

PARISH COURTS OF JAMAICA – CIVIL DIVISION
(JANUARY 1, 2026 – MARCH 31, 2026)

Court Metrics	January - March Highlights				
	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	103.58	101.38	103.03	154.38	156.57
Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	85.86	90.75	91.71	92.11	90.20
Average Time to Disposition	11.49	11.30	11.07	14.62	11.96
	months	months	months	months	months

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First Quarter 2026 Parish Court Civil Report

Chief Justice's Message

I am pleased to present the Civil Division's performance report for the first quarter of 2026. This report reflects our continuing commitment to transparency, accountability and the timely delivery of civil justice throughout Jamaica's Parish Courts.

The results show meaningful progress in several important areas. The Civil Division received 4,242 new cases between January and March 2026 and disposed of, or otherwise removed from the active register, 4,394 matters. This resulted in an overall gross case-clearance rate of 103.58%, an improvement over the 101.38% achieved in the corresponding quarter of 2025. In practical terms, the division addressed 152 more matters than it received during the period.

Nine courts exceeded the 90% clearance benchmark used in the report and demonstrates the continued effort of the judiciary, court administrators, registrars and staff to prevent the accumulation of active civil cases. Indeed the overall clearance rate was 103.58%. Portland recorded the highest rate at 200%, while the Corporate Area Civil Court, St. Elizabeth, St. Ann, St. Mary, St. Catherine, Hanover and Manchester all exceeded 100%. Trelawny also performed strongly, with a rate of 97.58%.

The report also records progress in the management of active cases. Only 3.33% of active matters were more than 24 months old, which is within the target of no more than 5%. The corresponding rate for active cases older than 18 months was 3.97%. These results suggest that active case management is helping to prevent a significant proportion of cases from remaining before the courts for prolonged periods.

Trial-date certainty also exceeded the expected standard. The division achieved a rate of 87.24%, above the 85% benchmark. This is an important outcome for court users. Reliable hearing dates assist litigants, attorneys, witnesses and other participants in preparing for proceedings and help courts to make effective use of available judicial time. It also shows respect for persons and their time.

These achievements deserve recognition. They reflect the dedication of all those who serve in the Parish Courts and the value of sustained attention to case-flow management, early intervention and the orderly progression of cases.

At the same time, the report properly identifies areas that require continued attention and improvement. Public confidence in the justice system depends not only on the number of cases that are disposed of, but also on whether cases are resolved fairly, efficiently and within a reasonable time.

While the overall clearance rate exceeded 100%, it remained below the Judiciary's strategic objective of 130%. This high clearance rate was set to clear the backlog of active cases. That has largely been achieved but there remains the inactive cases which have not been disposed of satisfactorily. The division must therefore continue to improve its ability not merely to keep pace with new filings, but to reduce the volume of unresolved cases that are carried forward more decisively. The projected clearance rate of 108.59% for the second quarter is encouraging, but it also confirms that sustained effort will be required to attain the higher strategic target.

The report highlights congestion as a major system-wide challenge. The division's congestion rate was 439.17% which is significantly above the 115% standard for a high performing court system. This measure indicates that the volume of work before the courts remains significantly greater than can be processed promptly under current arrangements. High congestion can contribute to longer waiting periods, pressure on court lists and greater difficulty in bringing matters to conclusion.

The overall case disposal rate for the quarter was 19.26%, representing a decline of 4.04 percentage points from the first quarter of 2025 (23.30%). This requires careful monitoring since a declining case disposal rate may indicate that the division may be having difficulty managing effectively its new cases.

A high congestion rate along with declining case disposal rate is a clear warning that unless there is proactive intervention the risk of the backlog returning is moderately high.

The management of inactive cases is another important priority. The report distinguishes between the backlog of active cases and the wider inventory that includes inactive files. Although the net backlog rate for active cases older than 24 months was 3.33%, the gross rate, including inactive matters, was 20.11%, exceeding the 10% target. Similarly, the gross backlog rate for cases older than 18 months was 21.47%, compared with a net rate of 3.97%. An undisposed of file means that a person may have been denied access to resolution. The undisposed file may well be an indication that the delay in resolving the matter was so long that the litigant abandoned their opportunity to enforce their right. It could also be the case that a defendant

was wrongly pursued but has lost the opportunity of complete vindication. In both situations there is no vindication of either side.

The high number of inactive cases does not diminish the progress made in managing active cases. They do, however, underscore the need for continuing review of older inactive matters. We must ensure that older cases are properly examined and where further action is required then they are restored to active management with the purpose of ensuring that those which can appropriately be concluded are formally addressed in accordance with law and procedure.

The report also identifies variations in performance among individual courts. Four courts recorded gross clearance rates below the 90% benchmark: Westmoreland, at 13.46%; St. James, at 77.87%; St. Thomas, at 84.21%; and Clarendon, at 88.46%. In respect of Westmoreland there has been one functional court room for the Parish Court since the passage of Hurricane Melissa on October 28, 2025. The new temporary facility is not yet operational. This explains the very low clearance rate for that parish.

Westmoreland's performance should improve once the new facility which would house all courts becomes fully operational. St. James, St. Thomas, and Clarendon will likewise require targeted monitoring and support to bring performance to, and then beyond, the expected standard.

Although trial-date certainty was achieved at the division-wide level (87.24%), the report notes that Portland (51.72%), St. Catherine (59.68%), and Trelawny (68.75%) fell below the 85% standard. This suggests, unless there are very good reasons, that there may further difficulties occurring further upstream (listing practices, case management) or high judicial flexibility (that is

the propensity to adjourn matters other than in circumstances where it was absolutely necessary). This reinforces the importance of examining court-level results rather than relying only on overall averages. The courts will continue to review listing practices, case management practices and the factors that prevent matters from proceeding on their scheduled dates.

The leading causes of adjournment included incomplete returns, non-attendance by parties, ongoing discussions, mediation referrals and the absence of both parties. While resolution other than by trial is to be encouraged the courts still need to ensure that the appropriate dispute resolutions mechanisms are utilised in a timely manner.

This report therefore presents both grounds for encouragement and a clear agenda for improvement. The Civil Division has made substantial progress in clearing cases, maintaining trial-date certainty and controlling the active case backlog. Yet the report also demonstrates that congestion, the reduced case disposal rate, the high inactive backlog rates, the inactive inventories, and the avoidable adjournments must be addressed with urgency and consistency.

The Judiciary remains committed to providing a civil justice service that is accessible, fair, efficient and at lowest possible cost. We will continue to publish performance information, assess our results candidly and take action where improvement is needed.

The Honourable Mr Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD
Chief Justice

Executive Summary

The Honourable Chief Justice has outlined the following strategic objectives for the court system: a court-wide case clearance rate of 130%, a trial date certainty rate of 85%, and an overall net case backlog rate of under 5%. The results presented in this first quarter report (covering January 1 to March 31, 2026) indicate that the Civil Division of the Parish Courts is on track to meet these targets. Regarding gross case clearance rates, the Civil Division of the Parish Courts recorded 103.58% during the report period. This represents an increase of 2.20 percentage points compared to the same period in 2025 and meets the international standard for this metric. Nine (9) parish courts surpassed the 90% mark for case clearance rates during the first quarter of 2026. The trial date certainty rate for the Civil Division of the Parish Courts stood at 87.24%, meeting the required standard. One highly important measure, which is of keen interest to the leadership of the courts and the policy makers, is the case congestion rate. This is a measure of how well a court is doing in managing its pending caseload, relative to its rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The higher the case congestion rate of a court, the more burdensome the caseload and the longer it will take to dispose of cases, again within the context of the existing rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The overall case congestion rate recorded for the civil division of the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2026 was 439.17%. The Parish Courts of Portland, St. Mary, and St. Thomas are among the least congested court at the end of the quarter. There is a long run negative association between the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate, therefore, sustained increases in the case clearance rate will cause the case congestion rate to fall.

The average time to dispose a civil case in the quarter was approximately 345 days (11.49 months). The St. Elizabeth (4.23 months), Trelawny (6.99 months), and Manchester (7.16 months) Parish Courts had the lowest average times to disposition. The backlog rate remains a key metric in this report. As of the end of the first quarter of 2026, the estimated gross case backlog rate for cases older than 24 months in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts was 20.11%, meaning approximately 20.11% of combined active and inactive cases were over two years old. This is above the targeted value of 10%. However, when inactive cases are excluded, the net case backlog rate for active cases was approximately 3.33%, which meets the required annual standard of $\leq 5\%$. The St. Thomas, Trelawny, St. Catherine, St. Mary and Clarendon Parish Courts performed best in this regard, each with less than 2.0% of active civil cases in backlog. As of the end of the first quarter of 2026, the estimated gross case backlog rate for cases older than 18 months in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts was 21.47% meaning approximately 21.47% of combined active and inactive cases were over 18 months old. This is above the targeted value of 10%. However, when inactive cases are excluded, the net case backlog rate for active cases was approximately 3.97%, which meets the required annual standard of $\leq 5\%$. The St. Thomas, St. Catherine, Trelawny, St. Mary, and Clarendon Parish Courts performed best in this regard, each with less than 2.0% of active civil cases in backlog. Several factors influenced case progression in the first quarter of 2026, with the leading causes of adjournment being no returns, the absence of defendants, plaintiffs or both parties, ongoing discussions, and referrals to mediation. The five primary methods of case disposition during the quarter were by being struck out, settlement, consent judgment, default judgment, and withdrawal. The Civil Division of the Parish Courts continues to demonstrate strong performance, having already achieved the target of reducing

the overall net case backlog rate to under 5%. As of the end of the first quarter of 2026, the division is well positioned to make noteworthy progress toward meeting the overall quantitative targets. The Judiciary of Jamaica remains on a steady path towards becoming a world-class institution that leverages innovation and technology to deliver efficient services and timely judgments in an environment where all stakeholders are valued.

See below aggregate case activity summary:

Table i: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

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 Congestion rate (%)	Approximate Gross trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
4242	817	4394	19.26	103.58	439.17	87.24	11.49

Note: For the Corporate Area Civil Court, the gross case disposal rate was calculated only using the new big claims¹ filed in the quarter

¹ **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

Table ii: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	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)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2026	Case Disposal Rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
St. Thomas	209	45	176	292	21.53	84.21	284.66
Corporate Area-Civil	936	178	1179	4792	19.02	125.96	485.84
St. Elizabeth	274	43	325	2651	15.69	118.61	900.00
Hanover	82	58	84	NA	70.73	102.44	NA
Manchester	362	52	365	1265	14.36	100.83	445.75
Portland	70	14	140	210	20	200	200.00
St. Ann	446	72	489	1675	16.14	109.64	433.74
St. Catherine	653	89	695	1738	13.63	106.43	344.03
St. Mary	147	57	159	214	38.78	108.16	227.04
Trelawny	124	21	121	335	16.94	97.58	379.34
St. James	497	143	387	772	28.77	77.87	327.91
Clarendon	286	45	253	502	15.73	88.46	311.46
Westmoreland	156	0	21	609	NA	13.46	3642.86
Total/Weighted Average	4242	817	4394	15055	19.26	103.58	439.17
Skewness	1.31	1.28	1.82	1.88	2.49	0.31	3.26
Standard Deviation	253.11	49.79	313.27	1349.61	16.29	40.32	955.01

Forecast:

Using the method of exponential smoothing, it is forecast that in the second quarter of 2026, 3,840 new civil cases will be filed in the civil division of the parish courts, while 4,170 cases are expected to be disposed or become inactive. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for the second quarter of 2026 in the civil division of the parish courts is therefore 108.59%. The parish courts of Portland, Hanover, and St. Mary are expected to register the highest case clearance rates in the second quarter of 2026.

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

Table iii: Key Performance Metrics of High-Performing Courts

Parameter	Minimum Annual Required Standard	Rates for the first quarter 2026
Case Disposal Rate	$\geq 75\%$	19.26
Case Clearance Rate	$\geq 100\%$	103.58
Case Congestion Rate	$\leq 115\%$	439.17
Trial Date Certainty Rate	$\geq 85\%$	85.86
Net Case Backlog Rate	$\leq 5\%$	3.33
Gross Case Backlog Rate	$\leq 10\%$	20.11
Average Number of case management dates	≤ 3	4.01

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

Methodology

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

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

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

Disclaimer

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

Rounding: Calculations are based on the full underlying values, while figures are displayed to two decimal places. Consequently, minor differences may occur when displayed figures are summed due to rounding.

Introduction

This report provides an overview of case activity in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the first quarter of 2026, ending on March 31, 2026. It covers key areas such as the number of new cases filed, cases disposed, and inactive cases during the period, alongside the most common causes of action and applications. Additionally, the report examines the number of reissue dates, the leading methods of case disposition, and reasons for adjournments. It also addresses the various enforcement actions taken, such as judgment summonses, warrants of levy, and warrants of attachment, noting how these cases are reactivated and their outcomes.

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

For several courts, the data is based on population estimates derived from representative samples, ensuring reliability and data integrity. However, one limitation is that data collection timelines differ between courts, affecting comparability at this stage. In some instances, scientific sampling methods are used to fill data gaps. The report concludes with cumulative case activity summaries for the Civil Courts for the first quarter of 2026.

Chapter 1.0: The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division

1.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division for the first quarter of 2026.

Table 1.01: Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	758	80.98
Disposed	91	9.72
Inactive	87	9.30
Total	936	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 936 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, 758 or 80.98% cases were still active, 91 were disposed and 87 were inactive at the end of the quarter. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 19.02% for big claims for the quarter, which is 12.74 percentage points below the estimated disposal rate recorded for big claims in the corresponding first quarter of 2025.

Table 1.02: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	104	31.04
Recovery of Possession	94	28.06
Negligence	22	6.57
Rent Owing and Continuing	15	4.48
Defamation of Character	14	4.18
Sub-total	249	74.33

Total sample size of causes of action = 335

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 104 or roughly 31.04% of the sample. Recovery of possession and negligence with 94 or 28.06% and 22 or 6.57% respectively rank next. The top five causes of action were rounded off by rent owing and continuing with 15 or 4.48% and defamation of character with 14 or 4.18% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 74.33% of the total sample of 335 causes of action.

Table 1.03: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	745	76.57
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	228	23.43
Total	973*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 935 cases**

The majority of a sample of 973 matters entered in the first quarter of 2026 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 745 or 76.57% of the sample, followed by courtroom 1 with 228 or 23.43% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Table 1.04: Distribution of plaintiffs for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	133	38.66
Female	131	38.08
Registered Company	53	15.41
Trading As	27	7.85
Total	344	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 344 matters entered in the first quarter of 2026 at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 133 or 38.66% of the sample. Females accounted for 131 or 38.08% and registered companies accounted for 53 or 15.41% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 27 or 7.85% of the sample.

Table 1.05: Distribution of defendants for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	157	46.87
Female	131	39.10
Trading As	24	7.16
Registered Company	23	6.87
Total	335	100.00

There were 335 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the first quarter of 2026. The highest proportion of defendants were male with 157 or 46.87% of the sample, followed by females with 131 or 39.10%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 24 or 7.16% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 23 or 6.87% of the sample.

