



PARISH COURTS OF JAMAICA – CRIMINAL DIVISION
(JANUARY 1, 2024 – MARCH 31, 2025)

Court Metrics	January - March Highlights				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Case Disposal Rates (%)	49.92	52.32	51.22	57.28	49.98
Case Clearance Rates (%)	95.05	97.23	108.41	112.61	94.89
Trial Date Certainty Rates (%)	81	81	82	85	82
Courtroom Utilization Rates (%)	66.42	65.37	63.41	65.31	57.78

Prepared by the Court Statistics and Data Division with the support of the ICT Department, Supreme Court of Jamaica, Kings Street
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Chief Justice's Message First Quarter Criminal Parish Court 2025

This report confirms the steady state circumstance of the Parish Courts, Criminal Division. The next stage of statistical analysis is to burrow down more deeply into the case load and look at case type more closely and ask, what are the case types that are not disposed of within the time standards? and why is this so? The purpose of this kind of analysis is to give effect to our desire to dispose of all cases justly and fairly using fair, open, and transparent procedures. Cases should not falter because of court inefficiency.

This requires the leadership core of the courts and prosecutorial arm in the Parish Courts to examine how the cases that exceed the time standard are managed and develop case flow methodologies applicable to those case types to ensure that they move apace and come to resolution appropriately. This approach is necessary for the rule of law to prevail more often than not. Defendants should not be confident that if they stall long enough the case will falter and ultimately fall away. Complainants should have confidence in our processes and procedures. They should know that each case will be addressed on its own circumstances and will be disposed in an acceptable manner.

It is by getting into the details in this manner that we meet Aim 1 in Policy Statement, namely, 'deliver fair, timely, and well-reasoned judicial decisions to uphold the rule of law' and Aim 2 which is 'optimise efficiency by reducing case backlogs and streamlining court operations.' The judges and staff of our Parish Courts and our stakeholders are to be thanked for continuing this outstanding performance.

Executive Summary

This statistical report for the first quarter of 2025 is for the criminal division of the parish courts. The criminal division of the parish courts has already achieved one of its main key strategic targets, that of reducing the overall net case backlog rate to less than 5%, as it continues to sustain exceptionally high case clearance rates. From all available statistical accounts, the criminal division of the parish courts is now among the most efficient in the Caribbean and Latin American region in the timely delivery of justice. It is now critical that the criminal division of the parish courts strive to reduce the overall average time taken to dispose of cases and in so eventually reduce the net case backlog rate to the point that it can be classified as a whole as being backlog free.

The aggregate new case count in the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2025 was 5,591, a decrease of 5.73% when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Corporate Area Parish Court - Criminal Division with 1,381 new cases or 24.70% of the total sample, followed by the St. Catherine and St. James Parish Courts with 688 cases or 12.31% and 571 cases or 10.21% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new criminal cases filed in the period. Taken together, the three parishes with the highest new case count account for 47.22% of the new cases filed in the first quarter of 2025, not dissimilar to the previous year. The Parish Courts of Hanover, St. Thomas and St. Mary accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed in the period, each with under 5.0% of the total new caseload.

The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in the first quarter of 2025 was 49.92%, which is a decline of 2.40 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Hanover Parish Court leads the way with a disposal rate of 66.67%, thereby resolving new cases the fastest in the period. The St. James and St. Elizabeth Parish

Courts ranked next with case disposal rates of 64.97% and 63.25% respectively, continuing western dominance on this metric.

The case clearance rate provides a measure of the number of cases disposed (regardless of date/year of initiation) for every new case filed in a particular period. This is a productivity index as many of the disposed cases, which are included in its computation, would have originated before the period of focus and is a more instructive statistic on case activity than the case disposal rate. The overall case clearance rate for the first quarter of 2025 was 95.05%, a decline of 2.18 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The result suggests that for every 100 new criminal cases that were filed in the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2025, roughly 95 cases were disposed of. Eight (8) of the 13 Parish Courts satisfied the international standard of between 90% and 110% in the first quarter of 2025. The best performing court on this measure was the St. Ann Parish Court with an impressive rate of 125.51%, while the St. Catherine Parish Court with 104.36% and the Hanover Parish Court with 98.74% rounded off the top three performers on this key metric.

One highly important measure, which is of keen interest to the leadership of the courts and the policy makers, is the case congestion rate. This is a measure of how well a court is doing in managing its pending caseload, relative to its rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources. The higher the case congestion rate of a court, the more burdensome the caseload and the longer it will take to dispose of cases, again within the context of the existing rates of disposition and clearance and the implied state of resources.

The overall case congestion rate recorded for the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2025 was 337.52%, which is a deterioration of 73.02 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2024. The Parish Courts of Hanover, St. James and St. Catherine continue to be among the least congested court at the end of the quarter. The case

of St. James is of special interest in this regard given its relatively large caseload. There is a long run negative association between the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate, therefore, sustained increases in the case clearance rate will cause the case congestion rate to fall.

Another essential measure, which is an important cornerstone in the drive to bring Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world is the trial date certainty rate. This provides a measurement of the likelihood that dates set for trial will proceed as scheduled (without adjournment for future dates). The perfect rate of 100% would suggest that all dates set for trial proceed as scheduled in the relevant period. The criminal division of the Parish Courts recorded an overall trial date certainty rate of 81% in the first quarter of 2025, roughly the same rate when compared to the same as the corresponding period in 2024. The Parish Courts of St. Ann, Portland, St. James and Manchester were the leaders on this metric. The proportion of allocated court time that is utilized for hearings in each parish court bears some long run correlation with the case clearance rate, the case congestion rate and overall court performance. The courtroom utilization rate provides a solid measurement of the proportion of time allocated for court hearings, which are utilized throughout the period in each court. The overall courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the period was 65.37%, an increase of 1.05 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The Parish Courts of St. Mary, St. Catherine and Westmoreland were the leaders on this metric during the quarter.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data show that in many instances the outstation courts in the respective parishes are carrying a notable share of the caseload. The overall average number of new cases heard in the outstations in the first quarter of 2025 is approximately 37.10%, while roughly 62.90% of cases were heard at the

main Parish Court locations. While outstation court activity in parishes such as St. James and the Corporate Area account for less than 10% of total activity, there are several parishes where outstations are extensively utilized, accounting for over 30% of total case activity. This includes the Parish Courts of Trelawny, St. Elizabeth, St. Ann and Hanover, among others. The evidence continues to suggest that there is the potential in many parishes for outstations to be utilized to a greater degree to ease the caseload carriage in the main courts, thus potentially enhancing case clearance and disposal rates by reducing the case congestion.

The largest proportion of cases disposed of in the first quarter of 2025 was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 26.65% of the cases disposed of. This was followed by cases disposed of by not guilty verdicts, which was responsible for 17.76% of the cases disposed of. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for roughly 7.69% of the matters disposed of, while cases dismissed accounted for 17.59% of the total sample. Mediated settlements (of various forms) accounted for roughly 12.38% of the cases disposed of during the quarter. The combined 34.34% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over at least, approximately, the past 8 years, which are disposed of, an estimated 36.93% were resolved within 90 days, 57.33% within six months and 77.02% within a year.

In terms of the distribution of case types, the report highlights that the largest proportion of the criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts were indictments with approximately 42.70% of all matters. This is followed by summary matters with roughly 27.02% and committal proceedings and Lay Magistrates' sittings, which accounted for 13.83% each. Summary matters had an overall conviction rate of 56.04% in the quarter, while indictments had a conviction rate of 18.22% across the Parish Courts.

An important delay factor, which affects the efficiency with which cases move towards disposition is the incidence of adjournments in the Parish Courts. The data suggests that the dominant reasons for adjournments for the quarter were for files to be completed (11.72%), warrants issued due to the non-appearance of defendants (8.23%), for disclosure (7.90%), and adjournments for referral to mediation (4.51%), rounding off the top four incidences. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the Parish Courts during the quarter were adjournments to facilitate restitution, adjournment at the request of the Crown, medical reports unavailable, and psychiatric evaluation to be done. This probability distribution for the reasons for adjournment was broadly similar to that of the past few years.

The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2025 were assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and possession of offensive weapon. The majority of charges filed during the quarter involved accused males, accounting for roughly 82.85%, with females accounting for 17.15%. The dominant age group of persons charged in period were the 27-36 and 18-26 age groups, accounting for 31.49% and 27.95% respectively of the total sample.

One of the most decisive and instructive findings from this quarterly report comes from the analysis of the distribution of times to disposition in the Parish Courts. The report reveals that on average, the criminal division of the Parish Courts took roughly 9.6 months to dispose of cases in the first quarter of 2025. The courts which had the shortest times to disposition for cases resolved are the Parish Courts of Hanover (91 days), Westmoreland (150 days) and St. Thomas (167 days).

Using the method of exponential smoothing, the report forecasts that in the second quarter of 2025, 5,058 new criminal cases will be filed in the criminal division of the Parish Courts,

while 5,331 are expected to be disposed of or become inactive during the period. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for the second quarter of 2025 in the criminal division of the Parish Courts is, therefore, roughly 105.40%. The Parish Courts of St. Mary, St. Catherine and St. Elizabeth are forecasted to register the highest case clearance rates in the second quarter of 2025.

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 i: 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

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policymaking and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past 8 years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer in each court. The Data Entry Officers update the system on a daily basis so that the data produced is as close as possible to real time. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed up to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistics Unit at the Supreme Court. A robust data validation mechanism is in place to periodically sample criminal case files in all parish courts on a quarterly basis. A representative sample of case files are taken in each case and crosschecked against the electronic data to detect and eliminate errors of omission and commission.

Monthly statistical data is processed using the data submissions, culminating in Quarterly Reports and eventually the Annual Report of this nature. All Quarterly and Annual Parish Court reports 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 that are 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. It should also be noted that there have been progressive improvements in the strength of the data collection mechanism in some courts such as the Clarendon Parish Court, which have positive measurement outcomes.

Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as cases statuses in the various courts over the period, assessments of courtroom utilization rates, case file integrity rates, trial date certainty rates and forecasts of the core case activity outcomes for the upcoming quarters of 2025. This chapter also explores the common methods of disposition, reasons for court delay, leading charges and case types across the parish courts and associated conviction rates.

Table 1.01: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending Case Load	Case disposal Rate (%)
Hanover	159	5	101	53	66.67
St. Catherine	688	33	336	319	53.63
Westmoreland	499	19	222	258	48.30
St. Mary	217	4	75	138	36.41
Clarendon	366	8	137	221	39.62
Portland	246	11	73	162	34.15
St. Elizabeth	234	9	139	86	63.25
Corporate Area Criminal	1381	245	490	646	53.22
St. Thomas	214	10	91	113	47.20
St. James	571	53	318	200	64.97
St. Ann	345	33	113	199	42.32

Trelawny	241	17	81	143	40.66
Manchester	430	23	145	262	39.07
Total	5591	470	2321	2800	-
Average/Weighted Average	430.08	36.15	178.54	215.38	49.92
Standard deviation	326.65	64.29	128.09	149.54	11.14
Skewness	2.31	3.32	1.50	2.14	0.52

Note: The case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation for the first quarter of 2025 is 35.11%

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter of 2025. A total of 5,591 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts while 2,791 of these cases were either disposed or became inactive during the period, resulting in a weighted average case disposal rate of 49.92%. In the corresponding period in 2024, 5,931 cases were filed, while 3,103 cases were either disposed or became inactive which resulted in a weighted average disposal rate of 52.32%, which is 2.40 percentage points more than the rate for the first quarter of 2025. This comparison reveals that there was a decrease of 340 cases or a 5.73% decline in the number of new cases filed and a decrease of 312 cases or a 10.05% decline in the number of new cases disposed of or became inactive when compared to the first quarter of 2024. Of the thirteen parish courts listed above, eight (8) Parish Courts recorded a decrease in the number of new cases filed, while five (5) recorded an increase. Among the parish courts with the largest decline in new cases filed were the St. Ann Parish Court, decreasing by 33.53%, the Clarendon Parish Court, which decreased by 25.46% and the St. Catherine Parish Court, which decreased by 13.46%. Among the parish courts with the largest improvement in new cases filed were the St. Thomas Parish Court, increasing by 63.36%, the Manchester Parish Court, which increased by 17.49% and the St. James Parish Court, which experienced an increase of 11.74%.

The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division with 1,381 cases or 24.70% of the new cases filed, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 688 cases or 12.31% and the St. James Parish

Court with 571 or 10.21% accounted for the three largest shares of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2025. These three parish courts with the largest share of new cases filed, cumulatively accounted for 47.22% of the total sample of new criminal cases filed in the first quarter of 2025. On the other end, the parish courts of Hanover with 159 cases or 2.84% of the sample of new cases, St. Thomas with 214 cases or 3.83% and St. Mary with 217 cases or 3.88% accounted for the lowest shares of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2025. The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the first quarter of 2025 were the Hanover (66.67%), St. James (64.97%) and St. Elizabeth (63.25%) Parish Courts. The bottom three courts on this measure were the Portland (34.15%), St. Mary (36.41%) and Manchester (39.07%) parish courts. The parish courts of Manchester and Portland were also among the three lowest ranking courts on this measure in the first quarter of 2024. The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed, and the active pending new caseload are all positive, which is an indication that the larger proportion of the courts fell below the overall average case count in each of these data series. The overall skewness of the case disposal rates is a low negative figure, which indicates that a large proportion of courts had disposal rates which were clustered around the overall average rate for the quarter.

Refer to Table 1.03 for a graphical comparison of the Case Disposal Rates across all Parish Courts for the first quarter of 2024 and 2025.

Table 1.02a: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in quarter	Number of Disposed cases in Jan. 1- Mar. 31, 2025	Number of Inactive cases in Jan. 1- Mar. 31, 2025	Grand total number of inactive cases (2016- Mar. 2025)	Grand total number of disposed cases (2016- Mar. 2025)	Grand Active Pending Caseload b/f Jan. 1, 2025	Case Clearance Rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%)
Hanover	159	151	6	287	7300	70	98.74	145.86
St. Catherine	688	658	60	3607	26964	777	104.36	204.04
Westmoreland	499	418	39	1361	42785	496	91.58	217.72
St. Mary	217	183	8	446	7858	236	88.02	237.17
Clarendon	366	302	29	1896	14198	496	90.44	260.42
Portland	246	198	22	775	9092	455	89.43	318.64
St. Elizabeth	234	193	9	916	8425	779	86.32	501.49
Corporate Area Criminal	1381	1013	306	20476	65377	5371	95.51	511.90
St. Thomas	214	171	21	637	6937	477	89.72	359.90
St. James	571	470	72	2887	19797	427	94.92	184.13
St. Ann	345	375	58	4730	12872	1131	125.51	340.88
Trelawny	241	200	33	862	7399	436	96.68	290.56
Manchester	430	281	38	2043	11686	1194	74.19	509.09
Total	5591	4613	701	40923	240690	12345	-	-
Average/Weighted Average	430.08	354.85	53.92	3147.92	18514.62	949.62	95.05	337.52
Standard deviation	326.65	246.75	78.52	5374.73	17423.14	1366.25	11.82	126.18
Skewness	2.31	1.85	3.18	3.24	2.05	3.27	1.34	0.59

Note 1: The figures are computed for the period since the use of the CISS system commenced in August 2016. Not all courts commenced at the same time, so the exact times vary but are long enough to make statistically significant inferences.

Note 2: The grand total number of active cases from 2016 to the quarter ended March 31, 2025, for all parish courts combined= 12,669

Note 3: The case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter of 2025 is 109.57% and the case congestion rate is 828.16%.

The table above is an extension of table 1.01. Among the critical performance measures reported in this table is the case congestion rate across the parish courts. This provides a measure of manageability of a court's existing caseload. In particular, it provides an indication

of the caseload burden relative to existing resources and the pace of case clearance. As an empirical measurement of case carriage load, the case congestion rate is more meaningful over longer period, typically a year or more; hence, the quarterly results are to be interpreted in a guarded way.

