



PARISH COURTS OF JAMAICA – CIVIL DIVISION

(APRIL 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2024)

Court Metrics	April - June Highlights				
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Gross Case Clearance Rate	125.47	138.77	188.97	115.85	95.34
Trial Date Certainty Rate	85.24	91.42	13.89	9.18	50.84
Average Time to Disposition	19.14	18.12	19.54	11.70	10.40
	months	months	months	months	months

Table of Contents

CHIEF JUSTICE’S MESSAGE SECOND QUARTER, CIVIL DIVISION 2024	14
Executive Summary.....	15
Methodology	19
Introduction	21
Chapter 1.0: The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division	22
1.1: Case Activity Summary.....	22
1.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	26
Chapter 2.0: Clarendon Parish Court – Civil Division	35
2.1: Case Activity Summary.....	35
2.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	38
Chapter 3.0: St. Catherine Parish Court –Civil Division	46
3.1: Case Activity Summary.....	46
3.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	50
Chapter 4.0: Trelawny Parish Court –Civil Division	59
4.1: Case Activity Summary.....	59
4.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	63
Chapter 5.0: St. Ann Parish Court –Civil Division.....	69
5.1: Case Activity Summary.....	69
5.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	73
5.3: Browns Town Outstation –Civil Division	82
5.3.1: Case Activity Summary.....	82
5.3.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	85
Chapter 6.0: Westmoreland Parish Court –Civil Division	90
6.1: Case Activity Summary.....	90
6.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	94
Chapter 7.0: St. Mary Parish Court –Civil Division.....	102
7.1: Case Activity Summary.....	102
7.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	106
Chapter 8.0: Portland Parish Court –Civil Division	111
8.1: Case Activity Summary.....	111
8.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	115

Chapter 9.0: St. Thomas Parish Court – Civil Division	120
9.1: Case Activity Summary.....	120
9.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	124
Chapter 10.0: St. James Parish Court –Civil Division.....	130
10.1: Case Activity Summary.....	130
10.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	132
Performance Summaries-Other Parish Courts	138
Aggregate Data summaries – All Parish Courts	139
Conclusion	164
Glossary of Statistical Terms.....	166

List of Tables / Charts

Executive Summary

Table i: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	17
Table ii: Key Performance Metrics of High-Performing Courts	18

Corporate Area

Table 1.01 Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	22
Table 1.02 Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	23
Table 1.03 Sampling distribution of the types of service for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	24
Table 1.04 Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	24
Table 1.05 Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	25
Table 1.06 Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	25
Table 1.07 Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	26

Table 1.08	Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	27
Table 1.09	Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	27
Table 1.10	Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	28
Table 1.11	Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	29
Table 1.12a	Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	30
Table 1.12b	Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	31
Table 1.13a	Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	32
Table 1.13b	Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	33
Table 1.14	Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	34

Clarendon

Table 2.01	Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	35
Table 2.02	Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	35
Table 2.03	Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Clarendon Parish Court-Civil Division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	36
Table 2.04	Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	36
Table 2.05	Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	37
Table 2.06	Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	37
Table 2.07	Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	38
Table 2.08	Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	39

Table 2.9	Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	39
Table 2.10	Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	40
Table 2.11	Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	40
Table 2.12	Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	41
Table 2.13a	Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	42
Table 2.13b	Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	43
Table 2.14a	Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	44
Table 2.14b	Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	45

St. Catherine

Table 3.01	Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	46
Table 3.02	Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	46
Table 3.03	Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil Division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	47
Table 3.04:	Sampling distribution of types of service for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	48
Table 3.05	Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	48
Table 3.06	Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	49
Table 3.07	Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	49
Table 3.08	Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	50
Table 3.09	Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	51

Table 3.10	Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	51
Table 3.11	Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	52
Table 3.12	Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	52
Table 3.13	Sampling distribution of Trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	53
Table 3.14	Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	53
Table 3.15a	Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	55
Table 3.15b	: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	56
Table 3.16a	Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	57
Table 3.16b	Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	58

Trelawny

Table 4.01	Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	59
Table 4.02	Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	59
Table 4.03	Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil Division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	60
Table 4.04	Sampling distribution of types of service for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	60
Table 4.05	Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	61
Table 4.06	Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	61
Table 4.07	Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	62
Table 4.08	Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	63

Table 4.09	Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	64
Table 4.10	Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	64
Table 4.11	Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	65
Table 4.12	Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	65
Table 4.13	Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	66
Table 4.14	Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	67
Table 4.15	Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	68

St. Ann

Table 5.01	Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	69
Table 5.02	Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	69
Table 5.03	Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court-Civil Division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	70
Table 5.04	Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	70
Table 5.05	Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	71
Table 5.06	Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	71
Table 5.07	Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	72
Table 5.08	Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	73
Table 5.09	Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	74
Table 5.10	Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	75

Table 5.11	Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	75
Table 5.12	Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	76
Table 5.13	Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	76
Table 5.14	Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	77
Table 5.15a	Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	78
Table 5.15b	Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	79
Table 5.16a	Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	80
Table 5.16b	Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	81

**Brown’s Town
Outstation**

Table 5.3.01	Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	82
Table 5.3.02	Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Browns Town Outstation for second quarter ended June 30, 2024	82
Table 5.3.03	Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	83
Table 5.3.04	Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	83
Table 5.3.05	Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	84
Table 5.3.06	Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	85
Table 5.3.07	Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	86

Table 5.3.08	Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	86
Table 5.3.09	Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	87
Table 5.3.10	Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	88
Table 5.3.11	Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at second quarter ended June 30, 2024	89

Westmoreland

Table 6.01	Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	90
Table 6.02	Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	90
Table 6.03	Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil Division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	91
Table 6.04	Sampling distribution of types of service in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	91
Table 6.05	Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	92
Table 6.06	Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	92
Table 6.07	Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	93
Table 6.08	Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	94
Table 6.09	Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	95
Table 6.10	Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	96
Table 6.11	Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	96
Table 6.12	Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	97
Table 6.13	Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	97

Table 6.14	Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	99
Table 6.15a	Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	100
Table 6.15b	Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	101

St. Mary

Table 7.01	Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	102
Table 7.02	Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	102
Table 7.03:	Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	103
Table 7.04	Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	103
Table 7.05	Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	104
Table 7.06	Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	104
Table 7.07	Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	105
Table 7.08	Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	106
Table 7.09	Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	107
Table 7.10	Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	107
Table 7.11	Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	108
Table 7.12	Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	108
Table 7.13	Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	109
Table 7.14	Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	110

Portland

Table 8.01	Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	111
Table 8.02	Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	111
Table 8.03	Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil Division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	112
Table 8.04	Sampling distribution of types of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	112
Table 8.05	Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	113
Table 8.06	Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	113
Table 8.07	Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	114
Table 8.08	Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	115
Table 8.09	Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	116
Table 8.10	Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	116
Table 8.11	Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	117
Table 8.12	Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	118
Table 8.13	Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	119

St. Thomas

Table 9.01	Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	120
Table 9.02	Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	120
Table 9.03	Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas Parish Court-Civil Division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	121
Table 9.04	Sampling distribution of the types of service for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	121

Table 9.05	Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	122
Table 9.06	Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	122
Table 9.07	Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	123
Table 9.08	Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	124
Table 9.09	Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	125
Table 9.10	Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	125
Table 9.11	Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	126
Table 9.12	Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	126
Table 9.13	Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	127
Table 9.14	Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	128
Table 9.15	Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	129

St. James

Table 10.01	Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	130
Table 10.02	Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	130
Table 10.03	Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. James Parish Court-Civil Division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	131
Table 10.04	Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	131
Table 10.05	Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	132

Table 10.06	Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	133
Table 10.07	Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	133
Table 10.08	Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	134
Table 10.09	Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	134
Table 10.10	Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	136
Table 10.11	Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	137

Other Parishes

Table 11.1.01	Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the St. Elizabeth, Hanover and Manchester Parish Courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	138
---------------	--	-----

**All Parish Courts-
Data Summaries**

Table 11.2.01	Aggregate data summaries – all Parish Courts: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	139
Table 11.2.02:	Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	140
Chart 11.2.01:	Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for the first quarter of 2023 and 2024	141
Chart 11.2.02a:	Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for first quarter of 2023 and 2024	142
Chart 11.1.02b	Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for first quarter of 2023 and 2024	142
Table 11.2.03:	Sampling distribution of claims filed during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	143
Table 11.2.04	Forecasted case activity statistics for the third quarter of 2024 [July 01 – September 30, 2024]	144
Table 11.2.05	Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 in the civil division of the parish courts in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	145

Table 11.2.06	Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	.....	146
Table 11.2.07a	Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	.....	147
Table 11.2.07b	Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at second quarter ended June 30, 2024	.....	149
Table 11.2.08a	Sampling distribution of the times to disposition in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	.....	151
Table 11.2.08b	Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	.....	153
Table 11.2.08c	Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	.....	155
Table 11.2.09	Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	.....	156
Table 11.2.10a	Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	.....	158
Table 11.2.10b	Trial court activity summary during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	.....	159
Table 11.2.10c	Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	.....	160
Table 11.2.10d	Summary of case appearance frequency for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	.....	161
Table 11.2.10e	Summary of the average court appearance frequency for cases disposed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	.....	162
Table 11.2.11	Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024	.....	163

CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE SECOND QUARTER, CIVIL DIVISION 2024

As we review the second quarter's performance, it's crucial to acknowledge both our progress and the challenges that remain. This report provides a detailed analysis of key metrics, highlighting our commitment to continuous improvement and the efficient administration of justice. The second quarter had an overall gross clearance rate of 125.47%, a hearing date of 85.24%, and an average time to disposition of 19.14 months. The consequence of this is that the net backlog rate is under 3%, which meets the international standard of $\leq 5\%$. However, the gross backlog rate remains high at 19.63%, exceeding the international standard of $\leq 10\%$. This indicates that while the courts are successfully processing a significant volume of cases, a substantial number of cases are still pending.

The net result is that most cases are completed within the new time standard of 18 months. However, a close examination of the data is necessary to determine the underlying causes of the high gross backlog rate. The ultimate objective is to enhance court efficiency by eliminating all unnecessary delays and ensuring that case processing time is limited to the irreducible minimum. This means cases should only be adjourned when absolutely necessary. Achieving this will enable our courts to fulfil their constitutional mandate to hear and determine civil matters within a reasonable timeframe.

Finally, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to all judges, court staff, attorneys at law, and other stakeholders for their contributions to delivering justice to our citizens with significantly reduced delays.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD

Chief Justice of Jamaica

Executive Summary

The Honourable Chief Justice has outline following strategic objectives for the court system: a court-wide case clearance rate of 130%, a trial date certainty rate of 85%, and an overall net case backlog rate of under 5%. The results presented in this second-quarter report (covering April 1 to June 30, 2024) indicate that the Civil Division of the Parish Courts is on track to meet these targets.

Regarding gross case clearance rates, the Civil Division of the Parish Courts recorded 125.47% during the report period. Although this represents a decrease of 13.30 percentage points compared to the same period in 2023, it still meets the international standard for this metric. Notably, the six leading parish courts exceeded the court-wide target: St. Mary Parish Court (275.32%), Portland Parish Court (225.81%), Trelawny Parish Court (151.28%), St. Catherine Parish Court (145.72%), St. James Parish Court (140.58%), and Corporate Area Parish Court (134.73%). Additionally, nine parish courts surpassed the international standard of 100% for case clearance rates during the second quarter of 2024.

For the period of April 1 to June 30, 2024, no parish court met the minimum annual standard for the gross case disposal rate, which is typical for a quarterly report. However, the trial date certainty rate for the Civil Division of the Parish Courts stood at 85.24%, meeting the required standard. The average time to dispose of a civil case in the second quarter was approximately 574 days (19.14 months). The Trelawny (5.54 months), Westmoreland (5.55 months), and Clarendon (8.24 months) Parish Courts had the lowest average times to disposition.

The backlog rate remains a key metric in this report. As of the end of the second quarter of 2024, the estimated gross case backlog rate in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts was 19.63%, meaning approximately 19.63% of combined active and inactive cases were over two years old. This is above the targeted value of 10%. However, when inactive cases are excluded, the net case backlog rate for active cases was approximately 2.28%, which meets the required annual standard of $\leq 5\%$. The St. Thomas, Clarendon, and Trelawny Parish Courts performed best in this regard, each with less than 2.0% of active civil cases in backlog.

Several factors influenced case progression in the second quarter of 2024, with the leading causes of adjournment being no returns, the absence of defendants or both parties, ongoing discussions, and referrals to mediation. The five primary methods of case disposition during the quarter were by being struck out, settlement, consent judgment, default judgment, and withdrawal.

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts continues to demonstrate strong performance, having already achieved the target of reducing the overall net case backlog rate to under 5%. As of the end of the second quarter of 2024, the division is well positioned to make noteworthy progress toward meeting the overall quantitative targets. The Judiciary of Jamaica remains on a steady path towards becoming a world-class institution that leverages innovation and technology to deliver efficient services and timely judgments in an environment where all stakeholders are valued.

See below aggregate case activity summary:

Table i: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Disposal rate (%)	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
3918	1323	4916	33.77	125.47	85.24	19.14

Note: For the Corporate Area Civil Court, the gross case disposal rate was calculated only using the new big claims filed in the quarter

Forecast:

Using the method of exponential smoothing, it is forecast that in the third quarter of 2024, 3,973 new civil cases will be filed in the civil division of the parish courts, while 4,707 cases are expected to be disposed or become inactive. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for third quarter of 2024 in the civil division of the parish courts is therefore 118.48%. The parish courts of St. Mary, Portland and St. Catherine are expected to register the highest case clearance rates in the third quarter of 2024.

With over eight years of extensive data on case activity in the parish courts of Jamaica, Lagrange multiplier techniques were applied to determine the minimum requirements that a highly successful court must meet in order to satisfy an efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of case backlog and to provide optimal service to the public. The minimum annual required standards for each key parameter are summarized in the table below:

Table ii: Key Performance Metrics of High-Performing Courts

Parameter	Minimum Annual Required Standard
Case Disposal Rate	$\geq 75\%$
Case Clearance Rate	$\geq 100\%$
Case Congestion Rate	$\leq 115\%$
Trial Date Certainty Rate	$\geq 85\%$
Net Case Backlog Rate	$\leq 5\%$
Gross Case Backlog Rate	$\leq 10\%$
Average Number of Mentions	≤ 3

If any court or jurisdiction can consistently achieve these rates, it will attain a high level of efficiency and service excellence, characteristic of high performing courts.

Methodology

To create a data-driven enterprise for policymaking and operational decisions, the Judiciary of Jamaica ensures the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic Court Statistics Reports is maintained to be of paramount importance. Consequently, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been established in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court.

In the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, known as the Case Information Statistical System (CISS), has been operational in all courts for the past eight years. This system captures a comprehensive range of data on the progression of cases from initiation to disposition and is managed by at least one dedicated Data Entry/Statistical Officer in each court. These officers update the system daily to ensure that the data produced, is as close to real-time as possible. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed up to the network at the end of each month, with the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistics and Data Division at the Supreme Court.

