Weekly Bankruptcy Analysis
March 28 – April 3, 2022

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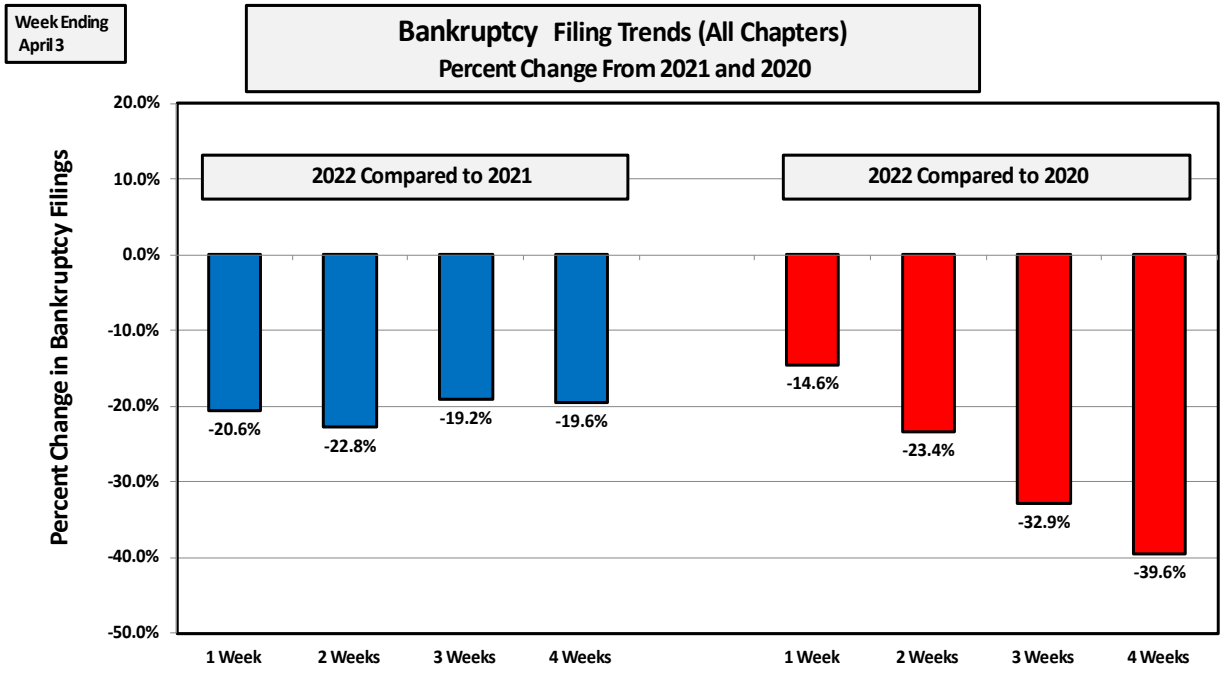
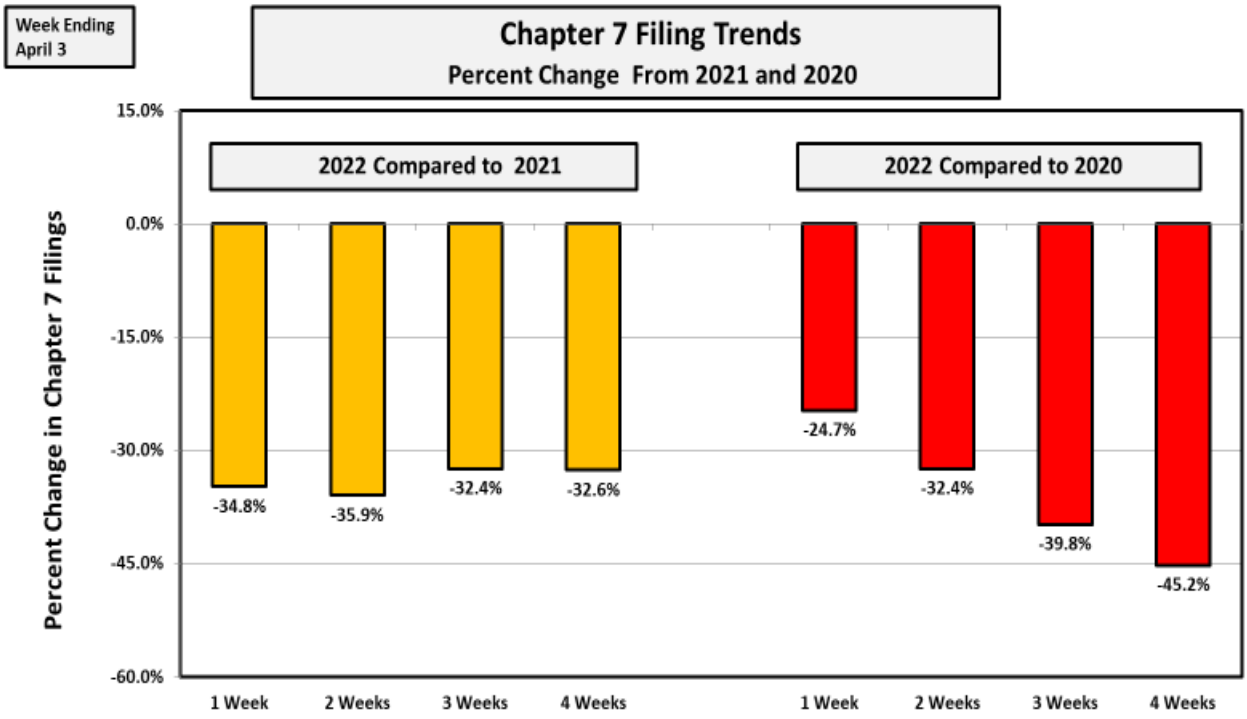
The 9,409 bankruptcy filings last week represented the highest weekly total in seven months. However, the last week of March is generally one of the highest filing weeks of the year, and filings continue to be only around half as high as they were pre-pandemic.