The weighted average case congestion rate among the parish courts in the first quarter of 2025 was 337.52%, an indication that the parish courts (criminal division) as a whole are carrying over three times the caseload that their current rate of clearance and implied state of resources justifies. This result represents a 73.02 percentage points increase when compared to the first quarter of 2024. The Corporate Parish Area Court- Criminal Division (511.90%) and the parish courts of Manchester (509.09%), St. Elizabeth (501.49%) and St. Thomas (359.90%) were the courts with the highest case congestion rates in the first quarter of 2025. The St. Ann (340.88%) and Portland (318.64%) Parish Courts rounded off the top 6 most case congested courts at the end of the first quarter of 2025. The parish courts of St. Ann, Portland, Manchester and Corporate Area-Criminal Division were also among the most congested courts in the comparative first quarter of 2024. The parish courts of Hanover (145.86%), St. James (184.13%), and St. Catherine (204.04%) performed best on this measure. As with previous reports, variations in caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the variances in performance on this measure as some of the courts ranking on either ends of the scale are the larger courts in the island and resource endowment do not vary in a statistically significant way among the courts. The case congestion rate is a more meaningful measurement over a full year.

The results on the overall case clearance rate for the first quarter of 2025 provide interesting insights into the court-wide progress being made on this measure. The overall weighted average case clearance rate of 95.05%, which is a decrease of 2.18 percentage points when

compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2024, however, the performance meets the international standard of 90%-110%. This overall case clearance rate of 95.05% suggests that for every 100 new cases filed, roughly 95 cases were disposed of. Eight (8) parish courts met or exceeded the international standards of 90%-110%. The parish courts of St. Ann (125.51%), St. Catherine (104.36%), Hanover (98.74%), Trelawny (96.68%) and Corporate Area-Criminal Division (95.51%) were the leading parish courts on this measure. The parish courts of Manchester (74.19%), St. Elizabeth (86.32%) and St. Mary (88.02%) had the lowest criminal case clearance rates for the quarter. Five (5) parish courts recorded an increase in clearance rates when compared to first quarter of 2024, while eight (8) parish courts recorded a decrease in clearance rates when compared to first quarter of 2024. The St. Ann and Trelawny parish courts saw the largest gains, with 31.68 and 18 percentage points improvement respectively. The St. Thomas and Clarendon parish courts saw the largest decline, with 46.16 and 27.08 percentage points decline respectively. The data in the table above were positively skewed to various degrees, indicating that for the most part, proportionately more of the scores in that data set fell below their respective series means.

Refer to Table 1.03 for further comparison of the case clearance rates and the case congestion rates across all parish courts for the first quarter of 2024 and 2025.

Table 1.02b: Percentile rank on selected performance metrics for the criminal division of the parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Percentile Rank - Case Disposal rate (%)	Percentile Rank - Case Clearance Rate (%)
Hanover	100	83
St. Catherine	75	92
Westmoreland	58	50
St. Mary	8	17
Clarendon	25	42
Portland	0	25
St. Elizabeth	83	8
Corporate Area Criminal	67	67
St. Thomas	50	33
St. James	92	58
St. Ann	42	100
Trelawny	33	75
Manchester	17	0

The table above provides the percentile ranks of the case disposal and case clearance rates for the first quarter of 2025. The percentile rank gives an indication of where particular courts falls on a metric relative to the other courts. The parish courts of Hanover (100%), St. James (92%) and St. Elizabeth (83%) had the highest percentile ranks on case disposal rate for the first quarter of 2025, an indication that they performed better than the vast proportion of the courts on this measure. The percentile ranks of 100% for the Hanover Parish Court for example, means that they performed better than all the courts on case disposal rate in the quarter, while the St. James Parish Court performed better than 92% of the parish courts and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court performed better than 83% of all the parish courts on this measurement. The parish courts of Manchester, St. Mary and Portland had the lowest percentile rank on case disposal rate for the quarter. In terms of case clearance rates, the parish courts of St. Ann (100%), St. Catherine (92%) and Hanover (83%) had the highest percentile ranks, while the parish courts of St. Mary, St. Elizabeth and Manchester had the lowest.

Table 1.02c: Forecasted case activity statistics for the second quarter of 2025 [April 01 - June 30, 2025]

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted number of inactive cases	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Hanover	163	166	5	104.90
Manchester	369	222	26	67.17
St. Mary	189	228	9	125.68
St. James	502	469	58	104.85
St. Catherine	666	694	78	116.02
Portland	207	194	24	105.48
St. Ann	356	333	76	114.72
St. Elizabeth	211	230	15	115.87
Corporate Area Criminal	1200	1021	341	113.51
Westmoreland	458	362	52	90.31
St. Thomas	171	128	14	83.23
Clarendon	363	334	33	101.05
Trelawny	203	185	35	108.30
Total/Weighted Average	5058	4564	767	105.40

Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2025 is 91.59%

The above table forecasts core case activity for the criminal division of each parish court and overall for the second quarter of 2025. 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 rates for the criminal division of the parish courts for the second quarter of 2025 is 105.40%, which would be 10.35 percentage points higher than that of the first quarter of 2025. Eleven (11) parish courts are forecasted to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate of 90% or more in the second quarter of 2025, led by the St. Mary Parish Court with 125.68%, the St. Catherine Parish Court with 116.02% and the St. Elizabeth Parish Court with 115.87%.

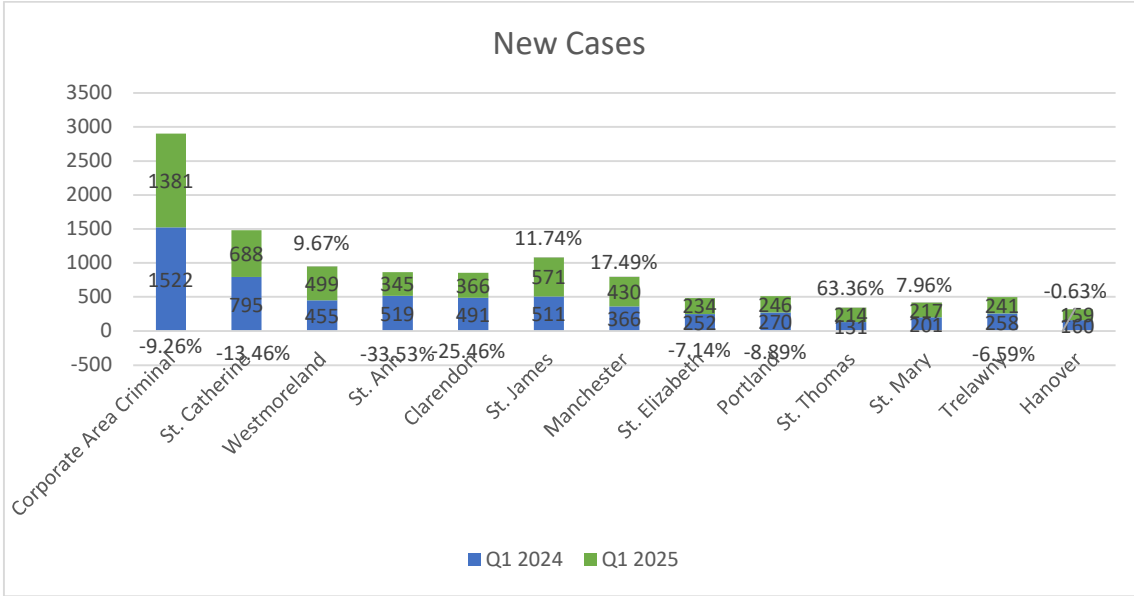
Table 1.02d: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the criminal division of the parish courts in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	159	69,533	23
St. Catherine	688	516,218	13
Westmoreland	499	144,103	35
St. Mary	217	113,615	19
Clarendon	366	245,103	15
Portland	246	81,744	30
St. Elizabeth	234	150,205	16
Corporate Area Criminal	1381	662,426	21
St. Thomas	214	93,902	23
St. James	571	183,811	31
St. Ann	345	172,362	20
Trelawny	241	75,164	32
Manchester	430	189,797	23
Total	5591	2697983	21

The above table provides an outline of the number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts in the first quarter of 2025. The population sizes used are based on the last published 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 adjudication in criminal matters in the various parishes. It is seen that the parish of Westmoreland, which is midrange in population size, and larger caseloads, registered the largest number of new criminal cases filed per 10,000 population in the first quarter of 2025. Trelawny, which is among the parishes with a smaller population size and caseloads, was second on this measurement. St. James, which is among the parishes with a larger caseload and modest population sizes, followed. Equally interesting is the result that the St. Catherine Parish Court, which is among the parishes with the larger quarterly caseload and population size, had the smallest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the

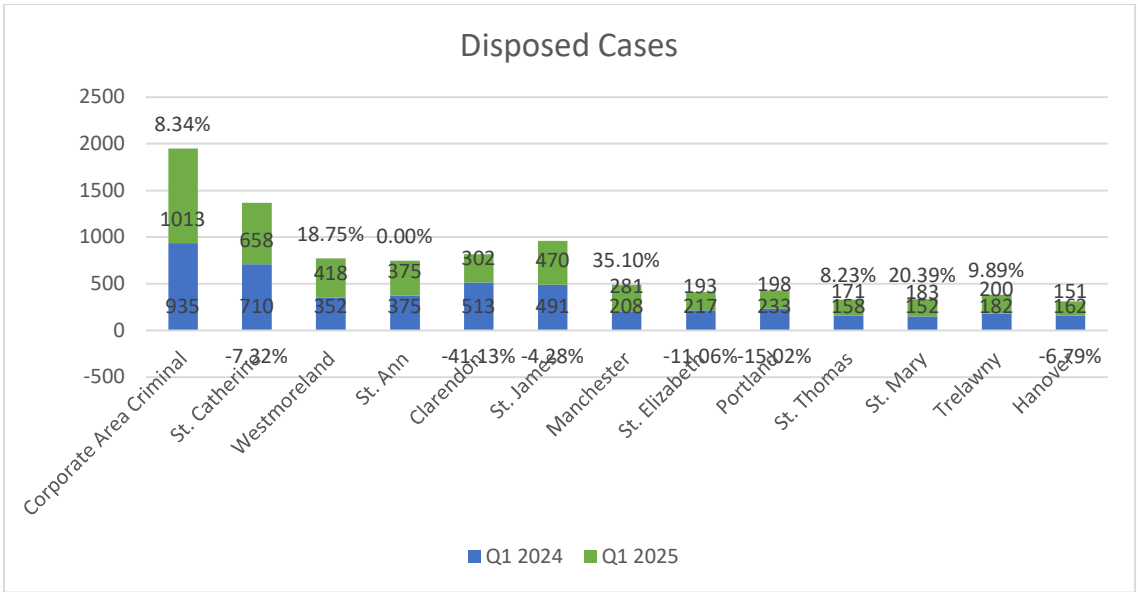
quarter. Clarendon had the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population for the quarter, followed by St. Elizabeth.

Chart 1.01a: Summary of changes in the number of new cases filed in the first quarters of 2024 and 2025



The above chart provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2024 and 2025. It is seen that there has been a decrease in new cases filed over the comparative period in eight (8) parish courts and an increase in five (5). Among the parish courts with the largest rise in new cases filed were the St. Thomas Parish Court increasing by 63.36% and the Manchester Parish Court, which increased by 17.49%. Among the parish courts with the largest decline in new cases filed were the St. Ann parish court fell by 33.53% and the Clarendon Parish court fell by 25.46%.

Chart 1.01b: Summary of changes in the number of cases disposed in the first quarters of 2024 and 2025



The above graph provides a breakdown of the changes in the number of cases disposed of in the first quarter of 2024 and 2025. It is seen that there has been a decrease in cases resolved over the comparative period in six (6) parish courts and an increase in the cases resolved in six (6) parish courts. Among the parish courts with the largest rise in cases resolved were the Manchester Parish Court increasing by 35.10% and the St. Mary parish court, which increased by 20.39%. Among the parish courts with the largest decline in cases resolved were the Clarendon parish court fell by 41.13% and the Portland Parish court fell by 15.02%.

Table 1.02: Sampling distribution of the Indices of Judge Productivity for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Number of Judges	New criminal cases per Judges	Active pending caseload per Judge at the beginning of Q1 2025	Active caseload per Judge at the end of Q1 2025	Cases disposed per Judge
Hanover	2	79.50	35.00	36.00	75.50
St. Catherine	5	137.60	155.40	149.40	131.60
Westmoreland	3	166.33	165.33	179.33	139.33
St. Mary	3	72.33	78.67	87.33	61.00
Clarendon	3	122.00	165.33	177.00	100.67
Portland	2	123.00	227.50	240.50	99.00
St. Elizabeth	3	78.00	259.67	270.33	64.33
Corporate Area Criminal	9	153.44	596.78	603.67	112.56
St. Thomas	2	107.00	238.50	249.50	85.50
St. James	5	114.20	85.40	91.20	94.00
St. Ann	3	115.00	377.00	347.67	125.00
Trelawny	3	80.33	145.33	148.00	66.67
Manchester	3	143.33	398.00	435.00	93.67
Total/Weighted Average	46	121.54	268.37	274.39	100.28

The above table provides a distribution of the new cases filed per judge, the cases disposed per judge and the caseload per judge in the criminal division of the parish courts for the first quarter of 2025. The data reveals that the overall weighted average number of new criminal cases filed per judge in the first quarter of 2025 is roughly 122 cases. The parish courts of Westmoreland (166 cases), Corporate Area-Criminal Division (153 cases) and Manchester (143 cases) had the three largest number of new cases filed per judge during the quarter. On the contrary, the parish courts St. Mary (72 cases), St. Elizabeth (78 cases) and the Hanover (80 cases) had the lowest number of new cases filed per judge in the quarters. In terms of cases disposed of per judge, the Westmoreland Parish Court disposed of the most cases per judge in the quarter with 139 cases, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 132 cases and the St. Ann Parish Court with 125 cases disposed per judge. The three courts with the smallest number of cases disposed per judge were the St. Mary Parish Court and the St.

Elizabeth Parish Court with 61 and 64 disposed cases per judge respectively and the Trelawny Parish Court with 67 disposed cases per judge. The overall number of criminal cases disposed of per judge was 100 cases. The most crucial of the indicators is the active caseload per judge at the end of the quarter. The data shows that the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division had the highest caseload per judge at the end of the quarter with 604 cases, followed by the Manchester Parish Court with 435 cases and the St. Ann Parish Court with 348 cases per judge. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover and St. Mary with 36 and 87 cases per judge respectively, had the lowest active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter, followed by the St. James Parish Court with 91 active criminal cases per judge. The overall average active criminal caseload per judge at the end of the quarter is 274 cases. The active caseload is a proxy for the existing demand for judicial services in the respective courts and the anecdotal evidence suggests that some courts with a higher caseload per judge are generally more hard pressed to sustain high productivity rates.

Table 1.03: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter of 2024 and 2025

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2025	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2024	Change in case disposal rate (%)	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2025	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2024	Change in case clearance rate (%)	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q1 2025	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q1 2024	Change in case congestion rate (%)
Hanover	66.67	67.5	-0.83	98.74	106.25	-7.51	145.86	150	-4.14
St. Catherine	53.63	49.18	4.45	104.36	105.91	-1.55	204.04	230.29	-26.25
Westmoreland	48.30	57.8	-9.50	91.58	83.52	8.06	217.72	183.16	34.56
St. Mary	36.41	31.34	5.07	88.02	81.09	6.93	237.17	320.86	-83.69
Clarendon	39.62	63.34	-23.72	90.44	117.52	-27.08	260.42	163.26	97.16
Portland	34.15	38.52	-4.37	89.43	90.74	-1.31	318.64	290.61	28.03
St. Elizabeth	63.25	48.81	14.44	86.32	99.21	-12.89	501.49	NA	NA
Corporate Area Criminal	53.22	58.28	-5.06	95.51	98.55	-3.04	511.90	346.73	165.17
St. Thomas	47.20	56.49	-9.29	89.72	135.88	-46.16	359.90	263.48	96.42
St. James	64.97	69.67	-4.70	94.92	107.05	-12.13	184.13	173.49	10.64
St. Ann	42.32	45.66	-3.34	125.51	93.83	31.68	340.88	322.79	18.09
Trelawny	40.66	39.53	1.13	96.68	78.68	18.00	290.56	320.2	-29.64
Manchester	39.07	22.95	16.12	74.19	61.48	12.71	509.09	486.22	22.87
Average /Weighted Average	49.92	52.32	-2.40	95.05	97.23	-2.18	337.52	264.50	73.02
Standard Deviation	11.14	14.10		11.82	18.90		126.18	97.80	90.58
Skewness	0.52	-0.42		1.34	0.20		0.59	0.71	0.57

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate, the case clearance rate and the case congestion rate for the first quarter of 2025 and 2024. The weighted average case disposal rate for the first quarter of 2025, was 49.92%, which was a 2.40 percentage points decrease when compared to the first quarter of 2024, which had a weighted average rate of 52.32%. The overall case clearance rate of 95.05% for the first quarter of 2025 was 2.18 percentage points less the 97.23% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024. The overall case congestion rate for the first quarter of 2025 deteriorated, changing from 264.50% in the first quarter of 2024, to 337.52% in the first quarter of 2025, a 73.02 percentage point

increase. Ceteris paribus, there should be a roughly inverse linear association between the case clearance rates and the case congestion rate. This is more pronounced in the long run than in the short or medium terms.