A comprehensive data validation mechanism is in place to periodically sample case files in all parish courts on a quarterly basis. In each instance, a representative sample of case files is taken and cross-checked against the electronic data to detect and eliminate errors of omission and commission. Monthly statistical data is processed using these submissions, culminating in Quarterly Reports and eventually the Annual Report. All Quarterly and Annual Parish Court Statistics Reports produced are published on the website of the Supreme Court; however, interim data required by stakeholders may be requested through the Office of the Chief Justice.

Disclaimer

The numbers reflected in the case activity summaries in the annual statistics report may vary slightly from those quoted in the individual quarterly reports throughout the year due to occasional constraints with timely access to all records and other mitigating factors. Methodological adjustments may also result in slight variations in comparative figures across periods. Note, progressive improvements in the strength of the data collection mechanism in some courts have positively impacted measurement outcomes.

Introduction

This report provides an overview of case activity in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the second quarter, ending on June 30, 2024. It covers key areas such as the number of new cases filed, cases disposed of, and inactive cases during the period, alongside the most common causes of action and applications. Additionally, the report examines the number of reissue dates, the leading methods of case disposition, and reasons for adjournments. It also addresses the various enforcement actions taken, such as judgment summonses, warrants of levy, and warrants of attachment, noting how these cases are reactivated and their outcomes.

Crucial efficiency indicators, including case clearance and disposal rates, trial date certainty, case congestion, and courtroom utilization, are calculated to measure court performance, where data is available. These metrics serve as important benchmarks for evaluating the courts, both individually and comparatively. The report is divided into three sections: the first summarizes case flow and demographics, the second focuses on delay factors, dispositions, and performance metrics, and the third highlights enforcement-related activities.

For several courts, the data is based on population estimates derived from representative samples, ensuring reliability and data integrity. However, one limitation is that data collection timelines differ between courts, affecting comparability at this stage. In some instances, scientific sampling methods are used to fill data gaps. The report concludes with cumulative case activity summaries for the Civil Courts for the second quarter of 2024.

Chapter 1.0: The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division

1.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division for the second quarter of 2024.

Table 1.01: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	588	63.23
Disposed	220	23.66
Inactive	122	13.12
Total	930	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 930 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 588 (or 63.23%) cases were still active, 220 cases were disposed of and 122 were inactive at the end of the quarter. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 36.77% for big claims for the quarter, which is 32.50 percentage points above the estimated disposal rate recorded for big claims in the corresponding second quarter of 2023.

Table 1.02: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	270	28.36
Recovery of Possession	179	18.80
Negligence	90	9.45
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	66	6.93
Damages for Negligence	56	5.88
Sub-total	661	69.43

Total sample size of causes of action= 952

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases entered in the quarter at the Corporate Area Civil Court was breach of contract with 270 or approximately 28.36% of the sample. Recovery of possession and negligence with 179 or 18.80% and 90 or 9.45% respectively rank next. The top five causes of action were rounded off by rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 66 or 6.93% and damages for negligence with 56 or 5.88% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 69.43% of the total sample of 952 causes of action.

Table 1.03: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	300	62.50
Bailiff	162	33.75
District Constable	18	3.75
Total	480	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, against whom a claim is made, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority with 300 or 62.50% of the sample, followed by service by the bailiff with 162 or 33.75% and service by the District Constable with 18 or 3.75%.

Table 1.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	572	55.37
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	461	44.63
Total	1033*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 930 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1033 matters entered in the second quarter of 2024 were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 572 or 55.37% of the sample, followed by courtroom 1 with 461 or 44.63% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Table 1.05: Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	402	42.49
Female	356	37.63
Registered Company	182	19.24
Trading As	6	0.63
Total	946	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 946 matters entered in the second quarter of 2024 at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 402 or 42.49% of the sample. Females accounted for 356 or 37.63% and registered companies accounted for 182 or 19.24% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 6 or 0.63% of the sample.

Table 1.06: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	489	51.26
Female	341	35.74
Registered Company	109	11.43
Trading As	15	1.57
Total	954	100.00

There were 954 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the second quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 489 or 51.26% of the sample, followed by females with 341 or 35.74%. Registered companies accounted for 109 or 11.43% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 15 or 1.57% of the sample.

1.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 1.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	515	44.70
Default Judgment Date	380	32.99
Trial	149	12.93
Part-Heard Date	65	5.64
Date for Order	23	2.00
Hearing of Application	18	1.56
Final Judgment Date	2	0.17
Total	1152	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 1152 matters that went to court during the second quarter of 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 515 or 44.70% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 380 or 32.99%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for trial dates with 149 or 12.93% of the sample. It is of note that 65 or 5.64% of the matters in this sample were adjourned part heard. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned at the mention stage and that there is a notable incidence of adjournments for

default judgments to be entered. The result on the high incidence of adjournments for mention court hearings is not however an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are fundamental and intrinsic to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 1.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	160	31.07
Referred to Mediation	10	1.94
Hearing of Application	6	1.17
Parties in Discussion	4	0.78
Notice of Adjournment	2	0.39
Sub-total	182	35.34

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 515

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 515 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the second quarter of 2024. The absence of defendants accounted for 160 or 31.07% of the sample and referrals to mediation accounted for 10 or 1.94% of the sample. Adjournments for the hearing of an application accounted for 6 or 1.17%, adjournments for parties in discussion accounted for 4 or 0.78% and notices of adjournment accounted for 0.39% of the sample.

Table 1.09: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	496
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 424 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 496 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 424 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had approximately 12 reissue incidences.

Table 1.10: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	363	39.07
Consent	194	20.88
Default Judgement	91	9.80
Withdrawal	89	9.58
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	57	6.14
Sub-total	794	85.47

NB there were 929 matters were disposed of in Q2 2024

A total of 929 matters were disposed of at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the second quarter of 2024. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 794 or 85.47% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 363 or 39.07% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 194 or 20.88% and matters disposed by default judgments with 91 or 9.80%. Withdrawals and matters disposed of by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD round off the top five methods with 89 or 9.58% and 57 or 6.14% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 1.11: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
930	342	1253	134.73	36.77

The above table shows 930 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 220 of these cases were disposed of and 122 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 36.77%, a 32.50 percentage points improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 813 cases were disposed of, and 440 cases became inactive during the quarter, several of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 134.73%, which exceeds the international standard on this metric, but is a 10.75 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2023.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 27.23%, which is 24.57 percentage points above the net disposal rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023. The estimated net case clearance rate is 100.62%, which is approximately 6.83 percentage points above the rate recorded in 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 1.12a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	523
Mean	281.4646
Median	217.0000
Mode	98.00
Std. Deviation	297.35125
Skewness	4.153
Std. Error of Skewness	.107
Minimum	19.00
Maximum	2898.00

The above table outlines summary data on 523 civil matters disposed of in the second quarter of 2024 at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 281 days or approximately 9.4 months, while the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 98 days. The standard deviation of approximately 297 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness is seen as an indication that there were markedly more scores in the data set which fall below the overall average time. The oldest matter disposed of in the quarter was 2898 days or approximately 8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 19 days.

Table 1.12b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	81
Mean	255.0864
Median	159.0000
Mode	118.00
Std. Deviation	298.04510
Skewness	2.747
Std. Error of Skewness	.267
Range	1537.00
Minimum	21.00
Maximum	1558.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 81 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 255 days or roughly 8.5 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 203 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 47.58 days.

Table 1.13a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	3610
Mean	545.2632
Median	382.0000
Mode	17.00
Std. Deviation	533.16621
Skewness	2.137
Std. Error of Skewness	.041
Range	4578.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	4580.00

The above data is based on a sample of 3610 active civil matters as of the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 545 days or roughly 18 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 17 days. The standard deviation of roughly 533 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 4580 days old or roughly 12.7 years, while the minimum time is 3 days.

Table 1.13b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	180
Mean	120.4389
Median	52.0000
Mode	52.00
Std. Deviation	237.71247
Skewness	6.767
Std. Error of Skewness	.181
Range	2106.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	2109.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 180 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. The average age of these matters was approximately 120 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age were both 52 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large variation among the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the overall series average. The highest age in the data set was 2109 days and the lowest was 3 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Table 1.14: Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average overall Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Highest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Lowest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Standard Deviation of the Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Average Courtroom Utilization Rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average Number of Courtroom Adjournments Per Day
Corporate Area Court-Civil Division	88.78	147.22%	22.22	26.85	NA	1.1

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the second quarter of 2024. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open-court hearings in all courtrooms (including outstations) which are utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocated for court hearings in any court, on any given day, should be utilized. The overall average courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Civil Court in the quarter was approximately 88.78%, which is an indication that on average approximately 89% of the available hours for court hearings in the second quarter of 2024. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates did not vary widely from the overall mean.

The sample size of days used to compute the rates for each court was sufficiently large and representative, though not the same for all courts. The margin of error of the courtroom utilization rates is a reliable $\pm 2.5\%$.

Chapter 2.0: Clarendon Parish Court – Civil Division

2.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Clarendon Parish Court for the second quarter of 2024.

Table 2.01: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	188	76.73
Disposed	52	21.22
Inactive	5	2.04
Total	245	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 245 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 188 cases or 76.73% of these cases were still active, while 52 were disposed of and 5 rendered inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 23.27%, which is 4.18 percentage points below the gross disposal rate recorded in the previous second quarter of 2024.

Table 2.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	205	75.93
Small Claim	65	24.07
Total	270	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 270 civil claims filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. The majority of which 205 or 75.93% were big claims, while 65 or 24.07% were small claims.

Table 2.03 Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Clarendon parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	133	49.26
Recovery of Possession	28	10.37
Damages for Negligence	24	8.89
Money Owing	14	5.19
Rent Owing and Continuing	13	4.81
Sub-total	212	78.52

Total sample size of causes of action= 270

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases filed in the quarter at the Clarendon Parish Court was breach of contract with 133 or approximately 49.26% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 28 or 10.37% and damages for negligence with 24 or 8.89% rank next. Money owing with 14 or 5.19% and rent owing and continuing with 4.81% of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

Table 2.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	208	77.04
Chapelton Outstation	29	10.74
Lionel Town Outstation	26	9.63
Frankfield Outstation	7	2.59
Total	270*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 245 cases**

The majority of a sample of 270 new matters filed in the quarter were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 208 or 77.04% of the total sample. The Chapelton Outstation accounted for 29 or 10.74% of the cases filed. The Lionel Town outstation accounted for 26 or 9.63% and the Frankfield outstation accounted for 7 or 2.59% of the new cases heard.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Table 2.05: Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	137	51.12
Female	128	47.76
Registered Company	2	0.75
Trading As	1	0.37
Total	268	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 268 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024 at the Clarendon Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 137 or 51.12% of the sample, followed by females with 128 or 47.76%. Registered companies accounted for 2 or 0.75% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.37% of the sample.

Table 2.06: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	173	65.04
Female	90	33.83
Trading As	3	1.13
Total	266	100.00

There were 266 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the second quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 173 or 65.04% of the sample, followed by females with 90 or 33.83% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 3 or 1.13% of the sample.

2.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 2.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	165	48.53
Trial	96	28.24
Part-Heard Date	44	12.94
Default Judgment Date	35	10.29
Total	340	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 340 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The highest proportion, 165 or 48.53% of the sample, were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a trial date with 96 or 28.24%, matters adjourned for a part heard date with 44 or 12.94% and matters adjournment for a default judgment date with 10.29% of the sample.

Table 2.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	97	22.77
Parties in Discussion	41	9.62
Referred to Mediation	23	5.40
At Counsel's Request	22	5.16
New Date	15	3.52
Sub-total	198	46.48

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 426

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 426 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the second quarter of 2024. Adjournments for no return or for re-issue accounted for 97 or 22.77% of the sample and parties in discussion accounted for 41 or 9.62% of the sample. Referrals to mediation accounted for 23 or 5.40%, adjournments at counsel’s request accounted for 22 or 5.16% and adjournments for a new date to be set accounted for 3.52% of the sample.

Table 2.09: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	30
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponding to 24 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 30 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 24 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had approximately 13 reissue incidences.

Table 2.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	121	44.98
Consent	42	15.61
Settlement	27	10.04
Oral Admission	23	8.55
Withdrawal	18	6.69
Sub-total	231	85.87

NB: there were 269 matters were disposed of in Q2 2024

A total of 269 civil matters were disposed of at the Clarendon Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 231 or 85.87% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 121 or 44.98% and matters disposed of by consent with 42 or 15.61% of the sample. Matters disposed by settlements with 27 or 10.04% of the sample ranked next, followed by matters disposed by oral admissions with 23 or 8.55%. Withdrawals round off the top methods of disposition with 6.69% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 2.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
53	13	75.47

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 53 trial dates were set in the quarter, of which 13 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 75.47%.

The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an approximately 75% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 21.41 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023.

Table 2.12: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
245	57	255	104.08	23.27

The above table shows 245 new big claims cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 52 of these cases were disposed of and 5 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 23.27%, a 4.18 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 239 cases were disposed of, and 16 cases became inactive during the quarter, several of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 104.08%, which meets the international standard on this metric, and is a 20.42 percentage points improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2023.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 21.67%, which is 2.56 percentage points below the net disposal rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023. The estimated net case clearance rate is 99.58%, which is approximately 20.06 percentage points above the rate recorded in 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 2.13a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	113
Mean	247.1947
Median	182.0000
Mode	119.00
Std. Deviation	215.79578
Skewness	.885
Std. Error of Skewness	.227
Range	860.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	867.00

The above table outlines sample data on 113 civil matters disposed of in the second quarter of 2024 at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 247 days or 8.2 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 119 days and the median time was 182 days. The standard deviation of approximately 216 days is an indication that there is some variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that a higher proportion of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The oldest matter disposed of in the sample was 867 days or approximately 2.4 years old, while the minimum time taken was 7 days.

Table 2.13b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	34
Mean	271.4118
Mode	493.00
Std. Deviation	206.81175
Skewness	.552
Std. Error of Skewness	.403
Range	661.00
Minimum	21.00
Maximum	682.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 34 matters at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 271 days or approximately 9 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. The oldest matter disposed of in the sample was 682 days, while the minimum time taken was 21 days.

Table 2.14a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	475
Mean	346.6947
Median	270.0000
Mode	55.00
Std. Deviation	313.35989
Skewness	1.018
Std. Error of Skewness	.112
Range	1208.00
Minimum	9.00
Maximum	1217.00

The above data is based on a sample of 475 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was approximately 347 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 55 days and the median age in the distribution was 270 days. The standard deviation of approximately 313 days suggests that there is some variation in the individual scores around the average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 1217 days old or approximately 3.3 years, while the minimum time taken is 9 days.

Table 2.14b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	116
Mean	361.9655
Median	293.5000
Mode	272.00
Std. Deviation	260.74899
Skewness	1.039
Std. Error of Skewness	.225
Range	1082.00
Minimum	9.00
Maximum	1091.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 116 active reissued matters at the Clarendon Civil Court as at the end of the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. The average age of these matters was approximately 362 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 272 days, and the median age was 293.50 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 1091 days and the lowest was 9 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 3.0: St. Catherine Parish Court –Civil Division

3.1: Case Activity Summary

This section of the chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Catherine Parish Court for the second quarter of 2024.

