



PARISH COURTS OF JAMAICA – CIVIL DIVISION

(JULY 1, 2024 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024)

Court Metrics	July - September Highlights				
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Gross Case Clearance Rate	129.69	114.30	115.69	97.51	81.51
Trial Date Certainty Rate	87.47	97.00	91.91	90.36	79.75
Average Time to Disposition	19.38	12.79	15.90	11.50	9.80
	months	months	months	months	months

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CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE CIVIL COURT THIRD QUARTER 2024

Statistical reporting plays an indispensable role in the administration of justice. Its accuracy and timeliness directly influence the capacity of the courts to respond effectively, providing actionable insights that support evidence-based analysis, operational adjustments, and continuous performance improvement, while also strengthening accountability, transparency, and strategic planning.

Within this framework of continuous improvement, the Parish Courts continue to demonstrate their capacity to keep abreast of their caseload while advancing initiatives aimed at strengthening efficiency. A significant area of progress is in respect of inactive cases that make up the gross backlog. That backlog stands at 19.96% and remained at that number for the past few years using the time standard of 24 months while the net backlog is 3.61%. The gross backlog figure climbs to 22.64% using the 18-month time standard. On the 18 months' time standard the net backlog is 4.77%, which is still under the recommended international standard of 5%. The decision to reduce the time standard for civil cases, based on data, is justified. This is in keeping with Aim 2 of our Policy Statement which states: *optimise efficiency by reducing backlogs and streamlining court operations.*

Of note is the high clearance rate of the St Mary Parish Court of 306.87%. This was the result of a special project aimed at reducing the gross backlog of cases. 401 cases were disposed of in the quarter. The consequence of this effort is that the average time to disposition was increased significantly. The oldest case disposed of under the special backlog reduction project was 6.4 years old. This approach to clearing out cases that have simply been left in limbo will be replicated across the Parish Court system so that all the older cases are brought to a satisfactory end. I congratulate Her Honour Mrs. Nicole Kellier, Senior Judge of the Parish Court (Ag), who came up with this project and galvanised her court team to take on the project. Her blue print will be recommended to the other Parish Courts which will be required to undertake a similar project.

Arising from this gross backlog reduction exercise, a work process and work flow will be developed, documented, and implemented to prevent the buildup of gross backlog in the future. This will enable the Parish Courts to meet Aim 1 of the Policy Statement, namely, *deliver fair, timely, and well-reasoned judicial decisions to uphold the rule of law.*'

May our judges, our staff, and our stakeholders continue to uphold and advance our judiciary's pursuit of excellence, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

The Honorable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD
Chief Justice of Jamaica

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 third quarter report (covering July 1 to September 30, 2024) indicate that the Civil Division of the Parish Courts is on track to meet these targets.

Regarding gross case clearance rates, the Civil Division of the Parish Courts recorded 129.69% during the report period. This represents an increase of 15.39 percentage points compared to the same period in 2023 and exceeds the international standard for this metric. Notably, the four leading parish courts exceeded the court-wide target: St. Mary Parish Court (306.87%), Corporate Area Parish Court (193.78%), Manchester Parish Court (157.90%) and St. Catherine Parish Court (130.80%). Additionally, nine parish courts surpassed the 90% mark for case clearance rates during the third quarter of 2024. The trial date certainty rate for the Civil Division of the Parish Courts stood at 87.47%, meeting the required standard. The average time to dispose of a civil case in the quarter was approximately 581 days (19.38 months). The Westmoreland (5.74 months), St. Thomas (5.84 months), and Trelawny (5.98 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 third quarter of 2024, the estimated gross case backlog rate for cases older than 24 months in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts was 19.96%, meaning approximately 19.96% of combined active and inactive cases were over two years old. This is above the targeted value of 10%. However, when inactive cases are excluded, the net case backlog rate for active cases was

approximately 3.61%, which meets the required annual standard of $\leq 5\%$. The St. Thomas, Clarendon, Trelawny and St. Catherine 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 third quarter of 2024, the estimated gross case backlog rate for cases older than 18 months in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts was 22.46%, meaning approximately 22.46% of combined active and inactive cases were over 18 months old. This is above the targeted value of 10%. However, when inactive cases are excluded, the net case backlog rate for active cases was approximately 4.77%, which meets the required annual standard of $\leq 5\%$. The St. Thomas, Trelawny and Clarendon Parish Courts performed best in this regard, each with less than 2.0% of active civil cases in backlog.

Several factors influenced case progression in the third quarter of 2024, with the leading causes of adjournment being no returns, the absence of defendants, plaintiffs or both parties, ongoing discussions, and referrals to mediation. The five primary methods of case disposition during the quarter were by being struck out, settlement, consent judgment, default judgment, and withdrawal. The Civil Division of the Parish Courts continues to demonstrate strong performance, having already achieved the target of reducing the overall net case backlog rate to under 5%. As of the end of the third quarter of 2024, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Disposal rate (%)	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
3483	1064	4517	30.55	129.69	87.47	19.38

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

Forecast:

Using the method of exponential smoothing, it is forecast that in the fourth quarter of 2024, 3,746 new civil cases will be filed in the civil division of the parish courts, while 4,690 cases are expected to be disposed of or become inactive. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for the fourth quarter of 2024 in the civil division of the parish courts is therefore 125.21%. The parish courts of St. Mary, St. Catherine and Portland are expected to register the highest case clearance rates in the fourth quarter of 2024.

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

Table ii: Key Performance Metrics of High-Performing Courts

Parameter	Minimum Annual Required Standard
Case Disposal Rate	$\geq 75\%$
Case Clearance Rate	$\geq 100\%$
Case Congestion Rate	$\leq 115\%$
Trial Date Certainty Rate	$\geq 85\%$
Net Case Backlog Rate	$\leq 5\%$
Gross Case Backlog Rate	$\leq 10\%$
Average Number of Mentions	≤ 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 criminal matters, known as the Case Information Statistical System (CISS), has been operational in all courts for the past eight years. This system captures a comprehensive range of data on the progression of cases from initiation to disposition and is managed by at least one dedicated Data Entry/Statistical Officer in each court. These officers update the system daily to ensure that the data produced, is as close to real-time as possible. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed up to the network at the end of each month, with the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistics and Data Division at the Supreme Court.

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

Disclaimer

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

Introduction

This report provides an overview of case activity in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the third quarter of 2024, ending on September 30, 2024. It covers key areas such as the number of new cases filed, cases disposed of, and inactive cases during the period, alongside the most common causes of action and applications. Additionally, the report examines the number of reissue dates, the leading methods of case disposition, and reasons for adjournments. It also addresses the various enforcement actions taken, such as judgment summonses, warrants of levy, and warrants of attachment, noting how these cases are reactivated and their outcomes.

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

For several courts, the data is based on population estimates derived from representative samples, ensuring reliability and data integrity. However, one limitation is that data collection timelines differ between courts, affecting comparability at this stage. In some instances, scientific sampling methods are used to fill data gaps. The report concludes with cumulative case activity summaries for the Civil Courts for the third quarter of 2024.

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 third quarter of 2024.

Table 1.01: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	291	64.67
Disposed	89	19.78
Inactive	70	15.56
Total	450	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 450 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 291 or 64.67% cases were still active, 89 were disposed of and 70 were inactive at the end of the quarter. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 35.33% for big claims for the quarter, which is 12.57 percentage points below the estimated disposal rate recorded for big claims in the corresponding third quarter of 2023.

Table 1.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	502	99.60
POCA	2	0.40
Total	504	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 504 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the third quarter of 2024. Big claims accounted for 502 or 99.60% of the sample and Proceeds of Crime (POCA) accounted for 2 or 0.40%.

Table 1.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	146	37.34
Recovery of Possession	73	18.67
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	29	7.42
Damages for Negligence	24	6.14
Rent Owing and Continuing	21	5.37
Sub-total	293	74.94

Total sample size of causes of action= 391

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases entered in the quarter at the Corporate Area Civil Court was breach of contract with 146 or roughly 37.34% of the sample. Recovery of possession and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 73 or 18.67% and 29 or 7.42% respectively rank next. The top five causes of action were rounded off by damages for negligence with 24 or 6.14% and rent owing and continuing with 21 or 5.37% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 74.94% of the total sample of 391 causes of action.

Table 1.04: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	27	57.45
Bailiff	18	38.30
District Constable	2	4.26
Total	47	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 27 or 57.45% of the sample, followed by service by the bailiff with 18 or 38.30% and service by a district constable with 2 or 4.26%.

Table 1.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	358	71.31
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	144	28.69
Total	502*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 450 cases**

The majority of a sample of 502 matters entered in the third quarter of 2024 were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 358 or 71.31% of the sample, followed by courtroom 1 with 144 or 28.69% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Table 1.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Registered Company	67	36.61
Male	62	33.88
Female	51	27.87
Trading As	3	1.64
Total	183	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 183 matters entered in the third quarter of 2024 at the Corporate Area Civil Court, registered companies accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 67 or 36.61% of the sample. Males accounted for 62 or 33.88% and females accounted for 51 or 27.87% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name ("trading as") accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 3 or 1.64% of the sample.

Table 1.07: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	189	50.40
Female	166	44.27
Registered Company	17	4.53
Trading As	3	0.80
Total	375	100.00

There were 375 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the third quarter of 2024. The highest proportion of defendants were male with 189 or 50.40% of the sample, followed by females with 166 or 44.27%. Registered companies accounted for 17 or 4.53% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 3 or 0.80% of the sample.

1.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third ended September 30, 2024

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

Table 1.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	341	41.74
Default Judgment Date	274	33.54
Trial	119	14.57
Part-Heard Date	31	3.79
Date for Order	22	2.69
Hearing of Application	20	2.45
Final Judgment Date	10	1.22
Total	817	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 817 matters that went to court during the third quarter of 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 341 or 41.74% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 274 or 33.54%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for trial dates with 119 or 14.57% of sample. It is of note that 31 or 3.79% of the matters in this sample were adjourned part heard. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater

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

Table 1.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	168	33.14
For final Judgment	11	2.17
Hearing of Application	11	2.17
For Sentence/Order	8	1.58
Notice of Adjournment	6	1.18
Sub-total	204	40.24

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 507

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 507 incidences of adjournments heard in the third quarter of 2024. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 168 or 33.14% of the sample, adjournments for final judgment and for the hearing of an application with 11 or 2.17% each round off the top incidences in the sample. Adjournments for sentence or for an order to be handed down with 8 or 1.58% rank next. The list is completed by adjournments for the notices of adjournment with 6 or 1.18% of the sample. The top reasons for adjournments listed above account for 40.24% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 1.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	291
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 247 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 291 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 247 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 1.11: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	254	45.93
Consent	124	22.42
Withdrawal	57	10.31
Default Judgment	36	6.51
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	22	3.98
Sub-total	493	89.15

NB there were 553 matters disposed of in Q3 2024

A total of 553 matters were disposed of at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the third quarter of 2024. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 493 or 89.15% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 254 or 45.93% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed of by consent with 124 or 22.42% and withdrawals with 57 or 10.31%. Matters disposed of by default judgment and by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) round off the top five methods with 36 or 6.51% and 22 or 3.98% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 1.12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	33	97.06
Settlement	1	2.94
Total	34	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 34 matters in the third quarter of 2024. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff account for 97.06% of the sample of outcomes, while settlements accounted for 2.94%. 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
450	159	872	193.78	35.33

The above table shows 450 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 89 of these cases were disposed of and 70 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 35.33%, a 12.57 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 530 cases were disposed of, and 342 cases became inactive during the quarter, several of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate

of 193.78%, which exceeds the international standard on this metric, and is a 52.67 percentage points increase when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 23.42%, which is 8.08 percentage points below the net disposal rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023. The estimated net case clearance rate is 139.47%, which is approximately 60.32 percentage points above the rate recorded in 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 1.14a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	371
Mean	478.3369
Median	329.0000
Mode	2927.00
Std. Deviation	583.68707
Skewness	2.943
Std. Error of Skewness	.127
Range	2920.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	2927.00

The above table outlines summary data on 371 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2024 at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 478 days or approximately 15.9 months, which is roughly 245 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2023. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 2,927 days. The standard deviation of roughly 584 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 fell below the overall average time. The oldest matter disposed of in the quarter was 2,927 days or roughly 8.1 years old, while the minimum time taken was 7 days.

Table 1.14b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	68
Mean	323.9265
Median	225.0000
Mode	123.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	395.18397
Skewness	3.069
Std. Error of Skewness	.291
Range	2183.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	2187.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 68 matters at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 324 days or roughly 10.8 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 majority of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 105 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 60 days.

Table 1.15a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	3435
Mean	629.9884
Median	474.0000
Mode	474.00
Std. Deviation	536.33723
Skewness	2.003
Std. Error of Skewness	.042
Range	4668.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	4672.00

The above data is based on a sample of 3,435 active civil matters as of the third quarter ended September 30, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 630 days or roughly 21 months, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age in the distribution were both 474 days. The standard deviation of roughly 536 days suggests that there is some dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 4,672 days old or roughly 13 years, while the minimum time is 4 days.