Chart 1.2.01: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for the first quarters of 2024 and 2025

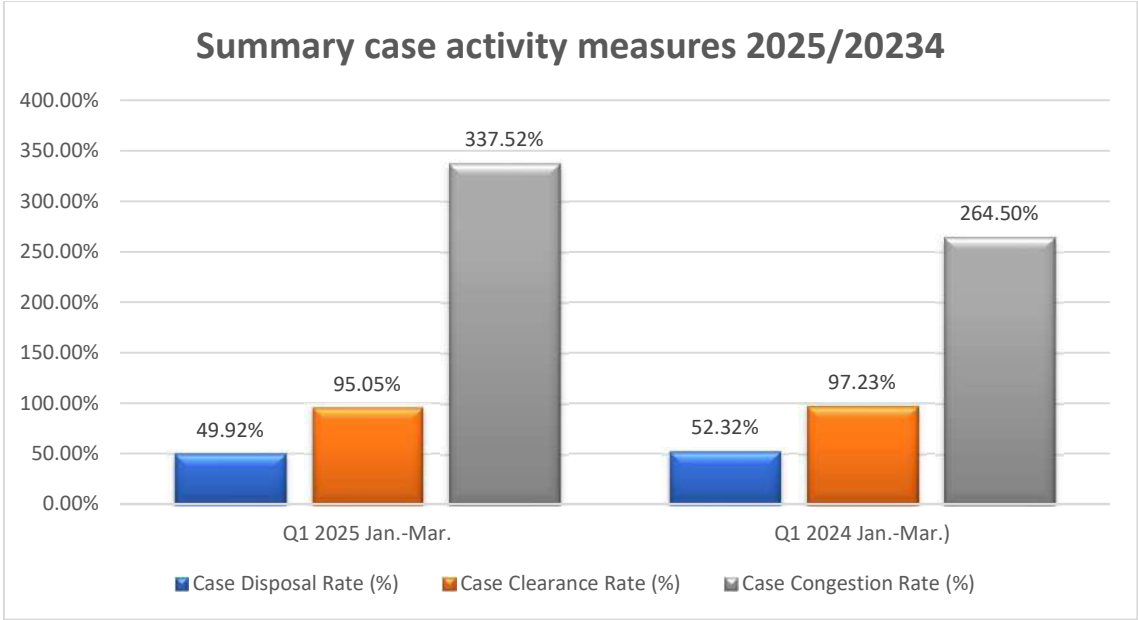


Chart 1.2.02a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2024 and 2025

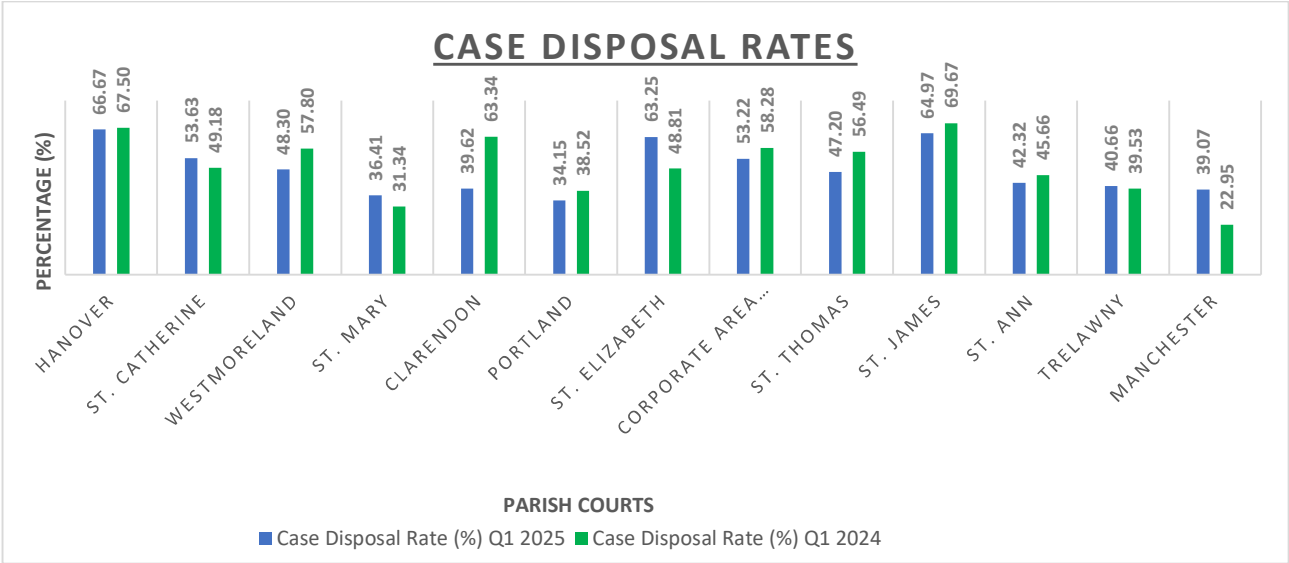


Chart 1.2.02b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2024 and 2025

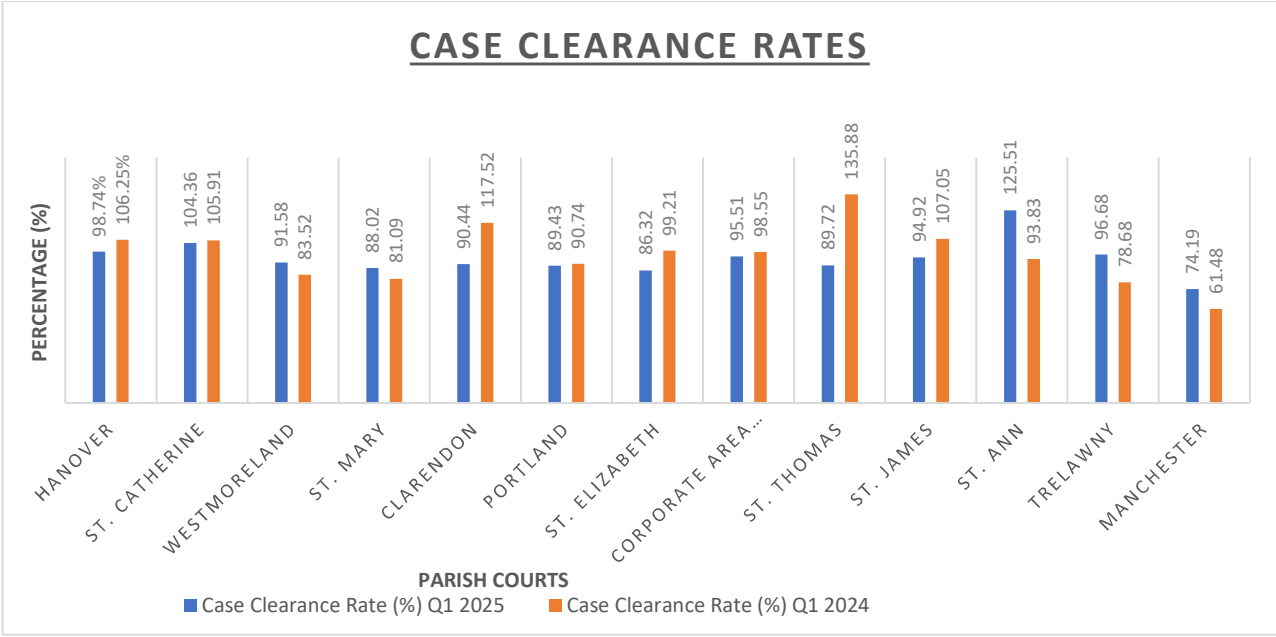


Chart 1.2.02c: Comparison of case congestion rate across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2024 and 2025

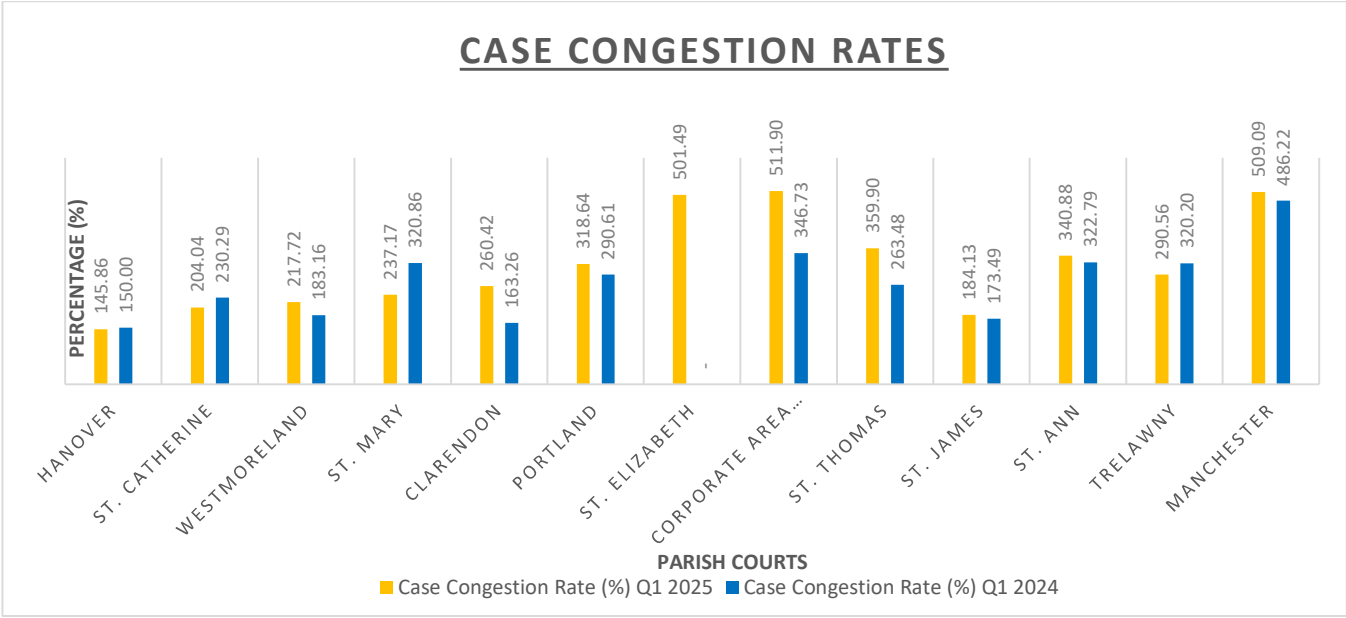


Table 1.04a: Sampling distribution of mention court activity for cases disposed of in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Overall number of cases disposed	Number of cases disposed in 1 case management date	Number of cases disposed in 2 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 3 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 4 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 5 management dates	Number of cases disposed in 6-10 management dates	Number of cases disposed in more than 10 management dates
Hanover	151	23	9	3	2			
St. Catherine	658	113	71	51	34	31	58	15
Westmoreland	418	170	80	45	33	25	44	25
St. Mary	183	26	19	20	15	8	19	2
Clarendon	302	66	39	21	20	8	20	7
Portland	198	54	35	24	16	16	49	9
Corporate Area Criminal	1013	437	159	105	84	66	121	68
St. Thomas	171	44	18	8	6	1	3	2
St. James	470	271	58	52	31	12	5	
St. Ann	375	112	38	21	20	11	16	3
Trelawny	200	33	20	13	9	5	27	6
Manchester	281	142	53	27	17	7	13	1
Mean	368.33	124.25	49.92	32.50	23.92	17.27	34.09	13.80
Median	291.50	89.00	38.50	22.50	18.50	11.00	20.00	6.50
Skewness	1.75	1.78	1.88	1.74	2.17	2.15	1.87	2.50
Standard Deviation	252.67	122.49	40.84	27.81	21.51	18.40	33.92	20.42
Total	4420	1491	599	390	287	190	375	138

The above sampling distribution provides critical insights into case management date activity for a representative sample of criminal cases disposed across the parish courts over the first quarter of 2025. In general, the fewer the number of case management dates per case, the more efficient the case flow progression. A maximum of five case management dates per case is considered to be desirable based on international best practices. A notable 21.49% of the sample of 4,420 cases disposed of during the period were resolved on their first appearance before the court. A further 33.73% of the sample of cases disposed of were resolved after 1 case management date, while 13.55% were resolved after 2 case management dates and 8.82% after 3 case management dates. Cumulatively, roughly 88.39% of the cases sampled were resolved in five or less case management dates, inclusive of those resolved on first appearance before the courts. This is an impressive outcome by any measure. Although there are some variances across the parish courts, the overall outcomes were consistently observed for all courts. In other words, the vast majority of the cases sampled were disposed in five or less case management appearance in all courts and matters disposed on first appearance before the court or within the first few appearances accounted for the largest share of the activity across the courts. These outcomes are not surprising given the consistently high case clearance rates in the parish courts in the last few years. These collective results augur well for the probability of relatively quick and efficient resolution of criminal cases across the parish courts.

Table 1.04b: Summary of cases heard during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Number of cases heard in the quarter	Share of cases heard in the quarter (%)
Clarendon	857	7.50
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3288	28.77
Hanover	223	1.95
Manchester	655	5.73
Portland	539	4.72
St. Ann	849	7.43
St. Catherine	1359	11.89
St. Elizabeth	353	3.09
St. James	832	7.28
St. Mary	358	3.13
St. Thomas	469	4.10
Trelawny	641	5.61
Westmoreland	1004	8.79
Total/Weighted Average	11427	100.00

The table above provides a summary of the criminal cases heard during the first quarter of 2025 at the parish courts. From a sample of 11,427 cases heard, it is seen that the Corporate Area Criminal court accounted for the highest share of cases heard with 3,288 cases heard or 28.77% of the sample, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 1,359 cases heard or 11.89% and the Westmoreland parish court with 1,004 cases or 8.79% of the sample. Cumulatively, the top three courts account for roughly 49.45% of the cases sampled. On the lower end, the parish courts of Hanover with 223 cases or 1.95%, St. Elizabeth with 353 or 3.09% and St. Mary with 358 or 3.13% of the sample, accounted for the lowest share of cases heard in the first quarter of 2025.

Table 1.05a: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the first quarter of 2024 and 2025

Parish Court	Trial certainty rate (%) Q1 2025	Trial certainty rate (%) Q1 2024	Change in the trial certainty rate (%)
Westmoreland	53	42	11
Clarendon	75	81	-6
St. Ann	100	100	0
Portland	100	100	0
St. James	97	100	-3
Manchester	97	100	-3
St. Catherine	55	63	-8
St. Elizabeth	96	NA	NA
Trelawny	85	89	-4
St. Mary	69	66	3
St. Thomas	66	65	1
Corporate Area Criminal	96	98	-2
Hanover	65	68	-3
Total/Average	81	81	0

Note 1: The trial date certainty rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q1 2025 is 100%

Note 2: Q1 represents the first quarter i.e. January-March

The trial date certainty rate provides a measure of the extent to which dates, which are set for trial, proceed on schedule without being delayed to start at some future date. The overall trial date certainty rate for the first quarter of 2025 was 81%, roughly the same rate when compared to the first quarter of 2024. Six (6) of the parish courts met the prescribed international performance standard of a rate between 92% and 100% in the quarter. Leading the way are the parish courts of St. Ann and Portland each with a trial certainty rate of 100%, St. James and Manchester with 97% each, St. Elizabeth and Corporate Area-Criminal Division with 96% each. The Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division fell just short of the international standard with a trial certainty rate of 85%, but this was still a promising result. The minimum-targeted court-wide trial date certainty rate which has been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice for the judiciary is 95%. This is consistent with the push to significantly enhance the efficiency of the court system

and hence the timely delivery of justice to the Jamaican citizenry. The attainment of this minimum threshold rate will assist in sustaining the current net case backlog rate of less than 5%.

