



PARISH COURTS OF JAMAICA – CIVIL DIVISION

(JANUARY 1, 2025 – DECEMBER 31, 2025)

Court Metrics	January - December Highlights				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	99.36	111.95	117.13	120.98	101.10
Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	72.01	60.00	77.57	74.40	75.63
Average Time to Disposition	11.75	16.15	12.52	17.95	12.34
	months	months	months	months	months

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CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE ANNUAL, CIVIL COURT 2025

The year 2025 indicates that the gains made over the last three years have been secured. The attention now must be to ensure that those gains are never jeopardized and to move attention to reducing the gross backlog of unresolved cases. This means that the leadership of each court must examine the data for that court and devise strategic objectives supported by projects/initiatives. To this end, the leadership of the court must use the report to develop an overall strategy for the entire Parish Courts while allowing the peculiarities of each parish to be factored into the tier 2 plans for each court. All this must be compatible with the International Framework For Court Excellence's approach to court leadership and management. Considerable progress has been made but much remains to be done to make our Parish Courts truly world class.

Broadly speaking with an overall clearance rate of 99.36%, the courts have kept pace with new cases entering the courts. As noted last year, achieving the net backlog of under 5% using a 24 month time standard was one of the key objectives of the 2024 - 2028 strategic plan. This means that fewer than one in twenty civil cases is over 24 months in Parish Courts.

This accomplishment enabled us to lower the time standard to 18 months for 2025. At this 18 month time standard, the net backlog is 5.80%, and the gross backlog is 22.66%. This is .80% above where the courts should be on this or any other time standard. The mission for this year is therefore to hold and reduce the net backlog of active cases while targeting old, inactive and non-viable cases and bring them to a proper disposition.

There are data that speak to the metrics of a high performance court. One important metric is hearing date certainty. The profile of a high performing court has a hearing date certainty of 85%. Currently, the overall hearing date certainty is 72.01%, 12.99% below where it should be and 22.99% below the strategic plan target of 95%. In this regard, St Mary has already attained the profile of a high-performing court, combining a disposal rate above 75% (81.03%) with a clearance rate in excess of 100% (126.91%) and a very low net backlog (1.41% on an 18 month time standard), low gross backlog (1.93%). Despite this impressive standard, there is room for improvement. The trial date certainty is 50.56%. This needs to be at least 85%.

Other courts have achieved impressive standards on the net backlog metric of 18 month standard, the Parish Courts of St Thomas (0.75%), Trelawny (1.32%), St Catherine (1.38%), and Clarendon (2.02%) each reported net backlog rates of under 3%. Manchester, Trelawny and St Thomas now set the pace in timeliness, with average times to disposition between approximately six and seven months, compared with the overall average of 11.75 months. The strategic objective over this year and years to come is to have all the Parish Courts approximating or exceeding the ideal Parish Court.

As impressive as the average time to disposition is with a hearing date certainty of 72.01%, a courtroom utilization rate of 67.75%, and a case clearance rate of 99.36% there is room for improvement. The ultimate objective is to reduce the time from filing to disposition to the lowest time necessary to take the case along the caseflow continuum from filing to disposition.

I thank the judges, staff, and other stakeholders for their hard work throughout last year. This report is even more impressive considering the impact of Hurricane Melissa which made landfall

in western Jamaica on October 28, 2025. The western section of the island was hard hit. There was significant dislocation of citizens and court staff. The hurricane and its aftermath had a severe impact on the operations in St Elizabeth, Westmoreland – which had only one functioning courtroom from November 2025 to March 2025, Hanover, St James, and Trelawny. In the midst of this disaster the judges and staff stood tall. They were anxious to give service to the public in spite of personal loss and tragedy.

The Judiciary remains passionately committed to the constitutional mandate to deliver timely, fair and high-quality justice to every person who appears before the courts. This 2025 report confirms that the Parish Courts are moving decisively in that direction, but it also reminds us that we cannot relax our focus. With the continued dedication of our judges and staff, and the partnership with our stakeholders, we will continue to build a civil justice system that is data-driven, transparent, and worthy of the confidence of the Jamaican people.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD

Chief Justice¹ of Jamaica

¹ NB. This message was prepared with the assistance of AI.

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 annual report (covering January 1 to December 31, 2025) 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 99.36% during the report period. This represents a decrease of 12.59 percentage points when compared to the same period in 2024 and meets the international standard for this metric. Eleven (11) parish courts surpassed the 90% mark for case clearance rates during the 2025 calendar year. The trial date certainty rate for the Civil Division of the Parish Courts stood at 72.01%, falling below the required standard for the year. The average time to dispose a civil case in the year was approximately 353 days (11.75 months). Manchester (5.60 months), Trelawny (5.81 months), and St. Thomas (7.18 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 2025 calendar year, the estimated gross case backlog rate for cases older than 24 months in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts was 20.92%, meaning approximately 20.92% 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 4.93%, 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 2025 calendar year, the estimated gross case

backlog rate for cases older than 18 months in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts was 22.66% meaning approximately 22.66% 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 5.80%, which slightly exceeds the required annual standard of $\leq 5\%$. The St. Thomas, Trelawny, St. Catherine, and St. Mary 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 2025 calendar year, with the leading causes of adjournment being no returns, the absence of defendants, plaintiffs or both parties, ongoing discussions, and referrals to mediation. The five primary methods of case disposition during the year were by being struck out, settlement, consent judgment, default judgment, and withdrawal. The Civil Division of the Parish Courts continues to demonstrate strong performance, having already achieved the target of reducing the overall net case backlog rate to under 5%. As of the end of the 2025 calendar year, the division is well positioned to make noteworthy progress toward meeting the overall quantitative targets. The Judiciary of Jamaica remains on a steady path towards becoming a world-class institution that leverages innovation and technology to deliver efficient services and timely judgments in an environment where all stakeholders are valued.

See below aggregate case activity summary:

Table i: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate Gross Disposal rate (%)	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
15845	9374	15744	59.16	99.36	72.01	11.75

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

Table ii: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the year ended December 31, 2025

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in year	Approximate number of Disposed cases and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of year of origin)	Case Disposal Rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%)
St. Thomas	642	421	658	65.58	102.49
Corporate Area- Civil	4116	2528	3610	61.42	87.71
St. Elizabeth	959	516	867	53.81	90.41
Hanover	361	223	544	61.77	150.69
Manchester	1368	745	1292	54.46	94.44
Portland	261	150	470	57.47	180.08
St. Ann	1548	793	1427	51.23	92.18
St. Catherine	2481	1236	2632	49.82	106.09
St. Mary	643	521	816	81.03	126.91
Trelawny	498	256	422	51.41	84.74
St. James	1305	936	1344	71.72	102.99
Clarendon	985	629	1012	63.86	102.74
Westmoreland	678	420	650	61.95	95.87
Total/Weighted Average	15845	9374	15744	59.16	99.36
Skewness	2	2.28	1.84	0.98	1.81
Standard Deviation	1055.8	622.08	930.79	8.95	27.83

Forecast:

Using the method of exponential smoothing, it is forecast that in the 2026 calendar year, 16,109 new civil cases will be filed in the civil division of the parish courts, while 17,690 cases are expected to be disposed or become inactive. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for the 2026 calendar year in the civil division of the parish courts is therefore 109.81%. The parish courts of Portland, Hanover, and St. Mary are expected to register the highest case clearance rates in the 2026 calendar year.

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
Case Disposal Rate	>=75%
Case Clearance Rate	>=100%
Case Congestion Rate	<=115%
Trial Date Certainty Rate	>=85%
Net Case Backlog Rate	<=5%
Gross Case Backlog Rate	<=10%
Average Number of case management dates	<=3

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

Methodology

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

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

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

Disclaimer

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

Introduction

This report provides an overview of case activity in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the 2025 calendar year, ending on December 31, 2025. 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 2025 calendar year.

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 2025 calendar year.

Table 1.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	1588	38.58
Disposed	1531	37.20
Inactive	997	24.22
Total	4116	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 4,116 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, 1,588 or 38.58% cases were still active, 1,531 were disposed, and 997 were inactive at the end of the year. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 61.42% for big claims for the year, which is 0.38 percentage points below the estimated disposal rate recorded for big claims in the corresponding 2024 calendar year.

Table 1.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	4555	99.80
POCA	9	0.20
Total	4564	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 4,564 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2025 calendar year. Big claims accounted for 4,555 or 99.80% of the sample and 9 or 0.20% were Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

Table 1.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the year ended December 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	1257	31.81
Recovery of Possession	772	19.54
Damages for Negligence	684	17.31
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	225	5.69
Rent Owing and continuing	136	3.44
Sub-total	3074	77.80

Total sample size of causes of action = 3951

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases entered in the year at the Corporate Area Civil Court was breach of contract with 1,257 or roughly 31.81% of the sample. Recovery of possession, and damages for negligence with 772 or 19.54% and 684 or 17.31% respectively rank next. The top five causes of action were rounded off by rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 225 or 5.69%, and rent owing and continuing with 136 or 3.44% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 77.80% of the total sample of 3,951 causes of action.

Table 1.04: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	70	81.40
Bailiff	15	17.44
District Constable	1	1.16
Total	86	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, against whom a claim is made, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority with 70 or 81.40% of the sample, followed by service by the bailiff with 15 or 17.44%, and service by the District Constable with 1 or 1.16%.

Table 1.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	2265	52.41
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	2057	47.59
Total	4322*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 4115 cases**

The majority of a sample of 4,322 matters entered in the 2025 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 2,265 or 52.41% of the sample, followed by courtroom 2 with 2,057 or 47.59% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2025

Table 1.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1714	42.99
Female	1453	36.44
Registered Company	754	18.91
Trading As	66	1.66
Total	3987	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 3,987 matters entered in the 2025 calendar year at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 1,714 or 42.99% of the sample. Females accounted for 1,453 or 36.44%, and registered companies accounted for 754 or 18.91% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 66 or 1.66% of the sample.

Table 1.07: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1997	50.72
Female	1530	38.86
Registered Company	319	8.10
Trading As	91	2.31
Total	3937	100.00

There were 3,937 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the 2025 calendar year. The highest proportion of defendants were male with 1,997 or 50.72% of the sample, followed by females with 1,530 or 38.86%. Registered companies accounted for 319 or 8.10% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 91 or 2.31% of the sample.

1.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2025

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 cases, which were completed in the year, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 1.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management Date	462	42.90
Trial Date	318	29.53
Default Judgment Date	240	22.28
Part-Heard Date	34	3.16
Hearing of Application	15	1.39
Final Judgment Date	7	0.65
Date for Order	1	0.09
Total	1077	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 1,077 matters that went to court during the 2025 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, case management, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 462 or 42.90% were adjourned for case management dates, followed by 318 or 29.53%, 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 240 or 22.28% of the sample. It is of note that 34 or 3.16% 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 case

management 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 case management court hearings is not however an abnormal outcome given that case management court hearings are fundamental and intrinsic to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 1.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	166	21.93
Hearing of Application	17	2.25
Judgment Reserved	6	0.79
Referred to Mediation	4	0.53
Document/Disclosure	2	0.26
Sub-total	195	25.76

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 757

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 757 incidences of adjournments heard in the 2025 calendar year. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 166 or 21.93% of the sample, and hearing of an application with 17 or 2.25% round off the top incidences in the sample. Adjournments for judgment reserved, and referrals to mediation with 6 or 0.79% and 4 or 0.53% respectively, rank next. The list is completed by adjournments for document/disclosure with 2 or 0.26% of the sample. The top reasons for adjournments listed above account for 25.76% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 1.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters the year ended December 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	592
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 564 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 592 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 564 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences

Table 1.11: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	1013	38.04
Consent	616	23.13
Withdrawal	293	11.00
Default Judgment	210	7.89
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	170	6.38
Sub-total	2302	86.44

NB there were 2663 matters disposed

A total of 2,663 matters were disposed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the 2025 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 2,302 or 86.44% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 1,013 or 38.04% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 616 or 23.13%, and withdrawals with 293 or 11%. Matters disposed by default judgments, and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) round off the top five methods with 210 or 7.89% and 170 or 6.38% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 1.12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	302	94.67
Settlement	15	4.70
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	2	0.63
Total	319	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 319 matters in the 2025 calendar year. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff account for 302 or 94.67% of the sample of outcomes, while settlements accounted for 15 or 4.70%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 1.13: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
4116	2528	3610	87.71	61.42

The above table shows 4,116 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 1,531 of these cases were disposed and 997 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 61.42%, a 0.38 percentage points decline when compared to the 2024 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 2,366 cases was disposed, and 1,244 cases became inactive during the year, several of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of

87.71%, which falls below the international standard on this metric, and is a 13.69 percentage points decline when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the year is 49.09%, which is 2.17 percentage points below the net disposal rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year. The estimated net case clearance rate is 75.86%, which is approximately 14.32 percentage points below the rate recorded in 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 1.14a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose matters for the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1561
Mean	252.2076
Median	138.0000
Mode	133.00
Std. Deviation	307.97910
Skewness	3.266
Std. Error of Skewness	.062
Range	2678.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	2679.00

The above table outlines summary data on 1,561 civil matters disposed in the 2025 calendar year at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 252 days or approximately 8.4 months, which is roughly 89 less days than it took to resolve matters in the 2024 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 133 days. The standard deviation of roughly 308 days is an indication that there

is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness is seen as an indication that there were markedly more scores in the data set which fall below the overall average time. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 2,679 days or roughly 7.4 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 1.14b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved for the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	226
Mean	299.7611
Median	245.0000
Mode	245.00
Std. Deviation	282.83054
Skewness	4.261
Std. Error of Skewness	.162
Range	2438.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	2441.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 226 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 300 days or roughly 10 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 423 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 198 days.

Table 1.15a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	4721
Mean	786.8678
Median	747.0000
Mode	82.00
Std. Deviation	638.24657
Skewness	1.326
Std. Error of Skewness	.036
Range	5113.00
Minimum	16.00
Maximum	5129.00

The above data is based on a sample of 4,721 active civil matters as of the year ended December 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 787 days or roughly 26.2 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 82 days. The standard deviation of roughly 638 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 5,129 days old or roughly 14.2 years, while the minimum time is 16 days.

Table 1.15b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	130
Mean	459.4692
Median	372.5000
Mode	286.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	336.36735
Skewness	3.093
Std. Error of Skewness	.212
Range	2682.00
Minimum	19.00
Maximum	2701.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 130 active matters reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 459 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 286 days and the median age was 372.50 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 2,701 days and the lowest was 19 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 2025 calendar year.

Table 2.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	356	36.14
Disposed	623	63.25
Inactive	6	0.61
Total	985	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 985 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, 356 cases or 36.14% of these cases were still active, while 623 were disposed and 6 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 63.86%, which is 1.57 percentage points above the gross disposal rate recorded in the previous 2024 calendar year.

Table 2.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	949	83.61
Small Claim	186	16.39
Total	1135	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 1,135 civil claims filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year, the majority of which 949 or 83.61% were big claims, while 186 or 16.39% were small claims.

Table 2.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Clarendon parish court for the year ended December 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	563	49.69
Damages for Negligence	145	12.80
Recovery of Possession	93	8.21
Trespass	53	4.68
Rent Owing and Continuing	34	3.00
Sub-total	888	78.38

Total sample size of causes of action= 1133

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases filed in the year at the Clarendon Parish Court was breach of contract with 563 or roughly 49.69% of the sample. Damages for negligence with 145 or 12.80%, and recovery of possession with 93 or 8.21% rank next. Trespass with 53 or 4.68%, and rent owing and continuing with 34 or 3% of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

Table 2.04: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	150	57.92
Bailiff	62	23.94
Personal	47	18.15
Total	259	100.00

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the majority of the sample with 150 or 57.92% of the sample, followed by service by the bailiff with 62 or 23.94%, and personal service with 47 or 18.15%.

