

Most Lawsuits			
Franchise	Total litigation	Total units	Litigation per 1,000 units
AAMCO Transmission	29	568	51.06
Fantastic Sams	16	706	22.66
Steak 'n Shake	12	536	22.39
Dickey's Barbecue Pit	12	561	21.39
Rita's Italian Ice	11	537	20.48
Meineke Car Care Centers	14	763	18.35
The Goddard School	10	579	17.27
Days Inn	26	1,559	16.68
Marriott Hotels & Resorts	11	700	15.71
Holiday Inn Hotels & Resorts	18	1,216	14.80
Sylvan Learning Center	8	564	14.18
Keller Williams Realty	13	1,088	11.95
Pearle Vision	6	563	10.66
Express Employment Professionals	9	853	10.55
IHOP	16	1,751	9.14
Epcon Communities	12	1,357	8.84
Edible Arrangements	8	944	8.47
Snap Fitness	9	1,102	8.17
Interim HealthCare	5	617	8.10
Matco Tools	15	1,937	7.74
Mosquito Authority	4	529	7.56
Midas	14	2,003	6.99
ServiceMaster Clean	5	793	6.31
Minuteman Press	6	959	6.26
HomeVestors	7	1,153	6.07

Few Lawsuits			
Franchise	Total litigation	Total units	Litigation per 1,000 units
Jiffy Lube	9	2,169	4.15
Jimmy John's	11	2,657	4.14
Cold Stone Creamery	5	1,253	3.99
Church's Chicken	6	1,576	3.81
Coverall	31	8,458	3.67
Proforma	2	567	3.53
Subway	125	37,147	3.37
Holiday Inn Express	10	3,016	3.32
Jack In The Box	7	2,218	3.16
Hilton Hotels & Resorts	2	658	3.04
Arby's	10	3,407	2.94
Tropical Smoothie Café	3	1,039	2.89
Signarama	2	703	2.84
Visiting Angels	2	704	2.84
Marco's Pizza	3	1,059	2.83
Little Caesars	15	5,331	2.81
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices	4	1,481	2.70
Sport Clips	5	1,891	2.64
Super 8	7	2,693	2.60
Bojangles' Famous Chicken 'n Biscuits	2	773	2.59
Jani-King	18	7,281	2.47
Applebee's	4	1,680	2.38
A&W Restaurants	2	915	2.19
Budget Blinds	3	1,377	2.18
Eye Level Learning Centers	3	1,455	2.06
The UPS Store	11	5,385	2.04
ServiceMaster Restore	5	2,490	2.01

Fewer Lawsuits			
Franchise	Total litigation	Total units	Litigation per 1,000 units
Checkers & Rally's	5	834	6.00
Comfort Keepers	4	671	5.96
La Quinta Inn & Suites	5	922	5.42
Planet Fitness	12	2,254	5.32
Tim Hortons	28	5,291	5.29
Pet Supplies Plus	3	603	4.98

Fewer Lawsuits			
Franchise	Total litigation	Total units	Litigation per 1,000 units
Home Instead Senior Care	2	1,185	1.69
Yogen Fruz	1	598	1.67
Pure Barre	1	608	1.64
Papa Murphy's	2	1,276	1.57
Re/Max	14	8,964	1.56
Moe's Southwest Grill	1	660	1.52
N2 Publishing	1	666	1.50
Charleys Philly Steaks	1	674	1.48
Batteries Plus Bulbs	1	702	1.42
The Joint Chiropractic	1	706	1.42
Take 5 Oil Change	1	707	1.41
Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen	5	3,705	1.35
CARSTAR	1	758	1.32
Qdoba Mexican Eats	1	761	1.31
Asurion Tech Repair & Solutions	1	764	1.31
Novus Glass	2	1,590	1.26
Jackson Hewitt	7	5,761	1.22
Gong Cha	2	1,661	1.20
Chem-Dry	3	2,616	1.15
Residence Inn	1	876	1.14
Color Glo International	1	885	1.13
Hampton by Hilton	3	2,765	1.08
Papa John's	6	5,650	1.06
Wendy's	7	6,949	1.01
Dunkin'	13	12,957	1.00
Jersey Mike's Subs	2	2,102	0.95
Merry Maids	1	1,072	0.93
Sonic Drive-In	3	3,503	0.86
Buffalo Wild Wings	1	1,212	0.83
Courtyard	1	1,256	0.80
Stratus Building Solutions	2	2,518	0.79
McDonald's	29	40,031	0.72
Vanguard Cleaning Systems	2	2,780	0.72
Ace Hardware	4	5,583	0.72
Burger King	13	19,247	0.68
Wingstop	1	1,731	0.58
Cinnabon	1	1,754	0.57
H&R Block	6	10,675	0.56
The Maids	1	1,815	0.55
Auntie Anne's	1	1,887	0.53
Baskin Robbins	4	7,670	0.52
SERVPRO	1	1,977	0.51