Table 1.05b: Percentile Rank on trial date certainty rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the first quarter of 2024 and 2025

Parish Court	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate Q1 2025 (%)	Percentile Rank – Trial Date Certainty Rate Q1 2024 (%)
Westmoreland	0	0
Clarendon	42	45
St. Ann	92	73
Portland	92	73
St. James	75	73
Manchester	75	73
St. Catherine	8	9
St. Elizabeth	58	NA
Trelawny	50	55
St. Mary	33	27
St. Thomas	25	18
Corporate Area Criminal	58	64
Hanover	17	36

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the trial date certainty rates for the first quarter of 2024 and 2025. The results present a mixed picture across both years for most courts in terms of the relative performances on this measurement. Some courts experienced gains in the ranking and several others experienced declines, while some courts remained the same. There were, however, no dramatic changes in ranking for any court over the comparable period.

Table 1.05c: Average duration from first trial date set to date of disposal of case for matters resolved by trial in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Average duration of trial (days)
Clarendon	325.35
Corporate Area	452.83
Hanover	131.80
Manchester	266.36
Portland	205.59
St. Ann	303.56
St. Catherine	363.15
St. James	209.39
St. Mary	324.40
St. Thomas	659.33
Trelawny	299.03
Westmoreland	211.72
Weighted average	361.07
Standard Deviation	138.21

The above table summarizes the average durations between first trial date set and the date of case disposal for trial matters resolved in the first quarter of 2025 across the various parish courts. The data shows an overall weighted average interval between the first trial date set and the disposition of such cases in the quarter is 361 days or roughly 12 months, with a standard deviation of roughly 138 days or 4.6 months. The Hanover and Portland Parish Courts had the lowest times between first trial dates set and disposal of cases with roughly 132 days and 206 days respectively, reflective of more ideal standards when compared to most other courts. The St. Thomas and Corporate Area Parish Courts with average interval times of roughly 659 days or 22 months and 453 days or roughly 15.1 months respectively had the worst ranks on this measurement for the quarter. Lengthy time intervals between the first trial date and the date of case disposition are symptoms of case management problems, case readiness and possibly even scheduling and calendar management issues in the particular court.

Table 1.05d: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Average time between filing and first court appearance (in days)	Average time between first court appearance and trial (in days)	Average time between trial and disposition (in days)
Clarendon	5.15	244.79	325.35
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	6.63	493.38	452.83
Hanover	17.09	73.66	131.80
Manchester	11.11	165.97	266.36
Portland	6.82	286.56	205.59
St. Ann	9.52	330.88	303.56
St. Catherine	4.36	267.33	363.15
St. James	4.34	1037.50	209.39
St. Mary	4.13	140.28	324.40
St. Thomas	8.31	291.43	659.33
Trelawny	5.18	229.99	299.03
Westmoreland	6.62	273.77	211.72
Weighted average	6.28	445.76	361.07
Standard Deviation	3.74	249.05	138.21

Note 1: The average time between filing a case and the first court appearance for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q1 2025 is 15.35 days.

Note 2: The average time between the first appearance and first trial date for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q1 2025 is 675.94 days.

Note 3: The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q1 2025 is 497.58 days.

Tracking the times between the occurrence of major hearing events along the case flow continuum is important to establishing precise points of possible delay in case progression. The above table provides a summary of the average times between filing a case and the first court appearance, the average time between first court appearance and the first date of trial and the average duration between the first trial date and disposition. Overall, it is seen that the average time between filing a criminal case and the first court appearance is approximately 6 days, while the overall average time between first appearance of a criminal matter in the parish courts and

the first trial date is, however, much longer at roughly 14.9 months or 446 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 12 months or 361 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face long delays after a first date set is postponed. Since roughly less than a quarter of criminal 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 criminal cases but are nonetheless critical for monitoring case activity.

Table 1.05e: Trial court activity summary during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Number of cases heard	Number of cases with a trial date set	Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set (%)
Clarendon	857	258	30.11
Corporate Area-Criminal Division	3087	619	20.05
Hanover	223	40	17.94
Manchester	655	123	18.78
Portland	539	75	13.91
St. Ann	849	256	30.15
St. Catherine	1359	403	29.65
St. James	832	132	15.87
St. Mary	358	69	19.27
St. Thomas	469	59	12.58
Trelawny	641	163	25.43
Westmoreland	1004	126	12.55
St. Elizabeth	353	24	6.80
Total/Weighted Average	11226	2347	20.91

Note 1: The Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann had 12.78% of cases heard proceed to trial in Q1 2025

Note 2: Calculations for the Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division were done using data available from sheets in which a trial date was listed from 2017 onwards, hence, the total number of cases heard may differ from the number of cases heard listed in table 1.04b.

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the first quarter of 2025 in the criminal divisions of the parish courts which had trial dates set, whether in the current quarter, from the previous quarter or a future date. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 11,226 criminal cases heard across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2025, 2,347 cases or 20.91% had a trial date set. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth (6.80%), Westmoreland (12.55%) and St. Thomas (12.58%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of St. Ann (30.15%), Clarendon (30.11%) and St. Catherine (29.65%) had the highest proportions.

Table 1.06a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Average overall courtroom utilization rate (%)	Highest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Lowest recorded courtroom utilization rate (%)	Standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rate (%)	Average courtroom utilization rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average number of courtroom adjournments per day
St. Catherine	73.46	164.44	6.39	28.73	152.08	1.0
Westmoreland	73.07	156.67	2.33	32.41	NA	NA
Trelawny	73.06	136.67	6.67	32.19	NA	1.0
St. Thomas	55.26	140.28	15.28	25.13	NA	NA
St. Mary	85.17	146.00	5.67	32.25	NA	1.0
St. James	50.76	149.72	4.17	28.31	NA	1.0
Corporate Area Criminal Court	72.01	135.33	1.33	29.94	NA	1.1
St. Ann	69.21	226.39	5.00	31.79	NA	1.0
Portland	58.88	144.44	11.94	25.91	NA	NA
Hanover	55.42	137.22	1.94	34.26	NA	1.0
Clarendon	66.52	115.00	27.33	25.44	NA	NA
Manchester	64.20	129.17	6.94	31.77	NA	NA
Overall Averages	66.42	148.44	7.92	29.84	152.08	1.01
Standard Deviation	9.91	27.66	7.32	3.10	0.00	0.04
Skewness	0.08	2.20	1.95	-0.41	0.00	2.65

Note: The courtroom utilization rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q1 2025 is 64.84%

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the various parish courts in the first quarter of 2025. 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 first quarter of 2025. The overall average courtroom utilization rate across the parish courts in the quarter was 66.42%, which is an indication that on average roughly 66% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2025. This result is roughly 1.05 percentage points above the figure for the corresponding period in 2024. The parish courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the quarter are the St. Mary and St. Catherine Parish Courts with 85.17% and 73.46% respectively, followed by the Westmoreland Parish Court with 73.07% and the Trelawny Parish Court with 73.06%. The St. James Parish Court and St. Thomas Parish Courts with 50.76% and 55.26% respectively, had the lowest rates, while the Hanover Parish Court with 55.42% had the next lowest rate. 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 below 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 1.06b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rate for the criminal division of the parish courts in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Percentile rank Q1 2025 (%)	Percentile rank Q1 2024 (%)
St. Catherine	91	82
Westmoreland	82	100
Trelawny	73	27
St. Thomas	9	0
St. Mary	100	91
St. James	0	64
Corporate Area Criminal Court	64	73
St. Ann	55	55
Portland	27	9
Hanover	18	18
Clarendon	45	45
Manchester	36	36

Note: Q1 represents the first quarter i.e. January-March

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the courtroom utilization rates for the first quarter of 2024 and 2025. 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 St. Mary Parish Court performed better than all courts in the first quarter of 2025 and the Westmoreland Parish Court performed better than all courts in the first quarter of 2024. The St. Thomas Parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization rate in the first quarter of 2024 and the St. James Parish Court with the lowest rate in the first quarter of 2025.

Table 1.07: Types of matters for each Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Lay Magistrates Sittings	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	1207	812	210	358	-	-	-	13	1	2601
St. Catherine	583	257	163	233	8	-	13	-	-	1257
Manchester	245	126	181	59	16	1	22	-	-	650
St. James	273	262	153	76	69	45	-	-	-	878
St. Ann	260	81	103	89	-	-	-	1	-	534
Westmoreland	244	275	118	81	1	-	-	-	-	719
Clarendon	231	187	72	80	-	-	-	-	-	570
Portland	179	114	48	33	-	-	7	-	-	381
St. Mary	128	53	53	138	-	-	-	-	-	372
Trelawny	143	92	56	41	17	-	19	-	-	368
Hanover	122	41	49	38	-	-	7	-	-	257
St. Thomas	165	83	54	22	-	-	4	-	-	328
St. Elizabeth	179	122	22	34	-	-	-	-	-	357
Total	3959	2505	1282	1282	111	46	72	14	1	9272
Percentage	42.70	27.02	13.83	13.83	1.20	0.50	0.78	0.15	0.01	-

***Total number of observations = 9,272**LRF means Law Reform Fraudulent Transaction,**

*****NS means not stated**

The above table provides a breakdown of the different types of new charges filed in each parish court for the first quarter of 2025. For the quarter, 9,272 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decrease of approximately 210 charges or a 2.21% decline when compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2024. The largest proportions of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (2,601), the St. Catherine Parish Court (1,257), the St. James Parish Court with (878) and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 719 charges. The largest share of the charges were Indictments (42.70%); followed by summary matters (27.02%), Lay

Magistrates' matters (13.83%) and committal proceedings with 13.83% of the total sample. The Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division accounted for the largest proportion of Indictments filed, followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. James and St. Ann. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division accounted for the largest share of summary matters filed, followed by the Westmoreland Parish Court and the St. James Parish Court. The largest proportion of Lay Magistrates' matters was filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court– Criminal Division, followed by the parish courts of Manchester and St. Catherine. The Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. Mary Parish Court accounted for the largest individual shares of Committal Proceedings in the quarter. As for criminal matters, which are traffic related, the only incidences of these in the quarter were in the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and the St. Ann Parish Court.

Offence Types

Table 1.08.01: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	37	14.51
Malicious destruction of property	24	9.41
Unlawful wounding	24	9.41
Threat	22	8.63
Possession of an offensive weapon	12	4.71
Sub-total	119	46.67

Number of observations sampled (N): 255

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court for the first quarter of 2025. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 37 or 14.51% and malicious destruction of property and unlawful wounding with 24 or 9.41% each of the total sample of charges are the most frequently occurring charges.

Threat with 22 or 8.63% followed this, while possession of an offensive weapon with 12 or 4.71% of the total sample rounds off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 46.67% of the total sample of 255 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2024 in the Hanover Parish Court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property, threat and simple larceny.

Table 1.08.02: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	77	11.86
Unlawful wounding	68	10.48
Exposing goods for sale	55	8.47
Threat	38	5.86
Possession of an offensive weapon	35	5.39
Sub-total	273	42.06

Number of observations sampled (N): 649

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court for the first quarter of 2025. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 77 or 11.86% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 68 or 10.48% and exposing goods for sale with 55 or 8.47% rank next. The top five is rounded off by threat with 38 or 5.86% and possession of an offensive weapon with 35 or 5.39% of the sample charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 42.06% of the total sample of 649 charges filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2024 in the Manchester Parish Court included threat, malicious destruction of property, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding and exposing goods for sale.

Table 1.08.03: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	58	15.34
Unlawful wounding	43	11.38
Threat	33	8.73
Possession of an offensive weapon	28	7.41
Malicious destruction of property	16	4.23
Sub-total	178	47.09

Number of observations sampled (N): 378

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Portland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 58 or 15.34% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charges. Unlawful wounding with 43 or 11.38% and threat with 33 or 8.73% followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of offensive weapon with 28 or 7.41% and malicious destruction of property with 16 or 4.23% of the sample of charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 47.09% of the total sample of 378 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2024 in the Portland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, malicious destruction of property and possession of offensive weapon.

Table 1.08.04: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Threat	70	13.54
Unlawful wounding	67	12.96
Assault occasioning bodily harm	63	12.19
Malicious destruction of property	20	3.87
Possession of offensive weapon	18	3.48
Sub-total	238	46.03

Number of observations sampled (N): 517

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. It is shown that threat with 70 or 13.54% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 67 or 12.96%, assault occasioning bodily harm with 63 or 12.19% and malicious destruction of property with 20 or 3.87% followed this. Possession of an offensive weapon with 18 or 3.48% of the total sample rounds of the top charges. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 46.03% of the total sample of 517 charges filed in the quarter at the St. Ann Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2023 in the St. Ann parish court included threat, assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, possession of ganja, and dealing in ganja. From a sample of 116 charges, it is seen that the leading charges recorded in the first quarter of 2025 at the Brown's Town Outstation included assault occasioning bodily harm and unlawful wounding with 21 or 18.10% each and threat with 19 or 16.38%. Malicious destruction of property with 5 or 4.31% and simple larceny with 3.45% of the sample followed.

Table 1.08.05: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	164	13.06
Unlawful wounding	105	8.36
Malicious destruction of property	93	7.40
Assault at common law	58	4.62
Possession of offensive weapon	43	3.42
Sub-total	463	36.86

Number of observations sampled (N): 1,256

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. It is shown that assault

occasioning bodily harm with 164 or 13.06% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 105 or 8.36%, malicious destruction of property with 93 or 7.40% and assault at common law with 58 or 4.62% followed this. Possession of offensive weapon with 43 or 3.42% of the total sample of charges filed round off the top five. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 36.86% of the total sample of 1,256 charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2024 in the St. Catherine parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, possession of offensive weapon, unlawful wounding and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.06: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	58	16.48
Unlawful wounding	54	15.34
Possession of offensive weapon	29	8.24
Malicious destruction of property	23	6.53
Possession of ganja	23	6.53
Sub-total	187	53.13

Number of observations sampled (N): 352

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 58 or 16.48% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 54 or 15.34% and possession of offensive weapon with 29 or 8.24% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property and possession of ganja with 23 or 6.53% of the sample. The charges quoted above accounts for an

estimated 53.13% of the total sample of 352 charges filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the quarter.

Table 1.08.07: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. James Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Possession of offensive weapon	93	10.59
Assault occasioning bodily harm	84	9.57
Smoking in a Public Place	43	4.90
Possession of Ganja	43	4.90
Disorderly Conduct	41	4.67
Sub-total	304	34.62

Number of observations sampled (N): 878

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges at the St. James Parish Court in first quarter of 2025. It is shown that possession of offensive weapon with 93 or 10.59% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Assault occasioning bodily harm with 84 or 9.57% and smoking in a public place and possession of ganja with 43 or 4.90% each followed this. The top five is rounded off by disorderly conduct with 41 or 4.67% of the total sample. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 34.62% of the sample of 878 charges filed in quarter at the St. James Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2024 in the St. James parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, possession of offensive weapon, unlawful wounding, threat and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.08: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	37	10.05
Possession of Identity Information	28	7.61
Unlawful Wounding	25	6.79
Threat	24	6.52
Unauthorized Possession of Ammunition	20	5.43
Sub-total	134	36.41

Number of observations sampled (N): 368

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 37 or 10.05% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of identity information with 28 or 7.61% and unlawful wounding with 25 or 6.79% followed this. The top five is rounded off by threat with 24 or 6.52% and unauthorized possession of ammunition with 20 or 5.43% of the sample. The charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 36.41% of the total sample of 368 charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2024 in the St. Mary parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, threat, sexual intercourse with a person under 16 and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.09: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	57	17.38
Unlawful Wounding	36	10.98
Malicious destruction of property	22	6.71
Threat	22	6.71
Possession of offensive weapon	21	6.40
Sub-total	158	48.17

Number of observations sampled (N): 328

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 57 or 17.38% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 36 or 10.98% and malicious destruction of property and threat with 22 or 6.71% each followed this. The top five is rounded off by possession of offensive weapon with 21 or 6.40% of the total sample of charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 48.17% of the sample of 328 charges filed in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2024 in the St. Thomas parish court included simple larceny, unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, dealing in ganja and possession of ganja.