1.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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

Table 1.06: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management date	275	44.21
Trial	154	24.76
Default Judgment Date	121	19.45
Part-Heard Date	56	9.00
Hearing of Application	14	2.25
Final Judgment Date	2	0.32
Total	622	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 622 matters that went to court during the first quarter of 2026, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 275 or 44.21% were adjourned for case management dates, followed by 154 or 24.76%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for default judgment dates with 121 or 19.45% of the sample. It is of note that 56 or 9% of the matters in this sample were adjourned part heard. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned at the mention stage and that there

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

Table 1.07: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	104	21.01
Attorney Absent	16	3.23
Hearing of Application	14	2.83
Parties in Discussion	4	0.81
Attorney in Another Jurisdiction	3	0.61
Sub-total	141	28.48

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 495

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 495 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the first quarter of 2026. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants accounted for 104 or 21.01% of the sample and the absence of defendants accounted for 16 or 3.23% of the sample. Adjournments for the hearing of an application accounted for 14 or 2.83%, parties in discussion accounted for 4 or 0.81% and the attorney is in another jurisdiction accounted for 3 or 0.61% of the sample.

Table 1.08: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	92
Average Incidence	1.00

Corresponding to 92 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 92 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 92 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

Table 1.09: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	346	42.35
Consent	166	20.32
Withdrawal	76	9.30
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	68	8.32
Default Judgment	66	8.08
Sub-total	722	88.37

NB there were 817 matters disposed

A total of 817 matters were disposed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the first quarter of 2026. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 722 or 88.37% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 346 or 42.35% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 166 or 20.32% and withdrawals with 76 or 9.30%. Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) and matters disposed by default judgment round off the top five methods with 68 or 8.32% and 66 or 8.08% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 1.10: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
66	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 66 trial dates was set in the quarter, of which none was adjourned. This results in an estimated 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.

Table 1.11: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2026	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
936	178	1179	4792	125.96	19.02	485.84

The above table shows 936 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, a total of 91 of these cases were disposed and 87 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 19.02%, a 12.74 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2025. An approximate gross figure of 739 cases were disposed, and 440 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2026. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of

125.96%, which exceeds the international standard on this metric, and is a 18.62 percentage points increase when compared to the first quarter of 2025.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 10.72%, which is 8.83 percentage points below the net disposal rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The estimated net case clearance rate is 87.04%, which is roughly 12.28 percentage points above the rate recorded in 2025. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 1.12a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	481
Mean	324.2100
Median	182.0000
Mode	294.00
Std. Deviation	441.22070
Skewness	3.988
Std. Error of Skewness	.111
Range	3650.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	3651.00

The above table outlines summary data on 481 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2026 at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 324 days or approximately 10.8 months, while the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 294 days. The standard deviation of roughly 441 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 3,651 days or roughly 10.1 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 1.12b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	62
Mean	423.8065
Median	363.0000
Mode	262.00
Std. Deviation	353.20597
Skewness	2.463
Std. Error of Skewness	.304
Range	1848.00
Minimum	66.00
Maximum	1914.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 62 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 424 days or roughly 14.1 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 29 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 207 days.

Table 1.13a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	3962
Mean	1021.5904
Median	942.0000
Mode	1021.00
Std. Deviation	709.48802
Skewness	1.123
Std. Error of Skewness	.039
Range	5218.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	5219.00

The above data is based on a sample of 3,962 active civil matters as of the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 1,022 days or roughly 34 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 1,021 days. The standard deviation of roughly 709 days suggests that there is some dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 5,219 days old or roughly 14.5 years, while the minimum time is 1 day.

Table 1.13b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	69
Mean	650.7101
Median	557.0000
Mode	376.00
Std. Deviation	558.52529
Skewness	2.312
Std. Error of Skewness	.289
Range	2745.00
Minimum	46.00
Maximum	2791.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 69 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 651 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 376 days and the median age was 557 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some 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 2,791 days and the lowest was 46 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 2.0: Clarendon Parish Court – Civil Division

2.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Clarendon Parish Court for the first quarter of 2026.

Table 2.01: Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	241	84.27
Disposed	45	15.73
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	286	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 286 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, 241 cases or 84.27% of these cases were still active, while 45 were disposed. These results produce an estimated net case disposal rate of 15.73%, which is 1.33 percentage points above the net disposal rate recorded in the previous first quarter of 2025.

Table 2.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	263	82.45
Small Claim	56	17.55
Total	319	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 319 civil claims² filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. The majority of which 263 or 82.45% were big claims, while 56 or 17.55% were small claims.

Table 2.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Clarendon parish court for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	161	50.47
Recovery of Possession	36	11.29
Damages for Negligence	29	9.09
Rent Owing and Continuing	23	7.21
Trespass	16	5.02
Sub-total	265	83.07

Total sample size of causes of action= 319

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 161 or roughly 50.47% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 36 or 11.29% and damages for negligence with 29 or 9.09% rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 23 or 7.21% and trespass with 16 or 5.02% of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

² **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

Table 2.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	243	76.18
Lionel Town Outstation	34	10.66
Chapleton Outstation	34	10.66
Frankfield Outstation	5	1.57
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	3	0.94
Total	319*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 286 cases**

The majority of a sample of 319 new matters filed in the quarter were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 243 or 76.18% of the total sample. The Lionel Town outstation and the Chapleton outstation accounted for 34 or 10.66% each of the sample, followed by the Frankfield Outstation 5 or 1.57% of the new cases heard.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Table 2.05: Distribution of plaintiffs in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	144	45.28
Male	142	44.65
Registered Company	32	10.06
Total	318	100

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 318 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026 at the Clarendon Parish Court, females accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 144 or 45.28% of the sample, followed by males with 142 or 44.65%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 32 or 10.06% of the sample.

Table 2.06: Distribution of defendants in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	208	67.53
Female	97	31.49
Registered Company	3	0.97
Total	308	100.00

There were 308 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the first quarter of 2026. The majority of defendants were male with 208 or 67.53% of the sample, followed by females with 97 or 31.49%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 3 or 0.97% of the sample.

2.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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

Table 2.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management date	147	38.38
Trial	129	33.68
Default Judgment Date	80	20.89
Part-Heard Date	23	6.01
Hearing of Application	4	1.04
Total	383	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 383 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The highest proportion, 147 or 38.38% of the sample, were adjourned for case management dates. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a trial date with 129 or 33.68%, matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 80 or 20.89% and matters adjournment for a part-heard date with 23 or 6.01% of the sample.

Table 2.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	72	20.34
No Return/Re-Issued	45	12.71
Parties in Discussion	24	6.78
At Counsel's Request	21	5.93
Not Reached	16	4.52
Sub-total	178	50.28

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 354

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 354 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the first quarter of 2026. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants accounted for 72 or 20.34% of the sample and adjournments for no return or for re-issue accounted for 45 or 12.71% of the sample. Parties in discussion accounted for 24 or 6.78%, adjournment at the counsel's request accounted for 21 or 5.93% and not reached accounted for 16 or 4.52% of the sample.

Table 2.09: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	40
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 37 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 40 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 37 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

Table 2.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	107	36.90
Consent	39	13.45
Settlement	38	13.10
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	28	9.66
Default Judgment	23	7.93
Sub-total	235	81.03

NB: there were 290 matters disposed

A total of 290 civil matters were disposed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 235 or 81.03% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 107 or 36.90%, matters disposed by consent with 39 or 13.45% of the sample and settlement with 38 or 13.10% of the sample. Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) accounted for 28 or 9.66 and matters disposed by default judgments round off the top methods of disposition with 23 or 7.93% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 2.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
66	1	98.48

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 66 trial dates was set in the quarter, of which 1 was adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 98.48%. 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 14.96 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025.

Table 2.12: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2026	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate net case disposal rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
286	45	253	502	88.46	15.73	311.46

The above table shows 286 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court during first quarter of 2026. An approximate gross figure of 250 cases were disposed, and 3 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2026. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 88.46%, which falls below the international standard on this metric, and is a 11.54 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2025.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 15.73%, which is 1.33 percentage points above the net disposal rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The estimated net case clearance rate is 87.41%, which is roughly 7.53 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 2.13a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	175
Mean	272.8971
Median	168.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	261.21555
Skewness	1.560
Std. Error of Skewness	.184
Range	1106.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	1112.00

The above table outlines sample data on 175 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2026 at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 273 days or 9.1 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days and the median time was 168 days. The standard deviation of roughly 261 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that a higher proportion of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The

oldest matter disposed in the sample was 1,112 days or roughly 3.1 years old, while the minimum time taken was 6 days.

Table 2.13b: Descriptive Statistics on age of disposed matters reissued as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	35
Mean	273.5429
Median	185.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	260.01667
Skewness	1.817
Std. Error of Skewness	.398
Range	998.00
Minimum	28.00
Maximum	1026.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 35 matters at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 274 days or roughly 9.1 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. The oldest matter disposed in the sample was 1,026 days, while the minimum time taken was 28 days.

Table 2.14a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	486
Mean	475.3498
Median	284.0000
Mode	74.00
Std. Deviation	486.09674
Skewness	1.199
Std. Error of Skewness	.111
Range	1845.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	1856.00

The above data is based on a sample of 486 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 475 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 74 days and the median age in the distribution was 284 days. The standard deviation of roughly 486 days suggests that there is a large variation in the individual scores around the average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 1,856 days old or roughly 5.2 years, while the minimum time taken is 11 days.

Table 2.14b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	103
Mean	540.8641
Median	421.0000
Mode	165.00
Std. Deviation	459.36726
Skewness	.860
Std. Error of Skewness	.238
Range	1719.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	1730.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 103 active reissued matters at the Clarendon Civil Court as at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 541 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 165 days and the median age was 421 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 1,730 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.

Chapter 3.0: St. Catherine Parish Court –Civil Division

3.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Catherine Parish Court for the first quarter of 2026.

Table 3.01: Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	564	86.37
Disposed	87	13.32
Inactive	2	0.31
Total	653	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 653 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, 564 cases or 86.37% of these cases were still active, while 87 were disposed and 2 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 13.63%, which is 0.07 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025.

Table 3.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	778	92.29
Small Claims	65	7.71
Total	843	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 843 claims³ filed in the first quarter of 2026, 778 or 92.29% were big claims and 65 or 7.71% were small claims.

Table 3.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil division for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	276	32.82
Damages for Negligence	142	16.88
Recovery of Possession	114	13.56
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	73	8.68
Rent Owing and Continuing	53	6.30
Sub-total	658	78.24

Total sample size of causes of action= 841

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 841 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was breach of contract with 276 or roughly 32.82% of the sample, damages for negligence with 142 or 16.88% and recovery of possession with 114 or 13.56%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 73 or

³ **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

8.68% and rent owing and continuing with 53 or 6.30% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 78.24% of the total sample of causes of action.

Table 3.04: Sampling distribution of types of service for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Served By	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	130	59.63
Personal	52	23.85
District Constable	36	16.51
Total	218	100.00

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by a bailiff accounted for the majority of the sample with 130 or 59.63% of the sample, followed by personal service with 52 or 23.85% and service by a district constable with 36 or 16.51% of the sample.

Table 3.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	541	64.87
Linstead Outstation	76	9.11
Portmore Outstation	70	8.39
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	51	6.12
Old Harbour Outstation	43	5.16
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	37	4.44
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	15	1.80
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	0.12
Total	834*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 648 cases**

The majority of the sample of 834 new claims filed in the first quarter was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 541 or 64.87% of the total sample. The 76 or 9.11% that were entered in the Linstead Outstation followed this. The Portmore Outstation

accounted for 70 or 8.39% of the claims, followed by sittings in courtroom number 4 at the main courthouse with 51 or 6.12% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Table 3.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	381	45.25
Male	359	42.64
Registered Company	102	12.11
Total	842	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the 842 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026, females accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 381 or 45.25%, followed by males with 359 or 42.64% and registered companies with 102 or 12.11% of the sample.

Table 3.07: Distribution of defendants in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	489	59.56
Female	302	36.78
Registered Company	28	3.41
Trading As	2	0.24
Total	821	100.00

There were 821 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026. The majority of defendants were male with 489 or 59.56% of the total sample, followed by females with 302 or 36.78%. Registered companies accounted for 28 or 3.41% of the total sample and Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining 2 or 0.24% of the sample.

3.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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

Table 3.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management date	333	34.87
Trial	288	30.16
Default Judgment Date	194	20.31
Part-Heard Date	127	13.30
Hearing of Application	13	1.36
Total	955	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 955 matters that went to court during the first quarter of 2026, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The highest proportion of the sample, 333 or 34.87% were adjourned for a case management date and 288 or 30.16% were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 194 or 20.31% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 127 or 13.30% of the sample.

Table 3.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	456	32.32
Defendant Absent	89	6.31
Both Parties Absent	79	5.60
Parties in Discussion	41	2.91
Plaintiff Absent	21	1.49
Sub-total	686	48.62

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled= 1,411

The above table details a sample of 1,411 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 456 or 32.32% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 89 or 6.31% and absence of both parties with 79 or 5.60% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Parties in discussion with 41 or 2.91% and absence of plaintiffs with 21 or 1.49% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 48.62% of the total sample.

Table 3.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	483
Average Incidence	1.4

Corresponding to 348 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 483 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 348 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.4 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 14 reissue incidences.

Table 3.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	322	38.11
Consent	163	19.29
Default Judgment	82	9.70
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	66	7.81
Settlement	64	7.57
Sub-total	697	82.49

NB: There were 845 matters disposed

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 845 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2026. The list is led by matters struck out with 322 or 38.11% of the disposals, followed matters disposed by consent with 163 or 19.29%, matters disposed by default judgments with 82 or 9.70% and matters disposed by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 66 or 7.81%. Settlements account for 64 or 7.57% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 82.49% of the sample.

Table 3.12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	42	91.30
Settlement	4	8.70
Total	46	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the first quarter of 2026 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 42 or 91.30% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 4 or 8.70%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 3.13: Sampling distribution of Trial date certainty for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
124	50	59.68

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 124 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 50 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 59.68%, suggesting that during the quarter, there was a roughly 60% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate falls below the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 28.83 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025.

Table 3.14: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2026	Estimated gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated Net Case disposal rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
653	89	695	1738	106.43	13.63	344.03

The above table shows 653 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, a total of 87 of these cases were disposed and 2 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 13.63%, which is 0.07 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. An approximate gross figure of 680 cases were disposed, and 15 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2026. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 106.43%, which meets the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 7.60 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 13.36%, which is 0.42 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The net clearance for the quarter is 104.45%, which is 7.10 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 3.15a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	527
Mean	335.0512
Median	140.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	435.20949
Skewness	2.373
Std. Error of Skewness	.106
Range	2289.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	2295.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 527 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2026 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 335 days or 11.2 months, which is roughly 141 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2025. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days. There is a high standard deviation of 435 days, which is an indication that there is a large dispersion of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores are below around the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2,295 days or roughly 6.4 years old, while the youngest was 6 days.

Table 3.15b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	148
Mean	218.5135
Median	91.0000
Mode	69.00
Std. Deviation	426.09725
Skewness	3.140
Std. Error of Skewness	.199
Range	1907.00
Minimum	20.00
Maximum	1927.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 148 matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 219 days or roughly 7.3 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. The oldest matter in the quarter was 1,927 days or roughly 5.4 years old, while the minimum time taken was 20 days.

Table 3.16a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1563
Mean	518.6084
Median	257.0000
Mode	117.00
Std. Deviation	691.93381
Skewness	2.782
Std. Error of Skewness	.062
Range	6583.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	6587.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,563 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 519 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 117 days. The standard deviation of roughly 692 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 is 6,587 days old or roughly 18.3 years, while the minimum time taken is 4 days.

Table 3.16b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	542
Mean	130.6919
Median	43.0000
Mode	54.00
Std. Deviation	350.84112
Skewness	4.180
Std. Error of Skewness	.105
Range	2094.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	2098.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 542 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court as at the end of the first ended March 31, 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 131 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 54 days and the median age was 43 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 overall average. The highest age in the data set was 2,098 days and the lowest was 4 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 4.0: Trelawny Parish Court –Civil Division

4.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Trelawny Parish Court for the first quarter of 2026.