Table 2.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	824	72.73
Lionel Town Outstation	142	12.53
Chapelton Outstation	131	11.56
Frankfield Outstation	36	3.18
Total	1133*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 986 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1,133 new matters filed in the year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 824 or 72.73% of the total sample. The Lionel Town Outstation accounted for 142 or 12.53% of the cases filed. The Chapelton Outstation accounted for 131 or 11.56%, and the Frankfield Outstation accounted for 36 or 3.18% of the new cases heard.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2025

Table 2.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	554	48.98
Female	515	45.53
Trading As	42	3.71
Registered Company	20	1.77
Total	1131	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1,131 new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year at the Clarendon Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 554 or 48.98% of the sample, followed by females with 515 or 45.53%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 42 or 3.71% of the sample and registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 20 or 1.77% of the sample.

Table 2.07: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	746	66.37
Female	345	30.69
Trading As	28	2.49
Registered Company	5	0.44
Total	1124	100.00

There were 1,124 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the 2025 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 746 or 66.37% of the sample, followed by females with 345 or 30.69% and Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 28 or 2.49% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 5 or 0.44% of the sample.

2.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2025

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 cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 2.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	165	37.59
Case management Date	155	35.31
Default Judgment Date	85	19.36
Part-Heard Date	25	5.69
Hearing of Application	9	2.05
Total	439	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 439 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a judgment, case management, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 165 or 37.59% of the sample, were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a case management date with 155 or 35.31%, matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 85 or 19.36%, and matters adjournment for a part heard date with 25 or 5.69% of the sample.

Table 2.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2025

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	80	16.70
Defendant Absent	79	16.49
Parties in Discussion	50	10.44
Referred to mediation	27	5.64
Not Reached	23	4.80
Sub-total	259	54.07

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 479

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 479 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the 2025 calendar year. Adjournments for no return or for reissue accounted for 80 or 16.70% of the sample, and adjournments due to the absence of defendants accounted for 79 or 16.49% of the sample. Adjournments for parties in discussion accounted for 50 or 10.44%, referrals to mediation accounted for 27 or 5.64% and not reached accounted for 4.80% of the sample.

Table 2.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	191
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 160 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 191 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 160 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 2.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	530	44.99
Consent	162	13.75
Settlement	146	12.39
Default Judgment	65	5.52
Withdrawal	60	5.09
Sub-total	963	81.75

NB: there were 1178 matters disposed

A total of 1,178 civil matters were disposed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 963 or 81.75% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 530 or 44.99% and matters disposed by consent with 162 or 13.75% of the sample. Matters disposed by settlements with 146 or 12.39% of the sample ranked next, matters disposed by default judgment with 65 or 5.52% and matters disposed by withdrawals round off the top methods of disposition with 5.09% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 2.12: Sampling distribution of the case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	177	70.80
Settlement	70	28.00
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	3	1.20
Sub-total	250	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of 250 case outcomes in the 2025 calendar year at the Clarendon Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 177 or 70.80% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 70 or 28%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for 3 or 1.20 % of the sample of outcomes. This

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

Table 2.13: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2025

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
214	104	51.40

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 214 trial dates was set in the year, of which 104 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 51.40%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 51% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 8.6 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year.

Table 2.14: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
985	629	1012	102.74	63.86

The above table shows 985 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 623 of these cases were disposed and 6 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 63.86%, a 1.57 percentage points increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 996 cases were disposed, and 16 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 102.74%, which meets the international standard on this metric, and is a 12.34 percentage points increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the year is 63.64%, which is 2.02 percentage points above the net disposal rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year. The estimated net case clearance rate is 101.74%, which is roughly 11.71 percentage points above the rate recorded in 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 2.15a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	625
Mean	261.7968
Median	147.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	290.63560
Skewness	2.125
Std. Error of Skewness	.098
Range	1633.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	1634.00

The above table outlines sample data on 625 civil matters disposed in the 2025 calendar year at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time taken to resolve these matters is roughly 262 days or 8.7 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days and the median time was 147 days. The standard deviation of roughly 291 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that a higher proportion of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The oldest matter disposed in the sample was 1,634 days or roughly 4.5 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 2.15b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved for the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	135
Mean	339.0741
Median	245.0000
Mode	39.00
Std. Deviation	298.96158
Skewness	1.139
Std. Error of Skewness	.209
Range	1304.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	1305.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 135 matters at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 339 days or roughly 11.3 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 1,305 days or roughly 3.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 2.16a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	509
Mean	467.8644
Median	303.0000
Mode	86.00
Std. Deviation	448.54140
Skewness	1.198
Std. Error of Skewness	.108
Range	1740.00
Minimum	26.00
Maximum	1766.00

The above data is based on a sample of 509 active civil matters at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 468 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 86 days. The standard deviation of roughly 449 days suggests that there is some variation in the individual scores around the average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 1,766 days old or roughly 4.9 years, while the minimum time taken is 26 days.

Table 2.16b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	146
Mean	478.3356
Median	383.0000
Mode	75.00
Std. Deviation	403.47489
Skewness	.993
Std. Error of Skewness	.201
Range	1610.00
Minimum	30.00
Maximum	1640.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 146 active reissued matters at the Clarendon Civil Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 478 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 75 days and the median age was 383 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 1,640 days and the lowest was 30 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 2025 calendar year.

Table 3.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	1245	50.18
Disposed	1194	48.13
Inactive	42	1.69
Total	2481	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 2,481 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, 1,245 cases or 50.18% of these cases were still active, while 1,194 were disposed and 42 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 49.82%, which is 7.43 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year.

Table 3.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	2779	89.67
Small Claims	318	10.26
POCA	2	0.06
Total	3099	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 3,099 claims filed in the 2025 calendar year, 2,779 or 89.67% were big claims, 318 or 10.26% were small claims, and 2 or 0.06% were Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

Table 3.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	973	31.62
Damages for Negligence	560	18.20
Recovery of possession	460	14.95
Rent Owing and Continuing	222	7.21
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	192	6.24
Sub-total	2407	78.23

Total sample size of causes of action= 3077

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 3,077 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was breach of contract with 973 or roughly 31.62% of the sample, damages for negligence with 560 or 18.20% and recovery of possession with 460 or 14.95%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing and continuing with 222 or 7.21% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 192 or 6.24% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 78.23% of the total sample of causes of action.

Table 3.04: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	376	53.11
Personal	178	25.14
District Constable	154	21.75
Total	708	100.00

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

for the majority of the sample with 376 or 53.11% of the sample, personal service accounted for 178 or 25.14% and service by the district constable accounted for 154 or 21.75% of the sample.

Table 3.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1585	51.71
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	828	27.01
Linstead Outstation	269	8.78
Old Harbour Outstation	204	6.66
Portmore Outstation	107	3.49
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	66	2.15
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	4	0.13
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	0.03
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	1	0.03
Total	3065*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 2462 cases**

The majority of the sample of 3,065 new claims filed in the 2025 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 1,585 or 51.71% of the total sample. The 828 or 27.01% that were entered in courtroom number 6 at the main courthouse followed this. The Linstead Outstation accounted for 269 or 8.78% of the claims.

Table 3.06: Distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Substituted Service	60	70.59
Relist	8	9.41
Application for Court Order	7	8.24
Extension of Time Under Section 250	6	7.06
File Affidavit of Debt Out of Time	1	1.18
Remove Attorney(s)-at-Law Name from Record	1	1.18
Set Aside Default Judgment	1	1.18
Stay of Proceedings	1	1.18
Total	85	100.00

A sample of 85 applications filed during the 2025 calendar year revealed that applications for substituted service with 60 or 70.59% of the sample accounted for the majority applications filed, followed by application for relist with 8 or 9.41% of the sample. Applications for court order with 7 or 8.24%, applications for extension of time under Section 250 with 6 or 7.06% round off the top applications filed during the year.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2025

Table 3.07: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1403	45.67
Female	1325	43.13
Registered Company	341	11.10
Trading As	3	0.10
Total	3072	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the 3,072 new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 1,403 or 45.67%, followed by females with 1,325 or 43.13%, registered companies with 341 or 11.10% of the sample rank next, followed by individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 3 or 0.10% of the sample.

Table 3.08: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1784	58.78
Female	1177	38.78
Registered Company	74	2.44
Total	3035	100.00

There were 3,035 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 1,784 or 58.78% of the total sample, followed

by females with 1,177 or 38.78%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 74 or 2.44% of the total sample.

3.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2025

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 cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 3.09: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management date	369	33.48
Trial	352	31.94
Default Judgment date	234	21.23
Part-Heard Date	134	12.16
Hearing of application	13	1.18
Total	1102	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1,102 matters that went to court during the 2025 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, case management, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The highest proportion of the sample, 369 or 33.48% were adjourned for a case management date and 352 or 31.94% were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 234 or 21.23% of

matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 134 or 12.16% of the sample.

Table 3.10: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	372	24.82
Defendant Absent	144	9.61
Both Parties Absent	109	7.27
Judge Absent/Ill	74	4.94
Plaintiff Absent	69	4.60
Sub-total	768	51.23

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled= 1,499

The above table details a sample of 1,499 adjournments or continuances heard in the year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for reissue with 372 or 24.82% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 144 or 9.61% and for parties in discussion with 109 or 7.27% and adjournments due to the absence or illness of the judge with 74 or 4.94% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the year. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiff with 69 or 4.60% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 51.23% of the total sample.

Table 3.11: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	456
Average Incidence	1.4

Corresponding to 333 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 456 incidences of reissue,

corresponding to 333 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.4 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 14 reissue incidences.

Table 3.12: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	1446	45.02
Consent	545	16.97
Default Judgment	324	10.09
Settlement	321	9.99
Withdrawal	146	4.55
Sub-total	2782	86.61

NB: There were 3212 matters disposed

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 3,212 matters disposed during the 2025 calendar year. The list is led by matters struck out with 1,446 or 45.02% of the disposals, followed matters disposed by consent with 545 or 16.97%, matters disposed by default judgment with 324 or 10.09% and matters disposed by settlements with 321 or 9.99%. Withdrawals account for 146 or 4.55% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 86.61% of the sample.

Table 3.13: Sampling distribution of the case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	502	90.61
Settlement	48	8.66
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	4	0.72
Total	554	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 554 matters in the 2025 calendar year. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 502 or 90.61% of the total sample, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 48 or 8.66%, judgment in favour of defendant with 4 or 0.72% account for the remaining proportion. This probability

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

Table 3.14: Sampling distribution of Trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
473	216	54.33

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 473 trial dates were set in the year shows that 216 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 54.33%, suggesting that during the year, there was a roughly 54% 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 4.67 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2024.

Table 3.15: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Estimated gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated gross Case disposal rate (%)
2481	1236	2632	106.09	49.82

The above table shows 2,481 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 1,194 of these cases were disposed and 42 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 49.82%, which is 7.43 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 2,583 cases were disposed, and 49 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 106.09%, which meets the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 32.56 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year.

The net disposal rate for the year is 48.95%, which is 6.90 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year. The net clearance for the year is 105.90%, which is 31.30 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 3.16a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	2144
Mean	565.6222
Median	320.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	661.72758
Skewness	1.959
Std. Error of Skewness	.053
Range	3901.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	3902.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 2,144 civil matters disposed in the 2025 calendar year at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 566 days or 18.9 months, which is roughly 50 more days than it took to dispose matters in the 2024 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. There is a high standard deviation of 662 days, which is an indication that there is a large dispersion of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores are below around the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 3,902 days or roughly 10.8 years old, while the youngest was 1 day.

Table 3.16b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	168
Mean	906.4345
Median	1065.0000
Mode	562.00
Std. Deviation	662.82156
Skewness	.633
Std. Error of Skewness	.187
Range	3305.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	3319.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 168 matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 906 days or roughly 30.2 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series are below the overall average. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 3,319 days or roughly 9.2 years old, while the youngest was 14 days.

Table 3.17a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1541
Mean	528.1746
Median	272.0000
Mode	27.00
Std. Deviation	670.59560
Skewness	2.733
Std. Error of Skewness	.062
Range	6484.00
Minimum	13.00
Maximum	6497.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,541 active civil matters at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 528 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 27 days. The standard deviation of roughly 671 days suggests that there is a large dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 6,497 days old or roughly 18 years, while the minimum time taken is 13 days.

Table 3.17b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	434
Mean	200.6659
Median	44.0000
Mode	27.00
Std. Deviation	443.95609
Skewness	2.836
Std. Error of Skewness	.117
Range	1994.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	2008.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 434 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 201 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 27 days and the median age was 44 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large amount of dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages were close to the overall average. The highest age in the data set was 2,008 days and the lowest was 14 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 2025 calendar year.

Table 4.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	242	48.59
Disposed	228	45.78
Inactive	28	5.62
Total	498	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 498 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, 242 or 48.59% of these cases were active, 228 or 45.78% were disposed and 28 cases became inactive at the end of the year. This produces a gross case disposal rate of 51.41% for the year, a 17.39 percentage points decline when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

Table 4.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	471	84.11
Small Claim	88	15.71
POCA	1	0.18
Total	560	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 560 civil claims filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year. The majority of which 471 or 84.11% were big claims, while 88 or 15.71% were small claims, and 1 or 0.18% were Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

Table 4.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Money Owing	82	14.99
Recovery of Possession	78	14.26
Balance on Principal Interest	53	9.69
Arrears of rent	46	8.41
Return of cash	43	7.86
Sub-total	302	55.21

Total sample size of causes of action = 547

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action in the year were recovery of possession with 82 or 14.99% and recovery of possession with 78 or 14.26% of the sample. Balance on principal interest with 53 or 9.69%, arrears of rent with 46 or 8.41% and return of cash with 43 or 7.86% of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 55.21% of all the total sample of 547 causes of action.

Table 4.04: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	497	91.53
Bailiff	46	8.47
Total	543	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 497 or 91.536% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 46 or 8.47% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 4.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Falmouth Outstation	388	69.91
Ulster Spring Outstation	90	16.22
Clarks Town Outstation	77	13.87
Total	555*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 497 cases**

The majority of the sample of 555 new matters filed in 69.91% of the accommodations were entered in the Falmouth Outstation. The 90 or 16.22% matters that were entered in the Ulster Spring Outstation followed this, while court sittings at the Clarks Town Outstation ranked next with 77 or 13.87% of the accommodations.

Table 4.06: Distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Court Order	422	99.76
Application for substituted service	1	0.24
Total	423	100.00

A sample of 423 applications filed during the 2025 calendar year revealed that applications for court order with 422 or 99.76% of the sample accounted for the vast majority of applications filed, followed by application for substituted service with 0.24% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2025

Table 4.07: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	224	45.44
Female	197	39.96
Registered Company	72	14.60
Total	493	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 493 new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 224 or 45.44%, followed by females with 197 or 39.96%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 72 or 14.60% of the sample.

Table 4.08: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	268	62.91
Female	142	33.33
Registered Company	16	3.76
Total	426	100.00

There were 426 records on the gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 268 or 62.91% of the sample, followed by females with 142 or 33.33%, and registered companies with 16 or 3.76%.

4.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2025

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 cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 4.09: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management Date	93	33.21
Trial	70	25.00
Default Judgment Date	66	23.57
Part-Heard Date	50	17.86
Hearing of Application	1	0.36
Total	280	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 280 matters that were heard during the year ended December 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, case management, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 93 or 33.21% were adjourned for case management dates, followed by 70 or 25%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for default judgment dates with 66 or 23.57% and for part heard dates with 50 or 17.86% 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 4.10: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Re-issue	170	41.56
Defendant absent	56	13.69
Both Parties absent	36	8.80
No Return/Re-issue	27	6.60
Plaintiff absent	16	3.91
Sub-total	305	74.57

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 409

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 409 incidence of adjournments heard in the 2025 calendar year. Adjournments for reissue with 170 or 41.56% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 56 or 13.69%, the absence of both parties with 36 or 8.80% and for no return/for reissue with 27 or 6.60% of the sample feature prominently on the list. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 16 or 3.91% of the sample respectively close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 74.57% of the entire sample.

