

Parish Courts of Jamaica
The Chief Justice's Annual Statistics
Report for 2021
(Civil Matters)

	JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 2021		
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	101.10	95.34	90.73
Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	75.63	81.16	79.40
Average time to disposition	12.34 months	10.40 months	5.67 months

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Executive Summary

In 2021, the Civil Division of the Parish Courts excelled on several vital performance metrics, reinforcing the prospects of accomplishing the key quantitative objectives set out in the strategic plan of the judiciary and continuing the strong recovery of the courts from the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Honourable Chief Justice has set a targeted court-wide case clearance rate of 130%, a trial date certainty rate of 95% and an overall net case backlog rate of under 5% to be achieved by the end of the 2024/25 fiscal year. The results from this report shows great promise and consistency in the performance of the Civil Division of the Parish Courts which now rivals the output of the Criminal Division of the Parish Courts on several key performance indicators.

One of the most positive results from this annual report is the output on the vital measurement of the gross case clearance rates, with the civil division of the parish courts as a whole recording an impressive 101.10%, an increase of 5.76 percentage points when compared to the previous year. Over the past roughly two years, the Hanover Parish Court has decisively emerged as the top performing parish court in the island across the combined civil and criminal business lines and they yet again reaffirmed their standing, topping the case clearance rates with a notable 136.03%. Cumulatively across the criminal and civil business lines, the Hanover parish court also now has one of the lowest case backlog rate of any court in the island, with a rate of well under 1% of active cases currently being in a backlog classification. The Portland and St. Ann Parish Courts ranked next on the case clearance rate measurement for 2021 with impressive rates of 128.31% and 120.82% respectively. Seven of the parish courts exceeded the 100% case clearance rate mark for civil cases in 2021. The closely related gross case disposal rate was also quite

impressive, with the parish courts recording an overall rate of 76.23%, again led by the Hanover Parish Court with an outstanding 84.85%, followed by the St. Mary Parish Court with a rate of 75.23%.

The civil division of the parish courts also had reasonable returns on the overall trial date certainty rate in the period, recording a commendable overall rate of 75.63%. The parish courts of Westmoreland, St. Ann and the Corporate Area Civil Court were the leaders on this metric for 2021. The overall average time taken to dispose a civil case in of 2021 is roughly 370 days or approximately 12.35 months. The parish courts of Westmoreland, St. Mary and Manchester performed best on this measurement.

One of the most profound findings from this report comes from the analysis of the backlog rates. As of the end of 2021, the estimated gross case backlog rate in the civil division of the parish courts was 4.77%, that is, an estimated 4.77% of combined active and inactive cases in these courts were over two years old, based on the last 5 years of case activity as a proxy. When inactive cases are deducted however to produce the net case backlog rate, it is revealed that the estimated case backlog rate in the civil division of the parish courts as at the end of 2021 is roughly 1.06%, an indication that roughly this proportion of active cases in the civil division of the parish courts were over two years old at the end of the quarter, using data from the last 5 years as a proxy. The Hanover, St. Mary and Westmoreland Parish Courts were the very best positioned courts on this metric for the year, each with only a handful of active civil cases in a state of backlog.

The timely and efficient progression of cases in the civil courts is affected by several delays factors, among which in 2021 were the absence of defendants, no returns, the absence of both parties, the absence of the plaintiffs and attorney absenteeism, all of which were among the leading reasons for adjournment across the courts in the period. The dominant method of disposition for cases resolved were disposals by being struck out, by consent judgment, case transfers, through settlement and by way of final judgments and default judgments.

The civil division of the parish courts continue the trend of creditable performances and is well positioned as at the end of 2021 to make a profound contribution to the overall quantitative targets of the Jamaican judiciary as it strives to become the best in the region and one of the bests in the world over the coming few years. Remarkably, the parish courts of Hanover, Westmoreland and St. Mary have now achieved the target of reducing their overall net case backlog rate to under 5%, joining the High Court Division of the Gun Court and the Revenue Court as other major courts confirmed to have attained this feat.

See below aggregate case activity summary:

Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

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)
17,944	6921	18142	41.15*	101.10	75.63	12.35

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

Methodology – Generating Court Statistics in Jamaica

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policymaking and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past five years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer (soon to be called Statistical Officers) in each court. These officers update the system on a daily basis so that the data produced is as close as possible to real time. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed-up to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistical Unit of the Supreme Court. A data validation mechanism is in place to periodically sample case files in all parish courts and the Divisions of the Supreme Court on a quarterly basis. A representative sample of case files are taken in each case and crosschecked against the electronic data to detect and eliminate errors of omission and commission.

The Court Statistics Unit at the Supreme Court produces various quarterly and annual court reports which 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.

Introduction

This report details case activity in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the year ended December 31, 2021. Among the key case activity areas reported on are new cases filed, cases disposed and inactive over the period as well as the common causes of action and applications. Other key areas reported on include the absolute number of reissue dates over the period as well as the dominant methods of disposition and reasons for adjournment. The report also highlights the number of matters, which go into various types of enforcements such as judgment summons, warrants of levy and warrants of attachment and are thus reactivated as well as the outcomes of matters that proceed along this path. Important efficiency measures such as the case clearance rate, case disposal rates; trial date certainty rate and case congestion and courtroom utilization rates are computed as measures of court performance, where sufficient data is available. These are important yardstick for assessing the courts in both an absolute and a relative way.

A full report is presented for each court and is subdivided into three main sections. The first section summarizes case flow activity and case demographics, the second section details case delay factors and dispositions as well as important performance metrics, and the third and final section summarizes case activity in the enforcement phase. The data produced for several of the courts rely on point estimates of the population parameters using a body of available representative data. This approach is however quite reliable and preserves data integrity and validity. One limitation is that the starting points of the data sets for all courts are not homogenous and therefore not entirely comparable at this stage. In some cases, the report also relies on the application of scientific sampling techniques to compensate for some data gaps.

The report culminates with critical cumulative case active summaries for the civil courts as a whole in 2021.

The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed in the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. The data used in this section, largely represents the results of representative samples taken of case activity at the court. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for big claims filed at the Corporate Area Court-Civil Division for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	2783	72.21
Disposed	427	11.08
Inactive	644	16.71
Total	3854	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 3854 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, 2783 or 72.21% cases were still active, 427 were disposed and 644 were inactive at the end of the year. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 27.79% for big claims for the year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	4140	78.53
Small Claim	1124	21.32
POCA	8	0.15
Total	5272	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 5272 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2021 calendar year. The majority of which 4140 or 78.53% were big claims, while 1124 or 21.32% were small claims. Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) matters with 0.15% account for remainder the sample of claims filed.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the year ended December 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	366	21.85
Recovery of Possession	354	21.13
Damages for Negligence	216	12.90
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	177	10.57
Rent Owing and Continuing	90	5.37
Sub-total	1203	71.82

Total sample size of causes of action= 1675

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 366 or roughly 21.85% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 354 or 21.13% and damages for negligence with 216 or 12.90% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 177 or 10.57% ranks next. The top five causes of action were rounded off by rent owing and continuing with 90 or 5.37% of the sample.

The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 71.82% of the total sample of 1675 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	575	61.96
Bailiff	216	23.28
District Constable	46	4.96
Not Served	8	0.86
Inmate Service	3	0.32
Served By Registered Post	2	0.22
Served By Affixing	1	0.11
Served By Email	1	0.11
Not on file	76	8.19
Total	928	100.00

Methods 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 575 or 61.96% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 216 or 23.28% and those by District Constable with 46 or 4.96% of the sample ranks next.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	2093	59.65
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1346	38.36
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	68	1.94
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	2	0.06
Total	3509*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 3218 cases**

The majority of a sample of 3509 matters entered in the 2021 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 2093 or 59.65% of the sample.

Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse had 1346 matters entered or 38.36% of the sample and courtroom 3 had 68 matters entered or 1.94% of the sample, rounding off the top three accommodations.

Table 6.0: Distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Substituted Service	18	58.06
Relist	8	25.81
Application for Court Order	3	9.68
Forfeiture Of Seized Cash	1	3.23
Vary Court Order	1	3.23
Total	31	100.00

A sample of 31 applications filed during the 2021 calendar year revealed that applications for substituted service with 18 or 58.06% of the sample accounted for the majority applications filed, followed by application for relist with 8 or 25.81% of the sample. Applications for court order with 3 or 9.68%, applications for the forfeiture of seized cash and for vary court order with 3.23% each rounds off the applications filed during the year.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2021

Table 7.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	804	45.30
Female	662	37.30
Registered Company	292	16.45
Trading As	17	0.96
Total	1775	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1775 new matters entered in the 2021 calendar year at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs with 804 or 45.30%, followed by females with 662 or 37.30%. Registered companies accounted for 292 or 16.45% of the sample, while individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 0.96% of the sample.

Table 8.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	877	49.38
Female	699	39.36
Registered Company	181	10.19
Trading As	19	1.07
Total	1776	100.00

There were 1776 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the 2021 calendar year. As with the claimants, the highest proportion of defendants were male with 877 or 49.38% of the sample, followed by females with 699 or 39.36%. Registered companies accounted for 181 or 10.19% of the sample, while individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 1.07% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2021

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

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	1046	37.37
Trial	753	26.90
Default Judgment Date	665	23.76
Part-Heard Date	177	6.32
Date for Order	74	2.64
Final Judgment Date	45	1.61
Hearing of Application	39	1.39
Total	2799	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 2799 matters that went to court during the 2021 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 1046 or 37.37% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 753 or 26.90%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for default judgment dates with 665 or 23.76% of sample. It is of note that 177 or 6.32% 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 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	363	29.18
Defendant Absent	242	19.45
At Counsel's Request	54	4.34
Both Parties Absent	43	3.46
Parties in Discussion	23	1.85
Sub-total	725	58.28

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 1244

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 1244 incidences of adjournments heard in the 2021 calendar year. Adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 363 or 29.18% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 242 or 19.45% and adjournments at counsel's request with 54 or 4.34% rounds off the top three incidences in the sample. The list is completed by adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 43 or 3.46% of the sample and adjournments due to parties in discussion with 1.85% of the sample. The top reasons of adjournments listed above account for 58.28% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	770
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponding to 593 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 770 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 593 reissued cases. This result 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 12.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	549	22.60
Consent	473	19.47
Default Judgment	279	11.49
Transferred	262	10.79
Settlement	203	8.36
Sub-total	1766	72.70

NB: there were 2429 matters were disposed of in 2021

A total of 2429 matters were disposed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the 2021 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 1766 or 72.70% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 549 or 22.60% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 473 or 19.47% and by default judgments with 279 or 11.49%. Matters transferred and matters disposed by settlements round off the top five methods with 262 or 10.79% and 203 or 8.36% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 13: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	183	90.59
Settlement	19	9.41
Total	202	100.00

The above table summarizes the sample distribution of 202 case outcomes for matters entered in the 2021 calendar year at the Corporate Area Civil Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 183 or 90.59% of the sample of matters account for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 19 account for the remaining 9.41% 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 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
412	11	97.33

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 412 trial dates set in the year revealed that 11 were adjourned. This results in an impressive overall trial date certainty rate of 97.33% which meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 7.30 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year.

Table 15.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)
4978	5362	107.71

The above table shows 4978 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, a gross figure of 2786 cases were disposed, and 2576 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 107.71%, which meets the international standard for this metric. This rate represents a 57.54 percentage points decrease when compared to the corresponding period in 2020.

The estimated net case clearance rate is 55.97%, a 118.19 percentage points decline when compared to the 2020 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1699
Mean	399.4738
Median	215.0000
Mode	76.00
Std. Deviation	463.47673
Skewness	2.517
Std. Error of Skewness	.059
Range	4249.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	4254.00

The above table outlines summary data on 1699 civil matters disposed in the 2021 calendar year at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 399 days or approximately 13.3 months, which is roughly 126 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2020 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 76 days. The standard deviation of roughly 463 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 4254 days or roughly 11.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 5 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (days)

Number of observations	284
Mean	372.4754
Median	229.5000
Mode	120.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	404.15358
Skewness	2.057
Std. Error of Skewness	.145
Range	2134.00
Minimum	12.00
Maximum	2146.00

^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 284 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 372 days or roughly a year. 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 428 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 174.41 days.

Table 17.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1529
Mean	431.9810
Median	287.0000
Mode	316.00
Std. Deviation	482.55492
Skewness	2.718
Std. Error of Skewness	.063
Range	5710.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	5718.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1529 active civil matters as of the year ended December 31, 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 432 days or roughly 14 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 316 days. The standard deviation of roughly 483 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 5718 days old or roughly 16 years, while the minimum time is 8 days.

Table 17.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	239
Mean	370.2678
Median	232.0000
Mode	196.00
Std. Deviation	385.9882
Skewness	1.278
Std. Error of Skewness	.157
Range	1818.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	1820.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 239 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 370 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 196 days and the median age was 232 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 1820 days and the lowest was 2 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Table 18.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the year ended December 31, 2021

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	72.69	225.56	1.39	28.93	NA	1.2

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the 2021 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 72.69%, which is an indication that on average roughly 73% of the available hours for court hearings in the 2021 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 $\pm 2.5\%$.

Hanover Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Hanover Parish Court for the 2021 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	45	15.15
Disposed	184	61.95
Inactive	68	22.90
Total	297	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 297 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, 45 cases or 15.15% of these cases were still active, while 184 were disposed and 68 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 84.85%, which is 3.8 percentage points below the gross disposal rate recorded in the previous 2020 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of claim	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	248	77.74
Small Claim	68	21.32
POCA	3	0.94
Total	319	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 319 civil claims filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the 2021 calendar year. The majority of which 248 or 77.74 were big claims, while 68 or 21.32% were small claims and 0.94 were Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Hanover Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	56	25.69
Breach of Contract	52	23.85
Monies Loaned	20	9.17
Rent Due and Owing	15	6.88
Money Owing	9	4.13
Sub-total	152	69.72

Sample size (n)= 218

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 Hanover Parish Court recovery of possession with 56 or roughly 25.69% of the sample. Breach of contract with 52 or 23.85%, monies loaned with 9.17% and rent due and owing with 6.88% rank next. Money owing with 4.13% of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	91	43.54
District Constable	77	36.84
Personal	41	19.62
Total	209	100.00

Methods 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 highest proportion with 91 or 43.54% of the sample. Service by District Constable with 77 or 36.84% and personal service with 41 or 19.62% of the sample rank next.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom/outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	113	35.42
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	77	24.14
Green Island (courtroom #2)	45	14.11
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	44	13.79
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #2)	16	5.02
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #1)	15	4.70
Green Island (courtroom #1)	7	2.19
Sandy Bay (courtroom #2)	2	0.63
Total	319*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 297 cases**

The largest proportions of a sample of 319 new matters filed in the year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 113 or 35.42% of the total sample. Courtroom number 1 at the Sandy Bay Outstation accounted for 77 or 24.14% of the

cases filed. Courtroom number 2 at the Green Island outstation accounted for 45 or 14.11% and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 44 or 13.79% of the new cases heard.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	148	46.39
Female	116	36.36
Registered Company	55	17.24
Total	319	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 319 plaintiffs in the 2021 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court, 148 or 46.39% were males and females accounted for 116 or 36.36% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 17.24% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	197	62.34
Female	111	35.13
Registered Company	7	2.22
Trading As	1	0.32
Total	316	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 316 defendants in the 2021 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court, 197 or 62.34% were males and females accounted for 111 or 35.13%

of the sample. Registered companies and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 2.22% and 0.32% respectively of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantity of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delays factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	33	32.35
Mention Date	29	28.43
Part-Heard Date	28	27.45
Default Judgment Date	9	8.82
Hearing of Application	3	2.94
Total	102	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 102 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 33 or 32.35% of the sample, were adjourned for

trial dates. Matters adjourned for a mention date accounted for 29 or 28.43% of the sample and matters adjourned for a part heard date accounted for 28 or 27.45% of the sample. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 9 or 8.82% of the sample and matters adjournment for the hearing of an application date with 2.94%.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	78	53.79
Attorney Absent	18	12.41
Plaintiff Absent	12	8.28
Both Parties Absent	10	6.90
Defendant Absent	9	6.21
Sub-total	127	87.59

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)= 145

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 145 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the 2021 calendar year. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue accounted for 78 or 53.79% of the sample and the absence of attorneys accounted for 18 or 12.41% of the sample. Adjournments due to the absenteeism of plaintiffs accounted for 8.28% of the sample and adjournments due to the absence of both parties accounted for 10 or 6.90%. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants round off the top of reasons for adjournments during the year with 6.21% of the sample. The reasons for adjournments enumerated above account for 87.59% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	40
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 38 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 40 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 38 reissued cases. This result 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 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oral Admission	67	20.87
Consent	58	18.07
Default Judgment	52	16.20
Struck Out	46	14.33
Final Judgment	38	11.84
Sub-total	261	81.31

NB: There were 321 matters disposed of in 2021

A total of 321 civil matters were disposed at the Hanover Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 261 or 81.31% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by oral admissions with 67 or 20.87% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 58 or 18.07%. Matters disposed by default judgments with 52 or 16.20% rank next, followed by matters disposed by

being struck out with 46 or 14.33%. Matters disposed by final judgments round off the top methods of disposition with 11.84% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	125	91.91
Settlement	9	6.62
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	2	1.47
Total	136	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2021 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 125 or 91.91% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample. Settlements account for 6.62% of the sample and judgment in favour of defendants account for the remaining 1.47% 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 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
63	11	82.54

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 63 trial dates were set in the 2021 calendar year shows that 11 were adjourned. This results in

a trial date certainty rate of 82.54%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 83% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and it is 3.69 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2020.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

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 Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross Case disposal rate (%)
297	252	404	136.03	84.85

The above table shows 297 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 184 of these cases were disposed and 68 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 84.85%, a 3.80 percentage points decline when compared to the 2020 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 318 cases was disposed, and 86 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 136.03%, which exceeds the international standard on this metric, and is a 22.05 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2020 calendar year.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the year is 80.35%, which is 4.49 percentage points below the net disposal rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year. The estimated net case clearance rate is 138.86%, which is roughly 24.37 percentage points above the rate recorded in 2020. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (days)

Number of observations	237
Mean	325.2532
Median	113.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	682.45528
Skewness	4.821
Std. Error of Skewness	.158
Range	4664.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	4671.00

The above table outlines sample data on 237 civil matters disposed in the 2021 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 325 days or 10.8 months and is roughly 145 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2020 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 682 days is an indication that there is a wide 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 in the sample was 4671 days or roughly 13 years old, while the minimum time taken was just 7 days.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (days)

Number of observations	50
Mean	212.4600
Median	142.5000
Mode	43.00
Std. Deviation	251.60864
Skewness	2.152
Std. Error of Skewness	.337
Range	954.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	961.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 50 matters at the Hanover Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 212 days or roughly 7 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.

Table 16.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (days)

Number of observations	92
Mean	484.8696
Median	291.0000
Mode	25.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	493.61771
Skewness	1.347
Std. Error of Skewness	.251
Range	1857.00
Minimum	23.00
Maximum	1880.00

^a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above data is based on sample of 92 active civil matters at the end of the 2021 calendar year.

The average age of these matters was roughly 485 days, while the most frequently occurring age

in the distribution was 25 days. The standard deviation of roughly 494 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion in the individual scores around the average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were markedly more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 1880 days old or roughly 5 years, while the minimum time taken is 23 days.

Manchester Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the period as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	790	57.62
Disposed	581	42.38
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	1371	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 1371 new cases filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, 790 cases or 57.62% of these cases were still active, while 581 were disposed. These results produce an estimated net case disposal rate of 42.38%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of claim	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	1384	86.66
Small Claim	213	13.34
Total	1597	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 1597 civil claims filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the 2021 calendar year. The majority of which 1384 or 86.66% were big claims, while 213 or 13.34% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Manchester Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Damages for Negligence	219	13.72
Recovery of Possession	202	12.66
Monies Due & Owing	108	6.77
Arrears of Rent	74	4.64
Other	682	42.73
Sub-total	1285	80.51

Total sample size of cause of action = 1596

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Apart from the causes of action pooled under “other”, it is shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action for matters in the 2021 calendar year at the Manchester Parish Court is damages for negligence with 219 or 13.72% of the sample, followed by recovery of possession with 202 or 12.66% and monies due and owing with 108 or 6.77% of the sample. Arrears of rent accounted for 74 or 4.64% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	24	75.00
District Constable	8	25.00
Total	32	100.00

Methods 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 24 or 75% of the sample, while service by District Constable with 8 or 25% of the sample account for the remaining proportion.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	895	56.08
Christiana Outstation	155	9.71
Small Claims Court (courtroom #3)	112	7.02
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	107	6.70
Small Claims Court (courtroom #2)	101	6.33
Spalding Outstation	89	5.58
Porus Outstation	54	3.38
Cross Keys Outstation	29	1.82
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	28	1.75
Cottage Outstation	26	1.63
Total	1596*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 1370 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1596 new matters filed in the year were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 895 or 56.08% of the total sample. The Christiana outstation accounted for 155 or 9.71% of the cases filed. Courtroom number 2 at the Small Claims Court accounted for 112 or 7.02% and courtroom 3 at the main courthouse accounted for 107 or 6.70% of the new cases heard.

Table 6.0: Distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Court Order	1596	100.00
Total	1596	100.00

A sample of 1596 applications filed during the 2021 calendar year revealed that all applications for court order.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2021

Table 7.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	872	54.98
Female	593	37.39
Registered Company	121	7.63
Total	1586	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1586 new matters entered in the 2021 calendar year at the Manchester Civil Court, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 872 or 54.98%, followed by females with 593 or 37.39%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 121 or 7.63% of the sample.

Table 8.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1056	68.75
Female	439	28.58
Registered Company	41	2.67
Total	1536	100.00

There were 1536 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the 2021 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 1056 or 68.75% of the sample, followed by females with 439 or 28.58%. Registered companies accounted for 41 or 2.67% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantity of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delays factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	466	47.50
Mention Date	336	34.25
Default Date	135	13.76
Part-Heard Date	36	3.67
Hearing of Application	8	0.82
Total	981	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 981 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 466 or 47.50% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 336 or 34.25%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 135 or 13.76% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date, 3.67% of the sample which was adjourned for a part heard date and 0.82% of the sample which were adjourned for the hearing of an application date.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	228	19.14
New Date	217	18.22
Placed on Trial List	202	16.96
No Return/Re-Issued	166	13.94
Both Parties Absent	158	13.27
Sub-total	971	81.53

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)= 1191

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 1191 incidences of adjournments in the 2021 calendar year. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 228 or 19.14% of the sample and adjournments for a new date to be set with 217 or 18.22% of the sample account for the highest proportion of adjournments. Adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 202 or 16.96% of the sample rounds off the top three incidences in the sample. Adjournments due to no return/for reissue with 166 or 13.94% and the absence of both parties with 13.27% of the sample rank next.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	43
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 38 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 43 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

38 reissued cases. This result 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 12.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	786	50.87
Consent	131	8.48
Oral Admission	121	7.83
Final Judgment	112	7.25
Default Judgment	102	6.60
Sub-total	1252	81.04

NB: There were 1545 matters disposed of in 2021

The above table summarizes 1545 claims which were disposed at the Manchester Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year and the above table details the methods of disposition. The list is led by matters struck out with 786 or 50.87% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 131 or 8.48% and by oral admissions with 121 or 7.83%. Matters disposed by final judgments with 112 or 7.25% rank next, followed by default judgments with 6.60% of the sample.

There was only minimal trial date activity in the 2021 calendar year, hence no trial date certainty rate is recorded for the period.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed cases in the year	Approximate net Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net Case disposal rate (%)
1371	581	1389	101.31	42.38

The above table shows 1371 new cases filed at the Manchester Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 581 of these cases were disposed, leading to an estimated net case disposal rate of 42.38%. An approximate gross figure of 1389 cases was disposed during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated net case clearance rate of 101.31%, which exceeds the international standard on this metric, and is a 33.91 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2020 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	253
Mean	188.6047
Median	147.0000
Mode	154.00
Std. Deviation	168.11991
Skewness	1.867
Std. Error of Skewness	.153
Range	1062.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	1064.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 253 matters disposed in the 2021 calendar year at the Manchester Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 189 days or 6.3 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 154 days and the median time was 147 days. The standard deviation of roughly 168 days is an indication that there is some amount of 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 in the year was 1064 days or roughly 3 years old, while the minimum time taken was 2 days.

Table 12.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	691
Mean	325.0637
Median	210.0000
Mode	210.00
Std. Deviation	370.54123
Skewness	1.573
Std. Error of Skewness	.093
Range	1695.00
Minimum	17.00
Maximum	1712.00

The above data is based on sample of 691 active matters at the end of the 2021 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 325 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution and the median age were both 210 days. The standard deviation of roughly 371 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion of the individual scores around the average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which were below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 1712 days old or roughly 4.8 years, while the minimum age is 17 days.

St. Catherine Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the period as well as the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	1614	54.33
Disposed	913	30.73
Inactive	444	14.94
Total	2971	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 2971 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, 1614 cases or 54.33% of these cases were still active, while 913 were disposed and 444 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 45.67%, which is 12.62 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	3207	88.30
Small Claim	422	11.62
POCA	3	0.08
Total	3632	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 3632 claims filed in the 2021 calendar year, 3207 or 88.30% were big claims, 422 or 11.62% were small claims and 3 or 0.08% were Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	1251	35.31
Damages For Negligence	899	25.37
Recovery of Possession	367	10.36
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	220	6.21
Rent Owing and Continuing	179	5.05
Sub-total	2916	82.30

Total sample size of causes of action= 3,543

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 3543 causes of action filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was breach of contract with 1251 or roughly 35.31% of the sample, damages for negligence with 899 or 25.37% and

recovery of possession with 367 or 10.36%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 220 or 6.21% and rent owing and continuing with 179 or 5.05% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 82.30% of the total sample of causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	603	43.66
Bailiff	515	37.29
District Constable	263	19.04
Total	1381	100.00

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, personal service accounted for the highest proportion with 603 or 43.66% of the sample, service by the bailiff accounted for 515 or 37.29% and service by District Constable accounted for 263 or 19.04% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	2979	82.34
Linstead Outstation (courtroom #1)	409	11.30
Old Harbour Outstation (courtroom #1)	198	5.47
Portmore Outstation (courtroom #1)	32	0.88
Total	3618*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 2958 cases**

The majority of the sample of 3618 new claims filed in the 2021 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 2979 or 82.34% of the total sample. The 409 or 11.30% that were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Linstead outstation followed this. Courtroom number 1 at the Old Harbour outstation accounted for 198 or 5.47% of the claims and courtroom number 1 at the Portmore outstation accounted for 0.88% of the sample.

Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Substituted Service	66	80.49
Extension of Time Under Section 250	8	9.76
Application for Court Order	7	8.54
Set Aside Default Judgment	1	1.22
Total	82	100.00

A sample of 82 applications filed during the 2021 calendar year revealed that applications for substituted service with 66 or 80.49% of the sample accounted for the majority of applications filed, followed by applications for extension of time under Section 250 with 8 or 9.76% of the sample. Applications for court orders with 7 or 8.54% and application to set aside default judgment with 1.22% round off the applications filed during the year.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2021

Table 7.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1684	46.57
Female	1390	38.44
Registered Company	542	14.99
Total	3616	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the 3616 new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year, males accounted for the largest proportion with 1684 or 46.57%, followed by females with 1390 or 38.44% and registered companies with 542 or 14.99% of the sample.

Table 8.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	2247	62.59
Female	1188	33.09
Registered Company	155	4.32
Total	3590	100.00

There were 3590 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 2247 or 62.59% of the total sample, followed by females with 1188 or 33.09%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 155 or 4.32% of the total sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for year ended December 31, 2021

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantity of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delays factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	976	44.00
Trial	703	31.70
Default Judgment Date	399	17.99
Part-Heard Date	89	4.01
Hearing of Application	50	2.25
Final Judgment Date	1	0.05
Total	2218	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 2218 matters that went to court during the 2021 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 976 or 44% were adjourned for a mention date and 703 or 31.70% were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 399 or 17.99% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 89 or 4.01% of the sample.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	430	16.94
Placed on Trial List	414	16.31
No Return/Re-Issued	331	13.04
Both Parties Absent	240	9.45
Pending Settlement	161	6.34
Sub-total	1576	62.07

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)= 2,539

The above table details a sample of 2539 adjournments or continuances heard in the year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 430 or 16.94% of the total sample, adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 414 or 16.31% and adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 331 or 13.04% and the absence of both parties with 240 or 9.45% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the year. Pending settlements with 161 or 6.34% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 62.07% of the total sample.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	509
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponding to 379 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 509 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 379 reissued cases. This result 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 12.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	870	32.95
Consent	580	21.97
Settlement	349	13.22
Default Judgment	300	11.36
Withdrawal	146	5.53
Sub-total	2245	85.04

NB: There were 2640 matters disposed of in 2021

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 2640 matters disposed during the 2021 calendar year. The list is led by matters struck out with 870 or 32.95% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 580 or 21.97%, settlements with 349 or 13.22% and matters disposed by default judgments with 300 or 11.36%. Withdrawals account for 146 or 5.53% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 85.04% of the sample.

Table 13: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
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Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	573	87.35
Settlement	83	12.65
Total	656	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 656 matters in the 2021 calendar year. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 573 or 87.35% of the total sample, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 83 or 12.65% 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 14.0: Sampling distribution of Trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
619	162	73.83

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 619 trial dates were set in the year shows that 162 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 73.83%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 74% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate is below the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100. The 2021 result is 10.96 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2020.

Table 15.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases filed	Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Estimate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
2971	1357	2777	93.47	45.67

The above table shows 2971 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 913 of these cases were disposed and 444 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 45.67%, which is 12.62 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 1972 cases was disposed and 805 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 93.47%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate, but is 1.98 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year.

The net disposal rate for the year is 36.13%, which is 2.92 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year. The net clearance for the year is 78.04%, which is 1.81 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1561
Mean	446.8001
Median	261.0000
Mode	56.00
Std. Deviation	499.7811
	8
Skewness	1.999
Std. Error of Skewness	.062
Range	3234.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	3236.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 1561 civil matters disposed in the 2021 calendar year at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 447 days or 14.9 months, which is roughly 1 less day than it took to dispose of matters in the 2020 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 56 days. There is a relatively high standard deviation of 500 days, which is an indication that there is a relatively wide variation of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores that fall below the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 3236 days or roughly 9 years old, while the youngest was 2 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	264
Mean	324.5492
Median	231.5000
Mode	224.00
Std. Deviation	263.62210
Skewness	1.352
Std. Error of Skewness	.150
Range	1376.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	1379.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 264 matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 325 days or roughly 10.8 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 65 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 209.71 days.

Table 17.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	2629
Mean	557.9852
Median	333.0000
Mode	45.00
Std. Deviation	621.64286
Skewness	1.737
Std. Error of Skewness	.048
Range	5026.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	5036.00

The above data is based on a sample of 2629 active civil matters at the end of the 2021 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 558 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 45 days. The standard deviation of roughly 622 days suggests that there is a large dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 5036 days old or roughly 14 years, while the minimum time taken is just 10 days.

Table 17.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	561
Mean	325.0053
Median	207.0000
Mode	25.00
Std. Deviation	383.68581
Skewness	2.618
Std. Error of Skewness	.103
Range	2427.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	2437.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 561 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 325 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 25 and the median age was 207 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a slightly large proportion of the ages fell above the overall average. The highest age in the data set was 2437 days and the lowest was 10 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter 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 18.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	65	73.03
Warrant of Possession	21	23.60
Warrant of Levy	3	3.37
Total	89	100.00

It is seen in the above sample of 89 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the majority of which were judgement summonses with 65 or 73.03%, while warrants of possession with 21 or 23.60% and warrant of levy with 3 or 3.37% followed. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 19.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2021

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	65	65	1

The above table shows that the sample of 65 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 65 court appearances in the 2021 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.

Trelawny Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the period as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	285	42.35
Disposed	300	44.58
Inactive	88	13.08
Total	673	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 673 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, 285 or 42.35% of these cases were active, and 300 or 44.58% were disposed and 88 cases which became inactive at the end of the year. This produces a gross case disposal rate of 57.65%, a 0.92 percentage points decline when compared to the 2020 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	542	74.35
Small Claim	185	25.38
POCA	2	0.27
Total	729	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 729 civil claims filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2021 calendar year. The majority of which 542 or 74.35% were big claims, while 185 or 25.38% were small claims. Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) matters with 0.27% account for remainder the sample of claims filed.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	105	15.58
Money Owing	90	13.35
Arrears of Rent	62	9.20
Monies Due & Owing	45	6.68
Other	238	35.31
Sub-total	540	80.12

Total sample size of causes of action= 674

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Apart from the causes of action pooled under “other”, it is shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action for matters in the 2021 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court is

recovery of possession with 105 or 15.58% of the sample, followed by money owing with 90 or 13.35% and arrears of rent with 62 or 9.20% of the sample. Monies due and owing accounted for 45 or 6.68% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	627	87.08
Bailiff	93	12.92
Total	720	100.00

Methods 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 627 or 87.08% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 93 or 12.92% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom/outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Falmouth Outstation	439	60.39
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	132	18.16
Ulster Spring Outstation	111	15.27
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	44	6.05
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #2)	1	0.14
Total	727*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 671 cases**

The majority of a sample of 727 new matters filed in 60.39% of the accommodations was entered in the Falmouth outstation. The 132 or 18.16% matters that were entered in courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town outstation and 111 or 15.27% entered in the Ulster Spring outstation followed this. Courtroom number 1 at main courthouse accounted for 44 or 6.05% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	343	47.97
Female	312	43.64
Registered Company	60	8.39
Total	715	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 715 new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 343 or 47.97%, followed by females with 312 or 43.64%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 8.39% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	472	67.24
Female	202	28.77
Registered Company	28	3.99
Total	702	100.00

There were 702 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 472 or 67.24% of the sample, followed by females with 202 or 28.77% and registered companies with 3.99%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2021

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

Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	202	42.98
Default Judgment Date	122	25.96
Trial	96	20.43
Part-Heard Date	49	10.43
Final Judgment Date	1	0.21
Total	470	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 470 matters that were heard during the year ended December 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 202 or 42.98% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 122 or 25.96%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters adjourned

for trial dates with 96 or 20.43% and for part heard dates with 49 or 10.43% rank next. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for mention dates which is expected in civil and most other case types.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	197	38.18
No Return/Re-Issued	151	29.26
Defendant Absent	59	11.43
Plaintiff Absent	29	5.62
Referred to Restorative Justice (RJ) Centre	14	2.71
Sub-total	450	87.21

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)= 516

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 516 incidence of adjournments heard in the 2021 calendar year. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 197 or 38.18% of the sample, adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 151 or 29.26% and defendants being absent with 59 or 11.43% of the sample feature prominently on the list. Adjournments for the absence of plaintiffs and referrals to Restorative Justice (RJ) Centre with 29 or 5.62% and 14 or 2.71% of the sample respectively close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 87.21% of the entire sample.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	65
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponding to 52 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 65 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 52 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.3 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	165	31.02
Oral Admission	83	15.60
Consent	80	15.04
Default Judgment	75	14.10
Settlement	45	8.46
Sub-total	448	84.21

NB: There were 532 matters disposed of in 2021

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 532 matters disposed during the 2021 calendar year. The list is led by matters struck out with 165 or 31.02% of the dispositions, followed by matters disposed by oral admissions with 83 or 15.60% and matters disposed by consent with 80 or 15.04% of the sample. Matters

disposed by default judgments account for 75 or 14.10% of the sample and disposals by settlements account for 45 or 8.46% of the sample. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 84.21% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	66	98.51
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	1	1.49
Total	67	100.00

The above table summarizes the sample distribution of 67 case outcomes for matters entered in the 2021 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 66 or 98.51% of the sample of matters account for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 1 account for the remaining 1.49% 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 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
55	2	96.36

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 55 trial dates set in the year revealed that 2 were adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial

date certainty rate of 96.36% which suggests that during the year there was roughly a 96% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This outcome met the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 5.25 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in year)	Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Estimated Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated Gross case disposal rate (%)
673	388	600	89.15	57.65

The above table shows 673 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 300 of these cases were disposed and 88 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 57.65%, which is 0.92 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 508 cases was disposed and 92 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 89.15%, which is below the international standard for the case clearance rate, but is 4.60 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year.

The net disposal rate for the year is 51.28%, which is 0.87 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year. The net clearance for the year is 86.84%, which is 13.87 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	315
Mean	235.0254
Median	118.0000
Mode	56.00
Std. Deviation	328.81565
Skewness	2.875
Std. Error of Skewness	.137
Range	2223.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	2230.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 315 civil cases disposed in the 2021 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 235 days or 7.8 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 56 days and the median time was 118 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 329 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 2230 days or roughly 6.2 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 7 days.

Table 16.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	358
Mean	402.3073
Median	304.5000
Mode	24.00
Std. Deviation	378.92071
Skewness	1.851
Std. Error of Skewness	.129
Range	2510.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	2524.00

The above data is computed using 358 active cases at the end of the 2021 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 402 days (1.1 year), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 24 days. The standard deviation of roughly 379 days suggests that there is some dispersion of the individual scores around the mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set which fall below the overall mean. The oldest active case in this sample is 2524 days (7 years old), while the youngest is 14 days.

Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter 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 17.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	27	100.00
Total	27	100.00

It is seen in the above sample of 27 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, all of which were judgement summonses.

Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2021

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	27	34	1.3

The above table shows that the sample of 27 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 34 court appearances in the 2021 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 13 appearances dates.

St. Ann Court –Civil Division (Including Brown’s Town)

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2021 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	811	47.43
Disposed	438	25.61
Inactive	461	26.96
Total	1710	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 1710 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, 811 cases or 47.43% of these cases were still active, 438 were disposed and 461 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 52.57%, which is a 9.71 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2020 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	1572	77.59
Small Claim	451	22.26
POCA	3	0.15
Total	2026	100.00

The above table shows that from 2026 new claims filed in the 2021 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 1572 or 77.59% of the sample, while 451 or 22.26% were small claims and 3 or 0.15% were Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	558	31.90
Damages for Negligence	239	13.66
Recovery of Possession	185	10.58
Money Owing	131	7.49
Rent Owing	92	5.26
Sub-total	1205	68.90

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 1749

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 1749 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2021 calendar year was breach of contract with 558 or roughly 31.90% of the sample and damages for negligence with 239 or 13.66% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 185 or 10.58%, money owing with 131 or 7.49% and rent owing with 92 or 5.26% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 68.90% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service in the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	247	43.64
Bailiff	180	31.80
Personal	137	24.20
Registered Post	2	0.35
Total	566	100.00

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 District Constable accounted for the highest proportion with 247 or 43.64% of the sample. Service by the bailiff accounted for 180 or 31.80%, personal service with 137 or 24.20% and service by the registered post with 0.35% of the sample rank next.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom/outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	949	60.56
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	513	32.74
Claremont Outstation	105	6.70
Total	1567*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 1337 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1567 new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 949 or 60.56% of the total sample.

Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 513 or 32.74% and the Claremont Outstation accounted for 105 or 6.70% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	963	47.56
Female	744	36.74
Registered Company	308	15.21
Trading As	10	0.49
Total	2025	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 2025 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the largest proportion with 963 or 47.56%, followed by females with 744 or 36.74% and registered companies with 308 or 15.21% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 0.49% accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1276	63.39
Female	602	29.91
Registered Company	124	6.16
Trading As	11	0.55
Total	2013	100.00

There were 2013 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 1276 or 63.39% of the total sample, followed by females with 602 or 29.91%. Registered companies accounted for 124 or 6.16% of the total sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 11 or 0.55%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2021

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

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	600	42.11
Default Date	335	23.51
Trial	333	23.37
Part-Heard Date	132	9.26
Hearing of Application	25	1.75
Total	1425	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 1425 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 600 or 42.11% of the sample, followed by 335 or 23.51%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters disposed for trial dates accounted for 333 or 23.37% and matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 132 or 9.26% 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 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No return/Re-Issued	833	37.01
Defendant Absent	347	15.42
Placed on Trial List	209	9.28
Both Parties Absent	203	9.02
Pending Settlement	50	2.22
Sub-total	1642	72.95

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)= 2251

The above table details a sample of 2251 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the 2021 calendar year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the no return/for re-issue with 833 or 37.01% of the sample,

adjournments due to defendants being absent with 347 or 15.42% and adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 209 or 9.28% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the year in this sample. The list is completed by adjournments due the absence of both parties with 203 or 9.02% and pending settlements with 50 or 2.22% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 72.95% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	282
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponding to 223 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 282 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 223 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 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	392	25.16
Settlement	292	18.74
Consent	258	16.56
Oral Admission	174	11.17
Default Judgment	151	9.69
Sub-total	1267	81.32

NB: There were 1558 matters disposed of in 2021

A sample of 1267 matters disposed during the 2021 calendar year revealed that 392 or 25.16% of matters were struck out, 292 or 18.74% were disposed by settlements and 258 or 16.56% of the sample were disposed by consent. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 174 or 11.17% and matters disposed by default judgments with 151 or 9.69% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 81.32% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2021 calendar year.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	214	72.54
Settlement	79	26.78
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	2	0.68
Total	295	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2021 calendar year at the St. Ann Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 214 or 72.54% of the sample of matters, account for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 79 or 26.78% and judgments in favour of the defendant with 0.68% 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 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
139	3	97.84

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 139 trial dates set in the year revealed that 3 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 97.84%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 98% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and 20.65 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2020.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

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 (%)
1710	899	2066	120.82	52.57

The above table shows 1710 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 438 cases were disposed and 461 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 52.57%, an increase of 9.71 percentage points compared to the 2020 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 1273 cases were disposed,

and 793 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 120.82%, which is above the international standard for this metric and represents a 52.53 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2020 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 35.07%, an increase of 7.32 percentage points when compared to 2020 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 101.92%, an improvement of 49.03 percentage points when compared to the of 2020 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	959
Mean	543.0980
Median	300.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	682.95940
Skewness	2.917
Std. Error of Skewness	.079
Range	5927.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	5929.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 959 civil matters disposed in the 2021 calendar year at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 543 days or 18.1 months, which is roughly 192 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2020 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days. The standard deviation of roughly 683 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 in the year was 5929 days or roughly 16 years old, while the minimum time taken was 2 days.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	151
Mean	615.9205
Median	458.0000
Mode	1491.00
Std. Deviation	563.43238
Skewness	1.594
Std. Error of Skewness	.197
Range	3315.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	3316.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 151 matters at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 616 days. The moderate standard deviation is an indication that there was some variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that most of the scores were clustered around the overall average. The oldest time was 3316 days, and the minimum was 1 day. A sample of 113 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 181.90 days.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1137
Mean	609.9789
Median	325.0000
Mode	15.00
Std. Deviation	766.12426
Skewness	2.357
Std. Error of Skewness	.073
Range	5011.00
Minimum	9.00
Maximum	5020.00

The above data is based on sample of 1137 active civil matters at the end of the 2021 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 610 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 15 days. The standard deviation of roughly 766 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 5020 days old or roughly 14 years, while the minimum age is 9 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	173
Mean	702.8439
Median	316.0000
Mode	288.00
Std. Deviation	889.62591
Skewness	2.166
Std. Error of Skewness	.185
Range	3820.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	3830.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 173 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the year ended December 31, 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 703 days, with the most frequently occurring age was 288 days and the median age was 316 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 3830 days and the lowest was 10 days.

Westmoreland Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the 2021 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	154	23.77
Disposed	385	59.41
Inactive	109	16.82
Total	648	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 648 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, 154 cases or 23.77% of these cases were still active, while 385 or 59.41% were disposed and 109 or 16.82% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 76.23%, which is a 0.48 percentage points decline when compared to the 2020 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	700	84.24
Small Claim	129	15.52
POCA	2	0.24
Total	831	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 831 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2021. The majority of which 700 or 84.24% were big claims, while 129 or 15.52% were small claims and 2 or 0.24% were Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	159	19.41
Breach of Contract	60	7.33
Monies Owing	56	6.84
Negligence	56	6.84
Recovery of Money	38	4.64
Sub-total	369	45.05

Total sample size of causes of action= 819

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 2021 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court was recovery of possession with 159 or roughly 19.41% of the sample. Breach of contract with 60 or 7.33%, monies owing and negligence with 56 or 6.84% each and recovery of money with 38 or 4.64% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 45.05% of the sample of 819 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service in the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	436	54.84
Personal	359	45.16
Total	795	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the majority of the sample with 436 or 54.84% of the sample, while personal service accounted for 359 or 45.16%.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom/outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	341	43.83
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	218	28.02
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	159	20.44
Whithorn Outstation	60	7.71
Total	778*	100.00

***Note: corresponding to 600 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 778 new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 341 or 43.83% of the sample. The 218 or 28.02% that were entered in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse followed this. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 159 or 20.44% and sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for the remaining 7.71% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	410	49.52
Female	322	38.89
Registered Company	91	10.99
Trading As	5	0.60
Total	828	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 828 new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 410 or 49.52%, followed by females with 322 or 38.89%. Registered companies accounted for 91 or 10.99% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 0.60% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	494	60.32
Female	271	33.09
Registered Company	41	5.01
Trading As	13	1.59
Total	819	100.00

There were 819 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 494 or 60.32% of the sample, followed by females with 271 or 33.09%. Registered companies accounted for 5.01% of the sample and individuals

trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 13 or 1.59%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2021

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

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	339	60.21
Trial	146	25.93
Final Judgment Date	76	13.50
Default Judgment Date	1	0.18
Hearing of Application	1	0.18
Total	563	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 563 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The majority, 339 or 60.21% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 146 or 25.93%, which were adjourned for trial dates.

Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 76 or 13.50% of matters, 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 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
For Mention (continuance)	5	11.36
Defendant Absent	2	4.55
Attorney Absent	1	2.27
Document/Disclosure	1	2.27
Other	30	68.18
Sub-total	39	88.64

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)= 44

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 44 incidences of adjournments for matters heard in the 2021 calendar year. Apart from the reasons for adjournment pooled under “other”, continuances, which are adjournments intrinsic to the progression of a case, for mention account for the largest proportion of the sample with 5 or 11.36%, while defendants being absent rank next with 2 or 4.55% of the sample. Adjournments due to attorney being absent and for disclosure/document accounted for 2.27% each of the sample which completes the top five reasons for adjournment for the year. The top five reasons for adjournment enumerated above account for 88.64% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances heard in the year.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	56
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponding to 44 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 56 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 44 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.3 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oral Admission	132	18.94
Consent	120	17.22
Struck Out	110	15.78
Withdrawal	100	14.35
Settlement	84	12.05
Sub-total	546	78.34

NB: There were 697 matters disposed of in 2021

A total of 697 civil matters were disposed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 78.34% of the total sample. The list is led by oral admissions with 132 or 18.94% of the disposals,

followed by matters disposed by consent with 120 or 17.22% and matters disposed by being struck out with 110 or 15.78%. Withdrawals with 100 or 14.35% and settlements with 84 or 12.05% round off the top five methods dispositions.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	240	83.33
Settlement	41	14.24
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	7	2.43
Total	288	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2021 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 240 or 83.33% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 41 or 14.24%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for the smallest share with 2.43% 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 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
78	1	98.72

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 78

trial dates were set in the year; of which 1 was adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 98.72%. The output suggests that during the year there was an estimated 100% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment and is 8.72 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2020.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

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 (%)
648	494	747	115.28	76.23

The above table shows 648 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 385 of these cases were disposed, and 109 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 76.23%, a decline of 0.48 percentage points when compared to the 2021 calendar year. A gross figure of 620 cases was disposed, and 127 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 115.28%, which satisfies the international standard for this metric and is 24.60 percentage points above the 2020 calendar year rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 71.43%, which is 2.62 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 115.03%, which is 29.26 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year. The net

clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	434
Mean	171.1935
Median	105.0000
Mode	364.00
Std. Deviation	171.77600
Skewness	1.752
Std. Error of Skewness	.117
Range	961.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	964.00

The above table outlines summary data on 434 civil matters disposed in the year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 171 days or 5.7 months, which is roughly 93 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2020 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 364 days. The standard deviation is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time and the positive skewness is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 964 days or roughly 2.7 years, while the minimum time taken was just 3 days.

Table 16.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	341
Mean	322.7918
Median	240.0000
Mode	975.00
Std. Deviation	293.72354
Skewness	.941
Std. Error of Skewness	.132
Range	1006.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	1024.00

The above data is based on sample of 341 active civil matters at the end of the 2021 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 323 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 975 days. The standard deviation of roughly 294 days suggests that there some dispersion of the individual scores around the average. The positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more scores in the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest age of active cases was 1024 days or 2.8 years, and the youngest time is 18 days.

St. Mary Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Mary Parish Court for the 2021 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	174	24.79
Disposed	432	61.54
Inactive	96	13.68
Total	702	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 702 new civil cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, 174 or 24.79% were still active, 432 or 61.54% were disposed and 96 or 13.68% were inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 75.21% for the year, which is 10.23 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	650	74.97
Small Claim	217	25.03
Total	867	100.00

The above table shows that from the 867 new claims filed in the year, the majority of which were big claims, which accounted for 650 or 74.97% of the total sample, while 217 or 25.03% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	162	47.79
Recovery of Possession	114	33.63
Damages for Negligence	21	6.19
Arrears of Rent	12	3.54
Money Owing	9	2.65
Sub-total	318	93.81

Total sample size of causes of action= 339

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 339 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for 2021 at the St. Mary Parish Court were breach of contract with 162 or roughly 47.79% of the sample and recovery of possession with 114 or 33.63% of the total sample of causes of action. Damages for negligence with 21 or 6.19% and arrears of rent with 12 or 3.54% rank next. The top causes of action in this sample are rounded off by money owing with 2.65% of the sample. The sample of causes of action enumerated above accounts for 93.81% of the total causes of action in the year.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	821	94.69
Bailiff	46	5.31
Total	867	100.00

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 821 or 94.69% of the sample, with service by the bailiff accounting for the remaining 46 or 5.31% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	483	55.71
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	176	20.30
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	74	8.54
Annotto Bay Outstation	58	6.69
Richmond Outstation	57	6.57
Galye Outstation	19	2.19
Total	867*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 702 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 867 new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year. The majority of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 483 or 55.71% of the sample. Courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse with 176 or 20.30% of the sample and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with 74 or 8.54%

of the sample rounds off the top 3 accommodations. The list is completed by the Annotto Bay outstation with 58 or 6.69% of the sample, the Richmond Bay outstation with 57 or 6.57% and the Gayle outstation with 19 or 2.19%.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	458	52.83
Female	318	36.68
Registered Company	89	10.27
Trading As	2	0.23
Total	867	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 867 new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 458 or 52.83%, followed by females with 318 or 36.68%. Registered companies accounted for 89 or 10.27% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name ('trading as') with 0.23% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	579	66.78
Female	258	29.76
Registered Company	30	3.46
Total	867	100.00

There were 867 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year. The majority of defendants were males with 579 or 66.78%, followed by females with 258 or 29.76% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 30 or 3.46% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for year ended December 31, 2021

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

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	117	59.69
Trial	29	14.80
Default Judgment Date	26	13.27
Part-Heard Date	20	10.20
Final Judgment Date	3	1.53
Hearing of Application	1	0.51
Total	196	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 196 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part

heard, trial or similar procedural date. The majority, 117 or 59.69% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 29 or 14.80%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were the 26 or 13.27% of the matters which were adjourned for default judgment dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention hearing and that a notable proportion of the adjournments are for default judgments. The high frequency of adjournments associated with mention matters is not unusual as this stage is intrinsic to case management and case preparation and to the overall case process flow.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons for adjournment/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
For Mention (continuance)	58	24.47
For Judgment (continuance)	9	3.80
No Return/Re-Issued	3	1.27
Placed on Trial List	3	1.27
Referred to Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF)	2	0.84
Other	162	68.35
Total	237	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 237 incidences of adjournments or continuances for matters heard in the 2021 calendar year. Other than the reasons for adjournment pooled under “other”, continuances, which are adjournments intrinsic to the

progression of a case, for mention, account for the largest proportion of the sample with 58 or 24.47%, followed by continuances for judgment with 9 or 3.80% of the sample.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	57
Average Incidence	1.4

Corresponding to 41 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 57 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 41 reissued cases. This result 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 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	308	37.75
Consent	117	14.34
Default Judgment	42	5.15
Settlement	40	4.90
Withdrawal	37	4.53
Sub-total	544	66.67

NB: There were 816 matters disposed of in 2021

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 816 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. Matters struck out with 308 or 37.75%, matters disposed by consent with 117 or 14.34% and matters disposed by default

judgments with 42 or 5.15% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Settlements with 4.90% of the sample rank next followed by disposals by withdrawals with 4.53% of the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 66.67% of the total sample of matters disposed during the year.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	146	88.48
Settlement	14	8.48
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	5	3.03
Total	165	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of 165 case outcomes in the 2021 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 146 or 88.48% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority, while settlements account for 14 or 8.48% of the sample and judgments on favour of defendants account for the remaining 3.03% 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 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
110	46	58.18

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 110 trial dates were set in the 2021 calendar year shows that 46 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 58.18%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 58% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Combined number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in 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 (%)
702	528	750	106.84	75.21

The above table shows 702 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 432 of these cases were disposed and 96 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 75.21%, an improvement of 10.23 percentage points when compared to the 2021 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 633 cases were disposed, and 117 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 106.84%, which meets the international standard for this metric, and is 5.92 percentage points above than the 2020 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 71.29%, a 15.22 percentage point improvement when compared to the 2020 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate is 104.46%, an 9.85

percentage point improvement when compared to the 2020 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	552
Mean	178.7663
Median	91.0000
Mode	21.00
Std. Deviation	284.61007
Skewness	4.465
Std. Error of Skewness	.104
Range	3031.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	3033.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 552 civil cases disposed in the 2021 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 179 days or 6 months, which is roughly 103 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2020 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 21 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 285 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 3033 days or roughly 8.4 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 2 days. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	83
Mean	213.9036
Median	98.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	274.99382
Skewness	2.052
Std. Error of Skewness	.264
Range	1046.00
Minimum	21.00
Maximum	1067.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 83 matters at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 214 days. The high standard deviation is an indication that there was a wide variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that proportionately more of the scores were below the overall average. The oldest time recorded was 1067 days and the minimum was 21 days.

Table 16.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	273
Mean	471.0989
Median	389.0000
Mode	389.00
Std. Deviation	524.09495
Skewness	2.672
Std. Error of Skewness	.147
Range	3046.00
Minimum	24.00
Maximum	3070.00

The above data is based on sample of 273 active civil matters at the end of the 2021 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 471 days (or roughly 16 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution and the median age were both 389 days. The standard deviation of roughly 524 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the high 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 3070 days old or roughly 8.5 years, while the minimum age was 24 days. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter 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 17.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	51	94.44
Warrant of Possession	3	5.56
Total	54	100.00

It is seen in the above sample of 54 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the majority of which were judgement summonses with 51 or 94.44%, while warrants of possession accounted for the remaining 5.56% of the sample. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2021

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	51	51	1

The above table shows that the sample of 51 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 51 court appearances in the 2021 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 appearance dates.

Portland Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Portland Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	124	45.59
Disposed	112	41.18
Inactive	36	13.24
Total	272	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 272 new civil cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the 2021. At the end of the year, 124 or 45.59% were still active, 112 or 41.18% were disposed and 36 or 13.24% were inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 54.41% for the year, which is 11.01 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2020 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	250	78.13
Small Claim	70	21.88
Total	320	100.00

The above table shows that from the 320 new claims filed in the year, the majority of which 250 or 78.13% were big claims, while 70 or 21.88% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2021

Causes of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	123	44.40
Recovery of Possession	62	22.38
Negligence	16	5.78
Monies Owing	13	4.69
Rent Owing and Continuing	11	3.97
Sub-total	225	81.23

Total sample size of causes of action= 277

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 277 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action filed were breach of contract with 123 or roughly 44.40% of the total sample, recovery of possession with 62 or 22.38%, and negligence with 16 or 5.78%. Monies owing account for 13 or 4.69% and rent owing and continuing with 11 or 3.97 round off the top five causes of action for the year. The top causes of action, which are listed above, account for 81.23% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service in the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	169	55.41
Bailiff	136	44.59
Total	305	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority with 169 or 55.41% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 136 or 44.59%.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	81	31.40
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	58	22.48
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	54	20.93
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #2)	25	9.69
Manchioneal Outstation	25	9.69
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	15	5.81
Total	258*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 220 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 258 new matters filed in the year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 81 or 31.40% of the sample of accommodations. The 58 or 22.48% that were entered in courtroom number 3 followed this, while the 54 matters that entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse rank next. Courtroom number 2 at Buff Bay outstation and the Manchioneal outstation account for 25 or 9.69% each and courtroom number 1 at Buff Bay outstation account for the remaining 5.81% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	148	47.13
Female	141	44.90
Registered Company	23	7.32
Trading As	2	0.64
Total	314	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 314 new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year, males accounted for the largest proportion with 148 or 47.13%, followed by females with 141 or 44.90%, registered companies with 23 or 7.32% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 2 or 0.64% of the total sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	233	73.27
Female	78	24.53
Registered Company	7	2.20
Total	318	100.00

There were 318 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the year. The majority of defendants were male with 233 or 73.27% of the sample, followed by females with 78 or 24.53% of the sample and registered companies with 7 or 2.20%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2021

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

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	158	44.51
Trial	119	33.52
Part-Heard Date	59	16.62
Default Judgment Date	19	5.35
Total	355	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 355 matters that were heard during the year ended December 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The highest proportion, 158 or 44.51% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 119 or 33.52%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for part heard dates with 59 or 16.62% and for default judgment dates with 19 or 5.35% complete the list. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the year at the Portland Parish Court.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	16	5.16
Both Parties Absent	14	4.52
Plaintiff Absent	14	4.52
No Return/Re-Issued	13	4.19
Other	46	14.84
Sub-total	103	33.23

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)= 310

The above data is computed from a sample of 310 reasons for adjournment heard in the 2021 calendar year. Otherwise from the reasons for adjournment pooled under “other”, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 16 or 5.16% account for the highest share of the adjournments, followed by adjournments due to the absence of both parties and the absence of plaintiffs with 14 or 4.52% each of the sample. The list is completed by adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 13 or 4.19% of the sample. The reasons for adjournment listed account for 33.23% of the total sample of reasons for adjournments/continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	32
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 28 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 32 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 28 reissued cases. This result 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 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	65	21.38
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	49	16.12
Settlement	38	12.50
Struck Out	37	12.17
Final Judgment	30	9.87
Sub-total	219	72.04

NB: There were 304 matters disposed of in 2021

A total of 304 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. The distribution is led by disposals by consent with 65 or 21.38% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 49 or 16.12% and disposals by settlement with 38 or 12.50%. Matters disposed by being struck out with 37 or 12.17% and matters disposed by final judgments with 30 or 9.87% complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the year. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 72.04% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
126	30	76.19

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 126 trial dates set in the year, it is seen that 30 was adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 76.19% which suggests that during the year there was roughly an 76% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. The 2021 result is 6.55 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2020.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

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 (%)
272	148	349	128.31	54.41

The above table shows 272 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 112 of these cases were disposed and 36 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 54.41%, an improvement of 11.01 percentage points when compared to the 2021 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 287 cases were disposed, and 62 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have

dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 128.31%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric, and is 12.68 percentage points more than the 2020 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 47.46%, an 8.97 percentage point improvement when compared to the 2020 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate is 121.61%, a 11.04 percentage point improvement when compared to the 2020 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	256
Mean	509.9805
Median	271.5000
Mode	119.00
Std. Deviation	583.5269
	3
Skewness	1.834
Std. Error of Skewness	.152
Range	2877.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	2884.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 256 civil matters disposed in 2021 calendar year at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 510 days (17 months), which is roughly 58 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2020 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 119 days and the median time to disposition was 271.50 days. The standard deviation of roughly 584 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 in the year was 2884 days or roughly 8 years old, while the youngest was 7 days.

Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	35
Mean	205.4571
Median	175.0000
Mode	68.00
Std. Deviation	177.74905
Skewness	1.164
Std. Error of Skewness	.398
Range	661.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	662.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 35 matters at the Portland Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 205 days. The standard deviation is an indication that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that proportionately more of the scores were below the overall average. The oldest time recorded was 662 days and the minimum was 1 days.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	430
Mean	932.1535
Median	788.0000
Mode	1817.00
Std. Deviation	760.16620
Skewness	1.008
Std. Error of Skewness	.118
Range	3932.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	3935.00

The above data is computed using 430 active cases at the end of the 2021 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 932 days (2.6 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 1817 days (5 years). The standard deviation of roughly 760 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample was 3935 days (11 years), while the youngest 3 days.

St. Thomas Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed in the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	193	36.35
Disposed	163	30.70
Inactive	175	32.96
Total	531	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 531 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, 193 cases or 36.35% of these cases were still active, while 163 were disposed and 175 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 63.65%, which is a 1.53 percentage points decline when compared to the 2020 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	394	66.22
Small Claim	201	33.78
Total	595	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 595 new claims filed in the 2021 calendar year, the majority of which 394 or 66.22% were big claims, while 201 or 33.78% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the year ended December 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	215	36.94
Recovery of Possession	76	13.06
Negligence	54	9.28
Money Owing	40	6.87
Defamation of Character	25	4.30
Sub-total	410	70.45

Total sample size of causes of action= 582

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 2021 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 215 or roughly 36.94% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 76 or 13.06% and negligence with 54 or 9.28% of the sample rounds off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. Money owing with 40 or 6.87% and defamation of character with 25 or 4.30% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 70.45% of all the total sample of 582 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	227	74.67
Bailiff	74	24.34
Personal	3	0.99
Total	304	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the

majority with 227 or 74.67% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 74 or 24.34% and personal service with 3 or 0.99% ran next.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (Main courthouse)	241	40.57
Courtroom #1 (Main courthouse)	192	32.32
Yallahs Outstation	161	27.10
Total	594*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 530 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 594 new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 241 or 40.57% of the sample. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 192 or 32.32% and the Yallahs outstation accounted for 161 or 27.10% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2021

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	303	51.88
Female	258	44.18
Registered Company	22	3.77
Trading As	1	0.17
Total	584	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 584 new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 303 or 51.88%, followed by females with 258 or 44.18%. Registered companies accounted for 22 or 3.77% of the sample and Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 0.17% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	401	68.31
Female	178	30.32
Registered Company	5	0.85
Trading As	3	0.51
Total	587	100.00

There were 587 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year.

The majority of defendants were male with 401 or 68.31% of the sample, followed by females with 178 or 30.32% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for 5 or 0.85% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 0.51% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2021

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

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Date for Order	382	50.73
Trial	160	21.25
Mention Date	126	16.73
Default Judgment Date	61	8.10
Part-Heard Date	23	3.05
Hearing of Application	1	0.13
Total	753	100.00

The above table is computed based on a sample of 753 cases adjourned during the 2021 calendar year. The majority, 382 or 50.73% were adjourned for an order to be handed down, followed by 160 or 21.25% which were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 126 or 16.73% of matters, which were adjourned for mention dates. Matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 61 or 8.10% of the sample rank next.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Attorney Absent	91	23.58
Placed on Trial List	66	17.10
Defendant Absent	58	15.03
Both Parties Absent	28	7.25
Plaintiff Absent	26	6.74
Sub-total	269	69.69

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 386

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 386 incidences of adjournments in the 2021 calendar year. Adjournments due to the absence of attorneys with 91 or 23.58% of the sample, adjournments due to placement on the trial list and the absence of defendants with 66 or 17.10% and 58 or 15.03% respectively of the adjournments rounds off the top three. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 7.25% and the absence of plaintiffs with 26 or 6.74% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 69.69% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	105
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 89 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 105 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 89 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	103	25.37
Consent	84	20.69
Oral Admission	65	16.01
Settlement	45	11.08
Default Judgment	40	9.85
Sub-total	337	83.00

NB: there were 406 matters were disposed of in 2021

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 406 matters. The list is led by matters struck out with 103 or 25.37% of the sample. Matters disposed by consent and matters disposed by oral admissions with 84 or 20.69% and 65 or 16.01% respectively rank next. Settlements with 45 or 11.08% and matters disposed by default judgment with 40 or 9.85% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 83% of the sample.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	109	90.83
Settlement	11	9.17
Total	120	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2021 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 109 or 90.83% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample. Settlements account for the remaining 9.17% 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 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
115	42	63.48

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 115 trial dates were set in the year shows that 42 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 63.48%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 63% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

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 (%)
531	338	600	112.99	63.65

The above table shows 531 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 163 cases were disposed and 175 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 63.65%, a decrease of 1.53 percentage points when compared to the 2020 calendar year. A gross figure of 379 cases were disposed, and 221 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 112.99%, which satisfies the international standard for this metric and represents an increase of 6.61 percentage points when compared to the 2020 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 45.79%, a 1.42 percentage points decline when compared to the 2020 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 106.46%, a 4.41 percentage points increase when compared to the 2020 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	292
Mean	334.8870
Median	231.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	305.67129
Skewness	1.758
Std. Error of Skewness	.143
Range	2128.00
Minimum	15.00
Maximum	2143.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 292 civil matters disposed in the 2021 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 335 days or 11.2 months, which is roughly 15 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2020 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. There is a standard deviation of roughly 306 days is an indication that there is some 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 2143 days or roughly 6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 15 days.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	69
Mean	316.9130
Median	224.0000
Mode	77.00
Std. Deviation	277.49630
Skewness	1.207
Std. Error of Skewness	.289
Range	1246.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	1260.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 69 matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 317 days. The moderate standard deviation is an indication that there was some variation in the distribution of the scores and the small positive skewness suggests that most of the scores were clustered around the overall average. The oldest time was 1260 days, and the minimum was 14 days.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	384
Mean	821.8151
Median	451.5000
Mode	2460.00
Std. Deviation	835.57910
Skewness	1.086
Std. Error of Skewness	.125
Range	2445.00
Minimum	15.00
Maximum	2460.00

The above data is based on sample of 384 active civil matters at the end of the 2021 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 822 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 2460 days or 6.8 years. The high standard deviation of roughly 836 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 2460 days or 6.8 years, while the youngest case was 15 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	75
Mean	435.6267
Median	332.0000
Mode	332.00
Std. Deviation	364.83794
Skewness	1.316
Std. Error of Skewness	.277
Range	1526.00
Minimum	24.00
Maximum	1550.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 75 active reissued matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 30, 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 436 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age were both 332 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some amount of variation among the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that proportionately more of the ages were below the overall series average. The highest age in the data set was 1550 days and the lowest was 24 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.

St. Elizabeth Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

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

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	712	58.75
Disposed	479	39.52
Inactive	21	1.73
Total	1212	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 1212 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, 712 cases or 58.75% of these cases were still active, while 479 were disposed and 21 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 41.25%, which is a 5.05 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2020 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	851	62.16
Small Claim	518	37.84
Total	1369	100.00

The above table shows that from 1369 new claims filed in the year, the majority were big claims, which accounted for 851, or 62.16% of the sample, while 518 or 37.84% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2021

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Goods Sold and Delivered	173	21.95
Monies Owing	167	21.19
Recovery of Possession	92	11.68
Breach of Contract	53	6.73
Rent Owing and Recovery of Possession	47	5.96
Sub-total	532	67.51

Total sample size of causes of action= 788

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 788 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading cause of action filed in the 2021 calendar year at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court were goods sold and delivered with 173 or roughly 21.95% of the sample. Monies owing with 167 or 21.19% and recovery of possession with 92 or 11.68% of the sample rounds off the top causes of action in this representative sample. The top five causes of action are rounded off by breach of contract with 53 or 6.73% of the sample and rent owing and recovery of possession with 47 or 5.96%. The top five causes of action, which is listed above, accounts for 67.51% of all the total sample of 788 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	148	77.49
Bailiff	34	17.80
Personal	9	4.71
Total	191	100.00

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 with 148 or 77.49% of the sample, service by the bailiff accounted for 34 or 17.80% and personal service accounted for 9 or 4.71% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2021

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom #1)	897	65.52
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	306	22.35
Balaclava Outstation (courtroom #1)	113	8.25
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom #2)	53	3.87
Total	1369*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 1212 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1369 new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation, which accounted for 897 or 65.52% of the sample. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 306 or 22.35% while the Balaclava outstation (courtroom #1) accounted for 113 or 8.25% of the total sample. The Santa Cruz outstation (courtroom #2) with 53 or 3.87% of the sample rounds off the list.

Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Order for Personal Service	1345	99.70
Application for Court Order	3	0.22
Application for Substituted Service	1	0.07
Total	1349	100.00

A sample of 1349 applications filed during the 2021 calendar year revealed that applications for order for personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 1345 or 99.70% of the applications filed in the year, while 3 or 0.22% were applications for court order and 0.07 was application for substituted service.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2021

Table 7.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	668	48.87
Female	627	45.87
Registered Company	63	4.61
Trading As	9	0.66
Total	1367	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1367 new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 668 or 48.87% of the sample, followed by females with 627 or 45.87%. Registered companies accounted for 63 or 4.61% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“Trading as”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 9 or 0.66% of the sample.

Table 8.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2021

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	875	64.20
Female	462	33.90
Trading As	15	1.10
Registered Company	11	0.81
Total	1363	100.00

There were 1363 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2021 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 875 or 64.20% of the sample, followed by females with 462 or 33.90%. Individuals trading as businesses (“Trading as”) accounted for 1.10% of the sample and registered companies account for the remaining 0.81% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2021

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

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	233	43.07
Trial	209	38.63
Part-Heard Date	49	9.06
Default Judgment Date	44	8.13
Hearing of Application	5	0.92
Final Judgment Date	1	0.18

Total	541	100.00
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The above table shows a sample of 541 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2021, which were adjourned for a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 233 or 43.07% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 209 or 38.63%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 49 or 9.06% of matters, which were adjourned for a part heard date, 44 or 8.13% which were adjourned for a default judgment date, 0.92% which were adjourned for the hearing of an application date and 0.18% which were adjourned for a final judgment date.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	151	27.91
Defendant Absent	82	15.16
Both Parties Absent	37	6.84
Plaintiff Absent	36	6.65
Amendment of Particulars of Claim	19	3.51
Sub-total	325	60.07

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 541

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 541 incidences of adjournments heard in the 2021 calendar year. Adjournments due to placement on trial list with 151 or 27.91% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 82 or 15.16% and adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 37 or 6.84% rounds off the top three incidences in the

sample. The list is completed by the absence of plaintiffs with 36 or 6.65% of the sample and amendment of particulars of claim with 19 or 3.51%.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	254
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 231 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 254 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 231 reissued cases. This result 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 12.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	202	19.27
Oral Admission	159	15.17
Default Judgment	129	12.31
Settlement	121	11.55
Final Judgment	109	10.40
Sub-total	720	68.70

NB: there were 1048 matters were disposed of in 2021

A total of 1048 civil matters were disposed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year and the above table details the methods of disposal. The list is led by matters struck out with 202 or 19.27% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by oral admissions with 159 or 15.17% and by default judgements with 129 or 12.31%. Settlements with 121 and 11.55% and by final judgments with 109 or 10.40% round off the top five methods with of the total

sample of dispositions. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 68.70% of the total sample.

Table 13: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2021

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	250	78.13
Settlement	58	18.13
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	12	3.75
Total	320	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of 320 case outcomes in the 2021 calendar year at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 250 or 78.13% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 58 or 18.13%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for 12 or 3.75% 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 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2021

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
323	138	57.28

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 323

trial dates was set in the year, of which 138 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 57.28%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 57% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 10.33 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year.

Table 15.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

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 net case disposal rate (%)
1212	500	906	74.75	41.25

The above table shows 1212 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the 2021 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 479 of these cases were disposed and 21 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 41.25%, an increase of 5.05 percentage points when compared to the 2020 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 877 cases was disposed, and 29 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 74.75%, which is below the international standard on this metric, but is a 13.87 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2020 calendar year.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the year is 40.22%, which is roughly 6.10 percentage points above the recorded 2020 rate. The estimated net case clearance rate is 73.64%, which is

roughly 16.22 percentage points above the recorded 2020 rate. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	683
Mean	270.9165
Median	138.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	352.08289
Skewness	3.299
Std. Error of Skewness	.094
Range	2592.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	2597.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 683 civil matters disposed in the 2021 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 271 days or 9 months, which is roughly 103 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2020 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. There is a standard deviation of roughly 352 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 2597 days or roughly 7.2 years old, while the minimum time taken was 5 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	177
Mean	180.2203
Median	140.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	166.93413
Skewness	1.643
Std. Error of Skewness	.183
Range	1036.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	1043.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 177 matters at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 180 days. The moderate standard deviation is an indication that there was some 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 1043 days and the minimum was 7 days.

Table 17.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1727
Mean	491.9427
Median	423.0000
Mode	113.00
Std. Deviation	367.95024
Skewness	1.455
Std. Error of Skewness	.059
Range	2820.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	2838.00

The above data is based on sample of 1727 active civil matters at the end of the 2021 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 492 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 113 days. The standard deviation of roughly 368 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores, 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 was 2838 days old or roughly 7.9 years, while the minimum time taken is 18 days.

Table 17.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	140
Mean	366.5643
Median	477.0000
Mode	542.00
Std. Deviation	217.26678
Skewness	-.467
Std. Error of Skewness	.205
Range	765.00
Minimum	22.00
Maximum	787.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 140 active reissued matters at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 367 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 542 and the median age was 477 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some amount of dispersion in the individual scores, with the modest negative skewness indicating some cluster of the scores around the average. The highest age in the data set was 787 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 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter 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 18.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2021

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	62	93.94
Warrant of Commitment	3	4.55
Warrant of Possession	1	1.52
Total	66	100.00

It is seen in the above sample of 66 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the majority of which were judgement summonses with 62 or 93.94%, while warrants of commitment with 3 or 4.55% and warrant of possession with 1 or 1.52% followed. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 19.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2021

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	62	65	1.04

The above table shows that the sample of 62 Judgment summonses filed which equated to 65 court appearances in the 2021 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.04 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were approximately 10 appearances dates.

Performance Summaries-Other Parish Courts

Table 1.0: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the St. James and Clarendon Parish Courts for the 2021 calendar year

Parish Court	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Net Case Clearance Rate (%)	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Net Case Disposal Rate (%)	Trial Date certainty Rate (%)
Clarendon PC	85.89	43.80	41.52	19.68	66.61
St. James PC	-	84.53	-	-	-

The summary of key performance metrics for the parish courts of Clarendon and St. James shows that the civil division of the Clarendon Parish Court recorded an estimated gross case clearance rate of 85.89% in the 2021 calendar year. This court also registered an estimated net clearance rate of 43.80% in the year and gross and net case disposal rates of 41.52% and 19.68% respectively. The Clarendon Parish Court also recorded a trial date certainty rate of 66.61% for the 2021 calendar year. The estimated case net clearance rate for the St. James Parish Court in the year was 84.53%.

Aggregate data summaries – all Parish Courts

Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2021

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)
17944	18142	101.10

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the 2021 calendar year. It shows that a total of 17944 new cases were filed over the year, while 18142 became inactive or were disposed, leading to an estimated gross clearance

rate of 101.10%. This is a 5.76 percentage points improvement when compared to the corresponding period in 2020.

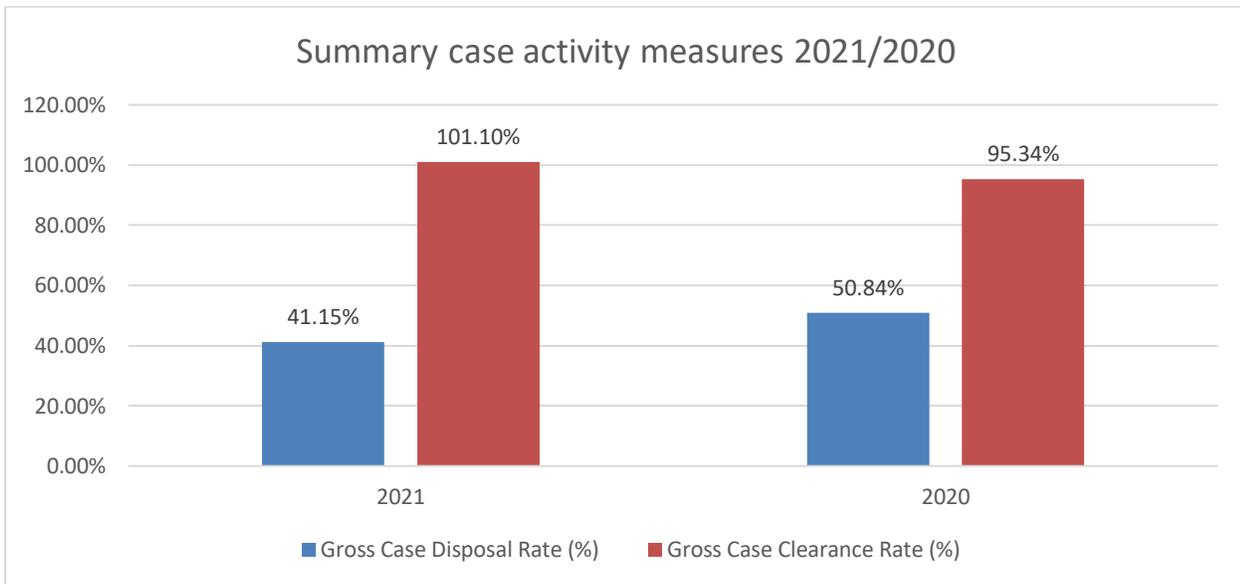
Table 2.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for 2020 and 2021

Parish Court	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) 2021	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) 2020	Change in the Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) 2021	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) 2020	Change in the Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)
St. Thomas	63.65	65.18	-1.53	112.99	106.38	6.61
Corporate Area- Civil	27.79	80.42	-52.63	107.71	165.25	-57.54
St. Elizabeth	41.25	36.20	5.05	74.75	60.88	13.87
Hanover	84.85	88.65	-3.80	136.03	113.98	22.05
Manchester	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portland	54.41	43.40	11.01	128.31	115.63	12.68
St. Ann	52.57	42.86	9.71	120.82	68.29	52.53
St. Catherine	45.67	58.29	-12.62	93.47	95.45	-1.98
St. Mary	75.21	64.98	10.23	106.84	100.92	5.92
Trelawny	57.65	58.57	-0.92	89.15	84.55	4.60
St. James	-	-	-	-	53.27	-53.27
Clarendon	41.52	33.79	7.73	85.89	88.16	-2.27
Westmoreland	76.23	76.71	-0.48	115.28	90.68	24.60
Average /Weighted Average	41.15	50.84	-9.69	101.10	95.34	5.76
Standard Deviation	17.36	18.40	-	18.91	29.66	-
Skewness	0.14	0.12	-	-0.14	0.93	-

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate and the case clearance rate and for the 2021 and 2020 calendar years. The weighted average gross case disposal rate for the 2021

calendar year was 41.15%, which was a 9.69 percentage points decline when compared to the 2020 weighted average rate of 50.84%. The gross case clearance rate of 101.10% for the 2021 calendar year was 5.76 percentage points above the 95.34% recorded in the 2020 calendar year.

Chart 1.0: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for 2020 and 2021



The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal and case clearance for 2021 and 2020. It is seen that there has been a decline in the gross disposal rate and an improvement in the gross case clearance rate over the comparative period. The case clearance rate moved from 95.34% in the 2020 calendar year to 101.10% in the 2021 calendar year. The disposal rate moved from 50.84% in the 2020 calendar year to 41.15% in the current 2021 calendar year, a decrease of 9.69 percentage points.

Chart 2.0a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for 2020 and 2021

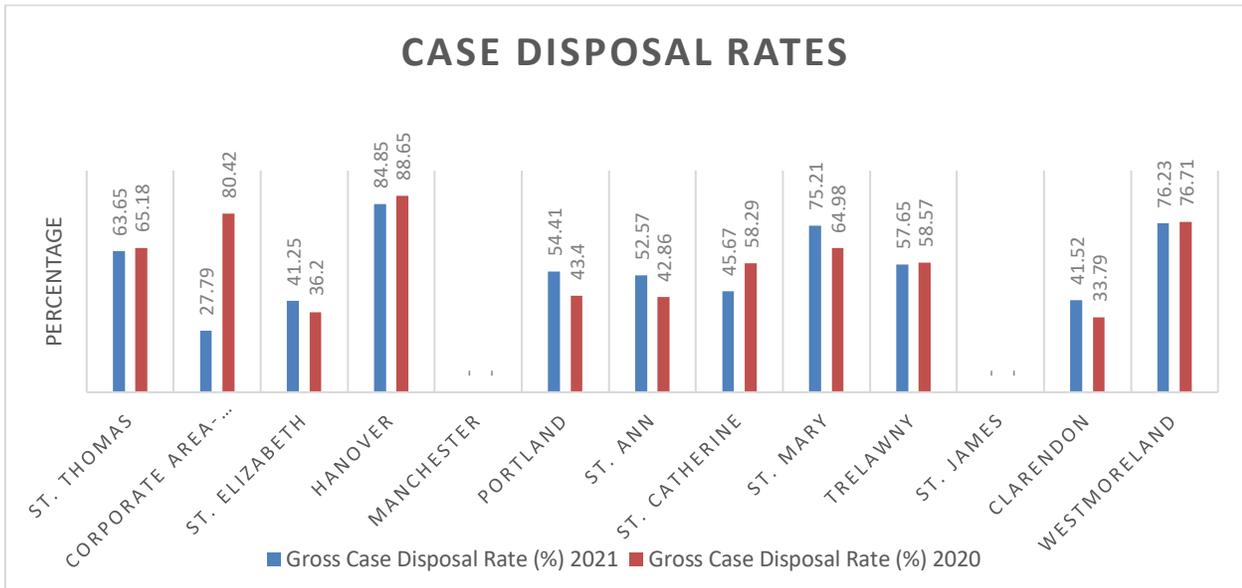


Chart 2.0b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for 2020 and 2021

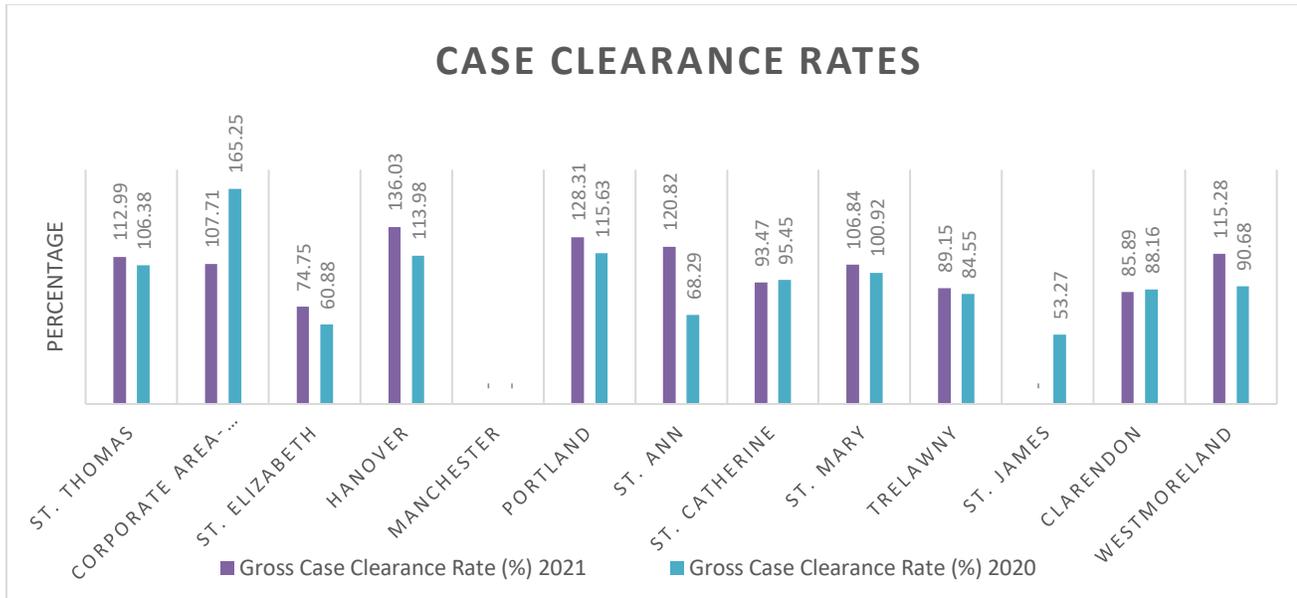


Table 3: Sampling distribution of claims filed during the year ended December 31, 2021

Parish Court	Big Claims	Small Claims	POCA	Miscellaneous	Total
Corporate area	4140	1124	8	-	5272
Hanover	248	68	3	-	319
Manchester	1384	213	-	-	1597
Portland	250	70	-	-	320
St. Ann	1572	451	3	-	2026
St. Catherine	3207	422	3	-	3632
St. Elizabeth	851	518	-	-	1369
St. Mary	650	217	-	-	867
St. Thomas	394	201	-	-	595
Trelawny	542	185	2	-	729
Westmoreland	700	129	2	-	831
St. James	1147	549	4	-	1700
Clarendon	710	169	-	-	879
Total	15795	4316	25	0	20136

The above table provides an overall summary of the claims files across the parish courts in the 2021 calendar year. The sample of 20136 new claims filed in the 2021 calendar year reveals that 15795 or 78.44% were big claims, while 21.43% were small claims and 0.12% were POCA matters. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division, the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. Ann Parish Court accounts for the largest share of new complaints filed in the year. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division, the St. Catherine and St. Ann Parish Courts account for the largest share of big claims filed in the year, while the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division, the St. James

Parish Court and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court accounts for the largest shares of small claims filed.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 in the civil division of the parish courts in the 2021 calendar year

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	297	69,533	43
St. Catherine	2971	516,218	58
Westmoreland	648	144,103	45
St. Mary	702	113,615	62
Clarendon	879	245,103	36
Portland	272	81,744	33
St. Elizabeth	1212	150,205	81
Corporate Area Civil	4978	662,426	75
St. Thomas	531	93,902	57
St. James	1700	183,811	92
St. Ann	1710	172,362	99
Trelawny	673	75,164	90
Manchester	1371	189,797	72
Total	17944	2697983	67

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 2021 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 the civil adjudication in the various parishes. It is seen that the parish of St. Ann, which is among the parishes with the largest caseload and a mid-range population size, registered the largest number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the 2021 calendar year. St. James, which is mid-range in population size, but among the courts with the larger caseloads, 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 was the parish with the smallest yearly caseload. Hanover had the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population for the year.

Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2021

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Count	Percentage (%)
No return/Re-Issued	1591	16.92
Defendant Absent	1473	15.66
Placed on Trial List	1421	15.11
Both Parties Absent	930	9.89
Plaintiff Absent	283	3.01
Pending Settlement	257	2.73
New Date	229	2.44
Parties in Discussion	221	2.35
Attorney Absent	194	2.06
Referred for other Mediation	120	1.28
Sub-total	6719	71.45

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = (9,404)

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 9,404 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the 2021 calendar year across all of the parish courts (civil division). The largest proportion (16.92%) was for no return/ for re-issue. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 15.66% and adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 15.11% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 9.89% and adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 3.01%, round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the year. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 71.45% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 6.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the year ended December 31, 2021

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	3902 (33.4%)	2228 (19.1%)	1224 (10.5%)	937 (8.0%)	1117 (9.6%)	664 (5.7%)	1597 (13.7%)	11669 (100%)
St. Catherine	1419 (31.1%)	989 (21.7%)	570 (12.5%)	388 (8.5%)	428 (9.4%)	219 (4.8%)	548 (12.0%)	4561 (100%)
Manchester	115 (32.1%)	106 (29.6%)	40 (11.2%)	51 (14.2%)	27 (7.5%)	11 (3.1%)	8 (2.2%)	358 (100%)
Westmoreland	420 (57.6%)	143 (19.6%)	59 (8.1%)	45 (6.2%)	45 (6.2%)	12 (1.6%)	5 (0.7%)	729 (100%)
St. Ann	871 (33.3%)	583 (22.3%)	308 (11.8%)	189 (7.2%)	243 (9.3%)	118 (4.5%)	305 (11.7%)	2617 (100%)
St. Thomas	452 (35.4%)	309 (24.2%)	155 (12.1%)	95 (7.4%)	98 (7.7%)	63 (4.9%)	106 (8.3%)	1278 (100%)
Portland	249 (26.9%)	154 (16.7%)	89 (9.6%)	72 (7.8%)	90 (9.7%)	69 (7.5%)	201 (21.8%)	924 (100%)
St. Mary	936 (50.9%)	342 (18.6%)	147 (8.0%)	82 (4.5%)	125 (6.8%)	51 (2.8%)	156 (8.5%)	1839 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	901 (47.6%)	474 (25.0%)	192 (10.1%)	113 (6.0%)	102 (5.4%)	54 (2.9%)	57 (3.0%)	1893 (100%)
Trelawny	633 (59.2%)	196 (18.3%)	80 (7.5%)	44 (4.1%)	58 (5.4%)	23 (2.1%)	36 (3.4%)	1070 (100%)
Hanover	421 (55.0%)	131 (17.1%)	66 (8.6%)	37 (4.8%)	38 (5.0%)	24 (3.1%)	49 (6.4%)	766 (100%)
% of Total	37.25	20.41	10.58	7.41	8.56	4.72	11.07	-
Average	938.09	514.09	266.36	186.64	215.55	118.91	278.91	2518.55
Standard Deviation	1050.69	626.33	352.67	268.83	320.96	190.49	465.95	3254.03
Skewness	2.62	2.42	2.40	2.61	2.64	2.79	2.69	2.64

Number of charges sampled (N) = 27,704

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 48 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, 2021. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 48-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 37.25% of the

disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Mary and St. Elizabeth are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively 75.65% 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 Corporate Area Parish Court, St. Catherine and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 11.07% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts-civil division of the Corporate Area Parish Court, St. Catherine, and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are all relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

Table 6.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil	333.01	27	165	423.12	2.58	1	4254	11669
St. Catherine	329.11	28	163	437.70	2.64	1	3236	4561
Manchester	194.17	28	150.50	178.72	1.84	2	1064	358
Westmoreland	128.66	28	70	150.69	2.22	1	964	729
St. Ann	339.03	28	154	524.30	3.65	1	5929	2617
St. Thomas	251.34	28	133	312.66	2.64	1	2365	1278
Portland	483.05	28	245	631.67	2.66	3	4515	924
St. Mary	232.69	28	84	387.97	3.35	1	3220	1839
St. Elizabeth	169.98	28	91	244.67	4.59	1	2597	1893
Trelawny	149.83	28	66	226.16	3.78	1	2230	1070
Hanover	214.75	28	70	464.94	6.28	1	4671	766
Total/Weighted Average	298.86	27.91	126.50	362.05	3.29	1.27	3185.91	2518.55
Standard Deviation	105.21	0.30	55.98	152.54	1.26	0.65	1549.67	3254.03
Skewness	0.90	-3.32	0.77	0.20	1.42	2.42	0.17	2.64

Number of charges sampled (N) = 27,704

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 48 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, 2021. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 48-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 299 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a moderate positive figure, suggesting that these times were generally clustered around the overall mean. For matters disposed in the period, the parish

courts of Westmoreland (129 days), Trelawny (150 days) and St. Elizabeth (170 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of Portland (483 days), St. Ann (339 days) and Corporate Area Civil (333 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 showed to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 105.21. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1.27 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 964 days (32.1 months/2.7 years) in the Westmoreland Parish Court, to a high of 5929 days (198 months/16.5 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a low positive value, which is an indication that a larger proportion 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 27,704 matters.

Table 6.0c: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed during the year ended December 31, 2021

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil Division	399.47	76	215	463.48	2.52	5	4254	1699
St. Catherine	446.80	56	261	499.78	2.00	2	3236	1561
Manchester	188.60	154	147	168.12	1.87	2	1064	253
Westmoreland	171.19	364	105	171.78	1.75	3	964	434
St. Ann	543.10	91	300	682.96	2.92	2	5929	959
St. Thomas	334.89	63	231	305.67	1.76	15	2143	292
Portland	509.98	119	271.50	583.53	1.83	7	2884	256
St. Mary	178.77	21	91	284.61	4.47	2	3033	552
St. Elizabeth	270.92	28	138	352.08	3.30	5	2597	683
Trelawny	235.03	56	118	328.82	2.87	7	2230	315
Hanover	325.25	28	113	682.46	4.82	7	4671	237
Total/Weighted Average	370.42	96.00	180.95	411.21	2.74	5.18	3000.45	658.27
Standard Deviation	132.99	97.62	76.08	184.81	1.09	3.89	1496.57	529.74
Skewness	0.38	2.40	0.35	0.27	1.02	1.71	0.54	1.30

Number of charges sampled (N) = 7,241

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the year ended December 31, 2021. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 370 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a low positive 0.38, suggesting that these times were generally clustered around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (171 days), St. Mary (179 days) and Manchester (189 days)

took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Ann (543 days), Portland (510 days) and St. Catherine (447 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 showed to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 132.99. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 5.18 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 964 days (32.1 months/2.7 years) in the Westmoreland Parish Court, to a high of 5929 days (198 months/16.5 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 0.54, which is an indication that more 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 7241 matters.

Table 6.0d: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2021

Parish Court	Struck Out	Consent	Settlement	Default Judgment	Oral Admission	Withdrawal	Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	Other	Total
St. Catherine	870	580	349	300	78	146	114	203	2640
Corporate Area Civil	549	473	203	279	120	171	175	459	2419
Westmoreland	110	120	84	51	132	100	21	79	697
Manchester	786	131	97	102	121	63	84	161	1545
St. Elizabeth	202	105	121	129	159	18	95	219	1048
Trelawny	165	80	45	75	83	31	13	40	532
Hanover	46	58	28	52	67	22	-	48	321
Portland	37	65	38	23	16	21	49	55	304
St. Mary	308	117	40	42	8	37	14	250	816
St. Thomas	103	84	45	40	65	24	9	36	406
St. Ann	392	258	292	151	174	126	65	100	1558
Total	3568	2071	1342	1244	1023	759	639	1650	12286
Percentage of total	29.04	16.86	10.92	10.13	8.33	6.18	5.20	13.43	100

Number of charges sampled (N): 12,286

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts-civil division for the 2021 calendar year. From the sample, it is observed that the largest proportion of matters disposed of during the year were by being struck out with 29.04% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by consent with 16.86% and dispositions grouped under the category, “other methods” with 13.43% and by settlements with 10.92% of the sample. Matters disposed by default judgments with 10.13% and oral admissions with 8.33% rank next. Matters disposed by withdrawals with 6.18% and by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 5.20% account for the remaining disposals in the year.

Table 7.0: Net and gross case backlog as at the year ended December 31, 2021

Parish Court	Net case backlog rate (%)	Gross case backlog rate (%)
Clarendon	1.07	9.58
Corporate area	1.57	16.30
Hanover	0.13	3.08
Manchester	2.51	17.29
Portland	1.68	8.86
St. Ann	2.87	20.78
St. Catherine	0.38	9.75
St. Elizabeth	0.69	7.11
St. James	1.41	10.39
St. Mary	0.13	9.46
St. Thomas	2.71	8.38
Trelawny	2.70	11.48
Westmoreland	0.11	7.20
Weighted Average	1.34	11.94
Standard Deviation	1.06	4.77

Note: These backlog rates relate only to cases filed since January 2017 and are therefore proxies.

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 are quite outstanding as using a 5 years' time series, the net case backlog rate (weighted average) in the parish courts is 1.34% (with a standard deviation of 1.06%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at a commendable 11.94% (with a standard deviation of 4.77%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is only 1.94 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10%, but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the courts. Although the time series used for this computation is only 5 years' worth of cases, the sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Westmoreland with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.11%, Hanover and St. Mary each with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.13% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (2.87%), St. Thomas (2.71%) and Trelawny (2.70%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (3.08%), St. Elizabeth (7.11%) and Westmoreland (7.20%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (20.78%), Manchester (17.29%) and Corporate Area Court (16.30%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

Trial court activity summary for the year ended December 31, 2021

Table 1.0a: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the year ended December 31, 2021

Parish Court	Average time between filing and first court appearance	Average time between first court appearance and trial	Average time between trial and disposition
Corporate Area-Civil Division	71.78	414.53	549.16
Hanover	36.17	179.35	374.43
Manchester	61.57	143.27	368.31
Portland	60.88	646.68	182.82
St. Ann	74.45	509.46	817.30
St. Catherine	102.30	430.98	290.24
St. Elizabeth	61.64	217.85	247.11
St. Mary	89.91	278.50	185.13
St. Thomas	44.83	423.64	445.97
Trelawny	56.99	270.19	444.43
Westmoreland	32.89	107.56	135.06
Weighted Average	74.87	386.63	411.84
Standard Deviation	21.16	168.66	197.31

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 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 just over 2 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 roughly 12.9 months or 387 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is even higher at roughly 13.7 months or 412 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face long 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 1.0b: Trial court activity summary during the year ended December 31, 2021

Parish Court	Number of cases heard	Number of cases with a trial date set	Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set	Number of cases for which only 1 trial date was set	Percentage of cases set for trial which only had 1 trial date (i.e. Only 1 trial date adjournment)
Hanover	476	82	17.23	48	58.54
Corporate Area	7801	866	11.10	656	75.75
Manchester	2635	22	0.83	12	54.55
Portland	630	135	21.43	99	73.33
St. Ann	3399	373	10.97	231	61.93
St. Catherine	5269	942	17.88	657	69.75
St. Elizabeth	1871	437	23.36	217	49.66
St. Mary	987	126	12.77	72	57.14
St. Thomas	912	249	27.30	103	41.37
Trelawny	975	103	10.56	85	82.52
Westmoreland	965	96	9.95	92	95.83
Total/Weighted Average	25920	3431	13.24	2272	66.22

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the 2021 calendar year in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 25920 civil cases heard across

the parish courts in the 2021 calendar year, 3431 or 13.24% proceeded to trial, 66.22% of which proceeded on the first trial date set. The parish courts of Manchester (0.83%), Westmoreland (9.95%) and Trelawny (10.56%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of St. Thomas (27.30%), St. Elizabeth (23.36%) and Portland (21.43%) had the highest proportion.

Table 1.0c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the year ended December 31, 2021

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	358	17.15
Consent	279	13.37
Transferred	250	11.98
Settlement	225	10.78
Final Judgment	216	10.35
Default Judgment	175	8.39
Trial	173	8.29
Withdrawal	139	6.66
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	90	4.31
Other	61	2.92
Non-Suited	57	2.73
Oral Admission	40	1.92
Dismissal	8	0.38
Order	8	0.38
Application For Plaintiff Granted	4	0.19
Application For Plaintiff Denied	2	0.10
Mediation	2	0.10
Total	2087	100.00

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters struck out with 17.15% of the cases disposed, matters disposed by consent with 279 or 13.37% and matters transferred with 250 or 11.98% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample.

Table 1.0d: Summary of case appearance frequency for the year ended December 31, 2021

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
Corporate Area-Civil Division	2.91	3.68	3.46	38	1
Hanover	5.63	8.03	2.81	40	1
Manchester	1.81	1.29	3.98	18	1
Portland	5.32	4.06	1.02	21	1
St. Ann	4.25	5.45	3.24	40	1
St. Catherine	2.41	1.91	1.96	16	1
St. Elizabeth	3.52	3.21	2.14	24	1
St. Mary	3.62	3.84	2.53	28	1
St. Thomas	5.78	6.66	1.73	30	1
Trelawny	5.48	5.74	2.07	29	1
Westmoreland	2.80	2.79	2.07	22	1
Total/Weighted Average	3.24	-	-	-	-
Standard Deviation	1.42	-	-	-	-
Skewness	0.02	-	-	-	-

The above table summarizes the number of appearances per case heard in the 2021 calendar year, which have at least one mention court appearance. The overall average number of appearances per 10 cases mentioned is 32, or roughly 3 appearances per case with a standard deviation of 1.42 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 0.02. Together, these results suggest that the average number of court appearances per case is within the prescribed international standard, that a slightly larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of appearances and that there isn't on average a wide variation in the number of appearances per case across the courts. Among the parish courts with the highest number of appearances per cases for matters heard in the 2021 calendar year are the St. Thomas (5.78), Hanover (5.63) and Trelawny (5.48) Parish Courts, while Manchester (1.81), St. Catherine (2.41) and Westmoreland (2.80) were among the courts with the lowest mean case appearance incidence.

Table 1.0e: Summary of the average court appearance frequency for cases disposed in year ended December 31, 2021

Parish Court	Average number of appearances per case	Standard Deviation
Corporate Area-Civil Division	4.40	4.45
Hanover	4.66	6.90
Manchester	1.61	1.12
Portland	4.49	3.48
St. Ann	4.44	5.34
St. Catherine	2.12	1.79
St. Elizabeth	3.01	2.69
St. Mary	3.45	3.62
St. Thomas	3.71	3.84
Trelawny	4.71	5.92
Westmoreland	2.90	2.72
Weighted Average	3.40	-

The above summary specifically addresses the number of appearances per case for matters disposed in the 2021 calendar year. The overall average observed is roughly 34 appearances 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 Manchester, St. Catherine and Westmoreland Parish Courts were among those with the lowest incidence of appearance per disposed case in the year, while the parish courts of Trelawny, Hanover and Portland were among the locations with the highest incidence.

Table 8.0: Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in 2021

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 (%)	Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
St. Thomas	531	338	600	63.65	112.99	63.48	11.16
Corporate Area-Civil	4978	1071	5362	27.79	107.71	97.33	13.32
St. Elizabeth	1212	500	906	41.25	74.75	57.28	9.03
Hanover	297	252	404	84.85	136.03	82.54	10.84
Manchester	1371	581	1389	-	-	-	6.29
Portland	272	148	349	54.41	128.31	76.19	17.00
St. Ann	1710	899	2066	52.57	120.82	97.84	18.10
St. Catherine	2971	1357	2777	45.67	93.47	73.83	14.89
St. Mary	702	528	750	75.21	106.84	58.18	5.96
Trelawny	673	388	600	57.65	89.15	96.36	7.83
St. James	1700	-	1437	-	-	-	-
Clarendon	879	365	755	41.52	85.89	66.61	-
Westmoreland	648	494	747	76.23	115.28	98.72	5.71
Total/Weighted Average	17944	6921	18142	41.15	101.10	75.63	12.35
Skewness	2.03	1.17	2.29	0.14	-0.14	0.03	0.38
Standard Deviation	1309.71	356.60	1382.15	17.36	18.91	16.52	4.43

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

Conclusion

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts continued to make enormous strides in 2021, reinforcing several of the strong output produced in 2020 and rivalling the overall performance of the Criminal Division of the Parish Courts. There are several significant highlights from this annual report, among which is the attainment of a gross case clearance rate of 101.10% which represents an improvement of 5.76 percentage points when compared to the previous year. The Parish Courts of Hanover and Portland reinforced their status among the very best performing courts in the country over the past two years, leading the way on this vital metric. The Civil Division of the Parish Courts also recorded an overall trial date certainty rate of 75.63%, a decline of 5.53 percentage points when compared to 2020 but still a resilient result. Overall, these courts took an average of a year to dispose of the matters which were disposed during the year, slightly higher than that of the previous year. One of the most instructive findings emerging from the report is that only 1.06% of all active cases filed in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts over the past five years are in state of backlog (net backlog rate) and only 4.77% of active and inactive cases combined (gross backlog) fall into this classification. These are tremendous results which suggest that the parish courts as a whole are performing quite creditably and are broadly on course to realize some of the key quantitative targets set out by the Chief Justice as part of the judiciary's strategic plan, among these are the attainment of an overall net case backlog rate of under 5% within the next two years, a case clearance rate of roughly 130% and a trial date certainty rate of 95% or higher over the same period. There continues to be some challenges particularly with the relatively high incidence of avoidable adjournments and reissued matters in

many courts but these can be curbed through more aggressive and efficient case management which are essential facets of the judiciary's strategic plan for the next few years.

Glossary of Terms

Sampling Distribution: A sampling distribution of a given population is the distribution of frequencies of a range of outcomes that could possibly occur for a statistic of a population. A population is the entire pool from which a statistical sample is drawn.

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%. A distinction is sometimes made between the gross and net case clearance rates. The simple difference is that the net rate completely excludes inactive cases from its computation while the gross rate does not.

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.¹

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%. A distinction is sometimes made between the gross and net case disposal rates. The simple difference is that the net rate completely excludes inactive cases from its computation while the gross rate does not.

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

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 the case file 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 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 roughly 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.

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. 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.

Source:

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

ⁱ *Source:*

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