Table 4.01: Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	103	83.06
Disposed	20	16.13
Inactive	1	0.81
Total	124	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 124 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, 103 or 83.06% of these cases were active, 20 or 16.13% were disposed and 1 became inactive. This produces an estimated gross case disposal rate of 16.94% for the quarter.

Table 4.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	113	86.26
Small Claim	18	13.74
Total	131	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 131 civil claims⁴ filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. The majority of which 113 or 86.26% were big claims, while 18 or 13.74% were small claims.

Table 4.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	20	15.27
Money Owning	17	12.98
Breach Of Contract	11	8.40
Money Loaned	9	6.87
Arrears of rent	7	5.34
Sub-total	64	48.85

Total sample size of causes of action = 131

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 20 or 15.27% and money owing with 17 or 12.98% of the sample. Breach of contract with 11 or 8.40%, money loaned with 9 or 6.87% and arrears of rent with 7 or 5.34% of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 48.85% of all the total sample of 131 causes of action.

⁴ **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

Table 4.04: Sampling distribution of types of service for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	88	82.24
Bailiff	19	17.76
Total	107	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants whom a claim is made against are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 88 or 82.24% of the sample. Service by a bailiff with 19 or 17.76% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 4.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Falmouth Outstation	88	67.18
Ulster Spring Outstation	32	24.43
Clarks Town Outstation	11	8.40
Total	131*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 124 cases**

The majority of the sample of 131 new matters filed in 67.18% of the accommodations was entered in the Falmouth Outstation. The 32 or 24.43% matters that were entered in the Ulster Spring Outstation followed this, while court sittings at the Clarks Town Outstation ranked next with 11 or 8.40% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Table 4.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	63	52.07
Female	52	42.98
Registered Company	6	4.96
Total	121	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 121 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026 at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 63 or 52.07%, followed by females with 52 or 42.98%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 6 or 4.96% of the sample.

Table 4.07: Distribution of defendants in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	78	65.55
Female	40	33.61
Registered Company	1	0.84
Total	119	100.00

There were 119 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026. The majority of defendants were male with 78 or 65.55% of the sample, followed by females with 40 or 33.61% and registered companies with 1 or 0.84%.

4.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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

Table 4.08: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management date	76	35.51
Trial	56	26.17
Default Judgment Date	48	22.43
Part-Heard Date	34	15.89
Total	214	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 214 matters that were heard during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 76 or 35.51% were adjourned for case management dates, followed by 56 or 26.17%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for default judgment dates with 48 or 22.43% and for part heard dates with 34 or 15.89% rank next. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for case management dates which is expected in civil and most other case types.

Table 4.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Re-issue	115	48.12
Defendant Absent	29	12.13
Both Parties Absent	27	11.30
Counsel absent	11	4.60
Plaintiff Absent	4	1.67
Sub-total	186	77.82

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 239

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 239 incidence of adjournments heard in the first quarter of 2026. Adjournments for no return or for reissue with 115 or 48.12% of the sample, the absence of defendants with 29 or 12.13%, the absence of both parties with 27 or 11.30% and the absence of counsel with 11 or 4.60% of the sample feature prominently on the list. The absence of plaintiffs with 4 or 1.67% of the sample respectively close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 77.82% of the entire sample.

Table 4.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	38
Average Incidence	1.03

Corresponds to 37 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 38 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

37 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.03 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

Table 4.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	37	30.58
Struck Out	23	19.01
Default Judgment	20	16.53
Withdrawal	13	10.74
Oral Admission	10	8.26
Sub-total	103	85.12

NB: There were 121 matters disposed

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 121 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2026. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 37 or 30.58% of the dispositions, followed by matters struck out with 23 or 19.01% and default judgments with 20 or 16.53% of the sample. Withdrawals account for 13 or 10.74% of the sample and oral admissions account for 10 or 8.26% of the sample. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 85.12% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 4.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
16	5	68.75

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 16 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that 5 were adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial

date certainty rate of 68.75% which suggests that during the quarter there was roughly a 69% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This outcome falls below the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 22.16 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2025.

Table 4.13: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2026	Estimated Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated net case disposal rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
124	21	121	335	97.58	16.94	379.34

The above table shows 124 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, a total of 20 of these cases were disposed and 1 case became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 16.94%. An approximate gross figure of 111 cases were disposed, and 10 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2026. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 97.58%, which meets the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 14.79 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2026.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 16.26%, which is 3.96 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The net clearance for the quarter is 90.24%, which is 10.73 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 4.14: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	93
Mean	209.5806
Median	119.0000
Mode	119.00
Std. Deviation	307.32741
Skewness	3.054
Std. Error of Skewness	.250
Range	1369.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	1372.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 93 civil cases disposed in the first quarter of 2026 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose this sample of cases is roughly 210 days or 7 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition and the median time were both 119 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 307 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 1,372 days or roughly 3.8 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed cases was 3 days.

Table 4.15a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	326
Mean	402.2607
Median	210.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	491.54340
Skewness	2.429
Std. Error of Skewness	.135
Range	2834.00
Minimum	21.00
Maximum	2855.00

The above data is computed using 326 active cases at the end of the first quarter of 2026. The average age of these cases was roughly 402 days (1.1 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 28 days. The standard deviation of roughly 492 days suggests that there is a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fall below the overall mean. The oldest active case in this sample is 2,855 days (7.9 years old), while the youngest is 21 days.

Table 4.15b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	70
Mean	210.7857
Median	119.5000
Mode	84.00
Std. Deviation	212.15847
Skewness	1.888
Std. Error of Skewness	.287
Range	1038.00
Minimum	26.00
Maximum	1064.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 70 active reissued matters at the Trelawny Parish Court as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 211 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 84 days and the median age was 119.50 days. The high standard deviation indicates that there was some 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 1,064 days and the lowest was 26 days.

Chapter 5.0: St. Ann Parish Court –Civil Division

5.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Ann Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026.

Table 5.01: Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	374	83.86
Disposed	72	16.14
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	446	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 446 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, 374 cases or 83.86% of these cases were still active and 72 were disposed. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 16.14%, which is a 6.55 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2025.

Table 5.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	531	87.77
Small Claims	74	12.23
Total	605	100.00

The above table shows that from 605 new claims⁵ filed in the first quarter of 2026, the majority of which were big claims with 531 or 87.77%, while 74 or 12.23% were small claims.

Table 5.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court-Civil division for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	131	21.87
Breach of Contract	127	21.20
Rent owing and continuing	50	8.35
Money Owing	48	8.01
Damages for Negligence	37	6.18
Sub-total	393	65.61

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 599

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 599 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the first quarter of 2026 was recovery of possession with 131 or roughly 21.87% of the sample and breach of contract with 127 or 21.20% of the sample. Rent owing and continuing with 50 or 8.35% of the sample rank next. Money owing with 48 or 8.01% and damages for negligence with 37 or 6.18% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 65.61% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 5.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	170	69.96
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	56	23.05
Claremont Outstation	17	7.00
Total	243*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 189 cases**

⁵ **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

The majority of a sample of 243 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 170 or 69.96% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 56 or 23.05%, and the Claremont Outstation accounted for 17 or 7% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Table 5.05: Distribution of plaintiffs for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	306	50.58
Female	223	36.86
Registered Company	72	11.90
Trading as	4	0.66
Total	605	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 605 new matters filed in the quarter, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 306 or 50.58%, followed by females with 223 or 36.86% and registered companies with 72 or 11.90% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 4 or 0.66% accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

Table 5.06: Distribution of defendants for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	330	54.91
Female	231	38.44
Registered Company	32	5.32
Trading As	8	1.33
Total	601	100.00

There were 601 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026. The majority of defendants were male with 330 or 54.9% of the total sample, followed by females with 231 or 38.44%. Registered companies accounted for 32 or 5.32% of the total sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 8 or 1.33% of the sample.

5.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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

Table 5.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	275	37.11
Case management date	190	25.64
Part-Heard Date	147	19.84
Default Judgment Date	109	14.71
Hearing of Application	16	2.16
Final Judgment Date	4	0.54
Total	741	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 741 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for trial dates accounted for 275 or 37.11% of the

sample, followed by 190 or 25.64%, which were adjourned for case management dates. Matters adjourned for part heard dates accounted for 147 or 19.84% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date account for 109 or 14.71% 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 case management date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 5.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	192	20.85
Defendant Absent	113	12.27
Referred to Mediation	19	2.06
Hearing of Application	14	1.52
Plaintiff absent	14	1.52
Sub-total	352	38.22

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 921

The above table details a sample of 921 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the first quarter of 2026, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 192 or 20.85% of the sample, adjournments due to defendants being absent with 113 or 12.27% and referrals to mediation with 19 or 2.06% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by the absence of plaintiffs and the hearing of an application with 14 or 1.52% each of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 38.22% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 5.09: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	234
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponds to 175 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 234 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 175 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 5.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	227	39.89
Consent	127	22.32
Default judgment	74	13.01
Settlement	38	6.68
Withdrawal	27	4.75
Sub-total	493	86.64

NB: There were 569 matters disposed

A sample of 569 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2026 revealed that 227 or 39.89% of matters were disposed by being struck out, 127 or 22.32% were disposed by consent and 74 or 13.01% of the sample were disposed by default judgments. Matters disposed by settlements with 38 or 6.68% and withdrawals with 27 or 4.75% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 86.64% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the first quarter of 2026.

Table 5.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
91	4	95.60

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 91 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that 4 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 95.60%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 96% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 1.27 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2025.

Table 5.12: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2026	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Net case disposal rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
446	72	489	1675	109.64	16.14	433.74

The above table shows 446 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. An approximate gross figure of 478 cases were disposed, and 11 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2026. This led to an estimated

gross case clearance rate of 109.64%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents a 19.02 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2025.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 16.14%, a decline of 6.55 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2025. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 107.17%, a decline of 16.11 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2025. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 5.13a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	399
Mean	321.5865
Median	112.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	594.57419
Skewness	3.545
Std. Error of Skewness	.122
Range	3635.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	3640.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 399 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2026 at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 322 days or 10.7 months, which is roughly 141 less days than it took to dispose matters in the first quarter of 2025. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days. The

standard deviation of 595 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 3,640 days or roughly 10.1 years old, while the minimum time taken was 5 days.

Table 5.13b: Descriptive Statistics on age of disposed matters reissued as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	43
Mean	380.0698
Median	154.0000
Mode	35.00
Std. Deviation	477.59947
Skewness	1.459
Std. Error of Skewness	.361
Range	1916.00
Minimum	16.00
Maximum	1932.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 43 matters at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 380 days or roughly 12.7 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the majority of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. The oldest matter in the quarter was 1,932 days or roughly 5.4 years old, while the minimum time taken was 16 days.

Table 5.14a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1755
Mean	739.2900
Median	627.0000
Mode	77.00
Std. Deviation	691.32720
Skewness	1.617
Std. Error of Skewness	.058
Range	5398.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	5404.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,755 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 739 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 77 days. The standard deviation of roughly 691 days suggests that there is some dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 5,404 days old or roughly 15 years, while the minimum age is 6 days.

Table 5.14b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	223
Mean	277.0762
Median	40.0000
Mode	21.00
Std. Deviation	509.36136
Skewness	5.047
Std. Error of Skewness	.163
Range	4392.00
Minimum	12.00
Maximum	4404.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 223 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 277 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 21 days and the median age was 40 days. The high standard deviation indicates that there was some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of cases. The highest age in the data set was 4,404 days and the lowest was 12 days.

5.3: Browns Town Outstation –Civil Division

5.3.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Brown's Town outstation in the first quarter of 2026.

Table 5.3.01: Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	57	74.03
Disposed	20	25.97
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	77	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 77 new cases filed at Brown's Town Court in the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, 57 cases or 74.03% of these cases were still active and 20 were disposed. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 25.97% for the quarter, which is a 10.48 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2025.

Table 5.3.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	58	68.24
Small Claims	27	31.76
Total	85	100.00

The above table shows that of the 85 new claims⁶ filed in the first quarter of 2026, the majority of which were big claims with 58 or 68.24%, while 27 or 31.76% were small claims.

⁶ **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

Table 5.3.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Browns Town Outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Money owing	30	37.04
Breach of Contract	11	13.58
Recovery of Possession	11	13.58
Rent Owing and Continuing	6	7.41
Damages	3	3.70
Sub-total	61	75.31

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 81

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 81 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the first quarter of 2026 was money owing with 30 or roughly 37.04% of the sample and breach of contract and recovery of possession with 11 or 13.58% each of the sample rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 6 or 7.41% and damages with 3 or 3.70% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 75.31% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 5.3.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	83	100
Total	83*	100

***Note: Corresponds to 76 cases**

All of a sample of 83 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Table 5.3.05: Distribution of plaintiffs for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	45	53.57
Male	38	45.24
Trading As	1	1.19
Total	84	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 84 new matters filed in the quarter, females accounted for the majority of the sample with 45 or 53.57% of the sample, followed by males with 38 or 45.24% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 1.19%.

Table 5.3.06: Distribution of defendants for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	57	67.86
Female	24	28.57
Trading as	3	3.57
Total	84	100.00

There were 84 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026. The majority of defendants were male with 57 or 67.86% of the total sample, followed by females with 24 or 28.57%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 3 or 3.57%.

5.3.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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

Table 5.3.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	67	37.64
Case management date	56	31.46
Default Judgment Date	38	21.35
Part-Heard Date	12	6.74
Judgment Date	4	2.25
Hearing of Application	1	0.56
Total	178	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 178 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for trial dates accounted for 67 or 37.64% of the sample, followed by 56 or 31.46%, which were adjourned for case management dates. Matters adjourned for default judgment dates with 38 or 21.35% and for a part-heard date account for 12 or 6.74% 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 case management date, though this is not an

unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 5.3.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	35	17.86
No Return/Re-Issued	18	9.18
Judge Absent/Ill	12	6.12
Referred to mediation	12	6.12
Pending Settlement	2	1.02
Sub-total	79	40.31

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 196

The above table details a sample of 196 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the first quarter of 2026, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 35 or 17.86% of the sample, adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 18 or 9.18%, the absence or illness of the judge and referrals to mediation with 12 or 6.12% each of the sample rounds off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by pending settlements with 2 or 1.02% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 40.31% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 5.3.09: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	24	23.30
Consent	23	22.33
Default Judgment	14	13.59
Withdrawal	14	13.59
Final Judgment	12	11.65
Sub-total	87	84.47

NB: There were 103 matters disposed

A sample of 103 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2026 revealed that 24 or 23.30% of matters were struck out and matters disposed by consent with 23 or 22.33%. Matters disposed by default judgment and withdrawals with 14 or 13.59% each rank next. Matters disposed final judgments with 12 or 11.65% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 84.47% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the first quarter of 2026.

Table 5.3.10: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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 net case disposal rate (%)
77	20	96	124.68	25.97

The above table shows 77 new cases filed at the Brown's Town Outstation during the first quarter of 2026. An approximate gross figure of 92 cases were disposed, and 4 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2026. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 124.68%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and represents a 41.58 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2025.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 25.97%, an increase of 10.48 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2025. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 119.48%, an increase of 36.38 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2025.

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

Table 5.3.11: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	65
Mean	195.8615
Median	140.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	178.80907
Skewness	2.577
Std. Error of Skewness	.297
Range	1044.00
Minimum	35.00
Maximum	1079.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 65 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2026 at the Brown's Town Outstation. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 196 days or 6.5 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days and the median time was 140 days. The standard deviation of roughly 179 days is an indication that there is some variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1,079 days or roughly 3 years old, while the minimum time taken was 35 days.