Table 4.11: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	222
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponds to 204 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 222 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 204 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

Table 4.12: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	117	27.86
Consent	95	22.62
Oral Admission	62	14.76
Default Judgment	42	10.00
Settlement	36	8.57
Sub-total	352	83.81

NB: There were 420 matters disposed

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 420 matters disposed during the 2025 calendar year. The list is led by matters struck out with 117 or 27.86% of the dispositions, followed by matters disposed by consent with 95 or 22.62% and oral admissions with 62 or 14.76% of the sample. Matters disposed by default judgments account for 42 or 10% of the sample and settlements account for 36 or 8.57% of the sample. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 83.81% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 4.13: Sampling distribution of the case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	164	91.11
Settlement	14	7.78
Judgment in favour of Defendant	2	1.11
Total	180	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of 180 case outcomes in the 2025 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 164 or 91.11% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 14 or 7.78%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for 2 or 1.11% of the sample of outcomes. This

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

Table 4.14: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
78	30	61.54

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 78 trial dates set in the year revealed that 30 were adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial date certainty rate of 61.54% which suggests that during the year there was roughly a 62% 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 3.54 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2024.

Table 4.15: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Estimated Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated gross case disposal rate (%)
498	256	422	84.74	51.41

The above table shows 498 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 228 of these cases were disposed and 28 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 51.41%, which is 17.39 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 384 cases were disposed and 38 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 84.74%, which falls below the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 21.05 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year.

The net disposal rate for the year is 48.51%, which is 15.28 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year. The net clearance for the year is 81.70%, which is 16.62 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 4.16a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	280
Mean	174.2786
Median	91.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	275.88420
Skewness	5.350
Std. Error of Skewness	.146
Range	2595.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	2596.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 280 civil cases disposed in the 2025 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose matters in this sample of cases is roughly 174 days or 5.8 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days and the median time was 91 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 276 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 year was 2,596 days or roughly 7.2 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed cases was 1 day.

Table 4.16b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	108
Mean	143.5093
Median	88.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	234.77297
Skewness	7.167
Std. Error of Skewness	.233
Range	2221.00
Minimum	19.00
Maximum	2240.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 108 matters at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 144 days or roughly 4.8 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 2,240 days or roughly 6.2 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed cases was 19 days.

Table 4.17a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	328
Mean	399.7409
Median	177.0000
Mode	78.00
Std. Deviation	522.54884
Skewness	2.210
Std. Error of Skewness	.135
Range	2738.00
Minimum	27.00
Maximum	2765.00

The above data is computed using 328 active cases at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 400 days (1.1 years), while the most frequently occurring age was 78 days, and the median age in the distribution was 177 days. The standard deviation of roughly 523 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 2,765 days (7.7 years old), while the youngest is 27 days.

Table 4.17b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	93
Mean	210.6022
Median	211.0000
Mode	29.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	214.79521
Skewness	2.490
Std. Error of Skewness	.250
Range	1104.00
Minimum	22.00
Maximum	1126.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 93 active reissued matters at the Trelawny Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 211 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 29 days and the median age was 211 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages were below the overall average. The highest age in the data set was 1,126 days and the lowest was 22 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 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 2025 calendar year.

Table 5.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	755	48.77
Disposed	761	49.16
Inactive	32	2.07
Total	1548	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 1,548 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, 755 cases or 48.77% of these cases were still active, 761 were disposed and 32 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 51.23%, which is a 2.24 percentage points decline when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

Table 5.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	1711	85.89
Small Claims	274	13.76
POCA	7	0.35
Total	1992	100.00

The above table shows that from 1,992 new claims filed in the 2025 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 1,711 or 85.89%, while 274 or 13.76% were small claims and 7 or 0.35% were Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

Table 5.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of contract	531	26.95
Recovery of Possession	357	18.12
Money owing	205	10.41
Rent Owing and continuing	181	9.19
Damages for Negligence	103	5.23
Sub-total	1377	69.90

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 1970

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 1,970 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2025 calendar year was breach of contract with 531 or roughly 26.95% of the sample and recovery of possession with 357 or 18.12% of the sample. Money owing with 205 or 10.41% of the sample rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 181 or 9.19% and damages for negligence with 103 or 5.23% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 69.90% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 5.04: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	208	38.03
Bailiff	203	37.11
Personal	136	24.86
Total	547	100.00

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 208 or 38.03% of the sample. Service by the bailiff accounted for 203 or 37.11% and personal service with 136 or 24.86% of the sample rank next.

Table 5.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	981	62.48
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	334	21.27
Claremont Outstation	156	9.94
Church Hall	99	6.31
Total	1570*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 1248 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1,570 new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 981 or 62.48% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 334 or 21.27%, the Claremont Outstation accounted for 156 or 9.94% and Church Hall accounted for 99 or 6.31% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2025

Table 5.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1004	50.76
Female	726	36.70
Registered Company	238	12.03
Trading as	10	0.51
Total	1978	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1,978 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 1,004 or 50.76%, followed by females with 726 or 36.70% and registered companies with 238 or 12.03% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 10 or 0.51% accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

Table 5.07: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1154	58.49
Female	657	33.30
Registered Company	138	6.99
Trading as	24	1.22
Total	1973	100.00

There were 1,973 records on the gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 1,154 or 58.49% of the total sample, followed by females with 657 or 33.30%. Registered companies accounted for 138 or 6.99% of the total sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 24 or 1.22% of the sample.

5.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2025

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 cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 5.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management Date	344	34.68
Trial	265	26.71
Part-Heard Date	171	17.24
Default Judgment Date	160	16.13
Hearing of Application	26	2.62
Final Judgment Date	25	2.52
Date for Order	1	0.10
Total	992	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 992 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, case management, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for case management dates accounted for 344 or 34.68% of the sample, followed by 265 or 26.71%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for part heard dates accounted for 171 or 17.24% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date account for 160 or 16.13% 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 case management court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 5.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	218	18.46
Defendant Absent	187	15.83
Both Parties Absent	72	6.10
Plaintiff Absent	42	3.56
Judge Absent/Ill	35	2.96
Sub-total	554	46.91

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 1181

The above table details a sample of 1,181 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the 2025 calendar year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 218 or 18.46% of the sample, adjournments due to defendants being absent with 187 or 15.83% and the absence of both parties with 72 or 6.10% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the year in this sample. The list is completed by adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 42 or 3.56% and the absence or illness of the judge with 35 or 2.96% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 46.91% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 5.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	251
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponds to 195 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 251 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 195 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

Table 5.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	542	32.17
Consent	335	19.88
Default Judgment	159	9.44
Withdrawal	148	8.78
Settlement	134	7.95
Sub-total	1318	78.22

NB: There were 1685 matters disposed

A sample of 1,685 matters disposed during the 2025 calendar year revealed that 542 or 32.17% of matters were struck out, 335 or 19.88% were disposed by consent and 159 or 9.44% of the sample were disposed by default judgments. Matters disposed by withdrawals with 148 or 8.78% and settlements with 134 or 7.95% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 78.22% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2025 calendar year.

Table 5.12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	284	90.73
Settlement	26	8.31
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	3	0.96
Total	313	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2025 calendar year at the St. Ann Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 284 or 90.73% of the sample of matters, account for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 26 or 8.31%, and judgments in favour of the defendants with 3 or 0.96% of the sample account for the remaining proportion. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 5.13: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
288	27	90.63

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 288 trial dates set in the year revealed that 27 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 90.63%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 91% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 6.37 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2024.

Table 5.14: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
1548	793	1427	92.18	51.23

The above table shows 1,548 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 761 cases were disposed and 32 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 51.23%, a decrease of 2.24 percentage points compared to the 2024 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 1,374 cases were disposed, and 53 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 92.18%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents a 5.73 percentage points decline when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 50.20%, an increase of 2.31 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 90.63%, an increase of 3 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 5.15a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	992
Mean	371.4093
Median	126.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	641.40884
Skewness	3.921
Std. Error of Skewness	.078
Range	5127.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	5128.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 992 civil matters disposed in the 2025 calendar year at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 371 days or 12.4 months, which is roughly 4 less day than it took to dispose matters in the 2024 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. The standard deviation of 641 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 5,128 days or roughly 14.2 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 5.15b: Descriptive Statistics on age of disposed matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	131
Mean	580.9695
Median	261.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	1020.47523
Skewness	3.362
Std. Error of Skewness	.212
Range	4970.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	4974.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 131 matters at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 581 days or roughly 19.4 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 disposed in the year was 4,974 days or roughly 13.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 4 days.

Table 5.16a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1775
Mean	732.6699
Median	600.0000
Mode	50.00
Std. Deviation	686.45671
Skewness	1.743
Std. Error of Skewness	.058
Range	5301.00
Minimum	13.00
Maximum	5314.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,775 active civil matters at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 733 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 50 days. The standard deviation of roughly 686 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 proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 5,314 days old or roughly 14.8 years, while the minimum age is 13 days.

Table 5.16b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	138
Mean	517.7319
Median	323.0000
Mode	631.00
Std. Deviation	655.92364
Skewness	3.405
Std. Error of Skewness	.206
Range	4301.00
Minimum	13.00
Maximum	4314.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 138 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the year ended December 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 518 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 631 days and the median age was 323 days. The high standard deviation indicates that there was a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of cases. The highest age in the data set was 4,314 days and the lowest was 13 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 2025 calendar year.

Table 5.3.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	211	54.81
Disposed	164	42.60
Inactive	10	2.60
Total	385	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 385 new cases filed at the Brown’s Town Court in the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, 211 cases or 54.81% of these cases were still active, 164 were disposed and 10 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 45.19% for the year, which is a 11.95 percentage points increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

Table 5.3.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	384	82.40
Small Claims	82	17.60
Total	466	100.00

The above table shows that from 466 new claims filed in the 2025 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 384 or 82.40%, while 82 or 17.60% were small claims.

Table 5.3.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Browns Town Outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	138	30.26
Monies Owing	101	22.15
Recovery of Possession	48	10.53
Damages done to cultivation	27	5.92
Rent Owing and Continuing	20	4.39
Sub-total	334	73.25

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 456

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 456 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2025 calendar year was breach of contract with 138 or roughly 30.26% of the sample and monies owing with 101 or 22.15% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 48 or 10.53% and damages done to cultivation with 27 or 5.92% of the sample rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 20 or 4.39% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 73.25% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 5.3.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	465	100
Total	465*	100

***Note: Corresponds to 385 cases**

All of a sample of 465 new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2025

Table 5.3.05: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	226	48.92
Female	154	33.33
Registered Company	74	16.02
Trading as	8	1.73
Total	462	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 462 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 226 or 48.92% of the sample, followed by females with 154 or 33.33% of the total sample. Registered companies accounted for 74 or 16.02% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 8 or 1.73%.

Table 5.3.06: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	290	63.74
Female	153	33.63
Trading As	7	1.54
Registered Company	5	1.10
Total	455	100.00

There were 455 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 290 or 63.74% of the total sample, followed by females with 153 or 33.63%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 7 or 1.54% and registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 5 or 1.10%.

5.3.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2025

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 cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 5.3.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management Date	154	38.40
Trial	106	26.43
Default Judgment Date	80	19.95
Part-Heard Date	49	12.22
Final Judgment Date	7	1.75
Hearing of Application	4	1.00
Date for Order	1	0.25
Total	401	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 401 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, case management, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for case management dates accounted for 154 or 38.40% of the sample, followed by 106 or 26.43%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for default judgment dates with 80 or 19.95% and matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 49 or 12.22% 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 case management 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 year ended December 31, 2025

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	63	14.86
No Return/Re-Issued	36	8.49
Judge Absent/Ill	34	8.02
Referred to Mediation	15	3.54
Both parties absent	11	2.59
Sub-total	159	37.50

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 424

The above table details a sample of 424 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the 2025 calendar year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 63 or 14.86% of the sample, adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 36 or 8.49%, the absence or illness of the judge with 34 or 8.02%, and referrals to mediation with 15 or 3.54% of the sample rounds off the top reasons for adjournment for the year in this sample. The list is completed by the absence of both parties with 11 or 2.59% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 37.50% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 5.4.09: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	19
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponds to 16 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 19 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 16 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 5.3.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	97	30.70
Consent	66	20.89
Default judgment	35	11.08
Settlement	32	10.13
Withdrawal	22	6.96
Sub-total	252	79.75

NB: There were 316 matters disposed

A sample of 316 matters disposed during the 2025 calendar year revealed that 97 or 30.70% of matters were struck out and 66 or 20.89% were disposed by consent. Matters disposed by default judgments with 35 or 11.08% and settlements with 32 or 10.13% rank next. Withdrawals with 22 or 6.96% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 79.75% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2025 calendar year.

Table 5.4.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of 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 date adjournment. A sample of 10 trial dates were set in the year shows that none was adjourned. This results in an estimated

trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 5.3.12: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
385	174	295	76.62	45.19

The above table shows 385 new cases filed at the Brown’s Town Outstation during the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 164 cases were disposed and 10 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 45.19%, an increase of 11.95 percentage points compared to the 2024 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 278 cases were disposed, and 17 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 76.62%, which falls below the international standard for this metric and represents a 0.65 percentage points decline when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 43.73%, an increase of 14.3 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 74.13%, an increase of 9.57 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 5.3.13: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	209
Mean	291.4928
Median	125.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	406.47885
Skewness	2.120
Std. Error of Skewness	.168
Range	1793.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	1800.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 209 civil matters disposed in the 2025 calendar year at the Brown’s Town Outstation. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 291 days or 9.7 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days and the median time was 125 days. The standard deviation of roughly 406 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 1,800 days or roughly 5 years old, while the minimum time taken was 7 days.

Table 5.3.14: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1008
Mean	805.2758
Median	756.0000
Mode	238.00
Std. Deviation	544.18037
Skewness	.538
Std. Error of Skewness	.077
Range	2165.00
Minimum	21.00
Maximum	2186.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,008 active civil matters at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 805 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 238 days. The standard deviation of roughly 544 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 2,186 days old or roughly 6.1 years, while the minimum age is 21 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 2025 calendar year.

Table 6.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	258	38.05
Disposed	279	41.15
Inactive	141	20.80
Total	678	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 678 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, 258 cases or 38.05% of these cases were still active, while 279 or 41.15% were disposed and 141 or 20.80% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 61.95%, which is a 11.66 percentage points decline when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

Table 6.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	736	90.64
Small Claim	75	9.24
POCA	1	0.12
Total	812	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 812 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year, the majority of which 736 or 90.64% were big claims, while 75 or 9.24% were small claims, and 1 or 0.12% were Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

Table 6.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	198	25.22
Recovery of Possession	137	17.45
Monies Owing	53	6.75
Rent Due and Continuing	48	6.11
Negligence	37	4.71
Sub-total	473	60.25

Total sample size of causes of action = 785

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 2025 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court was breach of contract with 198 or roughly 25.22% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 137 or 17.45%, monies owing with 53 or 6.75%, rent due and continuing with 48 or 6.11% and negligence with 37 or 4.71% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 60.25% of the sample of 785 causes of action.

Table 6.04: Sampling distribution of types of service in the year ended December 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	457	58.66
Personal	319	40.95
District Constable	3	0.39
Total	779	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for 457 or 58.66%, personal service accounted for 319 or 40.95% of the sample, and service by the district constable accounted for 3 or 0.39%.

