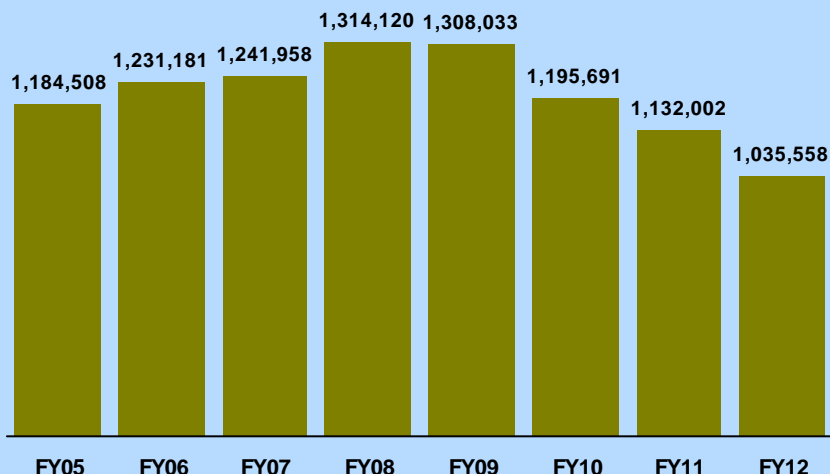


The Massachusetts Trial Court: Case Filings, Funding, and Staffing

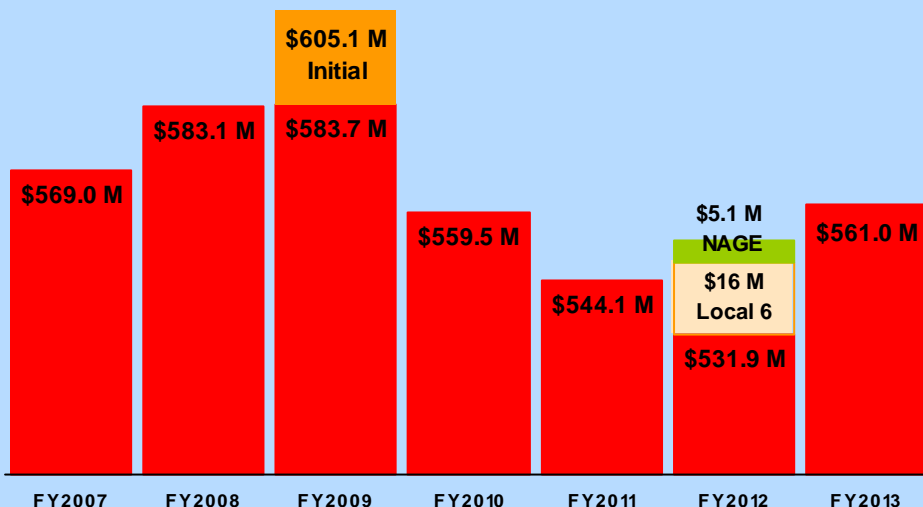
Case Filings

The Trial Court must address its fiscal constraints in the context of current operations. More than a million new cases are filed in the Trial Court annually. In addition, a survey indicated that courthouses across the state serve more than 42,000 visitors daily.



Initial and Actual Appropriations

To meet significant declines in budget appropriations, the Trial Court has eliminated programs and curtailed services. Courthouses have been re-located, lease payments renegotiated and staffing sharply reduced. ADR contracts, GALs, legal materials, equipment, supplies, and utility expenses all have been cut substantially.



Appropriations for FY07 through FY12 included retained revenue components for probation and filing fees. Collections did not reach the allowed maximum, resulting in actual funding of \$582.4 M in FY09, \$556.4 M in FY10, \$535.9 M in FY11, and a projected \$524.9 M for FY12. The FY13 appropriation does not include a retained revenue component.

Trial Court Positions

The Trial Court restricted hiring in 2007 and implemented an absolute hiring freeze in October 2008 in response to escalating fiscal challenges.

Due to retirement incentive programs and other efforts to reduce expenses, Trial Court staffing has declined by 1,363 employees, or 17.9%, from 7,629 on July 1, 2007, to 6,266 on Nov. 13, 2012.

The number of Trial Court employees has not been below 7,000 since FY1997.