Table 1.08.10: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	48	13.04
Unlawful wounding	47	12.77
Possession of offensive weapon	35	9.51
Malicious destruction of property	22	5.98
Smoking in a Public Place	22	5.98
Sub-total	174	47.28

Number of observations sampled (N): 368

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. It is shown assault occasioning bodily harm with 48 or 13.04% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 47 or 12.77% of the sample followed this. Possession of offensive weapon with 35 or 9.51% and malicious destruction of property and smoking in a public place with 22 or 5.98% each of the charges round of the top five charges filed in the quarter. The

five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 47.28% of the total sample of 368 charges filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2024 in the Trelawny parish court included unlawful wounding, assault occasioning bodily harm, malicious destruction of property, possession of offensive weapon, and sexual intercourse with a person under 16.

Table 1.08.11: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	108	15.19
Possession of offensive weapon	77	10.83
Unlawful Wounding	63	8.86
Threat	44	6.19
Malicious destruction of property	43	6.05
Sub-total	335	47.12

Number of observations sampled (N): 711

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 108 or 15.19% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Possession of offensive weapon with 77 or 10.83% and unlawful wounding with 63 or 8.86% followed this. Threat with 44 or 6.19% and malicious destruction of property with 43 or 6.05% of the sample rank next. The five charges quoted above account for an estimated 47.12% of the total sample of 711 charges filed in the quarter at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2024 in the Westmoreland parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, threat, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and possession of offensive weapon.

Table 1.08.12: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	91	15.96
Unlawful Wounding	45	7.89
Threat	35	6.14
Malicious Destruction of Property	31	5.44
Possession of offensive weapon	23	4.04
Sub-total	225	39.47

Number of observations sampled (N): 570

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in first quarter of 2025. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 91 or 15.96% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 45 or 7.89% and threat with 35 or 6.14% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 31 or 5.44% and possession of offensive weapon with 23 or 4.04%. The charges quoted above account for an estimated 39.47% of the sample of 570 charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2024 in the Clarendon parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, possession of offensive weapon, smoking in a public place and malicious destruction of property.

Table 1.08.13: Distribution of the most frequently occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Assault occasioning bodily harm	236	9.07
Littering	172	6.61
Unlawful wounding	168	6.46
Malicious destruction of property	118	4.54
Possession of offensive weapon	117	4.50
Sub-total	811	31.18

Number of observations sampled (N): 2,601

The above table shows the sampling distribution of the five (5) most commonly occurring charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division for the first quarter of 2025. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 236 or 9.07% of the total sample of charges is the most frequently occurring charge. Littering with 172 or 6.61% and unlawful wounding with 168 or 6.46% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 118 or 4.54% and possession of offensive weapon with 117 or 4.50% of the charges. The five charges quoted above accounts for an estimated 31.18% of the total sample of 2,601 charges at filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court –Criminal Division in the quarter. The top five most frequently occurring charges recorded in the first quarter of 2024 in the Corporate Area parish court included assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, exposing goods for sale, littering and possession of offensive weapon.

Table 1.09: Conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Type of case	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Summary	2102	267	911	1178	56.04
Indictment	3634	85	577	662	18.22

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for summary and indictment matters heard across all parish courts in the first quarter of 2025. Summary matters heard in the quarter include charges such as possession of an offensive weapon, possession of ganja, exposing goods for sale and dealing in ganja. The estimated conviction rate for the quarter for summary matters was 56.04%, which is 8.16 percentage points below the conviction rate of 64.20% recorded for the corresponding first quarter of 2024. The estimated conviction rate for indictment matters was

significantly lower at 18.22% for the quarter, a rate which is approximately 1.19 percentage points below the 19.41% recorded in the first quarter of 2024. Indictment matters heard in the quarter included charges such as assault occasioning bodily harm, unlawful wounding, malicious destruction of property and simple larceny.

Table 1.10: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Charge	Frequency	Percentage
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1121	12.14
Unlawful wounding	790	8.56
Possession of offensive weapon	542	5.87
Malicious destruction of property	498	5.39
Threat	377	4.08
Disorderly conduct	281	3.04
Assault at common law	226	2.45
Possession of ganja	217	2.35
Simple larceny	214	2.32
Dealing in ganja	183	1.98
Sub-total	4449	48.20

Number of observations sampled (N): 9,231

The above table shows the distribution of the ten most commonly occurring charges across all parish courts for the first quarter of 2025. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1,121 or 12.14% of the total number of charges sampled is the most frequently occurring charge. Unlawful wounding with 790 or 8.56% and possession of offensive weapon with 542 or 5.87% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 498 or 5.39% and threat with 377 or 4.08% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter. These ten most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 48.20% of the total sample of charges filed in the quarter.

Table 1.11: Conviction rate for leading occurring charges heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Type of Offence	Number of disposed matters	Number of guilty verdicts	Number of guilty pleas	Aggregate number of guilty outcomes	Estimated conviction rate (%)
Possession of offensive weapon	435	103	258	361	82.99
Disorderly conduct	248	46	142	188	75.81
Possession of ganja	197	40	96	136	69.04
Dealing in ganja	160	32	60	92	57.50
Simple larceny	219	7	39	46	21.00
Threat	331	19	16	35	10.57
Malicious destruction of property	424	6	37	43	10.14
Unlawful wounding	628	12	47	59	9.39
Assault occasioning bodily harm	965	11	59	70	7.25
Assault at common law	199	1	12	13	6.53

The above table shows the estimated conviction rate for the ten (10) leading charges across all parish courts in the first quarter of 2025. It is shown that possession of an offensive weapon had the highest estimated conviction rate on the list with 82.99%. Disorderly conduct with 75.81% and possession of ganja with 69.04% followed this. The top conviction rates on the list in the quarter is rounded off by dealing in ganja with an estimated conviction rate of 57.50%. Possession of an offensive weapon recorded the highest estimated conviction rate in the corresponding first quarter of 2024 with 89.03%, followed by possession of ganja with an estimated conviction rate of 76.96%.

Table 1.12: Sampling distribution of the average age of active charges for each parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Average age of active charges (days)
Clarendon	41
Trelawny	40
Portland	38
St. Mary	33
Hanover	38
Westmoreland	42
St. Catherine	35
St. Ann	39
St. James	36
St. Thomas	36
Corporate Area Criminal	38
Manchester	36
Overall Average	37.67
Standard Deviation	2.61
Skewness	-0.01

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the first quarter of 2025, for charges originating in said quarter. The overall average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 38 days or roughly 1.3 months, roughly 2 less days than the average recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The parish courts of St. Mary, St. Catherine and Manchester have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed in the parish courts of Westmoreland, Clarendon, Trelawny and St Ann. The standard deviation of the scores was, however, relatively low (3 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The negative skewness indicates that most of the individual times to disposition in the data set were clustered around the overall series average. There is an intuitive correlation between case clearance rates and the average age of cases in the long run, but it does not necessarily manifest empirically in the short run. This means that in the long run, courts with higher clearance rates will in general have a

lower case backlog and a lower average age of active cases. Courts which manage to maintain a case clearance rate of between 90% and 110% long enough will eventually eliminate their case backlog, a feat that is quite conceivable with improved case progression management in the respective courts. In such cases, the average time taken to dispose of cases will experience a natural decline, tapering off at a modest, tolerable rate, improving the efficiency of the courts and the enhancing the timely delivery of justice.

Table 1.13: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Average age of disposed charges (days)
Clarendon	35
Trelawny	35
Portland	35
St. Mary	29
Hanover	32
Westmoreland	27
St. Catherine	28
St. Ann	29
St. James	26
St. Thomas	34
Corporate Area Criminal	31
Manchester	29
Overall Average	30.83
Standard Deviation	3.30
Skewness	0.12

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases filed in the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2025 is approximately 31 days. This is roughly 2 less days than the time taken to dispose of cases originating in the first quarter of 2024. The standard deviation of the scores was relatively low (3 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The positive skewness indicates that proportionately

more of the scores of the individual times to disposition in the data set were close to the overall series average. The scores ranged from a low of roughly 26 days at the St. James Parish Court to a high of 35 days for the Portland, Trelawny and Clarendon Parish Courts.

Table 1.14a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parishes	Time interval in days						730 days and over	Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365-547 days	548-729 days		
Corporate Area Criminal	21858 (36.0%)	11700 (19.3%)	7053 (11.6%)	4666 (7.7%)	5242 (8.6%)	3456 (5.7%)	6695 (11.0%)	60670 (100%)
St. Catherine	8068 (32.9%)	5410 (22.1%)	3223 (13.1%)	2025 (8.3%)	2176 (8.9%)	1088 (4.4%)	2521 (10.3%)	24511 (100%)
St. James	6525 (37.4%)	3379 (19.4%)	1835 (10.5%)	1304 (7.5%)	1471 (8.4%)	767 (4.4%)	2172 (12.4%)	17453 (100%)
Manchester	4021 (28.5%)	2733 (19.4%)	1840 (13.1%)	1350 (9.6%)	1627 (11.5%)	1009 (7.2%)	1510 (10.7%)	14090 (100%)
Westmoreland	6885 (55.7%)	2308 (18.7%)	1256 (10.2%)	685 (5.5%)	660 (5.3%)	267 (2.2%)	303 (2.5%)	12364 (100%)
St. Ann	3988 (28.3%)	2812 (19.9%)	1667 (11.8%)	1263 (9.0%)	1709 (12.1%)	923 (6.5%)	1739 (12.3%)	14101 (100%)
Clarendon	5970 (41.1%)	3392 (23.4%)	1763 (12.1%)	1058 (7.3%)	1259 (8.7%)	480 (3.3%)	597 (4.1%)	14519 (100%)
St. Thomas	2311 (30.0%)	1700 (22.1%)	1039 (13.5%)	787 (10.2%)	779 (10.1%)	369 (4.8%)	707 (9.2%)	7692 (100%)
Portland	3482 (37.9%)	2319 (25.2%)	1060 (11.5%)	683 (7.4%)	723 (7.9%)	376 (4.1%)	548 (6.0%)	9191 (100.0%)
St. Mary	4152 (41.2%)	2013 (20.0%)	1272 (12.6%)	749 (7.4%)	681 (6.8%)	294 (2.9%)	911 (9.0%)	10072 (100%)
Trelawny	2499 (34.8%)	1305 (18.2%)	867 (12.1%)	608 (8.5%)	774 (10.8%)	404 (5.6%)	723 (10.1%)	7180 (100%)
Hanover	3547 (53.5%)	1424 (21.5%)	655 (9.9%)	367 (5.5%)	283 (4.3%)	150 (2.3%)	204 (3.1%)	6630 (100%)
% of Total	36.93	20.40	11.86	7.83	8.76	4.83	9.39	-
Average	6108.83	3374.58	1960.83	1295.42	1448.67	798.58	1552.50	16539.42
Standard Deviation	5276.65	2847.36	1737.64	1151.79	1316.15	893.64	1781.72	14787.12
Skewness	2.79	2.64	2.67	2.63	2.46	2.75	2.50	2.81

Number of charges sampled (N) = 198,473

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 8.6 years

The above table shows the breakdown of the times to disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 103 consecutive months (8.6 years) over the period September 2016 to March 2025. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 36.93% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, Westmoreland and St. James are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed within 90 days. This trend is broadly similar to that seen over the past 24 months. Cumulatively, 77.02% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a continued positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in sustaining 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 six years. From the data set, the parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. James had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 9.39% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. James also 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 range from weak positive to moderate positive, which is an indication that for disposed cases, the distributions of the times taken do not vary dramatically across the courts. The difference, however, is the proportion of cases disposed, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

Table 1.14b: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition for matters completed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parishes	Time interval in days							
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365-547 days	548-729 days	730 days and over	Sample size (n)
Corporate Area Criminal	421 (26.7%)	289 (18.4%)	264 (16.8%)	153 (9.7%)	80 (5.1%)	13 (0.8%)	354 (22.5%)	1574 (100%)
St. Catherine	231 (31.4%)	153 (20.8%)	109 (14.8%)	58 (7.9%)	55 (7.5%)	41 (5.6%)	89 (12.1%)	736 (100%)
St. James	156 (50.3%)	94 (30.3%)	16 (5.2%)	8 (2.6%)	5 (1.6%)	17 (5.5%)	14 (4.5%)	310 (100%)
Manchester	101 (37.3%)	94 (34.7%)	31 (11.4%)	10 (3.7%)	23 (8.5%)	8 (3.0%)	4 (1.5%)	271 (100%)
Westmoreland	177 (50.6%)	73 (20.9%)	43 (12.3%)	23 (6.6%)	27 (7.7%)	3 (0.9%)	4 (1.1%)	350 (100%)
St. Ann	218 (40.7%)	117 (21.9%)	41 (7.7%)	31 (5.8%)	70 (13.1%)	10 (1.9%)	48 (9.0%)	535 (100%)
Clarendon	121 (32.9%)	69 (18.8%)	52 (14.1%)	28 (7.6%)	79 (21.5%)	4 (1.1%)	15 (4.1%)	368 (100%)
St. Thomas	73 (38.6%)	38 (20.1%)	54 (28.6%)	15 (7.9%)	5 (2.6%)	1 (0.5%)	3 (1.6%)	189 (100%)
Portland	74 (29.2%)	101 (39.9%)	27 (10.7%)	25 (9.9%)	13 (5.1%)	7 (2.8%)	6 (2.4%)	253 (100%)
St. Mary	127 (42.9%)	88 (29.7%)	29 (9.8%)	12 (4.1%)	12 (4.1%)	16 (5.4%)	12 (4.1%)	296 (100%)
Trelawny	62 (31.3%)	22 (11.1%)	22 (11.1%)	12 (6.1%)	49 (24.7%)	16 (8.1%)	15 (7.6%)	198 (100%)
Hanover	77 (66.96%)	27 (23.48%)	8 (6.96%)	2 (1.74%)	0 0	0 0	1 (0.87%)	115 (100%)
% of Total	35.38	22.43	13.40	7.26	8.05	2.62	10.88	-
Average	153.17	97.08	58.00	31.42	34.83	11.33	47.08	432.92
Standard Deviation	101.72	71.27	69.87	41.02	30.19	11.07	99.91	395.85
Skewness	1.82	1.88	2.73	2.76	0.45	1.84	3.11	2.53

Number of charges sampled (N) = 5,195

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters disposed parish courts in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly

35.38% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Court -Criminal Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Ann and Westmoreland are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 78.47% 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 six years. From the data set, the parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 10.88% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division, St. Catherine and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters in the year taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample range from weak positive to moderate positive, which is an indication that for disposed cases, the distributions of the time taken do not vary dramatically across the courts. The difference, however, is the proportion of cases disposed of, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

Table 1.15a: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	293.79	1	148	382.71	2.59	1	3278	60670
St. Catherine	301.69	28	154	425.67	3.35	1	7091	24511
St. James	413.14	66	140	981.06	6.61	1	17100	17453
Manchester	311.65	63	188	352.42	3.17	1	9044	14090
Westmoreland	145.44	28	76	191.46	3.01	1	2555	12364
St. Ann	336.36	28	189	416.44	3.24	1	8875	14101
Clarendon	200.16	63	116	250.23	3.62	1	3824	14519
St. Thomas	278.89	63	168	320.95	2.42	1	2739	7692
Portland	238.27	63	125	339.46	3.49	1	2877	9191
St. Mary	286.67	14	121	491.86	3.66	1	6737	10072
Trelawny	288.59	28	157	344.30	2.15	1	2585	7180
Hanover	156.44	35	77	257.06	10.01	1	9333	6630
Average/Weighted Average	285.18	40.00	138.25	396.14	3.94	1.00	6336.50	16539.42
Standard Deviation	75.79	22.54	37.21	201.98	2.22	0.00	4351.46	14787.12
Skewness	-0.15	-0.17	-0.42	2.46	2.29	0.00	1.42	2.81

Number of charges sampled (N) = 198,473

Note 1: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the previous 8.6 years.

Note 2: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025 is 382.88 days

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a large sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at March 31, 2025. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least 103-month period over September 2016 – March 2025 for most parish courts and it should be noted that these descriptive statistics are for matters disposed over that sample period. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 285 days (9.5 months). The skewness of these times

to disposition is a low negative 0.15, suggesting a cluster of scores around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (145 days), Hanover (156 days) and Clarendon (200 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. James (413 days), St. Ann (336 days) and Manchester (312 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (75.79), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. An interesting finding is that the minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1 day; however, the maximum times are substantially larger, in some cases several years. This result continues to be 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 2,555 days (85.2 months/7.1 years) in the Westmoreland parish court to a high of 17,100 days (570 months/47.5 years) in the St. James Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 1.42, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were below the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 198,473 matters.