Table 1.15b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	145
Mean	173.8552
Median	102.0000
Mode	80.00
Std. Deviation	217.35503
Skewness	6.082
Std. Error of Skewness	.201
Range	2184.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	2195.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 145 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 174 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 80 days, and the median age was 102 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large variation among the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the overall series average. The highest age in the data set was 2,195 days and the lowest was 11 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 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 third quarter of 2024.

Table 2.01: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	184	81.78
Disposed	39	17.33
Inactive	2	0.89
Total	225	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 225 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 184 cases or 81.78% of these cases were still active, while 39 were disposed of and 2 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 18.22%, which is 5.89 percentage points below the gross disposal rate recorded in the previous third quarter of 2023.

Table 2.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	217	85.43
Small Claim	37	14.57
Total	254	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 254 civil claims filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. The majority of which 217 or 85.43% were big claims, while 37 or 14.57% were small claims.

Table 2.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Clarendon parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	116	45.67
Damages for Negligence	32	12.60
Recovery of Possession	31	12.20
Trespass	9	3.54
Money Owing	7	2.76
Sub-total	195	76.77

Total sample size of causes of action= 254

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases filed in the quarter at the Clarendon Parish Court was breach of contract with 116 or roughly 45.67% of the sample. Damages for negligence with 32 or 12.60% and recovery of possession with 31 or 12.20% rank next. Trespass with 9 or 3.54% and money owing with 2.76% of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

Table 2.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	194	76.38
Lionel Town Outstation	27	10.63
Chapelton Outstation	25	9.84
Frankfield Outstation	8	3.15
Total	254*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 225 cases**

The majority of a sample of 254 new matters filed in the quarter were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 194 or 76.38% of the total sample. The Lionel Town Outstation accounted for 27 or 10.63% of the cases filed. The Chapelton outstation

accounted for 25 or 9.84% and the Frankfield outstation accounted for 8 or 3.15% of the new cases heard.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Table 2.05: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	119	46.85
Male	119	46.85
Trading As	16	6.30
Total	254	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 254 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024 at the Clarendon Parish Court, males and females accounted for 119 or 46.85% each of the sample, followed by individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 16 or 6.30%.

Table 2.06: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	164	64.57
Female	84	33.07
Trading As	6	2.36
Total	254	100.00

There were 254 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the third quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 164 or 64.57% of the sample, followed by females with 84 or 33.07% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 6 or 2.36% of the sample.

2.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

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

Table 2.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	174	51.48
Trial	94	27.81
Part-Heard Date	37	10.95
Default Judgment Date	33	9.76
Total	338	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 338 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The majority, 174 or 51.48% of the sample, were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a trial date with 94 or 27.81%, matters adjourned for a part heard date with 37 or 10.95% and matters adjournment for a default judgment date with 9.76% of the sample.

Table 2.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	111	25.06
Defendant Absent	35	7.90
Referred to mediation	17	3.84
Parties in Discussion	15	3.39
At Counsel's Request	12	2.71
Sub-total	190	42.89

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 443

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 443 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the third quarter of 2024. Adjournments for no return or for reissue accounted for 111 or 25.06% of the sample and adjournments due to the absence of defendants accounted for 35 or 7.90% of the sample. Referrals to mediation accounted for 17 or 3.84%, parties in discussion accounted for 15 or 3.39% and adjournment at counsel's request accounted for 2.71% of the sample.

Table 2.09: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	58
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponding to 43 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 58 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 43 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

Table 2.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	106	50.00
Consent	37	17.45
Settlement	19	8.96
Withdrawal	15	7.08
Default Judgment	9	4.25
Sub-total	186	87.74

NB: there were 212 matters disposed of in Q3 2024

A total of 212 civil matters were disposed of at the Clarendon Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 186 or 87.74% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 106 or 50% and matters disposed of by consent with 37 or 17.45% of the sample. Settlements with 19 or 8.96% of the sample ranked next, followed by withdrawals with 15 or 7.08% and matters disposed of by default judgment with 4.25% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 2.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
42	3	92.86

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 42 trial dates were set in the quarter, of which 3 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 92.86%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 93% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 4.87 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2023.

Table 2.12: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
225	41	183	81.33	18.22

The above table shows 225 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 39 of these cases were disposed of and 2 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 18.22%, a 5.89 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 180 cases were disposed of, and 3 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 81.33%, which falls below the international standard on this metric, and is a 13 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 17.49%, which is 2.36 percentage points below the net disposal rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023. The estimated net case clearance rate is 80.72%, which is roughly 2.43 percentage points below the rate recorded in 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 2.13: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	83
Mean	262.5422
Median	120.0000
Mode	591.00
Std. Deviation	271.78885
Skewness	1.361
Std. Error of Skewness	.264
Range	1186.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	1193.00

The above table outlines sample data on 83 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2024 at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 263 days or 8.8 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 591 days and the median time was 120 days. The standard deviation of roughly 272 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that a higher proportion of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The oldest matter disposed of in the sample was 1,193 days or roughly 3.3 years old, while the minimum time taken was 7 days.

Table 2.14: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	527
Mean	360.9867
Median	241.0000
Mode	147.00
Std. Deviation	325.52469
Skewness	1.138
Std. Error of Skewness	.106
Range	1299.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	1309.00

The above data is based on a sample of 527 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 361 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 147 days. The standard deviation of roughly 326 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 1,309 days old or roughly 3.6 years, while the minimum time taken is 10 days.

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 third quarter of 2024.

Table 3.01: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	464	88.21
Disposed	57	10.84
Inactive	5	0.95
Total	526	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 526 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 464 cases or 88.21% of these cases were still active, while 57 were disposed of and 5 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 11.79%, which is 4.96 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023.

Table 3.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	566	89.56
Small Claim	66	10.44
Total	632	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 632 claims filed in the third quarter of 2024, 566 or 89.56% were big claims and 66 or 10.44% were small claims.

Table 3.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	227	35.97
Damages for Negligence	103	16.32
Recovery of Possession	71	11.25
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	39	6.18
Rent Owing and Continuing	38	6.02
Sub-total	478	75.75

Total sample size of causes of action= 631

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 631 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was breach of contract with 227 or roughly 35.97% of the sample, damages for negligence with 103 or 16.32% and recovery of possession with 71 or 11.25%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 39 or 6.18% and rent owing and continuing with 38 or 6.02% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 75.75% of the total sample of causes of action.

Table 3.04: Sampling distribution of types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	112	50.45
Personal	56	25.23
District Constable	54	24.32
Total	222	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 112 or 50.45% of the sample, personal service accounted for 56 or 25.23% and service by the district constable accounted for 54 or 24.32% of the sample.

Table 3.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	520	82.41
Linstead Outstation	88	13.95
Old Harbour Outstation	23	3.65
Total	631*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 525 cases**

The majority of the sample of 631 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2024 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 520 or 82.41% of the total sample. The 88 or 13.95% that were entered in the Linstead outstation followed this. The Old Harbour outstation accounted for 23 or 3.65% of the claims.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Table 3.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	303	51.71
Female	261	44.54
Registered Company	22	3.75
Total	586	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the 586 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 303 or 51.71%, followed by females with 261 or 44.54% and registered companies with 22 or 3.75% of the sample.

Table 3.07: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	350	57.10
Female	254	41.44
Registered Company	9	1.47
Total	613	100.00

There were 613 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 350 or 57.10% of the total sample, followed by females with 254 or 41.44%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 9 or 1.47% of the total sample.

3.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

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

Table 3.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	380	40.04
Trial	305	32.14
Default Judgment Date	193	20.34
Part-Heard Date	56	5.90
Hearing of Application	15	1.58
Total	949	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 949 matters that went to court during the third quarter of 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The highest proportion of the sample, 380 or 40.04% were adjourned for a mention date and 305 or 32.14% were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 193 or 20.34% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 56 or 5.90% of the sample.

Table 3.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	403	29.76
Defendant Absent	187	13.81
Both Parties Absent	89	6.57
Parties in Discussion	74	5.47
Plaintiff Absent	43	3.18
Sub-total	796	58.79

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled= 1,354

The above table details a sample of 1,354 adjournments or continuances heard in the quarter, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for reissue with 403 or 29.76% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 187 or 13.81% and the absence of both parties with 89 or 6.57% and adjournments due to parties in discussion with 74 or 5.47% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiff with 43 or 3.18% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 58.79% of the total sample.

Table 3.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	17
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponding to 13 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 17 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 13 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

Table 3.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	392	47.98
Settlement	105	12.85
Consent	80	9.79
Default Judgment	70	8.57
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	56	6.85
Sub-total	703	86.05

NB: There were 817 matters disposed of in Q3 2024

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 817 matters disposed of during the third quarter of 2024. The list is led by matters struck out with 392 or 47.98% of the disposals, followed settlements with 105 or 12.85%, matters disposed of by consent with 80 or 9.79% and matters disposed of by default judgments with 70 or 8.57%. Matters disposed of by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) account for 56 or 6.85% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 86.05% of the sample.

Table 3.12: Sampling distribution of Trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
140	26	81.43

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 140 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 26 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 81.43%, suggesting that during the quarter, there was a roughly 81% 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 17.35 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2023.

Table 3.13: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Estimated gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated gross Case disposal rate (%)
526	62	688	130.80	11.79

The above table shows 526 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 57 of these cases were disposed of and 5 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 11.79%, which is 4.96 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 657 cases were disposed of, and 31 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 130.80%, which exceeds the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 32.86 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 10.94%, which is 4.41 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023. The net clearance for the quarter is 126.10%, which is 36.93 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 3.14a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	600
Mean	544.0017
Median	332.0000
Mode	495.00
Std. Deviation	572.35833
Skewness	1.984
Std. Error of Skewness	.100
Range	3517.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	3522.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 600 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2024 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 544 days or 18.1 months, which is roughly 52 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2023. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 495 days. There is a high standard deviation of 572 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 the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed of in the quarter was 3,522 days or roughly 9.8 years old, while the youngest was 5 days.

Table 3.14b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	60
Mean	795.9833
Median	826.5000
Mode	404.00
Std. Deviation	475.69380
Skewness	.428
Std. Error of Skewness	.309
Range	1975.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	1989.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 60 matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 796 days or roughly 26.5 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series are clustered around the overall average. The oldest matter in the quarter was 1,989 days or roughly 5.5 years old, while the youngest was 14 days.

Table 3.15a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1949
Mean	660.1119
Median	455.0000
Mode	25.00
Std. Deviation	687.88739
Skewness	1.864
Std. Error of Skewness	.055
Range	6036.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	6040.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,949 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 660 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 25 days. The standard deviation of roughly 688 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 6,040 days old or roughly 16.8 years, while the minimum time taken is 4 days.

Table 3.15b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	135
Mean	973.8667
Median	1077.0000
Mode	150.00
Std. Deviation	474.86479
Skewness	.772
Std. Error of Skewness	.209
Range	3035.00
Minimum	36.00
Maximum	3071.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 135 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 974 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 150 days, and the median age was 1,077 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the overall average. The highest age in the data set was 3,071 days and the lowest was 36 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 third quarter of 2024.

Table 4.01: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	100	86.96
Disposed	11	9.57
Inactive	4	3.48
Total	115	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 115 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 100 or 86.96% of these cases were active, 11 or 9.57% were disposed of and 4 cases became inactive at the end of the quarter. This produces a gross case disposal rate of 13.04% for the quarter, a 2.34 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

Table 4.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	96	74.42
Small Claim	33	25.58
Total	129	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 129 civil claims filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. The majority of which 96 or 74.42% were big claims, while 33 or 22.58% were small claims.

Table 4.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	21	16.41
Money Owing	13	10.16
Money Loaned	10	7.81
Damages to Cultivation	9	7.03
Return of Cash	9	7.03
Sub-total	62	48.44

Total sample size of causes of action = 128

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action in the quarter were recovery of possession with 21 or 16.41% and money owing with 13 or 10.16% of the sample. Money loaned with 10 or 7.81% and return of cash and damages to cultivation with 9 or 7.03% each of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 48.44% of all the total sample of 128 causes of action.

Table 4.04: Sampling distribution of types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	109	87.20
Bailiff	16	12.80
Total	125	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 109 or 87.20% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 16 or 12.80% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 4.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Falmouth Outstation	75	58.59
Ulster Spring Outstation	32	25.00
Clarks Town Outstation	21	16.41
Total	128*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 114 cases**

The majority of a sample of 128 new matters filed in 58.59% of the accommodations was entered in the Falmouth outstation. The 32 or 25% matters that were entered in the Ulster Spring outstation followed this, while court sittings at the Clarks Town outstation ranked next with 21 or 16.41% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Table 4.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	65	53.28
Female	56	45.90
Registered Company	1	0.82
Total	122	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 122 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024 at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 65 or 53.28%, followed by females with 56 or 45.90%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 0.82% of the sample.

Table 4.07: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	79	62.70
Female	46	36.51
Registered Company	1	0.79
Total	126	100.00

There were 126 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 79 or 62.70% of the sample, followed by females with 46 or 36.51% and registered companies with 0.79%.

4.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

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

Table 4.08: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	75	42.61
Trial	47	26.70
Default Judgment Date	31	17.61
Part-Heard Date	22	12.50
Hearing of Application	1	0.57
Total	176	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 176 matters that were heard during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 75 or 42.61% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 47 or 26.70%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for default judgment dates with 31 or 17.61% and for part heard dates with 22 or 12.50% rank next. This

data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for mention dates which is expected in civil and most other case types.