Table 3.01: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	468	80.14
Disposed	114	19.52
Inactive	2	0.34
Total	584	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 584 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 468 cases or 80.14% of these cases were still active, while 114 were disposed of and 2 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 19.86%, which is 8.10 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023.

Table 3.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	652	89.93
Small Claim	73	10.07
Total	725	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 725 claims filed in the second quarter of 2024, 652 or 89.93% were big claims and 73 or 10.07% were small claims.

Table 3.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	248	34.35
Damages for Negligence	106	14.68
Negligence	71	9.83
Recovery of Possession	69	9.56
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	36	4.99
Sub-total	530	73.41

Total sample size of causes of action= 722

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table details a sample of 722 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was breach of contract with 248 or approximately 34.35% of the sample, damages for negligence with 106 or 14.68% and negligence with 71 or 9.83%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by recovery of possession with 69 or 9.56% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 36 or 4.99% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 73.41% of the total sample of causes of action.

Table 3.04: Sampling distribution of types of service for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	62	44.29
District Constable	53	37.86
Personal	25	17.86
Total	140	100.00

The types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 62 or 44.29% of the sample, district constable accounted for 53 or 37.86% and personal service accounted for 25 or 17.86% of the sample.

Table 3.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	599	82.85
Linstead Outstation	88	12.17
Old Harbour Outstation	36	4.98
Total	723*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 582 cases**

The majority of the sample of 723 new claims filed in the second quarter was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 599 or 82.85% of the total sample. The 88 or 12.17% that were entered in the Linstead outstation followed this, followed by the Old Harbour outstation which accounted for 36 or 4.98% of the claims.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Table 3.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	338	47.88
Female	285	40.37
Registered Company	83	11.76
Total	706	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the 706 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 338 or 47.88%, followed by females with 285 or 40.37% and registered companies with 83 or 11.76% of the sample.

Table 3.07: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	420	61.40
Female	242	35.38
Registered Company	22	3.22
Total	684	100.00

There were 684 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 420 or 61.40% of the total sample, followed by females with 242 or 35.38%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 22 or 3.22% of the total sample.

3.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 3.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	466	37.58
Trial	422	34.03
Default Judgment Date	222	17.90
Part-Heard Date	109	8.79
Hearing of Application	21	1.69
Total	1240	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1,240 matters that went to court during the second quarter of 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The highest proportion of the sample, 466 or 37.58% were adjourned for a mention date and 422 or 34.03% were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 222 or 17.90% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 109 or 8.79% of the sample.

Table 3.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	511	29.22
Defendant Absent	268	15.32
Parties in Discussion	128	7.32
Both Parties Absent	101	5.77
Plaintiff Absent	51	2.92
Sub-total	1059	60.55

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled= 1749

The above table details a sample of 1,749 adjournments or continuances heard in the quarter, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for reissue with 511 or 29.22% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 268 or 15.32% and parties in discussion with 128 or 7.32% and adjournments due to absence of both parties with 101 or 5.77% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 51 or 2.92% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 60.55% of the total sample.

Table 3.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	20
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 17 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance of cases in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 20 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 17 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had approximately 12 reissue incidences.

Table 3.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	487	45.99
Default Judgment	133	12.56
Consent	120	11.33
Settlement	94	8.88
Withdrawal	74	6.99
Sub-total	908	85.74

NB: There were 1059 matters disposed of in Q2 2024

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 1,059 matters disposed of during the second quarter of 2024. The list is led by matters struck out with 487 or 45.99% of the disposals, followed matters disposed by default judgment with 133 or 12.568%, matters disposed by consent with 120 or 11.33% and matters disposed by settlements with 94 or 8.88%. Withdrawals account for 74 or 6.99% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 85.74% of the sample.

Table 3.12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	57	89.06
Settlement	7	10.94
Total	64	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the second quarter of 2024 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 57 or 89.06% of the sample of matters, account for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 7 or 10.94% of the sample account for the remaining proportion. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 3.13: Sampling distribution of Trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
211	29	86.26

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 211 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 29 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 86.26%, suggesting that during the quarter, there was an approximately 86% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate falls below the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 3.14: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Estimated gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated gross Case disposal rate (%)
584	116	851	145.72	19.86

The above table shows 584 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 114 of these cases were disposed of and 2 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 19.86%, which is 8.10 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 812 cases were disposed of, and 39 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024.

This led to a gross case clearance rate of 145.72%, which exceeds the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 22.98 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 19.59%, which is 8.21 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023. The net clearance for the quarter is 139.52%, which is 20.65 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 3.15a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	783
Mean	563.3295
Median	381.0000
Mode	308.00
Std. Deviation	536.29470
Skewness	1.537
Std. Error of Skewness	.087
Range	2660.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	2670.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 783 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2024 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 563 days or 18.8 months, which is approximately 349 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the second quarter of 2023. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 308 days. The standard deviation of 536 days is an indication that there is some dispersion of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores are below around the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2,670 days or approximately 7.4 years old, while the youngest was 10 days.

Table 3.15b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	92
Mean	726.7283
Median	761.0000
Mode	2193.00
Std. Deviation	485.23012
Skewness	1.172
Std. Error of Skewness	.251
Range	2153.00
Minimum	40.00
Maximum	2193.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 92 matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 727 days or approximately 2 years. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series are clustered around the overall average.

Table 3.16a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	2090
Mean	652.8325
Median	451.0000
Mode	87.00
Std. Deviation	695.13419
Skewness	2.328
Std. Error of Skewness	.054
Range	8302.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	8304.00

The above data is based on a sample of 2,090 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was approximately 653 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 87 days. The standard deviation of approximately 695 days suggests that there is a large dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 8,304 days old or approximately 23.07 years, while the minimum time taken is 2 days.

Table 3.16b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	192
Mean	881.3958
Median	937.0000
Mode	363.00
Std. Deviation	464.34101
Skewness	1.027
Std. Error of Skewness	.175
Range	2976.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	2978.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 192 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court as at the end of the second ended June 30, 2024. The average age of these matters was approximately 881 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 363 days, and the median age was 937 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the overall average. The highest age in the data set was 2,978 days and the lowest was 2 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 4.0: Trelawny Parish Court –Civil Division

4.1: Case Activity Summary

This section of the chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Trelawny Parish Court for the second quarter of 2024.

Table 4.01: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	87	74.36
Disposed	16	13.68
Inactive	14	11.97
Total	117	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 117 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 87 or 74.36% of these cases were active, 16 or 13.68% were disposed of and 14 cases became inactive at the end of the quarter. This produces a gross case disposal rate of 25.64% for the quarter, a 5.93 percentage points improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2023.

Table 4.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	96	73.28
Small Claim	35	26.72
Total	131	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 131 civil claims filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. The majority of which 96 or 73.28% were big claims, while 35 or 26.72% were small claims.

Table 4.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Money Owing	46	35.94
Recovery of Possession	18	14.06
Arrears of Rent	10	7.81
Return of Cash	5	3.91
Money Loaned	4	3.13
Sub-total	83	64.84

Total sample size of causes of action = 128

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action in the quarter were money owing with 46 or 35.94% and recovery of possession with 18 or 14.06% of the sample. Arrears of rent with 10 or 7.81%, return of cash with 5 or 3.91% and money loaned with 4 or 3.13% of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 64.84% of all the total sample of 128 causes of action.

Table 4.04: Sampling distribution of types of service for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	121	95.28
Bailiff	6	4.72
Total	127	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants whom a claim is made against are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 121 or 95.28% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 6 or 4.72% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 4.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Falmouth Outstation	69	52.67
Clarks Town Outstation	43	32.82
Ulster Spring Outstation	19	14.50
Total	131*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 117 cases**

The majority of the sample of 69 new matters filed in 52.67% of the accommodations was entered in the Falmouth outstation. The 43 or 32.82% matters that were entered in the Clarks Town Outstation followed this, while court sittings at the Ulster Spring outstation ranked next with 19 or 14.50% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Table 4.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	77	64.71
Female	42	35.29
Total	119	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 119 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024 at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 77 or 64.71%, followed by females with 42 or 35.29%.

Table 4.07: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	79	67.52
Female	38	32.48
Total	117	100.00

There were 117 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 79 or 67.52% of the sample, followed by females with 38 or 32.48%.

4.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 4.08: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	84	38.71
Trial	62	28.57
Default Judgment Date	45	20.74
Part-Heard Date	26	11.98
Total	217	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 217 matters that were heard during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 84 or 38.71% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 62 or 28.57%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for default judgment dates with 45 or 20.74% and for part heard dates with 26 or 11.98% rank next. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for mention dates which is expected in civil and most other case types.

Table 4.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	57	26.15
Both Parties Absent	32	14.68
Defendant Absent	31	14.22
Attorney Absent	16	7.34
Plaintiff Absent	13	5.96
Sub-total	149	68.35

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 218

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 218 incidence of adjournments heard in the second quarter of 2024. Adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 57 or 26.15% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 32 or 14.68%, the absence of defendants with 31 or 14.22% and the absence of attorneys with 16 or 7.34% of the sample feature prominently on the list. The absence of plaintiffs with 13 or 5.96% of the sample respectively closes out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 68.35% of the entire sample.

Table 4.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	59
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponds to 56 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 59 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 56 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had approximately 11 reissue incidences.

Table 4.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	40	28.99
Oral Admission	27	19.57
Default Judgment	23	16.67
Struck Out	17	12.32
Settlement	10	7.25
Sub-total	117	84.78

NB: There were 138 matters disposed of in Q2 2024

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 138 matters disposed of during the second quarter of 2024. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 40 or 28.99% of the dispositions, followed by matters disposed by oral admissions with 27 or 19.57% and matters disposed by default judgment with 23 or 16.67% of the sample. Matters struck out account for 17 or 12.32% of the sample and settlements account for 10 or 7.25% of the sample. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 84.78% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 4.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
35	4	88.57

Another important performance metric is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 35 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that 4 were adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial date certainty rate of 88.57% which suggests that during the quarter there was approximately an 89% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

This outcome falls below the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 7.80 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2023.

Table 4.13: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of cases disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Estimated Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated Gross case disposal rate (%)
117	30	177	151.28	25.64

The above table shows 117 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 16 of these cases were disposed of and 14 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 25.64%, which is 5.93 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 124 cases were disposed of and 53 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 151.28%, which exceeds the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 19.89 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 15.53%, which is 4.24 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023. The net clearance for the quarter is 120.39%, which is 28.45 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 4.14: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	88
Mean	166.3182
Median	67.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	233.92953
Skewness	1.922
Std. Error of Skewness	.257
Range	876.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	882.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 88 civil cases disposed in the second quarter of 2024 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is approximately 166 days or 5.5 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days and the median time was 67 days. The high standard deviation of approximately 234 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the positive skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the quarter was 882 days or approximately 2.5 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 6 days.

Table 4.15: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	234
Mean	597.7778
Median	299.0000
Mode	117.00
Std. Deviation	630.09739
Skewness	1.044
Std. Error of Skewness	.159
Range	2292.00
Minimum	16.00
Maximum	2308.00

The above data is computed using 234 active cases at the end of the second quarter of 2024. The average age of these cases was approximately 598 days (1.7 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 117 days. The standard deviation of approximately 630 days suggests that there is a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fall below the overall mean. The oldest active case in this sample is 2,308 days (6.4 years old), while the youngest is 16 days.

Chapter 5.0: St. Ann Parish Court –Civil Division

5.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Ann Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024.

Table 5.01: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	271	77.43
Disposed	38	10.86
Inactive	41	11.71
Total	350	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 350 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 271 cases or 77.43% of these cases were still active, 38 were disposed of and 41 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 22.57%, which is a 3.33 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2023.

Table 5.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	390	87.44
Small Claims	54	12.11
POCA	2	0.45
Total	446	100.00

The above table shows that from 446 new claims filed in the second quarter of 2024, the majority of which were big claims with 390 or 87.44%, while 54 or 12.11% were small claims and 2 or 0.45% were Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

Table 5.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	113	25.86
Damages for Negligence	83	18.99
Recovery of Possession	69	15.79
Rent owing and continuing	39	8.92
Money Owing	27	6.18
Sub-total	331	75.74

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 437

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 437 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the second quarter of 2024 was breach of contract with 113 or approximately 25.86% of the sample and damages for negligence with 83 or 18.99% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 69 or 15.79% of the sample rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 39 or 8.92% and money owing with 27 or 6.18% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 75.74% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 5.04: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	46	52.87
District constable	35	40.23
Personal	6	6.90
Total	87	100.00

The types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the majority of the sample with 46 or 52.87% of the sample. Service by the district constable accounted for 35 or 40.23% and personal service with 6 or 6.90% of the sample rank next.

Table 5.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	117	48.95
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	89	37.24
Claremont Outstation	31	12.97
Church Hall	2	0.84
Total	239*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 199 cases**

The highest proportion of a sample of 239 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024 were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, accounting for 117 or 48.95% of the total sample. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 89 or 37.24%, the Claremont Outstation accounted for 31 or 12.97% and Church Hall accounted for 2 or 0.84% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Table 5.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	214	49.08
Female	192	44.04
Registered Company	27	6.19
Trading As	3	0.69
Total	436	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 436 new matters filed in the quarter, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 214 or 49.08%, followed by females with 192 or 44.04% and registered companies with 27 or 6.19% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 0.69% accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

Table 5.07: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	265	60.64
Female	143	32.72
Registered Company	24	5.49
Trading As	5	1.14
Total	437	100.00

There were 437 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 265 or 60.64% of the total sample, followed by females with 143 or 32.72%. Registered companies accounted for 24 or 5.49% of the total sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 5 or 1.14% of the sample.

5.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 5.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	387	57.00
Trial	112	16.49
Part-Heard Date	90	13.25
Default Judgment Date	80	11.78
Hearing of Application	10	1.47
Total	679	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 679 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 387 or 57% of the sample, followed by 112 or 16.49%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters disposed for part heard dates accounted for 90 or 13.25% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date account for 80 or 11.78% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 5.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	191	22.08
Defendant Absent	107	12.37
Referred to mediation	65	7.51
Parties in Discussion	62	7.17
Both Parties Absent	25	2.89
Sub-total	450	52.02

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 865

The above table details a sample of 865 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the second quarter of 2024, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 191 or 22.08% of the sample, adjournments due to defendants being absent with 107 or 12.37% and referrals to mediation with 65 or 7.51% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by adjournments due to parties in discussion with 62 or 7.17% and the absence of both parties with 25 or 2.89% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 52.02% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 5.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	85
Average Incidence	1.4

Corresponds to 60 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 85 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 60 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.4 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had approximately 14 reissue incidences.