Table 1.15b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for matters completed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Criminal	405.61	820	205	523.42	2.34	1	3202	1574
St. Catherine	313.03	34	169.50	390.33	2.33	1	3081	736
St. James	169.80	91	87	273.87	3.30	1	1876	310
Manchester	178.49	63	118	255.12	5.71	2	2454	271
Westmoreland	149.81	28	88	167.95	2.61	1	1220	350
St. Ann	301.91	28	124	526.14	3.95	1	4052	535
Clarendon	250.37	369	167	347.88	6.31	4	3759	368
St. Thomas	167.30	194	144	188.66	4.52	2	1548	189
Portland	192.43	155	155	213.73	3.62	6	1561	253
St. Mary	216.02	154	112	361.81	4.24	1	2954	296
Trelawny	306.77	468	234.50	278.59	1.29	1	1260	198
Hanover	91.35	23	56	140.61	7.25	1	1397	115
Average/Weighted Average	287.09	202.25	138.33	305.68	3.96	1.83	2363.67	432.92
Standard Deviation	88.76	240.76	51.39	128.20	1.77	1.59	1017.10	395.85
Skewness	0.52	1.83	0.32	0.63	0.47	2.13	0.39	2.53

Number of charges sampled (N) = 5,195

Note: The average time to disposition for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025 is 374.62 days

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. The output produces an estimated weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) of approximately 287 days or 9.6 months. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 0.52, suggesting that a large proportion of these times were close to the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the quarter, the parish courts of Hanover (91 days), Westmoreland (150 days) and St. Thomas (167 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases in the quarter. The parish courts

of Corporate Area Criminal (406 days), St. Catherine (313 days) and Trelawny (307 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters resolved during the quarter. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is, however, wide as shown by the moderately high standard deviation (89 days), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1.83 days; however, the maximum times are substantially larger, in some cases several years. This result continues to be 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 1,220 days (40.7 months/3.4 years) in the Westmoreland parish court to a high of 4,052 days (135.1 months/11.3 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 0.39 which is an indication that proportionately more of the maximum times to disposition were close to the overall series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial 5,195 matters cases which were resolved during the first quarter of 2025.

Table 1.15c: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025 for cases over 24 months

Parish Court	Net case backlog rate (%)	Gross case backlog rate (%)
Clarendon	0.38	11.40
Corporate area	4.15	24.62
Hanover	0.09	4.24
Manchester	2.74	16.34
Portland	1.29	8.41
St. Ann	2.79	24.90
St. Catherine	0.24	10.87
St. Elizabeth	4.54	13.16
St. James	0.69	12.59
St. Mary	0.48	5.78
St. Thomas	2.17	9.63
Trelawny	0.96	10.51
Westmoreland	0.06	7.77
Weighted Average	2.23	16.49
Standard Deviation	1.55	6.35

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter of 2025 is 9.38% and the gross backlog is 30.83%.

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

results revealed are quite outstanding, revealing a net case backlog rate for cases over 24 months old (weighted average) in the criminal division of the parish courts is 2.23% (with a standard deviation of 1.55%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 16.49% (with a standard deviation of 6.35%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is 6.49 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10% but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the criminal courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Westmoreland with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.06%, Hanover with 0.09% and St. Catherine with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.24% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts St. Elizabeth (4.54%), Corporate Area Criminal (4.15%) and St. Ann (2.79%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (4.24%), St. Mary (5.78%) and Westmoreland (7.77%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (24.90%), Corporate Area Criminal Court (24.62%) and Manchester (16.34%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the criminal court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

Table 1.15d: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025 for cases over 20 months

Parish Court	Net case backlog rate (%)	Gross case backlog rate (%)
Clarendon	0.46	11.60
Corporate area	4.26	25.36
Hanover	0.10	4.26
Manchester	3.05	16.82
Portland	1.47	8.81
St. Ann	3.13	26.05
St. Catherine	0.34	11.47
St. Elizabeth	4.73	13.46
St. James	0.70	12.80
St. Mary	0.56	5.99
St. Thomas	2.24	9.80
Trelawny	1.08	10.91
Westmoreland	0.10	7.97
Weighted Average	2.36	17.02
Standard Deviation	1.61	6.61

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter of 2025 is 10.46% and the gross backlog is 32.61%.

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 Honourable Chief Justice of Jamaica has established¹ that 20 months is considered the maximum time that any criminal case should take to be disposed, regardless of complexity dynamics. Hence, any unresolved criminal case that is over 20 months old is considered to be in a state of backlog.

Table 1.15d presents the estimated gross case backlog rate; a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over 20 months) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are

¹ Effective December 1, 2023

unresolved) and are over 20 months 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 twenty months) which are still active and exceeding twenty months old at the time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed.

The results revealed are quite outstanding, revealing a net case backlog rate for cases over 20 months old (weighted average) in the criminal division of the parish courts is 2.36% (with a standard deviation of 1.61%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 17.02% (with a standard deviation of 6.61%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved criminal cases in the parish courts. This rate is 7.02 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10% but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the criminal courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Westmoreland and Hanover with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.10% each, St. Catherine with 0.34% and Clarendon with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.46% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts St. Elizabeth (4.73%), Corporate Area Criminal (4.26%) and St. Ann (3.13%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (4.26%), St. Mary (5.99%) and Westmoreland (7.97%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (26.05%), Corporate Area Criminal Court (25.36%) and Manchester (16.82%) have the

highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the criminal court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

Table 1.16: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage
Not guilty	343	29.42
Guilty Plea	290	24.87
Dismissed	275	23.58
Not Guilty Plea - Mediated Settlement (other)	139	11.92
Guilty	97	8.32
Committed to Circuit	20	1.72
Transferred	2	0.17
Total	1166	100.00

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters disposed by not guilty verdicts with 29.42% of the cases disposed, guilty pleas with 290 or 24.87% and matters dismissed with 275 or 23.58% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.

Methods of Disposal and Conviction Rate

Table 1.17: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not Guilty Verdict	Transferred	Mediated Settlement	Guilty Verdict	Committed to Circuit Court	Total
St. Catherine	211	269	30	154	371	13	141	1189
Corporate Area Criminal	943	542	391	97	69	4	191	2237
Westmoreland	195	76	167	1	82	1	66	588
St. James	-	-	245	1	-	366	36	648
Manchester	49	88	83	22	40	88	57	427
Clarendon	170	53	52	51	106	1	80	513
Trelawny	100	101	21	-	14	-	53	289
Hanover	37	24	50	15	64	10	24	224
Portland	36	-	98	-	9	20	66	229
St. Mary	7	69	100	-	6	50	123	355
St. Thomas	74	4	46	31	76	13	17	261
St. Ann	82	22	54	118	55	10	8	349
St. Elizabeth	112	83	7	-	45	6	4	257
Total	2016	1331	1344	490	937	582	866	7566
Percentage of total	26.65	17.59	17.76	6.48	12.38	7.69	11.45	-

Total sample size: 7,566

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the first quarter of 2025. From the sample, it is observed that the largest proportion of matters disposed of during the quarter were by way of a guilty plea with 26.65% of the sample, followed by not guilty verdicts with 17.76% and matters dismissed with 17.59%. Mediated settlements with 12.38%, matters committed to Circuit Court with 11.45%, guilty verdicts with 7.69% and matters transferred to another court with 6.48% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter.

The combined 34.34% of the cases disposed of by way of guilty outcomes represent the estimated criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter. This represents a decrease of 1.99 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2024.

Common Reasons for Adjournment

Table 1.18.01: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
File to be completed	1262	11.72
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	886	8.23
Disclosure	851	7.90
Referred to mediation	486	4.51
Adjournment request - crown	264	2.45
Re-issue application	230	2.14
Medical report unavailable	208	1.93
Psychiatric evaluation to be done	183	1.70
Facilitate restitution	177	1.64
Complainant absent	169	1.57
Sub-total	4716	43.80

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 10,766)

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 10,766 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the across all parish courts. The largest proportion (11.72%) was for files to be completed. Adjournments due to the nonappearance of the accused, leading to the issuing of warrants with 8.23% and adjournments for disclosure with 7.90% account for the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts for the quarter. Adjournments due to referrals to mediation with 4.51% and adjournment request by the crown with 2.45%, round of the top five reasons for adjournment in this period.

Five (5) of the top five reasons for adjournment were also featured in the top five for the first quarter of 2024. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 43.80% of the total sample of adjournments.

The case file integrity rate:

One factor, which has a significant bearing on the progression of cases through the court system, is the case file integrity rate. A case file is considered to have met the standards of integrity if at the point of a court hearing requiring the use of said file; it is complete, accurate, available and correctly listed for court. Hence reasons for adjournment such as file incomplete, file not ready for court, matter wrongly listed and matter not before the court have an adverse impact on the case file integrity rate of the courts. In the first quarter of 2025, the case file integrity rate for criminal matters across the parish courts was 87.67%, as 12.33% of the total incidence of adjournments was due to the indicated factors, which impair the case file integrity rate. Of these factors, file to be completed accounts for 11.72% of the total incidence of adjournments/continuance and is the greatest contributor, adversely affecting the case file integrity rate. This rate is below the prescribed international standard of 98%-100%. This is an area in which major operational interventions need to be undertaken across the parish courts to improve the availability, completeness, accuracy and correct scheduling of case files for court.

Table 1.18.02: Summary of case management date activity for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Average number of mentions per case	Standard Deviation of Mentions Per Case	Skewness of mentions per case	Maximum Mention Court Frequency	Minimum Mention Court Frequency
Clarendon	3.92	3.26	2.66	31	1
Corporate Area	8.94	11.36	2.41	104	1
Hanover	1.62	0.79	1.52	5	1
Manchester	2.27	1.68	2.97	20	1
Portland	4.29	4.13	2.30	30	1
St. Ann	3.00	2.64	2.09	23	1
St. Catherine	3.81	3.53	2.64	28	1
St. James	2.11	1.34	1.72	12	1
St. Mary	3.57	2.73	1.68	18	1
St. Thomas	2.79	2.42	2.97	24	1
Trelawny	3.92	3.24	2.25	28	1
Westmoreland	5.13	5.51	2.65	40	1
Weighted Average	5.91	-	-	30.25	1.00
Standard Deviation	1.91	-	-	24.98	0.00
Skewness	1.88	-	-	2.63	0.00

The above table summarises the number of case management dates per case leading towards disposition in the criminal division of the parish courts for matters heard in the first quarter of 2025. The overall average number of case management dates per case is 5.91 (i.e. between 5 and 6) with a standard deviation of 1.91 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.88. Together, these results suggest that the average number of appearances per case is above the prescribed international standard of a maximum of 5 mentions per case, that a larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of case management dates and that there isn't 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 first quarter of 2025 are the Corporate Area Parish Court-Criminal Division,

the Westmoreland and the Portland parish courts, while the Hanover, St. James and Manchester Parish Courts were among those with the lowest case management dates per case. In terms of cases disposed, the average case management dates for all cases resolved across all the parish courts combined in the first quarter of 2025 was 4.16 with a standard deviation of 1.20.

Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics and Courtroom Activity

This chapter examines case demographics including age and gender distribution of offenders as well as a sample estimate of the geographical distribution of charges based on the police Station where matters are reported. This section also examines the distribution of new cases heard in the quarter by the respective courtrooms and outstations in each parish.

Table 1.19: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

	Male		Female		Total	
Charge	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasioning bodily harm	865	77.23	255	22.77	1120	100
Unlawful wounding	615	78.05	173	21.95	788	100
Possession of offensive weapon	508	93.73	34	6.27	542	100
Malicious destruction of property	389	77.80	111	22.20	500	100
Threat	298	79.05	79	20.95	377	100
Disorderly conduct	206	73.31	75	26.69	281	100
Assault at common law	193	85.40	33	14.60	226	100
Possession of ganja	184	84.79	33	15.21	217	100
Simple larceny	178	83.18	36	16.82	214	100
Dealing in ganja	155	84.70	28	15.30	183	100

*****The gender of offenders was not available for every matter that was filed in the parish courts hence a sample is used. Sample size (N) = 9,217**

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. Based on the data shown in chart 2.01, it is not

surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges. Among the charges listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution are simple larceny, dealing in ganja, possession of ganja, and assault at common law for which over 80% of the persons charged were male. More particularly, is seen that possession of offensive weapon with 93.73% of the persons charged being male had the most significant incidence of persons charged being male for the quarter. Disorderly conduct, malicious destruction of property, and assault occasioning bodily harm act saw the highest incidence of female involvement.

The below series of tables provide a sampling distribution of cases by assigned courtroom in the individual parish courts in the first quarter of 2025. These figures are derived from representative datasets from the respective courts and do not necessary add back to the total population of cases outlined in the first few tables of the report.

Table 2.02.01: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2025	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2025	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2025	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	355	152	15	71.14	47.04
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	3	0	0	0.60	NA
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	28	3	0	5.61	10.71
Whithorn Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	5	0	0	1.00	NA
Whithorn Outstation	108	67	4	21.64	65.74
Total/Weighted Average	499	222	19	100	48.30

Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of criminal cases filed in the first quarter of 2025 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative

proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court cases heard in each of the relevant locations for ease of comparison. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and sittings at the Whithorn Outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 355 (71.14%) and 108 (21.64%) cases respectively. Sittings at the Lay Magistrates' court at the main courthouse with 28 cases or 5.61% rank next. The number of cases heard in courtroom one (355 cases), increased by 42 cases or 13.42% above the 313 cases recorded in the similar first quarter of 2024. The case disposal rate decreased by 12.07 percentage points moving down to 47.04% compared to the 59.11% reported in the first quarter of 2024. In terms of cases disposed of, sittings in courtroom number 1 with 152 cases accounted for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of and had the second highest disposal rate of 47.04%. The outstation in Whithorn rank next with 67 disposed cases and recorded the highest disposal rate of 65.74%, which is 6.14 percentage points below the 71.88% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 22.64% of the total sample of new cases heard, an increase of 0.22 percentage points when compared to the 22.42% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024. The main courthouse accounted for the remaining 77.36%, a decrease of 0.22 percentage points when compared to the 77.58% recorded in 2024.

Table 2.02.02: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2025	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2025	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2025	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1140	433	237	82.55	58.77
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	2	0	2	0.14	100.00
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	2	0	0	0.14	NA
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	77	1	1	5.58	2.60
Courtroom #7 (main courthouse)	6	1	1	0.43	33.33
Courtroom #8 (main courthouse)	1	1	0	0.07	100.00
Gordon Town Outstation	1	0	0	0.07	NA
Gun Court (main courthouse)	70	0	0	5.07	NA
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	82	54	4	5.94	70.73
Total/Weighted Average	1381	490	245	100.00	53.22

Note 1: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025 at the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the majority of new cases filed in the quarter with 1,140 cases or 82.55% of the total sample. Lay Magistrates’ sittings at the main courthouse with 82 cases or roughly 5.94% follows this and courtroom number 6 with 77 cases or 5.58%, rounding off the top three proportion of new cases filed in the quarter. Courtroom number two at the main courthouse accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed of in the first quarter of 2025 with 433 cases and the fourth highest disposal rate of 58.77%. When compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2024, courtroom number two also accounted for the largest absolute share of cases disposed of with 398 cases and had a disposal

rate of 62.63%. This represents an increase of 35 cases disposed of or an 8.79% increase and a 3.86 percentage points decrease in the disposal rate. The main courthouse in Half-Way-Tree accounted for 99.93% of the total sample of new cases heard in the first quarter of 2025, while the Gordon Outstation accounted for 0.07%.