Table 4.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	59	26.94
Defendant Absent	35	15.98
Both Parties Absent	32	14.61
Plaintiff Absent	18	8.22
Attorney Absent	9	4.11
Sub-total	153	69.86

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 219

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 219 incidence of adjournments heard in the third quarter of 2024. Adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 59 or 26.94% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 35 or 15.98%, the absence of both parties with 32 or 14.61% and the absence of plaintiffs with 18 or 8.22% of the sample feature prominently on the list. The absence of attorneys with 9 or 4.11% of the sample respectively close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 69.86% of the entire sample.

Table 4.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	38
Average Incidence	1.03

Corresponds to 37 cases

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

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

Table 4.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment	22	25.88
Struck Out	18	21.18
Consent	17	20.00
Settlement	13	15.29
Oral Admission	5	5.88
Sub-total	75	88.24

NB: There were 85 matters disposed of in Q3 2024

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 85 matters disposed of during the third quarter of 2024. The list is led by matters disposed of by default judgment with 22 or 25.88% of the dispositions, followed by matters disposed of by being struck out with 18 or 21.18% and matters disposed of by consent with 17 or 20% of the sample. Matters disposed of by settlements account for 13 or 15.29% of the sample and disposals by oral admission account for 5 or 5.88% of the sample. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 88.24% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 4.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
24	4	83.33

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 24 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that 4 were adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial

date certainty rate of 83.33% which suggests that during the quarter there was roughly an 83% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This outcome falls below the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 4.13: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Estimated Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated Gross case disposal rate (%)
115	15	111	96.52	13.04

The above table shows 115 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 11 of these cases were disposed of and 4 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 13.04%, which is 2.34 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 76 cases were disposed of, and 35 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 96.52%, which meets the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 12.71 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 9.91%, which is 0.82 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023. The net clearance for the quarter is 68.47%, which is 0.95 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 4.14: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	73
Mean	179.4932
Median	91.0000
Mode	17.00
Std. Deviation	223.67779
Skewness	2.060
Std. Error of Skewness	.281
Range	1055.00
Minimum	9.00
Maximum	1064.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 73 civil cases disposed of in the third quarter of 2024 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 179 days or 6 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 17 days and the median time was 91 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 224 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the positive skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed of in the quarter was 1,064 days or roughly 3 years old, while minimum time taken to dispose of cases was 9 days.

Table 4.15: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	273
Mean	547.9560
Median	210.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	633.43203
Skewness	1.253
Std. Error of Skewness	.147
Range	2380.00
Minimum	20.00
Maximum	2400.00

The above data is computed using 273 active cases at the end of the third quarter of 2024. The average age of these cases was roughly 548 days (1.5 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 91 days. The standard deviation of roughly 633 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 2,400 days (6.7 years old), while the youngest is 20 days.

Chapter 5.0: St. Ann Parish Court –Civil Division

5.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Ann Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024.

Table 5.01: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	293	86.69
Disposed	23	6.80
Inactive	22	6.51
Total	338	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 338 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 293 cases or 86.69% of these cases were still active, 23 were disposed of and 22 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 13.31%, which is a 11.69 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

Table 5.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	321	79.85
Small Claims	78	19.40
POCA	3	0.75
Total	402	100.00

The above table shows that from 402 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2024, the majority of which were big claims with 321 or 79.85%, while 78 or 19.40% were small claims and 3 or 0.75% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	121	30.71
Recovery of Possession	54	13.71
Money Owing	38	9.64
Damages for Negligence	33	8.38
Rent Owing and Continuing	32	8.12
Sub-total	278	70.56

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 394

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 394 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the third quarter of 2024 was breach of contract with 121 or roughly 30.71% of the sample and recovery of possession with 54 or 13.71% of the sample. Money owing with 38 or 9.64% of the sample rank next. Damages for negligence with 33 or 8.38% and rent owing and continuing with 32 or 8.12% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 70.56% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 5.04: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	31	51.67
District constable	15	25.00
Personal	14	23.33
Total	60	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 31 or 51.67% of the sample. Service by the district constable accounted for 15 or 25% and personal service with 14 or 23.33% of the sample rank next.

Table 5.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	108	52.17
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	56	27.05
Claremont Outstation	34	16.43
Judges Chamber	9	4.35
Total	207*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 174 cases**

The majority of a sample of 207 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 108 or 52.17% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 56 or 27.05% and the Claremont Outstation accounted for 34 or 16.43% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Table 5.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	228	56.72
Female	150	37.31
Registered Company	24	5.97
Total	402	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 402 new matters filed in the quarter, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 228 or 56.72%, followed by females with 150 or 37.31% and registered companies with 24 or 5.97% of the total sample.

Table 5.07: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	254	63.82
Female	119	29.90
Registered Company	19	4.77
Trading As	6	1.51
Total	398	100.00

There were 398 records on the gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 254 or 63.82% of the total sample, followed by females with 119 or 29.90%. Registered companies accounted for 19 or 4.77% of the total sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 6 or 1.51% of the sample.

5.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

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

Table 5.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	275	45.99
Trial	140	23.41
Part-Heard Date	92	15.38
Default Judgment Date	77	12.88
Hearing of Application	14	2.34
Total	598	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 598 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 275 or 45.99% of the sample, followed by 140 or 23.41%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned

for part heard dates accounted for 92 or 15.38% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date account for 77 or 12.88% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 5.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	121	16.90
Defendant Absent	79	11.03
Both Parties Absent	54	7.54
Referred to Mediation	30	4.19
Parties in Discussion	25	3.49
Sub-total	309	43.16

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 716

The above table details a sample of 716 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the third quarter of 2024, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 121 or 16.90% of the sample, adjournments due to defendants being absent with 79 or 11.03% and the absence of both parties with 54 or 7.54% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by referrals to mediation with 30 or 4.19% and parties in discussion with 25 or 3.49% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 43.16% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 5.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	49
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponds to 40 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 49 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 40 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 5.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	113	36.81
Consent	82	26.71
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	20	6.51
Default Judgment	19	6.19
Settlement	16	5.21
Sub-total	250	81.43

NB: There were 307 matters disposed of in Q3 2024

A sample of 307 matters disposed of during the third quarter of 2024 revealed that 113 or 36.81% of matters were disposed of by being struck out, 82 or 26.71% were disposed of by consent and 20 or 6.51% of the sample were disposed of by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD). Matters disposed of by default judgments with 19 or 6.19% and matters disposed of by settlements with 16 or 5.21% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 81.43% of the total sample of

dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the third quarter of 2024.

Table 5.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
57	0	100

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 57 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that none was adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 5.13: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
338	45	271	80.18	13.31

The above table shows 338 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 23 cases were disposed of, and 22 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 13.31%, a decrease of 11.69 percentage points compared to the third quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 231 cases were disposed of, and 40 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 80.18%, which falls below the international standard for this metric and represents a 63.49 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 7.28%, a decline of 8.97 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2023. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 73.10%, a decline of 30.43 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 5.14: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	194
Mean	397.4897
Median	150.5000
Mode	56.00
Std. Deviation	545.63472
Skewness	2.033
Std. Error of Skewness	.175
Range	2568.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	2573.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 194 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2024 at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 397 days or 13.2 months, which is roughly 16 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2023. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 56 days. The standard deviation of 546 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed of in the quarter was 2,573 days or roughly 7.1 years old, while the minimum time taken was 5 days.

Table 5.15a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1537
Mean	650.5498
Median	453.0000
Mode	20.00
Std. Deviation	700.11699
Skewness	2.437
Std. Error of Skewness	.062
Range	4983.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	4988.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,537 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 651 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 20 days. The standard deviation of roughly 700 days suggests that there is a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 4,988 days old or roughly 13.9 years, while the minimum age is 5 days.

Table 5.15b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	128
Mean	739.9375
Median	265.0000
Mode	228.00
Std. Deviation	1097.64750
Skewness	2.526
Std. Error of Skewness	.214
Range	4823.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	4834.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 128 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 740 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 228 days, and the median age was 265 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 4,834 days and the lowest was 11 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 third quarter of 2024.

Table 5.3.01: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	73	97.33
Disposed	2	2.67%
Inactive	0	0.0
Total	75	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 75 new cases filed at the Brown’s Town Court in the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 73 cases or 97.33% of these cases were still active and 2 were disposed of. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 2.67% for the quarter, which is a 12.08 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

Table 5.3.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	50	64.10
Small Claims	28	35.90
Total	78	100.00

The above table shows that from 78 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2024, the majority of which were big claims with 50 or 64.10%, while 28 or 35.90% were small claims.

Table 5.3.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Browns Town Outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Money owing	19	24.68
Breach of contract	17	22.08
Recovery of possession	10	12.99
Damages done to cultivation	7	9.09
Rent Owing and Continuing	5	6.49
Sub-total	58	75.32

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 77

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 77 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the third quarter of 2024 was money owing with 19 or roughly 24.68% of the sample and breach of contract with 17 or 22.08% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 10 or 12.99% of the sample rank next. Damages done to cultivation with 7 or 9.09% and rent owing and continuing with 5 or 6.49% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 75.32% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 5.3.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	78	100.0
Total	78*	100

***Note: Corresponds to 75 cases**

All of a sample of 78 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Table 5.3.05: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	53	67.95
Female	25	32.05
Total	78	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 78 new matters filed in the quarter, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 53 or 67.95% of the sample, followed by females with 25 or 32.05% of the sample.

Table 5.3.06: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	50	65.79
Female	25	32.89
Trading as	1	1.32
Total	76	100.00

There were 76 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 50 or 65.79% of the total sample, followed by females with 25 or 32.89%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 1.32%.

5.3.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

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

Table 5.3.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	57	50.00
Trial	23	20.18
Part-Heard Date	19	16.67
Default Judgment Date	12	10.53
Hearing of Application	3	2.63
Total	114	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 114 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 57 or 50% of the sample, followed by 23 or 20.18%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjournment for part heard dates account for 19 or 16.67% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date account for 12 or 10.53% 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 mention date,

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

Table 5.3.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	14	12.28
Referred to mediation	7	6.14
Parties in Discussion	3	2.63
Hearing of Application	2	1.75
both parties absent	1	0.88
Sub-total	27	23.68

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 114

The above table details a sample of 114 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the third quarter of 2024, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 14 or 12.28% of the sample, referrals to mediation with 7 or 6.14% and parties in discussion with 3 or 2.63% and the hearing of applications with 2 or 1.75% of the sample rounds off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by the absence of both parties with 1 or 0.88% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 23.68% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 5.3.09: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	8	32.00
Consent	5	20.00
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	5	20.00
Withdrawal	3	12.00
Final Judgment	2	8.00
Default Judgment	1	4.00
Settlement	1	4.00
Total	25	100.00

A sample of 25 matters disposed during the third quarter of 2024 revealed that 8 or 32% of matters were disposed of by being struck out and 5 or 20% were disposed of by consent and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD). Withdrawals with 3 or 12% rank next and matters disposed of by final judgments with 2 or 8%. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the third quarter of 2024.

Table 5.3.10: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net case disposal rate (%)
75	2	28	37.33	2.67

The above table shows 75 new cases filed at the Brown's Town Outstation during the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 2 cases were disposed of, leading to an estimated net case disposal rate of 2.67%, a decrease of 12.08 percentage points compared to the third quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 25 cases were disposed of, and 3 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led

to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 37.33%, which falls below the international standard for this metric and represents a 70.61 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 33.33%, a decline of 60.11 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 5.3.11: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	21
Mean	454.6667
Median	198.0000
Mode	175.00
Std. Deviation	453.30909
Skewness	1.019
Std. Error of Skewness	.501
Range	1415.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	1416.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 21 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2024 at the Brown’s Town Outstation. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 455 days or 15.2 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 175 days and the median time was 198 days. The standard deviation of roughly 453 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall

average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1,416 days or roughly 3.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 5.3.12: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)	
Number of observations	787
Mean	593.1970
Median	453
Mode	390
Std. Deviation	446.86626
Skewness	.645
Std. Error of Skewness	.087
Range	1712.00
Minimum	17.00
Maximum	1729.00

The above data is based on a sample of 787 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 593 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 390 days. The standard deviation of roughly 447 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 1,729 days old or roughly 4.8 years, while the minimum age is 17 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 third quarter of 2024.

Table 6.01: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	139	85.28
Disposed	23	14.11
Inactive	1	0.61
Total	163	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 163 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 139 cases or 85.28% of these cases were still active, while 23 or 14.11% were disposed of and 1 or 0.61% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 14.72%, which is a 31.21 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

Table 6.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	171	85.07
Small Claim	30	14.93
Total	201	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 201 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024, the majority of which 171 or 85.07% were big claims, while 30 or 14.93% were small claims.