Table 6.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	318	44.17
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	259	35.97
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	77	10.69
Whithorn Outstation	66	9.17
Total	720*	100

***Note: Corresponds to 599 cases**

The highest proportion of a sample of 720 new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 318 or 44.17% of the sample. The 259 or 35.97% that were entered in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse followed this. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 77 or 10.69% and sittings at the Whithorn Outstation accounted for the remaining 9.17% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2025

Table 6.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	442	56.09
Female	266	33.76
Registered Company	78	9.90
Trading As	2	0.25
Total	788	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 788 new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 442 or 56.09%, followed by females with 266 or 33.76%. Registered companies accounted for 78 or 9.90% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.25%.

Table 6.07: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	480	60.45
Female	237	29.85
Registered Company	51	6.42
Trading As	26	3.27
Total	794	100.00

There were 794 records on the gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 480 or 60.45% of the sample, followed by females with 237 or 29.85%. Registered companies account for 51 or 6.42% of the sample and Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 26 or 3.27%.

6.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2025

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 cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 6.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management Date	315	65.35
Trial	125	25.93
Part-Heard Date	37	7.68
Final Judgment Date	3	0.62
Hearing of Application	2	0.41
Total	482	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 482 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, case management, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The majority, 315 or 65.35%, were adjourned for case management dates, followed by 125 or 25.93%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 37 or 7.68% of matters, which were adjourned for part heard dates, and 3 or 0.62% which were adjourned for final judgment dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for trial or case management court hearings. This is,

however, not an unusual outcome given that case management court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 6.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	181	57.46
Both Parties Absent	30	9.52
Default Judgment	24	7.62
Referred to Mediation	10	3.17
To Settle Legal Representation	7	2.22
Sub-total	252	80.00

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 315

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 315 incidences of adjournments for matters heard in the 2025 calendar year. Adjournments for no return/ for re-issue account for the majority of the sample with 181 or 57.46%, while adjournments due to the absence of both parties rank next with 30 or 9.52% of the sample. Default judgment accounted for 24 or 7.62% of the sample, referrals to mediation with 10 or 3.17%, and to settle legal representation with 7 or 2.22% of the sample completes the top five reasons for adjournment for the year. The top five reasons for adjournment enumerated above account for 80% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances heard in the year.

Table 6.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	203
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponds to 159 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 203 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 159 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

Table 6.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	153	26.84
Struck Out	104	18.25
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	84	14.74
Oral Admission	59	10.35
Default Judgment	45	7.89
Sub-total	445	78.07

NB: There were 570 matters disposed

A total of 570 civil matters were disposed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during 2025 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 78.07% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 153 or 26.84% of the disposals, followed by matters struck out with 104 or 18.25% of the sample, and Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) with 84 or 14.74% of the sample. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 59 or 10.35% and default judgment with 45 or 7.89% round off the top five methods dispositions.

Table 6.12: Sampling distribution of the case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	177	85.51
Settlement	26	12.56
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	4	1.93
Total	207	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2025 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 177 or 85.51%, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 26 or 12.56%. Judgements

in favour of defendants account for the smallest share with 4 or 1.93% of the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 6.13: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
177	5	97.18

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 177 trial dates were set in the year; of which 5 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 97.18%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 97% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment and is 11.18 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2024.

Table 6.14: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
678	420	650	95.87	61.95

The above table shows 678 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 279 of these cases were disposed, and 141 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 61.95%, a decrease of 11.66 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year. A gross figure of 478 cases were disposed, and 172 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 95.87%, which meets the international standard for this metric and is 10.15 percentage points below the 2024 calendar year rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 51.96%, which is 16.84 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 89.01%, which is 14.46 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 6.15a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	337
Mean	245.6914
Median	126.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	302.24994
Skewness	2.439
Std. Error of Skewness	.133
Range	2195.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	2196.00

The above table outlines summary data on 337 civil matters disposed in the 2025 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is approximately 246 days or 8.2 months, which is roughly 36 more days than it took to dispose matters in the 2024 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. The standard deviation is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time and the positive skewness is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 2,196 days or roughly 6.1 years, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

Table 6.15b: Descriptive Statistics on age of disposed matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	60
Mean	325.7333
Median	223.5000
Mode	159.00
Std. Deviation	298.69716
Skewness	1.535
Std. Error of Skewness	.309
Range	1088.00
Minimum	30.00
Maximum	1118.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 60 matters at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 326 days or roughly 10.9 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 123 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 153 days.

Table 6.16a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	712
Mean	779.7823
Median	539.0000
Mode	56.00
Std. Deviation	743.55036
Skewness	.883
Std. Error of Skewness	.092
Range	2592.00
Minimum	49.00
Maximum	2641.00

The above data is based on sample of 712 active civil matters at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 780 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 56 days. The standard deviation of roughly 744 days suggests that there is some dispersion of the individual scores around the average. The positive skewness seen is an indication that more scores in the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest age of active cases was 2,641 days or 7.3 years, and the youngest time is 49 days.

Table 6.16b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	58
Mean	346.2586
Median	325.5000
Mode	420.00
Std. Deviation	229.33654
Skewness	1.468
Std. Error of Skewness	.314
Range	1162.00
Minimum	21.00
Maximum	1183.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 58 active matters reissued at the Westmoreland Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 346 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 420 days and the median age was 325.50 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 1,183 days and the lowest was 21 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 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 2025 calendar year.

Table 7.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	122	18.97
Disposed	519	80.72
Inactive	2	0.31
Total	643	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 643 new civil cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, 122 or 18.97% were still active, 519 or 80.72% were disposed and 2 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 81.03% for the year, which is a 6.74 percentage points increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

Table 7.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	564	79.89
Small Claim	142	20.11
Total	706	100.00

The above table shows that from the 706 new claims filed in the year, the majority of which were big claims, which accounted for 564 or 79.89% of the total sample, while 142 or 20.11% were small claims.

Table 7.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	237	33.95
Recovery of Possession	123	17.62
Money Due & Owing	73	10.46
Damages for Negligence	46	6.59
Cattle Trespass	28	4.01
Sub-total	507	72.64

Total sample size of causes of action = 698

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 698 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the year at the St. Mary Parish Court were breach of contract with 237 or roughly 33.95% of the sample and recovery of possession with 123 or 17.62% of the total sample of causes of action. Money due and owing with 73 or 10.46%, damages for negligence with 46 or 6.59% and cattle trespass with 28 or 4.01% rank next.

Table 7.04: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	522	78.14
Personal	146	21.86
Total	668	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 the bailiff accounted for the majority of the sample with 522 or 78.14% of the sample, with personal service accounting for 146 or 21.86% of the sample.

Table 7.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	457	64.73
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	109	15.44
Annotto Bay Outstation	65	9.21
Gayle Outstation	25	3.54
Richmond Outstation	50	7.08
Total	706*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 641 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 706 new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year. The majority of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 457 or 64.73% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with 109 or 15.44% of the sample and the Annotto Bay Outstation with 65 or 9.21% and the Gayle Outstation with 25 or 3.54% of the sample rounds off the top accommodations. The list is completed by sittings at the Richmond Outstation with 50 or 7.08%.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2025

Table 7.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	385	54.53
Female	296	41.93
Registered Company	25	3.54
Total	706	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 706 new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 385 or 54.53% of the sample, followed by females with 296 or 41.93%. Registered companies with 3.54% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

Table 7.07: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	466	66.10
Female	222	31.49
Registered Company	17	2.41
Total	705	100.00

There were 705 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year.

The majority of defendants were males with 466 or 66.10%, followed by females with 222 or 31.49% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 17 or 2.41% of the sample.

7.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2025

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 cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 7.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	39	51.32
Case management Date	33	43.42
Default Judgment Date	4	5.26
Total	76	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 76 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, case management, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The majority, 39 or 51.32% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 33 or 43.42%, which were adjourned for case management dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were the 4 or 5.26% 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 case management hearing and that a notable proportion of the adjournments are for default judgments. The high frequency of adjournments associated with default judgments is not unusual as this stage is intrinsic to case management and case preparation and to the overall case process flow.

Table 7.09: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	69
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponds to 59 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 69 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 59 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 7.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	230	24.70
Consent	226	24.27
Default Judgment	121	13.00
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	81	8.70
Settlement	77	8.27
Sub-total	735	78.95

NB: There were 931 matters disposed

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 931 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. Matters struck out with 230 or 24.70%, matters disposed by consent with 226 or 24.27% and matters disposed by default judgment with 121 or 13% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Matters disposed by Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) with 81 or 8.70% of the sample rank next followed by matters disposed by settlements with 77 or 8.27% of the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 78.95% of the total sample of matters disposed during the year.

Table 7.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
89	44	50.56

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 89 trial dates were set in the 2025 calendar year shows that 44 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 50.56%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 51% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 7.12: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate combined number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
643	521	816	126.91	81.03

The above table shows 643 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 519 of these cases were disposed, and 2 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 81.03%, an increase of 6.74 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year. A gross figure of 814 cases was disposed, and 2 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 126.91%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric, but is 55.26 percentage points below the 2024 calendar year rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 80.97%, which is 6.75 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 126.99%, which is 54.98 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 7.13: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	629
Mean	412.3275
Median	70.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	747.19110
Skewness	2.411
Std. Error of Skewness	.097
Range	4374.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	4375.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 629 civil cases disposed in the 2025 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose this sample of cases is roughly 412 days or 13.7 months, which is roughly 660 less days than it took to dispose matters in the 2024 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days and the median time was 70 days. The standard deviation of roughly 747 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 were below to the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the year was 4,375 days or roughly 12.2 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed cases was 1 day. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

Table 7.14: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	208
Mean	772.5529
Median	376.5000
Mode	58.00
Std. Deviation	869.54109
Skewness	1.545
Std. Error of Skewness	.169
Range	3803.00
Minimum	28.00
Maximum	3831.00

The above data is based on a sample of 208 active civil matters at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 773 days (or roughly 25.8 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 58 days. The standard deviation of roughly 870 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 3,831 days old or roughly 10.6 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 2025 calendar year.

Table 8.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	111	42.53
Disposed	150	57.47
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	261	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 261 new civil cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, 111 or 42.53% were still active, 150 or 57.47% were disposed. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 57.47% for the year, which is 2.58 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year.

Table 8.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	369	90.22
Small Claim	40	9.78
Total	409	100.00

The above table shows that from the 409 new claims filed in the year, the majority of which 369 or 90.22% were big claims, while 40 or 9.78% were small claims.

Table 8.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	104	25.81
Recovery of Possession	72	17.87
Prescriptive Rights	45	11.17
Breach of Contract / Special Damages and continuing	15	3.72
Monies Owing	14	3.47
Sub-total	250	62.03

Total sample size of causes of action = 403

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 403 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action filed were breach of contract with 104 or roughly 25.81% of the total sample, recovery of possession with 72 or 17.87%, and prescriptive rights with 45 or 11.17%, breach of contract, special damages and continuing with 15 or 3.72%, along with monies owing with 14 or 3.47% round off the top five causes of action for the year. The top causes of action, which are listed above, account for 62.03% of the sample.

Table 8.04: Sampling distribution of types of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	262	64.53
Bailiff	144	35.47
Total	406	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority with 262 or 64.53% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 144 or 35.47%.

Table 8.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	171	43.85
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	113	28.97
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	54	13.85
Buff Bay Outstation (Courtroom #1)	28	7.18
Manchioneal Outstation	18	4.62
Buff Bay Outstation (Courtroom #3)	3	0.77
Buff Bay Outstation (Courtroom #2)	2	0.51
Buff Bay Outstation (Children's Court)	1	0.26
Total	390*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 253 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 390 new matters filed in the year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 171 or 43.85% of the sample of accommodations. The 113 or 28.97% that were entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse followed this, while the 54 matters that entered in courtroom 2 at the main courthouse rank next. Sittings in courtroom 1 at the Buff Bay Outstation account for 28 or 7.18% and the Manchioneal Outstation accounted for 18 or 4.62% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2025

Table 8.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	221	54.30
Female	134	32.92
Registered Company	52	12.78
Total	407	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 407 new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year, males accounted for the majority with 221 or 54.30%, followed by females with 134 or 32.92%. Registered companies account for the remaining 52 or 12.78% of the sample.

Table 8.07: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	225	55.28
Female	128	31.45
Registered Company	54	13.27
Total	407	100.00

There were 407 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year.

The majority of defendants were male with 225 or 55.28% of the sample, followed by females with 128 or 31.45% of the sample and registered companies with 54 or 13.27% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

8.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2025

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 cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	136	57.87
Case Management Date	63	26.81
Default Judgment Date	22	9.36
Part-Heard Date	14	5.96
Total	235	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 235 matters that were heard during the year ended December 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default, case management, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The majority, 136 or 57.87% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 63 or 26.81%, which were adjourned for case management dates. Adjournments for default judgment dates with 22 or 9.36% and for trial dates with 14 or 5.96% rank next. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the year at the Portland Parish Court.

Table 8.09: Sampling distribution of the top five Reasons for Adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	17	6.59
For Judgment	12	4.65
Attorney Absent	6	2.33
Referred to Mediation	4	1.55
Parties in Discussion	3	1.16
Sub-total	42	16.28

NB: Number of Adjournments / Continuances Sampled (N) = 258

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 258 incidences of adjournments in the 2025 calendar year. Adjournments for no return or for reissue with 17 or 6.59% of the sample, adjournments for judgment with 12 or 4.65% and adjournments due to the absence of attorney with 6 or 2.33% rounds off the top three. Referrals to mediation with 4 or 1.55% and parties in discussion with 3 or 1.16% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 16.28% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 8.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	120	26.67
Consent	102	22.67
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	68	15.11
Settlement	43	9.56
Default Judgment	39	8.67
Sub-total	372	82.67

NB: There were 450 matters disposed

A total of 450 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. The distribution is led by matters struck out with 120 or 26.67% of the sample, followed by disposals by consent with 102 or 22.67%, Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) with 68 or 15.11% and settlements with 43 or 9.56%. Matters disposed by default judgment with 39 or 8.67% complete

the top 5 methods of disposition for the year. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 82.67% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 8.11: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	49	66.22
Settlement	25	33.78
Total	74	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2025 calendar year at the Portland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 49 or 66.22% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample. Settlements account for the remaining 25 or 33.78% of the total sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 8.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
72	43	40.28

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. Using a sample of 72 trial dates set in the year, it is seen that 43 were adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 40.28% which suggests that during the year there was roughly a 40% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. The 2025 result is 9.72 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2024.

Table 8.13: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net Case disposal rate (%)
261	150	470	180.08	57.47

The above table shows 261 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, an approximate gross figure of 468 cases were disposed, and 2 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 180.08%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric, and is 40.41 percentage points more than the 2024 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 57.47%, a 2.58 percentage point increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate is 179.31%, a 38.88 percentage point improvement when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 8.14: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	395
Mean	589.4000
Median	306.0000
Mode	472.00
Std. Deviation	735.35189
Skewness	1.886
Std. Error of Skewness	.123
Range	3646.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	3651.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 395 civil matters disposed in 2025 calendar year at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 589 days (19.6 months), which is roughly 206 more days than it took to dispose matters in the 2024 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 472 days and the median time to disposition was 306 days. The standard deviation of roughly 735 days is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness observed is an indication that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fall below the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 3,651 days or roughly 10.1 years old, while the youngest was 5 days.

Table 8.15: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	319
Mean	647.2759
Median	268.0000
Mode	240.00
Std. Deviation	775.64615
Skewness	2.385
Std. Error of Skewness	.137
Range	5005.00
Minimum	16.00
Maximum	5021.00

The above data is computed using 319 active cases at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 647 days (1.8 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 240 days, and the median age was 268 days. The standard deviation of roughly 776 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 5,021 days (13.9 years), while the youngest 16 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 2025 calendar year.

Table 9.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	221	34.42
Disposed	289	45.02
Inactive	132	20.56
Total	642	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 642 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, 221 cases or 34.42% of these cases were still active, while 289 were disposed, and 132 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 65.58%, which is a 0.59 percentage points increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

Table 9.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	555	75.10
Small Claim	184	24.90
Total	739	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 739 new claims filed in the 2025 calendar year, the majority of which 555 or 75.10% were big claims, while 184 or 24.90% were small claims.

