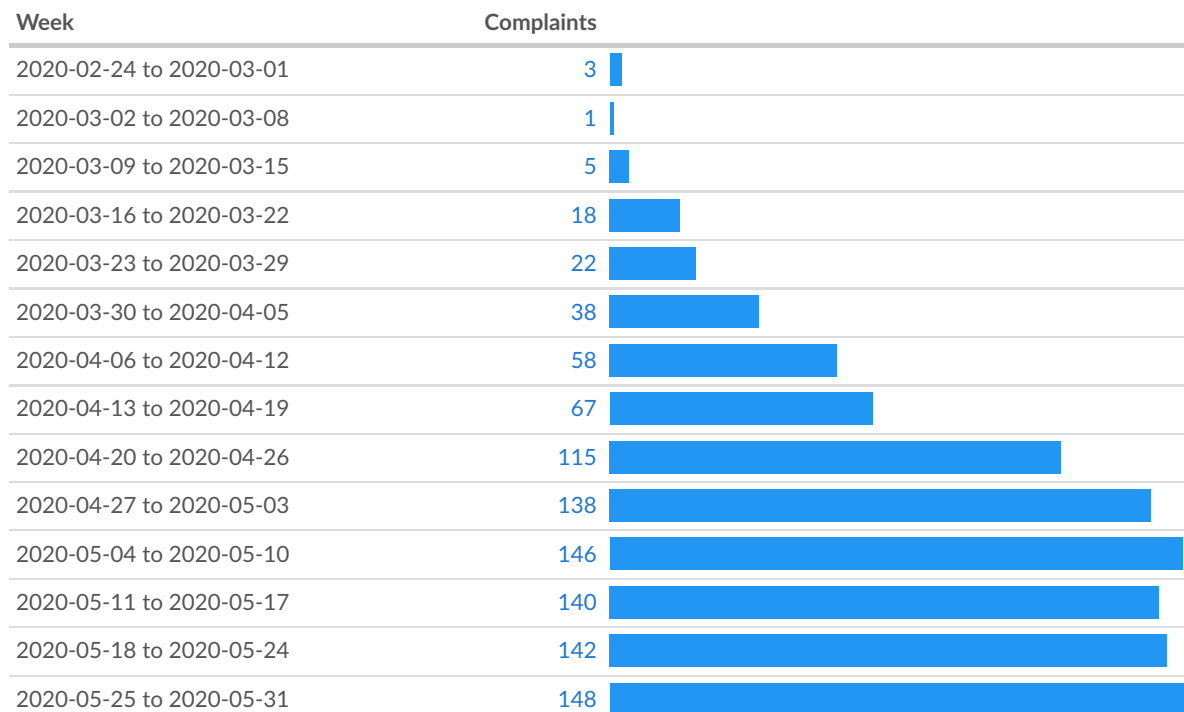
Year	Findings
2018	12 
2019	8 
2020	4 

Complaints Mentioning COVID-19

This section highlights trends in cases potentially filed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, this chart shows the number of complaint documents filed each week that contain the search string "covid OR coronavirus OR pandemic". The complaints mention these keywords for various reasons; some merely mention the keywords as part of the current state of events, but many allege claims directly related to the coronavirus health crisis or related societal changes.

Click the counts to customize your search or to view the original complaint documents. This chart reflects complaint data from all cases within a Lex Machina practice area.



Explanatory Notes

This app provides a basic summary of filings, Findings, and complaints, updated weekly on Monday mornings. You can explore much more detail, with daily updated data, using Lex Machina's full capabilities.

- On this tab, data and analytics are based on the week of May 25 to May 31, 2020. This is the most recent week available for this app, due to the data involved and corresponding review by our legal data experts.
- Use the Previous Weeks tab to view the same information from earlier weeks.

For more details about Lex Machina's data, visit the [Federal District Court Overview](#) documentation. Here are some highlights about the data in this app:

- Lex Machina has federal district court cases pending since 2009, except Prisoner Rights and Social Security cases. We do not have data on appeals.
- In order to present more accurate and complete data, Lex Machina categorizes cases into practice areas based on the claims in the pleadings documents; we do not rely simply on Nature of Suit codes in PACER. Also, we allow cases to be categorized into more than one practice area to reflect the reality of litigation.