Table 6.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	62	31.00
Recovery of Possession	51	25.50
Negligence	20	10.00
Rent Due and Continuing	13	6.50
Cattle Trespass	7	3.50
Sub-total	153	76.50

Total sample size of causes of action = 200

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action filed in the third quarter of 2024 at the Westmoreland Parish Court was breach of contract and recovery of possession with 62 or roughly 31% and 51 or 25.50% respectively of the sample. Negligence with 20 or 10%, rent due and continuing with 13 or 6.50% and cattle trespass with 7 or 3.50% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 76.50% of the sample of 200 causes of action.

Table 6.04: Sampling distribution of types of service in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	134	67.00
Personal	66	33.00
Total	200	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 134 or 67% and personal service accounted for 66 or 33% of the sample.

Table 6.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	48	52.17
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	23	25.00
Whithorn Outstation	11	11.96
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	10	10.87
Total	92*	100.00

***Note: Corresponds to 76 cases**

The majority of a sample of 92 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 48 or 52.17% of the sample. The 23 or 25% that were entered in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse followed this. Sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for 11 or 11.96% and courtroom number 2 accounted for the remaining 10.87% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Table 6.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	101	50.25
Female	88	43.78
Registered Company	12	5.97
Total	201	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 201 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024 at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 101 or 50.25%, followed by females with 88 or 43.78%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 5.97%.

Table 6.07: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	116	61.70
Female	59	31.38
Registered Company	11	5.85
Trading As	2	1.06
Total	188	100.00

There were 188 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 116 or 61.70% of the sample, followed by females with 59 or 31.38%. Registered companies account for 11 or 5.85% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 2 or 1.06%.

6.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

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

Table 6.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	159	50.96
Trial	117	37.50
Part-Heard Date	30	9.62
Hearing of Application	3	0.96
Final Judgment Date	3	0.96
Total	312	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 312 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The majority, 159 or 50.96% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 117 or 37.50%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 30 or 9.62% of matters, which were adjourned for part heard dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for trial or mention court hearings. This is, however, not an unusual outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 6.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	63	33.51
Default Judgment	46	24.47
Referred to Mediation	21	11.17
To Settle Legal Representation	12	6.38
Attorney Absent	9	4.79
Sub-total	151	80.32

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 188

The above table details a sample of 188 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the third quarter of 2024, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to no return or for reissue with 63 or 33.51% of the sample, adjournments for default judgment with 46 or 24.47% and referrals to mediation with 21 or 11.17% and to settle legal representation with 12 or 6.38% of the sample rounds off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by the absence of attorneys with 9 or 4.79% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 80.32% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 6.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	42
Average Incidence	1.4

Corresponds to 30 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 42 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

30 reissued cases. This resulted in an average of 1.4 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 14 reissue incidences.

Table 6.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	41	24.70
Struck Out	34	20.48
Consent	25	15.06
Oral Admission	23	13.86
Final Judgment	14	8.43
Sub-total	137	82.53

NB: There were 166 matters disposed of in Q3 2024

A total of 166 civil matters were disposed of at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which account for 82.53% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed of by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 41 or 24.70% of the disposals, followed by matters struck out with 34 or 20.48% of the sample. Matters disposed of by consent with 25 or 15.06%, oral admissions with 23 or 13.86% and final judgments with 14 or 8.43% round off the top five methods dispositions.

Table 6.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
38	2	94.74

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 38 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that 2 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 94.74%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 95%

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

Table 6.13: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
163	24	142	87.12	14.72

The above table shows 163 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 23 of these cases were disposed of, and 1 case became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 14.72%, a decrease of 31.21 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2023. A gross figure of 128 cases were disposed of, and 14 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 87.12%, which is below the international standard for this metric and is 42.51 percentage points below the third quarter of 2023 rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 14.20%, which is 30.91 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 79.01%, which is 36.78 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 6.14: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	111
Mean	172.3063
Median	104.0000
Mode	488.00
Std. Deviation	164.57597
Skewness	1.405
Std. Error of Skewness	.229
Range	755.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	761.00

The above table outlines summary data on 111 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2024 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 172 days or 5.7 months, which is roughly 70 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2023. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 488 days. The standard deviation is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time and the positive skewness is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest matter disposed of in the quarter was 761 days or roughly 2.1 years, while the minimum time taken was just 6 days.

Table 6.15: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	467
Mean	598.0343
Median	236
Mode	89
Std. Deviation	650.48052
Skewness	.991
Std. Error of Skewness	.113
Range	2009.00
Minimum	19.00
Maximum	2028.00

The above data is based on a sample of 467 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 598 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 89 days. The standard deviation of roughly 650 days suggests that there is some variation of the individual scores around the average. The positive skewness seen is an indication that more scores in the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest age of active cases was 2,028 days or 5.6 years, and the youngest time is 19 days.

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 third quarter of 2024.

Table 7.01: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	107	81.68
Disposed	24	18.32
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	131	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 131 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 107 cases or 81.68% of these cases were still active, while 24 or 18.32% were disposed of. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 18.32%, which is a 24.27 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

Table 7.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	109	75.69
Small Claim	35	24.31
Total	144	100.00

The above table shows that of the 144 new claims filed in the quarter, the majority of which were big claims, which accounted for 109 or 75.69% of the total sample, while 35 or 24.31% were small claims.

Table 7.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	45	31.69
Recovery of Possession	29	20.42
Money Owing	12	8.45
Arrears of Rent & Continuing	6	4.23
Breach of Loan Contract	6	4.23
Sub-total	98	69.01

Total sample size of causes of action = 142

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 142 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the quarter at the St. Mary Parish Court were breach of contract with 45 or roughly 31.69% of the sample and recovery of possession with 29 or 20.42% of the total sample of causes of action. Monies owing with 12 or 8.45% and arrears of rent and continuing and breach of loan contract with 6 or 4.23% each rank next.

Table 7.04: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	119	82.64
Bailiff	25	17.36
Total	144	100.00

Types of service as used above refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 119 or 82.64% of the sample and service by the bailiff accounting for 25 or 17.36% of the sample.

Table 7.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	95	65.97
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	19	13.19
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	9	6.25
Richmond Outstation	9	6.25
Annotto Bay Outstation	8	5.56
Gayle Outstation	4	2.78
Total	144*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 131 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 144 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024.

The majority of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 95 or 65.97% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with 19 or 13.19% of the sample, Richmond outstation and courtroom 3 with 9 or 6.25% each of the sample rounds off the top accommodations. The list is completed by sittings at the Annotto Bay Outstation with 8 or 5.56% and the Gayle outstation with 4 or 2.78%.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Table 7.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	72	50.00
Male	49	34.03
Registered Company	23	15.97
Total	144	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 144 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024 at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, females accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 72 or 50%, followed by males with 49 or 34.03%. Registered companies with 15.97% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

Table 7.07: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	90	62.50
Female	53	36.81
Registered Company	1	0.69
Total	144	100.00

There were 144 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were males with 90 or 62.50%, followed by females with 53 or 36.81% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 0.69% of the sample.

7.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

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

Table 7.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	43	41.75
Mention Date	42	40.78
Default Judgment Date	18	17.48
Total	103	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 103 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The highest proportion, 43 or 41.75%, were adjourned for

trial dates, followed by 42 or 40.78%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 18 or 17.48% of the matters which were adjourned for part heard dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention hearing and that a notable proportion of the adjournments are for default judgments. The high frequency of adjournments associated with default judgments is not unusual as this stage is intrinsic to case management and case preparation and to the overall case process flow.

Table 7.09: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	34
Average Incidence	1.4

Corresponds to 24 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 34 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 24 reissued cases. This resulted in an average of 1.4 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 14 reissue incidences.

Table 7.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	290	61.57
Settlement	60	12.74
Withdrawal	47	9.98
Consent	43	9.13
Default Judgment	11	2.34
Sub-total	451	95.75

NB: There were 471 matters disposed of in Q3 2024

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 471 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. Matters struck out with 290 or 61.57%, matters disposed of by settlements with 60 or 12.74% and matters disposed of by withdrawals with 47 or 9.98% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Matters disposed of by consent with 43 or 9.13% of the sample rank next, followed by matters disposed of by default judgments with 11 or 2.34% of the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 95.75% of the total sample of matters disposed of during the quarter.

Table 7.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
16	7	56.25

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 16 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that 7 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 56.25%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 56% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 7.12: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate combined number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net case disposal rate (%)
131	24	402	306.87	18.32

The above table shows 131 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 24 of these cases were disposed of, leading to an estimated net case disposal rate of 18.32%, a decrease of 24.27 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2023. A gross figure of 401 cases were disposed of, and 1 case became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 306.87%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and is 173.54 percentage points above the third quarter of 2023 rate.

The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 306.11%, which is 173.70 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023. 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 of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	406
Mean	1267.1429
Median	1380.5000
Mode	1197.00
Std. Deviation	652.37875
Skewness	-.649
Std. Error of Skewness	.121
Range	2294.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	2296.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 406 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2024 at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 1,268 days or 42.2 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 1,197 days and the median time was 1,380.50 days. The moderate standard deviation of roughly 652 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were not spread out over a large range of values and the negative skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition were above the overall average time. The oldest case disposed of in the quarter was 2,296 days or roughly 6.4 years old, while minimum time taken to dispose of cases was 2 days.

Table 7.14: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	337
Mean	758.0326
Median	483.0000
Mode	119.00
Std. Deviation	783.66058
Skewness	1.598
Std. Error of Skewness	.133
Range	4055.00
Minimum	19.00
Maximum	4074.00

The above data is based on a sample of 337 active civil matters at the end of third quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 758 days (or roughly 25.3 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 119 days. The standard deviation of roughly 784 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 fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter in the data set is 4,074 days old or roughly 11.3 years, while the minimum age was 19 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 third quarter of 2024.

Table 8.01: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	61	95.31
Disposed	3	4.69
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	64	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 64 new civil cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 61 or 95.31% were still active and 3 or 4.69% were disposed of. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 4.69% for the quarter, which is 0.19 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023.

Table 8.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	64	76.19
Small Claim	20	23.81
Total	84	100.00

The above table shows that of the 84 new claims filed in the quarter, the majority of which were big claims, which accounted for 64 or 76.19% of the total sample, while 20 or 23.81% were small claims.

Table 8.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	21	26.25
Recovery of Possession	13	16.25
Negligence - Damages - General & Special	5	6.25
Monies Owing	4	5.00
Nuisance - damages	4	5.00
Sub-total	47	58.75

Total sample size of causes of action = 80

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 80 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action filed were breach of contract with 21 or roughly 26.25% of the total sample, recovery of possession with 13 or 16.25%, and negligence, damages, general and special damages with 5 or 6.25%. Monies owing and nuisance-damages with 4 or 5% each round off the top five causes of action for the quarter. The top causes of action, which are listed above, account for 58.75% of the sample.

Table 8.04: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	43	51.19
Bailiff	41	48.81
Total	84	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 43 or 51.19% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 41 or 48.81%.

Table 8.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Manchioneal Outstation	18	43.90
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	14	34.15
Buff Bay Outstation	6	14.63
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	3	7.32
Total	41*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 31 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 41 new matters filed in the quarter was entered in Manchioneal outstation, which accounted for 18 or 43.90% of the sample of accommodations. The 14 or 34.15% that were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse followed this, while the 6 matters that entered in the Buff Bay outstation rank next. Sittings at courtroom 3 at the main courthouse account for 3 or 7.32%.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Table 8.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	51	60.71
Female	29	34.52
Registered Company	4	4.76
Total	84	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 84 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024, males accounted for the majority with 51 or 60.71%, followed by females with 29 or 34.52%. Registered companies with 4.76% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 8.07: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	52	62.65
Female	29	34.94
Registered Company	2	2.41
Total	83	100.00

There were 83 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024.

The majority of defendants were male with 52 or 62.65% of the sample, followed by females with 29 or 34.94% of the sample. Registered companies with 2.41% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

8.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

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

Table 8.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	130	53.50
Trial	85	34.98
Part-Heard Date	16	6.58
Default Judgment Date	10	4.12
Hearing of Application	2	0.82
Total	243	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 243 matters that were heard during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The majority, 130 or 53.50% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 85 or 34.98%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for part heard dates with 16 or 6.581% and for default judgment dates with 10 or 4.12% rank next. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the quarter at the Portland Parish Court.

Table 8.09: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	21	26.25
Settlement	10	12.50
Struck Out	9	11.25
Default Judgment	8	10.00
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	8	10.00
Sub-total	56	70.00

NB: There were 80 matters disposed of in Q3 2024

A total of 80 civil matters were disposed of at the Portland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. The distribution is led by disposals by consent with 21 or 26.25% of the sample, followed by disposals by settlements with 10 or 12.50% and matters disposed of by being struck out with 9 or 11.25%. Matters disposed of by default judgments and notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 8 or 10% each complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the quarter. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 70% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 8.10: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
18	3	83.33%

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. Using a sample of 18 trial dates set in the quarter, it is seen that 3 were adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 83.33% which suggests that during the quarter there was roughly an 83% chance that a date set for trial would proceed

without adjournment. The 2024 result is 16.67 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2023.

Table 8.11: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net Case disposal rate (%)
64	3	60	93.75	4.69

The above table shows 64 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 3 of these cases were disposed of, leading to an estimated net case disposal rate of 4.69%, a decrease of 0.19 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2023. A gross figure of 59 cases were disposed of, and 1 case became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 93.75%, which meets the international standard for this metric and is 16.92 percentage points above the third quarter of 2023 rate.