Table 9.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the year ended December 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	312	42.28
Recovery of Possession	91	12.33
Damages for Negligence	51	6.91
Defamation of Character	42	5.69
Cattle Trespass	27	3.66
Sub-total	523	70.87

Total sample size of causes of action= 738

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 2025 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 312 or roughly 42.28% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 91 or 12.33%, damages for negligence with 51 or 6.91% and defamation of character with 42 or 5.69% of the sample rounds off the top causes of action in this representative sample. Cattle trespass with 27 or 3.66% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 70.87% of all the total sample of 738 causes of action.

Table 9.04: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	250	53.42
Bailiff	197	42.09
Personal	21	4.49
Total	468	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the majority with 250 or 53.42% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 197 or 42.09% and personal service with 21 or 4.49% rank next.

Table 9.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	437	59.38
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	156	21.20
Yallahs Outstation	143	19.43
Total	736*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 640 cases**

The majority of a sample of 736 new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 437 or 59.38% of the sample. Sittings at the courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 156 or 21.20%, and sittings at the Yallahs Outstation accounted for 143 or 19.43% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2025

Table 9.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	393	53.18
Female	307	41.54
Registered Company	28	3.79
Trading As	11	1.49
Total	739	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 739 new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 393 or 53.18%, followed by females with 307 or 41.54%. Registered companies accounted for 28 or 3.79% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) had the lowest proportion with 11 or 1.49% of the sample.

Table 9.07: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	467	63.28
Female	254	34.42
Trading As	13	1.76
Registered Company	4	0.54
Total	738	100.00

There were 738 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 467 or 63.28% of the sample, followed by females with 254 or 34.42% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 13 or 1.76% of the sample and registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 4 or 0.54% of the sample.

9.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2025

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 cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 9.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Date for Order	134	35.73
Trial	118	31.47
Case management Date	64	17.07
Default Judgment Date	40	10.67
Part-Heard Date	19	5.07
Total	375	100.00

The above table is computed based on a sample of 375 cases adjourned during the 2025 calendar year. The highest proportion, 134 or 35.73% were adjourned for an order to be handed down, followed by 118 or 31.47% which were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 64 or 17.07% of matters, which were adjourned for case management dates. Matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 40 or 10.67% and matters adjourned for a part heard date with 19 or 5.07% of the sample rank next.

Table 9.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2025

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	44	22.45
Both Parties Absent	33	16.84
Due to Act of God and the Kings' Enemy	10	5.10
Plaintiff Absent	10	5.10
Not Reached	7	3.57
Sub-total	104	53.06

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 196

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 196 incidences of adjournments in the 2025 calendar year. Adjournments due to absence of defendants with 44 or 22.45% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 33 or 16.84% and adjournments due to an act of God and the Kings' enemy, and the absence of plaintiffs with 10 or 5.10% each rounds off the top adjournments. Parties not reached with 7 or 3.57% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 53.06% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 9.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	114
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 100 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 114 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 100 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

Table 9.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment	123	20.95
Oral Admission	116	19.76
Consent	108	18.40
Struck Out	84	14.31
Settlement	60	10.22
Sub-total	491	83.65

NB: there were 587 matters disposed

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 587 matters. The list is led by matters disposed by default judgment with 123 or 20.95% of the sample. Oral admissions, and matters disposed by consent with 116 or 19.76% and 108 or 18.40% respectively rank next. Matters struck out with 84 or 14.31%, and matters disposed by settlements with 60 or 10.22% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 83.65% of the sample.

Table 9.12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2025

Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	226	82.78
Settlement	41	15.02
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	6	2.20
Total	273	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of 273 case outcomes in the 2025 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 226 or 82.78% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 41 or 15.02%. Judgements in favour of defendant account for 6 or 2.20% of the sample of outcomes. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 9.13: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2025

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
120	32	73.33

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 120 trial dates were set in the year shows that 32 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 73.33%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 73% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 3.33 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2024 calendar year.

Table 9.14: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
642	421	658	102.49	65.58

The above table shows 642 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 289 cases were disposed and 132 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 65.58%, an increase of 0.59 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year. A gross figure of 508 cases were disposed, and 150 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 102.49%, which meets the international standard for this metric, and represents an increase of 10.89 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 56.67%, a 1.96 percentage points increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 99.61%, a 12.65 percentage points increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 9.15a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	409
Mean	215.3936
Median	126.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	351.46416
Skewness	4.739
Std. Error of Skewness	.121
Range	2377.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	2379.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 409 civil matters disposed in the 2025 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 215 days or 7.2 months, which is roughly 559 less days than it took to dispose matters in the 2024 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. There is a standard deviation of roughly 351 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 year was 2,379 days or roughly 6.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 2 days.

Table 9.15b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of disposed matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	76
Mean	215.2895
Median	185.5000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	259.62202
Skewness	4.979
Std. Error of Skewness	.276
Range	2036.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	2044.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 76 matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 215 days. The high standard deviation is an indication that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that most of the scores were below the overall average. The oldest time was 2,044 days, and the minimum was 8 days.

Table 9.16a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	255
Mean	327.4941
Median	239.0000
Mode	85.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	299.57591
Skewness	2.419
Std. Error of Skewness	.153
Range	1919.00
Minimum	28.00
Maximum	1947.00

The above data is based on sample of 255 active civil matters at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 327 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 85 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 300 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 1,947 days or 5.4 years, while the youngest case was 28 days.

Table 9.16b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	64
Mean	320.3281
Median	189.5000
Mode	56.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	342.16491
Skewness	1.537
Std. Error of Skewness	.299
Range	1456.00
Minimum	29.00
Maximum	1485.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 64 active reissued matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 320 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 56 days, and the median age was 189.50 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large variation in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 1,485 days and the lowest was 29 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 2025 calendar year.

Table 10.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	369	28.28
Disposed	639	48.97
Inactive	297	22.76
Total	1305	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 1,305 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, 369 cases or 28.28% of these cases were still active, 639 were disposed and 297 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 71.72% for the year, which is a 7.23 percentage points increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

Table 10.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	1141	75.12
Small Claim	378	24.88
Total	1519	100.00

The above table shows that from 1,519 new claims filed in the 2025 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 1,141 or 75.12%, while 378 or 24.88% were small claims.

Table 10.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. James Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	441	29.26
Recovery of Possession	216	14.33
Rent Owing and Continuing	99	6.57
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	98	6.50
Damages for Negligence	91	6.04
Sub-total	945	62.71

Total sample size of causes of action =1507

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 1,507 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2025 calendar year was breach of contract with 441 or 29.26%, recovery of possession with 216 or 14.33%, and rent owing and continuing with 99 or 6.57% of the sample. Rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 98 or 6.50% of the total sample, and damages for negligence with 91 or 6.04% round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 62.71% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 10.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Cambridge Outstation	453	35.98
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	446	35.42
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	228	18.11
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	113	8.98
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	18	1.43
Lay Magistrates' (main courthouse)	1	0.08
Total	1259*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 1071 cases**

The highest proportion of a sample of 1,259 matters entered in the 2025 calendar year were entered in the Cambridge Outstation, which accounted for 453 or 35.98% of the sample. Sittings in courtroom 4 at the main courthouse had 446 matters entered or 35.42% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2025

Table 10.05: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	662	47.15
Female	508	36.18
Registered Company	234	16.67
Total	1404	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1,404 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the highest proportions of the sample with 662 or 47.15% of the sample, followed by females with 508 or 36.18% of the total sample. Registered companies with 234 or 16.67% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 10.06: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	733	51.29
Female	463	32.40
Registered Company	233	16.31
Total	1429	100.00

There were 1,429 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 733 or 51.29% of the total sample, followed by females with 463 or 32.40%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 233 or 16.31% of the sample.

10.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2025

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 cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 10.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case management Date	262	52.30
Trial	120	23.95
Part-Heard Date	62	12.38
Default Judgment Date	28	5.59
Final Judgment Date	19	3.79
Hearing of Application	10	2.00
Total	501	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 501 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, case management, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for case management dates accounted for 262 or 52.30% of the sample, followed by 120 or 23.95%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for part heard dates accounted for 62 or 12.38% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date account for 28 or 5.59% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for

a case management date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that case management 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 year ended December 31, 2025

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	61	35.06
Attorney Absent	16	9.20
Referred to mediation	14	8.05
No Return/Re-Issued	11	6.32
Defendant Absent	8	4.60
Sub-total	110	63.22

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 174

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 174 incidences of adjournments heard in the 2025 calendar year. Adjournments due to absence of both parties with 61 or 35.06% of the sample and the absence of attorneys with 16 or 9.20% round off the top incidences in the sample. Referrals to mediation with 14 or 8.05%, and for no return or for reissue with 11 or 6.32% rank next. The list is completed by the absence of defendants with 8 or 4.60% of the sample. The top reasons for adjournments listed above account for 63.22% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10.09: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	238
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 201 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 238 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

201 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 10.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	410	38.35
Consent	201	18.80
Default Judgment	128	11.97
Oral Admission	115	10.76
Settlement	51	4.77
Sub-total	905	84.66

NB: There were 1069 matters disposed

A sample of 1,069 matters disposed during the 2025 calendar year revealed that 410 or 38.35% of matters were struck out, and 201 or 18.80% were disposed by consent. Matters disposed by default judgments with 128 or 11.97% and matters disposed by oral admissions with 115 or 10.76% rank next. Settlements with 51 or 4.77% of the total sample of disposals completing the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above account for 84.66% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2025 calendar year.

Table 10.11: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2025

Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	76	93.83
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	3	3.70
Settlement	2	2.47
Total	81	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of 81 case outcomes in the 2025 calendar year at the St. James Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 76 or 93.83% of the sample

of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while judgment in favour of defendant account for 3 or 3.70%. Settlements account for the remaining 2 or 2.47% of the sample of outcomes. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 10.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
274	42	84.67

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 274 trial dates were set in the year shows that 42 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 84.67%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 85% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 10.13: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
1305	936	1344	102.99	71.72

The above table shows 1,305 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 639 cases were disposed and 297 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 71.72%, an increase of 7.23 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year. A gross figure of 974 cases was disposed, and 397 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 102.99%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents an increase of 2.69 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 63.39%, a 15.02 percentage points increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 93.95%, a 12.14 percentage points increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 10.14a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	678
Mean	254.6106
Median	98.0000
Mode	199.00
Std. Deviation	438.55421
Skewness	3.515
Std. Error of Skewness	.094
Range	3576.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	3577.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 678 civil matters disposed in the 2025 calendar year at the St. James Parish court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 255 days or 8.5 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 199 days and the median time was 98 days. The standard deviation of roughly 439 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 3,577 days or roughly 9.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 10.14b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	94
Mean	95.7021
Median	80.5000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	70.58935
Skewness	1.226
Std. Error of Skewness	.249
Range	367.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	371.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 94 matters at the St. James Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 96 days. The standard deviation is an indication that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores, and the positive skewness suggests that most of the scores were below the overall average. A sample of 67 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 179 days.

Table 10.15a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	849
Mean	551.2733
Median	394.0000
Mode	86.00
Std. Deviation	521.60539
Skewness	1.454
Std. Error of Skewness	.084
Range	2504.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	2522.00

The above data is based on a sample of 849 active civil matters at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 551 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 86 days. The standard deviation of roughly 522 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 fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 2,522 days old or roughly 7 years, while the minimum age is 18 days.

Table 10.15b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	58
Mean	254.0690
Median	229.0000
Mode	177.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	138.13963
Skewness	.783
Std. Error of Skewness	.314
Range	626.00
Minimum	47.00
Maximum	673.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 58 active reissued matters at the St. James Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 254 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 177 days, and the median age was 229 days. The standard deviation indicates that there is some variation in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 673 days and the lowest was 47 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 2025 calendar year.

Table 11.01: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	443	46.19
Disposed	511	53.28
Inactive	5	0.52
Total	959	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 959 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, 443 or 46.19% cases were still active, 511 were disposed at the end of the year, and 5 became inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 53.81% for the year, which is a 6.27 percentage points decline when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

Table 11.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	652	67.15
Small Claim	319	32.85
Total	971	100.00

The above table shows that from 971 new claims filed in the 2025 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 652 or 67.15%, while 319 or 32.85% were small claims.

Table 11.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the year ended December 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Monies owing for work done	153	15.95
Goods Sold and Delivered	130	13.56
Breach of Contract	105	10.95
Recovery of Possession	76	7.92
Monies Loaned	69	7.19
Sub-total	533	55.58

Total sample size of causes of action= 959

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 959 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2025 calendar year were monies owing for work done with 153 or roughly 15.95% of the sample, and goods sold and delivered with 130 or 13.56% of the sample. Breach of contract with 105 or 10.95%, and recovery of possession with 76 or 7.92% of the sample rank next. Monies loaned with 69 or 7.19% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 55.58% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 11.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom 1)	310	32.19
Balaclava Outstation (Courtroom 1)	243	25.23
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom 2)	243	25.23
Balaclava Outstation (Courtroom 2)	94	9.76
Courtroom 1 (main courthouse)	63	6.54
Courtroom 2 (main courthouse)	10	1.04
Total	963*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 959 cases**

The highest proportion of a sample of 963 matters entered in the 2025 calendar year were entered in the courtroom 1 at the Santa Cruz Outstation, which accounted for 310 or 32.19% of

the sample. Sittings at courtroom 1 at the Balaclava Outstation and sittings at courtroom 2 at the Santa Cruz Outstation both had 243 matters entered or 25.23% each of the sample.

11.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2025

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 cases, which were completed in the year, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 11.05: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Case Management	447	32.27
Return day	314	22.67
Part Heard	210	15.16
Trial	132	9.53
Judgment Summons	116	8.38
Default Judgement	79	5.70
Reissue date	76	5.49
Ruling	8	0.58
For Judgement	3	0.22
Total	1385	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 1,385 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, case management, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for case management dates accounted for 447 or 32.27% of the sample, followed by 314 or 22.67%, which were adjourned for return dates. Matters adjourned for part heard dates accounted for 210 or 15.16%, and matters adjourned for a trial date account for 132 or 9.53% 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 case management court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 11.06: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	141	10.68
Both Parties Absent	84	6.36
Re-issued	75	5.68
Referred to Mediation	66	5.00
Plaintiff Absent	59	4.47
Sub-total	425	32.20

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 1320

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 1,320 incidences of adjournments heard in the 2025 calendar year. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 141 or 10.68% of the sample, and the absence of both parties with 84 or 6.36% round off the top incidences in the sample. Adjournments for reissue with 75 or 5.68%, and referrals to mediation with 66 or 5% rank next. The list is completed by adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 59 or 4.47% of the sample. The top reasons for adjournments listed above account for 32.20% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 11.07: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	85
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 69 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 85 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

69 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 11.08: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	358	44.47
Oral admission	98	12.17
Final judgment	67	8.32
Default judgment	61	7.58
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	60	7.45
Sub-total	644	80.00

NB there were 805 matters were disposed

A total of 805 matters were disposed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 644 or 80% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 358 or 44.47% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by oral admissions with 98 or 12.17%, and disposals by final judgment with 67 or 8.32%. Matters disposed by default judgment and Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) round off the top five methods with 61 or 7.58% and 60 or 7.45% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.09: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
201	32	84.08

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 201 trial dates were set in the year shows that 32 were adjourned. This results in an estimated

trial date certainty rate of 84.08%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 84% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 11.10: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross Case disposal rate (%)
959	516	867	90.41	53.81

The above table shows 959 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 511 cases were disposed and 5 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 53.81%, a decrease of 6.27 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year. A gross figure of 859 cases was disposed, and 8 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 90.41%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents a decrease of 5.48 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 53.56%, a 6.25 percentage points decrease when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 90.04%, a 5.73 percentage points decline when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 11.11: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	412
Mean	223.5000
Median	88.5000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	418.09585
Skewness	4.913
Std. Error of Skewness	.120
Range	3970.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	3971.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 412 civil matters disposed in the 2025 calendar year at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose these matters is roughly 224 days or 7.5 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. There is high standard deviation of 418 days, which is an indication that there is a large dispersion of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores are below around the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 3,971 days or roughly 11 years old, while the youngest was 1 day.