Table 5.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	94	29.84
settlement	45	14.29
Struck Out	42	13.33
Default Judgment	40	12.70
Oral Admission	34	10.79
Sub-total	255	80.95

NB: There were 315 matters disposed of in Q2 2024

A sample of 315 matters disposed of during the second quarter of 2024 revealed that 94 or 29.84% of matters were disposed by consent, 45 or 14.29% were disposed by settlement and 42 or 13.33% of the sample were struck out. Matters disposed by default judgment with 40 or 12.70% and oral admissions with 34 or 10.79% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 80.95% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the second quarter of 2024.

Table 5.12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	28	71.79
settlement	11	28.21
Total	39	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the second quarter of 2024 at the St. Ann Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 28 or 71.79% of the sample of matters, account for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 11 or 28.21% of the sample account for the remaining proportion. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 5.13: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
41	0	100.00

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 41 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that none were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an approximately 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 5.14: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
350	79	352	100.57	22.57

The above table shows 350 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 38 cases were disposed of and 41 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 22.57%, a decrease of 3.33 percentage points compared to the second quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 235 cases were disposed of, and 117 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 100.57%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents a 72.71 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2023.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 12.30%, a decrease of 3.11 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2023. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 76.05%, a decrease of 51.62 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 5.15a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	203
Mean	316.3498
Median	126.0000
Mode	41.00
Std. Deviation	508.12246
Skewness	4.726
Std. Error of Skewness	.171
Range	4128.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	4130.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 203 civil matters disposed of in the second quarter of 2024 at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 316 days or 10.5 months, which is approximately 27 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the second quarter of 2023. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 41 days. The standard deviation of 508 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed of in the quarter was 4,130 days or approximately 11.5 years old, while the minimum time taken was 2 days.

Table 5.15b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	38
Mean	204.9474
Median	145.5000
Mode	34.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	203.47773
Skewness	1.857
Std. Error of Skewness	.383
Range	816.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	826.00

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 38 matters at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 205 days or roughly 6.8 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the majority of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 41 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 168 days or 5.6 months.

Table 5.16a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1415
Mean	658.2085
Median	452.0000
Mode	361.00
Std. Deviation	698.30502
Skewness	2.428
Std. Error of Skewness	.065
Range	4892.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	4896.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,415 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was approximately 658 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 361 days. The standard deviation of approximately 698 days suggests that there is a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 4,896 days old or approximately 13.6 years, while the minimum age is 4 days.

Table 5.16b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	159
Mean	734.6604
Median	283.0000
Mode	47.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	1046.63219
Skewness	2.272
Std. Error of Skewness	.192
Range	4738.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	4742.00

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 159 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 735 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 47 days, and the median age was 283 days. The high standard deviation indicates that there was a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of cases. The highest age in the data set was 4,742 days and the lowest was 4 days.

5.3: Browns Town Outstation - Civil Division

5.3.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Brown's Town outstation in the second quarter of 2024.

Table 5.3.01: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	76	92.68
Disposed	5	6.10
Inactive	1	1.22
Total	82	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 82 new cases filed at Brown's Town Court in the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 76 cases or 92.68% of these cases were still active, 5 were disposed of and 1 was rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 7.32% for the quarter, which is a 28.27 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2023.

Table 5.3.02: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Browns Town Outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Money Owing	20	23.26
Breach of Contract	16	18.60
Recovery of possession	10	11.63
Rent Owing and Continuing	9	10.47
Damages done to cultivation	5	5.81
Sub-total	60	69.77

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 86

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 86 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the

second quarter of 2024 were money owing with 20 or approximately 23.26% of the sample and breach of contract with 16 or 18.60% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 10 or 11.63% of the sample rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 9 or 10.47% and damages done to cultivation with 5 or 5.81% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 69.77% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 5.3.03: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	89	100
Total	89*	100

***Note: Corresponds to 80 cases**

All of a sample of 89 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Table 5.3.04: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	42	47.19
Male	41	46.07
Registered Company	6	6.74
Total	89	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 89 new matters filed in the quarter, females accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 42 or 47.19% of the sample, followed by males with 41 or 46.07% of the total sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 6.74%.

Table 5.3.05: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	45	54.22
Female	30	36.14
Registered Company	5	6.02
Trading as	3	3.61
Total	83	100.00

There were 83 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 45 or 54.22% of the total sample, followed by females with 30 or 36.14%. Registered companies accounted for 5 or 6.02% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 3.61%.

5.3.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 5.3.06: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	83	50.92
Trial	36	22.09
Default Judgment Date	25	15.34
Part-Heard Date	16	9.82
Hearing of Application	3	1.84
Total	163	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 163 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 83 or 50.92% of the sample, followed by 36 or 22.09%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for default judgment dates with 25 or 15.34% and matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 16 or 9.82% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 5.3.07: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	23	13.69
No Return/Re-Issued	6	3.57
Referred to mediation	5	2.98
Parties in Discussion	3	1.79
Attorney absent	2	1.19
Sub-total	39	23.21

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 168

The above table details a sample of 168 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the second quarter of 2024, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 23 or 13.69% of the sample, adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 6 or 3.57% and referrals to mediation with 5 or 2.98% of the sample rounds off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by parties in discussion with 3 or 1.79% and the absence of attorneys with 2 or 1.19% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 23.21% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 5.3.08: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	15	40.54
Default Judgment	8	21.62
struck out	5	13.51
Oral Admission	3	8.11
Settlement	3	8.11
Sub-total	34	91.89

NB: There were 37 matters disposed of in Q2 2024

A sample of 37 matters disposed of during the second quarter of 2024 revealed that 15 or 40.54% of matters disposed by consent and 8 or 21.62% were disposed of by default judgments.

Matters struck out with 5 or 13.51% rank next. Matters disposed by oral admissions and settlements with 3 or 8.11% each of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 91.89% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the second quarter of 2024.

Table 5.3.09: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
82	6	49	59.76	7.32

The above table shows 82 new cases filed at the Brown’s Town Outstation during the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 5 cases were disposed of and 1 case became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 7.32%, a decrease of 28.27 percentage points compared to the second quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 33 cases were disposed of, and 16 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 59.76%, which falls below the international standard for this metric and represents a 136.85 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2023. The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 6.17%, a decline of 11.22 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2023. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 40.74%, a decline of 113.61 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 5.3.10: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	25
Mean	235.6800
Median	92.0000
Mode	35.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	282.80216
Skewness	1.569
Std. Error of Skewness	.464
Range	1036.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	1044.00

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 25 civil matters disposed of in the second quarter of 2024 at the Brown’s Town Outstation. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 236 days or 7.9 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 35 days and the median time was 92 days. The standard deviation of approximately 282 days is an indication that there is some variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed of in the quarter was 1,044 days or approximately 2.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 8 days.

Table 5.3.11: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	714
Mean	578.1989
Median	463.0000
Mode	361.00
Std. Deviation	423.03985
Skewness	.593
Std. Error of Skewness	.091
Range	1624.00
Minimum	13.00
Maximum	1637.00

The above data is based on a sample of 714 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was approximately 578 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 361 days. The standard deviation of approximately 423 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 1,637 days old or approximately 4.5 years, while the minimum age is 13 days.

Chapter 6.0: Westmoreland Parish Court –Civil Division

6.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the second quarter of 2024.

Table 6.01: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	158	83.16
Disposed	29	15.26
Inactive	3	1.58
Total	190	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 190 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 158 cases or 83.16% of these cases were still active, while 29 or 15.26% were disposed of and 3 or 1.58% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 16.84%, which is a 12.18 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2023.

Table 6.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	232	89.92
Small Claim	26	10.08
Total	258	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 258 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024, the majority of which 232 or 89.92% were big claims, while 26 or 10.08% were small claims.

Table 6.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	65	26.42
Recovery of Possession	59	23.98
Negligence	16	6.50
Rent Owing	12	4.88
Breach of Agreement	9	3.66
Sub-total	161	65.45

Total sample size of causes of action = 246

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action filed in the second quarter of 2024 at the Westmoreland Parish Court was breach of contract with 65 or approximately 26.42% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 59 or 23.98%, negligence with 16 or 6.50%, rent owing with 12 or 4.88% and breach of agreement with 9 or 3.66% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 65.45% of the sample of 246 causes of action.

Table 6.04: Sampling distribution of types of service in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	132	53.66
Personal	114	46.34
Total	246	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for 132 or 53.66% and personal service accounted for 114 or 46.34% of the sample.

Table 6.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	74	56.92
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	25	19.23
Whithorn Outstation	23	17.69
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	8	6.15
Total	130*	100.00

***Note: Corresponds to 99 cases**

The majority of the sample of 130 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 74 or 56.92% of the sample. The 25 or 19.23% that were entered in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse followed this. Whithorn Outstation accounted for 23 or 17.69% and sittings at courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the remaining 6.15% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Table 6.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	131	50.97
Female	95	36.96
Registered Company	31	12.06
Total	257	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 257 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024 at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 131 or 50.97%, followed by females with 95 or 36.96%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 12.06% of the sample.

Table 6.07: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	154	63.11
Female	86	35.25
Registered Company	4	1.64
Total	244	100.00

There were 244 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 154 or 63.11% of the sample, followed by females with 86 or 35.25%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 4 or 1.64%.

6.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 6.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	142	42.77
Mention Date	138	41.57
Part-Heard Date	50	15.06
Hearing of Application	2	0.60
Total	332	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 332 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The highest proportion, 142 or 42.77%, were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 138 or 41.57%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 50 or 15.06% of matters, which were adjourned for part heard dates and 2 or 0.60% which were adjourned for the hearing of an application date. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for trial or mention court hearings. This is, however, not an unusual outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 6.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	71	30.21
Default Judgment	50	21.28
Referred to Mediation	20	8.51
Defendant Absent	12	5.11
To Settle Legal Representation	9	3.83
Sub-total	162	68.94

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 235

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 235 incidences of adjournments for matters heard in the second quarter of 2024. Adjournments for no return or for reissue account for the highest proportion of the sample with 71 or 30.21%, while adjournments for default judgments rank next with 50 or 21.28% of the sample. Referrals to mediation accounted for 20 or 8.51% of the sample, the absence of defendants accounted for 12 or 5.11% and to settle legal representation with 3.83% of the sample completes the top five reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The top five reasons for adjournment enumerated above account for 68.94% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances heard in the quarter.

Table 6.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	58
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponds to 40 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 58 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 40 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had approximately 12 reissue incidences.

Table 6.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	43	22.99
Struck Out	32	17.11
Final Judgment	28	14.97
Withdrawal	21	11.23
Settlement	15	8.02
Sub-total	139	74.33

NB: There were 187 matters disposed of in Q2 2024

A total of 187 civil matters were disposed of at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which account for 74.33% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 43 or 22.99% of the disposals, followed by matters struck out with 32 or 17.11% of the sample and matters disposed by final judgments with 28 or 14.97% of the sample. Matters disposed by withdrawals with 21 or 11.23% and settlements with 15 or 8.02% round off the top five methods dispositions.

Table 6.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
48	7	85.42

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 48 trial dates were set in the quarter; of which 7 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 85.42%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 85% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 6.13: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
190	32	172	90.53	16.84

The above table shows 190 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 29 of these cases were disposed of, and 3 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 16.84%, a decrease of 12.18 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2023. A gross figure of 148 cases were disposed of, and 24 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 90.53%, which meets the international standard for this metric and is 33.30 percentage points below the second quarter of 2023 rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 15.51%, which is 7.52 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 79.14%, which is 21.98 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 6.14: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	102
Mean	166.5882
Median	97.0000
Mode	125.00
Std. Deviation	225.11169
Skewness	3.728
Std. Error of Skewness	.239
Range	1403.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	1413.00

The above table outlines summary data on 102 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2024 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 167 days or 5.6 months, which is approximately 40 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the second quarter of 2023. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 125 days. The standard deviation is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time and the positive skewness is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1,413 days or approximately 3.9 years, while the minimum time taken was just 10 days.

Table 6.15a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	438
Mean	581.5000
Median	255.0000
Mode	18.00
Std. Deviation	630.98674
Skewness	.919
Std. Error of Skewness	.117
Range	1930.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	1936.00

The above data is based on sample of 438 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was approximately 582 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 18 days. The standard deviation of approximately 631 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores around the average. The positive skewness seen is an indication that more scores in the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest age of active cases was 1,936 days or 5.4 years, and the youngest time is 6 days.

Table 6.15b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	46
Mean	226.1304
Median	172.0000
Mode	25.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	202.97418
Skewness	1.070
Std. Error of Skewness	.350
Range	707.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	725.00

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 46 active reissued matters at the Westmoreland Parish Court as at the end of the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. The average age of these matters was approximately 226 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 25 days, and the median age was 172 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some amount of dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 725 days and the lowest was 18 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 7.0: St. Mary Parish Court –Civil Division

7.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Mary Parish Court for the second quarter of 2024.

Table 7.01: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	111	72.08
Disposed	43	27.92
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	154	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 154 new civil cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 111 or 72.08% were still active and 43 or 27.92% were disposed of. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 27.92% for the quarter, which is a 4.93 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2023.

Table 7.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	137	79.19
Small Claim	36	20.81
Total	173	100.00

The above table shows that from the 173 new claims filed in the quarter, the majority of which were big claims, which accounted for 137 or 79.19% of the total sample, while 36 or 20.81% were small claims.

Table 7.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	37	21.64
Recovery of Possession	34	19.88
General and Special Damages	15	8.77
Money Owing	13	7.60
Arrears of Rent & Continuing	12	7.02
Sub-total	111	64.91

Total sample size of causes of action = 171

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The data in the above table is computed using a sample of 171 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the quarter at the St. Mary Parish Court were breach of contract with 37 or approximately 21.64% of the sample and recovery of possession with 34 or 19.88% of the total sample of causes of action. General and special damages with 15 or 8.77%, money owing with 13 or 7.60% and arrears of rent and continuing with 12 or 7.02% rank next.

Table 7.04: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	142	82.08
Bailiff	31	17.92
Total	173	100.00

The types of service as used above refer to the formal way in which defendants whom a claim is made against are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 142 or 82.08% of the sample, with service by the bailiff accounting for 31 or 17.92% of the sample.

Table 7.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	115	66.47
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	26	15.03
Annotto Bay Outstation	20	11.56
Richmond Outstation	11	6.36
Gayle Outstation	1	0.58
Total	173*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 154 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 173 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024. The majority of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 115 or 66.47% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with 26 or 15.03% of the sample and sittings at the Annotto Bay Outstation with 20 or 11.56% and the Richmond Bay outstation with 11 or 6.36% of the sample rounds off the top accommodations.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Table 7.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	85	49.13
Female	57	32.95
Registered Company	31	17.92
Total	173	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 173 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024 at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 85 or 49.13%, followed by females with 57 or 32.95%. Registered companies with 17.92% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

Table 7.07: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	118	68.21
Female	53	30.64
Registered Company	2	1.16
Total	173	100.00

There were 173 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were males with 118 or 68.21%, followed by females with 53 or 30.64% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 1.16% of the sample.