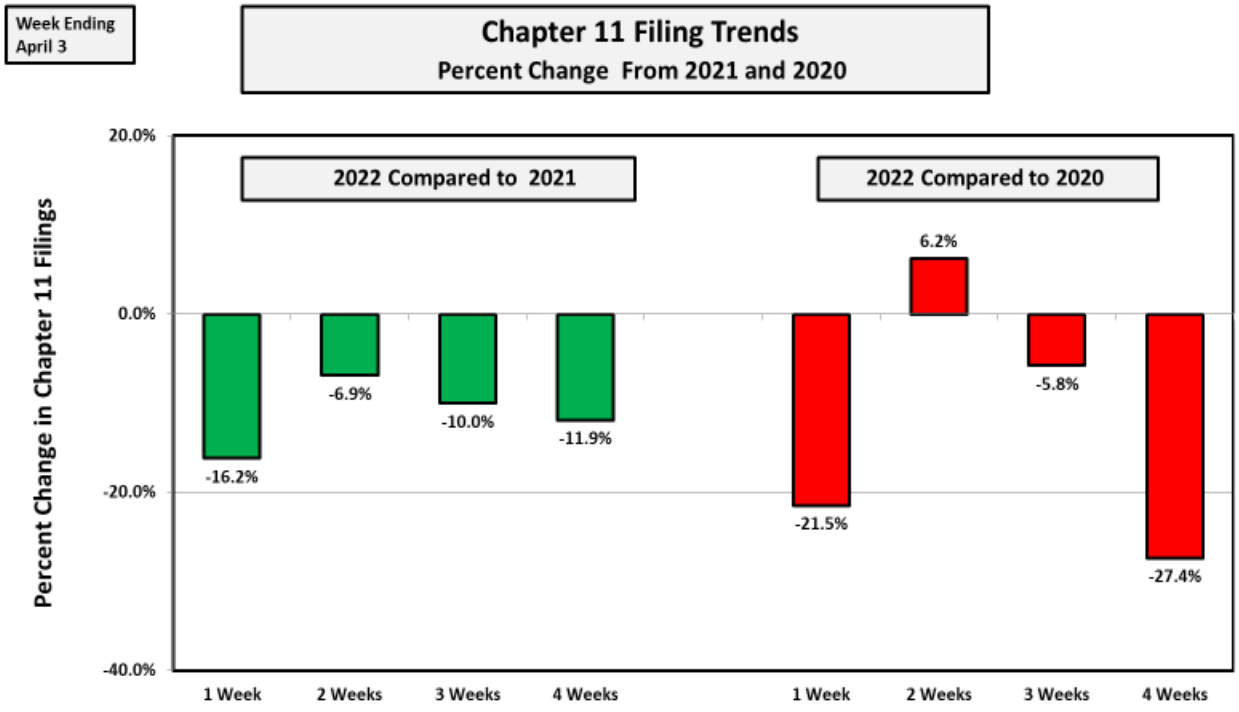
Bankruptcy Filings March 28 - April 3, 2022				
Type of Case	Number Filed	Percent Change From Same Week Last Three Years		
	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total	9,409	-20.6%	-14.6%	-53.9%
- Chapter 7	5,992	-34.8%	-24.7%	-55.0%
- Chapter 11	62	-16.2%	-21.5%	-65.0%
- Chapter 13	3,352	29.4%	13.0%	-51.4%
- Other Cases*	3	-25.0%	-72.7%	-72.7%
* *Chapters 9, 12 and 15*				