Table 5.3.12: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	961
Mean	892.6420
Median	846.0000
Mode	1000.00
Std. Deviation	558.66107
Skewness	.418
Std. Error of Skewness	.079
Range	2258.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	2276.00

The above data is based on a sample of 961 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 893 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 1,000 days. The standard deviation of roughly 559 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 were close to the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 2,276 days old or roughly 6.3 years, while the minimum age is 18 days.

Chapter 6.0: Westmoreland Parish Court –Civil Division

6.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the first quarter of 2026.

Table 6.01: Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	156	100.00
Disposed	0	0.00
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	156	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 156 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, all 156 cases or 100% of these cases were still active.

Table 6.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	178	95.19
Small Claim	9	4.81
Total	187	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 187 new claims⁷ filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026, the majority of which 178 or 95.19% were big claims, while 9 or 4.81% were small claims.

Table 6.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	50	27.32
Recovery of Possession	41	22.40
Rent Due and Continuing	22	12.02
Cattle Trespass	14	7.65
Defamation of Character	10	5.46
Sub-total	137	74.86

Total sample size of causes of action = 183

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 first quarter of 2026 at the Westmoreland Parish Court was breach of contract with 50 or roughly 27.32% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 41 or 22.40%, rent due and continuing with 22 or 12.02%, cattle trespass with 14 or 7.65% and defamation of character with 10 or 5.46% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 74.86% of the sample of 183 causes of action.

Table 6.04: Sampling distribution of types of service in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	137	74.46
Personal	47	25.54
Total	184	100.00

⁷ **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

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 137 or 74.46% and personal service accounted for 47 or 25.54% of the sample.

Table 6.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Whithorn Outstation	186	100.00
Total	186*	100.00

***Note: Corresponds to 156 cases**

All of a sample of 186 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026 were entered in the Whithorn Outstation.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Table 6.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	107	58.79
Female	70	38.46
Registered Company	5	2.75
Total	182	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 182 new matters filed in the quarter, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 107 or 58.79% of the sample, followed by females with 70 or 38.46% of the total sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 5 or 2.75%.

Table 6.07: Distribution of defendants for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	99	56.57
Female	70	40.00
Registered Company	5	2.86
Trading As	1	0.57
Total	175	100.00

There were 175 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026. The majority of defendants were male with 99 or 56.57% of the total sample, followed by females with 70 or 40%. Registered companies accounted for 5 or 2.86% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.57%.

6.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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

Table 6.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management date	264	91.67
Part-Heard Date	17	5.90
Trial	5	1.74
Hearing of Application	2	0.69
Total	288	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 288 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for case management dates accounted for 264 or 91.67% of the sample, followed by 17 or 5.90%, which were adjourned for part-heard dates. Matters adjourned for trial dates account for 5 or 1.74% of the total sample and matters adjourned for the hearing of an application with 2 or 0.69% followed. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a case management date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 6.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	97	43.30
Defendant Absent	48	21.43
Parties in Discussion	14	6.25
To Settle Legal Representation	14	6.25
Plaintiff Absent	8	3.57
Sub-total	181	80.80

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 224

The above table details a sample of 224 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the first quarter of 2026, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 97 or 43.30% of the sample, and adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 48 or 21.43% of the sample rounds off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by parties in discussion and to settle legal representation with 14 or 6.25% each and the absence of plaintiffs

with 8 or 3.57% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 80.80% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 6.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	25
Average Incidence	1.04

Corresponds to 24 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 25 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 24 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.04 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

Table 6.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
16	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 16 trial dates were set in the quarter; of which none were 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 6.12: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2026	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net case disposal rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
156	0	21	609	13.46	NA	3642.86

The above table shows 156 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. An approximate gross figure of 16 cases were disposed, and 5 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2026. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 13.46% for the quarter. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 10.26%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 6.13: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	17
Mean	452.2941
Median	250.0000
Mode	92.00
Std. Deviation	417.84354
Skewness	1.467
Std. Error of Skewness	.550
Range	1320.00
Minimum	92.00
Maximum	1412.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 17 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2026 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 452 days or 15.1 months, which is roughly 11 less days than it took to dispose matters in the first quarter of 2025. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 92 days. The standard deviation of 418 days is an indication that there is some 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 1,412 days or roughly 3.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 92 days.

Table 6.14a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	529
Mean	766.3686
Median	384.0000
Mode	146.00
Std. Deviation	782.52972
Skewness	1.138
Std. Error of Skewness	.106
Range	2556.00
Minimum	19.00
Maximum	2575.00

The above data is based on a sample of 529 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 766 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 146 days. The standard deviation of roughly 783 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 2,575 days old or roughly 7.2 years, while the minimum age is 19 days.

Table 6.14b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	67
Mean	332.4478
Median	300.0000
Mode	510.00
Std. Deviation	278.32221
Skewness	1.041
Std. Error of Skewness	.293
Range	1265.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	1273.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 67 active reissued matters at the Westmoreland Parish Court as at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 332 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 510 days and the median age was 300 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some amount of dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 1,273 days and the lowest was 8 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 7.0: St. Mary Parish Court –Civil Division

7.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Mary Parish Court for the first quarter of 2026.

Table 7.01: Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	90	61.22
Disposed	57	38.78
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	147	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 147 new civil cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, 90 or 61.22% were still active and 57 or 38.78% were disposed. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 38.78% for the quarter, which is an 8.18 percentage points increase when compared to the first quarter of 2025.

Table 7.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	129	81.13
Small Claim	30	18.87
Total	159	100.00

The above table shows that from the 159 new claims⁸ filed in the quarter, the majority were big claims, which accounted for 129 or 81.13% of the total sample, while 30 or 18.87% were small claims.

Table 7.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	88	56.77
Recovery of Possession	15	9.68
Arrears of Rent	11	7.10
Cattle Trespass	8	5.16
Damages For Negligence	5	3.23
Sub-total	127	81.94

Total sample size of causes of action = 155

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 155 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 88 or roughly 56.77% of the sample and recovery of possession with 15 or 9.68% of the total sample of causes of action. Arrears of rent with 11 or 7.10%, cattle trespass with 8 or 5.16% and damages for negligence with 5 or 3.23% rank next.

⁸ **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

Table 7.04: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	120	83.33
Personal	24	16.67
Total	144	100.00

Types of service as used above refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by a bailiff accounted for the majority of the sample with 120 or 83.33% of the sample, with personal service accounting for 24 or 16.67% of the sample.

Table 7.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	99	62.66
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	28	17.72
Annotto Bay Outstation	14	8.86
Galve Outstation	11	6.96
Richmond Outstation	6	3.80
Total	158*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 146 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 158 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026. The majority of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 99 or 62.66% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with 28 or 17.72% of the sample, the Annotto Bay Outstation with 14 or 8.86% and the Galve Outstation with 11 or 6.96% of the sample rounds off the top accommodations.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Table 7.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	97	61.01
Female	57	35.85
Registered Company	5	3.14
Total	159	100

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 159 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026 at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 97 or 61.01%, followed by females with 57 or 35.85%. Registered companies with 5 or 3.14% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

7.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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 7.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	45	66.18
Case management date	12	17.65
Default Judgment Date	8	11.76
Hearing of Application	3	4.41
Total	68	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 68 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The majority, 45 or 66.18% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 12 or 17.65%, which were adjourned for case management dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were the 8 or 11.76% of the matters which were adjourned for default judgment dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention hearing and that a notable proportion of the adjournments are for default judgments. The high frequency of adjournments associated with default judgments is not unusual as this stage is intrinsic to case management and case preparation and to the overall case process flow.

Table 7.08: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	11
Average Incidence	1.00

Corresponds to 11 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 11 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 11 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

Table 7.09: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	54	31.03
Consent	30	17.24
Default Judgment	24	13.79
Final Judgment	24	13.79
Withdrawal	13	7.47
Sub-total	145	83.33

NB: There were 174 matters disposed

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 174 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. Matters struck out with 54 or 31.03%, matters disposed by consent with 30 or 17.24% and matters disposed by default Judgment and final judgment with 24 or 13.79% each are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Withdrawals with 13 or 7.47% of the sample account for the remaining proportion of the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 83.33% of the total sample of matters disposed during the quarter.

Table 7.10: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
29	4	86.21

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 29 trial dates were set in the first quarter of 2025 shows that 4 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 86.21%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 86% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 7.11: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate combined number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2026	Approximate net case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net case disposal rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
147	57	159	214	108.16	38.78	227.04

The above table shows 147 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, a total of 57 of these cases were disposed and a gross figure of 159 cases were disposed, many of which have dates of origin predating 2026. This led to an estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 38.78%, which is 8.18 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 108.16%, which is 2.22 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025.

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

Table 7.12: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	98
Mean	276.6837
Median	63.0000
Mode	7.00
Std. Deviation	752.63017
Skewness	4.077
Std. Error of Skewness	.244
Range	3918.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	3920.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 98 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2026 at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose this sample of matters is roughly 277 days or 9.2 months, which is roughly 110 more days than it took to dispose matters in the first quarter of 2025. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 7 days and the median time was 63 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 753 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 matter disposed in the quarter was 3,920 days or roughly 10.9 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed matters was 2 days. The wide dispersion of the

highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

Table 7.13: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	190
Mean	776.3895
Median	449.0000
Mode	29.00
Std. Deviation	810.66494
Skewness	1.373
Std. Error of Skewness	.176
Range	3529.00
Minimum	28.00
Maximum	3557.00

The above data is based on a sample of 190 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 776 days (or roughly 25.9 months), while the most frequently occurring age was 29 days and the median age in the distribution was 449 days. The standard deviation of roughly 811 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were decidedly more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter in the data set is 3,557 days old or roughly 9.9 years, while the minimum age was 28 days.

Chapter 8.0: Portland Parish Court –Civil Division

8.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Portland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026.

Table 8.01: Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	56	80.00
Disposed	14	20.00
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	70	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 70 new civil cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, 56 or 80% were still active and 14 or 20% were disposed. These results produce an estimated net case disposal rate of 20% for the quarter, which is 9.16 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025.

Table 8.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	91	94.79
Small Claim	5	5.21
Total	96	100.00

The above table shows that out of the 96 new claims⁹ filed in the quarter, the majority of 91 or 94.79% were big claims, while 5 or 5.21% were small claims.

⁹ **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

Table 8.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil division for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	28	30.77
Recovery of Possession	15	16.48
Breach of Contract - Monies Owing	9	9.89
Rent Owing	8	8.79
Assault & Battery - damages	4	4.40
Sub-total	64	70.33

Total sample size of causes of action = 91

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 91 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action filed were breach of contract with 28 or roughly 30.77% of the total sample, recovery of possession with 15 or 16.48%, and breach of contract – monies owing with 9 or 9.89% followed. Rent owing with 8 or 8.79% and damages for assault and battery with 4 or 4.40% round off the top five causes of action for the quarter. The top causes of action, which are listed above, account for 70.33% of the sample.

Table 8.04: Sampling distribution of types of services in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	56	65.12
Bailiff	30	34.88
Total	86	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 56 or 65.12% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 30 or 34.88%.

Table 8.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	18	36.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	11	22.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	7	14.00
Buff Bay Outstation	7	14.00
Manchioneal Outstation	7	14.00
Total	50*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 37 cases**

The highest proportion of the sample of 50 new matters filed in the quarter was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 18 or 36% of the sample of accommodations. The 11 or 22% that were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse followed this. Sittings at the Buff Bay outstation, courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse, and the Manchioneal Outstation account for 7 or 14% each of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Table 8.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	47	49.47
Female	37	38.95
Registered Company	9	9.47
Trading As	2	2.11
Total	95	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 95 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026, males accounted for the highest proportion with 47 or 49.47%, followed by females with 37 or 38.95%. Registered companies accounted for 9 or 9.47% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) account for the remaining 2 or 2.11% of the sample.

Table 8.07: Distribution of defendants for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	60	65.22
Female	26	28.26
Registered Company	4	4.35
Trading As	2	2.17
Total	92	100.00

There were 92 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026. The majority of defendants were male with 60 or 65.22% of the sample, followed by females with 26 or 28.26% of the sample and registered companies with 4 or 4.35%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) account for the remaining 2 or 2.17% of the sample.

8.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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

Table 8.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case Management Date	93	50.82
Trial	58	31.69
Part-Heard Date	18	9.84
Default Judgment Date	12	6.56
Hearing of Application	2	1.09
Total	183	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 183 matters that were heard during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The majority, 93 or 50.82% were adjourned for case management dates, followed by 58 or 31.69%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for part heard dates with 18 or 9.84% and for default judgment dates with 12 or 6.56% rank next. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the quarter at the Portland Parish Court.

Table 8.09: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	113	65.32
Trial	12	6.94
Default Judgment	10	5.78
Settlement	10	5.78
Consent	9	5.20
Sub-total	154	89.02

NB: There were 173 matters disposed

A total of 173 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. The distribution is led by matters struck out with 113 or 65.32% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by trial with 12 or 6.94%. Matters disposed by default judgments and settlements with 10 or 5.78% each and matters disposed by consent with 9 or 5.20% complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the quarter. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 89.02% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 8.10: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
29	14	51.72

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. Using a sample of 29 trial dates set in the quarter, it is seen that 14 were adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 51.72% which suggests that during the quarter there was roughly a 52% chance that a date set for trial would proceed

without adjournment. The 2026 result is 1.72 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2025.

Table 8.11: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2026	Approximate Net Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net Case disposal rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
70	14	140	210	200	20	200

The above table shows 70 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, a total of 14 of these cases were disposed and a gross figure of 140 cases were disposed, many of which have dates of origin predating 2026. This led to an estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 20%, which is 9.16 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 200%, which is 119.28 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 8.12: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	150
Mean	1424.6467
Median	1736.0000
Mode	2198.00
Std. Deviation	1198.49544
Skewness	.258
Std. Error of Skewness	.198
Range	4422.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	4424.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 150 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2026 at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 1,424 days (47.5 months), the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 2,198 days and the median time to disposition was 1,736 days. The standard deviation of roughly 1,198 days is an indication that there is some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness observed is an indication that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series were close to the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 4,424 days or roughly 12.3 years old, while the youngest was 2 days.

Table 8.13: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	300
Mean	709.8667
Median	358.0000
Mode	330.00
Std. Deviation	797.30827
Skewness	2.370
Std. Error of Skewness	.141
Range	5098.00
Minimum	13.00
Maximum	5111.00

The above data is computed using 300 active cases at the end of the first quarter of 2026. The average age of these cases was roughly 710 days (2 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 330 days and the median age was 358 days. The standard deviation of roughly 797 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that most of the scores in the data set fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample was 5,111 days (14.2 years), while the youngest 13 days.

Chapter 9.0: St. Thomas Parish Court – Civil Division

9.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Thomas Parish Court for the first quarter of 2026.

Table 9.01: Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	164	78.47
Disposed	16	7.66
Inactive	29	13.88
Total	209	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 209 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, 164 cases or 78.47% of these cases were still active, while 16 were disposed and 29 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 21.53%, which is a 7.88 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2025.

Table 9.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	188	82.82
Small Claim	39	17.18
Total	227	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 227 new claims¹⁰ filed in the first quarter of 2026, the majority of which 188 or 82.82% were big claims, while 39 or 17.18% were small claims.

Table 9.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	80	35.24
Recovery of Possession	24	10.57
Money Owing	20	8.81
Defamation of Character	19	8.37
Damages for Negligence	10	4.41
Sub-total	153	67.40

Total sample size of causes of action= 227

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 first quarter of 2026 at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 80 or roughly 35.24% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 24 or 10.57%, money owing with 20 or 8.81% and defamation of character with 19 or 8.37% of the sample rounds off the top causes of action in this representative sample. Damages for negligence with 10 or 4.41% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 67.40% of all the total sample of 227 causes of action.