The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 92.19%, which is 22.68 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 8.12: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	63
Mean	425.3333
Median	238.0000
Mode	147.00
Std. Deviation	509.80999
Skewness	2.248
Std. Error of Skewness	.302
Range	2439.00
Minimum	25.00
Maximum	2464.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 63 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2024 at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 425 days (14.2 months), which is roughly 468 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2023. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 147 days and the median time to disposition was 238 days. The standard deviation of roughly 510 days is an indication that there is a wide dispersion in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness observed is an indication that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series were below the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed of in the quarter was 2,464 days or roughly 6.8 years old, while the youngest was 25 days.

Table 8.13: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	330
Mean	666.8152
Median	363.0000
Mode	329.00
Std. Deviation	718.73291
Skewness	2.308
Std. Error of Skewness	.134
Range	4541.00
Minimum	23.00
Maximum	4564.00

The above data is computed using 330 active cases at the end of the third quarter of 2024. The average age of these cases was roughly 667 days (1.9 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 329 days. The standard deviation of roughly 719 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that most of the scores in the data set fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample was 4,564 days (12.7 years), while the youngest was 23 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 third quarter of 2024.

Table 9.01: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	136	80.95
Disposed	14	8.33
Inactive	18	10.71
Total	168	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 168 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 136 cases or 80.95% of these cases were still active, while 14 were disposed of and 18 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 19.05%, which is a 1.68 percentage points increase when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

Table 9.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	147	75.00
Small Claim	49	25.00
Total	196	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 196 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2024, the majority of which 147 or 75% were big claims, while 49 or 25% were small claims.

Table 9.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	79	40.31
Recovery of Possession	38	19.39
Dog Liability	8	4.08
Order for forfeiture	8	4.08
Arrears of Rent	6	3.06
Sub-total	139	70.92

Total sample size of causes of action= 196

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action filed in the third quarter of 2024 at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 79 or roughly 40.31% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 38 or 19.39% and dog liability and order for forfeiture with 8 or 4.08% each of the sample rounds off the top causes of action in this representative sample. Arrears of rent with 6 or 3.06% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 70.92% of all the total sample of 196 causes of action.

Table 9.04: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	21	53.85
Bailiff	18	46.15
Total	39	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the majority with 21 or 53.85% of the sample, followed by service by a bailiff with 18 or 46.15%.

Table 9.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	154	78.57
Yallahs Outstation	42	21.43
Total	196*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 168 cases**

The majority of a sample of 196 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024 was entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 154 or 78.57% of the sample, while sittings at the Yallahs outstation accounted for 42 or 21.43% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Table 9.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	115	58.67
Female	69	35.20
Registered Company	9	4.59
Trading As	3	1.53
Total	196	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 196 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024 at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 115 or 58.67%, followed by females with 69 or 35.20%. Registered companies accounted for 9 or 4.59% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 1.53% of the sample.

Table 9.07: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	117	60.00
Female	70	35.90
Trading As	8	4.10
Total	195	100.00

There were 195 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024. The majority of defendants were male with 117 or 60% of the sample, followed by females with 70 or 35.90% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 4.10% of the sample.

9.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

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

Table 9.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	124	38.87
Date for Order	102	31.97
Trial	45	14.11
Default Judgment Date	32	10.03
Part-Heard Date	16	5.02
Total	319	100.00

The above table is computed based on a sample of 319 cases adjourned during the third quarter of 2024. The highest proportion, 124 or 38.87% were adjourned for a mention date, followed by 102 or 31.97% which were adjourned for an order to be handed down. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 45 or 14.11% of matters, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 32 or 10.03% and matters adjourned for a part heard date with 16 or 5.02% of the sample rank next.

Table 9.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	43	17.13
Both Parties Absent	28	11.16
Referred to Mediation	17	6.77
Plaintiff Absent	10	3.98
Not Reached	7	2.79
Sub-total	105	41.83

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 251

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 251 incidences of adjournments in the third quarter of 2024. The absence of defendants with 43 or 17.13% of the sample, adjournments due to absence of both parties with 28 or 11.16% and referrals to mediation with 17 or 6.77% rounds off the top three. Adjournments due to absence of plaintiffs with 10 or 3.98% and not reached with 7 or 2.79% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 41.83% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 9.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	50
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 47 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 50 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 47 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

Table 9.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oral Admission	27	26.21
Consent	26	25.24
Default Judgment	16	15.53
Struck Out	13	12.62
Settlement	11	10.68
Sub-total	93	90.29

NB: there were 103 matters disposed of in 2024

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 103 matters.

The list is led by matters disposed of by oral admission with 27 or 26.21% of the sample. Matters disposed of by consent with 26 or 25.24% rank next. Matters disposed of by default judgment with 16 or 15.53%, matters struck out with 13 or 12.62 and settlement with 11 or 10.68% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 90.29% of the sample.

Table 9.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
23	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 23 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that none was adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 18.18 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023.

Table 9.13: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
168	32	152	90.48	19.05

The above table shows 168 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 14 cases were disposed of and 18 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 19.05%, an increase of 1.68 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2023. A gross figure of 95 cases were disposed of, and 57 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 90.48%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents an increase of 18.62 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 9.33%, a 3.33 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2023. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 63.33%, a 12.70 percentage points increase when compared to third quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 9.14: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	72
Mean	175.1944
Median	105.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	246.68270
Skewness	3.464
Std. Error of Skewness	.283
Range	1350.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	1364.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 72 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2024 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 175 days or 5.8 months, which is roughly 88 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2023. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. The standard deviation of roughly 247 days is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores falling below the overall average time taken to dispose of the cases. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1,364 days or roughly 3.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 14 days.

Table 9.15: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	372
Mean	874.5672
Median	300.0000
Mode	3464.00
Std. Deviation	1210.74649
Skewness	1.487
Std. Error of Skewness	.126
Range	3453.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	3464.00

The above data is based on a sample of 372 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 875 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 3,464 days or 9.6 years. The high standard deviation of roughly 1,211 days suggests that there is wide dispersion in the individual scores in the data set, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 3,464 days or 9.6 years, while the youngest case was 11 days.

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.

Table 10.01: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	219	68.65
Disposed	38	11.91
Inactive	62	19.44
Total	319	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 319 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 219 cases or 68.65% of these cases were still active, 38 were disposed of and 62 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 31.35% for the quarter, which is a 1.29 percentage points decrease when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

Table 10.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	264	70.40
Small Claim	111	29.60
Total	375	100.00

The above table shows that from 375 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2024, the majority of which were big claims with 264 or 7.40%, while 111 or 29.60% were small claims.

Table 10.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. James Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	119	33.15
Recovery of Possession	55	15.32
Monies Owing	20	5.57
Rent Owing and Continuing	17	4.74
Damages for Negligence	16	4.46
Sub-total	227	63.23

Total sample size of causes of action = 359

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 359 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the third quarter of 2024 were breach of contract with 119 or roughly 33.15% of the sample and recovery of possession with 55 or 15.32% of the sample. Monies owing with 20 or 5.57% and rent owing and continuing with 17 or 4.74% of the sample rank next. Damages for negligence with 16 or 4.46% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 63.33% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 10.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	214	57.07
Cambridge Outstation	161	42.93
Total	375*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 319 cases**

The majority of a sample of 375 matters entered in the third quarter of 2024 were entered in courtroom 4 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 214 or 57.07% of the sample. Sittings at the Cambridge outstation had 161 matters entered or 42.93% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Table 10.05: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	89	45.41
Female	68	34.69
Registered Company	39	19.90
Total	196	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 196 new matters filed in the quarter, males accounted for the highest proportions of the sample with 89 or 45.41% of the sample, followed by females with 68 or 34.69% of the total sample. Registered companies with 39 or 19.90% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 10.06: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	89	42.38
Female	68	32.38
Registered Company	53	25.24
Total	210	100.00

There were 210 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2024. The highest proportion of defendants were male with 89 or 42.38% of the total sample, followed by females with 68 or 32.38%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 53 or 25.24% of the sample.

10.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

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

Table 10.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	175	49.02
Trial	83	23.25
Part-Heard Date	47	13.17
Default Judgment Date	46	12.89
Hearing of Application	5	1.40
Date for Order	1	0.28
Total	357	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 357 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 175 or 49.02% of the sample, followed by 83 or 23.25%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for part heard dates accounted for 47 or 13.17%, followed by matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 46 or 12.89% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a

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

Table 10.08: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	25
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 23 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 25 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 23 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

Table 10.09: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment	45	29.80
Consent	31	20.53
Oral Admission	28	18.54
Struck Out	20	13.25
Settlement	12	7.95
Sub-total	136	90.07

NB: There were 151 matters disposed of in Q3 2024

A sample of 151 matters disposed of during the third quarter of 2024 revealed that 45 or 29.80% of matters were disposed of by default judgments and 31 or 20.53% were disposed of by consent. Matters disposed of by oral admission with 28 or 18.54% and matters struck out with 20 or 13.25% rank next. Settlements with 12 or 7.95% of the total sample of disposals completing the

top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above account for 90.07% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the third quarter of 2024.

Table 10.10: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
57	7	87.72

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 57 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 7 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 87.72%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 88% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 1.75 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023.

Table 10.11: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
319	100	313	98.12	31.35

The above table shows 319 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 38 cases were disposed of, and 62 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 31.35%, which is 1.29 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023. An approximate gross figure of 146 cases were disposed of, and 167 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 98.12%, which meets the international standard for this metric and is 16.72 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2023.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 14.79%, a 3.46 percentage points increase when compared to the third quarter of 2023. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 56.81%, a 19.36 percentage points decline when compared to third quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 10.12: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	115
Mean	216.0783
Median	91.0000
Mode	84.00
Std. Deviation	273.34578
Skewness	2.158
Std. Error of Skewness	.226
Range	1643.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	1646.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 115 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2024 at the St. James Parish court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 216 days or 7.2 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 84 days and the median time was 91 days. The standard deviation of roughly 273 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed of in the quarter was 1,646 days or roughly 4.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 3 days.

Table 10.13: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	600
Mean	500.7233
Median	299.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	532.64877
Skewness	1.644
Std. Error of Skewness	.100
Range	3434.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	3437.00

The above data is based on a sample of 600 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2024. The average age of these matters was roughly 501 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 28 days. The standard deviation of roughly 533 days suggests that there is a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 3,437 days old or roughly 9.5 years, while the minimum age is 3 days.

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 third quarter of 2024.

Table 11.01: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	216	92.70
Disposed	17	7.30
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	233	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 233 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, 216 or 92.70% of cases were still active and 17 were disposed of at the end of the quarter. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 7.30% for the quarter, which is a 19.80 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

Table 11.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	144	61.02
Small Claim	92	38.98
Total	236	100.00

The above table shows that from 236 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2024, the majority of which were big claims with 144 or 61.02%, while 92 or 38.98% were small claims.

Table 11.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Goods Sold and Delivered	34	14.41
Monies Owing	32	13.56
Recovery of Possession	26	11.02
Cattle Trespass	20	8.47
Breach of Contract	17	7.20
Sub-total	129	54.66

Total sample size of causes of action= 236

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 236 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the third quarter of 2024 were goods sold and delivered with 34 or roughly 14.41% of the sample and monies owing with 32 or 13.56% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 26 or 11.02% and cattle trespass with 20 or 8.47% of the sample rank next. Breach of contract with 17 or 7.20% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 54.66% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 11.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom #2)	112	47.46
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom #1)	48	20.34
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	36	15.25
Balaclava Outstation	23	9.75
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	17	7.20
Total	236*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 233 cases**

The highest proportion of a sample of 236 matters entered in the third quarter of 2024 were entered in courtroom 2 at the Santa Cruz Outstation, which accounted for 112 or 47.46% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 1 at the Santa Cruz Outstation had 48 matters entered or 20.34%

of the sample and sittings at courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 36 or 15.25% of the sample.

11.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

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

Table 11.05: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention	79	30.38
Return day/New (first before court)	73	28.08
Trial	32	12.31
Part Heard Trial	25	9.62
Default Judgement	17	6.54
Reissue date	17	6.54
Judgment Summons	16	6.15
Application for Court Order	1	0.38
Total	260	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 260 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 79 or 30.38% of the sample, followed by 73 or 28.08%, which were adjourned for return dates. Matters adjourned for trial dates accounted for 32 or 12.31% and matters adjourned for a part heard date account

for 25 or 9.62% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 11.06: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	28	12.02
Referred to Mediation	21	9.01
Plaintiff Absent	16	6.87
Both Parties Absent	14	6.01
Default Judgement	10	4.29
Sub-total	89	38.20

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 233

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 233 incidences of adjournments heard in the third quarter of 2024. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 28 or 12.02% of the sample and referrals to mediation with 21 or 9.01% round off the top incidences in the sample. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 16 or 6.87% and the absence of both parties with 14 or 6.01% rank next. The list is completed by adjournments for default judgment with 10 or 4.29% of the sample. The top reasons for adjournments listed above account for 38.20% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 11.07: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	45
Average Incidence	1

Corresponding to 45 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 45 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 45 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

Table 11.08: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	100	58.82
Oral admission	18	10.59
Settlement	14	8.24
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	14	8.24
Consent	8	4.71
Sub-total	154	90.59

NB there were 170 matters disposed of in Q3 2024

A total of 170 matters were disposed of at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 154 or 90.59% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 100 or 58.82% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed of by oral admissions with 18 or 10.59% and settlements and Notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 14 or 8.24% each. Matters disposed of by consent round off the top five methods with 8 or 4.71% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.09: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net Case disposal rate (%)
233	17	204	87.55	7.30

The above table shows 233 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the third quarter of 2024. At the end of the quarter, a total of 17 cases were disposed of, leading to an estimated net case disposal rate of 7.30%, a decrease of 19.80 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2023. A gross figure of 200 cases were disposed of, and 4 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 87.55%, which falls below the international standard for this metric and represents an increase of 13.54 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2023.

The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 85.84%, a 11.33 percentage points increase when compared to the third quarter of 2023. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Performance Summaries-Other Parish Courts

Table 12.1.01: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the Hanover and Manchester Parish Courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Net Case Clearance Rate (%)	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Net Case Disposal Rate (%)	Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)
Hanover PC	98.21	98.20	71.43	71.17	NA
Manchester PC	157.90	139.87	72.30	62.66	NA

The summary of key performance metrics for the parish courts of Hanover and Manchester shows that the civil division of the Hanover Parish Court recorded an estimated gross clearance rate of 98.21% and an estimated net clearance rate of 98.20%. The Hanover Parish Court also recorded an estimated gross disposal rate of 71.43% and an estimated net disposal rate of 71.17% for the quarter. The Manchester Parish Court recorded an estimated gross clearance rate of 157.90% and an estimated net clearance rate of 139.87%. The Manchester Parish Court also recorded an estimated gross disposal rate of 72.30% and an estimated net disposal rate of 62.66% for the quarter.

Aggregate data summaries – all Parish Courts

Table 12.2.01: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)
3483	4517	129.69

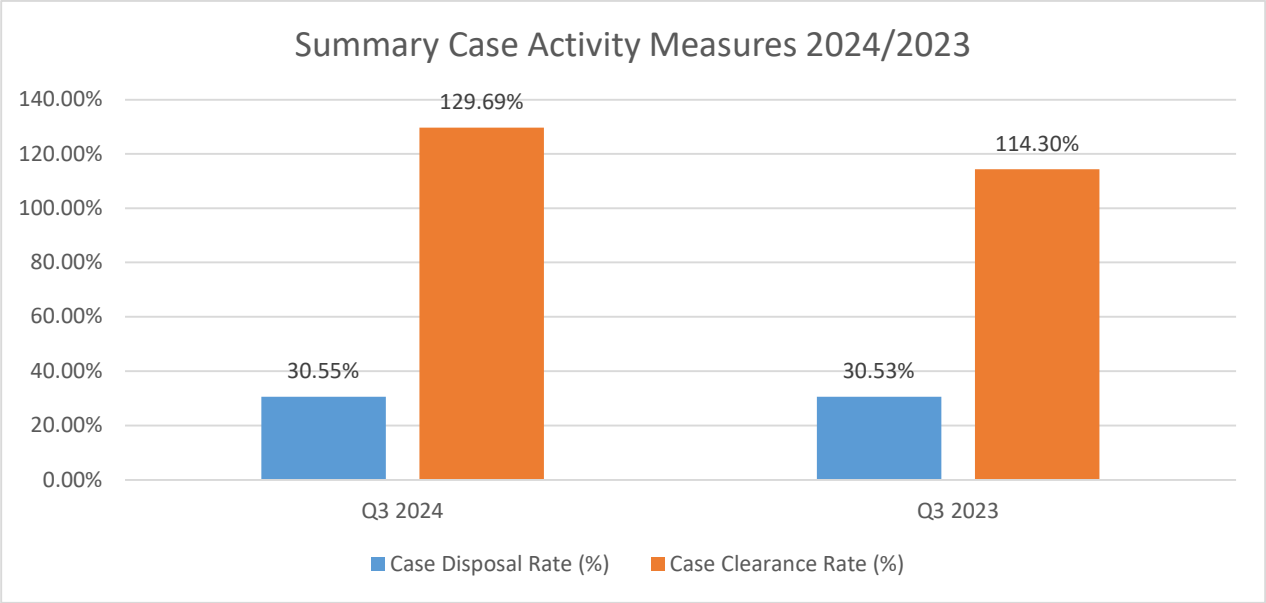
The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the third quarter of 2024. It shows that a total of 3,483 new cases were filed over the quarter, while 4,517 became inactive or were disposed of, leading to an estimated gross clearance rate of 129.69%. This is a 15.39 percentage points increase when compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

Table 12.2.02: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3 2024	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3 2023	Change in the Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3 2024	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3 2023	Change in the Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)
St. Thomas	19.05	17.37	1.68	90.48	71.86	18.62
Corporate Area- Civil	35.33	47.9	-12.57	193.78	141.11	52.67
St. Elizabeth	NA	28.44	NA	87.55	74.01	13.54
Hanover	71.43	51.47	19.96	98.21	108.09	-9.88
Manchester	72.3	NA	NA	157.9	NA	NA
Portland	NA	NA	NA	93.75	76.83	16.92
St. Ann	13.31	25	-11.69	80.18	143.67	-63.49
St. Catherine	11.79	6.83	4.96	130.8	97.94	32.86
St. Mary	NA	NA	NA	306.87	133.33	173.54
Trelawny	13.04	15.38	-2.34	96.52	109.23	-12.71
St. James	31.35	32.64	-1.29	98.12	114.84	-16.72
Clarendon	18.22	24.11	-5.89	81.33	94.33	-13
Westmoreland	14.72	45.93	-31.21	87.12	129.63	-42.51
Average /Weighted Average	30.55	30.53	0.02	129.69	114.3	15.39
Standard Deviation	23.39	14.95		64.59	25.67	
Skewness	1.35	0.20		2.27	-0.06	

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate and the case clearance rate and for the third quarter of 2024 and 2023. The weighted average gross case disposal rate for the third quarter of 2024 was 30.55%, which was a 0.02 percentage points increase when compared to the third quarter of 2023 weighted average rate of 30.53%. The gross case clearance rate of 129.69% for the third quarter of 2024 was 15.39 percentage points above the 114.30% recorded in the third quarter of 2023.

Chart 12.2.01: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for the third quarters of 2023 and 2024



The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal and case clearance for the third quarters of 2024 and 2023. It is seen that there has been an improvement in the gross case disposal rate and in the gross case clearance rate over the comparative period. The case clearance rate moved from 114.30% in the third quarter of 2023 to 129.69% in the third quarter of 2024. The case disposal rate moved from 30.53% in the third quarter of 2023 to 30.55% in the third quarter of 2024, an increase of 0.02 percentage points.

Chart 12.2.02a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the third quarters of 2023 and 2024

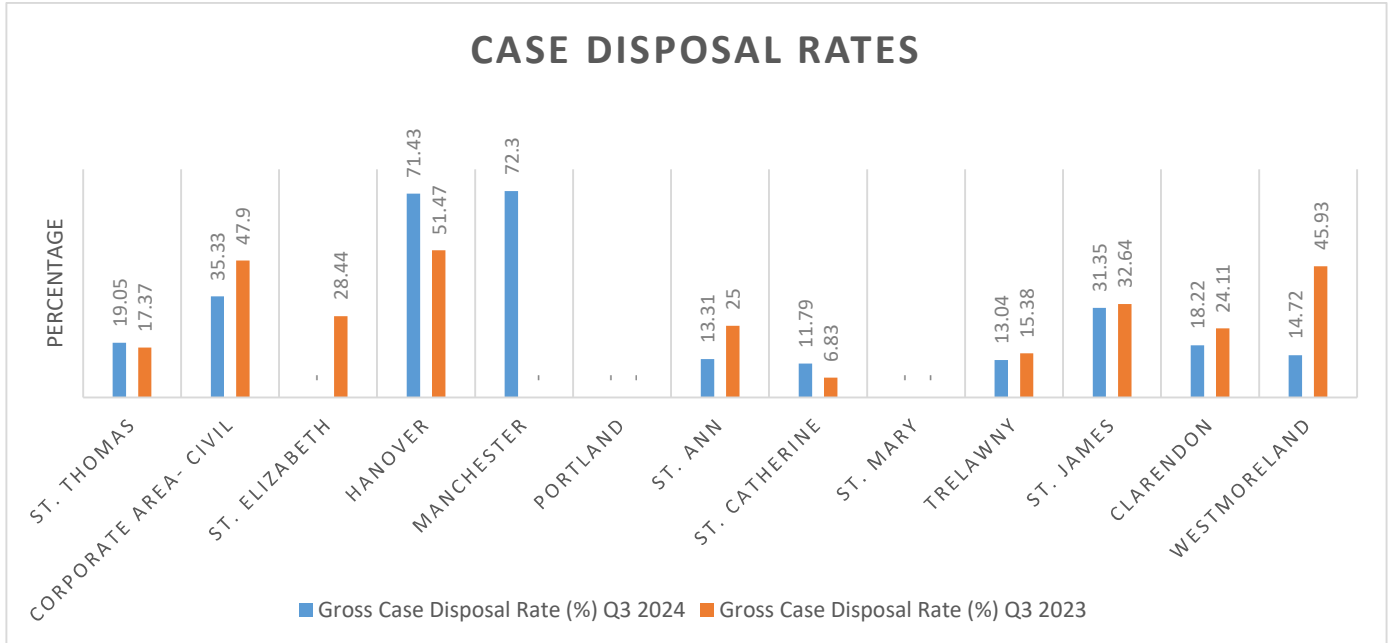


Chart 12.2.02b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for the third quarters of 2023 and 2024

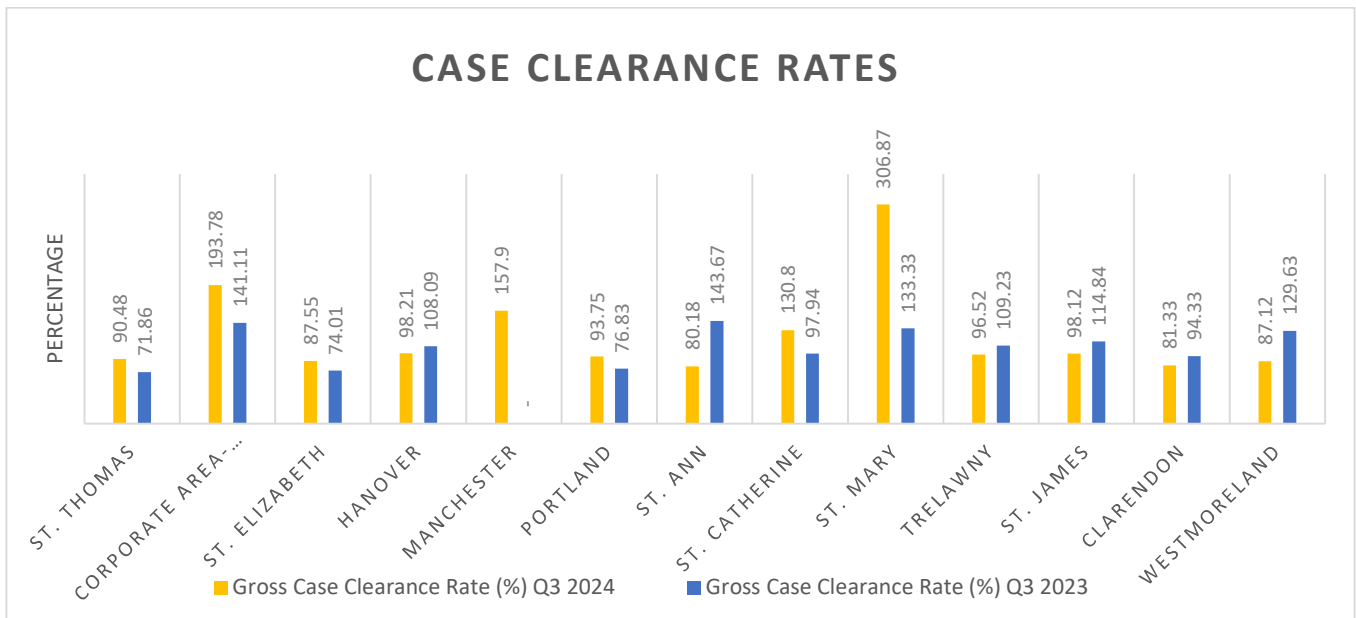


Table 12.2.03: Sampling distribution of claims filed during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Big Claims	Small Claims	POCA	Miscellaneous	Total
Corporate area	502	-	2	-	504
Portland	64	20	-	-	84
St. Ann	321	78	3	-	402
St. Catherine	566	66	-	-	632
St. Elizabeth	144	92	-	-	236
St. Mary	109	35	-	-	144
St. Thomas	147	49	-	-	196
Trelawny	96	33	-	-	129
Westmoreland	171	30	-	-	201
St. James	264	111	-	-	375
Clarendon	217	37	-	-	254
Total	2601	551	5	0	3157

The above table provides an overall summary of the claims files across the parish courts in the third quarter of 2024. The sample of 3,157 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2024 reveals that 2,601 or 82.39% were big claims, while 17.45% were small claims and 0.16% 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 quarter. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine, and the St. Ann Parish Courts account for the largest share of big claims filed in the quarter, while the St. James, St. Elizabeth and the St. Ann Parish Court account for the largest shares of small claims filed.

Table 12.2.04: Forecasted case activity statistics for the fourth quarter of 2024 [October 01 - December 31, 2024]

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted number of inactive cases	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Hanover	114	119	14	115.92
Manchester	480	423	138	117.01
St. Mary	143	303	2	213.85
St. James	325	179	192	113.96
St. Catherine	534	757	40	149.19
Portland	60	80	6	143.06
St. Ann	354	257	111	103.69
St. Elizabeth	280	259	2	92.90
Corporate Area Criminal	790	657	446	139.53
Westmoreland	147	145	18	110.48
St. Thomas	174	111	57	96.50
Clarendon	217	221	14	108.54
Trelawny	126	89	51	111.46
Total/Weighted Average	3746	3600	1090	125.21

Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the fourth quarter of 2024 is 70.86%.

The above table forecasts core case activity for the civil division of each parish court and overall, for the fourth quarter of 2024. 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 fourth quarter of 2024 is 125.21%, which would be 4.48 percentage points lower than that of the third quarter of 2024. All thirteen (13) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the fourth quarter of 2024, led by the St. Mary Parish

Court with 213.85%, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 149.19% and the Portland Parish Court with 143.06%.

Table 12.2.05: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 in the civil division of the parish courts in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	112	69,533	16
St. Catherine	526	516,218	10
Westmoreland	163	144,103	11
St. Mary	131	113,615	12
Clarendon	225	245,103	9
Portland	64	81,744	8
St. Elizabeth	233	150,205	16
Corporate Area Criminal	450	662,426	7
St. Thomas	168	93,902	18
St. James	319	183,811	17
St. Ann	338	172,362	20
Trelawny	115	75,164	15
Manchester	639	189,797	34
Total	3483	2697983	13

The above table provides an outline of the number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts (civil division) in the third quarter of 2024. The population sizes used are based on the last national population census in 2011 and therefore the data does not have full current value. Nevertheless, this kind of data provides interesting insights into the demand for civil adjudication in the various parishes. It is seen that the parish of Manchester, which is among the courts with the larger caseloads and population size, registered the largest number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the third quarter of 2024. St. Ann, which is among the courts with a larger caseload and midrange population size, ranked second. Equally interesting is the result that the parish of Corporate Area-Civil Division had the smallest number of new cases

filed per 10,000 population in the quarter and is among the parishes with the larger caseloads and largest in population size. The Portland Parish Court recorded the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population, followed by the Clarendon Parish Court.

Table 12.2.06: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	803	18.35
Defendant Absent	582	13.30
Both Parties Absent	221	5.05
Referred for Mediation	162	3.70
Parties in Discussion	117	2.67
plaintiff absent	108	2.47
Pending Settlement	66	1.51
Default Judgment	56	1.28
Attorney Absent	40	0.91
Hearing of Application	40	0.91
Sub-total	2195	50.17

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 4,375)

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

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

The above table is derived using a sample of 4,375 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the third quarter of 2024 across all of the parish courts (civil division). The largest proportion (18.35%) was for no return/ for reissue. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 13.30% and the absence of both parties with 5.05% round out the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Referrals to mediation with 3.70% and parties in discussion with 2.67% round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 50.17% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 12.2.07a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 -547 days	548-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Civil	4451 (27.4%)	3605 (22.2%)	1942 (12.0%)	1505 (9.3%)	1680 (10.4%)	901 (5.6%)	2144 (13.2%)	16228 (100%)
St. Catherine	2753 (16.8%)	2345 (14.3%)	1475 (9.0%)	1251 (7.6%)	1717 (10.5%)	1328 (8.1%)	5553 (33.8%)	16422 (100%)
St. James	695 (40.2%)	313 (18.1%)	159 (9.2%)	103 (6.0%)	168 (9.7%)	80 (4.6%)	211 (12.2%)	1729 (100%)
Clarendon	571 (36.2%)	440 (27.9%)	264 (16.8%)	112 (7.1%)	107 (6.8%)	69 (4.4%)	13 (0.8%)	1576 (100%)
Westmoreland	1119 (54.2%)	438 (21.2%)	193 (9.4%)	108 (5.2%)	126 (6.1%)	41 (2.0%)	39 (1.9%)	2064 (100%)
St. Ann	1606 (30.8%)	1105 (21.2%)	570 (10.9%)	407 (7.8%)	571 (10.9%)	266 (5.1%)	695 (13.3%)	5220 (100%)
St. Thomas	780 (34.6%)	514 (22.8%)	238 (10.6%)	155 (6.9%)	198 (8.8%)	113 (5.0%)	256 (11.4%)	2254 (100%)
Portland	477 (24.5%)	347 (17.8%)	186 (9.5%)	159 (8.2%)	212 (10.9%)	122 (6.3%)	445 (22.8%)	1948 (100%)
St. Mary	1706 (45.7%)	572 (15.3%)	229 (6.1%)	138 (3.7%)	201 (5.4%)	95 (2.5%)	793 (21.2%)	3734 (100%)
Trelawny	1053 (53.5%)	366 (18.6%)	154 (7.8%)	112 (5.7%)	117 (5.9%)	65 (3.3%)	101 (5.1%)	1968 (100%)
% of Total	28.62	18.90	10.18	7.62	9.59	5.80	19.29	-
Average	1521.10	1004.50	541.00	405.00	509.70	308.00	1025.00	5314.30
Standard Deviation	1235.97	1103.28	636.37	523.99	640.52	441.12	1711.34	5909.36
Skewness	1.76	1.92	1.77	1.72	1.61	1.92	2.50	1.64

Number of charges sampled (N) = 53,143

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 81 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at September 30, 2024. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least an 81-month period. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 28.62% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division along with the parish courts of St.

Catherine, St. Mary and St. Ann are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed of under 90 days. Cumulatively 65.32% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in 3-5 years. From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court, and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 19.29% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court, and St. Mary had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are all relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

Table 12.2.07b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil	345.80	105	181	438.80	2.84	1	4446	16228
St. Catherine	587.00	63	411	551.02	1.30	1	4854	16422
St. James	284.85	28	127	365.12	2.09	1	2817	1729
Clarendon	176.84	63	126	163.26	1.84	2	1193	1576
Westmoreland	144.84	35	77	181.49	3.06	1	1568	2064
St. Ann	373.45	63	167	565.16	3.55	1	5929	5220
St. Thomas	297.47	28	139	392.87	2.62	1	2955	2254
Portland	516.69	63	245	669.96	2.32	1	4515	1948
St. Mary	450.21	14	105	670.29	1.65	1	3661	3734
Trelawny	187.34	28	76	287.21	3.41	1	2710	1968
Total/Weighted Average	413.93	49.00	165.40	428.52	2.47	1.10	3464.80	5314.30
Standard Deviation	148.42	27.21	100.04	184.74	0.76	0.32	1494.97	5909.36
Skewness	0.36	0.78	1.88	-0.09	-0.03	3.16	0.02	1.64

Number of charges sampled (N) = 53,143

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 81 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed of for each parish court as at September 30, 2024. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least an 81-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 414 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 of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (145 days), Clarendon (177 days) and Trelawny (187 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (587 days), Portland (517 days) and St. Mary (450 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 148.42. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1.10 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 1,193 days (39.8 months/3.3 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court, to a high of 5,929 days (197.6 months/16.5 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a low positive value, which is an indication that a larger proportion of the maximum times to disposition were close to the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 53,143 matters.

Table 12.2.08a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 -547 days	548-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Civil	35 (9.4%)	85 (22.9%)	24 (6.5%)	59 (15.9%)	89 (24.0%)	30 (8.1%)	49 (13.2%)	371 (100%)
St. Catherine	77 (12.8%)	112 (18.7%)	70 (11.7%)	48 (8.0%)	91 (15.2%)	57 (9.5%)	145 (24.2%)	600 (100%)
St. James	57 (49.6%)	16 (13.9%)	13 (11.3%)	6 (5.2%)	7 (6.1%)	10 (8.7%)	6 (5.2%)	115 (100%)
Clarendon	29 (34.9%)	19 (22.9%)	5 (6.0%)	6 (7.2%)	6 (7.2%)	13 (15.7%)	5 (6.0%)	83 (100%)
Westmoreland	45 (40.5%)	26 (23.4%)	17 (15.3%)	6 (5.4%)	15 (13.5%)	1 (0.9%)	1 (0.9%)	111 (100%)
St. Ann	72 (37.1%)	33 (17.0%)	22 (11.3%)	9 (4.6%)	12 (6.2%)	7 (3.6%)	39 (20.1%)	194 (100%)
St. Thomas	30 (41.7%)	25 (34.7%)	5 (6.9%)	3 (4.2%)	6 (8.3%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (4.2%)	72 (100%)
Portland	12 (19.0%)	16 (25.4%)	6 (9.5%)	9 (14.3%)	5 (7.9%)	2 (3.2%)	13 (20.6%)	63 (100%)
St. Mary	39 (9.6%)	18 (4.4%)	6 (1.5%)	8 (2.0%)	8 (2.0%)	7 (1.7%)	320 (78.8%)	406 (100%)
Trelawny	35 (47.9%)	15 (20.5%)	6 (8.2%)	4 (5.5%)	8 (11.0%)	3 (4.1%)	2 (2.7%)	73 (100%)
% of Total	20.64	17.48	8.33	7.57	11.83	6.23	27.92	-
Average	43.10	36.50	17.40	15.80	24.70	13.00	58.30	208.80
Standard Deviation	20.18	33.76	19.86	20.13	34.55	17.76	101.98	185.91
Skewness	0.50	1.81	2.44	1.81	1.75	2.07	2.31	1.29

Number of charges sampled (N) = 2,088

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024. The results shown suggest that only 20.64% of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days. The St. Catherine parish court along with the parish courts of St. Ann, St. James and Westmoreland are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 54.02% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year. From the data set, the parish courts

(civil division) of St. Catherine, St. Mary and Corporate Area Civil had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that approximately 27.97% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Mary, St. Catherine and Corporate Area Civil had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are mostly relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

Table 12.2.08b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil Division	478.34	2927	329	583.69	2.94	7	2927	371
St. Catherine	544.00	495	332	572.36	1.98	5	3522	600
St. James	216.08	84	91	273.35	2.16	3	1646	115
Clarendon	262.54	591	120	271.79	1.36	7	1193	83
Westmoreland	172.31	488	104	164.58	1.41	6	761	111
St. Ann	397.49	56	150.50	545.63	2.03	5	2573	194
St. Thomas	175.19	63	105	246.68	3.46	14	1364	72
Portland	425.33	147	238	509.81	2.25	25	2464	63
St. Mary	1267.14	1197	1380.50	652.38	-0.65	2	2296	406
Trelawny	179.49	17	91	223.68	2.06	9	1064	73
Total/Weighted Average	581.28	606.50	294.10	404.40	1.90	8.30	1981.00	208.80
Standard Deviation	330.28	893.82	393.19	183.40	1.09	6.75	906.50	185.91
Skewness	2.23	2.32	2.84	0.03	-1.26	1.97	0.28	1.29

Number of charges sampled (N) = 2,088

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 581 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 2.23, suggesting that most of the scores were below the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (172 days), St. Thomas (175 days) and Trelawny (179 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Mary (1,267 days), St. Catherine (544 days) and Corporate Area (478 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 330.28 days. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 8.3 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 761 days (25.4 months/2.1 years) in the Westmoreland Parish Court, to a high of 3,522 days (117.4 months/9.8 years) in the St. Catherine Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 0.28, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were clustered around the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 2,088 matters.

Table 12.2.08c: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Struck Out	Consent	Settlement	Default Judgment	Oral Admission	Withdrawal	Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	Other	Total
St. Catherine	392	80	105	70	20	36	56	58	817
Corporate Area Civil	254	124	11	36	21	57	22	28	553
Westmoreland	34	25	8	12	23	6	41	17	166
Clarendon	106	37	19	9	4	15	9	13	212
Trelawny	18	17	13	22	5	4	-	6	85
Portland	9	21	10	8	-	2	8	22	80
St. Mary	290	43	60	11	3	47	2	15	471
St. Thomas	13	26	11	16	27	3	3	4	103
St. Ann	113	82	16	19	14	10	20	33	307
St. James	20	31	12	45	28	7	-	8	151
St. Elizabeth	100	8	14	6	18	3	14	7	170
Total	1349	494	279	254	163	190	175	211	3115
Percentage of total	43.31	15.86	8.96	8.15	5.23	6.10	5.62	6.77	-

Number of charges sampled (N): 3,115

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts-civil division for the third quarter of 2024. From the sample, it is observed that the highest proportion of matters disposed of during the quarter were by being struck out with 43.31% of the sample, followed by matters disposed of by consent with 15.86%, settlements with 8.96% and default judgments with 8.15% of the sample. Dispositions grouped under the category, “other methods” with 6.77% and withdrawals with 6.10% rank next. Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 5.62% and oral admissions with 5.23% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter.

Table 12.2.09a: Net and gross civil case backlog as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, for cases over 24 months

Paris Court	Net Case Backlog Rate (%)	Gross Case Backlog Rate (%)
Clarendon	1.13	14.63
Corporate Area	2.51	28.88
Portland	2.46	14.95
St. Ann	3.43	26.79
St. Catherine	1.87	4.66
St. Elizabeth	17.50	25.14
St. James	2.78	13.14
St. Mary	2.24	5.29
St. Thomas	1.00	24.03
Trelawny	1.39	24.32
Westmoreland	3.06	16.37
Weighted Average	3.61	19.96
Standard Deviation	4.68	8.42

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q3 2024 is 10.27% and the gross backlog is 24.94%.

The net and gross case backlog rates provide one of the most decisive indicators of court performance as they are strongly influenced by most of the other critical court performance metrics such as the case clearance, case disposal, trial and hearing date certainty rates and are also directly correlated with the case congestion rate. The estimated gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) and are over two years old at the date of reporting. The closely related estimated net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are still active and exceeding two years old at the time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The results revealed a net case backlog rate (weighted average) for cases over 24 months in the parish

courts of 3.61% (with a standard deviation of 4.68%), which satisfies the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 19.96% (with a standard deviation of 8.42%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is 9.96 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 1%, Clarendon and Trelawny with an estimated net backlog rate of 1.13% and 1.39% respectively have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (17.50%), St. Ann (3.43%) and Westmoreland (3.06%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of St. Catherine (4.66%), St. Mary (5.29%) and St. James (13.14%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (28.88%), St. Ann (26.79%) and St. Elizabeth (25.14%) have the highest rates.

Table 12.2.09b: Net and gross civil case backlog as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2024, for cases over 18 months

Paris Court	Net Case Backlog Rate (%)	Gross Case Backlog Rate (%)
Clarendon	1.96	16.80
Corporate area	3.61	31.09
Portland	3.12	15.73
St. Ann	4.49	30.31
St. Catherine	2.57	5.47
St. Elizabeth	21.77	29.50
St. James	3.96	23.25
St. Mary	2.84	5.88
St. Thomas	1.58	25.97
Trelawny	1.71	27.03
Westmoreland	3.47	18.53
Weighted Average	4.77	22.46
Standard Deviation	5.75	9.21

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q3 2024 is 12.71% and the gross backlog is 29.03%.

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 4.77% (with a standard deviation of 5.75%), which satisfies the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 22.46% (with a standard deviation of 9.21%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is 12.46 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 1.58%, Trelawny and Clarendon with an estimated net backlog rate of 1.71% and 1.96% respectively have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (21.77%), St. Ann (4.49%) and St. James (3.96%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of St. Catherine (5.47%), St. Mary (5.88%) and Portland (15.73%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (31.09%), St. Ann (30.31%) and St. Elizabeth (29.50%) have the highest rates.

Trial court activity summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Table 12.2.10a: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average time between filing and first court appearance	Average time between first court appearance and trial	Average time between trial and disposition
Clarendon	50.15	227.20	403.83
Corporate Area-Civil Division	94.87	333.30	807.59
Portland	65.61	533.65	484.68
St. Ann	92.50	500.21	575.73
St. Catherine	77.59	503.30	406.45
St. James	48.87	455.55	234.79
St. Mary	143.66	143.66	302.10
St. Thomas	46.61	528.44	461.71
Trelawny	55.94	252.81	145.65
Westmoreland	35.68	147.98	211.21
Weighted Average	72.48	407.95	446.23
Standard Deviation	32.28	159.64	195.83

Tracking the times between the occurrence of major hearing events along the case flow continuum is important to establishing precise points of possible delay in case progression. The above table provides a summary of the average times between filing a case and the first court appearance. The average time between the first court appearance and the first date of trial and the average duration between the first trial date and disposition. Overall, it is seen that the average time between filing a civil case, and the first court appearance is approximately 2.4 months, while the overall average time between first appearance of a civil matter in the parish courts and the first trial date is, however, much longer at approximately 13.6 months or 408 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is approximately

14.9 months or 446 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face lengthy delays after a first date set is postponed. Since less than a quarter of civil cases filed in the parish courts will proceed to trial, these findings may not have a dramatic impact on the overall time to disposition of civil cases.

Table 12.2.10b: Trial court activity summary during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Number of cases heard	Number of cases with a trial date set	Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set
Clarendon	824	153	18.57
Portland	234	62	26.50
St. Ann	1036	227	21.91
St. Catherine	1951	440	22.55
St. James	761	109	14.32
St. Mary	596	67	11.24
St. Thomas	414	80	19.32
Trelawny	338	77	22.78
Westmoreland	434	106	24.42
Total/Weighted Average	6588	1321	20.05

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the third quarter of 2024 in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 6,588 civil cases heard across the parish courts in the third quarter of 2024, 1,321 or 20.05% proceeded to trial. The parish courts of the St. Mary (11.24%), St. James (14.32%) and Clarendon (18.57%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of Portland (26.50%), Westmoreland (24.42%) and Trelawny (22.78%) had the highest proportion.

Table 12.2.10c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	100	19.16
Consent	86	16.48
Withdrawal	64	12.26
Default	54	10.34
Settlement	45	8.62
Trial	37	7.09
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	33	6.32
Judgment	30	5.75
Other	20	3.83
Non-Suited	19	3.64
Transferred	14	2.68
By Consent - Mediated Settlement	9	1.72
Oral Admission	7	1.34
Order	2	0.38
Application For Defendant Granted	1	0.19
Dismissal	1	0.19
Total	522	100.00

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters struck out with 100 or 19.16% of the cases disposed of matters disposed of by consent with 86 or 16.48% and by withdrawals with 64 or 12.26% account for the leading methods of disposition in the sample.

Table 12.2.10d: Summary of case management date activity for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

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	4.18	3.48	0.97	14	1
Corporate Area	3.07	3.15	2.90	29	1
Portland	9.08	8.41	1.39	32	1
St. Ann	6.34	8.03	2.38	40	1
St. Catherine	4.85	3.97	1.06	21	1
St. James	3.39	3.28	1.84	20	1
St. Mary	3.48	3.53	2.82	24	1
St. Thomas	9.61	14.91	1.51	40	1
Trelawny	4.43	5.00	2.57	34	1
Westmoreland	4.41	5.58	3.26	36	1
Weighted Average	4.70	-	-	29.00	1.00
Standard Deviation	2.33	-	-	8.94	0.00
Skewness	1.21	-	-	-0.31	0.00

The above table summarizes the number of appearances per case heard in the third quarter of 2024, which have at least one case management date. The overall average number of case management dates per 10 cases mentioned is 47, or approximately 5 dates per case with a standard deviation of 2.33 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.21. 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 third quarter of 2024 are the St. Thomas (9.61), Portland (9.08) and St. Ann (6.34) Parish Courts,

while Corporate Area (3.07), St. James (3.39) and St. Mary (3.48) were among the courts with the lowest mean case management dates.

Table 12.2.10e: Summary of the average court appearance frequency for cases disposed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average number of appearances per case	Standard Deviation
Clarendon	4.16	2.95
Corporate Area-Civil Division	3.65	3.39
Portland	6.41	6.12
St. Ann	3.73	4.78
St. Catherine	4.84	4.09
St. James	3.24	2.95
St. Mary	2.61	2.14
St. Thomas	2.31	2.47
Trelawny	3.98	3.24
Westmoreland	3.12	2.99
Weighted Average	3.68	-

The above summary specifically addresses the number of case management dates per case for matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2024. The overall average observed is approximately 37 dates for every 10 cases disposed, not dissimilar to the findings from the previous table which provided a descriptive summary of appearances for all cases disposed. The St. Thomas, St. Mary and Westmoreland Parish Courts were among those with the lowest number of case management dates per disposed case in the quarter, while the parish courts of Portland, St. Catherine and Clarendon were among the locations with the highest incidence.

Table 12.2.11a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Average overall courtroom utilization rate (%)	Highest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Lowest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rate (%)	Average courtroom utilization rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average number of courtroom adjournments per day
St. Catherine	75.89	229.44	3.06	33.49	NA	1
Westmoreland	66.87	115.83	8.67	34.51	NA	NA
Trelawny	68.41	130	4.67	29.92	NA	1
St. Thomas	65.83	100	23.61	23.13	NA	NA
St. Mary	81.28	150	11.67	33.18	NA	1
St. James	67.78	143.33	13.61	30.49	NA	1
Corporate Area Civil Court	84.51	129.17	6.39	29.69	NA	1.1
St. Ann	56.8	231.67	2.22	31.47	35.34	NA
Portland	65.19	231.67	1.67	35.1	NA	1
Hanover	59.94	123.06	1.39	34.21	NA	1
Clarendon	65.32	95	36.67	21.26	79.17	NA
Manchester	68.69	159.33	0.33	33.31	95.83	1.3
Overall Averages	68.88	153.21	9.50	30.81	70.11	1.05
Standard Deviation	8.06	50.37	10.86	4.43	31.25	0.11
Skewness	0.72	0.81	1.73	-1.40	-1.19	2.34

Note: The courtroom utilization rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q3 2024 is 67.23%

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various Parish Courts in the third quarter of 2024. 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 third quarter of 2024. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the Parish Courts in the quarter was 68.88%, which is an indication that approximately 69% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the Parish Courts in the third quarter of 2024. The Parish Courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the year are the Corporate Area Parish Court- Civil Division and St. Mary Parish Court with 84.51% and 81.28% respectively, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 75.89% and the Manchester Parish Court with 68.69%. The St. Ann Parish Court and Hanover Parish Courts with 56.80% and 59.94% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the Portland Parish Court with 65.19% 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 quarter. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. The positive skewness of the data suggests that proportionately more of the sample are clustered around the overall mean.

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

Table 12.2.11b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the civil division of the parish courts in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

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

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 third quarter of 2023 and 2024. 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 third quarter of 2024 and the Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than all courts in the third quarter of 2023. The St. Ann Parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization rate in both the third quarter of 2024, and the St. Thomas parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization in the third quarter of 2023.

Table 12.2.12: Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in the third quarter ended September 30, 2024

Parish Court	Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of Disposed cases and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of quarter 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	168	32	152	19.05	9.33	90.48	63.33	100.00	5.84
Corporate Area-Civil	450	159	872	35.33	23.42	193.78	139.47	NA	15.94
St. Elizabeth	233	17	204	NA	7.30	87.55	85.84	NA	NA
Hanover	112	80	110	71.43	71.17	98.21	98.20	NA	NA
Manchester	639	462	1009	72.30	62.66	157.90	139.87	NA	NA
Portland	64	3	60	NA	4.69	93.75	92.19	83.33	14.18
St. Ann	338	45	271	13.31	7.28	80.18	73.10	100.00	13.25
St. Catherine	526	62	688	11.79	10.94	130.80	126.10	81.43	18.13
St. Mary	131	24	402	NA	18.32	306.87	306.11	56.25	42.23
Trelawny	115	15	111	13.04	9.91	96.52	68.47	83.33	5.98
St. James	319	100	313	31.35	14.79	98.12	56.81	87.72	7.20
Clarendon	225	41	183	18.22	17.49	81.33	80.72	92.86	8.75
Westmoreland	163	24	142	14.72	14.20	87.12	79.01	94.74	5.74
Total/Weighted Average	3483	1064	4517	30.55	22.79	129.69	110.92	87.47	19.38
Skewness	0.96	2.92	1.30	1.35	1.94	2.27	2.60	-1.52	2.23
Standard Deviation	177.26	121.89	311.14	23.39	21.14	64.59	65.45	13.39	11.01

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

Note 2: The net case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for Q3 2024 is 2.67%

Note 3: The gross case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for Q3 2024 is 37.33% and the net case clearance rate is 33.33%.

Conclusion

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts sustained its remarkable performance trend in the third quarter of 2024, achieving outstanding results across most key metrics. A notable highlight of this period was an overall gross case clearance rate of 129.69%, surpassing international standards, while being higher than the corresponding period in 2023. This achievement contributed to a further reduction in the net case backlog rate for matters pending for at least two years, which stood at approximately 3.61%. 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 19.96%, also comparable to the Criminal Division's metrics. The Parish Courts of St. Mary and Manchester emerged as top performers across most critical indicators during this reporting period. Significantly, nine parish courts exceeded 90% gross case clearance rate for civil cases, with four courts, St. Mary, Corporate Area, Manchester and St. Catherine, surpassing the 130% strategic target. Despite these commendable achievements, there remains an urgent need to reduce the average case disposal time, which stood at 19.38 months for cases resolved during the quarter. Unnecessary adjournments continue to present a challenge, contributing to delays that must be addressed through strategic, court-driven interventions and operational reforms. It is important to acknowledge, however, that certain causes of delay, such as "No Return/Re-Issued," the absence of defendants, "parties in discussion," and the absence of both parties—fall outside the court's immediate control. Under the visionary and data-driven leadership of the Honourable Chief Justice of Jamaica, the courts are poised to meet and potentially exceed key quantitative targets, positioning Jamaica's judiciary among the best globally. The progress recorded in the

third quarter of 2024 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 for parabolic trends or data that

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>