



## PARISH COURTS OF JAMAICA – CIVIL DIVISION

(JANUARY 1, 2024 – DECEMBER 31, 2024)

Court Metrics	January - December Highlights				
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Gross Case Clearance Rate	111.95	117.13	120.98	101.10	95.34
Trial Date Certainty Rate	60.00	77.57	74.40	75.63	81.16
Average Time to Disposition	16.15	12.52	17.95	12.34	10.40
	months	months	months	months	months

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## CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE ANNUAL CIVIL COURT 2024

This is the fourth year that the clearance rate has exceeded 100%. Statistically, this indicates that this level of performance has become the new normal. The net backlog rate is 3.74%, which is below the accepted international standard of 5%. The gross backlog stands at 20.26%, which is 10.26% above the international standard.

The consistently high standard of performance of the Parish Courts (Civil Division) has facilitated a reduction in the time from filing to final disposition of civil cases. The judges, staff, and stakeholders have all contributed significantly to this achievement. This development augurs well for the continued progress of these courts.

While progress has been commendable, there remains room for further improvement. It is noteworthy that the clearance rate for 2024 was 111.95%, compared with 117.13% in 2023 and 120.98% in 2022. Attention is also drawn to the increase in the average time to disposition, which rose to 16.15 months, compared with 12.52 months in 2023 and 17.95 months in 2022.

The trial date certainty was recorded at 60%, representing a 21.16% decline since 2020. This reduction in trial date certainty appears to have coincided with a steady increase in the average time to disposition, which rose from 10.40 months in 2020 to 16.15 months in 2024.

The data suggest that service delivery may be further enhanced by improving trial date certainty to 95%. Such an improvement could result in a reduction in average time to disposition and a corresponding enhancement of the clearance rate. It must always be borne in mind that courts deliver a service, not a commodity. As a service, it should not impose unnecessary costs on users; costs which may arise where trial date certainty is low. A 60% trial date certainty implies a 40% likelihood that a matter will not proceed as scheduled; this is unacceptable.



Given that the net backlog is now below 5%, the non-hearing of cases on their appointed dates cannot reasonably be attributed to congested court lists, as many of the courts no longer have heavily burdened civil lists.

A critical metric introduced in this year's report is the courtroom utilisation rate. This measure provides valuable insight into how courtrooms across the island are being used and is an essential indicator of the return on public investment in judicial infrastructure. The data show that, on average, approximately 67% of available courtroom hours were utilised in 2024, with all courts surpassing 50%. This is a significant indicator of how effectively courtroom spaces are scheduled and managed. Alongside other performance indicators, courtroom utilisation offers important insights into court operations and may highlight areas where scheduling practices can be improved to enhance efficiency in the use of judicial resources. Ultimately, this analysis underscores the importance of data-informed scheduling. Courts with lower utilisation rates may benefit from targeted administrative interventions, including enhanced scheduling protocols, resource reallocation, and, where feasible, the implementation of extended hours. By placing greater emphasis on courtroom utilisation, we are better positioned to ensure that every courtroom functions as a site of consistent and meaningful judicial activity—delivering justice efficiently and equitably across Jamaica.

The Judiciary must maintain its independence, but that does not imply isolation from accountability to the public for its stewardship. One of the core obligations of the courts is to be open and accessible. Access to justice requires courts to eliminate unnecessary barriers to legal services.

The Judiciary of Jamaica remains steadfast in its commitment to service excellence in the delivery of justice, ensuring fairness, integrity, and accessibility. In this regard, the Parish Courts will continue to work diligently to remove barriers by reducing, eliminating, and never again permitting the accumulation of backlogs.

## Executive Summary

The Honourable Chief Justice has outlined the following strategic objectives for the court system: a court-wide case clearance rate of 130%, a trial date certainty rate of 95%, and an overall net case backlog rate of under 5%. The results presented in this annual report (covering the period January 1 to December 31, 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 111.95% during the report period. Although this represents a decrease of 5.18 percentage points compared to the same period in 2023, it still meets the international standard for this metric. Notably, the three leading parish courts exceeded the court-wide target: St. Mary Parish Court (182.17%), Portland Parish Court (139.67%), and St. Catherine Parish Court (138.65%). Additionally, nine parish courts surpassed the 100% mark for case clearance rates during the 2024 calendar year. The trial date certainty rate for the Civil Division of the Parish Courts stood at 68%, falling below the required standard. The average time to dispose of a civil case in the year was approximately 485 days (16.15 months). The Trelawny (6.07 months), Westmoreland (7.01 months), and Clarendon (7.55 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 2024 calendar year, the estimated gross case backlog rate for cases older than 24 months in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts was 20.26%, meaning approximately 20.26% 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 3.74%, which meets the

required annual standard of  $\leq 5\%$ . The St. Thomas, Clarendon, St. Catherine and Trelawny Parish Courts performed best in this regard, each with less than 2.0% of active civil cases in backlog.

As of the end of 2024 calendar year, the estimated gross case backlog rate for cases older than 18 months in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts was 22.82%, meaning approximately 22.82% of combined active and inactive cases were over 18 months 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 4.92%, which meets the required annual standard of  $\leq 5\%$ . The St. Thomas 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 2024 calendar year, with the leading causes of adjournment being no returns, the absence of defendants, plaintiffs or both parties, ongoing discussions, and referrals to mediation. The five primary methods of case disposition during the year 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 2024 calendar year, 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 year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate Gross Disposal rate (%)	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
15652	9515	17523	60.79	111.95	68	16.15

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

#### **Forecast:**

Using the method of exponential smoothing, it is forecast that in the 2025, 16,477 new civil cases will be filed in the civil division of the parish courts, while 18,448 cases are expected to be disposed or become inactive. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for the 2025 calendar year in the civil division of the parish courts is therefore 111.97%. The parish courts of St. Mary, St. Catherine and Hanover are expected to register the highest case clearance rates in the 2025 calendar year.

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	<b><math>\geq 75\%</math></b>
Case Clearance Rate	<b><math>\geq 100\%</math></b>
Case Congestion Rate	<b><math>\leq 115\%</math></b>
Trial Date Certainty Rate	<b><math>\geq 85\%</math></b>
Net Case Backlog Rate	<b><math>\leq 5\%</math></b>
Gross Case Backlog Rate	<b><math>\leq 10\%</math></b>
Average Number of Mentions	<b><math>\leq 3</math></b>

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 2024 calendar year, ending on December 31, 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 2024 calendar year.



## Chapter 1.0: The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division

### 1.1: Case Activity Summary

This section details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division for the 2024 calendar year.

**Table 1.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	1395	38.20
Disposed	1467	40.17
Inactive	790	21.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>3652</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 3,652 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, 1,395 or 38.20% cases were still active, 1,467 were disposed of and 790 were inactive at the end of the year. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 61.80% for big claims for the year, which is 2.72 percentage points above the estimated disposal rate recorded for big claims in the corresponding 2023 calendar year.

**Table 1.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	3985	99.87
POCA	5	0.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>3990</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 3,990 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2024 calendar year. Big claims accounted for 3,985 or 99.87% of the sample and 5 or 0.13% were Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

**Table 1.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	1208	32.31
Recovery of Possession	688	18.40
Negligence	512	13.69
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	287	7.68
Rent Owing and Continuing	148	3.96
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2843</b>	<b>76.04</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 3,739**

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 year at the Corporate Area Civil Court was breach of contract with 1,208 or roughly 32.31% of the sample. Recovery of possession and negligence with 688 or 18.40% and 512 or 13.69% respectively rank next. The top five causes of action were rounded off by rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 287 or 7.68% and rent owing and continuing with 148 or 3.96% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 76.04% of the total sample of 3,739 causes of action.

**Table 1.04: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	695	68.07
Bailiff	281	27.52
District Constable	45	4.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>1021</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 695 or 68.07% of the sample, followed by service by the bailiff with 281 or 27.52% and service by the District Constable with 45 or 4.41%.

**Table 1.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	2193	55.06
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1790	44.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>3983*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 3,648 cases**

The majority of a sample of 3,983 matters entered in the 2024 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 2,193 or 55.06% of the sample, followed by courtroom 2 with 1,790 or 44.94% of the sample.

**Table 1.06: Distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Type of Application</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Application for Substituted Service	35	50.72
Relist	20	28.99
Vary Court Order	8	11.59
Application for Court Order	4	5.80
Application For Injunctive Relief	1	1.45
Date Of Service Vague	1	1.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100.00</b>

A sample of 69 applications filed during the 2024 calendar year revealed that applications for substituted service with 35 or 50.72% of the sample accounted for the highest proportion of applications filed, followed by application for relist with 20 or 28.99% of the sample. Applications for vary court order with 8 or 11.59% round off the top applications filed during the year.

## Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2024

**Table 1.07: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1543	40.76
Female	1371	36.21
Registered Company	828	21.87
Trading As	44	1.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>3786</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 3,786 matters entered in the 2024 calendar year at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 1,543 or 40.76% of the sample. Females accounted for 1,371 or 36.21% and registered companies accounted for 828 or 21.87% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 44 or 1.16% of the sample.

**Table 1.08: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1897	49.58
Female	1491	38.97
Registered Company	398	10.40
Trading As	40	1.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>3826</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 3,826 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the 2024 calendar year. The highest proportion of defendants were male with 1,897 or 49.58% of the sample, followed by females with 1,491 or 38.97%. Registered companies accounted for 398 or 10.40% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 40 or 1.05% of the sample.

## 1.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2024

This section 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 year, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 1.09: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	877	39.79
Default Judgment Date	706	32.03
Trial	399	18.10
Part-Heard Date	114	5.17
Hearing of Application	45	2.04
Date for Order	43	1.95
Final Judgment Date	20	0.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>2204</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 2,204 matters that went to court during the 2024 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 877 or 39.79% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 706 or 32.03%, 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 399 or 18.10% of the sample. It is of note that 114 or 5.17% 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 1.10: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	237	31.10
Hearing of Application	16	2.10
For final Judgment	10	1.31
For Sentence/Order	10	1.31
Referred to Mediation	5	0.66
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>36.48</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 762**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 762 incidences of adjournments heard in the 2024 calendar year. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 237 or 31.10% of the sample and hearing of an application with 16 or 2.10% round off the top incidences in the sample. Adjournments for final judgment and for sentencing with 10 or 1.31% each rank next. The list is completed by referrals to mediation with 5 or 0.66% of the sample. The top reasons for adjournments listed above account for 36.48% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 1.11: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	1580
Average Incidence	1.1

**Corresponding to 1413 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 1,580 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 1,413 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

**Table 1.12: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	1150	38.83
Consent	637	21.51
Withdrawal	309	10.43
Default Judgment	215	7.26
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	174	5.87
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2485</b>	<b>83.90</b>

**NB there were 2,962 matters disposed of in 2024**

A total of 2,962 matters were disposed of at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the 2024 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 2,485 or 83.90% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 1,150 or 38.83% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed of by consent with 637 or 21.51% and withdrawals with 309 or 10.43%. Matters disposed by default judgments and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) round off the top five methods with 215 or 7.26% and 174 or 5.87% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 1.13: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	366	94.57
Settlement	19	4.91
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	1	0.26
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	1	0.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 387 matters in the 2024 calendar year. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff account for 366 or 94.57% of the sample of outcome, while settlements accounted for 19 or 4.91%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 1.14: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
3652	2257	3703	101.40	61.80

The above table shows 3,652 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 1,467 of these cases were disposed of and 790 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 61.80%, a 2.72 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2023 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 2,581 cases were disposed of, and 1,122 cases became inactive during the year,



several of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 101.40%, which meets the international standard on this metric, but is a 19.91 percentage points decline when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the year is 51.26%, which is 3.24 percentage points above the net disposal rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year. The estimated net case clearance rate is 90.18%, which is approximately 5.64 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 1.15a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2024****Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	1865
Mean	341.1201
Median	236.0000
Mode	98.00
Std. Deviation	408.74045
Skewness	3.948
Std. Error of Skewness	.057
Range	3569.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	3573.00

The above table outlines summary data on 1,865 civil matters disposed of in the 2024 calendar year at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 341 days or approximately 11.4 months, which is roughly 108 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2023 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 98 days. The standard deviation of roughly 409 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 in the year was 3,573 days or roughly 9.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 4 days.

**Table 1.15b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	361
Mean	274.2493
Median	158.0000
Mode	154.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	371.84224
Skewness	4.039
Std. Error of Skewness	.128
Range	3423.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	3427.00

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 361 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 274 days or roughly 9.1 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 645 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 152.81 days.

**Table 1.16a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2024****Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	3724
Mean	639.2656
Median	538.0000
Mode	74.00
Std. Deviation	561.77755
Skewness	1.791
Std. Error of Skewness	.040
Range	4753.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	4764.00

The above data is based on a sample of 3,724 active civil matters as of the year ended December 31, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 639 days or roughly 21.3 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 74 days. The standard deviation of roughly 562 days suggests that there is some 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 4,764 days old or roughly 13.2 years, while the minimum time is 11 days.

**Table 1.16b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	320
Mean	322.3969
Median	288.0000
Mode	172.00
Std. Deviation	317.65849
Skewness	6.227
Std. Error of Skewness	.136
Range	3469.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	3487.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 320 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the year ended December 32, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 322 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 172 days, and the median age was 288 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 3,487 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.

**Table 1.17: Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the year ended December 31, 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	87.18	147.22	6.39	26.12	NA	1.3

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the 2024 calendar year. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtroom (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 allocating 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 year was roughly 87.18%, which is an indication that on average roughly 87% of the available hours for court hearings in the 2024 calendar year. 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 were 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 section details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Clarendon Parish Court for the 2024 calendar year.

**Table 2.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	385	37.71
Disposed	618	60.53
Inactive	18	1.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>1021</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 1,021 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, 385 cases or 37.71% of these cases were still active, while 618 were disposed of and 18 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 62.29%, which is 13.12 percentage points below the gross disposal rate recorded in the previous 2023 calendar year.

**Table 2.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	930	80.45
Small Claim	226	19.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>1156</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 1,156 civil claims filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. The majority of which 930 or 80.45% were big claims, while 226 or 19.55% were small claims.

**Table 2.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Clarendon parish court for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	577	49.91
Damages for Negligence	118	10.21
Recovery of Possession	89	7.70
Rent Owing and Continuing	47	4.07
Trespass	46	3.98
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>75.87</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 1,156**

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 year at the Clarendon Parish Court was breach of contract with 577 or roughly 49.91% of the sample. Damages for negligence with 118 or 10.21% and recovery of possession with 89 or 7.70% rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 47 or 4.07% and trespass with 3.98% of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

**Table 2.04: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	29	87.88
Bailiff	4	12.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 district constable accounted for the majority of the sample with 29 or 87.88% of the sample and service by the bailiff accounted for 4 or 12.12%.