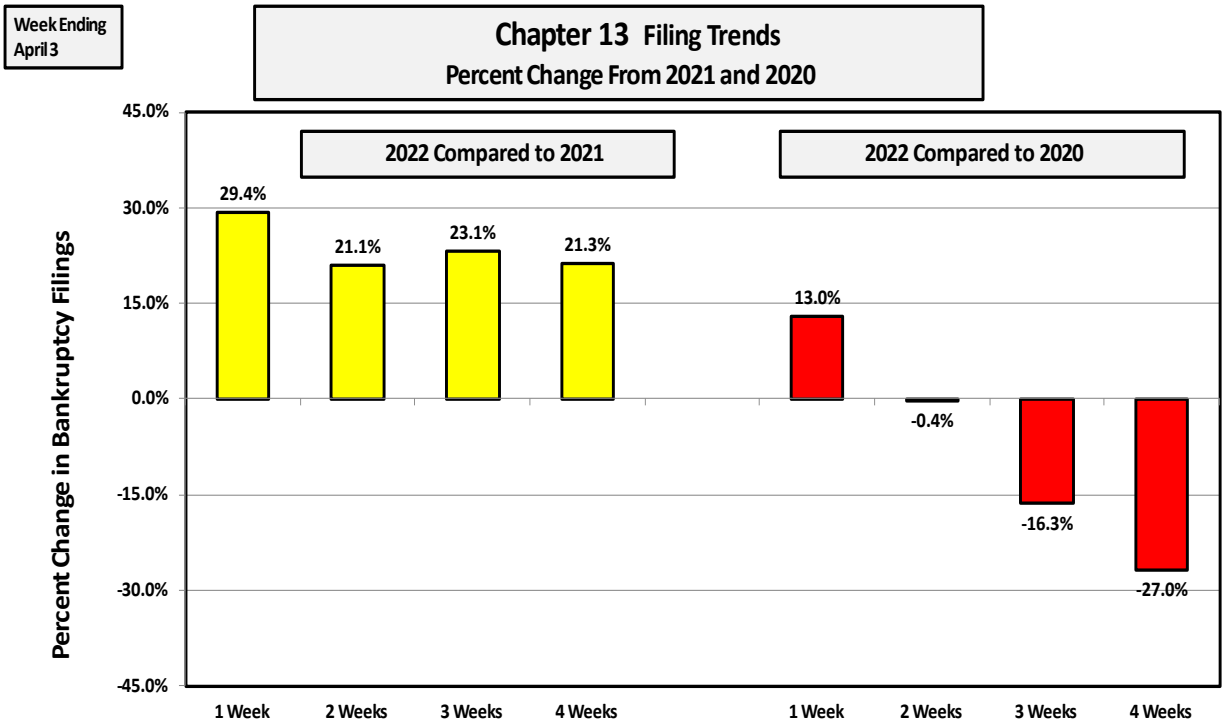
The following charts show recent weekly filing trends by chapter compared to 2021 and 2020.

[1] Ed Flynn is a consultant with ABI. He previously worked for more than 30 years at the Executive Office for U.S. Trustees and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.


Week Ending
April 3
Bankruptcy Filing Trends (All Chapters)
Percent Change From 2021 and 2020
Percent Change in Bankruptcy Filings
20.0%
10.0%
0.0%
-10.0%
-20.0%
-30.0%
-40.0%
-50.0%
2022 Compared to 2021
2022 Compared to 2020
-20.6%
-22.8%
-19.2%
-19.6%
-14.6%
-23.4%
-32.9%
-39.6%
1 Week
2 Weeks
3 Weeks
4 Weeks
1 Week
2 Weeks
3 Weeks
4 Weeks