¹⁰ **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

Table 9.04: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	31	53.45
Bailiff	27	46.55
Total	58	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by a district constable accounted for the majority with 31 or 53.45% of the sample, followed by service by a bailiff with 27 or 46.55%.

Table 9.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	182	80.18
Yallahs Outstation	45	19.82
Total	227*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 209 cases**

The majority of a sample of 227 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 182 or 80.18% of the sample, while sittings at the Yallahs Outstation accounted for 45 or 19.82% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Table 9.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	120	52.86
Female	93	40.97
Registered Company	14	6.17
Total	227	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 227 new matters filed in first quarter of 2026 at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 120 or

52.86%, followed by females with 93 or 40.97%. Registered companies had the lowest proportion with 14 or 6.17% of the sample.

Table 9.07: Distribution of defendants in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	145	63.88
Female	77	33.92
Trading As	5	2.20
Total	227	100.00

There were 227 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026. The majority of defendants were male with 145 or 63.88% of the sample, followed by females with 77 or 33.92% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 5 or 2.20% of the sample.

9.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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

Table 9.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management date	75	36.76
Trial	64	31.37
Default Judgment Date	44	21.57
Part-Heard Date	18	8.82
Hearing of Application	2	0.98
Date for Order	1	0.49
Total	204	100.00

The above table is computed based on a sample of 204 cases adjourned during the first quarter of 2026. The highest proportion, 75 or 36.76% were adjourned for a case management date, followed by 64 or 31.37% which were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 44 or 21.57% of matters, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters adjourned for a part heard date with 18 or 8.82% and matters of the sample rank next.

Table 9.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	47	22.93
Judge Absent/Ill	31	15.12
Both Parties Absent	15	7.32
Attorney Absent	6	2.93
Plaintiff Absent	6	2.93
Sub-total	105	51.22

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 205

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 205 incidences of adjournments in the first quarter of 2026. Adjournments due to absence of defendants with 47 or 22.93% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence or illness of the judge with 31 or 15.12% and the absence of both parties with 15 or 7.32% rounds off the top three. The absence of attorneys and the absence of plaintiffs with 6 or 2.93% each of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 51.22% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 9.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	20
Average Incidence	1.00

Corresponding 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 20 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 20 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

Table 9.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment	34	24.64
Oral Admission	21	15.22
Struck Out	20	14.49
Settlement	18	13.04
Consent	17	12.32
Sub-total	110	79.71

NB: there were 138 matters disposed

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 138 matters.

The list is led by matters disposed by default judgment with 34 or 24.64% of the sample. Oral admissions and matters struck out with 21 or 15.22% and 20 or 14.49% respectively ranked next. Matters disposed by settlements with 18 or 13.04% and matters disposed by consent with 17 or 12.32% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 79.21% of the sample.

Table 9.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
33	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 33 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that none was 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 and is 6.67 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025.

Table 9.13: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2025	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
209	45	176	292	84.21	21.53	284.66

The above table shows 209 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, a total of 16 cases were disposed and 29 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 21.53%, a decrease of 7.88 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2025. A gross figure of 125 cases were disposed, and 51 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2026. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 84.21%, which falls below the international standard for this metric, and represents a decrease of 28.14 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2025.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 8.89%, a 2.22 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2025. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 69.44%, a 27.60 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2025. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 9.14: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	103
Mean	232.2136
Median	175.0000
Mode	49.00
Std. Deviation	226.45194
Skewness	1.503
Std. Error of Skewness	.238
Range	1037.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	1043.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 103 civil matters disposed in first quarter of 2026 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 232 days or 7.7 months, which is roughly 22 more days than it took to dispose matters in the first quarter of 2025. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 49 days. The standard deviation of roughly 226 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 the cases. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1,043 days or roughly 2.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 6 days.

Table 9.15a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	271
Mean	312.1476
Median	210.0000
Mode	14.00
Std. Deviation	323.19105
Skewness	2.272
Std. Error of Skewness	.148
Range	2025.00
Minimum	12.00
Maximum	2037.00

The above data is based on a sample of 271 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 312 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 14 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 323 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 2,037 days or 5.7 years, while the youngest case was 12 days.

Table 9.15b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	47
Mean	361.5957
Median	196.0000
Mode	146.00
Std. Deviation	379.07483
Skewness	1.640
Std. Error of Skewness	.347
Range	1563.00
Minimum	12.00
Maximum	1575.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 47 active reissued matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court as at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 362 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 146 days and the median age was 196 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large amount of dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 1,575 days and the lowest was 12 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 10.0: St. James Parish Court –Civil Division

10.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. James Parish Court for the first quarter of 2026.

Table 10.01: Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	354	71.23
Disposed	100	20.12
Inactive	43	8.65
Total	497	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 497 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, 354 cases or 71.23% of these cases were still active, 100 were disposed and 43 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 28.77% for the quarter, which is a 7.03 percentage points increase when compared to the first quarter of 2025.

Table 10.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	425	73.91
Small Claim	150	26.09
Total	575	100.00

The above table shows that from 575 new claims¹¹ filed in the first quarter of 2026, the majority of which were big claims with 425 or 73.91%, while 150 or 26.09% were small claims.

Table 10.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. James Parish Court-Civil division for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	191	34.05
Recovery of Possession	74	13.19
Rent Owing and Continuing	51	9.09
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	35	6.24
Damages for Negligence	26	4.63
Sub-total	377	67.20

Total sample size of causes of action =561

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 561 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the first quarter of 2026 was breach of contract with 191 or roughly 34.05% of the sample and recovery of possession with 74 or 13.19% of the sample. Rent owing and continuing with 51 or 9.09% of the sample rank next. Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession with 35 or 6.24% and damages for negligence with 26 or 4.63% of the total sample round off the list. The

¹¹ **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 67.20% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 10.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	46	44.23
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	37	35.58
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	20	19.23
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	1	0.96
Total	104*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 91 cases**

The highest proportion of a sample of 104 matters entered in the first quarter of 2026 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 46 or 44.23% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 3 at the main courthouse had 37 matters entered or 35.58% of the sample, followed by courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with 20 or 19.23%.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Table 10.05: Distribution of plaintiffs for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	260	48.69
Female	216	40.45
Registered Company	58	10.86
Total	534	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 534 new matters filed in first quarter of 2026 at the St. James Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 260 or 48.69%, followed by females with 216 or 40.45%. Registered companies had the lowest proportion with 58 or 10.86% of the sample.

Table 10.06: Distribution of defendants for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	304	59.26
Female	164	31.97
Registered Company	45	8.77
Total	513	100

There were 513 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026. The highest proportion of defendants were male with 304 or 59.26% of the total sample, followed by females with 164 or 31.97%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 45 or 8.77%.

10.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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

Table 10.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management date	309	46.82
Trial	151	22.88
Part-Heard Date	95	14.39
Final Judgment Date	65	9.85
Default Judgment Date	23	3.48
Hearing of Application	12	1.82
Date for Order	5	0.76
Total	660	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 660 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for case management dates accounted for 309 or 46.82% of the sample, followed by 151 or 22.88%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for part heard dates accounted for 95 or 14.39% and matters adjourned for a final judgment date account for 65 or 9.85% 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 case

management date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 10.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Referred to Mediation	39	35.78
Attorney Absent	12	11.01
Defendant Absent	4	3.67
Both Parties Absent	2	1.83
Parties in Discussion	2	1.83
Sub-total	59	54.13

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 109

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 109 incidences of adjournments in the first quarter of 2026. Referrals to mediation with 39 or 35.78% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of attorneys with 12 or 11.01% and adjournments due to absence of defendants with 4 or 3.67% rounds off the top three. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with and parties in discussion with 2 or 1.83% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 54.13% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10.09: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	36
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 29 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 36 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

29 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 10.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	129	38.05
Consent	66	19.47
Default	45	13.27
Oral Admission	30	8.85
Withdrawal	24	7.08
Sub-total	294	86.73

NB: There were 339 matters disposed

A sample of 339 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2026 revealed that 129 or 38.05% of matters were disposed by being struck out and 66 or 19.47% were disposed by consent. Matters disposed by default judgments with 45 or 13.27% and matters disposed by oral admissions with 30 or 8.85% rank next. Matters disposed by withdrawals with 24 or 7.08% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 86.73% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the first quarter of 2026.

Table 10.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
22	1	95.45

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 22 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 1 was adjourned. This results in an estimated

trial date certainty rate of 95.45%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 95% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 10.12: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2025	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
497	143	387	772	77.87	28.77	327.91

The above table shows 497 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, a total of 100 cases were disposed and 43 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 28.77%, which is 7.03 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. An approximate gross figure of 307 cases were disposed, and 80 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2026. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 77.87%, which falls below the international standard for this metric and is 11.83 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 22.03%, which is 6.89 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 67.62%, a 4.59 percentage points increase when compared to the first quarter of 2025. The net

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

Table 10.13: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	190
Mean	303.1211
Median	183.0000
Mode	184.00
Std. Deviation	368.82367
Skewness	2.583
Std. Error of Skewness	.176
Range	1997.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	1998.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 190 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2026 at the St. James Parish court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 303 days or 10.1 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to dispose matters was 184 days and the median time was 183 days. The standard deviation of roughly 369 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1,998 days or roughly 5.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 10.14a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	927
Mean	529.1543
Median	382.0000
Mode	176.00
Std. Deviation	527.20622
Skewness	1.444
Std. Error of Skewness	.080
Range	2615.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	2619.00

The above data is based on a sample of 927 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 529 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 176 days. The standard deviation of roughly 527 days suggests that there is a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 2,619 days old or roughly 7.3 years, while the minimum age is 4 days.

Table 10.14b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	100
Mean	363.6200
Median	330.0000
Mode	503.00
Std. Deviation	304.03411
Skewness	1.962
Std. Error of Skewness	.241
Range	1425.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	1429.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 100 active reissued matters at the St. James Parish Court as at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 364 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 503 days and the median age was 330 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some amount of dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 1,429 days and the lowest was 4 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 11.0: St. Elizabeth Parish Court – Civil Division

11.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the first quarter of 2026.

Table 11.01: Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	231	84.31
Disposed	43	15.69
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	274	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 274 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, 231 or 84.31% of cases were still active and 43 were disposed. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 15.69% for the quarter, which is a 5.17 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2025.

Table 11.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	220	80.29
Small Claim	54	19.71
Total	274	100.00

The above table shows that from 274 new claims¹² filed in the first quarter of 2026, the majority of which were big claims with 220 or 80.29%, while 54 or 19.71% were small claims.

Table 11.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Cattle Trespass	38	13.92
Breach of Contract	33	12.09
Monies Owing	30	10.99
Goods Sold and Delivered	27	9.89
Recovery of Possession	16	5.86
Sub-total	144	52.75

Total sample size of causes of action= 273

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 273 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the first quarter of 2026 were cattle trespass with 38 or roughly 13.92% of the sample and breach of contract with 33 or 12.09% of the sample. Monies owing with 30 or 10.99% and goods sold and delivered with 27 or 9.89% of the sample ranks next. Recovery of possession with 16 or 5.86% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 52.75% of the sample of causes of action.

¹² **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

Table 11.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Balaclava Outstation (Courtroom 1)	177	64.84
Balaclava Outstation (Courtroom 2)	86	31.50
Santa Cruz Outstation	10	3.66
Total	273*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 273 cases**

The majority of a sample of 273 matters entered in the first quarter of 2026 were entered in courtroom 1 at the Balaclava Outstation, which accounted for 177 or 64.84% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 2 at the Balaclava Outstation had 86 matters entered or 31.50% of the sample and sittings at the Santa Cruz Outstation accounted for 10 or 3.66% of the sample.

11.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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 11.05: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	152	52.78
Default Judgment	31	10.76
Oral admission	25	8.68
Consent	13	4.51
Referred to mediation	13	4.51
Sub-total	234	81.25

NB there were 288 matters disposed

A total of 288 matters were disposed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 234 or 81.25% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 152 or 52.78% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by default judgment with 31 or 10.76% and oral admissions with 25 or 8.68%. Matters disposed by consent and referrals to mediation round off the top five methods with 13 or 4.51% each of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.06: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
41	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 41 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that none was 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 11.07: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2025	Approximate net Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net Case disposal rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
274	43	325	2651	118.61	15.69	900.00

The above table shows 274 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, a total of 43 cases were disposed and an approximate gross figure of 325 cases were disposed, many of which have dates of origin predating 2026. This led to an estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 15.69%, a 5.17 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2025. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 118.61%, a 29.76 percentage points increase when compared to first quarter of 2025. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 11.08: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	277
Mean	126.9783
Median	64.0000
Mode	64.00
Std. Deviation	206.66997
Skewness	3.980
Std. Error of Skewness	.146
Range	1361.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	1362.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 277 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2026 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 127 days or 4.2 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition and the median time to disposition were both 64 days. There is high standard deviation of 207 days, which is an indication that there is a large dispersion of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores are below around the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1,362 days or roughly 3.8 years old, while the youngest was 1 day.

Table 11.09: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	2610
Mean	1477.7762
Median	1527.0000
Mode	1399.00
Std. Deviation	706.98292
Skewness	-.188
Std. Error of Skewness	.048
Range	4381.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	4389.00

The above data is based on a sample of 2,610 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 1,478 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 1399 days. The standard deviation of roughly 707 days suggests that there is a small dispersion in the individual scores, while the negative skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set were close to the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 4,389 days old or roughly 12.2 years, while the minimum time taken is 8 days.

Chapter 12: Manchester Parish Court – Civil Division

12.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Manchester Parish Court for the first quarter of 2026.

Table 12.01 Case status summary for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	310	85.64
Disposed	52	14.36
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	362	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 362 new cases filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, 310 cases or 85.64% of these cases were still active, while 52 were disposed. These results produce an estimated net case disposal rate of 14.36%, which is a 0.79 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2025.

Table 12.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	329	86.35
Small Claim	52	13.65
Total	381	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 381 claims¹³ filed in the first quarter of 2026, 329 or 86.35% were big claims and 52 or 13.65% were small claims.

Table 12.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	119	31.32
Breach of Contract	90	23.68
Negligence	61	16.05
Damages to Cultivation	29	7.63
Arrears of Rent and Continuing	18	4.74
Sub-total	317	83.42

Total sample size of causes of action= 380

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 380 causes of action entered before the Manchester Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was recovery of possession with 119 or roughly 31.32% of the sample, breach of contract with 90 or 23.68% and negligence with 61 or 16.05%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by damages to cultivation with 29 or 7.63% and arrears of rent and continuing with 18 or 4.74% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 83.42% of the total sample of causes of action.

¹³ **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

Table 12.04: Sampling distribution of types of service in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	52	75.36
District Constable	15	21.74
Personal	2	2.90
Total	69	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by a bailiff accounted for the majority with 52 or 75.36% of the sample. Service by a district constable with 15 or 21.74% and personal service with 2 or 2.90% ran next.

Table 12.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	267	70.08
Christiana Outstation	39	10.24
Spalding Outstation	28	7.35
Porus Outstation	19	4.99
Cross Keys Outstation	17	4.46
Cottage Outstation	11	2.89
Total	381*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 332 cases**

The majority of the sample of 381 new claims filed in the first quarter was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 267 or 70.08% of the total sample. The 39 or 10.24% that were entered in the Christiana Outstation followed this. The Spalding Outstation accounted for 28 or 7.35% of the claims.