Table 2.02.03: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2025	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2025	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2025	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Adelphi	4	3	0	0.70	75.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	549	310	51	96.32	65.76
Cambridge Outstation	17	5	1	2.98	35.29
Total/Weighted Average	570	318	52	100.00	64.91

Note 1: There was 1 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, at the St. James Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the disposal rates of the various courtrooms and outstations. The sample shows that courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for the majority of new cases heard with 549 cases or 96.52% of the total sample, an increase of 89 cases or a 19.35% increase above the 460 cases recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024. This was followed by the Cambridge outstation with 17 cases or 2.98% of the total sample. Adelphi had the highest disposal rate of 75%, despite its relatively low numbers and courtroom number 2 had a disposal rate of 65.76%. The main courthouse in Montego Bay

accounts for 96.32% of the new cases heard in the first quarter of 2025, 3.56 percentage points above the 92.76% recorded in corresponding first quarter of 2024. The remaining 3.68% was accounted for by Adelphi and the Cambridge outstation.

Table 2.02.04: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2025	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2025	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2025	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	435	207	26	63.23	53.56
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	10	4	0	1.45	40.00
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	14	2	0	2.03	14.29
Courtroom #5 (main courthouse)	2	2	0	0.29	100.00
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	2	0	0	0.29	NA
Children's Court (main courthouse)	20	4	0	2.91	20.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	23	5	0	3.34	21.74
Linstead Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	1	0	0	0.15	NA
Linstead Outstation (Courtroom #1)	119	78	3	17.30	68.07
Old Harbour Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	4	2	1	0.58	75.00
Old Harbour Outstation (Courtroom #1)	58	32	3	8.43	60.34
Total/Weighted Average	688	336	33	100.00	53.63

Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Lay Magistrates' and night court matters for the relevant locations for ease of comparisons. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse in Spanish Town and courtroom 1 at the outstation in Linstead account for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 63.23% and 17.30% of the cases respectively. Courtroom 1 at the outstation in Old Harbour with 8.43% of new cases filed ranks next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 207 cases, which is an increase of 26.99% or 44 more cases than the 163 cases

recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024. Courtroom 1 also had the fifth highest disposal rate of 53.56%, which is an increase of 4.97 percentage points above the 48.59% recorded in the comparable first quarter of 2024. Sittings at courtroom 5 at the main courthouse had the highest disposal rate of 100%, despite relative low numbers, followed by Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Old Harbour Outstation with a disposal rate of 75% and courtroom 1 at the Linstead Outstation with a disposal rate of 68.07%. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounts for 73.54% of the total sample of new cases heard in the first quarter of 2025, a decrease of 0.10 percentage points below the 73.64% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024. The outstations combined accounted for the remaining 26.46%.

Table 2.02.05: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2025	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2025	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2025	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courtroom)	12	0	0	5.61	NA
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	75	31	2	35.05	44.00
Courtroom #2 (main courtroom)	73	40	7	34.11	64.38
Yallahs Outstation	51	20	1	23.83	41.18
Yallahs Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	0	1.40	NA
Total/Weighted Average	214	91	10	100.00	47.20

Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 35.05% and 34.11% respectively. Courtroom number 2 also accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 40 cases and the highest disposal rate of 64.38%. When compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2024, this represents a decrease of 13.04 percentage points below the disposal rate of 77.42% recorded. Sittings in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 44% (compared to 65.52% in 2024) accounts for the second highest disposal rate in the quarter. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 74.77% of the total new cases heard in the quarter, which is a decrease of 2.31 percentage points when compared to the 77.08% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024. The remaining 25.23% was

accounted for by the Yallahs outstation, an increase of 2.31 percentage points when compared to the 22.92% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024.

Table 2.02.06: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2025	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2025	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2025	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	11	2	1	4.56	27.27
Falmouth Outstation	80	40	7	33.20	58.75
Falmouth Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	4	0	1	1.66	25.00
Ulster Spring Outstation	36	5	4	14.94	25.00
Ulster Spring Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	0	1	1.24	33.33
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	107	34	3	44.40	34.58
Total/Weighted Average	241	81	17	100.00	40.66

Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that cases entered in courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town Outstation accounts for the highest proportion of new cases heard in the quarter with 44.40% of the sample. The Falmouth Town Outstation and the Ulster Spring Outstation with 33.20% and 14.94% respectively, followed. Sittings at the Falmouth Outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 58.75%, followed by sittings at courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town outstation and Lay Magistrates' sittings the Ulster Spring outstation with disposal rates of 34.58% and 33.33% respectively. The outstations in the parish account for 95.44% of the new cases heard in the first quarter of 2025, while the remaining 4.56% were accounted for by the main courthouse. In the corresponding first quarter of 2024, the main courthouse accounted

for 3.16% of the new cases heard, while the remaining 96.84% were accounted for by the outstations.

Table 2.02.07: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2025	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2025	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2025	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Children's Court (main courthouse)	7	1	0	3.23	14.29
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	131	45	1	60.37	35.11
Annotto Bay Outstation	32	20	0	14.75	62.50
Gayle Outstation	3	0	0	1.38	NA
Richmond Outstation	21	4	2	9.68	28.57
Richmond Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	2	1	0	0.92	50.00
Lay Magistrates' (main courthouse)	21	4	1	9.68	23.81
Total/Weighted Average	217	75	4	100.00	36.41

Note 1: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Mary in the first quarter of 2025. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 at the main courthouse and the Annotto Bay Outstation account for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 60.37% and 14.75% respectively of the total sample. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse and sittings at the Richmond Outstation with 9.68% each rank next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 45 cases, roughly 11 more cases or a 32.35% improvement when compared to the corresponding first quarter of 2024 and had a case disposal rate of 35.11%. The Annotto Bay outstation had the highest disposal rate of 62.50%, followed by Lay Magistrates' sittings at the Richmond outstation with a disposal rate of 50%. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 26.72% of the

total sample of new cases heard in the first quarter of 2025, a decrease of 3.51 percentage points below the 30.23% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for 73.28%, which is an increase of 3.51 percentage point above the 69.77% recorded in 2024.

Table 2.02.08: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2025	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2025	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2025	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	137	50	6	61.43	40.88
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	16	7	0	7.17	43.75
Courtroom#3 (main courthouse)	14	0	0	6.28	NA
Buff Bay Outstation	45	12	4	20.18	35.56
Lay Magistrates' (main courthouse)	10	2	1	4.48	30.00
Manchioneal Outstation	1	0	0	0.45	NA
Total/Weighted Average	223	71	11	100.00	36.77

Note 1: There were 28 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Portland in the first quarter of 2025. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the majority of new cases heard in the period, with 61.43% of the total sample. In the first quarter of 2024, courtroom one also accounted for the majority of new cases heard with 52.86% of the sample of cases. The outstation in Buff Bay and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with 20.18% and 7.17% respectively of the total sample of the new cases heard in the period ranked next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest

absolute share of cases disposed of with 50 cases, a 21.95% increase or 9 more cases compared to the 41 cases recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024; and had the second highest disposal rate of 40.88%. Courtroom number one at the main courthouse and the Buff Bay Outstation with disposal rates of 43.75% and 35.56% respectively ranked first and third on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 20.64% of the new cases heard, which is a decrease of 12.24 percentage points below the 32.88% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 79.36%, which is an increase of 12.24 percentage above the 67.12% recorded in the first quarter of 2024.

Table 2.02.09: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2025	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2025	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2025	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	36	24	0	22.64	66.67
Courtroom #2 (main courtroom)	26	15	0	16.35	57.69
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	30	27	1	18.87	93.33
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #2)	1	1	0	0.63	100.00
Green Island Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	2	1	0	1.26	50.00
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	17	5	2	10.69	41.18
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #1)	16	12	1	10.06	81.25
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	21	14	0	13.21	66.67
Sandy Bay Outstation (Lay Magistrates)	10	2	1	6.29	30.00
Total/Weighted Average	159	101	5	100.00	66.67

Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in the first quarter of 2025. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 22.64% of the total sample and is 17.36 percentage points below the 40% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024. Courtroom one at the Green Island Outstation and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with 18.87% and 16.35% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the Green Island Outstation accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 27 cases, a 50% increase or 9 more cases than the 18 cases recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024. Courtroom number 1 at the Green Island Outstation also recorded the second highest case disposal rate of 93.33%, which is an increase of 21.33 percentage points above the 72% reported in the

comparative first quarter of 2024. Despite the relatively low absolute numbers, courtroom 2 at the outstation in Green Island recorded the highest disposal rate of 100%. The outstations in the parish account for 50.32% of the new cases heard during the quarter, which is an increase of 2.82 percentage points above the 50.32% recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The main courthouse accounts for the remaining 49.68%, which is a decrease of 2.82 percentage points below the 52.50% when compared to 2024.

Table 2.02.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the First quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2025	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2025	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2025	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
St. Ann's Bay and the Claremont outstation					
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	38	22	1	16.45	60.53
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	47	24	5	20.35	61.70
Claremont Outstation	46	25	3	19.91	60.87
Claremont Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	6	1	2	2.60	50.00
Brown's Town					
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	83	23	4	35.93	32.53
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	11	1	5	4.76	54.55
Total/Weighted Average	231	96	20	100.00	50.22

Note 1: There were 243 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Ann in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. The data shows that courtroom 1 in the Brown's Town outstation and courtroom 2 in St. Ann's Bay (the main court) account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 35.93% and 20.35% respectively of the total sample. When compared to the first quarter of 2024, the data shows that courtroom 1 in the Brown's Town outstation and courtroom 1 in St. Ann's Bay (main courthouse) were also accounted for the two largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 41.56% and 25.97% respectively of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of, the Claremont Outstation accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 25 cases and had a disposal rate of 60.87%. Sittings at courtroom 2 at the main courthouse had the

highest disposal rates for the quarter with 61.70%. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 40.69% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann in the first quarter of 2025, which is 14.15 percentage points above the 26.54% recorded in the corresponding first quarter of 2024. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 36.80% of the new cases heard in the quarter and the Claremont outstation accounted for the remaining 22.51% of new cases.

Table 2.02.11: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Clarendon for first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2025	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2025	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2025	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	137	54	4	37.43	42.34
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	39	12	0	10.66	30.77
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	18	12	0	4.92	66.67
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	28	17	1	7.65	64.29
Lionel Town Outstation	84	24	1	22.95	29.76
Chapleton Outstation	45	13	0	12.30	28.89
Frankfield Outstation	15	5	2	4.10	46.67
Total/Weighted Average	366	137	8	100.00	39.62

Note: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 37.43% of the total sample. The Lionel Town outstation account for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 22.95% of the total sample. In terms of cases disposed of, courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed of with 54 cases, a decrease of 63.76% or 95 cases less than the 149 disposed cases recorded for this courtroom in the first quarter of 2024 and had the fourth highest disposal rate of 42.34%. Sittings in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 66.67% had the highest disposal rate followed by Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse with a disposal rate of 64.29%. The main courthouse in May Pen accounted for 60.66% of cases heard in quarter, while the remaining 39.34% was

accounted for by the outstations, which is an increase of 5.38 percentage points more than the 33.96% recorded in 2024.

Table 2.02.12: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2025	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2025	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2025	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	84	26	3	26.33	34.52
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	54	18	4	16.93	40.74
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	7	3	0	2.19	42.86
Cottage Outstation	5	2	1	1.57	60.00
Cottage Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	4	0	0	1.25	NA
Christiana Outstation	28	10	2	8.78	42.86
Christiana Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	9	5	0	2.82	55.56
Spalding Outstation	18	7	4	5.64	61.11
Spalding Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	4	0	0	1.25	NA
Porus Outstation	9	3	0	2.82	33.33
Porus Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	3	1	0	0.94	33.33
Cross Keys Outstation	2	2	0	0.63	100.00
Cross Keys Outstation (Lay Magistrates')	2	0	0	0.63	NA
Lay Magistrates' Court (main courthouse)	74	39	4	23.20	58.11
Tax Court	16	0	0	5.02	NA
Total/Average	319	116	18	100	42.01

Note 1: There were 171 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. The data shows courtroom number one at the main courthouse accounted for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 84 cases or 26.33% of the total sample. Lay Magistrates' sittings at the main courthouse and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse account

for the next highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 23.20% and 16.93% respectively of the total sample. In terms of the case disposal rate, sittings at the Cross Keys Outstation recorded the highest disposal rate of 100%, despite proportionally low numbers, followed by the Spalding Outstation with 61.11% and Cottage Outstation with 60%. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 73.67% of the total sample of new cases heard during the first quarter of 2025, which is an increase of 6.92 percentage point when compared to the 66.75% recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The remaining 26.33% was accounted for by the various outstations.

Table 2.02.13: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Elizabeth for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in Q1 2025	Number of new cases disposed of in Q1 2025	Number of inactive cases in Q1 2025	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case disposal rate (%)
Balaclava (Outstation)	27	14	1	11.59	55.56
Courtroom #1 (main courtroom)	39	30	0	16.74	76.92
Courtroom #2 (main courtroom)	1	0	0	0.43	NA
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom #1)	20	4	0	8.58	20.00
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom #2)	146	90	8	62.66	67.12
Total/ Weighted Average	233	138	9	100.00	63.09

Note 1: There was 1 missing courtroom/Outstation entry therefore the number in this table may not equate to the table in 1.0.

Note 2: The dynamics of the movement of cases or matters between courtrooms relative to the case counting rules may result in variations from the results in table 1.0.

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Elizabeth in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. The data shows courtroom number two at the Santa Cruz Outstation accounted for the majority of new cases heard in the quarter, with 146 cases or 62.66% of the total sample. Sittings at courtroom 1 at the main courthouse and the Balaclava Outstation account for the next highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 16.74% and 11.59% respectively of the total sample.

In terms of the case disposal rate, courtroom number two at the main courthouse recorded the highest disposal rate of 76.92%, followed by courtroom 2 at the Santa Cruz outstation with 67.12% and the Balaclava Outstation with 55.56%. The outstations in the parish accounts for 82.83% of the total sample of new cases heard during the first quarter of 2025, while the remaining 17.17% was accounted for by the main courthouse in Black River.

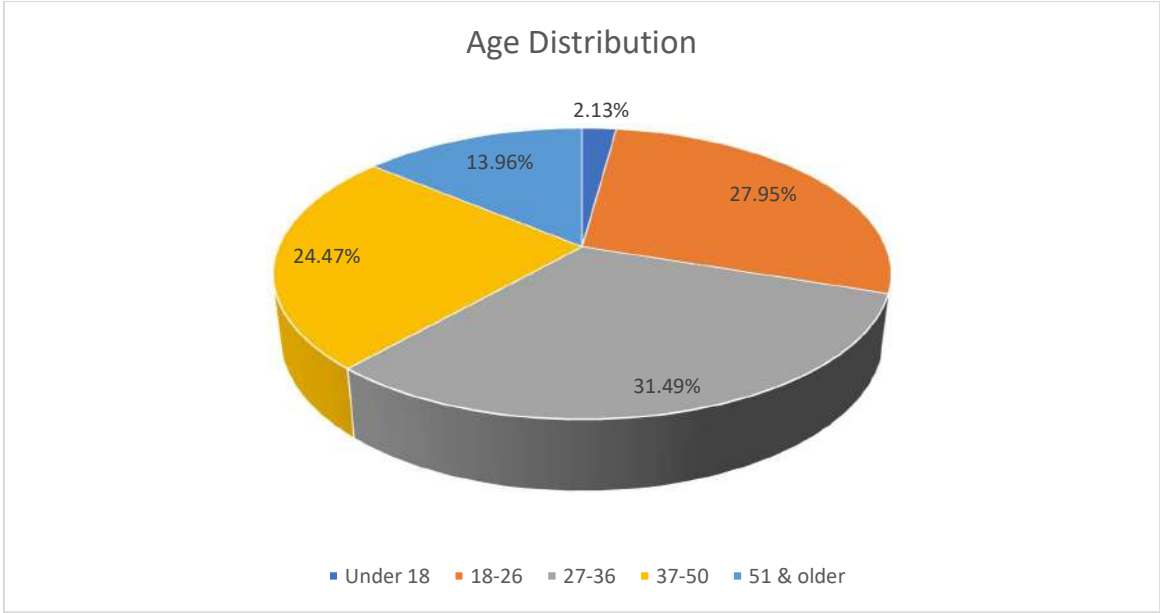
Table 2.02.14: proportion of cases heard at the main court and outstation across all parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish	Main Court Q1 2025 (%)	Outstation Q1 2025 (%)
St. James	96.32	3.68
St. Catherine	73.54	26.46
Westmoreland	77.36	22.64
Hanover	50.32	49.68
St. Mary	73.28	26.72
Trelawny	4.56	95.44
St. Thomas	74.77	25.23
Manchester	73.67	26.33
Portland	79.36	20.64
St. Ann	36.80	63.20
Clarendon	60.66	39.34
Corporate Area	99.93	0.07
St. Elizabeth	17.17	82.83
Simple Averages	62.90	37.10

