

JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

2020 – 2021

STATISTICAL AND OPERATIONAL REPORT OF THE
**NORTH CAROLINA
APPELLATE COURTS**



N C C O U R T S . G O V

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SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA



2020–2021 CASELOAD

The first two tables in this subsection give 10-year trend data for appeals and petitions docketed and disposed. The third table presents the types of cases that the court hears. The fourth and fifth tables summarize case activity in those cases reaching the decision stage and the dispositions of petitions for review. The next table shows the various methods of disposition of appeals — signed opinion, per curiam opinion (unsigned), and dismissal or withdrawal — as well as the types of disposition (e.g., affirmed, reversed). The final table gives Supreme Court processing times for appeals disposed by signed or per curiam opinion.

Appeals Docketed and Disposed

Fiscal Year	Appeals Docketed	Appeals Disposed
2020 – 21	186	152
2019 – 20	196	141
2018 – 19	140	92
2017 – 18	142	136
2016 – 17	137	92
2015 – 16	111	127
2014 – 15	97	93
2013 – 14	115	111
2012 – 13	139	143
2011 – 12	120	84

Petitions Docketed and Disposed

Fiscal Year	Petitions Docketed	Petitions Disposed
2020 – 21	448	219
2019 – 20	475	419
2018 – 19	588	494
2017 – 18	513	495
2016 – 17	509	515
2015 – 16	567	539
2014 – 15	579	583
2013 – 14	615	622
2012 – 13	632	636
2011 – 12	624	604

Caseload Inventory

Petitions for Review	Begin Pending (7/1/20)	Filed	Disposed	End Pending (6/30/21)
Civil domestic	12	11	8	15
Juvenile	7	15	8	14
Other civil	107	108	56	159
Criminal (death sentence)	1	1	0	2
Other criminal	175	312	147	340
Administrative agency decision	0	1	0	1
Total petitions for review	302	448	219	531

Appeals	Begin Pending (7/1/20)	Filed	Disposed	End Pending (6/30/21)
Civil domestic	1	4	1	4
Petitions for review granted that became civil domestic appeals	4	1	1	4
Juvenile	99	99	98	100
Petitions for review granted that became juvenile appeals	3	3	3	3
Other civil	26	33	12	47
Petitions for review granted that became other civil appeals	0	8	8	0
Criminal, defendant sentenced to death	5	0	0	5
Other criminal	39	23	23	39
Petitions for review granted that became other criminal appeals	12	14	6	20
Administrative agency decision	0	1	0	1
Petitions for review granted that became appeals of administrative agency decision	0	0	0	0
Total appeals	189	186	152	223

Other Proceedings	Filed	Disposed
Rule 16(b) additional issues	4	9
Motions	1,318	1,303
Total other proceedings	1,322	1,312

Submission of Cases Reaching Decision Stage

Cases Argued	Number of Cases
Civil domestic	1
Juvenile	15
Other civil	29
Criminal (capital)	1
Other criminal	34
Administrative agency decision	0
Total	80

Submission Without Arguments	Number of Cases
By motion of the parties [Appellate Rule 30(d)]	0
By order of the court [Appellate Rule 30(f)]	93
Total	93

Dispositions of Petitions

Petitions For Review	Allowed	Denied	Dismissed / Withdrawn	Other	Total
Civil domestic	4	4	0	0	8
Juvenile	3	4	1	0	8
Other civil	0	56	0	0	56
Criminal (capital)	0	0	0	0	0
Other criminal	12	135	0	0	147
Administrative agency decision	0	0	0	0	0
Post conviction	0	0	0	0	0
Total	19	199	1	0	219

Processing Time from Docket to Opinion*

Type of Case	Number of Cases	Median (Days)	Mean (Days)
Civil domestic	0	0	0
Petitions for review granted that became civil domestic appeals	1	396	396
Juvenile	104	325	338
Petitions for review granted that became civil juvenile appeals	1	472	472
Other civil	7	574	635
Petitions for review granted that became other civil appeals	6	581	481
Criminal, defendant sentenced to death	4	1,291	1,288
Other criminal	3	619	486
Petitions for review granted that became other criminal appeals	4	866	796
Administrative agency decision	0	0	0
Petitions for review granted that became appeals of administrative agency decision	0	0	0
Total	178	545	558

*Only cases disposed by signed opinion or per curiam opinion are included.

Dispositions of Appeals

Dispositions by Withdrawal or Dismissal	Number of Cases
Civil domestic	0
Juvenile	1
Other civil	0
Criminal (capital)	0
Other criminal	0
Administrative agency decision	0
Total	1

Dispositions of Appeals

Dispositions by Signed Opinion*	Affirmed	Affirmed in Part; Reversed in Part	Affirmed in Part; Reversed in Part; Remanded	Reversed	New Sentence Hearing	Reversed and Remanded	Other	Total Dispositions
Civil domestic	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Juvenile	82	1	0	6	0	6	9	104
Other civil	9	1	5	3	0	2	3	23
Criminal (capital)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Other criminal	15	2	1	2	0	8	5	33
Administrative agency decision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	106	4	6	11	0	17	19	163

*No activity was reported for new trial; no error.