Case Demographics for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Table 12.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	205	53.81
Female	159	41.73
Registered Company	17	4.46
Total	381	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the 381 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 205 or 53.81%, followed by females with 159 or 41.73% and registered companies with 17 or 4.46% of the sample.

Table 12.07: Distribution of defendants in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	255	67.46
Female	116	30.69
Registered Company	7	1.85
Total	378	100.00

There were 378 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2026. The majority of defendants were male with 255 or 67.46% of the total sample, followed by females with 116 or 30.69%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 7 or 1.85% of the total sample.

12.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

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 12.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment Date	223	38.51
Case management date	184	31.78
Trial	135	23.32
Part-Heard Date	31	5.35
Judgment Date	5	0.86
Hearing of Application	1	0.17
Total	579	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 579 matters that went to court during the first quarter of 2026, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The highest proportion of the sample, 223 or 38.51% were adjourned for a default judgment date and 184 or 31.78% were adjourned for a case management date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 135 or 23.32% of matters, which were adjourned for a trial date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 31 or 5.35% of the sample.

Table 12.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	156	23.78
Defendant Absent	104	15.85
No Return/Re-Issued	101	15.40
Pending Settlement	12	1.83
Plaintiff Absent	10	1.52
Sub-total	383	58.38

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 656

The above table details a sample 656 adjournments or continuances heard in the quarter, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 156 or 23.78% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 104 or 15.85% and for no return/for reissue with 101 or 15.40% and pending settlements with 12 or 1.83% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 10 or 1.52% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 58.38% of the total sample.

Table 12.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	66
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponding to 50 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 66 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 50 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 12.11: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	144	41.26
Consent	61	17.48
Final Judgment	38	10.89
Default Judgment	28	8.02
Withdrawal	23	6.59
Sub-total	294	84.24

NB there were 349 matters disposed

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 349 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2026. The list is led by matters struck out with 144 or 41.26% of the disposals, followed matters disposed by consent with 61 or 17.48% and matters disposed by final judgments with 38 or 10.89%. Default judgments with 28 or 8.02% and withdrawals account for 23 or 6.59% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 84.24% of the sample.

Table 12.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
74	7	90.54

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 74 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 7 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 90.54%, suggesting that during the quarter, there was a roughly 91% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 12.13: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2025	Approximate net Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net Case disposal rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
362	52	365	1265	100.83	14.36	445.75

The above table shows 362 new cases filed at the Manchester Parish Court during the first quarter of 2026. At the end of the quarter, a total of 52 of these cases were and an approximate gross figure of 365 cases were disposed, many of which have dates of origin predating 2026. This led to a net case disposal rate of 14.36, which is 0.79 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The net clearance for the quarter is 100.83%, which is 16.99 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 12.14: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	219
Mean	214.7671
Median	126.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	216.87094
Skewness	1.822
Std. Error of Skewness	.164
Range	1015.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	1019.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 219 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2026 at the Manchester Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 215 days or 7.2 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days. There is high standard deviation of 217 days, which is an indication that there is a wide dispersion of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores are below around the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1,019 days or roughly 2.8 years old, while the youngest was 4 days.

Table 12.15a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to active of matters in the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	637
Mean	392.9262
Median	333.0000
Mode	179.00
Std. Deviation	311.96143
Skewness	.697
Std. Error of Skewness	.097
Range	1142.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	1153.00

The above data is based on a sample of 637 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 393 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 179 days. The standard deviation of roughly 312 days suggests that there is a small dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set were close to the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 1,153 days old or roughly 3.2 years, while the minimum time taken is 11 days.

Table 12.15b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the quarter ended March 31, 2026

Descriptive Statistics (days)

N	Valid	80
Mean		163.6000
Median		74.0000
Mode		25.00
Std. Deviation		204.14382
Skewness		1.727
Std. Error of Skewness		.269
Range		840.00
Minimum		11.00
Maximum		851.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 80 active reissued matters at the Manchester Civil Court as at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The average age of these matters was roughly 164 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 25 days and the median age was 74 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a wide 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 851 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.

Performance Summaries-Other Parish Court

Table 13.01: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the Hanover Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Net Case Clearance Rate (%)	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Net Case Disposal Rate (%)	Trial Date certainty Rate (%)
Hanover	NA	102.44	NA	70.73	NA

The summary of key performance metrics for the Hanover Parish Court shows that the civil division of the Hanover Parish Court recorded an estimated net clearance rate of 102.44% and an estimated net disposal rate of 70.73% for the quarter.

Aggregate data summaries – all Parish Courts

Table 13.02: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)
4242	4394	103.58

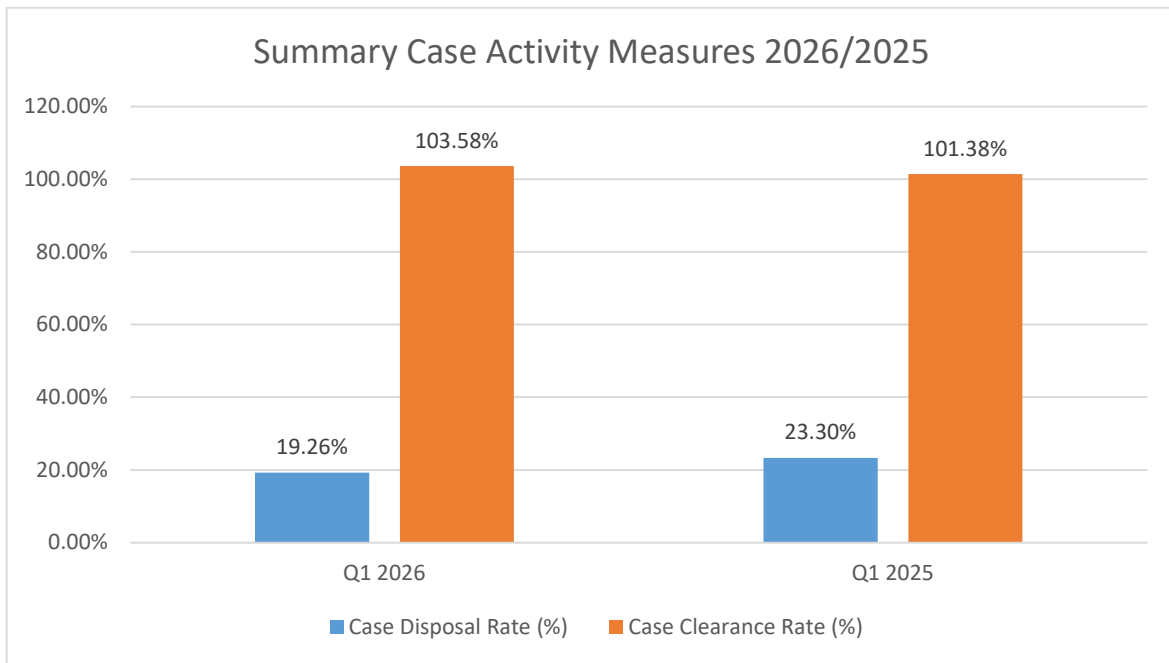
The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the first quarter of 2026. It shows that a total of 4,242 new cases were filed over the quarter, while 4,394 became inactive or were disposed, leading to an estimated gross clearance rate of 103.58%. This is a 2.20 percentage points increase when compared to the corresponding period in 2025.

Table 13.03: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2026	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2025	Change in the Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2026	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2025	Change in the Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)
St. Thomas	21.53	29.41	-7.88	84.21	112.35	-28.14
Corporate Area- Civil	19.02	31.76	-12.74	125.96	107.34	18.62
St. Elizabeth	NA	21.43	NA	NA	90.36	NA
Hanover	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Manchester	NA	16	-16	NA	84.5	-84.5
Portland	NA	NA	NA	NA	83.13	NA
St. Ann	NA	NA	NA	109.64	128.66	-19.02
St. Catherine	13.63	13.7	-0.07	106.43	98.83	7.6
St. Mary	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Trelawny	16.94	NA	NA	97.58	82.79	14.79
St. James	28.77	21.74	7.03	77.87	89.7	-11.83
Clarendon	NA	NA	NA	88.46	100	-11.54
Westmoreland	NA	33.33	NA	13.46	111.11	-97.65
Average /Weighted Average	19.26	23.30	-4.04	103.58	101.38	2.20
Standard Deviation	5.70	7.73		33.84	14.70	
Skewness	0.89	-0.05		-1.68	0.70	

The table above provides a comparison of the gross case disposal rate and the gross case clearance rate for the first quarter of 2026 and 2025. The weighted average gross case disposal rate for the first quarter of 2026 is 19.26%, which is a 4.04 percentage points decrease when compared to the first quarter of 2025 weighted average rate of 23.30%. The gross case clearance rate of 103.58% for the first quarter of 2026 is 2.20 percentage points above the 101.38% recorded in the first quarter of 2025.

Chart 13.04: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for the first quarters of 2025 and 2026



The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal and case clearance for the first quarters of 2026 and 2025. It is seen that there has been a decrease in the gross case disposal rate and an increase in the gross case clearance rate over the comparative period. The case clearance rate moved from 101.38% in the first quarter of 2025 to 103.58% in the first quarter of 2026. The case disposal rate moved from 23.30% in the first quarter of 2025 to 19.26% in the first quarter of 2026, a decrease of 4.04 percentage points.

Chart 13.05a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2025 and 2026

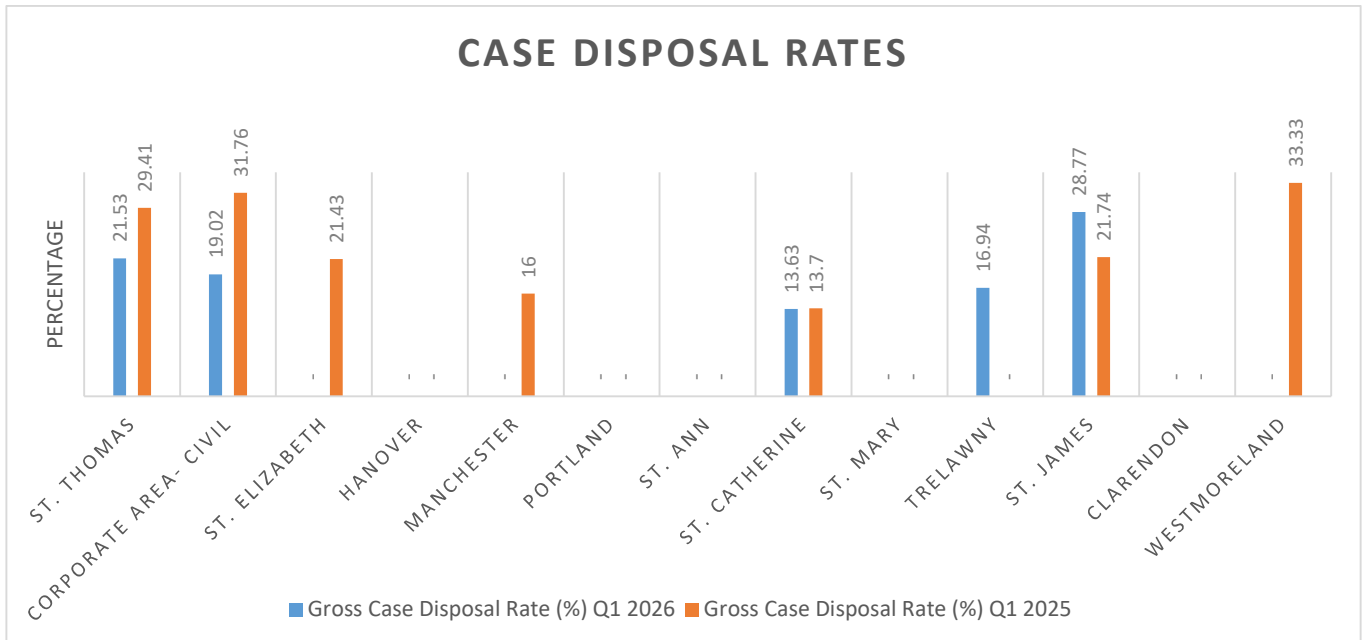


Chart 13.05b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2025 and 2026

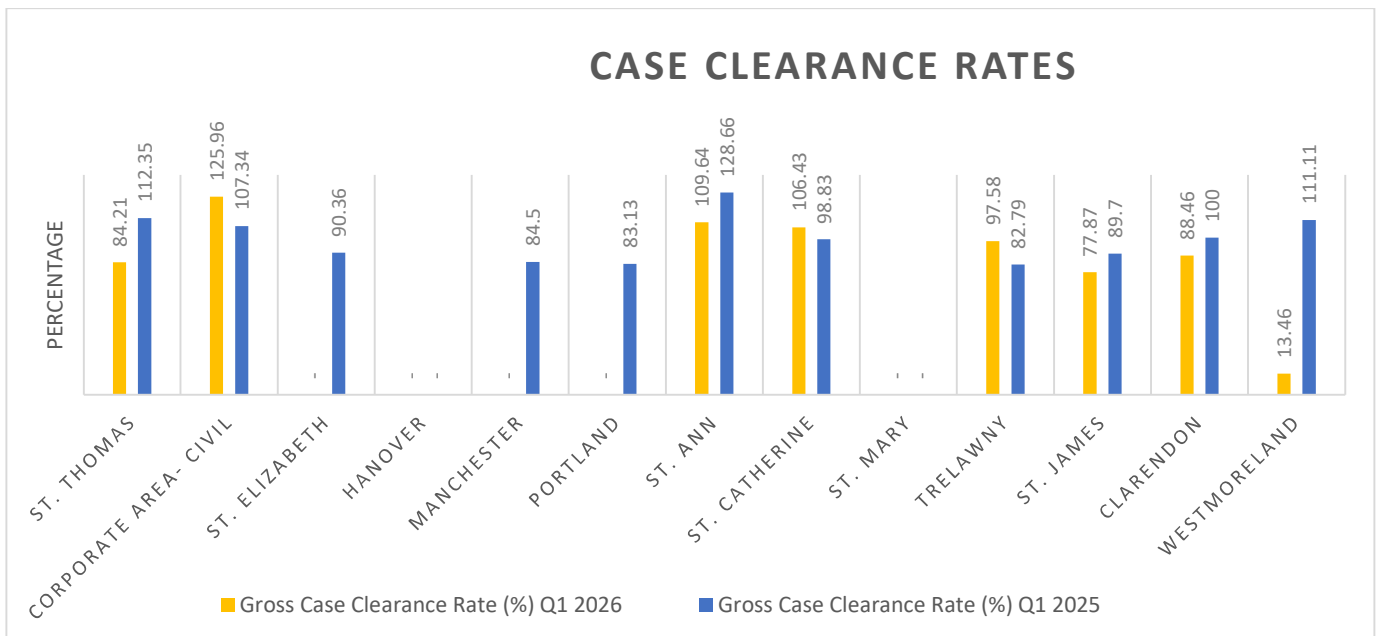


Table 13.06: Sampling distribution of claims filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Big Claims	Small Claims	POCA	Miscellaneous	Total
Corporate area	984	-	-	-	984
Portland	91	5	-	-	86
St. Ann	531	74	-	-	605
St. Catherine	778	65	-	-	843
St. Elizabeth	220	54	-	-	274
St. Mary	129	30	-	-	159
St. Thomas	188	39	-	-	227
Trelawny	113	18	-	-	131
Westmoreland	178	9	-	-	187
St. James	425	150	-	-	575
Clarendon	263	56	-	-	319
Manchester	329	52	-	-	381
Total	4229	552	0	0	4771

The above table provides an overall summary of the claims¹⁴ files across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2026. The sample of 4,771 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2026 reveals that 4,229 or 88.64% were big claims, while 11.57% were small claims. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine Parish Court, and the St. Ann Parish Court account for the largest share of new complaints filed in the quarter. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine, and the St. Ann Parish Courts account for the largest share of big claims filed in the quarter, while the St. James, St. Ann and the St. Catherine Parish Court account for the largest shares of small claims filed.