Franchise	Total litigation	Total units	Litigation per 1,000 units
7-Eleven	35	78,413	0.45
Jan-Pro	4	10,221	0.39
Circle K	3	11,154	0.27
Domino's	5	18,848	0.27
Paris Baguette	1	4,101	0.24
Taco Bell	1	7,791	0.13
Pizza Hut	1	18,381	0.05
KFC	1	26,934	0.04

Culver's	0	837	0
DoubleTree by Hilton	0	635	0
Dream Vacations	0	1,577	0
Einstein Bros. Bagels	0	690	0
Fairfield Inn	0	1,204	0
Fastsigns	0	761	0
Firehouse Subs	0	1,213	0
Great Clips	0	4,447	0
Hardee's	0	2,177	0
Home2 Suites by Hilton	0	523	0
Hungry Howie's Pizza	0	534	0
Hyatt	0	1,054	0
Jamba	0	814	0
Kona Ice	0	1,399	0
Lawn Doctor	0	623	0
Mathnasium Learning Centers	0	1,110	0
McAlister's Deli	0	505	0
Miracle-Ear	0	1,474	0

Orangetheory Fitness	0	1,479	0
PostNet	0	633	0
Right at Home	0	671	0
Smoothie King	0	1,358	0
Snap-on Tools	0	4,786	0
Sola Salon Studios	0	598	0
The Vitamin Shoppe	0	754	0
Tous les Jours	0	1,631	0
Zaxby's	0	911	0

Zero Lawsuits

Franchise	Total litigation	Total units	Litigation per 1,000 units
Anytime Fitness	0	4,990	0
Captain D's	0	536	0
Carl's Jr.		1,661	0
Chester's	0	1,118	0
Chick-fil-A	0	2,709	0
Club Pilates	0	679	0

About this project

» This list includes franchises in the Franchise Times Top 500 database with 500 units or more, ordered by amount of litigation per 1,000 units, so brands with units closer to 500 than 1,000 will move higher up the list than they would without that adjustment. We have included the number of units for each listing to provide that context. Franchise Times reported a similar project in 2019.

The number of units for each franchise was sourced from our Top 500 list, our annual ranking of franchises based on systemwide sales, using 2021 numbers, and the number of cases per franchise was calculated by analyzing the Item 3 of each company's most recent franchise disclosure document.

Within the Item 3—which includes litigation that franchises deem material from the past 10 years and pending litigation

from the past year—we counted every case, unless we determined it to be immaterial to the franchise. This includes concluded matters. Some franchises opt to include cases from beyond the past 10 years, and if that's the case, we count those as well. Brands are not required to list arbitration cases in their Item 3, but if they do include it, we count it.

For litigation affecting a franchise's parent company, predecessor or a partner company as opposed to the brand itself, we evaluated whether the litigation had an impact on the specific brand in question.

If the parent company experienced a data breach that affected all its subsidiaries, for example, that would be counted. If a sister company faced a lawsuit that was unrelated to the brand and was only reported in Item 3 because the two companies share a parent, that would not be counted.

Note: We were unable to include three Choice Hotels franchises (Comfort Inn & Suites, Econo Lodge and Quality Inn & Suites) on our list because their FDDs didn't specify whether certain lawsuits corresponded to sister hotel units that were immaterial to the brand in question. Nine brands from the Top 500 list with over 500 units were excluded from this list due to the inability to find a current FDD. Those brands are Aaron's, Ampm, Del Taco, Dutch Bros. Coffee, Outback Steakhouse, Panera Bread, Red Robin, Rent-A-Center and Whataburger.