**Table 2.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	918	79.41
Chapelton Outstation	105	9.08
Lionel Town Outstation	104	9.00
Frankfield Outstation	28	2.42
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	0.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>1156*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 1021 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1,156 new matters filed in the year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 918 or 79.41% of the total sample. The Chapelton Outstation accounted for 105 or 9.08% of the cases filed. The Lionel Town outstation accounted for 104 or 9% and the Frankfield outstation accounted for 28 or 2.42% of the new cases heard.

#### **Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Table 2.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	560	49.08
Female	518	45.40
Registered Company	42	3.68
Trading As	21	1.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>1141</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1,141 new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year at the Clarendon Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 560 or 49.08% of the sample, followed by females with 518 or 45.40%. Registered companies accounted for 42 or 3.68% of the sample and Individuals trading under a business name ("trading as") accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 21 or 1.84% of the sample.

**Table 2.07: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	740	64.74
Female	379	33.16
Trading As	19	1.66
Registered Company	5	0.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>1143</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 1,143 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the 2024 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 740 or 64.74% of the sample, followed by females with 379 or 33.16% and Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 1.66% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 5 or 0.44% of the sample.

## 2.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year December 31, 2024

This section 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 2.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	196	45.79
Trial	139	32.48
Part-Heard Date	49	11.45
Default Judgment Date	43	10.05
Hearing of Application	1	0.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 428 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2024, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 196 or 45.79% of the sample, were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a trial date with 139 or 32.48%, matters adjourned for a part heard date with 49 or 11.45% and matters adjournment for a default judgment date with 10.05% of the sample.

**Table 2.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	106	19.13
Defendant Absent	49	8.84
Both Parties Absent	33	5.96
Referred to Mediation	30	5.42
Parties in Discussion	18	3.25
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>42.60</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 554**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 554 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the 2024 calendar year. Adjournments for no return or for reissue accounted for 106 or 19.13% of the sample and adjournments due to the absence of defendants accounted for 49 or 8.84% of the sample. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties accounted for 33 or 5.96%, referrals to mediation accounted for 30 or 5.42% and for parties in discussion accounted for 3.25% of the sample.

**Table 2.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	183
Average Incidence	1.2

**Corresponding to 153 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 183 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 153 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

**Table 2.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	471	46.00
Consent	149	14.55
Settlement	108	10.55
Default Judgment	61	5.96
Final Judgment	53	5.18
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>82.23</b>

**NB: there were 1024 matters disposed of in 2024**

A total of 1,024 civil matters were disposed of at the Clarendon Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 842 or 82.23% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 471 or 46% and matters disposed by consent with 149 or 14.55% of the sample. Matters disposed by settlements with 108 or 10.55% of the sample ranked next and matters disposed by default judgment with 61 or 5.96% and matters disposed by final judgment round off the top methods of disposition with 5.18% of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 2.12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	184	73.02
Settlement	65	25.79
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	3	1.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of 252 case outcomes in the 2024 calendar year at the Clarendon Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 184 or 73.02% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 65 or 25.79%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for 3 or 1.19 % of the sample of outcomes. 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 2.13: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
207	83	60

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 207 trial dates was set in the year, of which 83 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 60%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 60% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 0.40 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 2.14: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
1021	636	923	90.40	62.29

The above table shows 1,021 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 618 of these cases were disposed of and 18 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 62.29%, a 13.12 percentage points decline when compared to the 2023 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 903

cases were disposed of, and 20 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 90.40%, which meets the international standard on this metric, and is a 20.17 percentage points decline when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the year is 61.62%, which is 10.79 percentage points below the net disposal rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year. The estimated net case clearance rate is 90.03%, which is roughly 19.43 percentage points below the rate recorded in 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 2.15a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2024****Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	497
Mean	226.5211
Median	149.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	223.25077
Skewness	1.686
Std. Error of Skewness	.110
Range	1207.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	1210.00

The above table outlines sample data on 497 civil matters disposed of in the 2024 calendar year at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 227 days or 7.6 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days and the median time was 149 days. The standard deviation of roughly 223 days is an indication that there is a large 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 1,210 days or roughly 3.4 years old, while the minimum time taken was 3 days.



**Table 2.15b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	117
Mean	270.3077
Median	182.0000
Mode	56.00
Std. Deviation	230.83617
Skewness	1.272
Std. Error of Skewness	.224
Range	1111.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	1119.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 117 matters at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 270 days or roughly 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 1,119 days or roughly 3.1 years old, while the minimum time taken was 8 days.

**Table 2.16a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2024****Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	519
Mean	388.6879
Median	256.0000
Mode	29.00
Std. Deviation	352.37635
Skewness	1.113
Std. Error of Skewness	.107
Range	1376.00
Minimum	25.00
Maximum	1401.00

The above data is based on a sample of 519 active civil matters at the end of the 2024 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 389 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 29 days. The standard deviation of roughly 352 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 1,401 days old or roughly 3.9 years, while the minimum time taken is 25 days.

**Table 2.16b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	159
Mean	376.7547
Median	319.0000
Mode	120.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	295.41950
Skewness	.993
Std. Error of Skewness	.192
Range	1257.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	1275.00

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 159 active reissued matters at the Clarendon Civil Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 377 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 120 days, and the median age was 319 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 1,275 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.

### 2.3: case activity in enforcement

This section highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

**Table 2.17: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	40	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above sample of 40 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, all of which were judgement summonses with 100% of the sample. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

**Table 2.18: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	40	40	1

The above table shows that the sample of 40 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 40 court appearances in the 2024 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were exactly 10 appearances dates.

## Chapter 3.0: St. Catherine Parish Court –Civil Division

### 3.1: Case Activity Summary

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

**Table 3.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	940	42.75
Disposed	1189	54.07
Inactive	70	3.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>2199</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 2,199 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, 940 cases or 42.75% of these cases were still active, while 1,189 were disposed of and 70 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 57.25%, which is 5.03 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 3.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	2381	90.12
Small Claim	261	9.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>2642</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from a sample of 2,642 claims filed in the 2024 calendar year, 2,381 or 90.12% were big claims and 261 or 9.88% were small claims.

**Table 3.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	943	35.76
Damages for Negligence	552	20.93
Recovery of possession	294	11.15
Rent Owing and Continuing	131	4.97
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	116	4.40
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2036</b>	<b>77.21</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 2,637**

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 2,637 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was breach of contract with 943 or roughly 35.76% of the sample, damages for negligence with 552 or 20.93% and recovery of possession with 294 or 11.15%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing and continuing with 131 or 4.97% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 116 or 4.40% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 77.21% of the total sample of causes of action.

**Table 3.04: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	335	41.21
Personal	266	32.72
District Constable	212	26.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 335 or 41.21% of the sample, personal service

accounted for 266 or 32.72% and service by the district constable accounted for 212 or 26.08% of the sample.

**Table 3.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	2189	82.95
Linstead Outstation	288	10.91
Old Harbour Outstation	162	6.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>2639*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 2,196 cases**

The majority of the sample of 2,639 new claims filed in the 2024 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 2,189 or 82.95% of the total sample. The 288 or 10.91% that were entered in the Linstead outstation followed this. The Old Harbour outstation accounted for 162 or 6.14% of the claims.

**Table 3.06: Distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Type of Application</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Application for Substituted Service	117	75.48
Application for Court Order	22	14.19
Extension of Time Under Section 250	8	5.16
Relist	6	3.87
Set Aside Default Judgment	2	1.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100.00</b>

A sample of 155 applications filed during the 2024 calendar year revealed that applications for substituted service with 117 or 75.48% of the sample accounted for the majority applications filed, followed by application for court order with 22 or 14.19% of the sample. Applications for extension of time under Section 250 with 8 or 5.16%, applications for relist with 3.87% and applications set aside for default judgment with 1.29% round off the applications filed during the year.



### Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2024

**Table 3.07: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1185	46.27
Female	1097	42.83
Registered Company	279	10.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>2561</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the 2,561 new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 1,185 or 46.27%, followed by females with 1,097 or 42.83% and registered companies with 279 or 10.89% of the sample.

**Table 3.08: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1503	59.01
Female	965	37.89
Registered Company	79	3.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>2547</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 2,547 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 1,503 or 59.01% of the total sample, followed by females with 965 or 37.89%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 79 or 3.10% of the total sample.

### 3.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year December 31, 2024

This section 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 3.09: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	377	37.70
Mention Date	334	33.40
Default Judgment Date	187	18.70
Part-Heard Date	96	9.60
Hearing of Application	6	0.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1,000 matters that went to court during the 2024 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The highest proportion of the sample, 377 or 37.70% were adjourned for a trial date and 334 or 33.40% were adjourned for a mention date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 187 or 18.70% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 96 or 9.60% of the sample.

**Table 3.10: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	476	32.29
Defendant Absent	168	11.40
Parties in Discussion	95	6.45
Both parties absent	71	4.82
Plaintiff Absent	40	2.71
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>57.67</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled= 1,474**

The above table details a sample of 1,474 adjournments or continuances heard in the year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for reissue with 476 or 32.29% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 168 or 11.40% and for parties in discussion with 95 or 6.45% and adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 71 or 4.82% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the year. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiff with 40 or 2.71% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 57.67% of the total sample.

**Table 3.11: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	60
Average Incidence	1.3

**Corresponding to 47 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 60 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 47 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

**Table 3.12: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	1600	43.29
Consent	458	12.39
Settlement	440	11.90
Default Judgment	389	10.52
Withdrawal	265	7.17
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3152</b>	<b>85.28</b>

**NB: There were 3696 matters disposed of in 2024**

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 3,696 matters disposed of during the 2024 calendar year. The list is led by matters struck out with 1,600 or 43.29% of the disposals, followed matters disposed of by consent with 458 or 12.39%, matters disposed by settlements with 440 or 11.90% and matters disposed of by default judgments with 389 or 10.52%. Withdrawals account for 265 or 7.17% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 85.28% of the sample.

**Table 3.13: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	474	86.18
Settlement	73	13.27
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	2	0.36
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	1	0.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 550 matters in the 2024 calendar year. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 474 or 86.18% of the total sample, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 73 or 13.27%, judgment in favour of defendant with 2 or 0.36% and judgment in favour of ancillary plaintiff with 0.18% account for the remaining proportion.

This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 3.14: Sampling distribution of Trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
734	303	59

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 734 trial dates were set in the year shows that 303 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 59%, suggesting that during the year, there was a roughly 59% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate falls below the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 8 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2023.

**Table 3.15: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year</b>	<b>Estimated gross Case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Estimated gross Case disposal rate (%)</b>
2199	1259	3049	138.65	57.25

The above table shows 2,199 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 1,189 of these cases were disposed of and 70 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 57.25%, which is 5.03 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 2,921 cases were disposed of, and 128 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 138.65%, which exceeds the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 8.97 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year.

The net disposal rate for the year is 55.85%, which is 6.49 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year. The net clearance for the year is 137.20%, which is 10.08 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 3.16a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	2723
Mean	516.0180
Median	318.0000
Mode	133.00
Std. Deviation	535.24565
Skewness	1.915
Std. Error of Skewness	.047
Range	3518.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	3522.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 2,723 civil matters disposed of in the 2024 calendar year at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 516 days or 17.2 months, which is roughly 251 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2023 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 133 days. There is moderate standard deviation of 535 days, which is an indication that there is a large 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 year was 3,522 days or roughly 9.8 years old, while the youngest was 4 days.

**Table 3.16b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	293
Mean	754.1024
Median	770.0000
Mode	404.00
Std. Deviation	433.36201
Skewness	.570
Std. Error of Skewness	.142
Range	2179.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	2193.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 293 matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 754 days or roughly 25.1 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 are below the overall average.



**Table 3.17a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2024****Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	1690
Mean	670.3166
Median	441.0000
Mode	26.00
Std. Deviation	749.77095
Skewness	2.374
Std. Error of Skewness	.060
Range	8477.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	8488.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,690 active civil matters at the end of the 2024 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 670 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 26 days. The standard deviation of roughly 750 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 fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 8,488 days old or roughly 23.6 years, while the minimum time taken is 11 days.

**Table 3.17b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	130
Mean	1000.8231
Median	1121.0000
Mode	1153.00
Std. Deviation	491.92653
Skewness	.010
Std. Error of Skewness	.212
Range	2543.00
Minimum	26.00
Maximum	2569.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 130 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 1,001 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 1,153 days and the median age was 1,121 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages were close to the overall average. The highest age in the data set was 2,569 days and the lowest was 26 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.

### 3.3: Case activity in enforcement

This section highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

**Table 3.18: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	53	77.94
Warrant of Possession	11	16.18
Warrant of Levy	3	4.41
Warrant of Commitment	1	1.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above sample of 68 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the majority of which were judgement summonses with 53 or 77.94%, while warrants of possession with 11 or 16.18% and warrant of levy with 3 or 4.41% followed. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts

**Table 3.19: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	53	53	1

The above table shows that the sample of 53 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 53 court appearances in the 2024 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were exactly 10 appearances dates.

## Chapter 4.0: Trelawny Parish Court –Civil Division

### 4.1: Case Activity Summary

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

**Table 4.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	151	31.20
Disposed	266	54.96
Inactive	67	13.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 484 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, 151 or 31.20% of these cases were active, 266 or 54.96% were disposed of and 67 cases became inactive at the end of the year. This produces a gross case disposal rate of 68.80% for the year, a 1.60 percentage points decline when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 4.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	413	77.34
Small Claim	121	22.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 534 civil claims filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. The majority of which 413 or 77.34% were big claims, while 121 or 22.66% were small claims.

**Table 4.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	107	20.23
Money Owing	93	17.58
Return of Cash	37	6.99
Arrears of Rent	32	6.05
Money Loaned	31	5.86
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>56.71</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 529**

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 year were recovery of possession with 107 or 20.23% and money owing with 93 or 17.58% of the sample. Return of cash with 37 or 6.99%, arrears of rent with 32 or 6.05% and money loaned with 31 or 5.86% of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 56.71% of all the total sample of 529 causes of action.

**Table 4.04: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	472	89.56
Bailiff	55	10.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 472 or 89.56% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 55 or 10.44% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

**Table 4.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Falmouth Outstation	327	61.12
Ulster Spring Outstation	110	20.56
Clarks Town Outstation	98	18.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>535*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 484 cases**

The majority of the sample of 535 new matters filed in 61.12% of the accommodations were entered in the Falmouth outstation. The 110 or 20.56% matters that were entered in the Ulster Spring Outstation followed this, while court sittings at the Clarks Town outstation ranked next with 98 or 18.32% of the accommodations.

#### **Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Table 4.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	270	52.53
Female	213	41.44
Registered Company	31	6.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 514 new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 270 or 52.53%, followed by females with 213 or 41.44%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 6.03% of the sample.

**Table 4.07: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	316	61.60
Female	194	37.82
Registered Company	3	0.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 513 records on the gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 316 or 61.60% of the sample, followed by females with 194 or 37.82% and registered companies with 3 or 0.58%.

#### 4.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year December 31, 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 year ended December 31, 2024**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	146	39.04
Default Judgment Date	94	25.13
Trial	80	21.39
Part-Heard Date	53	14.17
Hearing of Application	1	0.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>100.00</b>



The above table shows a sample of 374 matters that were heard during the year ended December 31, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 146 or 39.04% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 94 or 25.13%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters adjourned for trial dates with 80 or 21.39% and for part heard dates with 53 or 14.17% rank next. This data 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 year ended December 31, 2024**

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	147	35.00
Defendant Absent	58	13.81
Both Parties Absent	46	10.95
Re-issue application	27	6.43
Plaintiff Absent	21	5.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>71.19</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 420**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 420 incidence of adjournments heard in the 2024 calendar year. Adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 147 or 35% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 58 or 13.81%, the absence of both parties with 46 or 10.95% and rei-issue applications with 27 or 6.43% of the sample feature prominently on the list. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 21 or 5% of the sample respectively close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 71.19% of the entire sample.

**Table 4.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	169
Average Incidence	1.05

**Corresponds to 161 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 169 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 161 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.05 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

**Table 4.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	105	23.39
Default judgment	89	19.82
Struck Out	82	18.26
Oral Admission	53	11.80
Settlement	38	8.46
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>81.74</b>

**NB: There were 449 matters disposed of 2024**

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 449 matters disposed of during the 2024 calendar year. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 105 or 23.39% of the dispositions, followed by matters disposed by default judgment with 89 or 19.82% and matters struck out with 82 or 18.26% of the sample. Matters disposed by oral admissions account for 53 or 11.80% of the sample and settlements account for 38 or 8.46% of the sample. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 81.74% of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 4.12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	150	89.29
Settlement	15	8.93
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	3	1.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of 168 case outcomes in the 2024 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 150 or 89.29% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 15 or 8.93%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for 3 or 1.79% of the sample of outcomes. 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 4.13: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
103	43	58

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 103 trial dates set in the year revealed that 43 were adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial date certainty rate of 58% which suggests that during the year there was roughly a 58% 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 28 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2023.

**Table 4.14: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate number of cases disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in year)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year</b>	<b>Estimated Gross Case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Estimated Gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
484	333	512	105.79	68.80

The above table shows 484 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 266 of these cases were disposed of and 67 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 68.80%, which is 1.60 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 410 cases were disposed of and 102 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 105.79%, which meets the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 2.28 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year.

The net disposal rate for the year is 63.79%, which is 5.93 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year. The net clearance for the year is 98.32%, which is 5.22 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 4.15a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	334
Mean	182.1826
Median	87.0000
Mode	98.00
Std. Deviation	272.21553
Skewness	2.970
Std. Error of Skewness	.133
Range	1691.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	1694.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 334 civil cases disposed in the 2024 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 182 days or 6.1 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 98 days and the median time was 87 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 272 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 year was 1,694 days or roughly 4.7 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 3 days.

**Table 4.15b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	57
Mean	148.3860
Median	91.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	133.32717
Skewness	2.154
Std. Error of Skewness	.316
Range	737.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	738.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 57 matters at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 148 days or roughly 4.9 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 59 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 254.56 days.

**Table 4.16a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2024****Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	271
Mean	583.6052
Median	301.0000
Mode	301.00
Std. Deviation	657.84087
Skewness	1.274
Std. Error of Skewness	.148
Range	2475.00
Minimum	17.00
Maximum	2492.00

The above data is computed using 271 active cases at the end of the 2024 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 584 days (1.6 years), while the most frequently occurring age and the median age in the distribution were both 301 days. The standard deviation of roughly 658 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 2,492 days (6.9 years old), while the youngest is 17 days.

**Table 4.16b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	42
Mean	247.4762
Median	114.5000
Mode	49.00
Std. Deviation	418.37509
Skewness	3.563
Std. Error of Skewness	.365
Range	2080.00
Minimum	21.00
Maximum	2101.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 42 active reissued matters at the Trelawny Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 247 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 49 days, and the median age was 114.50 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages were below the overall average. The highest age in the data set was 2,101 days and the lowest was 21 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 5.0: St. Ann Parish Court –Civil Division

### 5.1: Case Activity Summary

This section details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year.

**Table 5.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	691	46.53
Disposed	635	42.76
Inactive	159	10.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>1485</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 1,485 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, 691 cases or 46.53% of these cases were still active, 635 were disposed of and 159 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 53.47%, which is a 12.25 percentage points decline when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 5.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	1511	82.21
Small Claims	317	17.25
POCA	10	0.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>1838</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from 1,838 new claims filed in the 2024 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 1,511 or 82.21%, while 317 or 17.25% were small claims and 10 or 0.54% 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 year ended December 31, 2024**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	509	28.09
Recovery of Possession	285	15.73
Damages for Negligence	225	12.42
Rent owing and continuing	143	7.89
Money owing	143	7.89
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1305</b>	<b>72.02</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 1,812**

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 1,812 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2024 calendar year was breach of contract with 509 or roughly 28.09% of the sample and recovery of possession with 285 or 15.73% of the sample. Damages for negligence with 225 or 12.42% of the sample rank next. Money owing and rent owing and continuing with 143 or 7.89% each of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 72.02% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 5.04: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District constable	170	46.20
Bailiff	133	36.14
Personal	65	17.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 district constable accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 170 or 46.20% of the sample. Service by the bailiff accounted for 133 or 36.14% and personal service with 65 or 17.66% of the sample rank next.

**Table 5.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	680	44.24
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	451	29.34
Church Hall	281	18.28
Claremont Outstation	125	8.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>1537*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 1244 cases**

The highest proportion of a sample of 1,537 new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 680 or 44.24% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 451 or 29.34%, Church Hall accounted for 281 or 18.28% and the Claremont Outstation accounted for 125 or 8.13% of the accommodations.

#### **Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Table 5.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	904	49.75
Female	719	39.57
Registered Company	186	10.24
Trading As	8	0.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>1817</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1,817 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 904 or 49.75%, followed by females with 719 or 39.57% and registered companies with 186 or 10.24% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 0.44 % accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

**Table 5.07: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1131	62.73
Female	576	31.95
Registered Company	80	4.44
Trading As	16	0.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>1803</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 1,803 records on the gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 1,131 or 62.73% of the total sample, followed by females with 576 or 31.95%. Registered companies accounted for 80 or 4.44% of the total sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 16 or 0.89% of the sample.

## 5.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year December 31, 2024

This section 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 year ended December 31, 2024**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	331	35.48
Trial	302	32.37
Part-Heard Date	141	15.11
Default Judgment Date	122	13.08
Hearing of Application	31	3.32
Final Judgment Date	6	0.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 933 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 331 or 35.48% of the sample, followed by 302 or 32.37%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters disposed for part heard dates accounted for 141 or 15.11% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date account for 122 or 13.08% 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 year ended December 31, 2024**

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	388	29.62
Defendant Absent	174	13.28
Referred to Mediation	32	2.44
Hearing of Application	27	2.06
Both Parties Absent	26	1.98
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>49.39</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 1,310**

The above table details a sample of 1,310 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the 2024 calendar year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 388 or 29.62% of the sample, adjournments due to defendants being absent with 174 or 13.28% and referrals to mediation with 32 or 2.44% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the year in this sample. The list is completed by adjournments for the hearing of an application with 27 or 2.06% and the absence of both parties with 26 or 1.98% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 49.39% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

**Table 5.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	357
Average Incidence	1.3

**Corresponds to 266 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 357 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 266 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

**Table 5.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	376	24.95
Consent	358	23.76
Default Judgment	182	12.08
Settlement	164	10.88
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	124	8.23
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>79.89</b>

**NB: There were 1507 matters disposed of in 2024**

A sample of 1,507 matters disposed of during the 2024 calendar year revealed that 376 or 24.95% of matters were struck out, 358 or 23.76% were disposed by consent and 182 or 12.08% of the sample were disposed by default judgments. Matters disposed by settlements with 164 or 10.88% and Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) with 124 or 8.23% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 79.89% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2024 calendar year.

**Table 5.12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	331	84.65
Settlement	55	14.07
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	5	1.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2024 calendar year at the St. Ann Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 331 or 84.65% of the sample of matters, account for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 55 or 14.07% and judgments in favour of the defendants with 5 or 1.28% 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 year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
242	7	97

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 242 trial dates set in the year revealed that 7 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 97%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 97% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 2 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2023.



**Table 5.14: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)</b>	<b>Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
1485	794	1454	97.91	53.47

The above table shows 1,485 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 635 cases were disposed of and 159 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 53.47%, a decrease of 12.25 percentage points compared to the 2023 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 1,162 cases were disposed of, and 292 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 97.91%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents a 22.11 percentage points decline when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 47.89%, a decline of 5.07 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 87.63%, a decline of 19.64 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year. 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 year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	990
Mean	374.9727
Median	145.0000
Mode	56.00
Std. Deviation	559.63930
Skewness	2.773
Std. Error of Skewness	.078
Range	4129.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	4130.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 990 civil matters disposed of in the 2024 calendar year at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 375 days or 12.5 months, which is roughly 1 less day than it took to dispose of matters in the 2023 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 56 days. The standard deviation of 560 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 year was 4,130 days or roughly 11.5 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

**Table 5.15b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	167
Mean	453.8323
Median	187.0000
Mode	28.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	618.16582
Skewness	1.848
Std. Error of Skewness	.188
Range	2514.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	2515.00

<sup>a</sup>. 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 167 matters at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 454 days or roughly 15.1 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 97 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 376 days.

**Table 5.16a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2024****Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	1520
Mean	665.0507
Median	482.0000
Mode	545.00
Std. Deviation	683.48602
Skewness	2.567
Std. Error of Skewness	.063
Range	5068.00
Minimum	12.00
Maximum	5080.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,520 active civil matters at the end of the 2024 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 665 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 545 days. The standard deviation of roughly 683 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 5,080 days old or roughly 14.1 years, while the minimum age is 12 days.

**Table 5.16b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	158
Mean	554.0696
Median	285.0000
Mode	266.00
Std. Deviation	924.28551
Skewness	3.688
Std. Error of Skewness	.193
Range	4914.00
Minimum	12.00
Maximum	4926.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 158 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the year ended December 31, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 554 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 266 days, and the median age was 285 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 4,926 days and the lowest was 12 days.

### 5.3: Case activity in enforcement

This section highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

**Table 5.17: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	44	93.62
Warrant of Possession	3	6.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above sample of 47 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the majority of which were judgement summonses with 44 or 93.62%, while warrants of possession with 3 or 6.38% followed. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

**Table 5.18: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	44	56	1.3

The above table shows that the sample of 44 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 56 court appearances in the 2024 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.3 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were exactly 13 appearances dates.

## 5.4: Browns Town Outstation – Civil Division

### 5.4.1: Case Activity Summary

This section details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Brown's Town outstation in the 2024 calendar year.

**Table 5.4.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	235	66.76
Disposed	98	27.84
Inactive	19	5.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 352 new cases filed at the Brown's Town Court in the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, 235 cases or 66.76% of these cases were still active, 98 were disposed of and 19 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 33.24% for the year, which is a 14.93 percentage points decline when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 5.4.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	262	68.23
Small Claims	122	31.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from 384 new claims filed in the 2024 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 262 or 68.23%, while 122 or 31.77% were small claims.



**Table 5.4.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Browns Town Outstation for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Money Owing	102	27.35
Breach of Contract	85	22.79
Damages done to cultivation	40	10.72
Recovery of Possession	40	10.72
Rent Owing and Continuing	22	5.90
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>77.48</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 373**

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 373 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2024 calendar year was money owing with 102 or roughly 27.35% of the sample and breach of contract with 85 or 22.79% of the sample. Damages done to cultivation and recovery of possession with 40 or 10.72% each of the sample rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 22 or 5.90% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 77.48% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 5.4.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	372	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>372*</b>	<b>100</b>

**\*Note: Corresponds to 332 cases**

All of a sample of 372 new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse.

### Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2024

**Table 5.4.05: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	224	58.79
Female	138	36.22
Registered Company	14	3.67
Trading As	5	1.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 381 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 224 or 58.79% of the sample, followed by females with 138 or 36.22% of the total sample. Registered companies accounted for 14 or 3.67% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 1.31%.

**Table 5.4.06: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	244	64.55
Female	115	30.42
Registered Company	13	3.44
Trading as	6	1.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 378 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 244 or 64.55% of the total sample, followed by females with 115 or 30.42%. Registered companies accounted for 13 or 3.44% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 1.59%.

#### 5.4.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year December 31, 2024

This section 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 5.4.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	143	43.87
Trial	82	25.15
Default Judgment Date	64	19.63
Part-Heard Date	34	10.43
Final Judgment Date	2	0.61
Hearing of Application	1	0.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 326 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 143 or 43.87% of the sample, followed by 82 or 25.15%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters disposed for default judgment dates with 64 or 19.63% and matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 34 or 10.43% 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 5.4.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	68	18.38
No Return/Re-Issued	46	12.43
Referred to Mediation	12	3.24
Pending Settlement	7	1.89
Parties in Discussion	3	0.81
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>36.76</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 370**

The above table details a sample of 370 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the 2024 calendar year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 68 or 18.38% of the sample, adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 46 or 12.43% and referrals to mediation with 12 or 3.24% and pending settlements with 7 or 1.89% of the sample rounds off the top reasons for adjournment for the year in this sample. The list is completed by parties in discussion with 3 or 0.81% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 36.76% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

**Table 5.4.09: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	21
Average Incidence	1

**Corresponds to 21 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 21 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 21 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

**Table 5.4.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	73	29.08
Consent	48	19.12
Default Judgment	33	13.15
Oral Admission	24	9.56
Settlement	22	8.76
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>79.68</b>

**NB: There were 251 matters disposed of in 2024**

A sample of 251 matters disposed during the 2024 calendar year revealed that 73 or 29.08% of matters were struck out and 48 or 19.12% were disposed by consent. Matters disposed by default judgments with 33 or 13.15% and oral admissions with 24 or 9.56% rank next. Settlements with 22 or 8.76% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 79.68% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2024 calendar year.

**Table 5.4.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
10	0	100

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 10 trial dates were set in the year shows that none was adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 5.4.12: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
352	117	272	77.27	33.24

The above table shows 352 new cases filed at the Brown's Town Outstation during the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 98 cases were disposed of and 19 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 33.24%, a decrease of 14.93 percentage points compared to the 2023 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 215 cases were disposed of, and 57 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 77.27%, which falls below the international standard for this metric and represents a 10.04 percentage points decline when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 29.43%, a decline of 4.90 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 64.56%, a decline of 10.92 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 5.4.13: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	160
Mean	322.1000
Median	197.0000
Mode	91.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	332.93547
Skewness	1.785
Std. Error of Skewness	.192
Range	1413.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	1421.00

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 160 civil matters disposed of in the 2024 calendar year at the Brown's Town Outstation. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 322 days or 10.7 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days and the median time was 197 days. The standard deviation of roughly 333 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 year was 1,421 days or roughly 3.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 8 days.

**Table 5.4.14: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2024****Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	825
Mean	636.0509
Median	517.0000
Mode	545.00
Std. Deviation	463.52747
Skewness	.643
Std. Error of Skewness	.085
Range	1803.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	1821.00

The above data is based on a sample of 825 active civil matters at the end of the 2024 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 636 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 545 days. The standard deviation of roughly 464 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 1,821 days old or roughly 5.1 years, while the minimum age is 18 days.



## Chapter 6.0: Westmoreland Parish Court –Civil Division

### 6.1: Case Activity Summary

This section details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the 2024 calendar year.

**Table 6.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	171	26.39
Disposed	377	58.18
Inactive	100	15.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 648 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, 171 cases or 26.39% of these cases were still active, while 377 or 58.18% were disposed of and 100 or 15.43% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 73.61%, which is a 6.24 percentage points decline when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 6.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	768	88.48
Small Claim	100	11.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 868 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year, the majority of which 768 or 88.48% were big claims, while 100 or 11.52% were small claims.

**Table 6.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Rent Due and Continuing	49	36.30
Breach of Agreement	16	11.85
Rent Due and Owing	11	8.15
Recovery of Money	9	6.67
Damages to Cultivation	7	5.19
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>68.15</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 136**

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 2024 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court was rent due and continuing with 49 or roughly 36.30% of the sample. Breach of agreement with 16 or 11.85%, rent due and owing with 11 or 8.15%, recovery of money with 9 or 6.67% and damages to cultivation with 7 or 5.19% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 68.15% of the sample of 136 causes of action.

**Table 6.04: Sampling distribution of types of service in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	532	63.26
Personal	309	36.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 532 or 63.26% and personal service accounted for 309 or 36.74% of the sample.

**Table 6.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	435	50.23
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	201	23.21
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	151	17.44
Whithorn Outstation	79	9.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>866*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponds to 647 cases**

The highest proportion of a sample of 866 new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 435 or 50.23% of the sample. The 201 or 23.21% that were entered in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse followed this. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 151 or 17.44% and sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for the remaining 9.12% of the sample.

#### **Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Table 6.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	422	48.84
Female	366	42.36
Registered Company	74	8.56
Trading As	2	0.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 864 new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 422 or 48.84%, followed by females with 366 or 42.36%. Registered companies accounted for 74 or 8.56% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name ("trading as") accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.23%.

**Table 6.07: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	512	60.95
Female	297	35.36
Registered Company	23	2.74
Trading As	8	0.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 840 records on the gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 512 or 60.95% of the sample, followed by females with 297 or 35.36%. Registered companies account for 2.74% of the sample and Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 8 or 0.95%.

## 6.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year December 31, 2024

This section 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 year ended December 31, 2024**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	309	46.26
Trial	268	40.12
Part-Heard Date	85	12.72
Final Judgment Date	4	0.60
Hearing of Application	2	0.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 668 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The highest proportion, 309 or 46.26%, were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 268 or 40.12%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 85 or 12.72% of matters, which were adjourned for part heard dates and 4 or 0.60% which were adjourned for final judgment dates. 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 year ended December 31, 2024**

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	174	38.93
Default Judgment	114	25.50
Referred to Mediation	25	5.59
To Settle Legal Representation	18	4.03
For final Judgement	8	1.79
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>75.84</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 447**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 447 incidences of adjournments for matters heard in the 2024 calendar year. Adjournments for no return/ for re-issue account for the highest proportion of the sample with 174 or 38.93%, while adjournments for default judgments rank next with 114 or 25.50% of the sample. Referrals to mediation accounted for 25 or 5.59% of the sample and to settle legal representation with 18 or 4.03% and for final judgment with 1.79% of the sample completes the top five reasons for adjournment for the year. The top five reasons for adjournment enumerated above account for 75.84% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances heard in the year.

**Table 6.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	237
Average Incidence	1.4

**Corresponds to 172 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 237 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 172 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.4 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 14 reissue incidences.

**Table 6.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	162	21.57
Struck Out	156	20.77
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	105	13.98
Final Judgment	69	9.19
Oral Admission	67	8.92
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>74.43</b>

**NB: There were 751 matters disposed of in 2024**

A total of 751 civil matters were disposed of at the Westmoreland Parish Court during 2024 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which account for 74.43% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 162 or 21.57% of the disposals, followed by matters struck out with 156 or 20.77% of the sample and Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) with 105 or 13.98% of the sample. Matters disposed by final judgments with 69 or 9.19% and oral admissions with 67 or 8.92% round off the top five methods dispositions.

**Table 6.12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	244	86.52
Settlement	35	12.41
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	3	1.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2024 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 244 or 86.52% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 35 or 12.41%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for the smallest share with 1.06% of the sample. 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 6.13: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
210	30	86

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 210 trial dates were set in the year; of which 30 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 86%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 86% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment and is 14 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2023.



**Table 6.14: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Approximate Number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year</b>	<b>Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year</b>	<b>Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
648	477	687	106.02	73.61

The above table shows 648 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 377 of these cases were disposed of, and 100 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 73.61%, a decrease of 6.24 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year. A gross figure of 567 cases were disposed of, and 120 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 106.02%, which meets the international standard for this metric and is 1.43 percentage points below the 2023 calendar year rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 68.80%, which is 7.12 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 103.47%, which is 0.10 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 6.15a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	434
Mean	210.2488
Median	110.5000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	300.50778
Skewness	3.813
Std. Error of Skewness	.117
Range	1902.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	1903.00

The above table outlines summary data on 434 civil matters disposed in the 2024 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 210 days or 7 months, which is roughly 71 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2023 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 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 of in the year was 1,903 days or roughly 5.3 years, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

**Table 6.15b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	46
Mean	223.8913
Median	217.0000
Mode	114.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	180.39010
Skewness	1.103
Std. Error of Skewness	.350
Range	783.00
Minimum	13.00
Maximum	796.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 46 matters at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 224 days or roughly 7.5 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. A sample of 143 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 162 days.

**Table 6.16a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2024****Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	439
Mean	647.2005
Median	300.0000
Mode	2071.00
Std. Deviation	682.25596
Skewness	.917
Std. Error of Skewness	.117
Range	2100.00
Minimum	20.00
Maximum	2120.00

The above data is based on sample of 439 active civil matters at the end of the 2024 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 647 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 2,071 days. The standard deviation of roughly 682 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 2,120 days or 5.9 years, and the youngest time is 20 days.

**Table 6.16b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	69
Mean	245.1594
Median	146.0000
Mode	55.00
Std. Deviation	244.25876
Skewness	1.524
Std. Error of Skewness	.289
Range	887.00
Minimum	22.00
Maximum	909.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 69 active reissued matters at the Westmoreland Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 245 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 55 days, and the median age was 146 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large 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 909 days and the lowest was 22 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 section details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Mary Parish Court for the 2024 calendar year.

**Table 7.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	173	25.71
Disposed	498	74.00
Inactive	2	0.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 673 new civil cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, 173 or 25.71% were still active, 498 or 74% were disposed of and 2 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 74.29% for the year, which is a 3.13 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 7.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	646	80.85
Small Claim	153	19.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from the 799 new claims filed in the year, the majority of which were big claims, which accounted for 646 or 80.85% of the total sample, while 153 or 19.15% were small claims.

**Table 7.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Loan Contract	80	20.30
Money Owing	70	17.77
Arrears of Rent & Continuing	25	6.35
Arrears of Rent	19	4.82
Damages to Cultivation	18	4.57
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>53.81</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 394**

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 394 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the year at the St. Mary Parish Court were breach of loan contract with 80 or roughly 20.30% of the sample and money owing with 70 or 17.77% of the total sample of causes of action. Arrears of rent and continuing with 25 or 6.35%, arrears of rent with 19 or 4.82% and damages to cultivation with 18 or 4.57% rank next.

**Table 7.04: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	667	83.48
Bailiff	132	16.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 667 or 83.48% of the sample, with service by the bailiff accounting for 132 or 16.52% of the sample.

**Table 7.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	561	70.21
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	101	12.64
Annotto Bay Outstation	56	7.01
Richmond Outstation	49	6.13
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	22	2.75
Gayle Outstation	10	1.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>799*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 673 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 799 new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year.

The majority of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 561 or 70.21% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with 101 or 12.64% of the sample and the Annotto Bay outstation with 56 or 7.01% and the Richmond outstation with 49 or 6.13% of the sample rounds off the top accommodations. The list is completed by sittings at courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse with 22 or 2.75% and sittings at the Gayle Outstation with 10 or 1.25%.

#### **Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Table 7.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	355	44.43
Female	259	32.42
Registered Company	185	23.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 799 new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 355 or 44.43%, followed by females with 259 or 32.42%. Registered companies with 23.15% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.



**Table 7.07: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	493	62.09
Female	284	35.77
Registered Company	17	2.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 794 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year.

The majority of defendants were males with 493 or 62.09%, followed by females with 284 or 35.77% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 2.14% of the sample.

## 7.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year December 31, 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 year ended December 31, 2024**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	52	46.85
Mention Date	43	38.74
Default judgment Date	14	12.61
Hearing of Application	2	1.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 111 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date.

The highest proportion, 52 or 46.85% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 43 or 38.74%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were the 14 or 12.61% of the matters which were adjourned for default judgment dates. This data 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 year ended December 31, 2024**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	141
Average Incidence	1.4

**Corresponds to 98 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 141 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 98 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.4 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 14 reissue incidences.

**Table 7.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	715	49.24
Consent	230	15.84
Withdrawal	120	8.26
Settlement	117	8.06
Default	96	6.61
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1278</b>	<b>88.02</b>

**NB: There were 1,452 matters disposed of in 2024**

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 1,452 civil matters disposed of at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. Matters struck out with 715 or 49.24%, matters disposed by consent with 230 or 15.84% and matters disposed by withdrawals with 120 or 8.26% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Matters disposed of by settlements with 8.06% of the sample rank next followed by matters disposed of by default judgments with 6.61% of the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 88.02% of the total sample of matters disposed during the year.

**Table 7.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
122	67	45

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 122 trial dates were set in the 2024 calendar year shows that 67 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 45%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 45% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 7.12: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate combined number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in year)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
673	500	1226	182.17	74.29

The above table shows 673 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 498 of these cases were disposed of, and 2 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 74.29%, an increase of 3.13 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year. A gross figure of 1,221 cases were disposed of, and 5 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 182.17%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and is 83.89 percentage points above the 2023 calendar year rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 74.22%, which is 3.20 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 181.97%, which is 84.02 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 7.13a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	1160
Mean	1071.9922
Median	1227.0000
Mode	14.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	880.28303
Skewness	-.014
Std. Error of Skewness	.072
Range	3844.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	3845.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 1,160 civil cases disposed of in the 2024 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 1,072 days or 35.7 months, which is roughly 930 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2023 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 14 days and the median time was 1,227 days. The standard deviation of roughly 880 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 close to the overall average time. The oldest case disposed of in the year was 3,845 days or roughly 10.7 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 1 day. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

**Table 7.13b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	177
Mean	1083.8644
Median	1399.0000
Mode	2.00
Std. Deviation	912.14735
Skewness	-.123
Std. Error of Skewness	.183
Range	2280.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	2282.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 177 matters at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 1,083 days or roughly 36.1 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a small amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the negative skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series were close to the overall average. The oldest case disposed of in the year was 2,282 days or roughly 6.3 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 2 days.

**Table 7.14: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2024****Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	325
Mean	757.6000
Median	505.0000
Mode	29.00
Std. Deviation	811.92102
Skewness	1.625
Std. Error of Skewness	.135
Range	4139.00
Minimum	27.00
Maximum	4166.00

The above data is based on a sample of 325 active civil matters at the end of the 2024 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 758 days (or roughly 25.3 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 29 days. The standard deviation of roughly 812 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 4,166 days old or roughly 11.6 years, while the minimum age was 27 days.

## Chapter 8.0: Portland Parish Court –Civil Division

### 8.1: Case Activity Summary

This section details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Portland Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year.

**Table 8.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	106	43.80
Disposed	129	53.31
Inactive	7	2.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 242 new civil cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, 106 or 43.80% were still active, 129 or 53.31% were disposed of and 7 were inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 56.20% for the year, which is 8.58 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 8.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	283	86.81
Small Claim	43	13.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from the 326 new claims filed in the year, the majority of which 283 or 86.81% were big claims, while 43 or 13.19% were small claims.



**Table 8.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	80	25.81
Recovery of Possession	53	17.10
Breach of Contract (monies owing)	13	4.19
Recovery of Possession, trespass, and damages	10	3.23
Negligence, special and general damages	10	3.23
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>53.55</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 310**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 310 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action filed were breach of contract with 80 or roughly 25.81% of the total sample, recovery of possession with 53 or 17.10%, and breach of contract for monies owing with 13 or 4.19% and recovery of possession, trespass and damages along with negligence, special and general damages with 10 or 3.23% each round off the top five causes of action for the year. The top causes of action, which are listed above, account for 53.55% of the sample.