Table 11.12: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	2831
Mean	1307.6839
Median	1338.0000
Mode	56.00
Std. Deviation	745.24637
Skewness	-.108
Std. Error of Skewness	.046
Range	4279.00
Minimum	20.00
Maximum	4299.00

The above data is based on a sample of 2,831 active civil matters at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 1,308 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 56 days. The standard deviation of roughly 745 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 4,299 days old or roughly 11.9 years, while the minimum time taken is 20 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 2025 calendar year.

Table 12.01 Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	623	45.54
Disposed	742	54.24
Inactive	3	0.22
Total	1368	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 1,368 new cases filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, 623 cases or 45.54% of these cases were still active, 742 were disposed at the end of the year, and 3 became inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 54.46%, which is a 2.88 percentage points increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

Table 12.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	1442	91.32
Small Claim	137	8.68
Total	1579	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 1,579 claims filed in the 2025 calendar year, 1,442 or 91.32% were big claims and 137 or 8.68% were small claims.

Table 12.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the year ended December 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	343	23.85
Breach of Contract	301	20.93
Damages for Negligence	144	10.01
Arrears of Rent	91	6.33
Arrears of Rent & Continuing	60	4.17
Sub-total	939	65.30

Total sample size of causes of action= 1438

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 1,438 causes of action entered before the Manchester Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was recovery of possession with 343 or roughly 23.85% of the sample, breach of contract with 301 or 20.93%, and damages for negligence with 144 or 10.01%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by arrears of rent with 91 or 6.33%, and arrears of rent and continuing with 60 or 4.17% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 65.30% of the total sample of causes of action.

Table 12.04: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	102	57.30
District Constable	68	38.20
Personal	8	4.49
Total	178	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, against whom a claim is made, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the majority with 102 or 57.30% of the sample, followed by service by the district constable with 68 or 38.20% and personal service with 8 or 4.49%.

Table 12.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1031	71.60
Christiana Outstation	187	12.99
Spalding Outstation	99	6.88
Porus Outstation	67	4.65
Cottage Outstation	29	2.01
Cross Keys Outstation	26	1.81
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	0.07
Total	1440*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 1231 cases**

The majority of the sample of 1,440 new claims filed in the year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 1,031 or 71.60% of the total sample. The 187 or 12.99% that entered the Christiana outstation followed this. The Spalding Outstation accounted for 99 or 6.88% of the claims.

Table 12.06: Distribution of the type of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2025

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Court Order	252	94.03
Application for Substituted Service	8	2.99
Relist	8	2.99
Total	268	100.00

A sample of 268 applications filed during the 2025 calendar year revealed that applications for court order with 252 or 94.03% of the sample accounted for the vast majority of applications filed, followed by application for substituted service and application for relist with 8 or 2.99% each of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2025

Table 12.07: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	800	55.94
Female	549	38.39
Registered Company	77	5.38
Trading As	4	0.28
Total	1430	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the 1,430 new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 800 or 55.94%, followed by females with 549 or 38.39%, and registered companies with 77 or 5.38% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining 4 or 0.28% of the sample.

Table 12.08: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	929	64.56
Female	451	31.34
Registered Company	58	4.03
Trading As	1	0.07
Total	1439	100.00

There were 1,439 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2025 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 929 or 64.56% of the total sample, followed by females with 451 or 31.34%. Registered companies account for 58 or 4.03% and Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining 0.07% of the sample.

12.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2025

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 cases, which were completed in the year, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 12.09: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment Date	545	42.22
Case management Date	437	33.85
Trial	212	16.42
Part-Heard Date	81	6.27
Hearing of Application	11	0.85
Final Judgment Date	4	0.31
Date for Order	1	0.08
Total	1291	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1,291 matters that went to court during the 2025 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, case management, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The highest proportion of the sample, 545 or 42.22% were adjourned for a default judgment date, and 437 or 33.85% were adjourned for a case management date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 212 or 16.42% of matters, which were adjourned for a trial date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 81 or 6.27% of the sample.

Table 12.10: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	552	32.76
Defendant Absent	296	17.57
No Return/Re-Issued	146	8.66
Plaintiff Absent	42	2.49
Pending Settlement	22	1.31
Sub-total	1058	62.79

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 1685

The above table details a sample of 1,685 adjournments or continuances heard in the year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 552 or 32.76% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 296 or 17.57%, adjournments for no return/for reissue with 146 or 8.66%, and the absence of plaintiffs with 42 or 2.49% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the year. Adjournments for pending settlements with 22 or 1.31% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 62.79% of the total sample.

Table 12.11: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	206
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 170 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 206 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 170 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 12.12: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	611	47.40
Consent	204	15.83
Withdrawal	111	8.61
Default Judgment	86	6.67
Final Judgment	78	6.05
Sub-total	1090	84.56

NB there were 1289 matters were disposed

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 1,289 matters disposed during the 2025 calendar year. The list is led by matters struck out with 611 or 47.40% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 204 or 15.83%, and matters withdrawn with 111 or 8.61%. Default Judgments with 86 or 6.67%, and final judgments account for 78 or 6.05% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 84.56% of the sample.

Table 12.13: Sampling distribution of the case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2025

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	250	84.75
Settlement	34	11.53
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	8	2.71
Judgment for Ancillary Defendant	2	0.68
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	1	0.34
Total	295	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 295 matters in the 2025 calendar year. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff account for 250 or 84.75% of the sample of outcomes, while settlements account for 34 or 11.53%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.14: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
197	36	81.73

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 197 trial dates were set in the year shows that 36 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 81.73%, suggesting that during the year, there was a roughly 82% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 12.15: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross Case disposal rate (%)
1368	745	1292	94.44	54.46

The above table shows 1,368 new cases filed at the Manchester Parish Court during the 2025 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 742 cases were disposed and 3 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 54.46%, an increase of 2.88 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year. A gross figure of 1,287 cases was disposed, and 5 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 94.44%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents a decrease of 28.47 percentage points when compared to the 2024 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 54.36%, a 9.15 percentage points increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 94.29%, a 2.50 percentage points increase when compared to the 2024 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 12.16a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	710
Mean	167.8606
Median	127.5000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	150.85773
Skewness	1.993
Std. Error of Skewness	.092
Range	951.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	952.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 710 civil matters disposed in the 2025 calendar year at the Manchester Parish Court. The average time taken to resolve these matters is roughly 168 days or 5.6 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. There is moderate standard deviation of 151 days, which is an indication that there is some dispersion of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores are below around the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 952 days or roughly 2.6 years old, while the youngest was 1 day.

Table 12.16b: Descriptive Statistics on age of disposed matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	88
Mean	177.2841
Median	121.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	171.25983
Skewness	2.435
Std. Error of Skewness	.257
Range	914.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	915.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 88 matters at the Manchester Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 177 days or roughly 5.9 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 915 days or roughly 2.5 years old, while the youngest was 1 day.

Table 12.17a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1229
Mean	494.9349
Median	607.0000
Mode	761.00
Std. Deviation	310.94093
Skewness	-.220
Std. Error of Skewness	.070
Range	1041.00
Minimum	23.00
Maximum	1064.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,229 active civil matters at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 495 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 761 days. The standard deviation of roughly 311 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 1,064 days old or roughly 3 years, while the minimum time taken is 23 days.

Table 12.17b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	90
Mean	167.5778
Median	83.5000
Mode	26.00
Std. Deviation	175.91085
Skewness	1.529
Std. Error of Skewness	.254
Range	735.00
Minimum	26.00
Maximum	761.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 90 active reissued matters at the Manchester Civil Court as at the end of the year ended December 32, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 168 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 26 days and the median age was 83.50 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a wide 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 761 days and the lowest was 26 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Performance Summaries-Other Parish Court

Table 13.01: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the Hanover Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2025

Parish Court	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Net Case Clearance Rate (%)	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Net Case Disposal Rate (%)	Trial Date certainty Rate (%)
Hanover	NA	150.69	NA	61.77	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 150.69% and an estimated net disposal rate of 61.77% for the year.

Aggregate data summaries – all Parish Courts

Table 13.02: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)
15845	15744	99.36

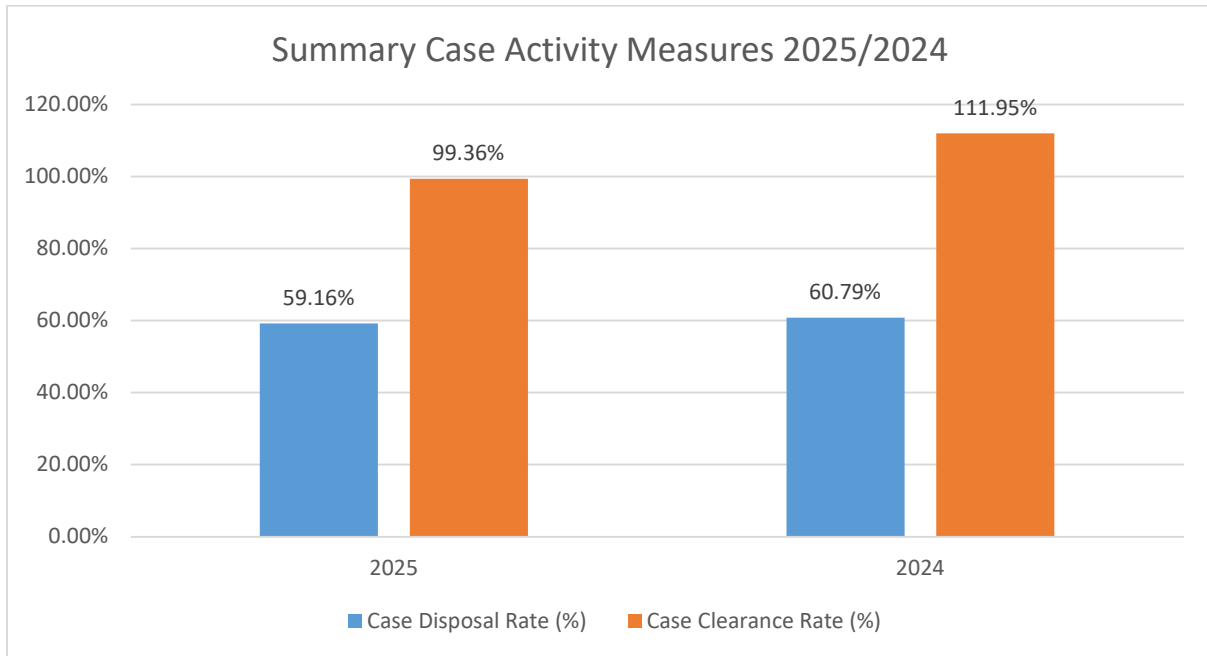
The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the 2025 calendar year. It shows that a total of 15,845 new cases were filed over the year, while 15,744 became inactive or were disposed, leading to an estimated gross clearance rate of 99.36%. This is a 12.59 percentage points decline when compared to the corresponding period in 2024.

Table 13.03: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the year ended December 31, 2025

Parish Court	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) 2025	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) 2024	Change in the Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) 2025	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) 2024	Change in the Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)
St. Thomas	65.58	64.99	0.59	102.49	91.6	10.89
Corporate Area- Civil	61.42	61.8	-0.38	87.71	101.4	-13.69
St. Elizabeth	53.81	60.08	-6.27	90.41	95.89	-5.48
Hanover	NA	65.78	NA	NA	120.24	NA
Manchester	54.46	51.58	2.88	94.44	122.91	-28.47
Portland	NA	56.2	NA	180.08	139.67	40.41
St. Ann	51.23	53.47	-2.24	92.18	97.91	-5.73
St. Catherine	49.82	57.25	-7.43	106.09	138.65	-32.56
St. Mary	81.03	74.29	6.74	126.91	182.17	-55.26
Trelawny	51.41	68.8	-17.39	84.74	105.79	-21.05
St. James	71.72	64.49	7.23	102.99	100.3	2.69
Clarendon	63.86	62.29	1.57	102.74	90.4	12.34
Westmoreland	61.95	73.61	-11.66	95.87	106.02	-10.15
Average /Weighted Average	59.16	60.79	-1.63	99.36	111.95	-12.59
Standard Deviation	9.75	7.05		25.96	26.05	
Skewness	0.89	0.16		2.50	1.61	

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate and the case clearance rate and for the 2025 and 2024 calendar years. The weighted average gross case disposal rate for the 2025 calendar year was 59.16%, which was a 1.63 percentage points decline when compared to the 2024 calendar year weighted average rate of 60.79%. The gross case clearance rate of 99.36% for the 2025 calendar year was 12.59 percentage points below the 111.95% recorded in the 2024 calendar year.

Chart 13.04: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for 2024 and 2025



The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal and case clearance for the 2025 and 2024 calendar years. It is seen that there has been a decline in the gross case disposal rate and a decrease in the gross case clearance rate over the comparative period. The case clearance rate moved from 111.95% in the 2024 calendar year to 99.36% in the 2025 calendar year. The case disposal rate moved from 60.79% in the 2024 calendar year to 59.16% in the 2025 calendar year, a decrease of 1.63 percentage points.

Chart 13.05a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for 2024 and 2025

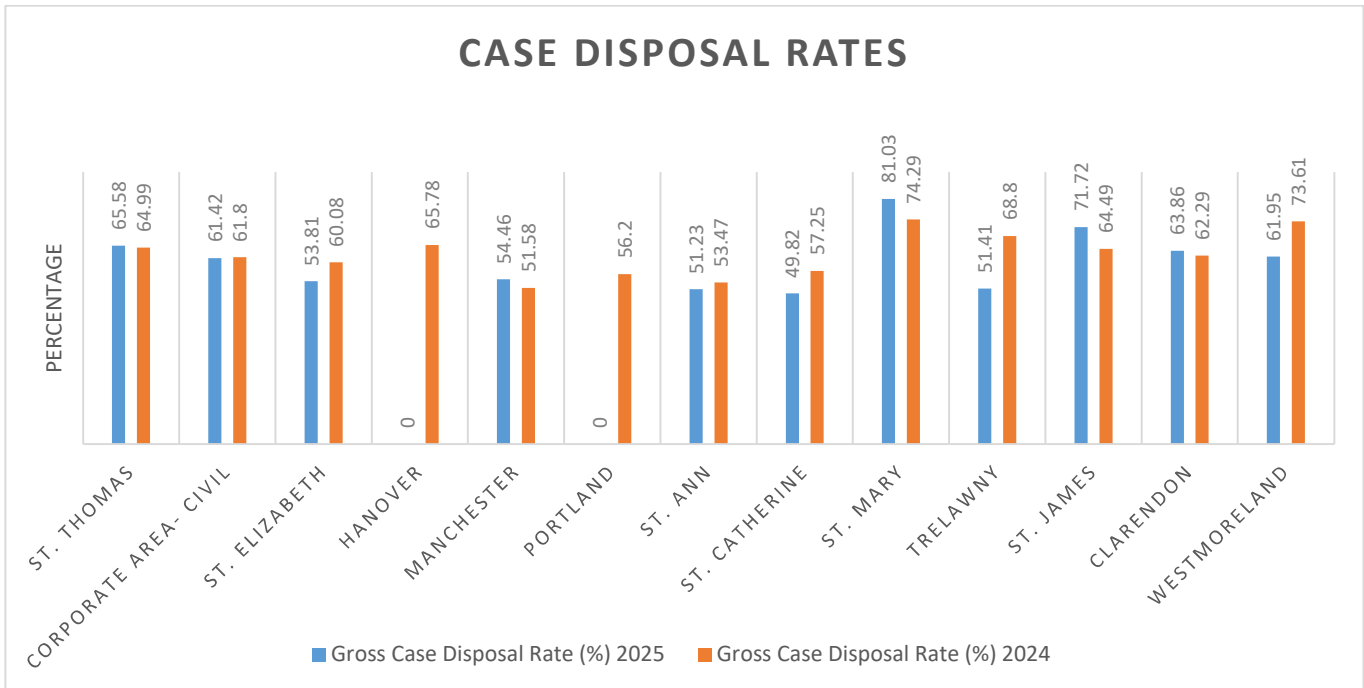


Chart 13.05b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for 2024 and 2025