7.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 7.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	44	48.35
Trial	39	42.86
Default Judgment Date	7	7.69
Hearing of Application	1	1.10
Total	91	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 91 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The highest proportion, 44 or 48.35% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 39 or 42.86%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 7 or 7.69% of the matters which were adjourned for default judgment dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention hearing and that a notable proportion of the adjournments are for default judgments. The high frequency of adjournments associated with default judgments is not unusual as this stage is intrinsic to case management and case preparation and to the overall case process flow.

Table 7.09: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	38
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponds to 30 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 38 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 30 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had approximately 13 reissue incidences.

Table 7.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	284	58.56
Consent	58	11.96
Withdrawal	49	10.10
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	35	7.22
Default Judgment	20	4.12
Sub-total	446	91.96

NB: There were 485 matters disposed of in Q2 2024

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 485 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. Matters struck out with 284 or 58.56%, matters disposed by consent with 58 or 11.96% and matters disposed by withdrawals with 49 or 10.10% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Matters disposed by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 7.22% of the sample rank next followed by default judgment with 4.12% of the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 91.96% of the total sample of matters disposed of during the quarter.

Table 7.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
51	18	64.71

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 51 trial dates were set in the second quarter of 2024 shows that 18 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 64.71%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an approximately 65% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 7.12: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate combined number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net case disposal rate (%)
154	43	424	275.32	27.92

The above table shows 154 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a gross figure of 422 cases were disposed of, and 2 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 275.32%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric. The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 27.92%, which is 4.93 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023.

The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 274.03%, which is 148.48 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 7.13: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	417
Mean	1447.3213
Median	1995.0000
Mode	154.00
Std. Deviation	902.31658
Skewness	-.755
Std. Error of Skewness	.120
Range	2324.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	2326.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 417 civil cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2024 at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is approximately 1447 days or roughly 4 years. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 154 days and the median time was 1995 days. The standard deviation of approximately 902 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were not spread out over a large range of values and the negative skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition were above the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the quarter was 2,326 days or approximately 6.5 years old, while minimum time taken to dispose of cases was 2 days. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the Centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

Table 7.14: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	342
Mean	690.4386
Median	391.0000
Mode	27.00
Std. Deviation	762.87116
Skewness	1.661
Std. Error of Skewness	.132
Range	3976.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	3982.00

The above data is based on a sample of 342 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was approximately 690 days (or approximately 23 months), while the most frequently occurring age was 27 days and the median age in the distribution was 391 days. The standard deviation of approximately 763 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were decidedly more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter in the data set is 3,982 days old or approximately 11 years, while the minimum age was 6 days.

Chapter 8.0: Portland Parish Court –Civil Division

8.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Portland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024.

Table 8.01: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	46	74.19
Disposed	15	24.19
Inactive	1	1.61
Total	62	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 62 new civil cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 46 or 74.19% were still active, 15 or 24.19% were disposed of and 1 became inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 25.81% for the quarter, which is 5.81 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023.

Table 8.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	72	91.14
Small Claim	7	8.86
Total	79	100.00

The above table shows that from the 79 new claims filed in the quarter, the majority of which 72 or 91.14% were big claims, while 7 or 8.86% were small claims.

Table 8.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	20	25.97
Recovery of Possession	14	18.18
Negligence - General & Special Damages	4	5.19
Recovery of Possession, trespass, and damages	3	3.90
Damages to Property	3	3.90
Sub-total	44	57.14

Total sample size of causes of action = 77

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 77 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action filed were breach of contract with 20 or approximately 25.97% of the total sample, recovery of possession with 14 or 18.18%, and negligence-general and special damages with 4 or 5.19% followed. Recovery of possession, trespass and damages and damages to property with 3 or 3.90% each round off the top five causes of action for the quarter. The top causes of action, which are listed above, account for 57.14% of the sample.

Table 8.04: Sampling distribution of types of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	48	60.76
Bailiff	31	39.24
Total	79	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority with 48 or 60.76% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 31 or 39.24%.

Table 8.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	16	30.19
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	13	24.53
Buff Bay Outstation	10	18.87
Manchioneal Outstation	8	15.09
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	6	11.32
Total	53*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 44 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 53 new matters filed in the quarter was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 16 or 30.19% of the sample of accommodations. The 13 or 24.53% that were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse followed this, while the 10 matters that entered in the Buff Bay outstation rank next. The Manchioneal Outstation account for 8 or 15.09% and courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse accounted for 6 or 11.32% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Table 8.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	43	54.43
Female	28	35.44
Registered Company	8	10.13
Total	79	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 79 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024, males accounted for the majority with 43 or 54.43%, followed by females with 28 or 35.44%. Registered companies with 8 or 10.13% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 8.07: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	43	55.84
Female	31	40.26
Registered Company	3	3.90
Total	77	100.00

There were 77 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 43 or 55.84% of the sample, followed by females with 31 or 40.26% of the sample and registered companies with 3 or 3.90%.

8.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	124	48.63
Trial	87	34.12
Part-Heard Date	26	10.20
Default Judgment Date	18	7.06
Total	255	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 255 matters that were heard during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The highest proportion, 124 or 48.63% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 87 or 34.12%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for part heard dates with 26 or 10.20% and for default judgment dates with 18 or 7.06% rank next. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the quarter at the Portland Parish Court.

Table 8.09: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	97	48.99
Consent	51	25.76
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	9	4.55
Default Judgment	8	4.04
Final Judgment	7	3.54
Sub-total	172	86.87

NB: there were 198 matters were disposed of in Q2 2024

A total of 198 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. The distribution is led by matters struck out with 97 or 48.99% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by consent with 51 or 25.76% and matters disposed by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 9 or 4.55%. Matters disposed by default judgment with 8 or 4.04% and by final judgments with 7 or 3.54% complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the quarter. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 86.87% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 8.10: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
11	2	81.82

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. Using a sample of 11 trial dates set in the quarter, it is seen that 2 were adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 81.82% which suggests that during the quarter there was approximately an 82% chance that a date set for trial would

proceed without adjournment. The 2024 result is 6.82 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2023.

Table 8.11: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross Case disposal rate (%)
62	16	140	225.81	25.81

The above table shows 62 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 15 of these cases were disposed of and 1 case became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 25.81%, an improvement of 5.81 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 136 cases were disposed of, and 4 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 225.81%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric, and is 127.14 percentage points more than the second quarter of 2023.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 24.59%, a 9.10 percentage point improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2023. The estimated net clearance rate is 222.95%, a 144.08 percentage point increase when compared to the second quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 8.12: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	163
Mean	418.3988
Median	344.0000
Mode	595.00
Std. Deviation	423.50827
Skewness	3.625
Std. Error of Skewness	.190
Range	2706.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	2713.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 163 civil matters disposed of in the second quarter of 2024 at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 418 days (14 months), which is approximately 84 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the second quarter of 2023. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 595 days and the median time to disposition was 344 days. The standard deviation of approximately 424 days is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness observed is an indication that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fall below the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed of in the quarter was 2,713 days or approximately 7.5 years old, while the youngest was 7 days.

Table 8.13: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	347
Mean	623.9049
Median	300.0000
Mode	237.00
Std. Deviation	699.70070
Skewness	2.324
Std. Error of Skewness	.131
Range	4445.00
Minimum	27.00
Maximum	4472.00

The above data is computed using 347 active cases at the end of the second quarter of 2024. The average age of these cases was approximately 624 days (1.7 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 237 days (7.9 months). The standard deviation of approximately 700 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that most of the scores in the data set fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample was 4,472 days (12.4 years), while the youngest was 27 days.

Chapter 9.0: St. Thomas Parish Court – Civil Division

9.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Thomas Parish Court for the second quarter of 2024.

Table 9.01: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	156	73.93
Disposed	20	9.48
Inactive	35	16.59
Total	211	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 211 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 156 cases or 73.93% of these cases were still active, while 20 were disposed of and 35 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 26.07%, which is a 16.68 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2023.

Table 9.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	156	67.83
Small Claim	74	32.17
Total	230	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 230 new claims filed in the second quarter of 2024, the majority of which 156 or 67.83% were big claims, while 74 or 32.17% were small claims.

Table 9.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	123	53.48
Recovery of Possession	31	13.48
Cattle Trespass	13	5.65
Defamation of Character	13	5.65
Damages for Negligence	12	5.22
Sub-total	192	83.48

Total sample size of causes of action= 230

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action filed in the second quarter of 2024 at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 123 or approximately 53.48% of the sample. recovery of possession with 31 or 13.48%, cattle trespass and defamation of character with 13 or 5.65% each of the sample rounds off the top causes of action in this representative sample. Damages for negligence with 12 or 5.22% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 83.48% of all the total sample of 230 causes of action.

Table 9.04: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	28	52.83
Bailiff	24	45.28
Personal	1	1.89
Total	53	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the majority with 28 or 52.83% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 24 or 45.28% and personal service with 1 or 1.89% ranked next.

Table 9.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	167	72.61
Yallahs Outstation	42	18.26
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	21	9.13
Total	230*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 211 cases**

The majority of a sample of 230 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024 was entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 167 or 72.61% of the sample, while Sittings at the Yallahs outstation accounted for 42 or 18.26% of the sample and sittings at courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 21 or 9.13% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Table 9.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	103	49.52
Female	102	49.04
Registered Company	2	0.96
Trading As	1	0.48
Total	208	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 208 new matters filed in second quarter of 2024 at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 103 or 49.52%, followed by females with 102 or 49.04%. Registered companies accounted for 2 or 0.96% and Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 1 or 0.48% of the sample.

Table 9.07: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	152	66.09
Female	75	32.61
Registered Company	2	0.87
Trading As	1	0.43
Total	230	100.00

There were 230 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 152 or 66.09% of the sample, followed by females with 75 or 32.61% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for 2 or 0.87% and Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 1 or 0.43% of the sample.

9.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 9.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Date for Order	125	39.94
Mention Date	102	32.59
Trial	43	13.74
Default Judgment Date	29	9.27
Part-Heard Date	14	4.47
Total	313	100.00

The above table is computed based on a sample of 313 cases adjourned during the second quarter of 2024. The highest proportion, 125 or 39.94% were adjourned for an order to be handed down, followed by 102 or 32.59% which were adjourned for a mention date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 43 or 13.74% of matters, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for a default judgment with 29 or 9.27% and matters adjourned for a part heard date with 14 or 4.47% of the sample rank next.

Table 9.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	39	15.12
Referred to Mediation	29	11.24
Judge Absent/Ill	27	10.47
Both Parties Absent	22	8.53
Not Reached	9	3.49
Sub-total	126	48.84

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 258

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 258 incidences of adjournments in the second quarter of 2024. Adjournments due to absence of defendants with 39 or 15.12% of the sample, referrals to mediation with 29 or 11.24% and adjournments due judge absent/ill with 27 or 10.47% rounds off the top three. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 22 or 8.53% and not reached with 9 or 3.49% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 48.84% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 9.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	28
Average Incidence	1.04

Corresponding to 27 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 28 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 27 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.04 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had approximately 10 reissue incidences.

Table 9.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oral Admission	27	20.15
Trial	24	17.91
Settlement	21	15.67
Struck Out	17	12.69
Consent	13	9.70
Sub-total	102	76.12

NB: there were 134 matters were disposed of in Q2 2024

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 134 matters. The list is led by oral admissions with 27 or 20.15% of the sample. Disposals by trial and settlements with 24 or 17.91% and 21 or 15.67% respectively rank next. Matters struck out with 17 or 12.69% and matters disposed by consent with 13 or 9.70% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for approximately 76.12% of the sample.

Table 9.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
15	1	93.33

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 15 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 1 was adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 93.33%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 93% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 5.33 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023.

Table 9.13: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
211	55	164	77.73	26.07

The above table shows 211 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 20 cases were disposed of and 35 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 26.07%, a decrease of 16.68 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2023. A gross figure of 110 cases were disposed of, and 54 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 77.73%, which falls below the international standard for this metric, and represents a decline of 51.28 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2023.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 11.36%, a 5.31 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2023. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 62.50%, a 58.61 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 9.14: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	73
Mean	570.6027
Median	217.0000
Mode	1270.00
Std. Deviation	624.57071
Skewness	.969
Std. Error of Skewness	.281
Range	2786.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	2796.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 73 civil matters disposed of in second quarter of 2024 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 571 days or 19 months, which is approximately 50 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the second quarter of 2023. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 1270 days. There is a standard deviation of approximately 625 days is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores falling below the overall average time taken to dispose of the cases. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2,796 days or approximately 7.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 10 days.

Table 9.15: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	327
Mean	919.9939
Median	298.0000
Mode	3372.00
Std. Deviation	1237.07995
Skewness	1.308
Std. Error of Skewness	.135
Range	3360.00
Minimum	12.00
Maximum	3372.00

The above data is based on a sample of 327 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was approximately 920 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 3,372 days or 9.4 years. The high standard deviation of approximately 1,237 days suggests that there is wide dispersion in the individual scores in the data set, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 3,372 days or 9.4 years, while the youngest case was 12 days.

Chapter 10.0: St. James Parish Court –Civil Division

10.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. James Parish Court.

Table 10.01: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	211	67.41
Disposed	40	12.78
Inactive	62	19.81
Total	313	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 313 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court in the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 211 cases or 67.41% of these cases were still active, 40 were disposed of and 62 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 32.59% for the quarter, which is a 1.57 percentage points deterioration when compared to the second quarter of 2023.

Table 10.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	263	72.45
Small Claim	100	27.55
Total	363	100.00

The above table shows that from 363 new claims filed in the second quarter of 2024, the majority of which were big claims with 263 or 72.45%, while 100 or 27.55% were small claims.

Table 10.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. James Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	121	33.80
Recovery of Possession	45	12.57
Damages for Negligence	22	6.15
Rent Owing	20	5.59
Rent Owing and Continuing	16	4.47
Sub-total	224	62.57

Total sample size of causes of action = 358

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 358 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the second quarter of 2024 were breach of contract with 121 or approximately 33.80% of the sample and recovery of possession with 45 or 12.57% of the sample. Damages for negligence with 22 or 6.15% of the sample rank next. Rent owing with 20 or 5.59% and rent owing and continuing with 16 or 4.47% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 62.57% of the sample causes of action.

Table 10.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	216	59.50
Cambridge Outstation	147	40.50
Total	363*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 313 cases**

The majority of a sample of 363 matters entered in the second quarter of 2024 were entered in courtroom number 4 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 216 or 59.50% of the sample. Sittings at Cambridge Outstation had 147 matters entered or 40.50% of the sample.