¹⁴ **Note:** *Small Claims* refer to civil claims in which the amount sought does not exceed **\$50,000**, while *Big Claims* refer to claims exceeding **\$50,000**, up to the applicable monetary jurisdiction of the Parish Court. For common-law claims, the Parish Court's monetary jurisdiction generally extends to **\$1,000,000**.

Table 13.07: Forecasted case activity statistics for the second quarter of 2026 [April 01 - June 30, 2026]

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted number of inactive cases	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Hanover	87	127	0	145.98
Manchester	331	338	0	102.11
St. Mary	143	182	0	127.27
St. James	367	268	109	102.72
St. Catherine	627	651	15	106.22
Portland	61	108	0	177.05
St. Ann	389	375	14	100.00
St. Elizabeth	237	264	1	111.81
Corporate Area Civil	894	621	461	121.03
Westmoreland	153	66	24	58.82
St. Thomas	179	127	46	96.65
Clarendon	259	252	3	98.46
Trelawny	114	104	12	101.75
Total/Weighted Average	3840	3485	685	108.59

Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2026 is 111.83%.

The above table forecasts core case activity for the civil division of each parish court and overall for the second quarter of 2026. The forecasts are generated using the method of exponential smoothing which uses weighted averages from past observations with weights decaying exponentially as the observations get older. See further explanation of the mathematical science behind the method of exponential smoothing in the glossary of terms. The above data shows that the overall forecasted case clearance rate for the civil division of the parish courts for the second quarter of 2026 is 108.59%, which would be 5.01 percentage points higher than that of the first quarter of 2026. Twelve (12) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the second quarter of 2026, led by the Portland Parish

Court with 177.05%, the Hanover Parish Court with 145.98% and the St. Mary Parish Court with 127.27%.

Table 13.08: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 in the civil division of the parish courts in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	82	69780	12
St. Catherine	653	542763	12
Westmoreland	156	146205	11
St. Mary	147	116497	13
Clarendon	286	258643	11
Portland	70	84972	8
St. Elizabeth	274	153201	18
Corporate Area Civil	936	672904	14
St. Thomas	209	94485	22
St. James	497	188656	26
St. Ann	446	175310	25
Trelawny	124	77427	16
Manchester	362	193694	19
Total	4242	2774538	15

The above table provides an outline of the number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts (civil division) in the first quarter of 2026. The population sizes used are based on the last national population census in 2022 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. James, which is among the courts with the larger caseloads and midrange population size, registered the largest number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the first quarter of 2026. St. Ann, which is among the courts with the larger caseloads and mid-range population size, ranked second. Equally interesting is the result that the parish of Portland accounted for the smallest number of new

cases filed per 10,000 population in the quarter and is the parish with a smallest caseload and among the courts with a smaller population size. The Clarendon and Westmoreland Parish Courts accounted for the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population.

Table 13.09: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	954	19.42
Defendant Absent	620	12.62
Both Parties Absent	379	7.72
Referred to Mediation	102	2.08
Parties in Discussion	88	1.79
Attorney Absent	64	1.30
Plaintiff Absent	54	1.10
Pending Settlement	51	1.04
Judge Absent/Ill	45	0.92
Hearing of Application	39	0.79
Sub-total	2396	48.78

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 4,912)

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 4,912 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the first quarter of 2026 across all of the parish courts (civil division). The largest proportion (19.42%) was for no return/ for reissue. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 12.62% and the absence of both parties with 7.72% round out the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Referrals to mediation with 2.08% and parties in discussion with 1.79% round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The

leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 48.78% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 13.10a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

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	5693 (30.2%)	4449 (23.6%)	2218 (11.8%)	1666 (8.8%)	1883 (10.0%)	955 (5.1%)	2011 (10.7%)	18875 (100%)
St. Catherine	3530 (17.9%)	2931 (14.9%)	1801 (9.1%)	1433 (7.3%)	2108 (10.7%)	1545 (7.8%)	6364 (32.3%)	19712 (100%)
St. James	1210 (43.0%)	520 (18.5%)	286 (10.2%)	164 (5.8%)	242 (8.6%)	109 (3.9%)	283 (10.1%)	2814 (100%)
Clarendon	849 (33.4%)	707 (27.8%)	375 (14.8%)	201 (7.9%)	203 (8.0%)	117 (4.6%)	88 (3.5%)	2540 (100%)
Westmoreland	1339 (51.4%)	539 (20.7%)	252 (9.7%)	154 (5.9%)	168 (6.4%)	75 (2.9%)	79 (3.0%)	2606 (100%)
St. Ann	2363 (31.3%)	1644 (21.8%)	820 (10.9%)	569 (7.5%)	669 (8.9%)	361 (4.8%)	1125 (14.9%)	7551 (100%)
St. Thomas	1005 (34.5%)	675 (23.1%)	331 (11.3%)	205 (7.0%)	226 (7.7%)	137 (4.7%)	338 (11.6%)	2917 (100%)
Portland	641 (24.4%)	450 (17.1%)	247 (9.4%)	191 (7.3%)	319 (12.1%)	148 (5.6%)	630 (24.0%)	2626 (100%)
St. Mary	1457 (62.4%)	383 (16.4%)	128 (5.5%)	59 (2.5%)	70 (3.0%)	41 (1.8%)	196 (8.4%)	2334 (100%)
Trelawny	1290 (51.9%)	514 (20.7%)	208 (8.4%)	136 (5.5%)	139 (5.6%)	75 (3.0%)	122 (4.9%)	2484 (100%)
Manchester	553 (36.9%)	490 (32.7%)	249 (16.6%)	105 (7.0%)	52 (3.5%)	27 (1.8%)	24 (1.6%)	1500 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	1870 (44.7%)	1061 (25.3%)	410 (9.8%)	243 (5.8%)	235 (5.6%)	142 (3.4%)	227 (5.4%)	4188 (100%)
% of Total	31.08	20.48	10.44	7.31	9.00	5.32	16.38	100.00
Average	1816.67	1196.92	610.42	427.17	526.17	311.00	957.25	5845.58
Standard Deviation	1472.17	1257.39	681.61	541.44	705.67	464.05	1797.09	6465.08
Skewness	1.98	2.04	1.88	1.88	1.87	2.24	2.92	1.84

Number of charges sampled (N) = 70,147

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 99 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at March 31, 2026. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 99-month period. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 31.08% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Ann and St. Elizabeth are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively 69.31% 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, and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 16.38% 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, 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 resolve 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 13.10b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil	301.91	119	159	376.85	2.88	1	5732	18875
St. Catherine	573.98	28	378	561.80	1.44	1	4854	19712
St. James	262.92	28	115	375.45	2.79	1	3577	2814
Clarendon	207.64	63	133	217.74	2.38	1	1634	2540
Westmoreland	168.26	28	84	231.08	3.52	1	2196	2606
St. Ann	391.06	63	155	595.08	3.16	1	5929	7551
St. Thomas	344.44	28	139	589.06	3.71	1	3471	2917
Portland	567.35	63	256	742.48	2.08	2	4515	2626
St. Mary	208.38	28	56	404.51	2.90	1	2001	2334
Trelawny	184.59	28	81	286.97	3.61	1	2710	2484
Manchester	153.91	91	104	149.42	2.54	1	1184	1500
St. Elizabeth	202.47	63	96	305.98	4.32	1	3971	4188
Total/Weighted Average	373.36	52.50	146.33	403.04	2.94	1.08	3481.17	5845.58
Standard Deviation	146.64	30.07	89.33	182.03	0.79	0.29	1577.89	6465.08
Skewness	1.14	1.07	1.88	0.48	-0.17	3.46	0.16	1.84

Number of charges sampled (N) = 70,147

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 96 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at March 31, 2026. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 99-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to resolve matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 373 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 Manchester (154 days), Westmoreland (168 days) and Trelawny (185 days) took the lowest times on average to resolve

cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (574 days), Portland (567 days) and St. Ann (391 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period of analysis. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is shown to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 146.64 days. The average minimum time taken to resolve matters across all parish courts was 1.08 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 1,184 days (39.5 months/3.3 years) in the Manchester Parish Court, to a high of 5,929 days (197.6 months/16.5 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive value, which is an indication that a larger proportion of the maximum times to disposition were close to the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 70,147 matters.

Table 13.11a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

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	110 (22.9%)	129 (26.8%)	58 (12.1%)	66 (13.7%)	51 (10.6%)	19 (4.0%)	48 (10.0%)	481 (100%)
St. Catherine	133 (25.2%)	174 (33.0%)	42 (8.0%)	47 (8.9%)	36 (6.8%)	15 (2.8%)	80 (15.2%)	527 (100%)
St. James	48 (25.3%)	46 (24.2%)	19 (10.0%)	23 (12.1%)	34 (17.9%)	6 (3.2%)	14 (7.4%)	190 (100%)
Clarendon	39 (22.3%)	50 (28.6%)	16 (9.1%)	26 (14.9%)	21 (12.0%)	12 (6.9%)	11 (6.3%)	175 (100%)
Westmoreland	0 0	5 (29.4%)	4 (23.5%)	0 0	1 (5.9%)	5 (29.4%)	2 (11.8%)	17 (100%)
St. Ann	122 (30.6%)	147 (36.8%)	37 (9.3%)	24 (6.0%)	20 (5.0%)	6 (1.5%)	43 (10.8%)	399 (100%)
St. Thomas	36 (35.0%)	19 (18.4%)	20 (19.4%)	9 (8.7%)	7 (6.8%)	6 (5.8%)	6 (5.8%)	103 (100%)
Portland	21 (14.0%)	23 (15.3%)	7 (4.7%)	5 (3.3%)	6 (4.0%)	3 (2.0%)	85 (56.7%)	150 (100%)
St. Mary	57 (58.2%)	23 (23.5%)	5 (5.1%)	2 (2.0%)	2 (2.0%)	1 (1.0%)	8 (8.2%)	98 (100%)
Trelawny	28 (30.1%)	35 (37.6%)	13 (14.0%)	9 (9.7%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.1%)	6 (6.5%)	93 (100%)
Manchester	60 (27.4%)	85 (38.8%)	18 (8.2%)	21 (9.6%)	10 (4.6%)	14 (6.4%)	11 (5.0%)	219 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	177 (63.9%)	59 (21.3%)	17 (6.1%)	7 (2.5%)	5 (1.8%)	3 (1.1%)	9 (3.2%)	277 (100%)
% of Total	30.45	29.13	9.38	8.76	7.11	3.33	11.84	100
Average	69.25	66.25	21.33	19.92	16.17	7.58	26.92	227.42
Standard Deviation	53.64	55.47	16.31	19.70	16.44	5.95	29.76	162.57
Skewness	0.80	0.95	1.22	1.38	1.05	0.75	1.25	0.81

Number of charges sampled (N) = 2,729

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting

for roughly 30.45% of the disposals. The Westmoreland Parish Court, along with the parish courts of Corporate Area – Civil Division, St. Catherine, and St. James are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 77.72% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year. From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of Corporate Area, St. James, and St. Mary had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that approximately 11.84% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Mary, Corporate Area, and St. James had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to resolve 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 13.11b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil Division	324.21	294	182	441.22	3.99	1	3651	481
St. Catherine	335.05	91	140	435.21	2.37	6	2295	527
St. James	303.12	184	183	368.82	2.58	1	1998	190
Clarendon	272.90	91	168	261.22	1.56	6	1112	175
Westmoreland	452.29	92	250	417.84	1.47	92	1412	17
St. Ann	321.59	91	112	594.57	3.54	5	3640	399
St. Thomas	232.21	49	175	226.45	1.50	6	1043	103
Portland	1424.65	2198	1736	1198.50	0.26	2	4424	150
St. Mary	276.68	7	63	752.63	4.08	2	3920	98
Trelawny	209.58	119	119	307.33	3.05	3	1372	93
Manchester	214.77	91	126	216.87	1.82	4	1019	219
St. Elizabeth	126.98	64	64	206.67	3.98	1	1362	277
Total/Weighted Average	344.56	280.92	276.50	452.28	2.52	10.75	2270.67	227.42
Standard Deviation	340.45	608.04	462.65	286.06	1.23	25.67	1279.18	162.57
Skewness	3.12	3.38	3.38	1.84	-0.21	3.43	0.63	0.81

Number of charges sampled (N) = 2,729

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to resolve matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 345 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 3.12, suggesting that most of the scores were below the overall mean. For matters resolved in the period, the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (127 days), Trelawny (210 days) and Manchester (215 days) took the lowest times on average to resolve cases over the period. The parish courts of Portland (1,425 days), Westmoreland (452 days) and St. Catherine (335 days) demonstrate the highest times to

disposition for matters resolved 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 340.45 days. The average minimum time taken to resolve matters across all parish courts was 10.75 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 1,019 days (34 months/2.8 years) in the Manchester Parish Court, to a high 4,424 days (147.5 months/12.3 years) in the Portland Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 0.63, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were clustered around the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 2,729 matters.

Table 13.11c: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Struck Out	Consent	Settlement	Default Judgment	Oral Admission	Withdrawal	Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	Other	Total
St. Catherine	322	163	64	82	23	33	66	92	845
Corporate Area Civil	346	166	20	66	26	76	68	49	817
Westmoreland	1	3	4	-	2	2	7	3	22
Clarendon	107	39	38	23	15	10	28	30	290
Trelawny	23	37	8	20	10	13	-	10	121
Portland	113	9	10	10	2	5	4	20	173
St. Mary	54	30	9	24	10	13	1	33	174
St. Thomas	20	17	18	34	21	9	6	13	138
St. Ann	24	23	8	14	4	14	2	14	103
St. James	129	66	23	45	30	24	9	13	339
St. Elizabeth	152	13	12	31	25	9	4	42	288
Manchester	144	61	18	28	10	23	12	53	349
Total	1435	627	232	377	178	231	207	372	3659
Percentage of total	39.22	17.14	6.34	10.30	4.86	6.31	5.66	10.17	100

Number of charges sampled (N): 3,659

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts-civil division for the first the first quarter of 2026. From the sample, it is observed that the highest proportion of matters disposed during the quarter were by being struck out with 39.22% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by consent with 17.14%, default judgments with 10.30% and dispositions grouped under the category, “other methods” with 10.17% of the sample. Settlements with 6.34% and withdrawals with 6.31% rank next. Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 5.66% and oral admissions with 4.86% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter.

Table 13.12a: Net and gross civil case backlog as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 for cases over 24 months

Parish Court	Net Case Backlog Rate (%)	Gross Case Backlog Rate (%)
Clarendon	1.23	13.44
Corporate Area	5.97	31.60
Manchester	3.38	-
Portland	2.23	6.51
St. Ann	4.37	28.07
St. Catherine	0.93	2.91
St. James	3.07	26.52
St. Mary	1.21	1.72
St. Thomas	0.39	24.13
Trelawny	0.83	26.48
Westmoreland	2.81	17.73
Weighted Average	3.33	20.11
Standard Deviation	1.72	11.13

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q1 2026 is 15.54% and the gross backlog is 31.40%.

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

results revealed a net case backlog rate (weighted average) for cases over 24 months in the parish courts of 3.33% (with a standard deviation of 1.72%), which satisfies the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 20.11% (with a standard deviation of 11.13%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is 10.11 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10%, but can be improved to meet this standard with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the civil courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of St. Thomas with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.39%, Trelawny and St. Catherine with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.83% and 0.93% respectively have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area (5.97%), St. Ann (4.37%) and Manchester (3.38%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of St. Mary (1.72%) and St. Catherine (2.91%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (31.60%), St. Ann (28.07%) and St. James (26.52%) have the highest rates.