Dispositions by Per Curiam Opinion**	Affirmed	Affirmed in Part; Reversed in Part	Reversed	Reversed and Remanded	Other	Total Dispositions
Civil domestic	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile	6	0	0	0	0	6
Other civil	13	0	0	0	6	19
Criminal (capital)	0	0	0	0	2	2
Other criminal	2	0	0	0	0	2
Administrative agency decision	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	21	0	0	0	8	29

**No activity was reported for affirmed in part, reversed in part, and remanded; new sentencing hearing; new trial; no error.

COURT OF APPEALS



2020–2021 CASELOAD

In addition to trend data for the past 10 years, the following tables provide data about filings and dispositions for cases on appeal, petitions, and motions during FY 2020 – 21. “Cases on appeal” include cases appealed from district courts, superior courts, and administrative agencies. They are counted as appeals only after a record is filed with the clerk’s office and a docket number is assigned. The “petition” category includes petitions involving only the four extraordinary writs set out in Article V of the Rules of Appellate Procedure: certiorari, mandamus, prohibition, and supersedeas. “Motions” encompass any type of relief sought from the Court of Appeals, either in a case already filed with the Court of Appeals or one on its way to the Court of Appeals but not yet filed.

Cases on appeal represent the largest portion of the Court of Appeals’ workload since most are disposed by written opinion. The other methods of disposition, represented by the “Other Cases Disposed” category in the table at the bottom of the data page, include the court’s dismissal of the appeal and the appealing party’s withdrawal of the appeal.

Filings and Dispositions of Appeals and Petitions*

Fiscal Year	Filings	Dispositions
2020 – 21	1,530	1,484
2019 – 20	1,765	1,892
2018 – 19	2,062	2,133
2017 – 18	2,214	2,178
2016 – 17	2,264	2,201
2015 – 16	2,183	2,229
2014 – 15	2,377	2,312
2013 – 14	2,389	2,435
2012 – 13	2,564	2,490
2011 – 12	2,594	2,775

*Filings and dispositions shown here include appealed cases and petitions, but not motions.

Caseload Inventory

Type	Begin Pending Cases	Incoming	Disposed	End Pending Cases	Cases Disposed with Oral Argument	Cases Disposed Without Oral Argument	Published Cases	Unpublished Cases	Average Days Calendar to Opinion	Average Days Docket to Opinion
Agency	24	48	34	38	11	23	9	18	151	366
Domestic	79	104	75	108	13	62	26	40	132	365
Juvenile	76	74	90	60	5	85	33	52	52	294
Civil other	255	274	230	299	83	147	94	89	125	345
Criminal other	471	353	461	363	80	381	130	281	102	350
Total	905	853	890	868	192	698	292	480	112	344

*Note: Errors in reporting prior fiscal year data for the Case Inventory of the Court Appeals were discovered and corrected for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Due to these errors, this data is not comparable to that in prior reports.

Cases Filed	Number of Cases
Appeals	850
Motions	3,776
Petitions	680
Motions and petitions	4,456
Records, motions, and petitions	5,306
Appeals disposed by written opinion*	772
Appeals in which the judgment or order of a trial tribunal was affirmed	400
Appeals in which the judgment or order of a trial tribunal was reversed	151
Appeals in which the judgment or order of a trial tribunal was affirmed in part and reversed in part	219
Appeals disposed by the Court of Appeals other than by written opinion	113
Appeals disposed by the Court of Appeals	885
Causes certified from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court after determination by the Court of Appeals	363
Causes after determination by the Court of Appeals in which certiorari to the Court of Appeals was disallowed by the Supreme Court	171

*One opinion may dispose of more than one appeal.

Cases Filed	Number of Cases
Cases on appeal	
Civil cases appealed from district courts	207
Civil cases appealed from superior courts	245
Civil cases appealed from administrative agencies	50
Criminal cases appealed from superior courts	349
Total cases on appeal	850

Disposition of Motions and Petitions

Type	Number of Cases
Disposition of Motions	
Allowed	3,199
Denied	210
Dismissed	188
Dismissed as moot	37
Other	51
Referred	79
Spec order	1
Withdrawn	0
Total	3,765
Disposition of Petitions	
Allowed	94
Denied	288
Dismissed	165
Dismissed as moot	22
Other	6
Spec order	24
Total	599
Petitions Filed	
Petition for Writ of Certiorari (PWC)	398
Petition for Writ of Mandamus (PWM)	141
Petition for Writ of Supersedeas (PWS)	67
Petition for Writ of Prohibition (PWP)	5
Other	69
Total	680

Manner of Case Dispositions (Opinions Only)

Affirmed*	Reversed*	Affirmed in Part, Reversed in Part*	Other Cases Disposed	Total Cases Disposed
400	151	219	113	885

*Cases disposed by written opinion.



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