10.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 10.05: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	112	37.09
Trial	110	36.42
Default Judgment Date	42	13.91
Part-Heard Date	35	11.59
Date for Order	3	0.99
Total	302	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 302 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 112 or 37.09% of the sample, followed by 110 or 36.42%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters disposed for default judgment dates accounted for 42 or 13.91% and matters adjourned for a part heard date account for 35 or 11.59% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 10.06: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Referred to Mediation	18	41.86
Attorney Absent	17	39.53
Defendant Absent	4	9.30
Hearing of Application	2	4.65
For Judgment	1	2.33
To File Defence	1	2.33
Total	43	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 43 incidences of adjournments in the second quarter of 2024. Referrals to mediation with 18 or 41.86% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of attorneys with 17 or 39.53%, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 4 or 9.30% and adjournments for the hearing of an application with 2 or 4.65% of the sample followed.

Table 10.07: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Withdrawal	89	27.64
Consent	51	15.84
Default Judgment	48	14.91
Oral Admission	42	13.04
Struck Out	35	10.87
Sub-total	265	82.30

NB: There were 322 matters disposed of in Q2 2024

A sample of 322 matters disposed during the second quarter of 2024 revealed that 89 or 27.64% of matters were disposed by withdrawals and 51 or 15.84% were disposed by consent. Matters disposed by default judgments with 48 or 14.91% and oral admissions with 42 or 13.04% rank next. Matters struck out with 35 or 10.87% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter.

The top five methods of disposition enumerated above account for 82.30% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the second quarter of 2024.

Table 10.08: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
50	2	96.00

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 50 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 2 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 96%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 96% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 10.09: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
313	102	440	140.58	32.59

The above table shows 313 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court during the second quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 40 cases were disposed of and 62 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 32.59%, which is 1.57 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023.

An approximate gross figure of 243 cases were disposed of, and 197 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 140.58%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and is 20.19 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 15.94%, which is 3.81 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2023. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 96.81%, a 9.31 percentage points increase when compared to the second quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 10.10: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	209
Mean	525.7416
Median	257.0000
Mode	1226.00
Std. Deviation	525.14503
Skewness	.661
Std. Error of Skewness	.168
Range	1851.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	1854.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 209 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2024 at the St. James Parish court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 526 days or 17.5 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 1,226 days and the median time was 257 days. The standard deviation of approximately 525 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1,854 days or approximately 5.2 years old, while the minimum time taken was 3 days.

Table 10.11: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	511
Mean	510.6634
Median	289.0000
Mode	55.00
Std. Deviation	532.18381
Skewness	1.545
Std. Error of Skewness	.108
Range	3343.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	3345.00

The above data is based on a sample of 511 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was approximately 511 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 55 days. The standard deviation of approximately 532 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 3,345 days old or approximately 9.3 years, while the minimum age is 2 days.

Performance Summaries-Other Parish Courts

Table 11.1.01: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the St. Elizabeth, Hanover and Manchester Parish Courts for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Net Case Clearance Rate (%)	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Net Case Disposal Rate (%)	Trial Date certainty Rate (%)
St. Elizabeth PC	NA	104.52	NA	59.35	NA
Hanover PC	105.69	96.58	69.92	68.38	NA
Manchester PC	NA	71.12	NA	55.02	NA

The summary of key performance metrics for the parish courts of St. Elizabeth, Hanover and Manchester shows that the civil division of the St. Elizabeth Parish Court recorded an estimated an estimated net clearance rate of 104.52% and an estimated net disposal rate of 59.35% for the quarter. The Hanover Parish Court recorded an estimated gross clearance rate of 105.69% and an estimated net clearance rate of 96.58%. The Hanover Parish Court also recorded an estimated gross disposal rate of 69.92% and an estimated net disposal rate of 68.38% for the quarter. The Manchester Parish Court recorded an estimated net clearance rate of 71.12% and an estimated net disposal rate of 55.02% for the quarter.

Aggregate Data summaries – All Parish Courts

Table 11.2.01: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)
3918	4916	125.47

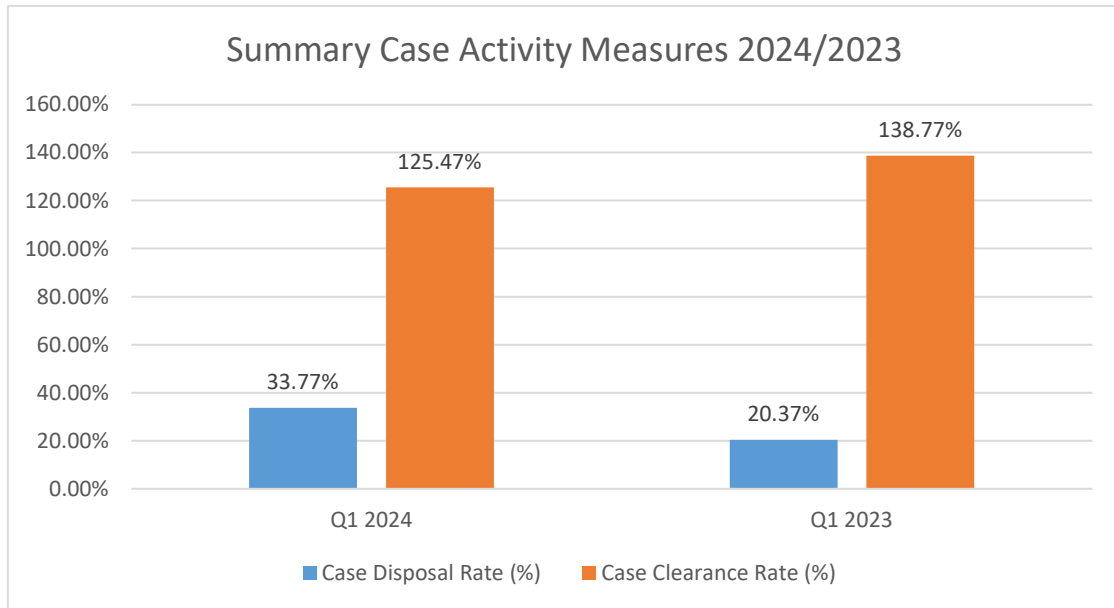
The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the second quarter of 2024. It shows that a total of 3,918 new cases were filed over the quarter, while 4,916 became inactive or were disposed of, leading to an estimated gross clearance rate of 125.47%. This is a 13.30 percentage points decline when compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

Table 11.2.02: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2 2024	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2 2023	Change in the Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2 2024	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2 2023	Change in the Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)
St. Thomas	26.07	42.75	-16.68	77.73	129.01	-51.28
Corporate Area- Civil	36.77	4.27	32.5	134.73	145.48	-10.75
St. Elizabeth	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hanover	69.92	94.5	-24.58	105.69	194.5	-88.81
Manchester	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Portland	25.81	20	5.81	225.81	98.67	127.14
St. Ann	22.57	25.9	-3.33	100.57	173.28	-72.71
St. Catherine	19.86	11.76	8.1	145.72	168.7	-22.98
St. Mary	NA	NA	NA	275.32	NA	NA
Trelawny	25.64	19.71	5.93	151.28	131.39	19.89
St. James	32.59	34.16	-1.57	140.58	120.39	20.19
Clarendon	23.27	27.45	-4.18	104.08	83.66	20.42
Westmoreland	16.84	29.02	-12.18	90.53	123.83	-33.3
Average /Weighted Average	33.77	20.37	13.4	125.47	138.77	-13.3
Standard Deviation	15.18	24.85		60.16	34.25	
Skewness	2.39	2.08		1.39	0.20	

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate and the case clearance rate for the second quarter of 2024 and 2023. The weighted average gross case disposal rate for the second quarter of 2024 was 33.77%, which was a 13.40 percentage points improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2023 weighted average rate of 20.37%. The gross case clearance rate of 125.47% for the second quarter of 2024 was 13.30 percentage points below the 138.77% recorded in the second quarter of 2023.

Chart 11.2.01: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for the second quarter of 2023 and 2024



The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal and case clearance for the second quarter of 2024 and 2023. It is seen that there has been an improvement in the gross case disposal rate and a decline in the gross case clearance rate over the comparative period. The case clearance rate moved from 138.77% in the second quarter of 2023 to 125.47% in the second quarter of 2024. The case disposal rate moved from 20.37% in the second quarter of 2023 to 33.77% in the second quarter of 2024, an increase of 13.40 percentage points.

Chart 11.2.02a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for second quarter of 2023 and 2024

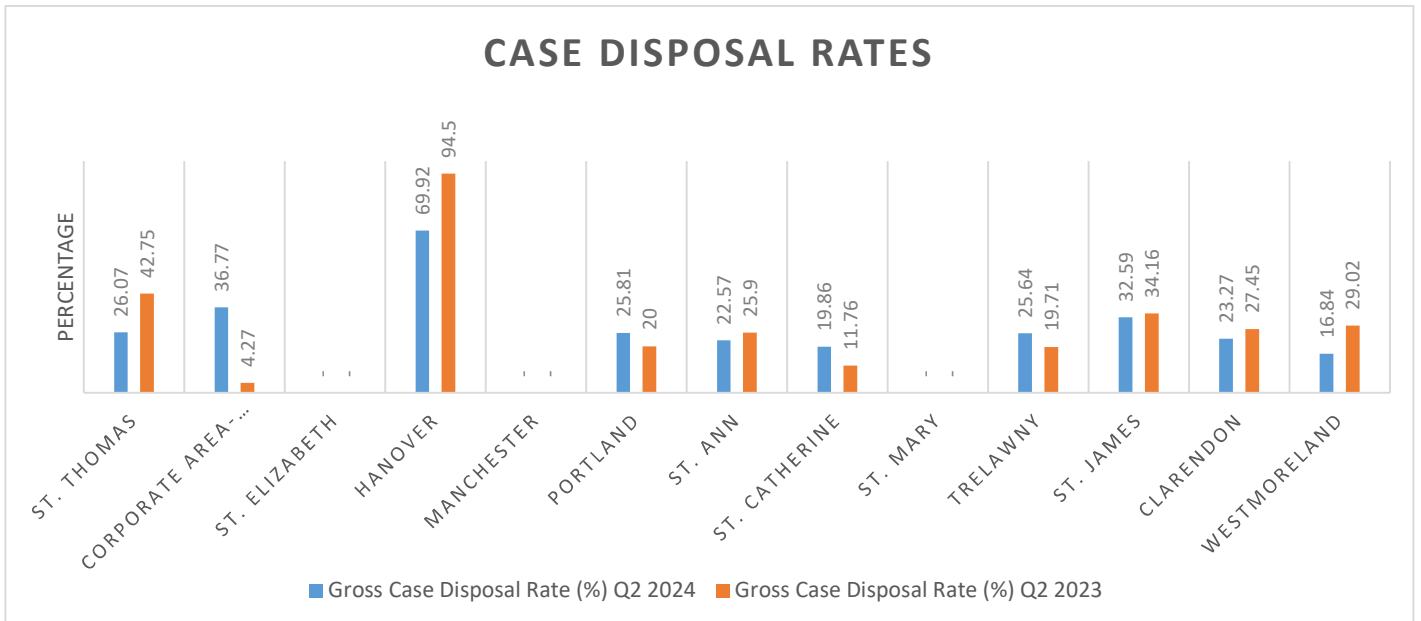


Chart 11.2.02b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for second quarter of 2023 and 2024

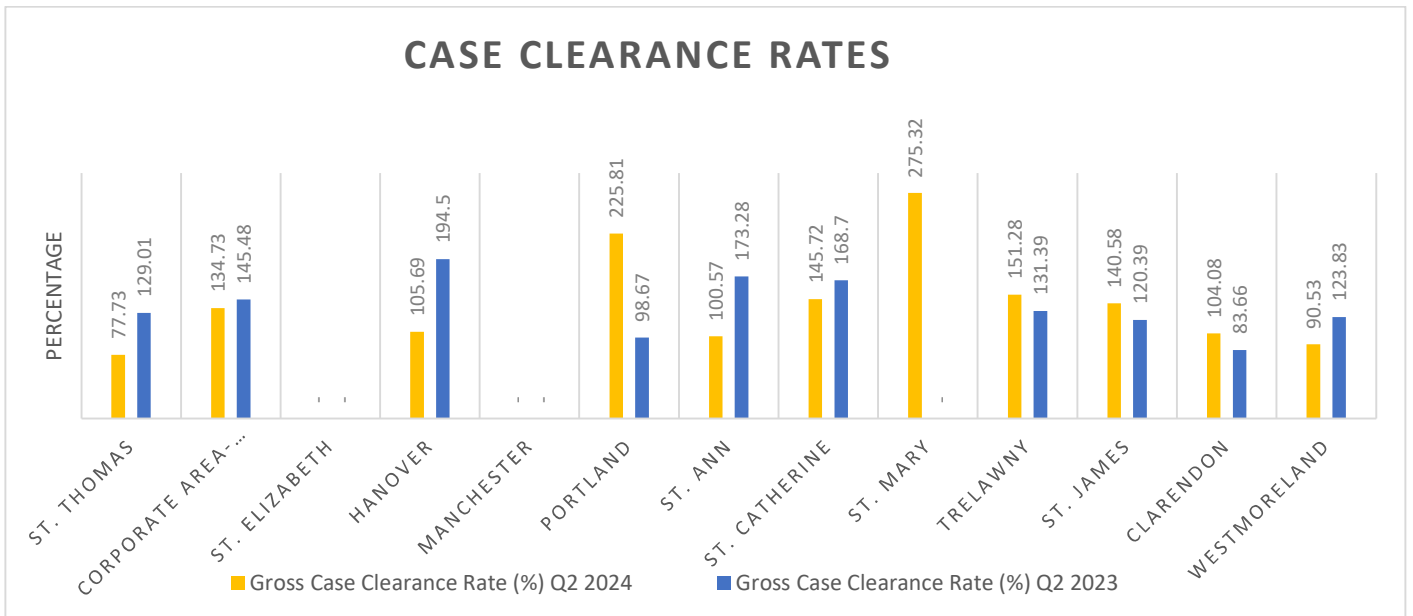


Table 11.2.03: Sampling distribution of claims filed during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

	Big Claims	Small Claims	POCA	Miscellaneous	Total
Corporate area	1031	-	2	-	1033
Portland	72	7	-	-	79
St. Ann	390	54	2	-	446
St. Catherine	652	73	-	-	725
St. Mary	137	36	-	-	173
St. Thomas	156	74	-	-	230
Trelawny	96	35	-	-	131
Westmoreland	232	26	-	-	258
St. James	263	100	-	-	363
Clarendon	205	65	-	-	270
Total	3234	470	4	0	3708

The above table provides an overall summary of the claims files across the parish courts in the second quarter of 2024. The sample of 3,708 new claims filed in the second quarter of 2024 reveals that 3,234 or 87.22% were big claims, while 12.68% were small claims and 0.11% were POCA matters. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine Parish Court, and the St. Ann Parish Court account for the largest share of new complaints filed in the quarter. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine, and the St. Ann Parish Courts account for the largest share of big claims filed in the quarter, while the St. James, St. Thomas, and the St. Catherine Parish Court account for the largest shares of small claims filed.

Table 11.2.04: Forecasted case activity statistics for the third quarter of 2024 [July 01 - September 30, 2024]

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted number of inactive cases	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Hanover	119	125	20	121.62
Manchester	362	265	0	73.18
St. Mary	140	244	2	175.99
St. James	332	207	200	122.65
St. Catherine	570	760	47	141.56
Portland	63	92	6	155.35
St. Ann	357	276	147	118.56
St. Elizabeth	323	292	2	90.83
Corporate Area Civil	1007	761	511	126.43
Westmoreland	145	151	21	118.60
St. Thomas	183	112	52	89.69
Clarendon	243	235	22	105.81
Trelawny	128	99	56	121.14
Total/Weighted Average	3973	3620	1087	118.48

Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2024 is 84.41%.

The above table forecasts core case activity for the civil division of each parish court and overall, for the third quarter of 2024. The forecasts are generated using the method of exponential smoothing which uses weighted averages from past observations with weights decaying exponentially as the observations get older. See further explanation of the mathematical science behind the method of exponential smoothing in the glossary of terms. The above data shows that the overall forecasted gross case clearance rates for the civil division of the parish courts for the third quarter of 2024 is 118.48%, which would be 6.99 percentage points lower than that of the second quarter of 2024.

Eleven (11) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the third quarter of 2024, led by the St. Mary Parish Court with 175.99%, the Portland Parish Court with 155.35% and the St. Catherine Parish Court with 141.56%.

Table 11.2.05: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 in the civil division of the parish courts in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	123	69,533	18
St. Catherine	584	516,218	11
Westmoreland	190	144,103	13
St. Mary	154	113,615	14
Clarendon	245	245,103	10
Portland	62	81,744	8
St. Elizabeth	310	150,205	21
Corporate Area Civil	930	662,426	14
St. Thomas	211	93,902	22
St. James	313	183,811	17
St. Ann	350	172,362	20
Trelawny	117	75,164	16
Manchester	329	189,797	17
Total	3918	2697983	15

The above table provides an outline of the number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts (civil division) in the second quarter of 2024. The population sizes used are based on the last national population census in 2011 and therefore the data does not have full current value. Nevertheless, this kind of data provides interesting insights into the demand for civil adjudication in the various parishes. It is seen that the parish of St. Thomas, which is mid-range in caseloads and population size, registered the largest number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the second quarter of 2024. St. Elizabeth, which is mid-range in caseloads and population size, ranked second.

Equally interesting is the result that the parish of Portland had the smallest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the quarter and is among the parishes with a smaller population size and the parish with the smallest caseload in the quarter. The Clarendon Parish Court recorded the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population, followed by the St. Catherine and Westmoreland Parish Courts.

Table 11.2.06: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	974	20.63
Defendant Absent	623	13.20
Parties in Discussion	243	5.15
Both Parties Absent	185	3.92
Referred for Mediation	182	3.86
Plaintiff Absent	83	1.76
Attorney Absent	68	1.44
Pending Settlement	53	1.12
Default Judgment	50	1.06
Hearing of Application	37	0.78
Sub-total	2498	52.91

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = (4,721)

Note: DNA means that the accused 'did not appear'

**Referral to mediation encompasses referrals to Probation and to the Dispute Resolution Foundation*

The above table is derived using a sample of 4,721 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the second quarter of 2024 across all of the parish courts (civil division). The largest proportion (20.63%) were for no return/ for reissue. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 13.20% and the parties in discussion with 5.15% round out the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. The absence of both parties with 3.92% and referrals to mediation with 3.86% round off the top five reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 52.91% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 11.2.07a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 -547 days	548-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Civil	4395 (28.9%)	3510 (23.0%)	1922 (12.6%)	1458 (9.6%)	1589 (10.4%)	869 (5.7%)	1488 (9.8%)	15231 (100%)
St. Catherine	2675 (17.1%)	2232 (14.2%)	1402 (8.9%)	1205 (7.7%)	1627 (10.4%)	1264 (8.1%)	5260 (33.6%)	15665 (100%)
St. James	640 (39.5%)	299 (18.5%)	144 (8.9%)	99 (6.1%)	164 (10.1%)	72 (4.4%)	201 (12.4%)	1619 (100%)
Clarendon	542 (36.4%)	420 (28.2%)	257 (17.2%)	106 (7.1%)	101 (6.8%)	56 (3.8%)	8 (0.5%)	1490 (100%)
Westmoreland	1071 (54.9%)	412 (21.1%)	179 (9.2%)	100 (5.1%)	111 (5.7%)	40 (2.1%)	38 (1.9%)	1951 (100%)
St. Ann	1533 (31.2%)	1070 (21.8%)	548 (11.2%)	392 (8.0%)	557 (11.3%)	258 (5.3%)	553 (11.3%)	4911 (100%)
St. Thomas	750 (34.7%)	486 (22.5%)	239 (11.1%)	151 (7.0%)	192 (8.9%)	113 (5.2%)	229 (10.6%)	2160 (100%)
Portland	464 (25.7%)	331 (18.3%)	180 (10.0%)	150 (8.3%)	207 (11.5%)	120 (6.7%)	352 (19.5%)	1804 (100%)
St. Mary	1641 (52.9%)	547 (17.6%)	222 (7.2%)	127 (4.1%)	194 (6.3%)	88 (2.8%)	282 (9.1%)	3101 (100%)
Trelawny	1016 (53.8%)	352 (18.6%)	148 (7.8%)	105 (5.6%)	109 (5.8%)	62 (3.3%)	96 (5.1%)	1888 (100%)
% of Total	29.56	19.39	10.52	7.81	9.74	5.91	17.08	100.00
Average	1472.70	965.90	524.10	389.30	485.10	294.20	850.70	4982.00
Standard Deviation	1224.14	1070.91	622.96	507.65	606.24	421.97	1607.54	5607.92
Skewness	1.80	1.94	1.81	1.72	1.60	1.90	2.79	1.65

Number of charges sampled (N) = 49,820

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 78 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at June 30, 2024. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 78-month period. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for approximately 29.56% of the disposals.

The Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Mary and St. Ann are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed of under 90 days. Cumulatively 67.28% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in 3-5 years. From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court, and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that approximately 17.08% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court, and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are all relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

Table 11.2.07b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil	290.47	119	168	327.53	2.40	1	2786	15231
St. Catherine	570.65	28	406	517.62	1.04	1	2854	15665
St. James	287.78	28	131	366.62	2.08	1	2817	1619
Clarendon	172.06	63	126	153.90	1.72	2	1008	1490
Westmoreland	143.50	35	77	182.37	3.13	1	1568	1951
St. Ann	319.63	63	159	413.63	2.53	1	3016	4911
St. Thomas	284.09	28	140	355.44	2.30	1	2796	2160
Portland	434.77	63	231	521.07	2.06	1	2934	1804
St. Mary	257.69	14	77	466.83	3.05	1	2326	3101
Trelawny	183.20	28	75	270.55	2.95	1	2080	1888
Total/Weighted Average	370.90	46.90	159.00	357.56	2.33	1.10	2418.50	4982.00
Standard Deviation	128.35	30.96	99.45	128.31	0.65	0.32	673.69	5607.92
Skewness	1.13	1.51	1.93	-0.30	-0.63	3.16	-1.30	1.65

Number of charges sampled (N) = 49,820

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 78 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at June 30, 2024. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 78-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 371 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive figure, suggesting that most of these times fell below the overall mean. For matters disposed in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (144 days), Clarendon (172 days) and Trelawny (183 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (571 days), Portland (435 days) and St. Ann (320 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the

period of analysis. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is shown to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 128.35. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1.10 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 1,008 days (33.6 months/2.8 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court, to a high of 3,016 days (100.5 months/8.4 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a negative value, which is an indication that a larger proportion of the maximum times to disposition were above the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 49,820 matters.

Table 11.2.08a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 -547 days	548-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Civil	69 (13.2%)	151 (28.9%)	100 (19.1%)	85 (16.3%)	73 (14.0%)	17 (3.3%)	28 (5.4%)	523 (100%)
St. Catherine	87 (11.1%)	131 (16.7%)	89 (11.4%)	80 (10.2%)	102 (13.0%)	74 (9.5%)	220 (28.1%)	783 (100%)
St. James	59 (28.2%)	23 (11.0%)	24 (11.5%)	10 (4.8%)	20 (9.6%)	7 (3.3%)	66 (31.6%)	209 (100%)
Clarendon	31 (27.4%)	25 (22.1%)	18 (15.9%)	22 (19.5%)	15 (13.3%)	2 (1.8%)	-	113 (100%)
Westmoreland	43 (42.16%)	35 (34.31%)	11 (10.78%)	5 (4.90%)	4 (3.92%)	-	4 (3.92%)	102 (100%)
St. Ann	77 (37.9%)	35 (17.2%)	19 (9.4%)	15 (7.4%)	24 (11.8%)	8 (3.9%)	25 (12.3%)	203 (100%)
St. Thomas	26 (35.6%)	8 (11.0%)	3 (4.1%)	2 (2.7%)	7 (9.6%)	1 (1.4%)	26 (35.6%)	73 (100%)
Portland	18 (11.0%)	27 (16.6%)	22 (13.5%)	20 (12.3%)	31 (19.0%)	27 (16.6%)	18 (11.0%)	163 (100%)
St. Mary	65 (15.6%)	47 (11.3%)	4 (1.0%)	3 (0.7%)	7 (1.7%)	1 (0.2%)	290 (69.5%)	417 (100%)
Trelawny	50 (56.8%)	16 (18.2%)	4 (4.5%)	3 (3.4%)	7 (8.0%)	2 (2.3%)	6 (6.8%)	88 (100%)
% of Total	19.63	18.62	10.99	9.16	10.85	5.20	25.54	100.00
Average	52.50	49.80	29.40	24.50	29.00	15.44	75.89	267.40
Standard Deviation	22.88	49.47	35.25	31.41	32.74	23.64	104.57	234.09
Skewness	-0.09	1.61	1.59	1.57	1.67	2.32	1.62	1.45

Number of charges sampled (N) = 2,674

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. The results shown suggest that only 19.63% of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days. The St. Catherine parish court along with the parish courts of St. Ann, Corporate Area Civil and St. Mary are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 58.40% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year.

From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of St. Catherine, St. Mary and Corporate Area Civil had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that approximately 25.54% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Mary, St. Catherine and St. James had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are mostly relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

Table 11.2.08b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil Division	281.46	98	217	297.35	4.15	19	2898	523
St. Catherine	563.33	308	381	536.29	1.54	10	2670	783
St. James	525.74	1226	257	525.15	0.66	3	1854	209
Clarendon	247.19	119	182	215.80	0.89	7	867	113
Westmoreland	166.59	125	97	225.11	3.73	10	1413	102
St. Ann	316.35	41	126	508.12	4.73	2	4130	203
St. Thomas	570.60	1270	217	624.57	0.97	10	2796	73
Portland	418.40	595	344	423.51	3.63	7	2713	163
St. Mary	1447.32	154	1995	902.32	-0.76	2	2326	417
Trelawny	166.32	28	67	233.93	1.92	6	882	88
Total/Weighted Average	574.17	396.40	388.30	449.22	2.15	7.60	2254.90	267.40
Standard Deviation	376.07	478.32	573.38	217.98	1.81	5.10	1016.00	234.09
Skewness	2.24	1.36	2.98	0.83	0.02	1.12	0.17	1.45

Number of charges sampled (N) = 2,674

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 574 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 2.24, suggesting that most of the scores were below the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Trelawny (166 days), Westmoreland (167 days) and Clarendon (247 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Mary (1447 days), St. Thomas (571 days) and St. Catherine (563 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period of analysis.

The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is shown to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 376.07. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 7.60 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 867 days (28.9 months/2.4 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court, to a high of 4130 days (137.7 months/11.5 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 0.17, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were clustered around the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 2,674 matters.

Table 11.2.08c: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Struck Out	Consent	Settlement	Default Judgment	Oral Admission	Withdrawal	Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	Other	Total
St. Catherine	487	120	94	133	21	74	56	74	1059
Corporate Area Civil	363	194	18	91	56	89	57	61	929
Westmoreland	32	43	15	12	13	21	14	37	187
Clarendon	121	42	27	14	23	18	12	12	269
Trelawny	17	40	10	23	27	6	-	15	138
Portland	97	51	7	8	-	-	9	26	198
St. Mary	284	58	16	20	2	49	35	21	485
St. Thomas	17	13	21	10	27	3	12	31	134
St. Ann	42	94	45	40	34	10	25	25	315
St. James	35	51	11	48	42	89	9	37	322
Total	1495	706	264	399	245	359	229	339	4036
Percentage of total	37.04	17.49	6.54	9.89	6.07	8.89	5.67	8.40	-

Number of charges sampled (N): 4,036

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts-civil division for the second quarter of 2024. From the sample, it is observed that the highest proportion of matters disposed of during the quarter were by being struck out with 37.04% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by consent with 17.49%, default judgments with 9.89% and withdrawals with 8.89% of the sample. Dispositions grouped under the category, “other methods” with 8.40% and settlements with 6.54% rank next. Oral admissions with 6.07% and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 5.67% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter.

Table 11.2.09: Net and gross civil case backlog as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Paris Court	Net Case Backlog Rate (%)	Gross Case Backlog Rate (%)
Clarendon	1.03	13.53
Corporate Area	2.27	28.52
Portland	2.49	15.27
St. Ann	3.33	26.15
St. Catherine	2.12	4.94
St. James	2.86	10.24
St. Mary	2.23	14.07
St. Thomas	1.00	23.89
Trelawny	1.36	24.20
Westmoreland	3.02	15.88
Weighted Average	2.28	19.63
Standard Deviation	0.82	7.65

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q2 2024 is 9.76% and the gross backlog is 23.67%

The net and gross case backlog rates provide one of the most decisive indicators of court performance as they are strongly influenced by most of the other critical court performance metrics such as the case clearance, case disposal, trial and hearing date certainty rates and are also directly correlated with the case congestion rate. The estimated gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are either active or inactive (i.e., are unresolved) and are over two years old at the date of reporting. The closely related estimated net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are still active and exceeding two years old at the time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The results revealed a net case backlog rate (weighted average) in the parish courts of 2.28% (with a standard deviation of 0.82%), which satisfies the international standard.

The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 19.63% (with a standard deviation of 7.65%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is 9.63 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10% but can be improved to meet this standard with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the civil courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of St. Thomas with an estimated net backlog rate of 1.00%, Clarendon with an estimated net backlog rate of 1.03% and Trelawny with an estimated net backlog rate of 1.36% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (3.33%), Westmoreland (3.02%) and St. James (2.86%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of St. Catherine (4.94%), St. James (10.24%) and Clarendon (13.53%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (28.52%), St. Ann (26.15%) and Trelawny (24.20%) have the highest rates.

