

KEWANEE CREDIT BUREAU

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dropped by 9.9 percent in 1993 and 4.9 percent in 1994. (ACA Cred-Alert Vol 25, #5)

NUMBER OF WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES INCREASING

More than 7.9 million businesses, representing about 36 percent of all U.S. companies, are now owned by women.

A profile of women-owned businesses, released by the national Foundation of Women Business Owners and reported in the April edition of Nation's Business, indicates that these companies now employ more than 18 million workers and generate nearly \$2.3 trillion in revenue each year.

The foundation's profile represents a projection based on 1992 data recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau. According to the Census Bureau, in 1992 there were more than 6.4 million women-owned companies and these firms produce more than \$1.6 trillion in revenue.

California leads the nation in the number of women-owned businesses, according to the Census Bureau, with more than 801,000. Texas is next with more than 414,000, followed by New York, at 395,000 and Florida, with 352,000. (ACA Cred-Alert Vol. 25, #6)

BANKRUPTCY FILING SHOW SHARP INCREASE IN 1995

The number of bankruptcies filed during the 1995 calendar year rose by 11.3 percent compared to 1994, according the statistics released in March by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

The total number of bankruptcy filings in federal courts soared to 926,601 during the 12-month period that ended Dec. 31, 1995, as compared with 832,829 in 1994. Of the total number of bankruptcy filings for calendar year 1995, 626,150 were chapter 7 filings, an increase of 10.4 percent over the 567,240 filings in calendar 1994. The next largest group were Chapter 13 filings at 286,588 a rise of 36,711 (14.7 percent) over 1994's total of 249,877. The number of Chapter 11 filings in 1995, just more than 12,900, was down by 12.7 percent in comparison to the previous year while Chapter 12 filings were up slightly, from 900 in 1994 to a total of 926 in 1995. Before 1993, annual bankruptcy filings had increased in each of the prior eight years. In both 1993 and 1994, the number of bankruptcies that were filed had fallen in comparison to the previous year, having

LAUGH IT UP AT WORK

Many companies tend to limit workplace fun to an annual employee picnic and maybe a Christmas party. However, employees who view their work environment as fun are more likely to enjoy their jobs and, thus, be more productive than those who don't have fun at work.

Here are a few ideas from the book, THIS JOB SHOULD BE FUN!, that some offices are using to lighten things up a bit.

Establish Fun Committees.

Each committee is responsible for a gag, stunt or skit to be performed at a monthly meeting. Rotate committees monthly. At the end of the year, employees vote for the best skit of the year.

"Thank God It's Monday" Parties.

Reverse a tradition. Start the fun at the beginning of the week. Have snacks, soda and music at the end of the day

Button Day.

Designate one day a month as a button day. Everyone should wear a funny or strange button.

Cookie Monster.

For no reason, come in early and put a cookie on everyone's desk.

VALUE OF A DOLLAR

What's a dollar worth in comparison to its value of 20 years ago?

Using the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as was recently reported in Nation's Business, the amount of goods that could be purchased with a dollar in 1975 now will require \$2.83 in 1995 dollars. Likewise, it would take \$3.93 last year to buy the same amount of goods as could be purchased in 1970.

KEWANEE CREDIT BUREAU HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm