

Parish Courts of Jamaica  
The Chief Justice's Third Quarter Statistics  
Report for 2023  
(Civil Division)

	JULY TO SEPTEMBER		
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	114.30	115.69	97.51
Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	97.00	91.91	90.36
Average time to disposition	12.79 months	15.90 months	11.50 months

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## **Executive Summary**

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts has now been firmly established as one of the most productive entities in the Jamaican judiciary with consistently high case clearance rates and low net case backlog rates. As of the end of the third quarter of 2023, the overall net case backlog rate in the parish courts was 2.24% while a case clearance rate of 114.30% was achieved. Together these rates show decisive signs of an efficiently operated division. As with the previous quarter, three parish courts registered net case clearance rates of 1.43% or less, namely the parish courts of Clarendon, St. Thomas, Corporate Court – Civil Division. Eight parish courts recorded case clearance rates of over 100% during the quarter, with the overall declining slightly by 1.39 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2022. The civil division of the parish courts continue to be challenged with its gross case backlog rate which is still currently well over the maximum targeted value of 10%, largely on account of a relatively high incidence of matters adjourned reissued on application without a future date. Another positive outcome from this report is that the overall trial date certainty rate was over 90%, which is now parallel with the output from the criminal division of the parish courts and is an indication of commendable incremental progress over the past few years. See below aggregate case activity summary:

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**Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Disposal rate (%)	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
3959	1156	4525	30.53	114.30	97.00	12.79

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

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With almost seven years of extensive data on criminal case activity on the parish courts of Jamaica, the Statistics Unit applied Lagrange multiplier techniques to determine that a successful court must meet the following minimum requirements in order to satisfy an efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of case backlog and provide optimal service to the public. The required minimum annual parameters are summarized below:

Parameter	Minimum Required Standard
Case disposal rate	>=75%
Case clearance rate	>=95%
Case congestion rate	<=115%
Trial Date Certainty Rate	>=85%
Net case backlog rate	<=5%
Gross case backlog rate	<=10%
Average number of mentions per case	<=3

The Statistics Unit has determined that if any court or jurisdiction can consistently achieve these rates, it will attain a high level of efficiency and service excellence.

### **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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023. 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 for the third quarter of 2023.

## The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division for the third quarter of 2023.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	435	52.10
Disposed	200	23.95
Inactive	200	23.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 835 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 435 or 52.10% cases were still active, 200 were disposed of and 200 were inactive at the end of the quarter. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 47.90% for big claims for the quarter, which is 45.85 percentage points above the estimated disposal rate recorded for big claims in the corresponding third quarter of 2022.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	923	84.29
Small Claim	172	15.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1095 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the third quarter of 2023. Big claims accounted for 923 or 84.29% of the sample, small claims accounted for 172 or 15.71%.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	290	31.56
Recovery of Possession	195	21.22
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	51	5.55
Negligence	45	4.90
Rent Owing and Recovery of Possession	44	4.79
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>68.01</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 919**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases entered in the quarter at the Corporate Area Civil Court was breach of contract with 290 or roughly 31.56% of the sample. Recovery of possession and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 195 or 21.22% and 51 or 5.55% respectively rank next. The top five causes of action were rounded off by negligence with 45 or 4.90% and rent owing and recovery of possession with 44 or 4.79% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 68.01% of the total sample of 919 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	255	67.64
Bailiff	107	28.38
District Constable	15	3.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, against whom a claim is made, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority with 255 or 67.64% of the sample, followed by service by the bailiff with 107 or 28.38% and service by the District Constable with 15 or 3.98%.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	487	52.82
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	435	47.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>922*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 834 cases**

The majority of a sample of 922 matters entered in the third quarter of 2023 were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 487 or 52.82% of the sample, followed by courtroom 1 with 435 or 47.18% of the sample.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	409	44.99
Female	334	36.74
Registered Company	163	17.93
Trading As	3	0.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 909 matters entered in the third quarter of 2023 at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 409 or 44.99% of the sample. Females accounted for 334 or 36.74% and registered companies accounted for 163 or 17.93% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 3 or 0.33% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	425	47.38
Female	374	41.69
Registered Company	83	9.25
Trading As	15	1.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 897 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the third quarter of 2023. The highest proportion of defendants were male with 425 or 47.38% of the sample, followed by females with 374 or 41.69%. Registered companies accounted for 83 or 9.25% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 15 or 1.67% of the sample.

### **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

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

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Case Flow Stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	441	44.37
Default Judgment Date	334	33.60
Trial	149	14.99
Part-Heard Date	33	3.32
Hearing of Application	22	2.21
Date for Order	10	1.01
Final Judgment Date	5	0.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 994 matters that went to court during the third quarter of 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 441 or 44.37% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 334 or 33.60%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for trial dates with 149 or 14.99% of sample. It is of note that 33 or 3.32% 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 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Reasons For Adjournment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Defendant Absent	162	29.67
Referred to Mediation	18	3.30
Hearing of application	6	1.10
Parties in Discussion	6	1.10
Notice of Adjournment	4	0.73
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>35.90</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 546**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 546 incidences of adjournments heard in the third quarter of 2023. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 162 or 29.67% of the sample and referrals to mediation with 18 or 3.30% round off the top incidences in the

sample. Adjournments for the hearing of an application and for parties in discussion with 6 or 1.10% each rank next. The list is completed by adjournments for the notices of adjournment with 4 or 0.73% of the sample. The top reasons for adjournments listed above account for 35.90% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	205
Average Incidence	1.2

**Corresponding to 167 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 205 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 167 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	366	49.33
Consent	160	21.56
Withdrawal	61	8.22
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	40	5.39
Default Judgment	36	4.85
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>89.35</b>

**NB there were 742 matters were disposed of in the third quarter of 2023**

A total of 742 matters were disposed of at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the third quarter of 2023. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 663 or 89.35% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 366 or 49.33% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 160 or 21.56% and withdrawals with 61 or 8.22%. Matters disposed by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) and by default judgments round off the top five methods with 40 or 5.39% and 36 or 4.85% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	69	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 69 matters in the third quarter of 2023. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff account for 100% of the sample of outcome. 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 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)
1007	1421	141.11

The above table shows 1007 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a gross figure of 797 cases were disposed of, and 624 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 141.11%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric. This rate represents a 45.40 percentage points increase when compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

The estimated net case clearance rate is 79.15%, a 19.86 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2022. 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 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	225
Mean	232.7689
Median	147.0000
Mode	103.00
Std. Deviation	278.38754
Skewness	4.125
Std. Error of Skewness	.162
Range	2224.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	2225.00

The above table outlines summary data on 225 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2023 at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 233 days or approximately 7.8 months, which is roughly 122 less days than it

took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2022. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 103 days. The standard deviation of roughly 278 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 quarter was 2225 days or roughly 6.2 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the resolved in third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	3197
Mean	411.3672
Median	239.0000
Mode	65.00
Std. Deviation	469.47152
Skewness	2.492
Std. Error of Skewness	.043
Range	4304.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	4306.00

The above data is based on a sample of 3197 active civil matters as of the third quarter ended September 30, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 411 days or roughly 13.7 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 65 days. The standard deviation of roughly 469 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 4306 days old or roughly 12 years, while the minimum time is 2 days.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	80
Mean	210.8250
Median	23.0000
Mode	9.00
Std. Deviation	378.32137
Skewness	2.656
Std. Error of Skewness	.269
Range	1833.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	1835.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 80 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 211 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 9 days and the median age was 23 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 1835 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 16.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

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	92.41	137.50	33.33	23.44	NA	1.3

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the third quarter of 2023. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtrooms (including outstations) which are utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocated for court hearings in any court, on any given day, should be utilized. The overall average courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Civil Court in the quarter was roughly 92.41%, which is an indication that on average roughly 92% of the available hours for court hearings in the third quarter of 2023. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates did not vary widely from the overall mean.

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

## Clarendon Parish Court – Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Clarendon Parish Court for the third quarter of 2023.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	214	75.89
Disposed	53	18.79
Inactive	15	5.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 282 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 214 cases or 75.89% of these cases were still active, while 53 were disposed of and 15 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 24.11%, which is 2.30 percentage points above the gross disposal rate recorded in the previous third quarter of 2022.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	282	86.24
Small Claim	45	13.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 327 civil claims filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. The majority of which 282 or 86.24% were big claims, while 45 or 13.76% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Clarendon parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	200	61.16
Damages for Negligence	21	6.42
Recovery of Possession	19	5.81
Rent Owing and Continuing	17	5.20
Damages to Motor Vehicle	6	1.83
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>80.43</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 327**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases filed in the quarter at the Clarendon Parish Court was breach of contract with 200 or roughly 61.16% of the sample. Damages for negligence with 21 or 6.42% and recovery of possession with 19 or 5.81% rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 17 or 5.20% and damages to motor vehicle with 1.83% of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	250	76.45
Chapleton Outstation	39	11.93
Lionel Town Outstation	26	7.95
Frankfield Outstation	12	3.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>327*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 282 cases**

The majority of a sample of 327 new matters filed in the quarter were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 250 or 76.45% of the total sample. The Chapleton Outstation accounted for 39 or 11.93% of the cases filed. The Lionel Town outstation accounted for 26 or 7.95% and the Frankfield outstation accounted for 12 or 3.67% of the new cases heard.

## Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023

**Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	143	43.73
Female	133	40.67
Registered Company	51	15.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 327 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023 at the Clarendon Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 143 or 43.73% of the sample, followed by females with 133 or 40.67%. Registered companies accounted for 51 or 15.60% of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	215	66.77
Female	100	31.06
Registered Company	6	1.86
Trading As	1	0.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 322 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the third quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 215 or 66.77% of the sample, followed by females with 100 or 31.06% and registered companies with 1.86% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 1 or 0.31% of the sample.

## Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for third quarter ended September 30, 2023

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

**Table 7.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	136	48.06
Default Judgment Date	70	24.73
Trial	65	22.97
Part-Heard Date	12	4.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 283 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 136 or 48.06% of the sample, were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 70 or 24.73%, matters adjourned for a trial date with 65 or 22.97% and matters adjournment for a part-heard date with 4.24% of the sample.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
New Date	83	47.70
Parties in Discussion	35	20.11
Defendant Absent	10	5.75
Referred to Mediation	10	5.75
Pending Settlement	6	3.45
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>82.76</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 174**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 174 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the third quarter of 2023. Adjournments for a new date to be set accounted for 83 or 47.70% of the sample and adjournments for parties in discussion accounted for 35 or 20.11% of the sample. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants and referrals to mediation accounted for 10 or 5.75% each and pending settlements accounted for 3.45% of the sample.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	65
Average Incidence	1.2

**Corresponding to 56 cases**

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 65 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 56 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	124	47.69
Settlement	32	12.31
Consent	31	11.92
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	19	7.31
Default Judgment	14	5.38
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>84.62</b>

**NB: there were 260 matters were disposed of in the third quarter of 2023**

A total of 260 civil matters were disposed of at the Clarendon Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 220 or 84.62% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 124 or 47.69% and settlements with 32 or 12.31% of the sample. Matters disposed by consent with 31 or 11.92% of the sample ranked next and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 19 or 7.31% and matters disposed by default judgment round off the top methods of disposition with 5.38% of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
44	1	97.73

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 44 trial dates were set in the quarter, of which 1 was adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 97.73%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly

98% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 0.27 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2022.

**Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
282	68	266	94.33	24.11

The above table shows 282 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 53 of these cases were disposed of and 15 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 24.11%, a 2.30 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2022. An approximate gross figure of 222 cases were disposed of and 44 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 94.33%, which meets the international standard on this metric, and is a 5.74 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2022.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 19.85%, which is 4.27 percentage points above the net disposal rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022. The estimated net case clearance rate is 83.15%, which is roughly 15.40 percentage points above the rate recorded in 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 13.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	150
Mean	184.0000
Median	126.0000
Mode	126.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	157.25412
Skewness	1.829
Std. Error of Skewness	.198
Range	854.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	862.00

<sup>a</sup>Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines sample data on 150 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2023 at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 184 days or 6.1 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition and the median time were both 126 days. The standard deviation of roughly 157 days is an indication that there is some variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that a higher proportion of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The oldest matter disposed in the sample was 862 days or roughly 2.4 years old, while the minimum time taken was 8 days.

**Table 13.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	53
Mean	215.2642
Median	210.0000
Mode	234.00
Std. Deviation	157.22463
Skewness	1.152
Std. Error of Skewness	.327
Range	622.00
Minimum	28.00
Maximum	650.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 53 matters at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 215 days or roughly 7.2 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. The oldest matter in the sample was 650 days or roughly 1.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 28 days.

**Table 14.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	463
Mean	265.2808
Median	180.0000
Mode	89.00
Std. Deviation	233.01235
Skewness	1.132
Std. Error of Skewness	.113
Range	932.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	943.00

The above data is based on sample of 463 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 265 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 89 days. The standard deviation of roughly 233 days suggests that there is some variation in the individual scores around the average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 943 days old or roughly 2.6 years, while the minimum time taken is 11 days.

**Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	100
Mean	214.7200
Median	197.0000
Mode	236.00
Std. Deviation	202.62939
Skewness	1.516
Std. Error of Skewness	.241
Range	882.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	893.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 100 active reissued matters at the Clarendon Civil Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2023.

The average age of these matters was roughly 215 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 236 days and the median age was 197 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 893 days and the lowest was 11 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. Catherine 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. Catherine Parish Court for the third quarter of 2023.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	587	93.17
Disposed	41	6.51
Inactive	2	0.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 630 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 587 cases or 93.17% of these cases were still active, while 41 were disposed of and 2 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 6.83%, which is 3.32 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	724	92.70
Small Claim	57	7.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from a sample of 781 claims filed in the third quarter of 2023, 724 or 92.70% were big claims and 57 or 7.30% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	275	35.26
Damages for Negligence	130	16.67
Recovery of Possession	101	12.95
Negligence	49	6.28
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	43	5.51
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>76.67</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 780**

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 780 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was breach of contract with 275 or roughly 35.26% of the sample, damages for negligence with 130 or 16.67% and recovery of possession with 101 or 12.95%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by negligence with 49 or 6.28% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 43 or 5.51% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 76.67% of the total sample of causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	96	68.09
Personal	24	17.02
District Constable	21	14.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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

for the majority of the sample with 96 or 68.09% of the sample, personal service accounted for 24 or 17.02% and service by the district constable accounted for 21 or 14.89% of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	594	76.94
Linstead Outstation	124	16.06
Old Harbour Outstation	54	6.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>772*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 624 cases**

The majority of the sample of 772 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2023 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 594 or 76.94% of the total sample. The 124 or 16.06% that were entered in the Linstead outstation followed this. The Old Harbour outstation accounted for 54 or 6.99% of the claims.

### **Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	364	47.27
Female	307	39.87
Registered Company	99	12.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the 770 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 364 or 47.27%, followed by females with 307 or 39.87% and registered companies with 99 or 12.86% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	449	60.43
Female	268	36.07
Registered Company	26	3.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 743 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 449 or 60.43% of the total sample, followed by females with 268 or 36.07%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 26 or 3.50% of the total sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

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 the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Case Flow Stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	714	50.35
Default Judgment Date	323	22.78
Trial	288	20.31
Part-Heard Date	65	4.58
Hearing of Application	28	1.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>1418</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1418 matters that went to court during the third quarter of 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The majority of the sample, 714 or 50.35% were adjourned for a mention date and 323 or 22.78% were adjourned for a default judgment date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 288 or 20.31% of matters, which were adjourned for a trial date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 65 or 4.58% of the sample.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	445	23.73
Defendant Absent	319	17.01
Parties in Discussion	179	9.55
Both Parties Absent	132	7.04
Judge Absent/Ill	87	4.64
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1162</b>	<b>61.97</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled= 1875**

The above table details a sample of 1875 adjournments or continuances heard in the quarter, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for reissue with 445 or 23.73% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 319 or 17.01% and parties in discussion with 179 or 9.55% and adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 132 or 7.04% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Adjournments due to the judge being absent/ill with 87 or 4.64% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 61.97% of the total sample.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	44
Average Incidence	1.5

**Corresponding to 29 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 44 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 29 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.5 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 15 reissue incidences.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Method of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Struck Out	292	41.71
Consent	97	13.86
Settlement	92	13.14
Trial	58	8.29
Default Judgment	50	7.14
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>84.14</b>

**NB: There were 700 matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2023**

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 700 matters disposed of during the third quarter of 2023. The list is led by matters struck out with 292 or 41.71% of the disposals, followed matters disposed by consent with 97 or 13.86%, settlements with 92 or 13.14% and matters disposed by trial with 58 or 8.29%. Matters disposed by default judgments account for 50 or 7.14% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 84.14% of the sample.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of Trial date certainty for third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Approximate number of trial dates set</b>	<b>Number of dates adjourned</b>	<b>Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)</b>
82	1	98.78

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 82 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 1 was adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 98.78%, suggesting that during the quarter, there was a roughly 99% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate meets the prescribed

international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 1.87 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2022.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter</b>	<b>Estimated gross Case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Estimated gross Case disposal rate (%)</b>
630	43	617	97.94	6.83

The above table shows 630 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 41 of these cases were disposed of and 2 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 6.83%, which is 3.32 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022. An approximate gross figure of 560 cases were disposed of, and 57 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 97.94%, which meets the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 93.83 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 6.53%, which is 3 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022. The net clearance for the quarter is 89.17%, which is 91.49 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022. 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	481
Mean	596.1518
Median	290.0000
Mode	2535.00
Std. Deviation	698.01792
Skewness	1.791
Std. Error of Skewness	.111
Range	3130.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	3136.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 481 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2023 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 596 days or 19.9 months, which is roughly 21 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2022. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 2535 days. There is moderate standard deviation of 698 days, which is an indication that there is a large dispersion of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores are clustered around the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 3136 days or roughly 8.7 years old, while the youngest was 6 days.

**Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	33
Mean	537.0909
Median	574.0000
Mode	574.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	310.67481
Skewness	-.094
Std. Error of Skewness	.409
Range	994.00
Minimum	28.00
Maximum	1022.00

<sup>a</sup>.Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 33 matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 537 days or roughly 17.9 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the negative skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series are clustered around the overall average.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	2907
Mean	642.0058
Median	394.0000
Mode	177.00
Std. Deviation	648.02772
Skewness	1.800
Std. Error of Skewness	.045
Range	5673.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	5674.00

The above data is based on a sample of 2907 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 642 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 177 days. The standard deviation of roughly 648 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 5674 days old or roughly 15.8 years, while the minimum time taken is 1 day.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	315
Mean	600.2000
Median	600.0000
Mode	89.00
Std. Deviation	354.40164
Skewness	1.272
Std. Error of Skewness	.137
Range	2693.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	2704.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 315 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 600 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 89 days and the median age was 600 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the overall average. The highest age in the data set was 2704 days and the lowest was 11 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.

## Trelawny Parish Court –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Trelawny Parish Court for the third quarter of 2023.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	110	84.62
Disposed	11	8.46
Inactive	9	6.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 130 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 110 or 84.62% of these cases were active, 11 or 8.46% were disposed of and 9 cases became inactive at the end of the quarter. This produces a gross case disposal rate of 15.38% for the quarter, a 9.43 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2022.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	106	77.37
Small Claim	31	22.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 137 civil claims filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. The majority of which 106 or 77.37% were big claims, while 31 or 22.63% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	27	19.71
Money Owing	13	9.49
Damages to Cultivation	8	5.84
Return Of Cash	8	5.84
Money Loaned	7	5.11
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>45.99</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 137**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action in the quarter were recovery of possession with 27 or 19.71% and money owing with 13 or 9.49% of the sample. Damages to cultivation and return of cash with 8 or 5.84% each and money loaned with 7 or 5.11% of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 45.99% of all the total sample of 137 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	118	86.13
Bailiff	19	13.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants whom a claim is made against are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 118 or 86.13% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 19 or 13.87% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Falmouth Outstation	83	60.58
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	29	21.17
Ulster Spring Outstation	24	17.52
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #2)	1	0.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>137*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 130 cases**

The majority of a sample of 137 new matters filed in 60.58% of the accommodations was entered in the Falmouth outstation. The 29 or 21.17% matters that were entered in courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town outstation followed this, while court sittings at the Ulster Spring outstation ranked next with 24 or 17.52% of the accommodations.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	78	56.93
Female	55	40.15
Registered Company	4	2.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 137 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023 at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 78 or 56.93%, followed by females with 55 or 40.15%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 2.92% of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	97	72.39
Female	37	27.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 134 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 97 or 72.39% of the sample, followed by females with 37 or 27.61%.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

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

**Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	84	43.98
Trial	37	19.37
Part-Heard Date	35	18.32
Default judgment Date	33	17.28
Hearing of Application	2	1.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 191 matters that were heard during the third quarter ended September 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 84 or 43.98% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 37 or 19.37%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for part heard dates with 35 or 18.32% and for default judgment dates with 33 or 17.28% 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 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	69	33.01
Both Parties Absent	39	18.66
Defendant Absent	33	15.79
Plaintiff Absent	10	4.78
Referred to Mediation	6	2.87
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>75.12</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 209**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 209 incidence of adjournments heard in the third quarter of 2023. Adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 69 or 33.01% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 39 or 18.66%, the absence of defendants with 33 or 15.76% and the absence of plaintiffs with 10 or 4.78% of the sample feature prominently on the list. Referrals to mediation with 6 or 2.87% of the sample respectively close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 75.12% of the entire sample.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	31
Average Incidence	1.1

**Corresponds 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 31 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 28 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	22	23.66
Struck Out	17	18.28
Default Judgment	16	17.20
Final Judgment	8	8.60
Oral Admission	7	7.53
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>75.27</b>

**NB: There were 93 matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2023**

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 93 matters disposed during the third quarter of 2023. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 22 or 23.66% of the dispositions, followed by matters disposed by being struck out with 17 or 18.28% and matters disposed by default judgments with 16 or 17.20% of the sample. Matters disposed by final judgments account for 8 or 8.60% of the sample and disposals by oral admission account for 7 or 7.53% of the sample. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 75.27% of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
17	0	100

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 17 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that none was adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial date certainty rate of 100% which suggests that during the quarter there was roughly an

100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This outcome meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

**Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of cases disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Estimated Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated Gross case disposal rate (%)
130	20	142	109.23	15.38

The above table shows 130 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 11 of these cases were disposed of and 9 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 15.38%, which is 9.43 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022. An approximate gross figure of 84 cases were disposed of and 58 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 109.23%, which meets the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 0.07 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 9.09%, which is 6.56 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022. The net clearance for the quarter is 69.42%, which is 20.15 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	67
Mean	278.2537
Median	90.0000
Mode	1437.00
Std. Deviation	435.28720
Skewness	2.001
Std. Error of Skewness	.293
Range	1435.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	1437.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 67 civil cases disposed of in the third quarter of 2023 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 278 days or 9.3 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 1437 days and the median time was 90 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 435 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the positive skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the quarter was 1437 days or roughly 4 years old, while minimum time taken to dispose of cases was 2 days.

**Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	192
Mean	605.1927
Median	373.5000
Mode	25.00
Std. Deviation	565.58295
Skewness	.713
Std. Error of Skewness	.175
Range	2025.00
Minimum	9.00
Maximum	2034.00

The above data is computed using 192 active cases at the end of the third quarter of 2023. The average age of these cases was roughly 605 days (1.7 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 25 days. The standard deviation of roughly 566 days suggests that there is a small amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fall below the overall mean. The oldest active case in this sample is 2034 days (5.7 years old), while the youngest is 9 days.

## St. Ann 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. Ann Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	237	75.00
Disposed	46	14.56
Inactive	33	10.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 316 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 237 cases or 75% of these cases were still active, 46 were disposed of and 33 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 25%, which is a 15.68 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2022.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big	310	78.88
Small	82	20.87
POCA	1	0.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from 393 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2023, the majority of which were big claims with 310 or 78.88%, while 82 or 20.87% were small claims and 1 or 0.25% was Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	117	30.31
Recovery of Possession	36	9.33
Damages for Negligence	32	8.29
Arrears of Rent	30	7.77
Rent Owing	16	4.15
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>59.84</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 386**

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 386 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the third quarter of 2023 was breach of contract with 117 or roughly 30.31% of the sample and recovery of possession with 36 or 9.33% of the sample. Damages for negligence with 32 or 8.29% of the sample rank next. Arrears of rent with 30 or 7.77% and rent owing with 16 or 4.15% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 59.84% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	44	52.38
District constable	31	36.90
Personal	9	10.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the majority of the sample with 44 or 52.38% of the sample. Service by the district constable accounted for 31 or 36.90% and personal service with 9 or 10.71% of the sample rank next.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	128	61.24
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	54	25.84
Claremont Outstation	27	12.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>209*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 171 cases**

The majority of a sample of 209 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 128 or 61.24% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 54 or 25.84% and the Claremont Outstation accounted for 27 or 12.92% of the accommodations.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	193	49.36
Female	166	42.46
Registered Company	31	7.93
Trading As	1	0.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 391 new matters filed in the quarter, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 193 or 49.36%, followed by females with 166 or 42.46% and registered companies with 31 or 7.93% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 0.26% accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	265	68.12
Female	101	25.96
Registered Company	20	5.14
Trading As	3	0.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 389 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 265 or 68.12% of the total sample, followed by females with 101 or 25.96%. Registered companies accounted for 20 or 5.14% of the total sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 3 or 0.77% of the sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	348	47.54
Trial	134	18.31
Default Judgment Date	126	17.21
Part-Heard Date	98	13.39
Hearing of Application	21	2.87
Final Judgment Date	5	0.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 732 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 348 or 47.54% of the sample, followed by 134 or 18.31%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters disposed for default judgment dates accounted for 126 or 17.21% and matters adjourned for a part heard date account for 98 or 13.39% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	199	21.51
Defendant Absent	107	11.57
Referred to Mediation	59	6.38
Both Parties Absent	40	4.32
Plaintiff Absent	37	4.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>47.78</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 925**

The above table details a sample of 925 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the third quarter of 2023, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 199 or 21.51% of the sample, adjournments due to defendants being absent with 107 or 11.57% and referrals to mediation with 59 or 6.38% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by adjournments due to both parties being absent with 40 or 4.32% and adjournments due to plaintiff being absent with 37 or 4% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 47.78% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	117
Average Incidence	1.3

**Corresponds 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 117 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 89 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	113	28.39
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	59	14.82
Default Judgment	57	14.32
Settlement	52	13.07
Struck Out	36	9.05
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>79.65</b>

**NB: There were 398 matters disposed of in the quarter**

A sample of 398 matters disposed of during the third quarter of 2023 revealed that 113 or 28.39% of matters were disposed by consent, 59 or 14.82% were Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) and 57 or 14.32% of the sample were disposed by default judgments. Matters disposed by settlements with 52 or 13.07% and matters struck out with 36 or 9.05% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 79.65% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the third quarter of 2023.

**Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	48	94.12
Settlement	3	5.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the third quarter of 2023 at the St. Ann Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 48 or 94.12% of the sample of matters, account for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 3 or 5.88% 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 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
70	0	100

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 70 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that none was adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)</b>	<b>Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
316	79	454	143.67	25.00

The above table shows 316 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 46 cases were disposed of and 33 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 25%, an increase of 15.68 percentage points compared to the third quarter of 2022. An approximate gross figure of 293 cases were disposed of, and 161 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 143.67%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and represents a 39.35 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2022.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 16.25%, an improvement of 11.93 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2022. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 103.53%, an improvement of 32.79 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2022. 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive Statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	261
Mean	412.6705
Median	168.0000
Mode	69.00
Std. Deviation	686.38550
Skewness	4.081
Std. Error of Skewness	.151
Range	5472.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	5474.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 261 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2023 at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 413 days or 13.8 months, which is roughly 56 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2022. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 69 days. The standard deviation of 686 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 quarter was 5474 days or roughly 15.2 years old, while the minimum time taken was 2 days.

**Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	41
Mean	420.0488
Median	210.0000
Mode	210.00
Std. Deviation	746.42391
Skewness	4.169
Std. Error of Skewness	.369
Range	4377.00
Minimum	16.00
Maximum	4393.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 41 matters at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 420 days or roughly 14 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the majority of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 42 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 34 days.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	1302
Mean	614.4939
Median	382.0000
Mode	24.00
Std. Deviation	726.19857
Skewness	2.803
Std. Error of Skewness	.068
Range	5655.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	5658.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1302 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 614 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 24 days. The standard deviation of roughly 726 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 5658 days old or roughly 15.7 years, while the minimum age is 3 days.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	121
Mean	671.6033
Median	144.0000
Mode	81.00
Std. Deviation	1034.19643
Skewness	2.269
Std. Error of Skewness	.220
Range	4465.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	4468.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 121 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023.

The average age of these matters was roughly 672 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 81 days and the median age was 144 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 4468 days and the lowest was 3 days.

## Brown's Town Outstation –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Brown's Town outstation in the third quarter of 2023.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	52	82.54
Disposed	9	14.29
Inactive	2	3.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 63 new cases filed at the Brown's Town Court in the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 52 cases or 82.54% of these cases were still active, 9 were disposed of and 2 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 17.46% for the quarter, which is a 9.54 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2022.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Browns Town Outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	27	42.86
Money Owing	9	14.29
Damages	5	7.94
Damages done to cultivation	4	6.35
Damages for Trespass	3	4.76
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>76.19</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 63**

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 63 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the third quarter of 2023 was breach of contract with 27 or roughly 42.86% of the sample and money

owing with 9 or 14.29% of the sample. Damages with 5 or 7.94% of the sample rank next. Damages done to cultivation with 4 or 6.35% and damages for trespass with 3 or 4.76% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 76.19% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 3.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	69	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>69*</b>	<b>100</b>

**\*Note: Corresponds to 63 cases**

All of a sample of 69 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Table 4.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	36	53.73
Female	22	32.84
Registered Company	8	11.94
Trading As	1	1.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 67 new matters filed in the quarter, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 36 or 53.73% of the sample, followed by females with 22 or 32.84% and registered companies with 8 or 11.94% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 1.49%.

**Table 5.0: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	51	77.27
Female	13	19.70
Registered Company	1	1.52
Trading as	1	1.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 66 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023.

The majority of defendants were male with 51 or 77.27% of the total sample, followed by females with 13 or 19.70%. Registered companies and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 1.52% each.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

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

**Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	103	50.49
Trial	38	18.63
Default Judgment Date	31	15.20
Part-Heard Date	31	15.20
Hearing of Application	1	0.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 204 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 103 or 50.49% of the sample, followed by 38 or 18.63%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters disposed for default judgment dates and matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 31 or 15.20% each 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 7.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	32	15.46
Referred to Mediation	18	8.70
No Return/Re-Issued	7	3.38
Plaintiff absent	7	3.38
Attorney absent	5	2.42
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>33.33</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 207**

The above table details a sample of 207 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the third quarter of 2023, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 32 or 15.46% of the sample, referrals to mediation with 18 or 8.70% and adjournments for no return/for re-issue and the absence of plaintiffs with 7 or 3.38% each of the sample rounds off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by the absence of attorneys with 5 or 2.42% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 33.33% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Settlement	19	29.23
Consent	17	26.15
Struck Out	8	12.31
Default Judgment	7	10.77
Oral Admission	6	9.23
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>87.69</b>

**NB: There were 65 matters disposed of in the quarter**

A sample of 65 matters disposed during the third quarter of 2023 revealed that 19 or 29.23% of matters were disposed by settlements and 17 or 26.15% were disposed by consent. Matters

struck out with 8 or 12.31% rank next. Matters disposed by default judgments with 7 or 10.77% and oral admissions with 6 or 9.23% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 87.69% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the third quarter of 2023.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

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

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 10 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that none were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 10.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
63	11	68	107.94	17.46

The above table shows 63 new cases filed at the Brown’s Town Outstation during the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 9 cases were disposed of and 2 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 17.46%, an increase of 9.54

percentage points compared to the third quarter of 2022. An approximate gross figure of 57 cases were disposed of, and 11 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 107.94%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents a 14.87 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2022.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 14.75%, an improvement of 11.62 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2022. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 93.44%, an improvement of 8.02 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 11.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive Statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	57
Mean	213.1228
Median	92.0000
Mode	28.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	217.97953
Skewness	1.114
Std. Error of Skewness	.316
Range	782.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	784.00

<sup>a</sup>Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 57 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2023 at the Brown’s Town Outstation. The average time taken to dispose of these

matters is roughly 213 days or 7.1 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days and the median time was 92 days. The standard deviation of roughly 218 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 784 days or roughly 2.2 years old, while the minimum time taken was 2 days.

**Table 12.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	577
Mean	475.7418
Median	388.0000
Mode	24.00
Std. Deviation	362.57349
Skewness	.501
Std. Error of Skewness	.102
Range	1341.00
Minimum	22.00
Maximum	1363.00

The above data is based on sample of 577 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 476 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 24 days. The standard deviation of roughly 363 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 1363 days old or roughly 3.8 years, while the minimum age is 22 days.

## Westmoreland Parish 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 third quarter of 2023.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	73	54.07
Disposed	60	44.44
Inactive	2	1.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 135 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 73 cases or 54.07% of these cases were still active, while 60 or 44.44% were disposed of and 2 or 1.48% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 45.93%, which is a 19.29 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	127	76.97
Small Claim	38	23.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 165 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023, the majority of which 127 or 76.97% were big claims, while 38 or 23.03% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	42	25.61
Recovery of Possession	28	17.07
Negligence	16	9.76
Recovery of Debt and Continuing	13	7.93
Damages to Property	8	4.88
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>65.24</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 164**

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 third quarter of 2023 at the Westmoreland Parish Court was breach of contract and recovery of possession with 42 or roughly 25.61% and 28 or 17.07% respectively of the sample. Negligence with 16 or 9.76%, recovery of debt and continuing with 13 or 7.93% and damages to property with 8 or 4.88% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 65.24% of the sample of 164 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	92	56.79
Personal	70	43.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for 92 or 56.79% and personal service accounted for 70 or 43.21% of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	90	58.82
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	53	34.64
Whithorn Outstation	10	6.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>153*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponds to 128 cases**

The highest proportion of a sample of 153 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023 was entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 90 or 58.82% of the sample. The 53 or 34.64% that were entered in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse followed this. Sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for the remaining 6.54% of the sample.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	77	47.53
Female	64	39.51
Registered Company	20	12.35
Trading As	1	0.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 162 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023 at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 77 or 47.53%, followed by females with 64 or 39.51%. Registered companies accounted for 20 or 12.35% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.62%.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	90	58.06
Female	52	33.55
Trading As	10	6.45
Registered Company	3	1.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 155 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 90 or 58.06% of the sample, followed by females with 52 or 33.55%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) account for 6.45% of the sample and registered companies accounted for 3 or 1.94%.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Trial	150	63.03
Mention Date	78	32.77
Part-Heard Date	10	4.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 238 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The majority, 150 or 63.03% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 78 or 32.77%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 10 or 4.20% of matters, which were adjourned for part heard 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 incidence of reissued matters for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	26
Average Incidence	1.3

**Corresponds to 20 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 26 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 20 reissued cases. This resulted in an average of 1.3 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	52	26.13
Struck Out	51	25.63
Default Judgment	22	11.06
Oral Admission	22	11.06
Settlement	22	11.06
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>84.92</b>

**NB: There were 199 matters disposed of in the quarter**

A total of 199 civil matters were disposed of at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which account for 84.92% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 52 or 26.13% of the disposals, followed by matters struck out with 51 or 25.63% of the sample. Matters disposed by oral admissions, default judgments and settlements with 22 or 11.06% each round off the top five methods dispositions.

**Table 11: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Case Outcome</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	34	79.07
Settlement	9	20.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the third quarter of 2023 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 34 or 79.07% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 9 or 20.93%.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Approximate number of trial dates set</b>	<b>Number of dates adjourned</b>	<b>Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)</b>
68	0	100

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 68 trial dates were set in the quarter; of which none was adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 100% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Approximate Number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter</b>	<b>Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
135	62	175	129.63	45.93

The above table shows 135 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 60 of these cases were disposed of, and 2 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 45.93%, a decrease of 19.29 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2022. A gross figure of 154 cases were disposed of, and 21 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 129.63%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and is 67.11 percentage points below the third quarter of 2022 rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 45.11%, which is 12.22 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 115.79%, which is 66.88 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022. 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	91
Mean	101.6264
Median	65.0000
Mode	70.00
Std. Deviation	146.53969
Skewness	2.957
Std. Error of Skewness	.253
Range	710.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	713.00

The above table outlines summary data on 91 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2023 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 102 days or 3.4 months, which is roughly 54 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2022. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 70 days. The standard deviation is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time and the positive skewness is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 713 days or roughly 2 years, while the minimum time taken was just 3 days.

**Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	404
Mean	469.3168
Median	213.0000
Mode	24.00
Std. Deviation	525.16098
Skewness	1.035
Std. Error of Skewness	.121
Range	1645.00
Minimum	17.00
Maximum	1662.00

The above data is based on a sample of 404 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 469 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 24 days. The standard deviation of roughly 525 days suggests that there is some variation of the individual scores around the average. The positive skewness seen is an indication that more scores in the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest age of active cases was 1662 days or 4.6 years, and the youngest time is 17 days.

## St. Mary 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. Mary Parish Court for the third quarter of 2023.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	62	57.41
Disposed	46	42.59
Inactive	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 108 new civil cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 62 or 57.41% were still active and 46 or 42.59% were disposed of. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 42.59% for the quarter, which is a 24.24 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2022.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	85	72.65
Small Claim	32	27.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that of the 117 new claims filed in the quarter, the majority of which were big claims, which accounted for 85 or 72.65% of the total sample, while 32 or 27.35% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	40	36.36
Recovery of Possession	16	14.55
Money Owing	6	5.45
Arrears of Rent and Continuing	4	3.64
Round Robin Money Owing	4	3.64
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>63.64</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 110**

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 110 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the quarter at the St. Mary Parish Court were breach of contract with 40 or roughly 36.36% of the sample and recovery of possession with 16 or 14.55% of the total sample of causes of action. Monies owing with 6 or 5.45% and arrears of rent and continuing and round robin money owing with 4 or 3.64% each rank next.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	92	78.63
Bailiff	20	17.09
District Constable	5	4.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Types of service as used above refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 92 or 78.63% of the sample, with service by the bailiff accounting for 20 or 17.09% and service by the district constable accounting for the remaining 5 or 4.27% of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	76	64.96
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	25	21.37
Annotto Bay Outstation	9	7.69
Richmond Outstation	6	5.13
Gayle Outstation	1	0.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>117*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 108 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 117 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023.

The majority of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 76 or 62.96% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 3 at the main courthouse with 25 or 21.37% of the sample, the Annotto Bay outstation with 9 or 7.69% and the Richmond Outstation with 6 or 5.13% of the sample rounds off the top accommodations. The list is completed by sittings at the Gayle Outstation with 1 or 0.85%.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	69	58.97
Female	40	34.19
Registered Company	8	6.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 117 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023 at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 69 or 58.97%, followed by females with 40 or 34.19%. Registered companies with 6.84% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	74	64.35
Female	37	32.17
Registered Company	4	3.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 115 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were males with 74 or 64.35%, followed by females with 37 or 32.17% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 3.48% of the sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	36	34.62
Trial	33	31.73
Part-Heard Date	22	21.15
Default Date	13	12.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 104 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The highest proportion, 36 or 34.62%, were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 33 or 31.73%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 22 or 21.15% of the matters which were adjourned for part heard dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention hearing and that a notable proportion of the adjournments are for default judgments. The high frequency of adjournments associated

with default judgments is not unusual as this stage is intrinsic to case management and case preparation and to the overall case process flow.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	22	17.19
Re-Issued	8	6.25
Default Judgement	7	5.47
Refer to Surveyor	7	5.47
Defendant Absent	5	3.91
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>38.28</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 128**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 128 incidences of adjournments in the third quarter of 2023. Adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 22 or 17.19% of the sample, adjournments for re-issue with 8 or 6.25% and adjournments for default judgment and referrals to surveyor with 7 or 5.47% each round off the top reasons for adjournment. Adjournments due to absence of defendants with 5 or 3.91% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 38.28% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	29
Average Incidence	1.3

**Corresponds to 22 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 29 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

22 reissued cases. This resulted in an average of 1.3 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Method of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Struck Out	62	37.58
Consent	30	18.18
Oral Admission	23	13.94
Default Judgment	17	10.30
Withdrawal	12	7.27
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>87.27</b>

**NB: There were 165 matters disposed of in the quarter**

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 165 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. Matters struck out with 62 or 37.58%, matters disposed by consent with 30 or 18.18% and matters disposed by oral admissions with 23 or 13.94% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Matters disposed by default judgments with 17 or 10.30% of the sample rank next, followed by withdrawals with 12 or 7.27% of the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 87.27% of the total sample of matters disposed of during the quarter.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Approximate number of trial dates set</b>	<b>Number of trial dates adjourned</b>	<b>Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)</b>
17	3	82.35

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 17 trial dates were set in the third quarter of 2023, shows that 3 were adjourned. This results

in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 82.35%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 82% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate combined number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate net case disposal rate (%)</b>
108	46	144	133.33	42.59

The above table shows 108 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 46 of these cases were disposed of, leading to an estimated net case disposal rate of 42.59%, an increase of 24.24 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2022. A gross figure of 143 cases were disposed of, and 1 case became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 133.33%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and is 41.51 percentage points above the third quarter of 2022 rate.

The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 132.41%, which is 41.27 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022. 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	97
Mean	102.4536
Median	49.0000
Mode	42.00
Std. Deviation	135.29020
Skewness	3.569
Std. Error of Skewness	.245
Range	940.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	941.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 97 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2023 at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 102 days or 3.4 months, which is roughly 82 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2022. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 42 days and the median time was 49 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 135 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the positive skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the quarter was 941 days or roughly 2.6 years old, while minimum time taken to dispose of cases was 1 day. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

**Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	274
Mean	652.3759
Median	351.5000
Mode	47.00
Std. Deviation	706.20893
Skewness	1.812
Std. Error of Skewness	.147
Range	3682.00
Minimum	26.00
Maximum	3708.00

The above data is based on sample of 274 active civil matters at the end of third quarter of 2023.

The average age of these matters was roughly 652 days (or roughly 21.7 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 47 days. The standard deviation of roughly 706 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were decidedly more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter in the data set is 3708 days old or roughly 10.3 years, while the minimum age was 26 days.

## Portland Parish 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 third quarter of 2023.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	78	95.12
Disposed	4	4.88
Inactive	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 82 new civil cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 78 or 95.12% were still active and 4 or 4.88% were disposed of. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 4.88% for the quarter, which is 18.33 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	134	92.41
Small Claim	11	7.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from the 145 new claims filed in the quarter, the majority of which 134 or 92.41% were big claims, while 11 or 7.59% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Prescriptive Rights	42	30.22
Breach of Contract (monies owing plus interest)	28	20.14
Breach of Contract	24	17.27
Recovery of Possession	18	12.95
Damages for Trespass	2	1.44
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>82.01</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 139**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 139 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action filed were prescriptive rights with 42 or roughly 30.22% of the total sample, breach of contract (monies owing plus interest) with 28 or 20.14%, and breach of contract with 24 or 17.27%. Recovery of possession with 18 or 12.95% and damages for trespass with 2 or 1.44% round off the top five causes of action for the quarter. The top causes of action, which are listed above, account for 82.01% of the sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	124	85.52
Bailiff	21	14.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority with 124 or 85.52% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 21 or 14.48%.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	11	42.31
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	7	26.92
Buff Bay Outstation	3	11.54
Manchioneal Outstation	3	11.54
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	2	7.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>26*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 22 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 26 new matters filed in the quarter was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 11 or 42.31% of the sample of accommodations. The 7 or 26.92% that were entered in courtroom number 3 followed this, while the 3 matters that entered in the Buff Bay outstation and the Manchioneal outstation rank next. Sittings at the courtroom 2 at the main courthouse account for 2 or 7.69%.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	63	43.45
Female	44	30.34
Registered Company	37	25.52
Trading As	1	0.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 145 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023, males accounted for the highest proportion with 63 or 43.45%, followed by females with 44 or 30.34%. Registered companies account for 37 or 25.52% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 0.69% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	53	36.55
Female	50	34.48
Registered Company	42	28.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 145 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023. The highest proportion of defendants were male with 53 or 36.55% of the sample, followed by females with 50 or 34.48% of the sample. Registered companies with 28.97% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

## Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023

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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	116	49.57
Trial	88	37.61
Default Judgment Date	26	11.11
Part-Heard Date	3	1.28
Date for Order	1	0.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 234 matters that were heard during the third quarter September 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The highest proportion, 116 or 49.57% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 88 or 37.61%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for default judgment dates with 26 or 11.11% and for part heard dates with 3 or 1.28% rank next. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the quarter at the Portland Parish Court.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	41	45.05
Consent	16	17.58
Other	13	14.29
Settlement	7	7.69
Struck Out	7	7.69
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>92.31</b>

**NB: There were 91 matters disposed of in the quarter**

A total of 91 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. The distribution is led by disposals by notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 41 or 45.05% of the sample, followed by disposals by consent with 16 or 17.58% and matters disposed by “other methods” with 13 or 14.29%. Settlements and matters struck out with 7 or 7.69% each complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the quarter. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 92.31% of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
20	0	100

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. Using a sample of 20 trial dates set in the quarter, it is seen that none was adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 100% which suggests that during the quarter there was roughly a 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed

without adjournment. The 2023 result is 17.86 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2022.

**Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Approximate Number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)</b>	<b>Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate net Case disposal rate (%)</b>
82	4	63	76.83	4.88

The above table shows 82 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 4 of these cases were disposed of, leading to an estimated net case disposal rate of 4.88%, a decrease of 18.33 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2022. A gross figure of 57 cases were disposed of, and 6 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 76.83%, which is below the international standard for this metric and is 41.03 percentage points below the third quarter of 2022 rate.

The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 69.51%, which is 44.78 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 12.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	79
Mean	892.9241
Median	413.0000
Mode	147.00
Std. Deviation	1039.27241
Skewness	1.141
Std. Error of Skewness	.271
Range	3396.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	3400.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 79 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2023 at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 893 days (29.8 months), which is roughly 574 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2022. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 147 days and the median time to disposition was 413 days. The standard deviation of roughly 1039 days is an indication that there is a wide dispersion in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness observed is an indication that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series were clustered around the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 3400 days or roughly 9.4 years old, while the youngest was 4 days.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	360
Mean	777.8778
Median	467.0000
Mode	26.00
Std. Deviation	794.34540
Skewness	1.333
Std. Error of Skewness	.129
Range	4186.00
Minimum	12.00
Maximum	4198.00

The above data is computed using 360 active cases at the end of the third quarter of 2023. The average age of these cases was roughly 778 days (2.2 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 26 days. The standard deviation of roughly 794 days suggests that there is some dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that most of the scores in the data set fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample was 4198 days (11.7 years), while the youngest was 12 days.

## St. Thomas 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. Thomas Parish Court for the third quarter of 2023.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	138	82.63
Disposed	20	11.98
Inactive	9	5.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 167 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 138 cases or 82.63% of these cases were still active, while 20 were disposed of and 9 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 17.37%, which is a 10.91 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2022.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	141	68.12
Small Claim	66	31.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from a sample of 207 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2023, the majority of which 141 or 68.12% were big claims, while 66 or 31.88% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	73	35.44
Recovery of Possession	47	22.82
Money Owing	20	9.71
Defamation of Character	11	5.34
Goods Sold and Delivered	7	3.40
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>76.70</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 206**

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 third quarter of 2023 at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 73 or roughly 35.44% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 47 or 22.82% and money owing with 20 or 9.71% of the sample rounds off the top causes of action in this representative sample. Defamation of character with 11 or 5.34% and goods sold and delivered with 7 or 3.40% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 76.70% of all the total sample of 206 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Bailiff	34	68.00
District Constable	13	26.00
Personal	3	6.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the majority with 34 or 68% of the sample. Service by the district constable with 13 or 26% and personal service with 3 or 6% ran next.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	110	53.14
Yallahs Outstation	96	46.38
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1	0.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>207*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 131 cases**

The majority of a sample of 207 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023 was entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 110 or 53.14% of the sample, while sittings at the Yallahs outstation accounted for 96 or 46.38% of the sample.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Female	106	51.21
Male	100	48.31
Registered Company	1	0.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 207 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023 at the St. Thomas Parish Court, females accounted for the majority of the sample with 106 or 51.21%, followed by males with 100 or 48.31%. Registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 0.48% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	117	57.35
Female	86	42.16
Trading As	1	0.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 204 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 117 or 57.35% of the sample, followed by females with 86 or 42.16% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 0.49% of the sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	96	36.64
Date for Order	91	34.73
Trial	32	12.21
Default Judgment Date	26	9.92
Part-Heard Date	14	5.34
Final Judgment Date	2	0.76
Hearing of Application	1	0.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table is computed based on a sample of 262 cases adjourned during the third quarter of 2023. The highest proportion, 96 or 36.64% were adjourned for a mention date, followed by 91 or 34.73% which were adjourned for an order to be handed down. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 32 or 12.21% of matters, which were adjourned for

trial dates. Matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 26 or 9.92% and matters adjourned for a part heard date with 14 or 5.34% of the sample rank next.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Parties in Discussion	56	28.00
Defendant Absent	32	16.00
Both Parties Absent	10	5.00
Attorney Absent	6	3.00
To Settle Legal Representation	6	3.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>55.00</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 200**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 200 incidences of adjournments in the third quarter of 2023. Parties in discussion with 56 or 28% of the sample, adjournments due to absence of defendants with 32 or 16% and adjournments due to absence of both parties with 10 or 5% rounds off the top three. Adjournments due to absence of attorneys and to settle legal representation with 6 or 3% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 55% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	20
Average Incidence	1.1

**Corresponding to 19 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 20 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

19 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	26	29.55
Default Judgment	16	18.18
Oral Admission	15	17.05
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	8	9.09
Settlement	8	9.09
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>82.95</b>

**NB: there were 88 matters were disposed of in the quarter**

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 88 matters. The list is led by matters disposed of by consent with 26 or 29.55% of the sample. Matters disposed by default judgment with 16 or 18.18% rank next. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 15 or 17.05% and by settlements and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 8 or 9.09% each round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 82.95% of the sample.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
11	2	81.82

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 11 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 2 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 81.82%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an

estimated 82% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 1.51 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
167	29	120	71.86	17.37

The above table shows 167 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 20 cases were disposed of and 9 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 17.37%, a decrease of 10.91 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2022. A gross figure of 80 cases were disposed of, and 40 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 71.86%, which is below the international standard for this metric and represents a decline of 14.35 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2022.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 12.66%, a 2.79 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2022. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 50.63%, a 13.60 percentage points decrease when compared to third quarter of 2022. 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	53
Mean	263.0377
Median	175.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	251.24727
Skewness	1.384
Std. Error of Skewness	.327
Range	1054.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	1057.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 53 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2023 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 263 days or 8.8 months, which is roughly 115 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2022. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. There is a standard deviation of roughly 251 days is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores falling below the overall average time taken to dispose of the cases. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1057 days or roughly 2.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 3 days.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	294
Mean	990.2653
Median	354.5000
Mode	3098.00
Std. Deviation	1164.44606
Skewness	1.016
Std. Error of Skewness	.142
Range	3089.00
Minimum	9.00
Maximum	3098.00

The above data is based on a sample of 294 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 990 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 3098 days or 8.6 years. The high standard deviation of roughly 1164 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 3098 days or 8.6 years, while the youngest case was 9 days.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	48
Mean	623.5000
Median	970.0000
Mode	970.00
Std. Deviation	448.07171
Skewness	-.155
Std. Error of Skewness	.343
Range	1479.00
Minimum	9.00
Maximum	1488.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 48 active reissued matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 623.50 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age were both 970 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some variation among the individual scores, with the negative skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were close to the overall series average. The highest age in the data set was 1488 days and the lowest was 9 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

## St. James 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. James Parish Court.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	227	67.36
Disposed	29	8.61
Inactive	81	24.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 337 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court in the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 227 cases or 67.36% of these cases were still active, 29 were disposed of and 81 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 32.64% for the quarter.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	260	67.71
Small Claim	124	32.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from 384 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2023, the majority of which were big claims with 260 or 67.71%, while 124 or 32.29% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. James Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	59	15.73
Breach of Contract	42	11.20
Monies Loaned	30	8.00
Rent Owing and Continuing	24	6.40
Rent Owing	15	4.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>45.33</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 375**

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 375 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the third quarter of 2023 were recovery of possession with 59 or roughly 15.73% of the sample and breach of contract with 42 or 11.20% of the sample. Monies loaned with 30 or 8% and rent owing continuing with 24 or 6.40% of the sample rank next. Rent owing with 15 or 4% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 45.33% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	211	55.24
Cambridge Outstation	171	44.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>382*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 336 cases**

The majority of a sample of 382 matters entered in the third quarter of 2023 were entered in courtroom 4 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 211 or 55.24% of the sample. Sittings at the Cambridge outstation had 171 matters entered or 44.76% of the sample.

## Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023

**Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	120	43.48
Female	112	40.58
Registered Company	44	15.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 276 new matters filed in the quarter, males accounted for the highest proportions of the sample with 120 or 43.48% of the sample, followed by females with 112 or 40.58% of the total sample. Registered companies with 44 or 15.94% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	95	51.91
Female	59	32.24
Registered Company	29	15.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 183 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 95 or 51.91% of the total sample, followed by females with 59 or 32.24%. Registered companies accounted for 29 or 15.85% of the sample.

## Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023

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

**Table 7.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	206	63.78
Trial	49	15.17
Part-Heard Date	20	6.19
Default Judgment Date	19	5.88
Final Judgment Date	19	5.88
Hearing of Application	9	2.79
Date for Order	1	0.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 323 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 206 or 63.78% of the sample, followed by 49 or 15.17%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters disposed for part heard dates accounted for 20 or 6.19% and matters adjourned for a default judgment and a final judgment date account for 19 or 5.88% each 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 8.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment	63	31.19
Oral Admission	40	19.80
Consent	30	14.85
Struck Out	21	10.40
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	20	9.90
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>86.14</b>

**NB: There were 202 matters disposed of in the quarter**

A sample of 202 matters disposed of during the third quarter of 2023 revealed that 63 or 31.19% of matters were disposed of by default judgments and 40 or 19.80% were disposed by oral admissions. Matters disposed by consent with 30 or 14.85% and matters struck out with 21 or 10.40% rank next. Notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 20 or 9.90% of the total sample of disposals completing the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above account for 86.14% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the third quarter of 2023.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
38	4	89.47

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 38 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 4 were adjourned. This results in an estimated

trial date certainty rate of 89.47%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 89% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 10.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Approximate Number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)</b>	<b>Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)</b>
337	110	387	114.84	32.64

The above table shows 337 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court during the third quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 29 cases were disposed of and 81 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 32.64%. An approximate gross figure of 195 cases were disposed of, and 192 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 114.84%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and is 24.16 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2022.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 11.33% and the estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 76.17%, a 29.58 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 11.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	137
Mean	241.9781
Median	105.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	312.68499
Skewness	2.387
Std. Error of Skewness	.207
Range	2000.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	2002.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 137 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2023 at the St. James Parish court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 242 days or 8.1 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days and the median time was 105 days. The standard deviation of roughly 313 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2002 days or roughly 5.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 2 days.

**Table 12.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	471
Mean	573.2038
Median	453.0000
Mode	971.00
Std. Deviation	474.62306
Skewness	1.060
Std. Error of Skewness	.113
Range	3063.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	3071.00

The above data is based on a sample of 471 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 573 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 971 days. The standard deviation of roughly 475 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 3071 days old or roughly 8.5 years, while the minimum age is 8 days.

**Performance Summaries-Other Parish Courts**

**Table 1.0: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the Manchester, St. Elizabeth and Hanover Parish Courts for the third quarter of 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)</b>	<b>Net Case Clearance Rate (%)</b>	<b>Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>	<b>Net Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>	<b>Trial Date certainty Rate (%)</b>
Manchester PC	-	114.90	-	43.71	-
St. Elizabeth PC	74.01	73.21	28.44	27.10	-
Hanover PC	108.09	97.74	51.47	50.38	-

The summary of key performance metrics for the parish courts of Manchester, St. Elizabeth and Hanover shows that the civil division of the Manchester Parish Court recorded an estimated net case clearance rate of 114.90% and a net case disposal rate of 43.71% in the third quarter of 2023. The St. Elizabeth Parish Court recorded an estimated gross clearance rate of 74.01% and an estimated net clearance rate of 73.21%. The St. Elizabeth Parish Court also recorded an estimated gross disposal rate of 28.44% and an estimated net disposal rate of 27.10% for the quarter. The Hanover Parish Court recorded an estimated gross clearance rate of 108.09% and an estimated net clearance rate of 97.74%. The Hanover Parish Court also recorded an estimated gross disposal rate of 51.47% and an estimated net disposal rate of 50.38% for the quarter.

**Aggregate data summaries – all Parish Courts**

**Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Approximate number of new cases</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter</b>	<b>Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)</b>
3959	4525	114.30

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the third quarter of 2023. It shows that a total of 3,959 new cases were filed over the quarter, while 4,525 became inactive or were disposed of, leading to an estimated gross clearance rate of 114.30%. This is a 1.39 percentage points decline when compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

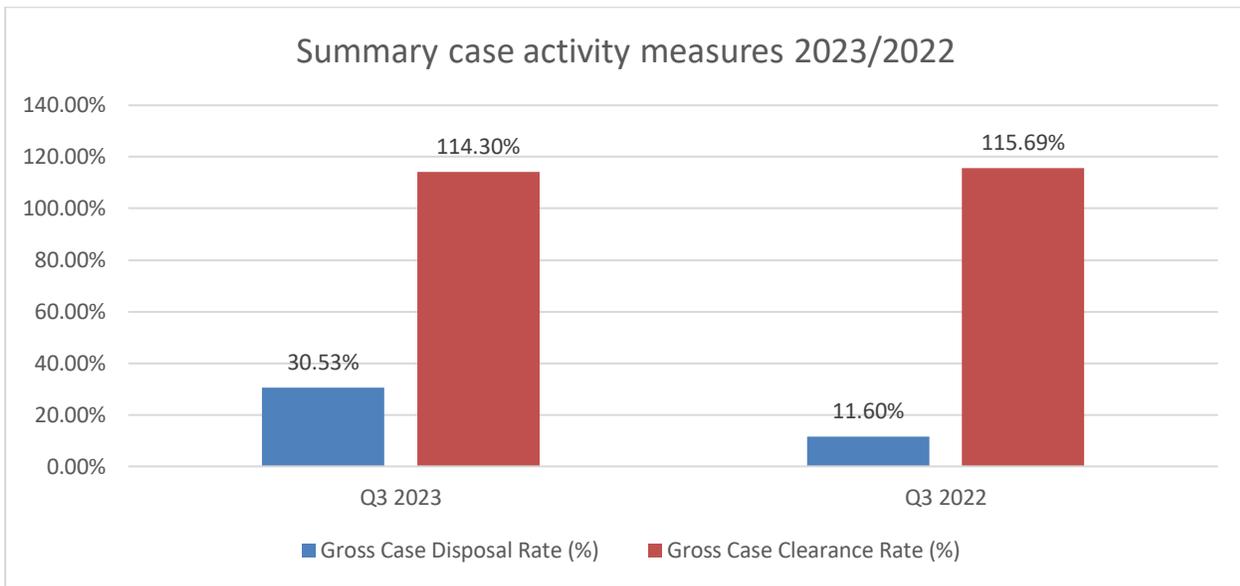
**Table 2.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3 2023	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3 2022	Change in the Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3 2023	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3 2022	Change in the Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)
St. Thomas	17.37	28.28	-10.91	71.86	86.21	-14.35
Corporate Area- Civil	47.90	2.05	45.85	141.11	95.71	45.40
St. Elizabeth	28.44	NA	NA	74.01	NA	NA
Hanover	51.47	65.63	-14.16	108.09	278.13	-170.04
Manchester	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Portland	NA	NA	NA	76.83	117.86	-41.03
St. Ann	25.00	9.32	15.68	143.67	104.32	39.35
St. Catherine	6.83	10.15	-3.32	97.94	191.77	-93.83
St. Mary	NA	18.87	NA	133.33	91.82	41.51
Trelawny	15.38	24.81	-9.43	109.23	109.30	-0.07
St. James	32.64	NA	NA	114.84	90.68	24.16
Clarendon	24.11	21.81	2.30	94.33	88.59	5.74
Westmoreland	45.93	65.22	-19.29	129.63	196.74	-67.11
<b>Average /Weighted Average</b>	<b>30.53</b>	<b>11.60</b>	<b>18.93</b>	<b>114.3</b>	<b>115.69</b>	<b>-1.39</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>14.95</b>	<b>23.10</b>		<b>25.67</b>	<b>62.63</b>	
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>1.07</b>		<b>-0.06</b>	<b>1.60</b>	

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate and the case clearance rate and for the third quarter of 2023 and 2022. The weighted average gross case disposal rate for the

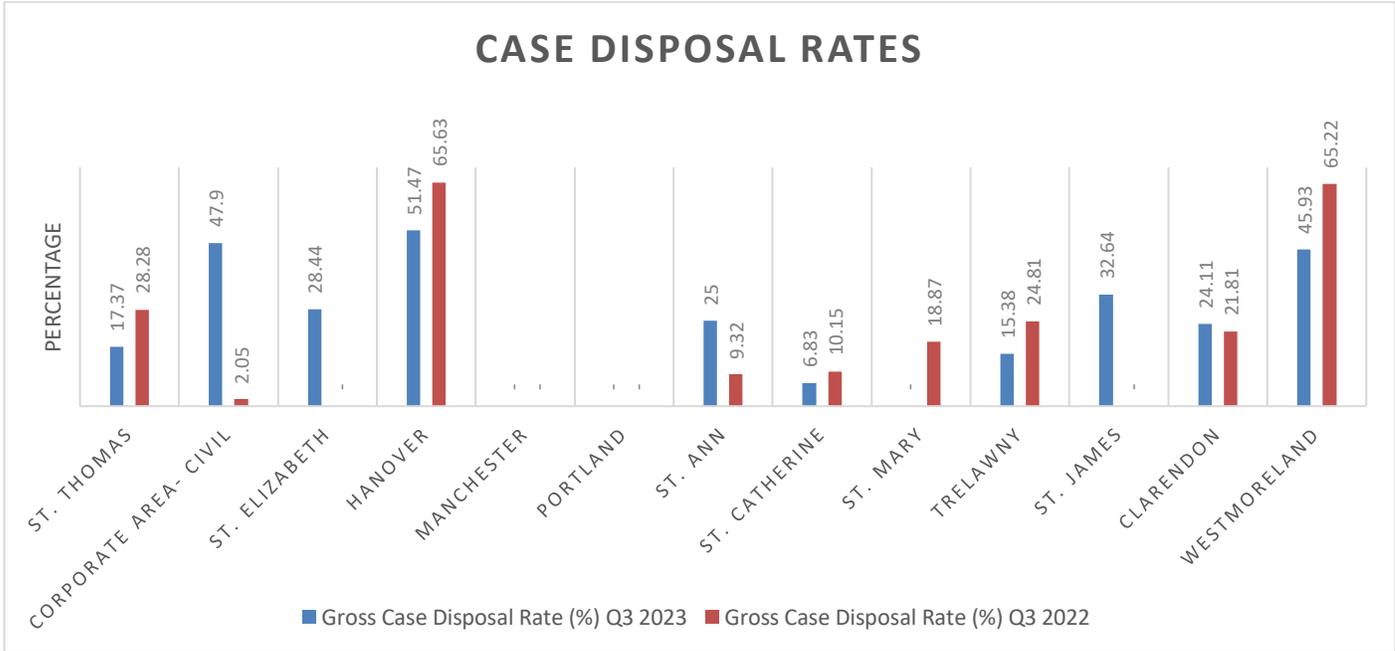
third quarter of 2023 was 30.53%, which was an 18.93 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2022 weighted average rate of 11.60%. The gross case clearance rate of 114.30% for the third quarter of 2023 was 1.39 percentage points below the 115.69% recorded in the third quarter of 2022.

**Chart 1.0: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for third quarter of 2022 and 2023**

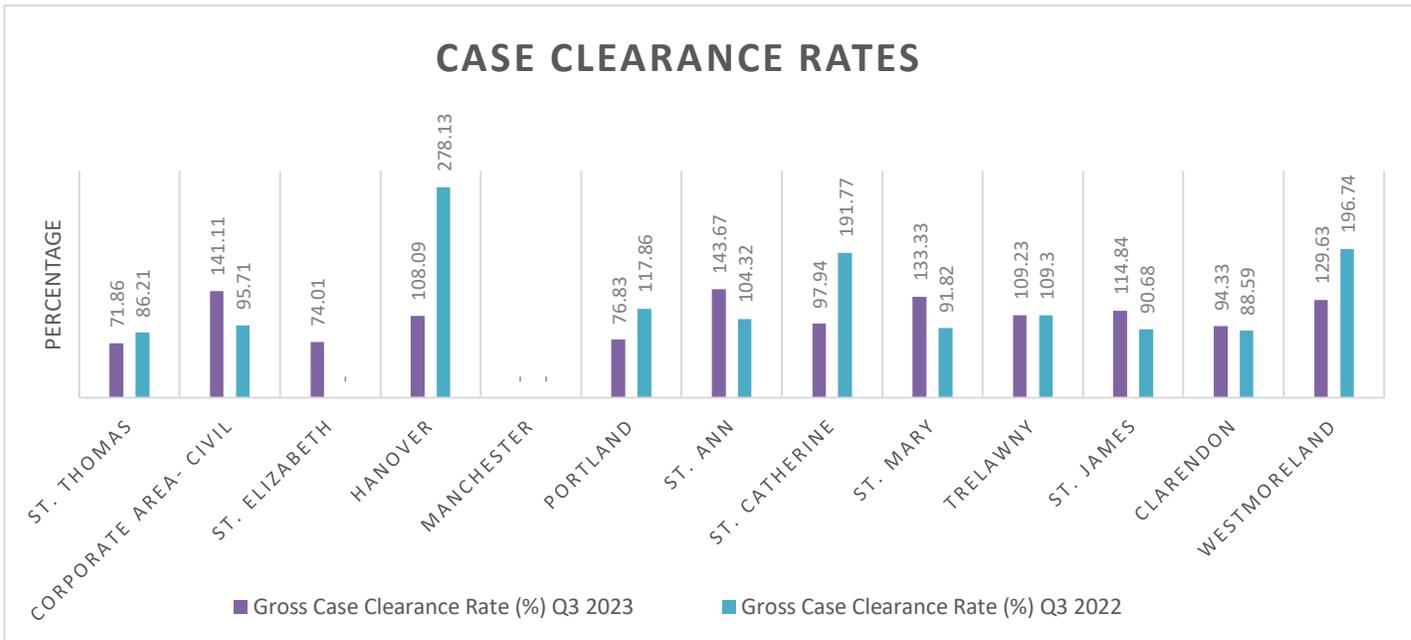


The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal and case clearance for the third quarter of 2023 and 2022. It is seen that there has been an improvement in the gross case disposal rate and a decrease in the gross case clearance rate over the comparative period. The case clearance rate moved from 115.69% in the third quarter of 2022 to 114.30% in the third quarter of 2023. The case disposal rate moved from 11.60% in the third quarter of 2022 to 30.53% in the third quarter of 2023, an increase of 18.93 percentage points.

**Chart 2.0a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the third quarter of 2022 and 2023**



**Chart 2.0b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for third quarter of 2022 and 2023**



**Table 3: Sampling distribution of claims filed during the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Big Claims	Small Claims	POCA	Miscellaneous	Total
Corporate area	923	172	-	-	1095
Portland	134	11	-	-	145
St. Ann	310	82	1	-	393
St. Catherine	724	57	-	-	781
St. Mary	85	32	-	-	117
St. Thomas	141	66	-	-	207
Trelawny	106	31	-	-	137
Westmoreland	127	38	-	-	165
St. James	260	124	-	-	384
Clarendon	282	45	-	-	327
Manchester	257	45	-	-	302
<b>Total</b>	<b>3349</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4053</b>

The above table provides an overall summary of the claims files across the parish courts in the third quarter of 2023. The sample of 4,053 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2023 reveals that 3,349 or 82.63% were big claims, while 17.35% were small claims and 0.02% were POCA matters. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine Paris Court, and the St. Ann Parish Court account for the largest share of new complaints filed in the quarter. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine, and the St. Ann Parish Courts account for the largest share of big claims filed in the quarter, while the Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, St. James and the St. Ann Parish Court account 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Population size in parish</b>	<b>Case per 10,000 population</b>
Hanover	136	69,533	20
St. Catherine	630	516,218	12
Westmoreland	135	144,103	9
St. Mary	108	113,615	10
Clarendon	282	245,103	12
Portland	82	81,744	10
St. Elizabeth	327	150,205	22
Corporate Area Criminal	1007	662,426	15
St. Thomas	167	93,902	18
St. James	337	183,811	18
St. Ann	316	172,362	18
Trelawny	130	75,164	17
Manchester	302	189,797	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>3959</b>	<b>2697983</b>	<b>15</b>

The above table provides an outline of the number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts (civil division) in the third quarter of 2023. The population sizes used are based on the last national population census in 2011 and therefore the data does not have full current value. Nevertheless, this kind of data provides interesting insights into the demand for civil adjudication in the various parishes. It is seen that the parish of St. Elizabeth, which is mid-range in caseloads and population size, registered the largest number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the third quarter of 2023. Hanover, which is among the courts with the smaller caseloads and smaller population size, ranked second. Equally interesting is the result that the parish of Westmoreland had the smallest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the quarter and is among the parishes with a smaller caseloads and midrange in population size. The St. Mary and Portland Parish Courts jointly recorded the second lowest

number of new cases filed per 10,000 population, followed by the Clarendon and St. Catherine Parish Courts.

**Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Reasons for Adjournment</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
No Return/Re-Issued	814	18.44
Defendant Absent	668	15.13
Parties in Discussion	304	6.89
Both Parties Absent	222	5.03
Referred to Mediation	147	3.33
Judge Absent/Ill	95	2.15
Pending Settlement	93	2.11
New Date	83	1.88
Plaintiff Absent	80	1.81
Hearing of Application	57	1.29
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2563</b>	<b>58.07</b>

*(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = (4,414)*

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

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

The above table is derived using a sample of 4,414 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the third quarter of 2023 across all of the parish courts (civil division). The largest proportion (18.44%) was for no return/ for reissue. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 15.13% and for parties in discussion with 6.89% round out the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 5.03% and referrals to mediation with 3.33% round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 58.07% of the total sample of adjournments

**Table 6.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

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	4553 (35.1%)	2927 (22.6%)	1471 (11.3%)	1076 (8.3%)	1252 (9.7%)	651 (5.0%)	1043 (8.0%)	12973 (100%)
St. Catherine	2420 (18.2%)	1878 (14.2%)	1126 (8.5%)	871 (6.6%)	1402 (10.6%)	991 (7.5%)	4575 (34.5%)	13263 (100%)
St. James	506 (43.2%)	205 (17.5%)	93 (7.9%)	73 (6.2%)	120 (10.2%)	72 (6.1%)	102 (8.7%)	1171 (100%)
Clarendon	389 (36.5%)	339 (31.8%)	187 (17.5%)	61 (5.7%)	63 (5.9%)	25 (2.3%)	3 (0.3%)	1067 (100%)
Westmoreland	967 (57.7%)	321 (19.1%)	140 (8.3%)	92 (5.5%)	88 (5.2%)	40 (2.4%)	29 (1.7%)	1677 (100%)
St. Ann	1398 (31.4%)	1006 (22.6%)	518 (11.6%)	368 (8.3%)	458 (10.3%)	235 (5.3%)	465 (10.5%)	4448 (100)
St. Thomas	661 (34.6%)	428 (22.4%)	211 (11.0%)	142 (7.4%)	175 (9.2%)	105 (5.5%)	190 (9.9%)	1912 (100)
Portland	398 (27.6%)	258 (17.9%)	137 (9.5%)	117 (8.1%)	163 (11.3%)	79 (5.5%)	289 (20.1%)	1441 (100%)
St. Mary	1469 (55.0%)	472 (17.7%)	208 (7.8%)	119 (4.5%)	182 (6.8%)	79 (3.0%)	140 (5.2%)	2669 (100%)
Trelawny	922 (54.7%)	315 (18.7%)	132 (7.8%)	87 (5.2%)	99 (5.9%)	52 (3.1%)	80 (4.7%)	1687 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>32.34</b>	<b>19.26</b>	<b>9.98</b>	<b>7.11</b>	<b>9.46</b>	<b>5.50</b>	<b>16.35</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>1368.30</b>	<b>814.90</b>	<b>422.30</b>	<b>300.60</b>	<b>400.20</b>	<b>232.90</b>	<b>691.60</b>	<b>4230.80</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1280.80</b>	<b>900.46</b>	<b>483.49</b>	<b>368.38</b>	<b>501.94</b>	<b>325.29</b>	<b>1398.75</b>	<b>4784.44</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>1.91</b>	<b>2.90</b>	<b>1.62</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 42,308*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 69 months across the parish courts*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at September 30, 2023. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 69-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 32.34% of the

disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Mary and St. Ann are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed of under 90 days. Cumulatively 68.69% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in 3-5 years. From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court, and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 16.35% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court, and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are all relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

**Table 6.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil	255.76	34	139	296.55	2.29	1	2386	12973
St. Catherine	564.04	28	416	499.64	0.81	1	2630	13263
St. James	247.89	28	109	317.79	2.49	1	2559	1171
Clarendon	157.21	63	119	132.52	1.76	3	862	1067
Westmoreland	138.91	35	73	180.43	3.11	1	1568	1677
St. Ann	305.98	63	154	393.49	2.48	1	2625	4448
St. Thomas	276.47	28	141.50	335.99	2.28	1	2379	1912
Portland	435.16	28	224	528.17	1.93	3	2648	1441

St. Mary	176.04	14	71	250.92	2.53	1	1634	2669
Trelawny	178.37	28	74	265.02	3.04	1	2080	1687
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>349.28</b>	<b>34.90</b>	<b>152.05</b>	<b>320.05</b>	<b>2.27</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>2137.10</b>	<b>4230.80</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>134.48</b>	<b>15.83</b>	<b>103.81</b>	<b>126.60</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>600.61</b>	<b>4784.44</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>0.37</b>	<b>-1.05</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>-1.23</b>	<b>1.62</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 42,308*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 69 months across the parish courts*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at September 30, 2023. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 69-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 349 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive figure, suggesting that most of these times fell below the overall mean. For matters disposed in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (139 days), Clarendon (157 days) and St. Mary (176 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (564 days), Portland (435 days) and St. Ann (306 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period of analysis. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is shown to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 134.48. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1.40 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 862 days (28.7 months/2.4 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court, to a high of 2,648 days (88.3 months/7.4 years) in the Portland Parish Court. The overall skewness of the

maximum times to disposition is a negative value, which is an indication that a larger proportion of the maximum times to disposition were above the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 42,308 matters.

**Table 7.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

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	44 (19.6%)	87 (38.7%)	33 (14.7%)	27 (12.0%)	21 (9.3%)	4 (1.8%)	9 (4.0%)	225 (100%)
St. Catherine	57 (11.9%)	80 (16.6%)	91 (18.9%)	58 (12.1%)	30 (6.2%)	40 (8.3%)	125 (26.0%)	481 (100%)
St. James	59 (43.1%)	26 (19.0%)	13 (9.5%)	9 (6.6%)	9 (6.6%)	14 (10.2%)	7 (5.1%)	137 (100%)
Clarendon	50 (33.3%)	41 (27.3%)	31 (20.7%)	6 (4.0%)	17 (11.3%)	3 (2.0%)	2 (1.3%)	150 (100%)
Westmoreland	64 (70.3%)	13 (14.3%)	9 (9.9%)	-	1 (1.1%)	4 (4.4%)	-	91 (100%)
St. Ann	86 (33.0%)	48 (18.4%)	16 (6.1%)	28 (10.7%)	29 (11.1%)	18 (6.9%)	36 (13.8%)	261 (100%)
St. Thomas	16 (30.2%)	11 (20.8%)	6 (11.3%)	6 (11.3%)	6 (11.3%)	5 (9.4%)	3 (5.7%)	53 (100%)
Portland	12 (15.2%)	18 (22.8%)	7 (8.9%)	2 (2.5%)	11 (13.9%)	1 (1.3%)	28 (35.4%)	79 (100.0%)
St. Mary	61 (62.9%)	20 (20.6%)	11 (11.3%)	-	3 (3.1%)	1 (1.0%)	1 (1.0%)	97 (100%)
Trelawny	33 (49.3%)	12 (17.9%)	4 (6.0%)	3 (4.5%)	2 (3.0%)	6 (9.0%)	7 (10.4%)	67 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>29.37</b>	<b>21.69</b>	<b>13.47</b>	<b>8.47</b>	<b>7.86</b>	<b>5.85</b>	<b>13.28</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>48.20</b>	<b>35.60</b>	<b>22.10</b>	<b>17.38</b>	<b>12.90</b>	<b>9.60</b>	<b>24.22</b>	<b>164.10</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>22.70</b>	<b>28.12</b>	<b>26.19</b>	<b>19.38</b>	<b>10.85</b>	<b>12.03</b>	<b>39.71</b>	<b>130.52</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.27</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>2.51</b>	<b>1.83</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 1,641*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023. The results shown suggest that only 29.37%

of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days. The St. Ann parish court along with the parish courts of Westmoreland, St. Mary and St. James are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 73.00% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year. From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of St. Catherine, St. Ann and Portland had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 13.28% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Catherine, St. Ann and Portland had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are mostly relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

**Table 7.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil Division	232.77	103	147	278.39	4.13	1	2225	225
St. Catherine	596.15	2535	290	698.02	1.79	6	3136	481
St. James	241.98	28	105	312.68	2.39	2	2002	137
Clarendon	184.00	126	126	157.25	1.83	8	862	150
Westmoreland	101.63	70	65	146.54	2.96	3	713	91
St. Ann	412.67	69	168	686.39	4.08	2	5474	261
St. Thomas	263.04	63	175	251.25	1.38	3	1057	53
Portland	892.92	147	413	1039.27	1.14	4	3400	79
St. Mary	102.45	42	49	135.29	3.57	1	941	97
Trelawny	278.25	1437	90	435.29	2.00	2	1437	67
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>383.85</b>	<b>462.00</b>	<b>162.80</b>	<b>414.04</b>	<b>2.53</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>2124.70</b>	<b>164.10</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>245.89</b>	<b>844.66</b>	<b>111.41</b>	<b>301.21</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>1508.99</b>	<b>130.52</b>

<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>2.16</b>	<b>1.47</b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>1.83</b>
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*Number of charges sampled (N) = 1,641*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 384 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 1.57, suggesting that most of the scores were below the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (102 days), St. Mary (102 days) and Clarendon (184 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of Portland (893 days), St. Catherine (596 days) and St. Ann (413 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period of analysis. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is shown to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 245.85. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 3.20 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 713 days (23.8 months/2 years) in the Westmoreland Parish Court, to a high of 5,474 days (182.5 months/15 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 1.32, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were below the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 1,641 matters.

**Table 7.0c: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Struck Out	Consent	Settlement	Default Judgment	Oral Admission	Withdrawal	Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	Other	Total
St. Catherine	292	97	92	50	14	35	38	82	700
Corporate Area Civil	366	160	6	36	30	61	40	43	742
Westmoreland	51	52	22	22	22	10	5	15	199
Clarendon	124	31	32	14	12	7	19	21	260
Trelawny	17	22	6	16	7	6	-	19	93
Portland	7	16	7	2	-	-	41	18	91
St. Mary	62	30	8	17	23	12	-	13	165
St. Thomas	7	26	8	16	15	-	8	8	88
St. Ann	36	113	52	57	34	31	59	16	398
St. James	21	30	5	63	40	4	20	19	202
<b>Total</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>2938</b>
<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>33.46</b>	<b>19.64</b>	<b>8.10</b>	<b>9.97</b>	<b>6.71</b>	<b>5.65</b>	<b>7.83</b>	<b>8.65</b>	<b>-</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N): 2,938*

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts-civil division for the third quarter of 2023. From the sample, it is observed that the highest proportion of matters disposed of during the quarter were by being struck out with 33.46% of the sample, followed by matters disposed of by consent with 19.64%, default judgments with 9.97% and dispositions grouped under the category, “other methods” with 8.65% of the sample. Settlements with 8.10% and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 7.83% rank next. Oral admissions with 6.71% and matters disposed of by withdrawals with 5.65% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter.

**15.0c: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Paris Court</b>	<b>Net Case Backlog Rate (%)</b>	<b>Gross Case Backlog Rate (%)</b>
Clarendon	0.65	7.90
Corporate Area-Civil Division	1.42	26.26
Portland	4.94	16.57
St. Ann	2.94	23.72
St. Catherine	3.03	5.81
St. James	4.11	5.74
St. Mary	1.84	18.03
St. Thomas	1.43	23.09
Trelawny	1.55	23.03
Westmoreland	3.01	15.84
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>18.52</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>7.75</b>

*Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2023 is 7.81% and the gross backlog is 19.60%*

The net and gross case backlog rates provide one of the most decisive indicators of court performance as they are strongly influenced by most of the other critical court performance metrics such as the case clearance, case disposal, trial and hearing date certainty rates and are also directly correlated with the case congestion rate. The estimated gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) and are over two years old at the date of reporting. The closely related estimated net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are still active and exceeding two years old at the time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which

are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The results revealed a net case backlog rate (weighted average) in the parish courts of 2.24% (with a standard deviation of 1.35%), which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 18.52% (with a standard deviation of 7.75%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is 8.52 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10%, but can be improved to meet this standard with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the civil courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Clarendon with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.65%, Corporate Area-Civil Division with an estimated net backlog rate of 1.42% and St. Thomas with an estimated net case backlog rate of 1.43% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of Portland (4.94%), St. James (4.11%) and St. Catherine (3.03%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of St. James (5.74%), St. Catherine (5.81%) and Clarendon (7.90%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (26.26%), St. Ann (23.72%) and St. Thomas (23.09%) have the highest rates.

**Trial court activity summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

**Table 1.0a: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average time between filing and first court appearance</b>	<b>Average time between first court appearance and trial</b>	<b>Average time between trial and disposition</b>
Clarendon	48.60	193.65	209.20
Corporate Area-Civil Division	107.07	270.48	188.73
Portland	59.57	721.33	587.90
St. Ann	95.73	607.36	531.45
St. Catherine	87.01	459.98	511.75
St. James	105.15	346.79	84.67
St. Mary	65.47	147.46	212.94
St. Thomas	48.63	632.11	170.40
Trelawny	51.96	320.18	264.17
Westmoreland	37.84	71.33	86.92
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>76.12</b>	<b>427.69</b>	<b>398.98</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>25.73</b>	<b>220.81</b>	<b>187.69</b>

Tracking the times between the occurrence of major hearing events along the case flow continuum is important to establishing precise points of possible delay in case progression. The above table provides a summary of the average times between filing a case and the first court appearance. The average time between the first court appearance and the first date of trial and

the average duration between the first trial date and disposition. Overall, it is seen that the average time between filing a civil case and the first court appearance is roughly 2.5 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 14.3 months or 428 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 13.3 months or 399 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Number of cases heard</b>	<b>Number of cases with a trial date set</b>	<b>Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set</b>
Clarendon	686	116	16.91
Corporate Area	2329	134	5.75
Portland	274	86	31.39
St. Ann	1212	199	16.42
St. Catherine	2369	429	18.11
St. James	799	58	7.26
St. Mary	289	64	22.15
St. Thomas	346	79	22.83
Trelawny	359	62	17.27
Westmoreland	352	108	30.68
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>9015</b>	<b>1335</b>	<b>14.81</b>

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the third quarter of 2023 in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 9,015 civil cases heard across the parish courts in the third quarter of 2023, 1,335 or 14.81% proceeded to trial. The parish courts of the Corporate Area-Civil Division (5.75%), St. James (7.26%) and St. Ann (16.42%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of Portland (31.39%), Westmoreland (30.68%) and St. Thomas (22.83%) had the highest proportion.

**Table 1.0c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	81	18.49
Consent	68	15.53
Settlement	52	11.87
Default Judgement	49	11.19
Trial	38	8.68
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	37	8.45
Final Judgment	24	5.48
Transferred	22	5.02
Withdrawal	19	4.34
Non Suited	13	2.97
trial	12	2.74
By Consent - Mediated Settlement	7	1.60
Other	7	1.60
Oral Admission	6	1.37
Dismissal	2	0.46
Order	1	0.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters struck out with 18.49% of the cases disposed of, matters disposed by consent with 68 or 15.53% and matters disposed by settlements with 52 or 11.87% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample.

**Table 1.0d: Summary of case appearance frequency for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average number of appearances per case</b>	<b>Standard Deviation of the number appearances per case</b>	<b>Skewness of the number of appearances per case</b>	<b>Maximum number of appearances per case</b>	<b>Minimum number of appearances per case</b>
Clarendon	2.84	2.34	1.90	12	1
Corporate Area-Civil Division	1.86	1.90	4.08	26	1
Portland	8.66	7.40	0.86	27	1
St. Ann	5.46	7.05	2.72	40	1
St. Catherine	4.53	3.17	1.05	20	1
St. James	2.27	1.80	1.73	12	1
St. Mary	3.79	3.69	2.14	22	1
St. Thomas	10.32	11.79	0.96	31	1
Trelawny	4.17	4.61	2.05	21	1
Westmoreland	2.73	3.33	3.09	26	1
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>3.89</b>	-	-	<b>23.70</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>2.79</b>	-	-	<b>8.42</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.24</b>	-	-	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.00</b>

The above table summarizes the number of appearances per case heard in the third quarter of 2023, which have at least one mention court appearance. The overall average number of appearances per 10 cases mentioned is 39, or roughly 4 appearances per case with a standard deviation of 2.79 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.24. 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 third quarter of 2023 are the St. Thomas (10.32), Portland (8.66) and St. Ann (5.46) Parish Courts, while Corporate Area-Civil Division (1.86), St. James (2.27) and Westmoreland (2.73) 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average number of appearances per case</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
Clarendon	2.05	1.25
Corporate Area-Civil Division	1.97	1.98
Portland	8.14	6.61
St. Ann	3.76	4.82
St. Catherine	3.99	3.39
St. James	2.53	1.77
St. Mary	2.82	3.23
St. Thomas	2.37	1.99
Trelawny	4.17	5.34
Westmoreland	2.06	2.05
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>3.06</b>	-

The above summary specifically addresses the number of appearances per case for matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2023. The overall average observed is roughly 30 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 Corporate Area- Civil Division, Clarendon and Westmoreland Parish Courts were among those with the lowest incidence of appearance per disposed case in the quarter, while the parish courts of Portland, Trelawny and St. Catherine were among the locations with the highest incidence.

**Table 9.0: Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in the third quarter ended September 30, 2023**

Parish Court	Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of Disposed cases and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of year of origin)	Gross Disposal rate (%)	Net Disposal rate (%)	Gross Clearance rate (%)	Net Clearance (%)	Approximate trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
St. Thomas	167	29	120	17.37	12.66	71.86	50.63	81.82	8.77
Corporate Area- Civil	1007	400	1421	47.90	31.50	141.11	79.15	NA	7.76
St. Elizabeth	327	93	242	28.44	27.10	74.01	73.21	NA	NA
Hanover	136	70	147	51.47	50.38	108.09	97.74	NA	NA
Manchester	302	132	347	NA	43.71	NA	114.90	NA	NA
Portland	82	4	63	NA	4.88	76.83	69.51	100	29.76
St. Ann	316	79	454	25.00	16.25	143.67	103.53	100	13.76
St. Catherine	630	43	617	6.83	6.53	97.94	89.17	98.78	19.87
St. Mary	108	46	144	NA	42.59	133.33	132.41	82.35	3.42
Trelawny	130	20	142	15.38	9.09	109.23	69.42	100	9.28
St. James	337	110	387	32.64	11.33	114.84	76.17	89.47	8.07
Clarendon	282	68	266	24.11	19.85	94.33	83.15	97.73	6.13
Westmoreland	135	62	175	45.93	45.11	129.63	115.79	100	3.39
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>3959</b>	<b>1156</b>	<b>4525</b>	<b>30.53</b>	<b>23.23</b>	<b>114.30</b>	<b>86.79</b>	<b>97.00</b>	<b>12.79</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.99</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>2.54</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>-0.06</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>-1.07</b>	<b>1.57</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>257.59</b>	<b>100.09</b>	<b>358.47</b>	<b>14.95</b>	<b>16.32</b>	<b>25.67</b>	<b>22.99</b>	<b>7.77</b>	<b>8.19</b>

*Note 1: Corporate Area Court-Civil division gross and net disposal rates were calculated using only new big claims filed in the quarter.*

*Note 2: The gross case disposal rate for the Brown's Town outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2023 is 17.46% and the net case disposal rate is 14.75%.*

*Note 3: The gross case clearance rate for the Brown's Town outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2023 is 107.94% and the net case clearance rate is 93.44%*

## **Conclusion**

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts continue to make a significant contribution to the total productivity of the Jamaican court system, registering an overall gross case clearance rate of 114.30% an overall net case backlog rate of 2.24%. These output indicate that this division now solidly rivals the productivity of the criminal division of the parish courts and has now achieved most of the key quantitative objectives set out in the judiciary's strategic plan. The mean time taken to dispose of cases is just over a year while the gross backlog rate which includes both active and inactive cases over 24 months old is 18.52%, a sizeable proportion above the net case backlog rate and suggests that the number of inactive cases in the civil division of the parish courts may be a cause for concern. Among the leading reasons for adjournment in the civil division of the parish courts are case parties absent and matters adjourned due to no returns, both of which are areas requiring potential operational interventions.

In the fourth quarter of 2023 and in 2024, the civil division of the parish courts are expected to continue to have a significant impact on the overall efficiency of judicial outcomes in the Jamaican court system.

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

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

**Trial/hearing date certainty:** This is the proportion of dates set for trial or hearing which proceed without adjournment. For example, if 100 trial dates are set in a particular Term and 40 are adjourned, then the trial certainty rate would be 60%. The international standard for this measure is between 92% and 100%.

**Courtroom utilization rate:** The proportion of courtrooms in full use on a daily basis or the proportion of hours utilized in a courtroom on a daily basis. The international standard for this rate is 100%.

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

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

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