Table 13.12b: Net and gross civil case backlog as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 for cases over 18 months

Parish Court	Net Case Backlog Rate (%)	Gross Case Backlog Rate (%)
Clarendon	1.61	14.14
Corporate Area	6.80	33.20
Manchester	5.05	5.17
Portland	2.58	6.90
St. Ann	5.30	29.64
St. Catherine	1.18	3.17
St. James	4.32	31.36
St. Mary	1.25	1.75
St. Thomas	0.70	26.02
Trelawny	1.20	27.69
Westmoreland	3.24	19.40
Weighted Average	3.97	21.47
Standard Deviation	2.07	12.21

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q1 2026 is 18.83% and the gross backlog is 34.97%.

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

results revealed a net case backlog rate (weighted average) for cases over 18 months in the parish courts of 3.97% (with a standard deviation of 2.07%), which satisfies the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 21.47% (with a standard deviation of 12.21%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is 11.47 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10%, but can be improved to meet this standard with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the civil courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of St. Thomas with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.70%, St. Catherine and Trelawny with an estimated net backlog rate of 1.18% and 1.20% respectively have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (6.80%), St. Ann (5.30%) and Manchester (5.05%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of St. Mary (1.75%) and St. Catherine (3.17%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (33.20%), St. James (31.36%) and St. Ann (29.64%) have the highest rates.

Trial court activity summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Table 13.13a: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Average time between filing and first court appearance	Average time between first court appearance and trial	Average time between trial and disposition
Clarendon	56.70	280.62	293.73
Corporate Area	64.33	395.52	276.26
Manchester	69.99	268.29	152.79
Portland	47.83	480.54	243.67
St. Ann	92.95	370.59	672.76
St. Catherine	76.10	362.39	517.31
St. James	47.53	432.62	316.24
St. Mary	43.77	302.41	354.46
St. Thomas	47.43	255.98	246.59
Trelawny	50.57	327.30	291.42
Westmoreland	34.69	230.35	357.43
Weighted Average	65.31	352.05	385.84
Standard Deviation	16.90	78.79	143.12

Tracking the times between the occurrence of major hearing events along the case flow continuum is important to establishing precise points of possible delay in case progression. The above table provides a summary of the average times between filing a case and the first court appearance. The average time between the first court appearance and the first date of trial and the average duration between the first trial date and disposition. Overall, it is seen that the average time between filing a civil case, and the first court appearance is approximately 2.2 months, while the overall average time between first appearance of a civil matter in the parish courts and the first trial date is, however, much longer at approximately 11.7 months or 352 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is approximately

12.9 months or 386 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face lengthy delays after a first date set is postponed. Since less than a quarter of civil cases filed in the parish courts will proceed to trial, these findings may not have a dramatic impact on the overall time to disposition of civil cases.

Table 13.13b: Trial court activity summary during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Number of cases heard	Number of cases with a trial date set	Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set
Clarendon	744	189	25.40
Corporate Area	1649	170	10.31
Manchester	877	148	16.88
Portland	290	81	27.93
St. Ann	1380	279	20.22
St. Catherine	2105	399	18.95
St. Elizabeth	525	41	7.81
St. James	1159	250	21.57
St. Mary	301	57	18.94
St. Thomas	464	102	21.98
Trelawny	417	78	18.71
Westmoreland	393	70	17.81
Total/Weighted Average	10304	1864	18.09

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the first quarter of 2026 in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 10,304 civil cases heard across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2026, 1,864 or 18.09% proceeded to trial. The parish courts of the St. Elizabeth (7.81%), Corporate Area (10.31%) and Manchester (16.88%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of Portland (27.93%), Clarendon (25.40%) and St. Thomas (21.98%) had the highest proportion.

Table 13.13c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	89	16.76
Consent	73	13.75
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	68	12.81
Trial	59	11.11
Settlement	58	10.92
Default	52	9.79
Withdrawal	41	7.72
Judgment	30	5.65
Non Suited	21	3.95
Transferred	13	2.45
Other	8	1.51
Oral Admission	6	1.13
Order	5	0.94
By Consent - Mediated Settlement	4	0.75
Application For Defendant Denied	1	0.19
Application For Plaintiff Denied	1	0.19
Application For Plaintiff Granted	1	0.19
Dismissal	1	0.19
Total	531	100.00

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters struck out with 89 or 16.76% and matters disposed by consent with 73 or 13.75% of the cases disposed and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 68 or 12.81% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample.

Table 13.13d: Summary of case management date activity for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Average number of case management dates per case	Standard Deviation of case management dates Per Case	Skewness of case management dates per case	Maximum case management dates Frequency	Minimum case management dates Frequency
Clarendon	3.5	3.37	2.21	19	1
Corporate Area	2.62	2.89	2.8	27	1
Manchester	3.52	3.46	2.77	25	1
Portland	8.59	9.56	1.56	37	1
St. Ann	5.28	7.02	2.52	40	1
St. Catherine	3.57	3.74	2.55	26	1
St. James	6.38	5.07	0.92	23	1
St. Mary	4.61	5.95	2.58	34	1
St. Thomas	2.7	2.4	3.5	21	1
Trelawny	4.55	4.95	2.42	35	1
Westmoreland	6.02	5.87	2.7	32	1
Weighted Average	4.01	-	-	29.00	1.00
Standard Deviation	1.80	-	-	6.96	0.00
Skewness	0.99	-	-	0.14	0.00

The above table summarizes the number of appearances per case heard in the first quarter of 2026, which have at least one case management date. The overall average number of case management dates per 10 cases mentioned is 40, or approximately 4 dates per case with a standard deviation of 1.80 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 0.99. Together, these results suggest that the average number of case management dates per case is within the prescribed international standard, that a slightly larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of case management dates and that there is not on average a wide variation in the number of case management dates per case across the courts. Among the parish courts with the highest number of case management dates per case for matters heard in the first

quarter of 2026 are the Portland (8.59), St. James (6.38) and Westmoreland (6.02) Parish Courts, while Corporate Area (2.62), St. Thomas (2.70) and Clarendon (3.50) were among the courts with the lowest mean case management dates.

Table 13.13e: Summary of the average court appearance frequency for cases disposed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Average number of appearances per case	Standard Deviation
Clarendon	2.83	2.11
Corporate Area-Civil Division	3.02	3.18
Manchester	3.08	3.14
Portland	3.29	4.07
St. Ann	3.62	5.96
St. Catherine	2.91	3.01
St. James	4.68	3.88
St. Mary	3.23	4.49
St. Thomas	2.41	1.50
Trelawny	3.23	3.32
Westmoreland	6.50	8.51
Weighted Average	3.20	-

The above summary specifically addresses the number of case management dates per case for matters disposed in the first quarter of 2026. The overall average observed is approximately 32 dates for every 10 cases disposed, not dissimilar to the findings from the previous table which provided a descriptive summary of appearances for all cases disposed. The St. Thomas, Clarendon and St. Catherine Parish Courts were among those with the lowest number of case management dates per disposed case in the quarter, while the parish courts of Westmoreland, St. James and St. Ann were among the locations with the highest incidence.

Table 13.14a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Average overall courtroom utilization rate (%)	Highest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Lowest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rate (%)	Average courtroom utilization rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average number of courtroom adjournments per day
St. Catherine	79.55	200.00	7.50	31.71	83.01	1.00
Westmoreland	150.81	222.22	48.33	30.33	NA	NA
Trelawny	69.07	133.33	5.00	27.97	NA	1.06
St. Thomas	44.43	122.22	11.11	24.69	87.71	1.00
St. Mary	85.15	327.00	13.00	35.45	NA	1.00
St. James	60.96	94.17	18.33	29.84	NA	NA
Corporate Area Civil Court	77.37	122.00	15.00	24.27	NA	NA
St. Ann	64.27	137.22	11.11	26.20	88.71	1.00
Portland	58.37	119.44	9.17	21.51	NA	NA
Hanover	57.67	121.67	1.94	33.23	NA	1.06
Clarendon	68.02	104.00	30.67	24.02	65.87	NA
Manchester	55.01	125.56	2.50	29.29	NA	1.00
Overall Averages	72.56	152.40	14.47	28.21	81.33	1.02
Standard Deviation	27.16	66.43	13.20	4.18	10.60	0.03
Skewness	2.43	1.98	1.81	0.11	-1.69	1.23

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the first quarter of 2026. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtroom (including outstations) which are actually utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocated for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The data

suggests that as a whole, the parish courts of Jamaica are performed well below this level in the first quarter of 2026. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the quarter was 72.56%, which is an indication that on average roughly 73% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2026. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the first quarter are the Westmoreland and St. Mary Parish Courts with 150.81% and 85.15% respectively, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 79.55%. The St. Thomas and Manchester Parish Courts with 44.43% and 55.01% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the Hanover Parish Court with 57.67% had the next lowest rate. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. This is affirmed by the moderate positive skewness of the data. The dataset also isolates the courtroom utilization rate for night court sittings. These sittings were suspended in the 2020 calendar year due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and resumed across select Parish Courts during the 2025 calendar year. A part of the designation of night courts is to bolster the capacity of the courts to hear and dispose of more cases in a timely manner. At an overall courtroom utilization rate of 81.33%, with the St. Ann Parish Court with a night court utilization rate of 88.71% and the St. Thomas Parish Court with 87.71% ranked highest for the quarter, with the St. Catherine Parish Court ranking next with 83.01%.

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

Table 13.14b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the civil division of the parish courts in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Parish Court	Percentile rank Q1 2026 (%)	Percentile rank Q1 2025 (%)
St. Catherine	82	91
Westmoreland	100	82
Trelawny	64	73
St. Thomas	0	9
St. Mary	91	100
St. James	36	0
Corporate Area Civil Court	73	64
St. Ann	45	55
Portland	27	27
Hanover	18	18
Clarendon	55	45
Manchester	9	36

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the courtroom utilization rates for the first quarter of 2025 and 2026. The results present a relatively consistent picture across both years for most courts in terms of the performances on this measurement. Some courts experienced gains in the ranking, several others experienced declines, and some courts retained the same ranking. The Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than all courts in the first quarter of 2026 and the St. Mary Parish Court performed better than all courts in the first quarter of 2025. The St. James Parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization rate in the first quarter of 2025 and the St. Thomas Parish Court with the lowest rate in the first quarter of 2026.

Table 13.15: Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

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	209	45	176	21.53	8.89	84.21	69.44	100.00	7.73
Corporate Area-Civil	936	178	1179	19.02	10.72	125.96	87.04	100.00	10.80
St. Elizabeth	274	43	325		15.69		118.61	100.00	4.23
Hanover	82	58	84		70.73		102.44		
Manchester	362	52	365		14.36		100.83	90.54	7.17
Portland	70	14	140		20.00		200.00	51.72	47.50
St. Ann	446	72	489		16.14	109.64	107.17	95.60	10.73
St. Catherine	653	89	695	13.63	13.36	106.43	104.45	59.68	11.17
St. Mary	147	57	159		38.78		108.16	86.21	9.23
Trelawny	124	21	121	16.94	16.26	97.58	90.24	68.75	7.00
St. James	497	143	387	28.77	22.03	77.87	67.62	95.45	10.10
Clarendon	286	45	253		15.73	88.46	87.41	98.48	9.10
Westmoreland	156	0	21			13.46	10.26	100.00	15.07
Total/Weighted Average	4242	817	4394	19.26	16.05	103.58	92.62	87.24	11.49
Skewness	1.31	1.28	1.82	0.90	2.50	-1.68	0.60	-1.28	3.12
Standard Deviation	253.11	49.79	313.27	5.71	17.16	33.84	41.62	17.29	11.35

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

Note 2: The net case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the quarter is 25.97%

Note 3: The gross case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the quarter is 124.68% and the net case clearance rate is 119.48%

Conclusion

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts sustained its remarkable performance trend in the first quarter of 2026, achieving outstanding results across most key metrics. A notable highlight of this period was an overall gross case clearance rate of 103.58%, meeting international standards, and being higher than the corresponding period in 2025. This achievement contributed to a further reduction in the net case backlog rate for matters pending for at least two years, which stood at approximately 3.33%. Notably, this rate aligns closely with that of the Criminal Division, underscoring the consistent performance of both divisions in addressing case backlogs. The gross backlog rate for the Civil Division during the same period was 20.11%, also comparable to the Criminal Division's metrics. The Parish Courts of Hanover and Portland emerged as top performers across most critical indicators during this reporting period. Significantly, nine (9) parish courts exceeded 90% gross case clearance rate for civil cases, with the Portland, Corporate Area-Civil Division, St. Elizabeth and St. Ann performing the best on this measure. Despite these commendable achievements, there remains an urgent need to reduce the average case disposal time, which stood at 11.49 months for cases resolved during the quarter. Unnecessary adjournments continue to present a challenge, contributing to delays that must be addressed through strategic, court-driven interventions and operational reforms. It is important to acknowledge, however, that certain causes of delay, such as "No Return/Re-Issued," the absence of defendants, "parties in discussion," and the absence of both parties, fall outside the court's immediate control. Under the visionary and data-driven leadership of the Honourable Chief Justice of Jamaica, the courts are poised to meet and potentially exceed key quantitative targets, positioning Jamaica's judiciary among the best globally. The progress recorded in the first quarter

of 2026 establishes a strong foundation for achieving these strategic objectives, bringing the judiciary closer to delivering a world-class system of timely and effective justice for all stakeholders.

Glossary of Statistical Terms

Gross 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%.

Net clearance rate: The ratio on incoming to outgoing cases or of new cases filed to cases disposed, regardless of when the disposed cases originated and filtering out inactive cases.

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

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

Gross disposal rate: As distinct from clearance rate, the gross disposal rate is the proportion of new cases filed in a particular period which have been disposed of in the same 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%.

Net disposal rate: The net disposal rate is the proportion of new cases filed in a particular period which have been disposed in the same period, calculated after removing inactive cases from the total case intake.

Inactive Case: inactive cases refer to matters that have entered the court system but have stalled, resulting in a prolonged period of no active proceedings, scheduled hearings, or movement toward final disposition.

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

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

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

The international standard for this rate is 100%.

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

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

The international benchmark for casefile integrity is 100%.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Percentile Rank: This refers to the percentage of scores that are equal to or less than a given score. Percentile ranks, like percentages, fall on a continuum from 0 to 100. For example, a percentile rank of 45 indicates that 45% of the scores in a distribution of scores fall at or below the score at the 35th percentile.

Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed 300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals were possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

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

Weighted Average: Weighted average is a calculation that takes into account the varying degrees of significance of the groups or numbers in a data set. In calculating a weighted average for a particular variable, the individual scores or averages for each group are multiplied by the weight or number of observations in each of those groups and summed. The outcome is then divided by the summation of the number of observations in all groups combined. For example, if we wish to

calculate the weighted average clearance rate for the parish courts, the product of the clearance rate and number of cases for each court are computed, added, and then divided by the total number of cases across all the parish courts. This means that a court with a larger caseload has a greater impact on the case clearance rate than a smaller court.

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

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

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

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

Exponential Smoothing: Exponential smoothing of time series data assigns exponentially

decreasing weights for newest to oldest observations. In other words, the older the data, the less priority (“weight”) the data is given; newer data is seen as more relevant and is assigned more weight. Smoothing parameters (smoothing constants)— usually denoted by α — determine the weights for observations.

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

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

Triple exponential smoothing (also called the Multiplicative Holt-Winters) is usually more reliable

ⁱ Source :
<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRate>

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