**Table 8.04: Sampling distribution of types of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	189	63.64
Bailiff	108	36.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 189 or 63.64% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 108 or 36.36%.

**Table 8.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	110	39.29
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	55	19.64
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	48	17.14
Buff Bay Outstation	34	12.14
Manchioneal Outstation	33	11.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>280*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 208 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 280 new matters filed in the year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 110 or 39.29% of the sample of accommodations. The 55 or 19.64% that were entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse followed this, while the 48 matters that entered in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse rank next. The Buff Bay outstation accounts for 34 or 12.14% and the Manchioneal outstation accounted for 33 or 11.79% of the accommodations.

#### **Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Table 8.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	178	54.60
Female	114	34.97
Registered Company	34	10.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 326 new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year, males accounted for the majority with 178 or 54.60%, followed by females with 114 or 34.97%. Registered companies account for 34 or 10.43% of the sample.

**Table 8.07: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	187	58.26
Female	121	37.69
Registered Company	13	4.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 321 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year.

The majority of defendants were male with 187 or 58.26% of the sample, followed by females with 121 or 37.69% of the sample and registered companies with 4.05% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

## 8.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year December 31, 2024

This section 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 year ended December 31, 2024**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	137	49.82
Trial	82	29.82
Part-Heard Date	21	7.64
Default judgment Date	18	6.55
Hearing of Application	17	6.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 275 matters that were heard during the year ended December 31, 2024, which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The highest proportion, 137 or 49.82% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 82 or 29.82%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for part heard dates with 21 or 7.64% and for default judgment dates with 18 or 6.55% rank next. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the year at the Portland Parish Court.

**Table 8.09: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	157	32.98
Consent	99	20.80
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	41	8.61
Settlement	39	8.19
Default Judgment	35	7.35
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>77.94</b>

**NB: There were 476 matters disposed of in 2024**

A total of 476 civil matters were disposed of at the Portland Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. The distribution is led by matters struck out with 157 or 32.98% of the sample, followed by disposals by consent with 99 or 20.80%, Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) with 41 or 8.61% and settlements with 39 or 8.19%. Matters disposed by default judgment with 35 or 7.35% complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the year. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 77.94% of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 8.10: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	54	81.82
Settlement	12	18.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2024 calendar year at the Portland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 54 or 81.82% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample. Settlements account for the remaining 18.18% of the total sample. 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 8.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
86	43	50

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 86 trial dates set in the year, it is seen that 43 were adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 50% which suggests that during the year there was roughly a 50% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. The 2024 result is 7 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2023.

**Table 8.12: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
242	136	338	139.67	56.20

The above table shows 242 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 129 of these cases were disposed of and 7 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 56.20%, an improvement of 8.58 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

An approximate gross figure of 330 cases were disposed of, and 8 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 139.67%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric, and is 39.67 percentage points more than the 2023 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 54.89%, a 13.89 percentage point increase when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate is 140.43%, a 46.18 percentage point improvement when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 8.13: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	394
Mean	383.1853
Median	232.5000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	480.90010
Skewness	3.088
Std. Error of Skewness	.123
Range	2932.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	2934.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 394 civil matters disposed of in 2024 calendar year at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 383 days (12.8 months), which is roughly 332 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2023 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days and the median time to disposition was 232.50 days. The standard deviation of roughly 481 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 year was 2,934 days or roughly 8.2 years old, while the youngest was 2 days.



**Table 8.14: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2024****Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	332
Mean	682.2801
Median	421.0000
Mode	421.00
Std. Deviation	728.27272
Skewness	2.220
Std. Error of Skewness	.134
Range	4630.00
Minimum	26.00
Maximum	4656.00

The above data is computed using 332 active cases at the end of the 2024 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 682 days (1.9 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution and the median age were both 421 days (14 months). The standard deviation of roughly 728 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 4,656 days (12.9 years), while the youngest 26 days.

## Chapter 9.0: St. Thomas Parish Court – Civil Division

### 9.1: Case Activity Summary

This section details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Thomas Parish Court for the 2024 calendar year.

**Table 9.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	250	35.01
Disposed	302	42.30
Inactive	162	22.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 714 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, 250 cases or 35.01% of these cases were still active, while 302 were disposed of and 162 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 64.99%, which is a 6.80 percentage points deterioration when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 9.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	589	72.90
Small Claim	219	27.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from a sample of 808 new claims filed in the 2024 calendar year, the majority of which 589 or 72.90% were big claims, while 219 or 27.10% were small claims.

**Table 9.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	362	44.86
Recovery of Possession	104	12.89
Defamation of Character	52	6.44
Cattle Trespass	35	4.34
Damages for Negligence	28	3.47
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>72.00</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 807**

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 2024 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 362 or roughly 44.86% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 104 or 12.89%, defamation of character with 52 or 6.44% and cattle trespass with 35 or 4.34% of the sample rounds off the top causes of action in this representative sample. Damages for negligence with 28 or 3.47% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 72% of all the total sample of 807 causes of action.

**Table 9.04: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	272	50.75
District Constable	258	48.13
Personal	6	1.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 the majority with 272 or 50.75% of the sample. Service by the district constable with 258 or 48.13% and personal service with 6 or 1.12% rant next.

**Table 9.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	615	76.21
Yallahs Outstation	170	21.07
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	22	2.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>807*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 713 cases**

The majority of a sample of 807 new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 615 or 76.21% of the sample. Sitzings at the Yallahs outstation accounted for 170 or 21.07% and courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 22 or 2.73% of the sample.

**Table 9.06: Distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Type of Application</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Judgment Summons	23	56.10
Formal Order	13	31.71
Application for Substituted Service	2	4.88
Extension of Time Under Section 250	2	4.88
Set Aside Default Judgment	1	2.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.00</b>

A sample of 41 applications filed during the 2024 calendar year revealed that applications for judgment summons with 23 or 56.10% of the sample accounted for the majority of applications filed, followed by application for formal order with 13 or 31.71% of the sample.

## Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2024

**Table 9.07: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	401	51.02
Female	350	44.53
Registered Company	24	3.05
Trading As	11	1.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 786 new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 401 or 51.02%, followed by females with 350 or 44.53%. Registered companies accounted for 24 or 3.05% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) had the lowest proportion with 1.40% of the sample.

**Table 9.08: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	495	61.57
Female	291	36.19
Trading As	16	1.99
Registered Company	2	0.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 804 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 495 or 61.57% of the sample, followed by females with 291 or 36.19% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 16 or 1.99% of the sample and registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 0.25% of the sample.

## 9.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year December 31, 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 9.09: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Date for Order	617	72.50
Mention Date	87	10.22
Trial	70	8.23
Default Judgment Date	57	6.70
Part-Heard Date	20	2.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table is computed based on a sample of 851 cases adjourned during the 2024 calendar year. The majority, 617 or 72.50% were adjourned for an order to be handed down, followed by 87 or 10.22% which were adjourned for a mention date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 70 or 8.23% of matters, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 57 or 6.70% and matters adjourned for a part heard date with 20 or 2.35% of the sample rank next.

**Table 9.10: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	127	22.20
Both Parties Absent	67	11.71
Judge Absent/Ill	44	7.69
Referred to Mediation	27	4.72
Plaintiff Absent	23	4.02
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>50.35</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 572**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 572 incidences of adjournments in the 2024 calendar year. Adjournments due to absence of defendants with 127 or 22.20% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 67 or 11.71% and adjournments due to the absence/illness of judges with 44 or 7.69% rounds off the top three. Referrals to mediation with 4.72% and the absence of plaintiffs with 23 or 4.02% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 50.35% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 9.11: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	177
Average Incidence	1.1

**Corresponding to 162 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 177 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 162 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

**Table 9.12: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oral Admission	123	20.81
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	112	18.95
Consent	86	14.55
Struck Out	69	11.68
Default Judgment	65	11.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>76.99</b>

**NB: there were 591 matters were disposed of in 2024**

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 591 matters.

The list is led by matters disposed of by oral admissions with 123 or 20.81% of the sample. Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) and matters disposed by consent with 112 or 18.95% and 86 or 14.55% respectively rank next. Matters struck out with 69 or 11.68% and matters disposed of by default judgments with 65 or 11% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 76.99% of the sample.

**Table 9.13: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	198	73.33
Settlement	59	21.85
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	10	3.70
Counter Claim Defendant	1	0.37
Counter Claim Plaintiff	1	0.37
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	1	0.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of 270 case outcomes in the 2023 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 198 or 73.33% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 59 or 21.85%. Judgements in favour of ancillary plaintiff account for 10 or 3.70% of the sample of outcomes.



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 9.14: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
84	25	70

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 84 trial dates were set in the year shows that 25 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 70%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 70% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 14 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 9.15: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
714	464	654	91.60	64.99

The above table shows 714 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 302 cases were disposed of and 162 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 64.99%, a decrease of 6.80 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

A gross figure of 480 cases were disposed of, and 174 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 91.60%, which meets the international standard for this metric, but represents a decline of 11.65 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 54.71%, a 5.63 percentage points decline when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 86.96%, a 15.68 percentage points decrease when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 9.16a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	374
Mean	773.8717
Median	129.0000
Mode	3471.00
Std. Deviation	1226.70706
Skewness	1.593
Std. Error of Skewness	.126
Range	3470.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	3471.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 374 civil matters disposed of in the 2024 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 774 days or 25.8 months, which is roughly 398 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2023 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 3,471 days. There is a standard deviation of roughly 1,227 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 year was 3,471 days or roughly 9.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

**Table 9.16b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	84
Mean	444.7024
Median	133.0000
Mode	1242.00
Std. Deviation	514.19931
Skewness	.869
Std. Error of Skewness	.263
Range	1323.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	1337.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 84 matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 445 days. The high standard deviation is an indication that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that most of the scores were below the overall average. The oldest time was 1,337 days, and the minimum was 14 days.

**Table 9.17a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2024****Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	332
Mean	386.5693
Median	210.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	506.59838
Skewness	2.742
Std. Error of Skewness	.134
Range	3529.00
Minimum	27.00
Maximum	3556.00

The above data is based on sample of 332 active civil matters at the end of the 2024 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 387 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 91 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 507 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 3,556 days or 9.9 years, while the youngest case was 27 days.

**Table 9.17b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	87
Mean	198.8161
Median	105.0000
Mode	105.00
Std. Deviation	274.25847
Skewness	4.391
Std. Error of Skewness	.258
Range	1982.00
Minimum	27.00
Maximum	2009.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 87 active reissued matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 199 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age were both 105 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large variation in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 2,009 days and the lowest was 27 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.

### 9.3: Case activity in enforcement

This section highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

**Table 9.18: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2024**

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	75	94.94
Warrant of Levy	2	2.53
Warrant of Possession	2	2.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above sample of 79 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the majority of which were judgement summonses with 75 or 94.94%, while warrants of possession and warrant of levy with 2 or 2.53% each followed. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

**Table 9.19: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	75	75	1

The above table shows that the sample of 75 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 75 court appearances in the 2024 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were exactly 10 appearances dates.



## Chapter 10.0: St. James Parish Court –Civil Division

### 10.1: Case Activity Summary

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

**Table 10.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	474	35.51
Disposed	444	33.26
Inactive	417	31.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>1335</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 1,335 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, 474 cases or 35.51% of these cases were still active, 444 were disposed of and 417 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 64.49% for the year, which is a 7.39 percentage points deterioration when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 10.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	1141	73.52
Small Claim	411	26.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>1552</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from 1,552 new claims filed in the 2024 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 1,141 or 73.52%, while 411 or 26.48% were small claims.

**Table 10.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. James Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Money Due and Owing	31	5.63
Loan Balance, Late Fees, and Administrative Fees	31	5.63
Monies Owed	30	5.44
Sums Due & Owing	26	4.72
Recovery of Loan Debt	23	4.17
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>25.59</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 551**

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 551 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2024 calendar year were recovery of money due and owing along with loan balance, late fees and administrative fees with 31 or roughly 5.63% each of the sample and monies owed with 30 or 5.44% of the sample. Sums due and owing with 26 or 4.72% of the total sample and recovery of loan debt with 23 or 4.17% round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 25.59% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 10.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	901	58.51
Cambridge Outstation	639	41.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>1540</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 1326 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1,540 matters entered in the 2024 calendar year were entered in courtroom 4 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 901 or 58.51% of the sample. Sittings at Cambridge outstation had 639 matters entered or 41.49% of the sample.

### Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2024

**Table 10.05: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	238	41.32
Female	230	39.93
Registered Company	108	18.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 576 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the highest proportions of the sample with 238 or 41.32% of the sample, followed by females with 230 or 39.93% of the total sample. Registered companies with 108 or 18.75% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

**Table 10.06: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	284	46.18
Female	220	35.77
Registered Company	111	18.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 615 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2024 calendar year. The highest proportion of defendants were male with 284 or 46.18% of the total sample, followed by females with 220 or 35.77%. Registered companies accounted for 111 or 18.05% of the sample.

## 10.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year December 31, 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 10.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	228	41.83
Trial	175	32.11
Part-Heard Date	77	14.13
Default Judgment Date	48	8.81
Hearing of Application	14	2.57
Final Judgment Date	2	0.37
Date for Order	1	0.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 545 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 228 or 41.83% of the sample, followed by 175 or 32.11%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for part heard dates accounted for 77 or 14.13% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date account for 48 or 8.81% 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 10.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Referred to Mediation	56	45.16
Attorney Absent	25	20.16
Defendant Absent	4	3.23
Hearing of Application	3	2.42
For final Judgment	1	0.81
To File Defence	1	0.81
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>72.58</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 124**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 124 incidences of adjournments heard in the 2024 calendar year. Adjournments due to referrals to mediation with 56 or 45.16% of the sample and the absence of attorneys with 25 or 20.16% round off the top incidences in the sample. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 4 or 3.23% and for the hearing of an application with 3 or 2.42% rank next. The list is completed by adjournments for final judgment and to file defence with 0.81% of the sample. The top reasons for adjournments listed above account for 72.58% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 10.09: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	133
Average Incidence	1.2

**Corresponding to 107 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 133 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 107 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

**Table 10.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default judgment	196	22.12
Struck Out	186	20.99
Oral Admission	137	15.46
Consent	136	15.35
Withdrawal	78	8.80
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>82.73</b>

**NB: There were 886 matters disposed of in 2024**

A sample of 886 matters disposed of during the 2024 calendar year revealed that 196 or 22.12% of matters were disposed of by default judgments and 186 or 20.99% were disposed of by being struck out. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 137 or 15.46% and matters disposed of by consent with 136 or 15.35% rank next. Matters disposed by withdrawals with 78 or 8.80% of the total sample of disposals completing the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above account for 82.73% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2024 calendar year.

**Table 10.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
200	34	83

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 200 trial dates were set in the year shows that 34 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 83%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 83% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 10.12: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Approximate Number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year</b>	<b>Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)</b>	<b>Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)</b>
1335	861	1339	100.30	64.49

The above table shows 1,335 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 444 cases were disposed of and 417 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 64.49%, a decrease of 7.39 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year. A gross figure of 751 cases were disposed of, and 588 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 100.30%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents a decline of 13.40 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 48.37%, a 1.76 percentage points decline when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 81.81%, a 19.47 percentage points decline when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 10.13: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	685
Mean	323.2409
Median	142.0000
Mode	1226.00
Std. Deviation	419.86383
Skewness	1.667
Std. Error of Skewness	.093
Range	1853.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	1854.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 685 civil matters disposed in the 2024 calendar year at the St. James Parish court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 323 days or 10.8 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 1,226 days and the median time was 142 days. The standard deviation of roughly 420 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 of in the year was 1,854 days or roughly 5.2 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.



**Table 10.14: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2024****Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	664
Mean	472.8238
Median	239.0000
Mode	120.00
Std. Deviation	530.45524
Skewness	1.748
Std. Error of Skewness	.095
Range	3522.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	3529.00

The above data is based on a sample of 664 active civil matters at the end of the 2024 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 473 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 120 days. The standard deviation of roughly 530 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 more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 3,529 days old or roughly 9.8 years, while the minimum age is 7 days.

## Chapter 11.0: St. Elizabeth Parish Court –Civil Division

### 11.1: Case Activity Summary

This section details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the 2024 calendar year.

**Table 11.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	418	39.92
Disposed	622	59.41
Inactive	7	0.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>1047</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 1,047 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, 418 or 39.92% cases were still active and 622 were disposed of at the end of the year and 7 became inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 60.08% for the year, which is a 26.56 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

**Table 11.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	669	62.64
Small Claim	399	37.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>1068</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from 1,068 new claims filed in the 2024 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 669 or 62.64%, while 399 or 37.36% were small claims.

**Table 11.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Monies Owing	152	14.34
Goods Sold and Delivered	136	12.83
Monies Loaned	122	11.51
Recovery of Possession	92	8.68
Refund of Money	75	7.08
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>54.43</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 1060**

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 1,060 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2024 calendar year were monies owing with 152 or roughly 14.34% of the sample and goods sold and delivered with 136 or 12.83% of the sample. Monies loaned with 122 or 11.51% and recovery of possession with 92 or 8.68% of the sample rank next. Refund of money with 75 or 7.08% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 54.53% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 11.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom 2)	469	44.00
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom 1)	273	25.61
Courtroom 2 (Main Courthouse)	155	14.54
Balaclava Outstation Courtroom 1	93	8.72
Courtroom 1 (Main Courthouse)	75	7.04
Balaclava Outstation Courtroom 2	1	0.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>1066*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 1046 cases**

The highest proportion of a sample of 1,066 matters entered in the 2024 calendar year were entered in the courtroom 2 at the Santa Cruz Outstation, which accounted for 469 or 44% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 1 at the Santa Cruz Outstation had 273 matters entered or 25.61% of the sample and sittings at courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 155 or 14.54% of the sample.

#### 11.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2024

**Table 11.05: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Case Flow Stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention	628	54.33
Trial	195	16.87
Part Heard	143	12.37
Reissue date	103	8.91
Default Judgement	79	6.83
Hearing of application	8	0.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>1156</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 1,156 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 628 or 54.33% of the sample, followed by 195 or 16.87%, which were adjourned for trial dates.

Matters adjourned for part heard dates accounted for 143 or 12.37% and matters adjourned for a reissue date account for 103 or 8.91% 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 11.06: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	200	13.37
Referred to Mediation	120	8.02
Plaintiff Absent	99	6.62
Default Judgement	73	4.88
Both Parties Absent	60	4.01
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>36.90</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 1496**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 1,496 incidences of adjournments heard in the 2024 calendar year. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 200 or 13.37% of the sample and referrals to mediation with 120 or 8.02% round off the top incidences in the sample. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 99 or 6.62% and for default judgment with 73 or 4.88% rank next. The list is completed by adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 60 or 4.01% of the sample. The top reasons for adjournments listed above account for 36.90% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 11.07: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	182
Average Incidence	1.1

**Corresponding to 164 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 182 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 164 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

**Table 11.08: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	359	38.35
Oral admission	156	16.67
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	102	10.90
Consent	87	9.29
Judgement by default	78	8.33
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>83.55</b>

**NB there were 936 matters disposed of in 2024**

A total of 936 matters were disposed of at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 782 or 83.55% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 359 or 38.35% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed of by oral admissions with 156 or 16.67% and Notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 102 or 10.90%. Matters disposed of by consent and default judgments round off the top five methods with 87 or 9.29% and 78 or 8.33% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 11.09: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2024**

<b>Approximate Number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)</b>	<b>Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)</b>	<b>Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)</b>
1047	629	1004	95.89	60.08

The above table shows 1,047 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the 2024 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 622 cases were disposed of and 7 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 60.08%, an increase of 26.56 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year. A gross figure of 996 cases were disposed of, and 8 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 95.89%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents an improvement of 12.14 percentage points when compared to the 2023 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 59.81%, a 26.61 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 95.77%, a 12.18 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2023 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

## Performance Summaries-Other Parish Courts

**Table 12.1.01: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the St. Elizabeth, Hanover and Manchester Parish Courts for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Net Case Clearance Rate (%)	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Net Case Disposal Rate (%)	Trial Date certainty Rate (%)
Hanover PC	120.24	114.93	65.78	64.68	NA
Manchester PC	122.91	91.79	51.58	45.21	NA

The summary of key performance metrics for the parish courts of Hanover and Manchester shows that the civil division of the Hanover Parish Court recorded an estimated gross clearance rate of 120.24% and an estimated net clearance rate of 114.93%. The Hanover Parish Court also recorded an estimated gross disposal rate of 65.78% and an estimated net disposal rate of 64.68% for the year. The Manchester Parish Court recorded an estimated gross clearance rate of 122.91% and an estimated net clearance rate of 91.79%. The Manchester Parish Court also recorded an estimated gross disposal rate of 51.58% and an estimated net disposal rate of 45.21% for the year.



## Aggregate Data summaries – All Parish Courts

**Table 12.2.01: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2024**

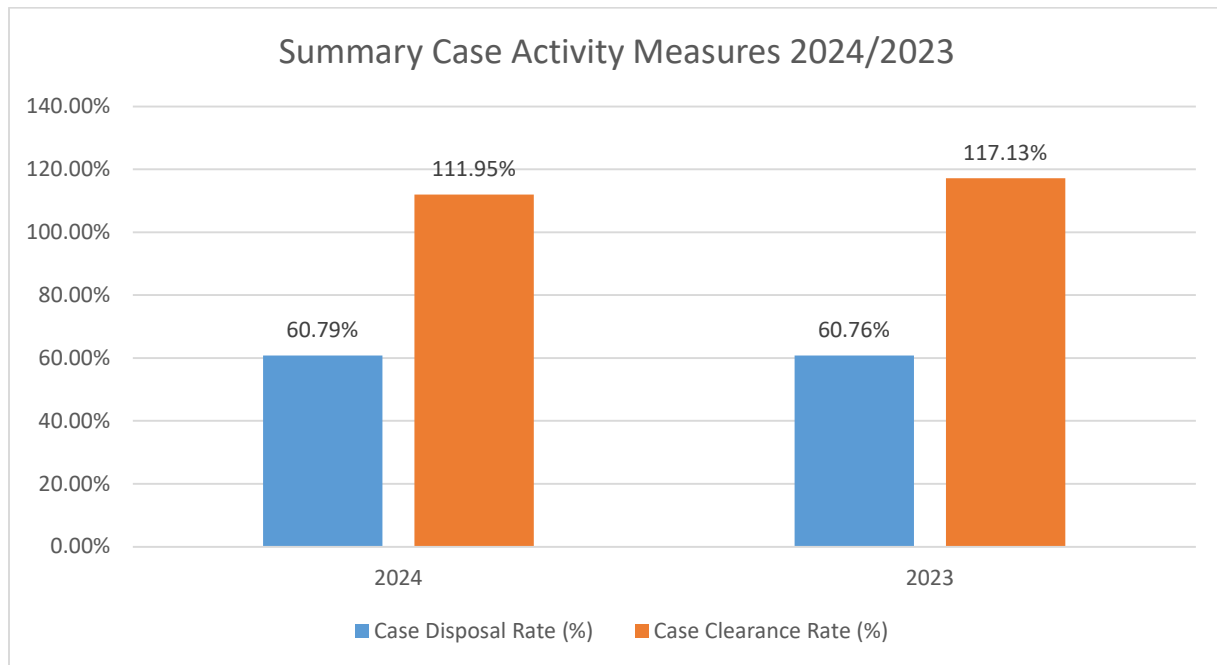
Approximate number of new cases	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)
15652	17523	111.95

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the 2024 calendar year. It shows that a total of 15,652 new cases were filed over the year, while 17,523 became inactive or were disposed of, leading to an estimated gross clearance rate of 111.95%. This is a 5.18 percentage points decline when compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

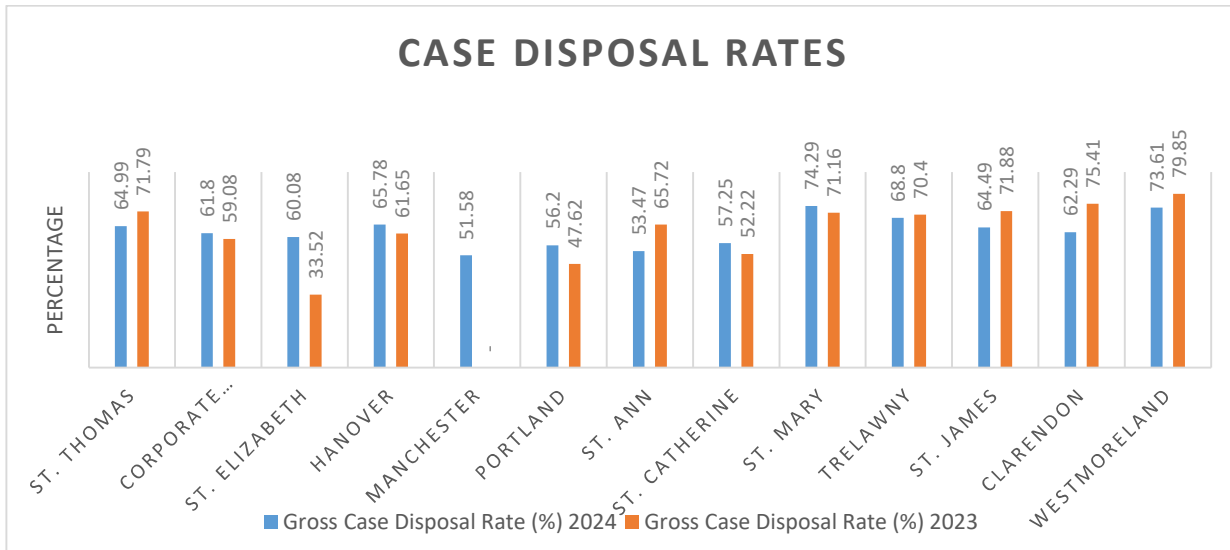
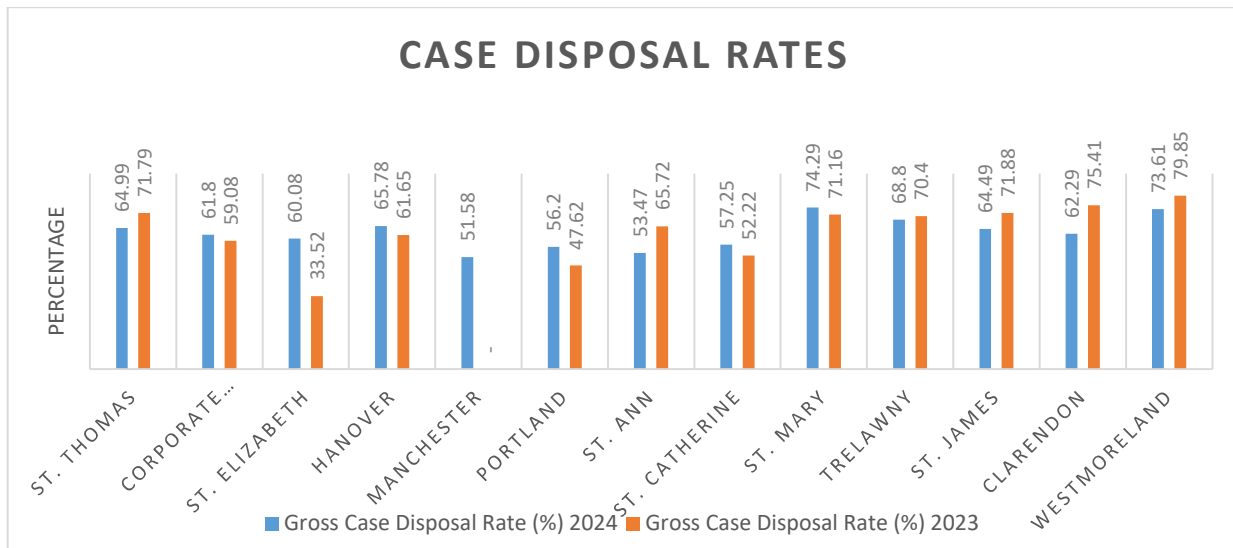
**Table 12.2.02: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) 2024	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) 2023	Change in the Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) 2024	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) 2023	Change in the Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)
St. Thomas	64.99	71.79	-6.80	91.60	103.25	-11.65
Corporate Area- Civil	61.80	59.08	2.72	101.40	121.31	-19.91
St. Elizabeth	60.08	33.52	26.56	95.89	83.75	12.14
Hanover	65.78	61.65	4.13	120.24	133.94	-13.70
Manchester	51.58	NA	NA	122.91	NA	NA
Portland	56.20	47.62	8.58	139.67	100	39.67
St. Ann	53.47	65.72	-12.25	97.91	120.02	-22.11
St. Catherine	57.25	52.22	5.03	138.65	147.62	-8.97
St. Mary	74.29	71.16	3.13	182.17	98.28	83.89
Trelawny	68.80	70.40	-1.60	105.79	103.51	2.28
St. James	64.49	71.88	-7.39	100.30	113.70	-13.40
Clarendon	62.29	75.41	-13.12	90.40	110.57	-20.17
Westmoreland	73.61	79.85	-6.24	106.02	107.45	-1.43
<b>Average /Weighted Average</b>	<b>60.79</b>	<b>60.76</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>111.95</b>	<b>117.13</b>	<b>-5.18</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>7.05</b>	<b>13.35</b>		<b>26.05</b>	<b>17.07</b>	
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>-1.08</b>		<b>1.61</b>	<b>0.64</b>	

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate and the case clearance rate for the 2024 and 2023 calendar years. The weighted average gross case disposal rate for the 2024 calendar year was 60.79%, which was a 0.03 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2023 calendar year weighted average rate of 60.76%. The gross case clearance rate of 111.95% for the 2024 calendar year was 5.18 percentage points below the 117.13% recorded in the 2023 calendar year.

**Chart 12.2.01: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for 2023 and 2024**

The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal and case clearance for the 2024 and 2023 calendar years. It is seen that there has been an improvement in the gross case disposal rate and a decrease in the gross case clearance rate over the comparative period. The case clearance rate moved from 117.13% in the 2023 calendar year to 111.95% in the 2024 calendar year. The case disposal rate moved from 60.76% in the 2023 calendar year to 60.79% in the 2024 calendar year, an increase of 0.03 percentage points.

**Chart 12.2.02a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for 2023 and 2024****Chart 12.2.02b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for 2023 and 2024**

**Table 12.2.03: Sampling distribution of claims filed during the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Big Claims	Small Claims	POCA	Miscellaneous	Total
Corporate area	3985	-	5	-	3990
Portland	283	43	-	-	326
St. Ann	1511	317	10	-	1838
St. Catherine	2381	261	-	-	2642
St. Elizabeth	669	399	-	-	1068
St. Mary	646	153	-	-	799
St. Thomas	589	219	-	-	808
Trelawny	413	121	-	-	534
Westmoreland	768	100	-	-	868
St. James	1141	411	-	-	1552
Clarendon	930	226	-	-	1156
<b>Total</b>	<b>13316</b>	<b>2250</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15581</b>

The above table provides an overall summary of the claims files across the parish courts in the 2024 calendar year. The sample of 15,581 new claims filed in the 2024 calendar year reveals that 13,316 or 85.46% were big claims, while 14.44% were small claims and 0.10% 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 year. 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 year, while the St. James, St. Elizabeth and the St. Ann Parish Court account for the largest shares of small claims filed.

**Table 12.2.04: Forecasted case activity statistics for the 2025 calendar year [January 01 - December 31, 2025]**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Forecasted number of new cases</b>	<b>Forecasted number of disposed cases</b>	<b>Forecasted number of inactive cases</b>	<b>Forecasted case clearance rate (%)</b>
Hanover	384	405	87	128.19
Manchester	1367	1278	290	114.70
St. Mary	664	866	30	134.93
St. James	1442	914	517	99.24
St. Catherine	2724	3287	312	132.17
Portland	267	297	33	123.52
St. Ann	1625	1235	553	110.03
St. Elizabeth	1170	1002	12	86.67
Corporate Area Civil	3986	2868	1613	112.40
Westmoreland	682	593	132	106.45
St. Thomas	621	442	186	101.19
Clarendon	987	774	154	94.02
Trelawny	558	428	138	101.56
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>16477</b>	<b>14390</b>	<b>4058</b>	<b>111.97</b>

The above table forecasts core case activity for the civil division of each parish court and overall, for the 2025 calendar year. The forecasts are generated using the method of exponential smoothing<sup>1</sup> which uses weighted averages from past observations with weights decaying exponentially as the observations get older. The above data shows that the overall forecasted case clearance rate for the civil division of the parish courts for the 2025 calendar year is 111.97%, which would be 0.02 percentage points higher than that of the 2024 calendar year. Twelve (12) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the 2025 calendar year, led by the St. Mary Parish Court with 134.93%, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 132.17% and the Hanover Parish Court with 128.19%.

<sup>1</sup> See further explanation of the mathematical science behind the method of exponential smoothing in the glossary of terms.

**Table 12.2.05: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 in the civil division of the parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	415	69,533	60
St. Catherine	2199	516,218	43
Westmoreland	648	144,103	45
St. Mary	673	113,615	59
Clarendon	1021	245,103	42
Portland	242	81,744	30
St. Elizabeth	1047	150,205	70
Corporate Area Civil	3652	662,426	55
St. Thomas	714	93,902	76
St. James	1335	183,811	73
St. Ann	1485	172,362	86
Trelawny	484	75,164	64
Manchester	1737	189,797	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>15652</b>	<b>2697983</b>	<b>58</b>

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 2024 calendar year. 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 Manchester, which is among the courts with the larger caseloads and population size, registered the largest number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the 2024 calendar year. St. Ann, which is among the courts with a larger caseload and midrange 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 year and is the parish with a smallest caseload and smaller in population size.

The Clarendon Parish Court recorded the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court.

**Table 12.2.06: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	1350	17.75
Defendant absent	1022	13.43
Both parties absent	311	4.09
Referred to Mediation	310	4.08
Plaintiff Absent	218	2.87
Default Judgment	187	2.46
Parties in discussion	160	2.10
Attorney Absent	88	1.16
Judge Absent/Ill	75	0.99
Pending Settlement	66	0.87
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3787</b>	<b>49.78</b>

*(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = (7,607)*

**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 7,607 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the 2024 calendar year across all of the parish courts (civil division). The largest proportion (17.75%) was for no return/ for reissue. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 13.43% and the absence of both parties with 4.09% round out the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Referrals to mediation with 4.08% and the absence of plaintiffs with 2.87% round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the year. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 49.78% of the total sample of adjournments.



**Table 12.2.07a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the year ended December 31, 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	5013 (31.3%)	3733 (23.3%)	1897 (11.8%)	1402 (8.7%)	1595 (9.9%)	783 (4.9%)	1611 (10.0%)	16034 (100%)
St. Catherine	2939 (17.1%)	2479 (14.4%)	1584 (9.2%)	1227 (7.1%)	1860 (10.8%)	1392 (8.1%)	5716 (33.2%)	17197 (100%)
St. James	838 (43.1%)	342 (17.6%)	169 (8.7%)	122 (6.3%)	173 (8.9%)	91 (4.7%)	211 (10.8%)	1946 (100%)
Clarendon	619 (35.6%)	489 (28.1%)	289 (16.6%)	123 (7.1%)	121 (7.0%)	78 (4.5%)	22 (1.3%)	1741 (100%)
Westmoreland	1206 (53.8%)	458 (20.4%)	215 (9.6%)	121 (5.4%)	139 (6.2%)	53 (2.4%)	49 (2.2%)	2241 (100%)
St. Ann	1840 (31.6%)	1244 (21.4%)	620 (10.7%)	456 (7.8%)	594 (10.2%)	303 (5.2%)	757 (13.0%)	5814 (100%)
St. Thomas	828 (34.5%)	540 (22.5%)	245 (10.2%)	164 (6.8%)	196 (8.2%)	115 (4.8%)	314 (13.1%)	2402 (100%)
Portland	521 (25.8%)	352 (17.4%)	194 (9.6%)	159 (7.9%)	231 (11.4%)	116 (5.7%)	448 (22.2%)	2021 (100%)
St. Mary	1869 (45.9%)	603 (14.8%)	245 (6.0%)	150 (3.7%)	211 (5.2%)	105 (2.6%)	888 (21.8%)	4071 (100%)
Trelawny	1123 (53.6%)	408 (19.5%)	156 (7.4%)	107 (5.1%)	127 (6.1%)	66 (3.2%)	107 (5.1%)	2094 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>30.23</b>	<b>19.16</b>	<b>10.10</b>	<b>7.26</b>	<b>9.44</b>	<b>5.58</b>	<b>18.22</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>1679.60</b>	<b>1064.80</b>	<b>561.40</b>	<b>403.10</b>	<b>524.70</b>	<b>310.20</b>	<b>1012.30</b>	<b>5556.10</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1382.19</b>	<b>1145.12</b>	<b>639.50</b>	<b>492.72</b>	<b>651.47</b>	<b>439.64</b>	<b>1723.70</b>	<b>5968.23</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>1.61</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 55,561*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 84 months across the parish courts*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at December 31, 2024. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least an 84-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 roughly 30.23% 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 66.75% 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 roughly 18.22% 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. Mary 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 12.2.07b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil	293.15	34	154	367.91	2.94	1	5732	16034
St. Catherine	580.61	28	408	549.70	1.32	1	4854	17197
St. James	268.68	28	118.50	359.42	2.22	1	2817	1946
Clarendon	181.72	63	126	172.32	1.99	2	1210	1741
Westmoreland	153.64	28	78	211.65	3.89	1	1903	2241
St. Ann	366.93	63	156	554.64	3.41	1	5929	5814
St. Thomas	367.97	28	140	623.34	3.52	1	3471	2402
Portland	503.45	63	245	661.72	2.36	2	4515	2021
St. Mary	463.48	14	105	688.38	1.63	1	3845	4071
Trelawny	185.65	28	76	288.43	3.43	1	2710	2094
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>399.18</b>	<b>37.70</b>	<b>160.65</b>	<b>447.75</b>	<b>2.67</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>3698.60</b>	<b>5556.10</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>146.11</b>	<b>18.15</b>	<b>99.36</b>	<b>190.76</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>1576.07</b>	<b>5968.23</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>-0.16</b>	<b>-0.15</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>-0.05</b>	<b>1.61</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 55,561*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 84 months across the parish courts*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at December 31, 2024. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least an 84-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 399 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 (154 days), Clarendon (182 days) and Trelawny (186 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (581 days), Portland (503 days) and St. Mary (463 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 146.11. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1.20 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 1,210 days (40.3 months/3.4 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court, to a high of 5,929 days (197.6 months/16.5 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 close to the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 55,561 matters.

**Table 12.2.08a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition in the year ended December 31, 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	245 (13.1%)	486 (26.1%)	321 (17.2%)	269 (14.4%)	299 (16.0%)	98 (5.3%)	147 (7.9%)	1865 (100%)
St. Catherine	385 (14.1%)	484 (17.8%)	324 (11.9%)	276 (10.1%)	340 (12.5%)	256 (9.4%)	658 (24.2%)	2723 (100%)
St. James	273 (39.9%)	117 (17.1%)	64 (9.3%)	52 (7.6%)	51 (7.4%)	22 (3.2%)	106 (15.5%)	685 (100%)
Clarendon	161 (32.4%)	118 (23.7%)	79 (15.9%)	38 (7.6%)	42 (8.5%)	41 (8.2%)	18 (3.6%)	497 (100%)
Westmoreland	176 (40.6%)	107 (24.7%)	63 (14.5%)	19 (4.4%)	39 (9.0%)	14 (3.2%)	16 (3.7%)	434 (100%)
St. Ann	361 (36.5%)	173 (17.5%)	87 (8.8%)	76 (7.7%)	108 (10.9%)	44 (4.4%)	141 (14.2%)	990 (100%)
St. Thomas	125 (33.4%)	92 (24.6%)	25 (6.7%)	15 (4.0%)	15 (4.0%)	8 (2.1%)	94 (25.1%)	374 (100%)
Portland	96 (24.4%)	71 (18.0%)	47 (11.9%)	39 (9.9%)	54 (13.7%)	32 (8.1%)	55 (14.0%)	394 (100%)
St. Mary	307 (26.5%)	98 (8.4%)	28 (2.4%)	22 (1.9%)	20 (1.7%)	19 (1.6%)	666 (57.4%)	1160 (100%)
Trelawny	167 (50.0%)	80 (24.0%)	20 (6.0%)	15 (4.5%)	25 (7.5%)	9 (2.7%)	18 (5.4%)	334 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>24.28</b>	<b>19.31</b>	<b>11.19</b>	<b>8.68</b>	<b>10.50</b>	<b>5.74</b>	<b>20.29</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>229.60</b>	<b>182.60</b>	<b>105.80</b>	<b>82.10</b>	<b>99.30</b>	<b>54.30</b>	<b>191.90</b>	<b>945.60</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>99.90</b>	<b>161.77</b>	<b>116.42</b>	<b>102.13</b>	<b>119.31</b>	<b>75.63</b>	<b>252.49</b>	<b>787.99</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.62</b>	<b>2.55</b>	<b>1.62</b>	<b>1.58</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 9,456*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the year ended December 31, 2024. The results shown suggest that only 24.28% 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, St. Mary and St. James are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 63.46% 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 20.29% 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 Corporate Area Civil 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 12.2.08b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil Division	341.12	98	236	408.74	3.95	4	3573	1865
St. Catherine	516.02	133	318	535.25	1.92	4	3522	2723
St. James	323.24	1226	142	419.86	1.67	1	1854	685
Clarendon	226.52	28	149	223.25	1.69	3	1210	497
Westmoreland	210.25	28	110.50	300.51	3.81	1	1903	434
St. Ann	374.97	56	145	559.64	2.77	1	4130	990
St. Thomas	773.87	3471	129	1226.71	1.59	1	3471	374
Portland	383.19	63	232.50	480.90	3.09	2	2934	394
St. Mary	1071.99	14	1227	880.28	-0.01	1	3845	1160
Trelawny	182.18	98	87	272.22	2.97	3	1694	334
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>484.62</b>	<b>521.50</b>	<b>277.60</b>	<b>530.74</b>	<b>2.35</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>2813.60</b>	<b>945.60</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>281.34</b>	<b>1099.35</b>	<b>340.85</b>	<b>307.58</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>1048.65</b>	<b>787.99</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>2.64</b>	<b>2.92</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>-0.49</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>-0.33</b>	<b>1.58</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 9,456*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the year ended December 31, 2024. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 485 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 1.54, suggesting that most of the scores were below the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Trelawny (182 days), Westmoreland (210 days) and Clarendon (227 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Mary (1072 days), St. Thomas (774 days) and St. Catherine (516 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 281.34 days. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 2.10 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 1,210 days (40.3 months/3.4 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court, to a high of 4,130 days (137.7 months/11.5 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a negative 0.33, 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 9,456 matters.



