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## ***Federal Daily - March 13, 2008***

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### **EEOC Cases Up, Staff Down**

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is being overwhelmed with an unprecedented number of new discrimination cases that have swelled the complaint backlog while the size of its work force has shrunk. The EEOC last week posted its Fiscal Year 2007 enforcement and litigation report card, noting that it received a total of 82,792 private-sector discrimination charge filings in FY 2007, the highest such volume since 2002 and the largest annual increase (9 percent) since the early 1990s. But the EEOC's backlog of private-sector cases is 54,970—up 38 percent in one year—and the average time it takes to process a case rose to 199 days, according to the National Council of EEOC Locals, American Federation of Government Employees. In addition, the EEOC work force has been reduced to 2,158 employees nationwide, which means that agency has lost about one-quarter of its total work force since 2002, said Gabrielle Martin, president of the National Council of EEOC Locals. "The bottom line is that the agency's workload is up—way up—but the EEOC's shrinking work force can't keep up." The Fiscal Year 2009 EEOC budget request calls for adding 177 employees, Martin said, but noted that the current budget authorizes the addition of 200 EEOC positions, which still remain unfilled. "EEOC must actually hire the allotted staff," Martin said. To see more, go to: [www.eeoc.gov/press/3-5-08.html](http://www.eeoc.gov/press/3-5-08.html).