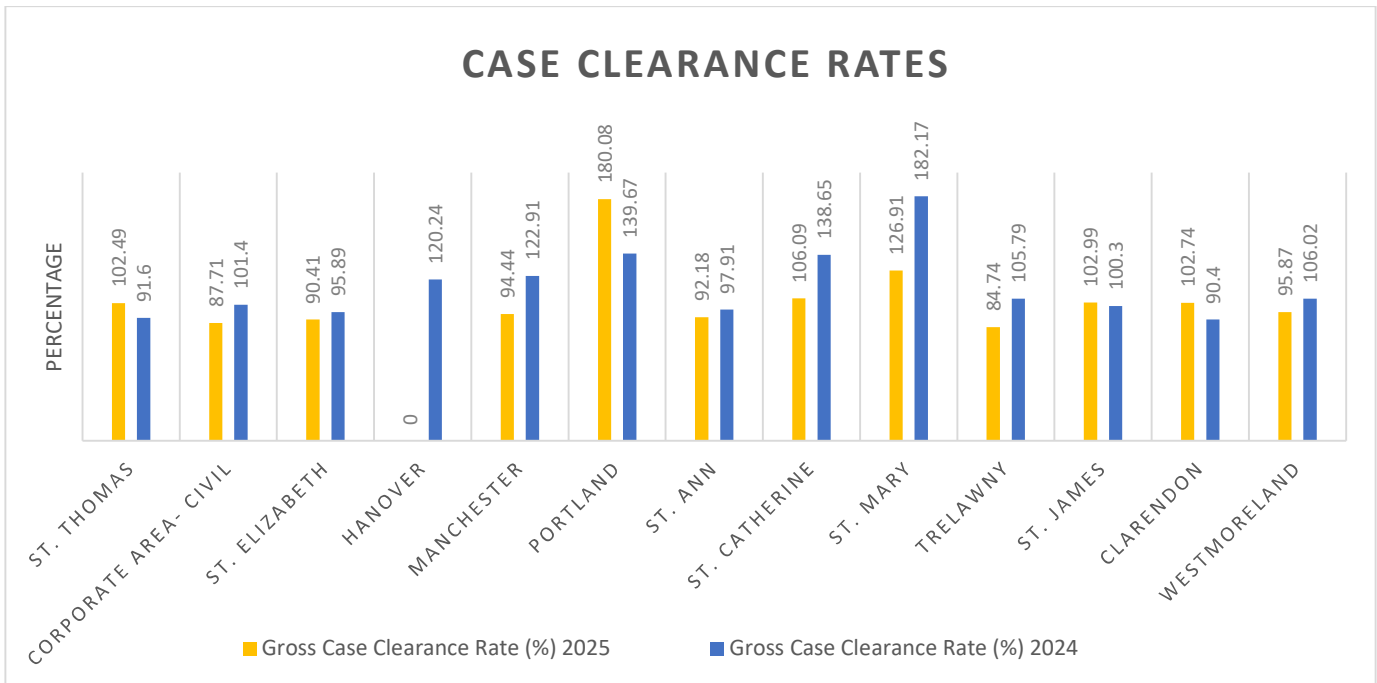


Table 13.06: Sampling distribution of claims filed during the year ended December 31, 2025

Parish Court	Big Claims	Small Claims	POCA	Miscellaneous	Total
Corporate area	4555	-	9	-	4564
Portland	369	40	-	-	409
St. Ann	1711	274	7	-	1992
St. Catherine	2779	318	2	-	3099
St. Elizabeth	652	319	-	-	971
St. Mary	564	142	-	-	706
St. Thomas	555	184	-	-	739
Trelawny	471	88	1	-	560
Westmoreland	736	75	1	-	812
St. James	1141	378	-	-	1519
Clarendon	949	186	-	-	1135
Manchester	1442	137	-	-	1579
Total	15924	2141	20	0	18085

The above table provides an overall summary of the claims files across the parish courts in the 2025 calendar year. The sample of 18,085 new claims filed in the 2025 calendar year reveals that 15,924 or 88.05% were big claims, while 11.84% were small claims and 0.11% were POCA matters. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine Parish Court, and the St. Ann Parish Court account for the largest share of new complaints filed in the year. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine, and the St. Ann Parish Courts account for the largest share of big claims filed in the year, while the St. James, St. Elizabeth and the St. Catherine Parish Court account for the largest shares of small claims filed.

Table 13.07: Forecasted case activity statistics for the 2026 calendar year [January 01 - December 31, 2026]

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted number of inactive cases	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Hanover	367	454	47	136.53
Manchester	1372	1317	176	108.86
St. Mary	646	845	6	131.72
St. James	1354	843	553	103.10
St. Catherine	2784	3524	135	131.42
Portland	266	368	16	144.45
St. Ann	1597	1281	333	101.09
St. Elizabeth	1092	974	7	89.82
Corporate Area Civil	3792	2649	1345	105.36
Westmoreland	683	531	148	99.44
St. Thomas	633	479	166	102.00
Clarendon	1009	902	83	97.55
Trelawny	514	399	107	98.38
Total/Weighted Average	16109	14567	3123	109.81

Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for 2026 is 82.33%.

The above table forecasts core case activity for the civil division of each parish court and overall, for the 2026 calendar year. 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 2026 calendar year is 109.81%, which would be 10.45 percentage points higher than that of the 2025 calendar year. Twelve (12) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the 2026 calendar year, led by the Portland Parish Court with 144.45%, the Hanover Parish Court with 136.53% and the St. Mary Parish Court with 131.72%.

Table 13.08: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 in the civil division of the parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2025

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	361	69780	52
St. Catherine	2481	542763	46
Westmoreland	678	146205	46
St. Mary	643	116497	55
Clarendon	985	258643	38
Portland	261	84972	31
St. Elizabeth	959	153201	63
Corporate Area Civil	4116	672904	61
St. Thomas	642	94485	68
St. James	1305	188656	69
St. Ann	1548	175310	88
Trelawny	498	77427	64
Manchester	1368	193694	71
Total	15845	2774538	57

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 2025 calendar year. The population sizes used are based on the last national population census in 2022 and represent the most current value. 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. Ann, 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 2025 calendar year. Manchester, which is among the courts with a larger caseload and population size, ranked second. Equally interesting is the result that the parish of Portland had the smallest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the year and is the parish with a smallest caseload and among the parishes with a smaller population size. The Clarendon Parish Court recorded the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court.

Table 13.09: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2025

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	1319	15.76
Defendant Absent	1123	13.42
Both Parties Absent	983	11.75
Plaintiff absent	243	2.90
Referred to Mediation*	153	1.83
Judge Absent/Ill	150	1.79
Parties in Discussion	114	1.36
Default Judgment	108	1.29
Attorney Absent	99	1.18
Pending Settlement	91	1.09
Sub-total	4383	52.38

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 8,367)

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 8,367 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the 2025 calendar year across all of the parish courts (civil division). The largest proportion (15.76%) was for no return/ for reissue. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 13.42% and the absence of both parties with 11.75% round out the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. The absence of plaintiffs with 2.90% and the referrals to mediation with 1.83% round off the top five reasons for adjournment for the year. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 52.38% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 13.10a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the year ended December 31, 2025

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	5470 (30.8%)	4263 (24.0%)	2115 (11.9%)	1538 (8.7%)	1732 (9.7%)	853 (4.8%)	1796 (10.1%)	17767 (100%)
St. Catherine	3399 (17.7%)	2765 (14.4%)	1760 (9.2%)	1387 (7.2%)	2073 (10.8%)	1533 (8.0%)	6287 (32.7%)	19204 (100%)
St. James	1153 (44.2%)	471 (18.1%)	261 (10.0%)	139 (5.3%)	208 (8.0%)	103 (3.9%)	273 (10.5%)	2608 (100%)
Clarendon	807 (34.2%)	656 (27.8%)	361 (15.3%)	175 (7.4%)	182 (7.7%)	105 (4.4%)	77 (3.3%)	2363 (100%)
Westmoreland	1339 (51.7%)	534 (20.6%)	248 (9.6%)	154 (5.9%)	167 (6.5%)	70 (2.7%)	77 (3.0%)	2589 (100%)
St. Ann	2232 (31.3%)	1486 (20.8%)	781 (11.0%)	537 (7.5%)	650 (9.1%)	355 (5.0%)	1088 (15.3%)	7129 (100%)
St. Thomas	971 (34.4%)	655 (23.2%)	311 (11.0%)	197 (7.0%)	222 (7.9%)	132 (4.7%)	331 (11.7%)	2819 (100%)
Portland	620 (25.0%)	427 (17.2%)	240 (9.7%)	183 (7.4%)	318 (12.8%)	145 (5.8%)	546 (22.0%)	2479 (100%)
St. Mary	2239 (47.3%)	679 (14.3%)	277 (5.9%)	173 (3.7%)	237 (5.0%)	124 (2.6%)	1003 (21.2%)	4732 (100%)
Trelawny	1262 (52.7%)	479 (20.0%)	195 (8.1%)	127 (5.3%)	138 (5.8%)	74 (3.1%)	119 (5.0%)	2394 (100%)
Manchester	494 (38.2%)	408 (31.6%)	235 (18.2%)	86 (6.7%)	44 (3.4%)	13 (1.0%)	12 (0.9%)	1292 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	1710 (43.2%)	1019 (25.7%)	398 (10.0%)	238 (6.0%)	234 (5.9%)	139 (3.5%)	223 (5.6%)	3961 (100%)
% of Total	31.29	19.96	10.36	7.12	8.95	5.26	17.06	100.00
Average	1808.00	1153.50	598.50	411.17	517.08	303.83	986.00	5778.08
Standard Deviation	1417.56	1187.20	648.43	504.97	667.27	447.34	1753.79	6129.73
Skewness	1.81	2.10	1.90	1.88	1.91	2.36	2.94	1.82

Number of charges sampled (N) = 69,337

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 December 31, 2025. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 96-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 31.29% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Mary and St. Ann are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively 68.73% 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 17.06% 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 resolved as at the year ended December 31, 2025

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil	297.18	119	154	387.96	3.28	1	5732	17767
St. Catherine	580.43	28	392	563.50	1.43	1	4854	19204
St. James	263.00	28	112	380.13	2.77	1	3577	2608
Clarendon	203.10	63	133	213.42	2.47	1	1634	2363
Westmoreland	166.39	28	84	228.34	3.56	1	2196	2589
St. Ann	401.97	63	161	632.14	4.09	1	9763	7129
St. Thomas	347.87	28	134	596.24	3.67	1	3471	2819
Portland	515.94	63	245	671.60	2.27	2	4515	2479
St. Mary	456.94	28	98	695.90	1.74	1	4375	4732
Trelawny	188.63	28	78	319.44	5.10	1	4469	2394
Manchester	143.51	91	102	129.41	2.32	1	952	1292
St. Elizabeth	208.20	28	99	310.94	4.27	1	3971	3961
Total/Weighted Average	386.12	49.58	149.33	427.42	3.08	1.08	4125.75	5778.08
Standard Deviation	145.86	30.65	88.86	196.31	1.10	0.29	2255.89	6129.73
Skewness	0.62	1.30	2.19	0.04	0.25	3.46	1.22	1.82

Number of charges sampled (N) = 69,337

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 December 31, 2025. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 96-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to resolve matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 386 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 (144 days), Westmoreland (166 days) and Trelawny (189 days) took the lowest times on average to resolve cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (580 days), Portland (516 days) and St.

Mary (457 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 145.86. 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 952 days (31.7 months/2.6 years) in the Manchester Parish Court, to a high of 9,763 days (325.4 months/27.1 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 below the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 69,337 matters.

Table 13.11a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition in the year ended December 31, 2025

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	443 (28.4%)	490 (31.4%)	189 (12.1%)	131 (8.4%)	132 (8.5%)	61 (3.9%)	115 (7.4%)	1561 (100%)
St. Catherine	500 (23.3%)	309 (14.4%)	180 (8.4%)	179 (8.3%)	240 (11.2%)	164 (7.6%)	572 (26.7%)	2144 (100%)
St. James	315 (46.5%)	129 (19.0%)	98 (14.5%)	18 (2.7%)	36 (5.3%)	16 (2.4%)	66 (9.7%)	678 (100%)
Clarendon	190 (30.4%)	167 (26.7%)	72 (11.5%)	53 (8.5%)	60 (9.6%)	29 (4.6%)	54 (8.6%)	625 (100%)
Westmoreland	129 (38.3%)	73 (21.7%)	33 (9.8%)	33 (9.8%)	28 (8.3%)	17 (5.0%)	24 (7.1%)	337 (100%)
St. Ann	353 (35.6%)	210 (21.2%)	139 (14.0%)	63 (6.4%)	40 (4.0%)	38 (3.8%)	149 (15.0%)	992 (100%)
St. Thomas	144 (35.2%)	117 (28.6%)	65 (15.9%)	36 (8.8%)	17 (4.2%)	16 (3.9%)	14 (3.4%)	409 (100%)
Portland	85 (21.5%)	63 (15.9%)	44 (11.1%)	13 (3.3%)	82 (20.8%)	21 (5.3%)	87 (22.0%)	395 (100%)
St. Mary	359 (57.1%)	74 (11.8%)	26 (4.1%)	20 (3.2%)	22 (3.5%)	20 (3.2%)	108 (17.2%)	629 (100%)
Trelawny	127 (45.4%)	68 (24.3%)	39 (13.9%)	19 (6.8%)	10 (3.6%)	9 (3.2%)	8 (2.9%)	280 (100%)
Manchester	244 (34.4%)	201 (28.3%)	135 (19.0%)	69 (9.7%)	39 (5.5%)	12 (1.7%)	10 (1.4%)	710 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	208 (50.5%)	95 (23.1%)	28 (6.8%)	11 (2.7%)	25 (6.1%)	16 (3.9%)	29 (7.0%)	412 (100%)
% of Total	33.77	21.76	11.43	7.03	7.97	4.57	13.48	100.00
Average	258.08	166.33	87.33	53.75	60.92	34.92	103.00	764.33
Standard Deviation	134.61	126.03	59.67	52.08	65.72	43.06	154.80	559.39
Skewness	0.49	1.78	0.66	1.66	2.20	2.88	2.94	1.75

Number of charges sampled (N) = 9,172

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the year ended December 31, 2025. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting

for roughly 33.77% of the disposals. The St. Catherine Parish Court, along with the parish courts of Corporate Area – Civil Division, St. Mary, and St. Ann are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 73.99% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year. 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 approximately 13.48% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Catherine, St. Ann, and Corporate Area 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 resolved in the year ended December 31, 2025

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil Division	252.21	133	138	307.98	3.27	1	2679	1561
St. Catherine	565.62	28	320	661.73	1.96	1	3902	2144
St. James	254.61	199	98	438.55	3.52	1	3577	678
Clarendon	261.80	91	147	290.64	2.13	1	1634	625
Westmoreland	245.69	28	126	302.25	2.44	1	2196	337
St. Ann	371.41	63	126	641.41	3.92	1	5128	992
St. Thomas	215.39	28	126	351.46	4.74	2	2379	409
Portland	589.40	472	306	735.35	1.89	5	3651	395
St. Mary	412.33	28	70	747.19	2.41	1	4375	629
Trelawny	174.28	63	91	275.88	5.35	1	2596	280
Manchester	167.86	63	127.50	150.86	1.99	1	952	710
St. Elizabeth	223.50	28	88.50	418.10	4.91	1	3971	412
Total/Weighted Average	352.62	102.00	147.00	443.45	3.21	1.42	3086.67	764.33
Standard Deviation	143.20	127.68	80.84	201.98	1.27	1.16	1213.58	559.39
Skewness	1.17	2.59	1.70	0.42	0.56	3.14	-0.11	1.75

Number of charges sampled (N) = 9,172

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the year ended December 31, 2025. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to resolve matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 353 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 1.17, suggesting that most of the scores were below the overall mean. For matters resolved in the period, the parish courts of Manchester (168 days), Trelawny (174 days) and St. Thomas (215 days) took the lowest times on average to resolve cases over the period. The parish courts of Portland (589 days), St. Catherine (566 days) and St. Mary (412 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 143.2 days. The average minimum time taken to resolve matters across all parish courts was 1.42 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 952 days (31.7 months/2.6 years) in the Manchester Parish Court, to a high of 5,128 days (170.9 months/14.2 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a negative 0.11, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were clustered around the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 9,172 matters.