**Table 12.2.08c: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Struck Out	Consent	Settlement	Default Judgment	Oral Admission	Withdrawal	Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	Other	Total
St. Catherine	1600	458	440	389	69	265	221	254	3696
Corporate Area Civil	1150	637	59	215	154	309	174	264	2962
Westmoreland	156	162	46	63	67	47	105	105	751
Clarendon	471	149	108	61	49	49	50	87	1024
Trelawny	82	105	38	89	53	36	2	44	449
Portland	157	99	39	35	-	9	41	96	476
St. Mary	715	230	117	96	31	120	65	78	1452
St. Thomas	69	86	65	65	123	12	112	59	591
St. Ann	376	358	164	182	113	76	124	114	1507
St. James	186	136	52	196	137	78	26	75	886
<b>Total</b>	<b>4962</b>	<b>2420</b>	<b>1128</b>	<b>1391</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>1176</b>	<b>13794</b>
<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>35.97</b>	<b>17.54</b>	<b>8.18</b>	<b>10.08</b>	<b>5.77</b>	<b>7.26</b>	<b>6.67</b>	<b>8.53</b>	<b>-</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N): 13,794*

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts-civil division for the 2024 calendar year. From the sample, it is observed that the highest proportion of matters disposed of during the year were by being struck out with 35.97% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by consent with 17.54%, default judgments with 10.08% and dispositions grouped under the category, “other methods” with 8.53% of the sample. Settlements with 8.18% and withdrawals with 7.26% rank next. Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 6.67% and oral admissions with 5.77% account for the remaining disposals in the year.

**Table 12.2.09a: Net and gross civil case backlog as at the year ended December 31, 2024, for cases over 24 months**

<b>Paris Court</b>	<b>Net Case Backlog Rate (%)</b>	<b>Gross Case Backlog Rate (%)</b>
Clarendon	1.20	14.39
Corporate area	2.96	29.28
Portland	2.33	14.69
St. Ann	3.62	27.55
St. Catherine	1.62	4.41
St. Elizabeth	17.70	25.14
St. James	3.06	17.39
St. Mary	2.25	3.41
St. Thomas	0.78	23.85
Trelawny	1.45	25.16
Westmoreland	3.07	17.00
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>3.74</b>	<b>20.26</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>8.81</b>

*Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2024 is 11.67% and the gross backlog is 26.78%.*

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) for cases over 24 months in the parish courts of 3.74% (with a standard deviation of 4.75%), which satisfies the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 20.26% (with a standard deviation of 8.81%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is 10.26 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 0.78%, Clarendon and Trelawny with an estimated net backlog rate of 1.20% and 1.45% respectively have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (17.70%), St. Ann (3.62%) and Westmoreland (3.07%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of St. Mary (3.41%), St. Catherine (4.41%) and Clarendon (14.39%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (29.28%), St. Ann (27.55%) and Trelawny (25.16%) have the highest rates.

**Table 12.2.09b: Net and gross civil case backlog as at the year ended December 31, 2024, for cases over 18 months**

Parish Court	Net case backlog rate (%)	Gross case backlog rate (%)
Clarendon	2.35	16.81
Corporate area	4.54	32.07
Portland	3.05	15.65
St. Ann	4.63	31.03
St. Catherine	2.11	5.02
St. Elizabeth	21.33	29.51
St. James	3.83	25.73
St. Mary	2.58	3.75
St. Thomas	0.99	25.75
Trelawny	1.72	27.58
Westmoreland	3.31	19.14
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>4.92</b>	<b>22.82</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>5.67</b>	<b>9.93</b>

**Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2024 is 14.30% and the gross backlog is 31.80%.**

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 Honourable Chief Justice of Jamaica has established<sup>2</sup> that 18 months is considered the maximum time that any civil case should take to be disposed, regardless of complexity dynamics. Hence, any unresolved civil case that is over 18 months old is considered to be in a state of backlog.

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<sup>2</sup> Effective December 1, 2023

The estimated gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over 18 months) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) and are over 18 months 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 18 months) which are still active and exceeding 18 months 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) for cases over 18 months in the parish courts of 4.92% (with a standard deviation of 5.67%), which satisfies the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 22.82% (with a standard deviation of 9.93%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is 12.82 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 0.99%, Trelawny and St. Catherine with an estimated net backlog rate of 1.72% and 2.11% respectively have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (21.33%), St. Ann (4.63%) and Corporate Area (4.54%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of St. Mary (3.75%), St. Catherine (5.02%) and Portland (15.65%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the

parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (32.07%), St. Ann (31.03%) and St. Elizabeth (29.51%) have the highest rates.

### Trial court activity summary for the year ended December 31, 2024

**Table 12.2.10a: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the year ended December 31, 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	50.65	216.85	253.51
Corporate Area-Civil Division	103.82	296.41	531.21
Portland	90.12	447.85	581.88
St. Ann	68.73	507.57	425.55
St. Catherine	76.67	444.76	481.05
St. James	49.05	476.68	199.86
St. Mary	63.30	129.30	196.94
St. Thomas	46.91	442.94	1551.25
Trelawny	53.60	261.27	214.84
Westmoreland	39.69	126.12	204.23
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>70.77</b>	<b>366.34</b>	<b>489.89</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>20.67</b>	<b>146.48</b>	<b>410.59</b>

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 2.4 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 12.2 months or 366 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is approximately 16.3 months or 490 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 12.2.10b: Trial court activity summary during the year ended December 31, 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	1443	303	21.00
Portland	525	124	23.62
St. Ann	2500	437	17.48
St. Catherine	4420	1009	22.83
St. James	2024	267	13.19
St. Mary	1437	154	10.72
St. Thomas	1001	159	15.88
Trelawny	746	144	19.30
Westmoreland	924	262	28.35
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>15020</b>	<b>2859</b>	<b>19.03</b>

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the 2024 calendar year in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 15,020 civil cases heard across the parish courts in the 2024 calendar year, 2,859 or 19.03% proceeded to trial. The parish courts of the St. Mary (10.72%), St. James (13.19%) and St. Thomas (15.88%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of Westmoreland (28.35%), Portland (23.62%) and St. Catherine (22.83%) had the highest proportion.



**Table 12.2.10c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the year ended December 31, 2024**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	360	15.94
Consent	308	13.63
Settlement	245	10.85
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	239	10.58
Default	225	9.96
Withdrawal	203	8.99
Trial	173	7.66
Judgment	172	7.61
Transferred	137	6.06
Non Suited	87	3.85
By Consent - Mediated Settlement	33	1.46
Oral Admission	30	1.33
Other	30	1.33
Dismissal	10	0.44
Order	3	0.13
Application For Plaintiff Denied	2	0.09
Application For Defendant Granted	1	0.04
Application For Plaintiff Granted	1	0.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>2259</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 15.94% of the cases disposed, matters disposed by consent with 308 or 13.63% and by settlements with 245 or 10.85% account for the leading methods of disposition in the sample.

**Table 12.2.10d: Summary of case management date frequency for the year ended December 31, 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	3.34	3.04	1.62	14	1
Corporate Area	2.73	2.84	3.25	32	1
Portland	7.85	7.95	1.59	34	1
St. Ann	4.92	6.39	2.95	40	1
St. Catherine	4.67	3.92	1.23	22	1
St. James	3.40	3.49	2.08	22	1
St. Mary	3.07	3.13	3.60	30	1
St. Thomas	5.72	10.63	2.62	40	1
Trelawny	3.63	4.12	2.91	35	1
Westmoreland	3.56	4.81	3.88	37	1
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>3.89</b>	-	-	<b>30.60</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.56</b>	-	-	<b>8.66</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.49</b>	-	-	<b>-0.81</b>	<b>0.00</b>

The above table summarizes the number of appearances per case heard in the 2024 calendar year, which have at least one case management date. The overall average number of case management dates per 10 cases mentioned is 39, or approximately 4 dates per case with a standard deviation of 1.56 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.49. 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 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 2024 calendar year are the Portland (7.85), St. Thomas (5.72) and St. Ann (4.92) Parish Courts, while Corporate Area (2.73), St. Mary (3.07) and Clarendon (3.34) were among the courts with the lowest mean case management dates.

**Table 12.2.10e: Summary of the average case management appearance frequency for cases disposed in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Average number of appearances per case	Standard Deviation
Clarendon	2.56	2.01
Corporate Area-Civil Division	2.99	2.71
Portland	5.82	5.79
St. Ann	3.86	4.99
St. Catherine	4.60	3.81
St. James	3.16	2.68
St. Mary	2.70	2.26
St. Thomas	7.12	12.48
Trelawny	3.45	3.85
Westmoreland	3.38	4.86
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>3.76</b>	-

The above summary specifically addresses the number of case management dates per case for matters disposed of in the 2024 calendar year. The overall average observed is approximately 38 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 Corporate Area Parish Courts were among those with the lowest number of case management dates per disposed case in the year, while the parish courts of St. Thomas, Portland and St. Catherine were among the locations with the highest incidence.

**Table 12.2.11a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the year ended December 31, 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
St. Catherine	72.38	229.44	0.28	29.90	66.78	1.0
Westmoreland	65.94	151.67	1.33	40.39	NA	NA
Trelawny	64.37	147.33	1.33	29.89	NA	1.0
St. Thomas	55.12	109.72	8.06	23.61	NA	NA
St. Mary	76.51	150.00	2.67	29.72	NA	1.0
St. James	64.91	268.33	5.00	32.53	NA	1.2
Corporate Area Civil Court	87.18	147.22	6.39	26.12	NA	1.1
St. Ann	64.24	231.67	1.94	31.14	47.99	1.0
Portland	59.76	231.67	1.39	31.23	NA	1.0
Hanover	59.03	131.94	0.83	33.63	NA	1.0
Clarendon	67.01	298.67	2.33	39.57	78.96	NA
Manchester	66.83	159.33	0.33	30.72	67.22	1.1
<b>Overall Averages</b>	<b>66.94</b>	<b>188.08</b>	<b>2.66</b>	<b>31.54</b>	<b>65.24</b>	<b>1.04</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>8.55</b>	<b>60.61</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>4.77</b>	<b>12.81</b>	<b>0.07</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>-0.80</b>	<b>1.50</b>

**Note:** The courtroom utilization rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2024 is 68.36%

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtrooms (including outstations) which are actually 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 data suggests that as a whole, the Parish Courts of Jamaica performed below this level in the 2024 calendar year. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the Parish Courts in the year was 66.94%, which is an indication that approximately 67% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the Parish Courts in the 2024 calendar year.

The Parish Courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the year are the Corporate Area Parish Court- Criminal Division and St. Mary Parish Court with 87.18% and 76.51% respectively, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 72.38% and the Clarendon Parish Court with 67.01%. The St. Thomas Parish Court and Hanover Parish Courts with 55.12% and 59.03% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the Portland Parish Court with 59.76% had the next lowest rate. It is quite commendable and worth noting that all Parish Courts exceeded a courtroom utilization rate of 50% for the year. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. The positive skewness of the data suggests that proportionately more of the sample are clustered around the overall mean.

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

**Table 12.2.11b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the civil division of the parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Percentile rank 2024 (%)	Percentile rank 2023 (%)
St. Catherine	82	64
Westmoreland	55	100
Trelawny	36	45
St. Thomas	0	0
St. Mary	91	55
St. James	45	73
Corporate Area Civil Court	100	91
St. Ann	27	36
Portland	18	82
Hanover	9	18
Clarendon	73	27
Manchester	64	9

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various Parish Courts with regards to their performances on the courtroom utilization rates for the 2023 and 2024 calendar years. The results present a relatively consistent picture across both years for most courts in terms of the performances on this measurement. Some courts experienced gains in the ranking, several others experienced declines, and some courts retained the same ranking. The Corporate Area Civil Court performed better than all courts in the 2024 calendar year and the Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than all courts in the 2023 calendar year. The St. Thomas Parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization rate in both the 2024 and 2023 calendar year.

**Table 12.2.12: Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2024**

Parish Court	Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of Disposed cases and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	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	714	464	654	64.99	54.71	91.60	86.96	70	25.80
Corporate Area-Civil	3652	2257	3703	61.80	51.26	101.40	90.18	NA	11.37
St. Elizabeth	1047	629	1004	60.08	59.81	95.89	95.77	NA	NA
Hanover	415	273	499	65.78	64.68	120.24	114.93	NA	NA
Manchester	1737	896	2135	51.58	45.21	122.91	91.79	NA	NA
Portland	242	136	338	56.20	54.89	139.67	140.43	50	12.77
St. Ann	1485	794	1454	53.47	47.89	97.91	87.63	97	12.50
St. Catherine	2199	1259	3049	57.25	55.85	138.65	137.20	59	17.20
St. Mary	673	500	1226	74.29	74.22	182.17	181.97	45	35.73
Trelawny	484	333	512	68.80	63.79	105.79	98.32	58	6.07
St. James	1335	861	1339	64.49	48.37	100.30	81.81	83	10.77
Clarendon	1021	636	923	62.29	61.62	90.40	90.03	60	7.55
Westmoreland	648	477	687	73.61	68.80	106.02	103.47	86	7.01
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>15652</b>	<b>9515</b>	<b>17523</b>	<b>60.79</b>	<b>55.00</b>	<b>111.95</b>	<b>104.07</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>16.15</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>1.98</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>1.54</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>927.30</b>	<b>546.68</b>	<b>1030.47</b>	<b>7.05</b>	<b>8.67</b>	<b>26.05</b>	<b>29.06</b>	<b>17.63</b>	<b>9.38</b>

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

**Note 2: The gross case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for 2024 is 33.24% and the net case disposal rate is 29.43%.**

**Note 4: The gross case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for 2024 is 77.27% and the net case clearance rate is 64.56%.**

## Conclusion

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts sustained its remarkable performance trend in the 2024 calendar year, achieving outstanding results across most key metrics. A notable highlight of this period was an overall gross case clearance rate of 111.95%, surpassing international standards, albeit slightly lower than the corresponding period 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 3.74%. 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 20.26%, also comparable to the Criminal Division's metrics.

The Parish Courts of St. Mary and Hanover emerged as top performers across most critical indicators during this reporting period. Significantly, nine parish courts exceeded 100% gross case clearance rate for civil cases, with three courts, St. Mary, Portland and St. Catherine, surpassing the 130% strategic target. Despite these commendable achievements, there remains an urgent need to reduce the average case disposal time, which stood at 16.15 months for cases resolved during the year.

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 2024 calendar year 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 system<sup>i</sup>.

**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 system<sup>ii</sup>.

**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 35th 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  $\alpha$ — 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

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<sup>i</sup> Source :

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

<sup>ii</sup> Source :

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