Trial court activity summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Table 11.2.10a: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average time between filing and first court appearance	Average time between first court appearance and trial	Average time between trial and disposition
Clarendon	48.22	233.97	254.85
Corporate Area-Civil Division	113.17	308.07	293.72
Portland	65.37	601.52	283.92
St. Ann	100.09	564.31	511.92
St. Catherine	84.36	476.11	536.78
St. James	102.40	485.16	276.52
St. Mary	53.90	103.99	96.21
St. Thomas	50.03	577.15	696.88
Trelawny	52.13	268.34	162.32
Westmoreland	37.14	141.23	105.43
Weighted Average	77.32	417.65	414.02
Standard Deviation	27.03	186.85	198.59

Tracking the times between the occurrence of major hearing events along the case flow continuum is important to establishing precise points of possible delay in case progression. The above table provides a summary of the average times between filing a case and the first court appearance. The average time between the first court appearance and the first date of trial and the average duration between the first trial date and disposition. Overall, it is seen that the average time between filing a civil case, and the first court appearance is approximately 2.6 months, while the overall average time between first appearance of a civil matter in the parish courts and the first trial date is, however, much longer at approximately 13.9 months or 418 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is approximately 13.8 months or 414 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face lengthy delays after a first date set is postponed.

Since less than a quarter of civil cases filed in the parish courts will proceed to trial, these findings may not have a dramatic impact on the overall time to disposition of civil cases.

Table 11.2.10b: Trial court activity summary during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of cases heard	Number of cases with a trial date set	Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set
Clarendon	693	169	24.39
Corporate Area	2271	148	6.52
Portland	310	72	23.23
St. Ann	1120	198	17.68
St. Catherine	2398	630	26.27
St. James	833	129	15.49
St. Mary	479	76	15.87
St. Thomas	422	87	20.62
Trelawny	373	85	22.79
Westmoreland	477	124	26.00
Total/Weighted Average	9376	1718	18.32

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the second quarter of 2024 in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 9,376 civil cases heard across the parish courts in the second quarter of 2024, 1,718 or 18.32% proceeded to trial. The parish courts of the Corporate Area-Civil Division (6.52%), St. James (15.49%) and St. Mary (15.87%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of St. Catherine (26.27%), Westmoreland (26%) and Clarendon (24.39%) had the highest proportion.

Table 11.2.10c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	109	18.05
Consent	79	13.08
Trial	79	13.08
Settlement	69	11.42
Default	56	9.27
Withdrawal	49	8.11
Judgment	46	7.62
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	44	7.28
Transferred	26	4.30
Non-Suited	24	3.97
Oral Admission	7	1.16
By Consent - Mediated Settlement	6	0.99
Other	6	0.99
Dismissal	3	0.50
Order	1	0.17
Total	604	100.00

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters struck out with 18.05% of the cases disposed, matters disposed by consent and by trial with 79 or 13.08% each and settlements with 69 or 11.42% account for the leading methods of disposition in the sample.

Table 11.2.10d: Summary of case management date frequency for the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average number of appearances per case	Standard Deviation of the number appearances per case	Skewness of the number of appearances per case	Maximum number of appearances per case	Minimum number of appearances per case
Clarendon	2.41	1.97	2.17	13	1
Corporate Area-Civil Division	2.77	2.95	3.23	38	1
Portland	5.20	5.64	2.18	32	1
St. Ann	3.44	4.53	3.99	40	1
St. Catherine	2.70	2.64	2.29	24	1
St. James	2.46	2.37	2.62	18	1
St. Mary	3.03	3.26	3.20	37	1
St. Thomas	3.98	6.32	3.87	39	1
Trelawny	2.61	3.05	3.78	30	1
Westmoreland	2.65	3.19	4.14	35	1
Total/Weighted Average	2.94	-	-	30.60	1
Standard Deviation	0.88	-	-	9.36	-
Skewness	1.77	-	-	-0.94	-

The above table summarizes the number of appearances per case heard in the second quarter of 2024, which have at least one case management date. The overall average number of case management dates per 10 cases mentioned is 29, or approximately 3 dates per case with a standard deviation of 0.88 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.77. Together, these results suggest that the average number of case management dates per case is within the prescribed international standard, that a slightly larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of case management dates and that there is not on average a wide variation in the number of number of case management dates per case across the courts.

Among the parish courts with the highest number of case management dates per cases for matters heard in the second quarter of 2024 are the Portland (5.2), St. Thomas (3.98) and St. Ann (3.44) Parish Courts, while Clarendon (2.41), St. James (2.46) and Trelawny (2.61) were among the courts with the lowest mean case management dates.

Table 11.2.10e: Summary of the average case management appearance frequency for cases disposed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average number of appearances per case	Standard Deviation
Clarendon	2.31	1.35
Corporate Area-Civil Division	3.04	2.93
Portland	5.31	5.04
St. Ann	3.87	5.03
St. Catherine	4.75	3.90
St. James	3.33	3.21
St. Mary	2.54	1.51
St. Thomas	7.09	9.95
Trelawny	2.96	2.60
Westmoreland	2.92	3.30
Weighted Average	3.67	-

The above summary specifically addresses the number of case management dates per case for matters disposed of in the second quarter of 2024. The overall average observed is approximately 37 dates for every 10 cases disposed, not dissimilar to the findings from the previous table which provided a descriptive summary of appearances for all cases disposed. The Clarendon, St. Mary and Westmoreland Parish Courts were among those with the lowest number of case management dates per disposed case in the quarter, while the parish courts of St. Thomas, Portland and St. Catherine were among the locations with the highest incidence.

Table 11.2.11: Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024

Parish Court	Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of Disposed cases and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of year of origin)	Gross Disposal rate (%)	Net Disposal rate (%)	Gross Clearance rate (%)	Net Clearance (%)	Approximate trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
St. Thomas	211	55	164	26.07	11.36	77.73	62.50	93.33	19.02
Corporate Area-Civil	930	342	1253	36.77	27.23	134.73	100.62	NA	9.38
St. Elizabeth	310	184	324	NA	59.35	NA	104.52	NA	NA
Hanover	123	86	130	69.92	68.38	105.69	96.58	NA	NA
Manchester	329	181	234	NA	55.02	NA	71.12	NA	NA
Portland	62	16	140	25.81	24.59	225.81	222.95	81.82	13.95
St. Ann	350	79	352	22.57	12.30	100.57	76.05	100.00	10.55
St. Catherine	584	116	851	19.86	19.59	145.72	139.52	86.26	18.78
St. Mary	154	43	424	NA	27.92	275.32	274.03	64.71	48.24
Trelawny	117	30	177	25.64	15.53	151.28	120.39	88.57	5.54
St. James	313	102	440	32.59	15.94	140.58	96.81	96.00	17.52
Clarendon	245	57	255	23.27	21.67	104.08	99.58	75.47	8.24
Westmoreland	190	32	172	16.84	15.51	90.53	79.14	85.42	5.55
Total/Weighted Average	3918	1323	4916	33.77	28.45	125.47	108.99	85.24	19.14
Skewness	1.89	1.79	2.02	2.39	1.26	1.39	1.83	28.97	2.24
Standard Deviation	232.19	89.79	326.80	15.18	19.23	60.16	61.98	-0.76	12.54

Note 1: Corporate Area Court-Civil division clearance and disposal rates was calculated using only big claims filed in the quarter.

Note 2: The gross case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for Q2 2024 is 7.32% and the net case disposal rate is 6.17%.

Note 4: The gross case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for Q2 2024 is 59.76% and the net case clearance rate is 40.74%.

Conclusion

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts sustained its remarkable performance trend in the second quarter of 2024, achieving outstanding results across most key metrics. A notable highlight of this period was an overall gross case clearance rate of 125.47%, surpassing international standards, albeit slightly lower than the corresponding quarter in 2023. This achievement contributed to a further reduction in the net case backlog rate for matters pending for at least two years, which stood at approximately 2.28%. Notably, this rate aligns closely with that of the Criminal Division, underscoring the consistent performance of both divisions in addressing case backlogs. The gross backlog rate for the Civil Division during the same period was 19.63%, also comparable to the Criminal Division's metrics.

The Parish Courts of Hanover and the Corporate Area Civil Court emerged as top performers across most critical indicators during this reporting period. Significantly, nine parish courts exceeded the 100% gross case clearance rate for civil cases, with six courts—St. Mary, Portland, Trelawny, St. Catherine, St. James, and the Corporate Area Civil Court—surpassing the 130% strategic target.

Despite these commendable achievements, there remains an urgent need to reduce the average case disposal time, which stood at 19.14 months for cases resolved during the quarter. Unnecessary adjournments continue to present a challenge, contributing to delays that must be addressed through strategic, court-driven interventions and operational reforms. It is important to acknowledge, however, that certain causes of delay—such as "No Return/Re-Issued," the absence of defendants, "parties in discussion," and the absence of both parties—fall outside the court's immediate control.

Under the visionary and data-driven leadership of the Honourable Chief Justice of Jamaica, the courts are poised to meet and potentially exceed key quantitative targets, positioning Jamaica's judiciary among the best globally. The progress recorded in the second quarter of 2024 establishes a strong foundation for achieving these strategic objectives, bringing the judiciary closer to delivering a world-class system of timely and effective justice for all stakeholders.

Glossary of Statistical Terms

Clearance rate: The ratio on incoming to outgoing cases or of new cases filed to cases disposed, regardless of when the disposed cases originated. For example, in a given Term 100 new cases were filed and 110 were disposed (including cases originating before that Term) the clearance rate is $110/100$ or 110%.

Note: The clearance rate could therefore exceed 100% but the disposal rate has a maximum value of 100%.

A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the Court system. The inferred international benchmark for case clearance rates is an average of 90%-110 annualized. This is a critical foundation to backlog prevention in the court systemⁱ.

Disposal rate: As distinct from clearance rate, the disposal rate is the proportion of new cases filed which have been disposed in a particular period. For example, if 100 new cases are filed in a particular Term and 80 of those cases were disposed in said Term, then the disposal rate is 80%.

Note: A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court systemⁱⁱ.

Trial/hearing date certainty: This is the proportion of dates set for trial or hearing which proceed without adjournment. For example, if 100 trial dates are set in a particular Term and 40 are adjourned, then the trial certainty rate would be 60%.

The international standard for this measure is between 92% and 100%.

Courtroom utilization rate: The proportion of courtrooms in full use on a daily basis or the proportion of hours utilized in a courtroom on a daily basis.

The international standard for this rate is 100%.

Case congestion rate: The ratio of pending cases to cases disposed in a given period. It is an indication of how fatigued a court is, given the existing state of resources and degree of efficiency. A case congestion rate of 150% for example, is an indication that given the resources currently at a court's disposal and its degree of efficiency, it is carrying 1.5 times its capacity.

Case File Integrity Rate: Measures the proportion of time that a case file is fully ready and available in a timely manner for a matter to proceed. Hence, any adjournment, which is due to the lack of readiness of a case file or related proceedings for court at the scheduled time, impairs the case file integrity rate.

The international benchmark for casefile integrity is 100%.

Standard deviation: This is a measure of how widely spread the scores in a data set are around the average value of that data set. The higher the standard deviation, the higher the variation of the raw scores in the data set, from the average score. A low standard deviation is an indication that the scores in a data set are clustered around the average.

Outlier: An outlier is a value that is either too small or too large, relative to the majority of scores/trend in a data set.

Skewness: This is a measure of the distribution of scores in a data set. It gives an idea of where the larger proportion of the scores in a data set can be found. Generally, if skewness is positive as revealed by a positive value for this measure, this suggests that a greater proportion of the scores in the data set are at the lower end. If the skewness is negative as revealed by a negative value for this measure, it generally suggests that a greater proportion of the scores are at the higher end. If the skewness measure is approximately 0, then there is an approximately equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

Range: This is a measure of the spread of values in a data set, calculated as the highest minus the lowest value. A larger range score may indicate a higher spread of values in a data set.

Case backlog: A case that is in the court system for more than two years without disposition. The gross backlog rate measures the proportion of all cases filed within a given period which remain unresolved for a period of over two years (both active and inactive cases).

The net backlog rate on the other hand measures the proportion of active cases filed in a given period which are unresolved for over two years.

Percentile Rank: This refers to the percentage of scores that are equal to or less than a given score. Percentile ranks, like percentages, fall on a continuum from 0 to 100. For example, a percentile rank of 45 indicates that 45% of the scores in a distribution of scores fall at or below the score at the 45th percentile.

Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed 300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals were

possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

Difference between percentage and percentile changes: The difference between percentage and percentage points, the latter is strictly used to compare two percentages, for example, if the clearance rate in 2018 was 89% and the clearance rate in 2019 is 100%, then the appropriate expression to compare these would be "an 11 percentage points increase". However, if we are comparing two absolute numbers, say, 1000 cases were disposed in 2018, and 1500 in 2019, then there would be a 50% increase in cases disposed.

Weighted Average: Weighted average is a calculation that takes into account the varying degrees of significance of the groups or numbers in a data set. In calculating a weighted average for a particular variable, the individual scores or averages for each group are multiplied by the weight or number of observations in each of those groups and summed. The outcome is then divided by the summation of the number of observations in all groups combined. For example, if we wish to calculate the weighted average clearance rate for the parish courts, the product of the clearance rate and number of cases for each court are computed, added, and then divided by the total number of cases across all the parish courts. This means that a court with a larger caseload has a greater impact on the case clearance rate than a smaller court.

A weighted average can be more accurate than a simple average in which all numbers in a data set are assigned an identical weight.

Continuance and Adjournment: In a general sense, any delay in the progression of a hearing in which a future date/time is set or anticipated for continuation is a form of adjournment.

However, in order to make a strict distinction between matters which are adjourned for procedural factors and those which are generally avoidable, court statistics utilizes the terms 'continuance' and 'adjournment.' Here, 'continuance' is used strictly to describe situations in which future dates are set due to procedural reasons and 'adjournments' is used to describe the circumstances in which future dates of appearance are set due to generally avoidable reasons.

For example, adjournments for another stage of hearing, say from a plea and case management hearing to a trial hearing or from the last date of trial to a sentencing date are classified as 'continuance' but delays for say, missing or incomplete files, due to outstanding medical reports or attorney absenteeism are classified as 'adjournments'. Adjournments as defined in this document have an adverse effect on hearing date certainty rates, but continuances do not.

Exponential Smoothing: Exponential smoothing of time series data assigns exponentially decreasing weights for newest to oldest observations. In other words, the older the data, the less priority ("weight") the data is given; newer data is seen as more relevant and is assigned more weight. Smoothing parameters (smoothing constants) - usually denoted by α - determine the weights for observations.

Exponential smoothing is usually used to make short-term forecasts, as longer-term forecasts using this technique can be quite unreliable.

- Simple (single) exponential smoothing uses a weighted moving average with exponentially decreasing weights.
- Holt's trend-corrected double exponential smoothing is usually more reliable for handling data that shows trends, compared to the single procedure.

Triple exponential smoothing (also called the Multiplicative Holt-Winters) is usually more reliable for parabolic trends or data that shows trends

ⁱ Source :

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Source :

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>