Table 13.11c: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2025

Parish Court	Struck Out	Consent	Settlement	Default Judgment	Oral Admission	Withdrawal	Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	Other	Total
St. Catherine	1446	545	321	324	44	146	121	265	3212
Corporate Area Civil	1013	616	82	210	96	293	170	183	2663
Westmoreland	104	153	39	45	59	26	84	60	570
Clarendon	530	162	146	65	43	60	59	113	1178
Trelawny	117	95	36	42	62	20	1	47	420
Portland	120	102	43	39	5	10	68	63	450
St. Mary	230	226	77	121	38	59	81	99	931
St. Thomas	84	108	60	123	116	22	23	51	587
St. Ann	542	335	134	159	75	148	124	168	1685
St. James	410	201	51	128	115	44	49	71	1069
St. Elizabeth	358	55	48	61	98	11	60	114	805
Manchester	611	204	67	86	64	111	48	98	1289
Total	5565	2802	1104	1403	815	950	888	1332	14859
Percentage of total	37.45	18.86	7.43	9.44	5.48	6.39	5.98	8.96	-

Number of charges sampled (N): 14,859

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts-civil division for the 2025 calendar year. From the sample, it is observed that the highest proportion of matters disposed during the year were by being struck out with 37.45% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by consent with 18.86%, default judgments with 9.44% and dispositions grouped under the category, “other methods” with 8.96% of the sample. Settlements with 7.43% and withdrawals with 6.39% rank next. Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 5.98% and oral admissions with 5.48% account for the remaining disposals in the year.

Table 13.12a: Net and gross civil case backlog as at the year ended December 31, 2025 for cases over 24 months

Paris Court	Net Case Backlog Rate (%)	Gross Case Backlog Rate (%)
Clarendon	1.32	14.15
Corporate Area	5.64	31.16
Manchester	11.80	NA
Portland	2.28	9.26
St. Ann	4.23	28.03
St. Catherine	1.12	3.26
St. Elizabeth	20.07	27.00
St. James	3.03	25.34
St. Mary	1.30	1.81
St. Thomas	0.38	24.37
Trelawny	0.93	26.38
Westmoreland	5.13	19.47
Weighted Average	4.93	20.92
Standard Deviation	5.76	10.39

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2025 is 14.51% and the gross backlog is 30.56%.

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 4.93% (with a standard deviation of 5.76%), which satisfies the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 20.92% (with a standard deviation of 10.39%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is 10.92 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 0.38%, Trelawny, and St. Catherine with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.93% and 1.12% respectively have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (20.07%), Manchester (11.80%), and Corporate Area (5.64%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of St. Mary (1.81%), and St. Catherine (3.26%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (31.16%), St. Ann (28.03%) and St. Elizabeth (27%) have the highest rates.

Table 13.12b: Net and gross civil case backlog as at the year ended December 31, 2025 for cases over 18 months

Paris Court	Net Case Backlog Rate (%)	Gross Case Backlog Rate (%)
Clarendon	2.02	15.15
Corporate Area	6.50	32.80
Manchester	17.92	18.03
Portland	2.86	9.95
St. Ann	5.29	30.23
St. Catherine	1.38	3.56
St. Elizabeth	21.49	28.48
St. James	4.22	31.91
St. Mary	1.41	1.93
St. Thomas	0.75	26.36
Trelawny	1.32	28.52
Westmoreland	5.71	21.37
Weighted Average	5.80	22.66
Standard Deviation	6.77	10.94

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2025 is 18.20% and the gross backlog is 34.77%.

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 5.80% (with a standard deviation of 6.77%), which exceeds the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 22.66% (with a standard deviation of 10.94%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is 12.66 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 0.75%, Trelawny, and St. Catherine with an estimated net backlog rate of 1.32% and 1.38% respectively have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (21.49%), Manchester (17.92%) and Corporate Area (6.50%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of St. Mary (1.93%), and St. Catherine (3.56%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (32.80%), St. James (31.91%), and St. Ann (30.23%) have the highest rates.

Trial court activity summary for the year ended December 31, 2025

Table 13.13a: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the year ended December 31, 2025

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	54.52	245.34	315.33
Manchester	71.88	207.71	125.04
Portland	47.65	515.28	515.52
St. Ann	88.13	402.47	510.24
St. Catherine	79.14	455.51	470.67
St. James	47.45	353.61	306.65
St. Mary	65.92	122.54	261.17
St. Thomas	46.22	255.83	377.70
Trelawny	50.26	281.33	301.57
Westmoreland	35.57	167.88	241.84
Weighted Average	66.03	347.61	393.05
Standard Deviation	16.79	127.65	126.26

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 11.6 months or 348 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is approximately

13.1 months or 393 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 year ended December 31, 2025

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	1509	310	20.54
Manchester	1651	249	15.08
Portland	635	112	17.64
St. Ann	2476	439	17.73
St. Catherine	4279	810	18.93
St. Elizabeth	1421	201	14.14
St. James	1849	261	14.12
St. Mary	957	120	12.54
St. Thomas	943	200	21.21
Trelawny	714	120	16.81
Westmoreland	993	210	21.15
Total/Weighted Average	17427	3032	17.40

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the 2025 calendar year in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of the 17,427 civil cases heard across the parish courts in the 2025 calendar year, 3,032 or 17.40% proceeded to trial. The parish courts of the St. Mary (12.54%), St. James (14.12%), and St. Elizabeth (14.14%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of St. Thomas (21.21%), Westmoreland (21.15%), and Clarendon (20.54%) had the highest proportion.

Table 13.13c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the year ended December 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	289	15.39
Struck Out	281	14.96
Settlement	211	11.24
Final judgment	199	10.60
Trial	198	10.54
Default Judgement	190	10.12
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	144	7.67
Withdrawal	144	7.67
Non Suited	88	4.69
Transferred	51	2.72
Oral Admission	30	1.60
Other	22	1.17
By Consent - Mediated Settlement	19	1.01
Dismissal	6	0.32
Order	3	0.16
Application For Plaintiff Granted	2	0.11
Application For Plaintiff Denied	1	0.05
Total	1878	100.00

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters disposed by consent with 289 or 15.39% of the cases disposed, matters struck out with 281 or 14.96%, and by settlements with 211 or 11.24% account for the leading methods of disposition in the sample.

Table 13.13d: Summary of case management date activity for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2025

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	2.51	2.74	3.01	19	1
Corporate Area	2.46	2.66	3.23	37	1
Manchester	2.68	2.28	2.00	17	1
Portland	7.36	8.81	2.23	40	1
St. Ann	4.78	6.65	2.82	40	1
St. Catherine	3.69	3.95	2.05	26	1
St. James	3.57	3.76	2.31	23	1
St. Mary	3.39	4.25	3.43	32	1
St. Thomas	2.51	2.60	4.74	22	1
Trelawny	3.39	3.91	2.94	33	1
Westmoreland	3.37	4.27	3.35	31	1
Weighted Average	3.36	-	-	29.09	1.00
Standard Deviation	1.42	-	-	8.20	0.00
Skewness	2.10	-	-	-0.05	0.00

The above table summarizes the number of appearances per case heard in the 2025 calendar year, which have at least one case management date. The overall average number of case management dates per 10 cases is 34, or approximately 3 dates per case with a standard deviation of 1.42 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 2.10. Together, these results suggest that the average number of case management dates per case is within the prescribed international standard, that a slightly larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of case management dates and that there is not on average a wide variation in the number of case management dates per case across the courts. Among the parish courts with the highest number of case management dates per cases for matters heard in the 2025 calendar year

are the Portland (7.36), St. Ann (4.78), and St. Catherine (3.69) Parish Courts, while Corporate Area (2.46), Clarendon (2.51), and St. Thomas (2.51) 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 year ended December 31, 2025

Parish Court	Average number of appearances per case	Standard Deviation
Clarendon	1.88	1.83
Corporate Area-Civil Division	2.71	2.85
Manchester	2.42	1.95
Portland	6.74	8.54
St. Ann	3.62	5.31
St. Catherine	3.51	3.91
St. James	3.25	3.61
St. Mary	2.99	3.66
St. Thomas	2.43	2.63
Trelawny	2.66	2.52
Westmoreland	3.14	3.88
Weighted Average	3.12	-

The above summary specifically addresses the number of case management dates per case for matters disposed in the 2025 calendar year. The overall average observed is approximately 31 dates for every 10 cases disposed, not dissimilar to the findings from the previous table which provided a descriptive summary of appearances for all cases disposed. The Clarendon, Manchester, and St. Thomas Parish Courts were among those with the lowest number of case management dates per disposed case in the year, while the parish courts of Portland, St. Ann, and St. Catherine were among the locations with the highest incidence.

Table 13.14a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the year ended December 31, 2025

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	76.09	164.44	3.89	27.86	81.96	1
Westmoreland	74.5	156.67	1.67	33.02	NA	NA
Trelawny	65.63	143.33	0.67	30.54	NA	1
St. Thomas	59.09	140.28	15.28	23.81	NA	4
St. Mary	75.18	150	5	30.66	NA	1
St. James	56.03	149.72	2.78	26.25	NA	1.08
Corporate Area Civil Court	96.5	160	25	26.54	NA	1.36
St. Ann	65.63	226.39	2.78	29.04	78.47	1
Portland	58.22	158.33	1.39	26.56	NA	1
Hanover	50.9	137.22	0.83	30.4	NA	1
Clarendon	71.26	228.61	13.33	41.57	76.08	1
Manchester	64	153.06	1	30.83	NA	NA
Overall Averages	67.75	164.00	6.14	29.76	78.84	1.34
Standard Deviation	12.13	30.74	7.67	4.53	2.96	0.94
Skewness	1.05	1.74	1.72	1.60	0.55	3.08

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various Parish Courts in the 2025 calendar year. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtrooms (including outstations) which are actually utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocated for court hearings in any court on any given day should be utilized. The

data suggests that as a whole, the Parish Courts of Jamaica performed below this level in the 2025 calendar year. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the Parish Courts in the year was 67.75%, which is an indication that approximately 68% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the Parish Courts in the 2025 calendar year. The Parish Courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the year are the Corporate Area Parish Court- Civil Division, and St. Catherine Parish Court with 96.50% and 76.09% respectively, followed by the St. Mary Parish Court with 75.18% and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 74.50%. The Hanover Parish Court and St. James Parish Courts with 50.90% and 56.03% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the Portland Parish Court with 58.22% had the next lowest rate. It is quite commendable and worth noting that all Parish Courts exceeded a courtroom utilization rate of 50% for the year. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. The positive skewness of the data suggests that proportionately more of the sample are clustered around the overall mean.

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

Table 13.14b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the civil division of the parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2025

Parish Court	Percentile rank 2025 (%)	Percentile rank 2024 (%)
St. Catherine	91	91
Westmoreland	73	55
Trelawny	45	36
St. Thomas	27	0
St. Mary	82	100
St. James	9	45
Corporate Area Civil Court	100	82
St. Ann	45	27
Portland	18	18
Hanover	0	9
Clarendon	64	73
Manchester	36	64

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 2025 and 2024 calendar years. The results present a relatively consistent picture across both years for most courts in terms of the performances on this measurement. Some courts experienced gains in the ranking, several others experienced declines, and some courts retained the same ranking. The Corporate Area Civil Court performed better than all courts in the 2025, and the St. Mary Parish Court performed better than all courts in the 2024 calendar year. The Hanover Parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization rate in the 2025 calendar year, and the St. Thomas Parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization in the 2024 calendar year.

Table 13.15: Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2025

Parish Court	Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of Disposed cases and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of year of origin)	Gross Disposal rate (%)	Net Disposal rate (%)	Gross Clearance rate (%)	Net Clearance (%)	Approximate trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
St. Thomas	642	421	658	65.58	56.67	102.49	99.61	73.33	7.18
Corporate Area-Civil	4116	2528	3610	61.42	49.09	87.71	75.86	NA	8.41
St. Elizabeth	959	516	867	53.81	53.56	90.41	90.04	84.08	7.45
Hanover	361	223	544	NA	61.77	NA	150.69	NA	NA
Manchester	1368	745	1292	54.46	54.36	94.44	94.29	81.73	5.60
Portland	261	150	470	NA	57.47	180.08	179.31	40.28	19.65
St. Ann	1548	793	1427	51.23	50.20	92.18	90.63	90.63	12.38
St. Catherine	2481	1236	2632	49.82	48.95	106.09	105.90	54.33	18.85
St. Mary	643	521	816	81.03	80.97	126.91	126.99	50.56	13.74
Trelawny	498	256	422	51.41	48.51	84.74	81.70	61.54	5.81
St. James	1305	936	1344	71.72	63.39	102.99	93.95	84.67	8.49
Clarendon	985	629	1012	63.86	63.64	102.74	101.74	51.40	8.73
Westmoreland	678	420	650	61.95	51.96	95.87	89.01	97.18	8.19
Total/Weighted Average	15845	9374	15744	59.16	54.30	99.36	96.10	72.01	11.75
Skewness	2.00	2.28	1.84	0.89	1.67	2.50	1.65	-0.14	1.17
Standard Deviation	1055.80	622.08	930.79	9.75	9.00	25.96	29.48	19.11	4.77

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

Note 2: The gross case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for 2025 is 45.19% and the net case disposal rate is 43.73%

Note 3: The gross case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for 2025 is 76.62% and the net case clearance rate is 74.13%

Conclusion

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts sustained its remarkable performance trend in the 2025 calendar year, achieving outstanding results across most key metrics. A notable highlight of this period was an overall gross case clearance rate of 99.36%, meeting international standards, although being lower than the corresponding period in 2024. 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 4.93%. 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 20.92%, also comparable to the Criminal Division's metrics. The Parish Courts St. Mary and St. James emerged as top performers across most critical indicators during this reporting period. Significantly, eleven parish courts exceeded 90% gross case clearance rate for civil cases, with the Portland, Hanover, St. Mary, and St. Catherine 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 11.75 months for cases resolved during the year. Unnecessary adjournments continue to present a challenge, contributing to delays that must be addressed through strategic, court-driven interventions and operational reforms. It is important to acknowledge, however, that certain causes of delay, such as "No Return/Re-Issued," the absence of defendants, "parties in discussion," and the absence of both parties, fall outside the court's immediate control. Under the visionary and data-driven leadership of the Honourable Chief Justice of Jamaica, the courts are poised to meet and potentially exceed key quantitative targets, positioning Jamaica's judiciary among the best globally. The progress recorded in the 2025 calendar year establishes a

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

Glossary of Statistical Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The international standard for this rate is 100%.

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

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

The international benchmark for casefile integrity is 100%.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ⁱⁱ Source :

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