Week Ending
April 3
Chapter 7 Filing Trends
Percent Change From 2021 and 2020
Percent Change in Chapter 7 Filings
15.0%
0.0%
-15.0%
-30.0%
-45.0%
-60.0%
2022 Compared to 2021
2022 Compared to 2020
-34.8%
-35.9%
-32.4%
-32.6%
-24.7%
-32.4%
-39.8%
-45.2%
1 Week
2 Weeks
3 Weeks
4 Weeks
1 Week
2 Weeks
3 Weeks
4 Weeks


Week Ending
April 3
Chapter 11 Filing Trends
Percent Change From 2021 and 2020
2022 Compared to 2021
2022 Compared to 2020
Percent Change in Chapter 11 Filings
20.0%
0.0%
-20.0%
-40.0%
-16.2%
-6.9%
-10.0%
-11.9%
-21.5%
6.2%
-5.8%
-27.4%
1 Week
2 Weeks
3 Weeks
4 Weeks
1 Week
2 Weeks
3 Weeks
4 Weeks


Week Ending
April 3
Chapter 13 Filing Trends
Percent Change From 2021 and 2020
2022 Compared to 2021
2022 Compared to 2020
Percent Change in Bankruptcy Filings
45.0%
30.0%
15.0%
0.0%
-15.0%
-30.0%
-45.0%
29.4%
21.1%
23.1%
21.3%
13.0%
-0.4%
-16.3%
-27.0%
1 Week
2 Weeks
3 Weeks
4 Weeks
1 Week
2 Weeks
3 Weeks
4 Weeks

Chapter 11 Cases

Excluding related cases filed by corporate subsidiaries, chapter 11 filings last week were about the same as during the two prior years.

There were a number of very large or notable cases filed during the week. On March 28, the Black News Channel filed in the Northern District of Florida. Also on March 28, real estate developer Kenwood Commons LLC filed in the Southern District of New York, along with one related entity. On March 29, Bermudan investment fund Point Investments LTD filed under chapter 15 in Delaware. Miliary contractor MD Helicopters also filed in Delaware on March 30, along with one related entity. Natural gas pipeline joint venture Ruby Pipeline LLC filed in Delaware on March 31.

Types of Chapter 11 Cases Filed			
	March 28 - April 3		
	2022	2021	2020
Total Filed	62	74	79
Solo Cases	41	49	40
Parent Cases	8	4	7
Child Cases	13	21	32
Filed By Individuals	*18*	*13*	19
Subchapter V Cases	15	29	22

Following a record week during which 81 subchapter V cases were filed, only 15 such cases were filed last week. On March 27, the debt limit for subchapter V reverted to $2,725,625 due to the expiration of the CARES Act provision that had increased the subchapter V debt limit to $7.5 million.

Proposed Chapter 13 Debt Limits: Impact on Chapter 7 Debtors

In addition to restoring the subchapter V debt ceiling to $7.5 million, the "Bankruptcy Threshold Adjustment and Technical Corrections Act" (S.3823) would also raise the debt limit for individual chapter 13 filings to $2.75 million and remove the distinction between secured and unsecured debt for that calculation. The higher debt limits for chapter 13 cases will result in some debtors who would file under chapter 7 to file under chapter 13 because they exceed the exiting chapter 13 debt limit.

The Integrated Data Base compiled by the Federal Judicial Center contains information on all bankruptcy cases filed. During Fiscal Year 2021 (year ended Sept. 30, 2021), a little more than 300,000 chapter 7 consumer cases were filed. Nearly 1 percent of these cases were not eligible for chapter 13 when filed, but would have qualified for chapter 13 under the proposed increased debt limit.

Consumer Chapter 7 Cases Filed Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2021	
Total Filed	300,369
Total with Liability Information	294,525
Cases Above Current Chapter 13 Debt Limit	2,922
Debts Above $2.75 Million	218
Newly Eligible for Chapter 13	***2,704***

The potentially eligible debtors had somewhat higher monthly incomes and expenses than other chapter 7 debtors. They were also more likely to be joint filers and homeowners, and to have had one or more prior filings.

Comparison With All Consumer Chapter 7 cases		
	Newly Eligible Cases	All Consumer Chapter 7 Cases
Joint Filings	28.6%	16.4%
Filed Pro Se	5.6%	5.4%
One or More Prior Filings	10.4%	7.7%
Homeowners	39.3%	24.7%
Median Current Monthly Income	$3,873	$3,087
Median Average Monthly Income	$3,517	$2,702
Median Current Monthly Expenses	$3,935	$2,831

See ABI Headlines for the latest on efforts to increase the subchapter V debt limit and other news of interest to bankruptcy professionals at https://www.abi.org/newsroom/headlines.