The above table provides a proxy summary of the distribution of the utilization of the main courthouse locations and combined outstation usage in the hearing of new criminal cases filed. It is seen that 62.90% of new cases filed were entered for initial hearing in the main courthouse locations, while 37.10% were allocated for outstations. There are significant variances in the extent of main courthouse and outstation usage for the hearing of criminal matters across the parishes. It is seen, for example, that in parishes such as Corporate Area (Kingston and St. Andrew), St. James, Portland and Westmoreland, in excess of 75% of the new cases filed were

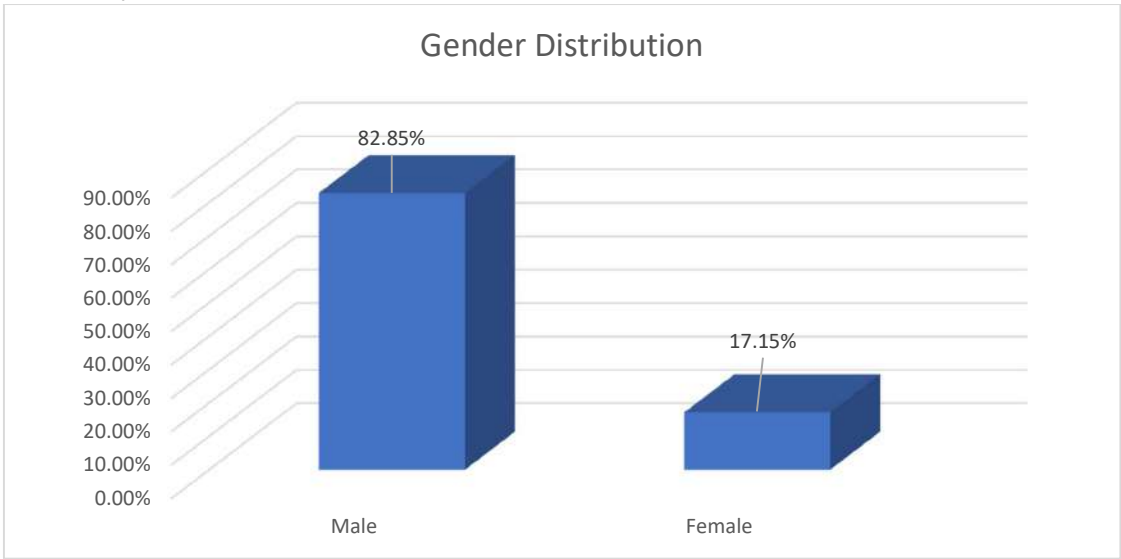
entered for initial hearing, with the usage being particularly acute in the Corporate Area Court Criminal Division, which had 99.93% of cases entered for initial hearing at the main courthouse. On the contrary, there are parishes where the level of outstation usage competes with or outruns the usage of the main courthouse in the hearing of criminal cases filed. Trelawny is a good example of courts with significant outstation usage, registering over 90% for initial hearing of new criminal cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. There may be opportunities for greater utilization of outstations to carry the caseload in some parishes, but such precise determinations require further analyses of total 'demand and supply, in each location.

Chart 2.01: Aggregate age distribution of persons charged for all parish courts for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



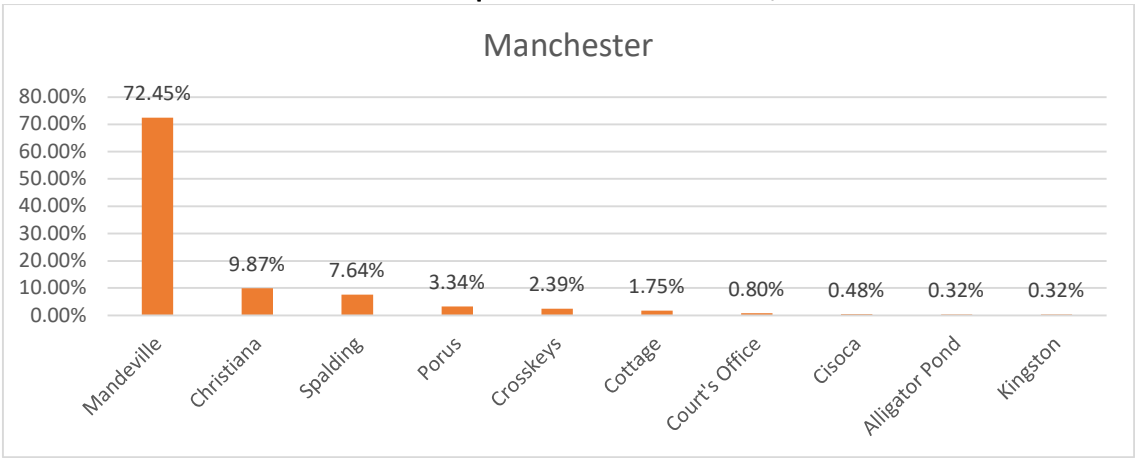
The above chart summarizes the age distribution of persons charged and brought before the criminal division of the parish courts in the first quarter of 2025. It is shown that the 27-36 age group with 31.49% accounted for the largest share of the persons charged, followed by the 18-26 age group with 27.95%. The lowest shares were attributed to the under 18 age group with 2.13% and 51 and over age group with 13.96%. The remaining proportion was accounted for by the 37-50 age group with 24.47% of the total sample.

Chart 2.02: Aggregate gender distribution of persons charged for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of persons charged for the first quarter of 2025 were male, accounting for roughly 82.85% of the total sample, while females accounted for approximately 17.15%. The gender distribution of persons charged during the first quarter of 2025 was broadly similar to the breakdown for the first quarter of 2024 which had a male to female ratio of approximately 78.62% to 21.38%.

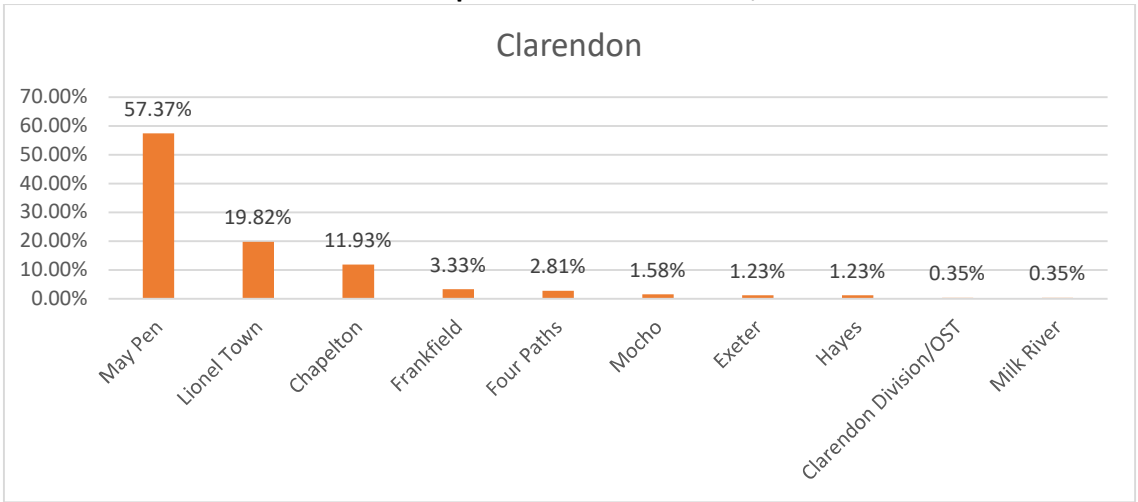
Chart 2.03.01: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart shows the distribution of charges at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 628 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2025 the majority of charges, 72.45%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Christiana Police Station, which accounts for 9.87% of the total sample of matters reported. The Spalding police station rounded off the top three with 7.64%. In the corresponding first quarter of 2024, the top three comprised of the Mandeville Police Station, the Christiana Police Station, and the Spalding police station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

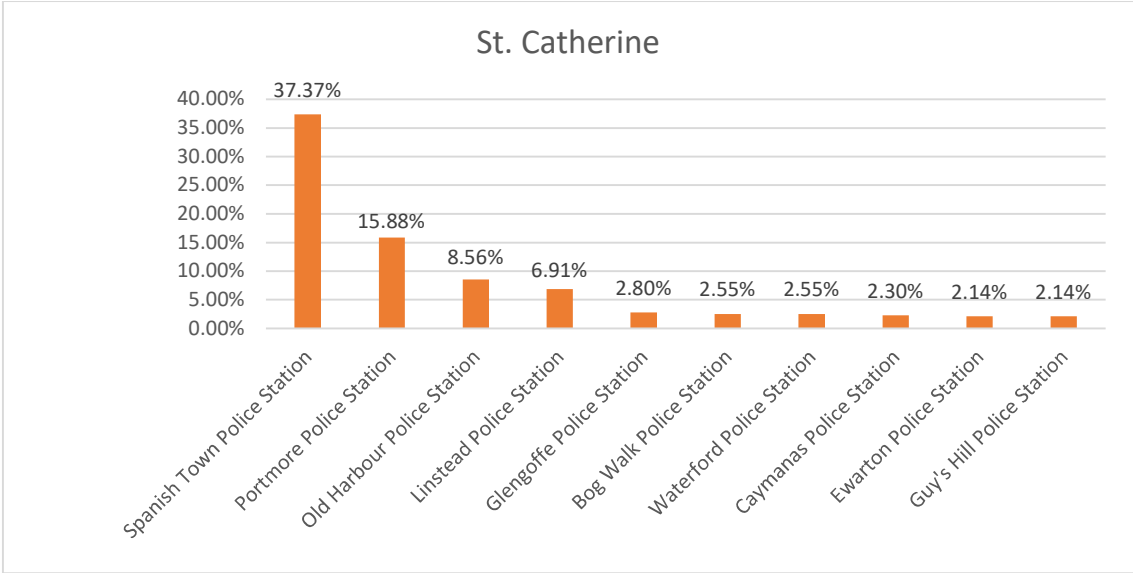
Chart 2.03.02: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 570 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2025, the majority of criminal matters, 57.37%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Lionel Town Police Station which accounts for 19.82% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Chapelton Police Station with 11.93%. In the previous first quarter of 2024, the top three comprised of the May Pen Police Station, the Lionel Town and the Chapleton Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

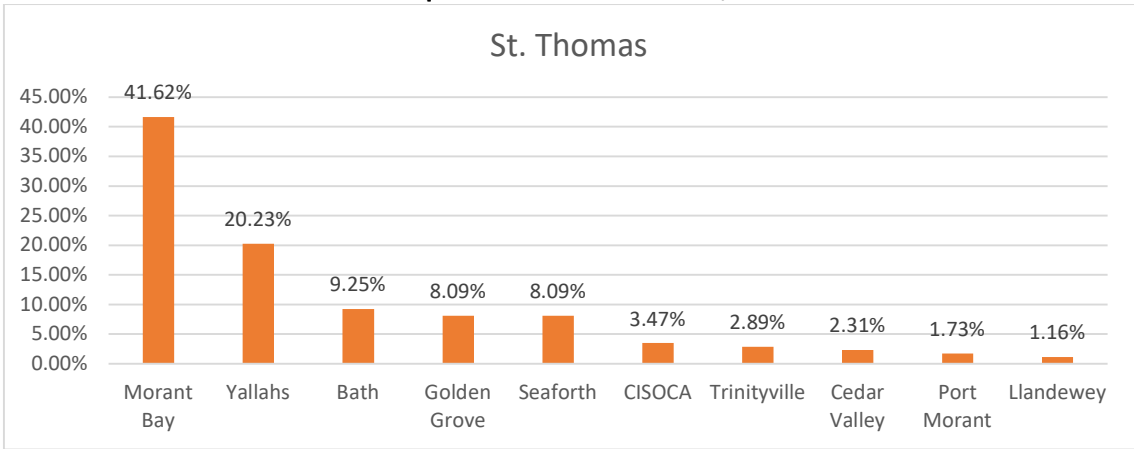
Chart 2.03.03: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 1,215 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2025, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 37.37%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Portmore Police Station which accounts for 15.88% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Old Harbour Police Station with 8.56%. In the previous first quarter of 2024, the top three comprised of the Spanish Town Police Station, the Linstead and the Old Harbour Police Stations.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

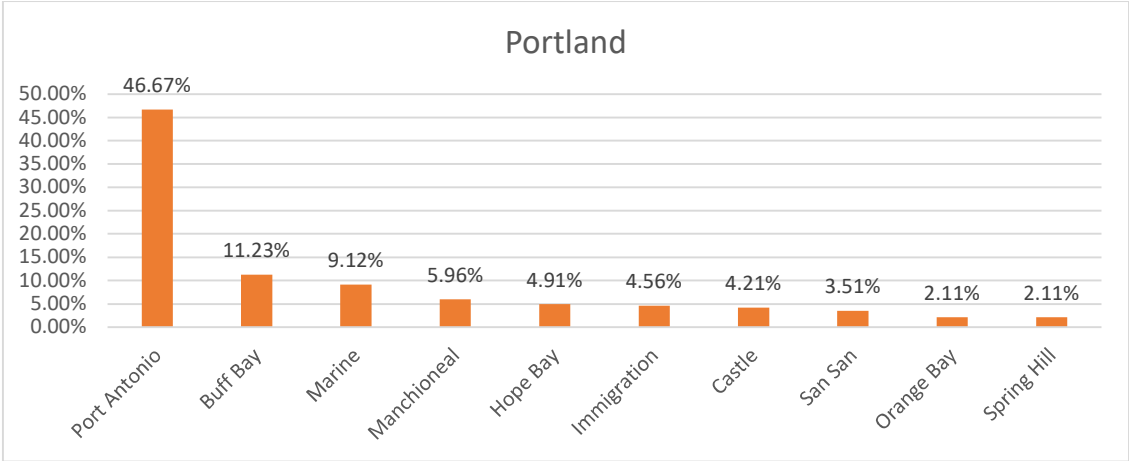
Chart 2.03.04: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 173 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2024, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 41.62%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Yallahs Police station which accounts for 20.23% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Bath police station with 9.25%. In the previous first quarter of 2024, the top three comprised of the Morant Bay Police Station, the CISOCA Police and the Narcotics Police.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

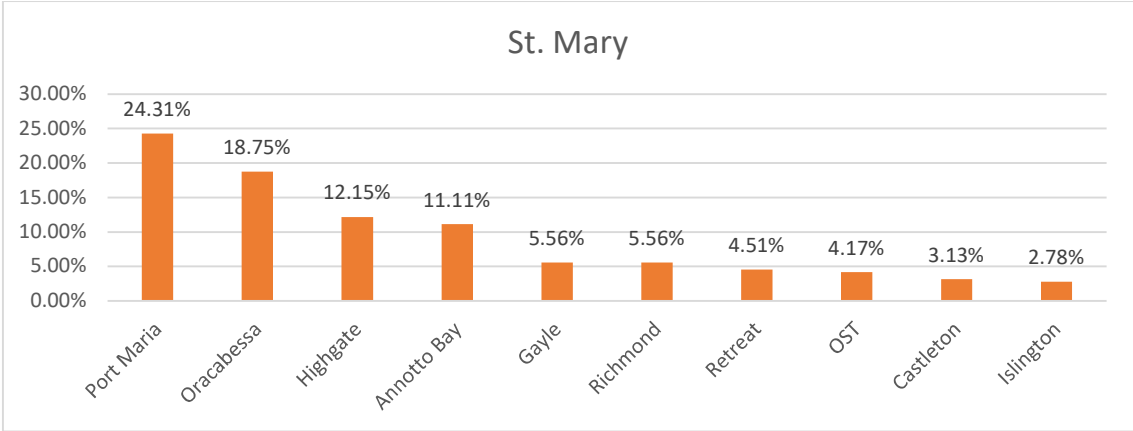
Chart 2.03.05: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Portland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 285 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2025, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 46.67%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Buff Bay Police Station, which accounts for 11.23% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Marine Police with 9.12%. In the previous first quarter of 2024, the top three comprised of the Port Antonio Police Station, the Buff Bay Police Station and the Manchioneal Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

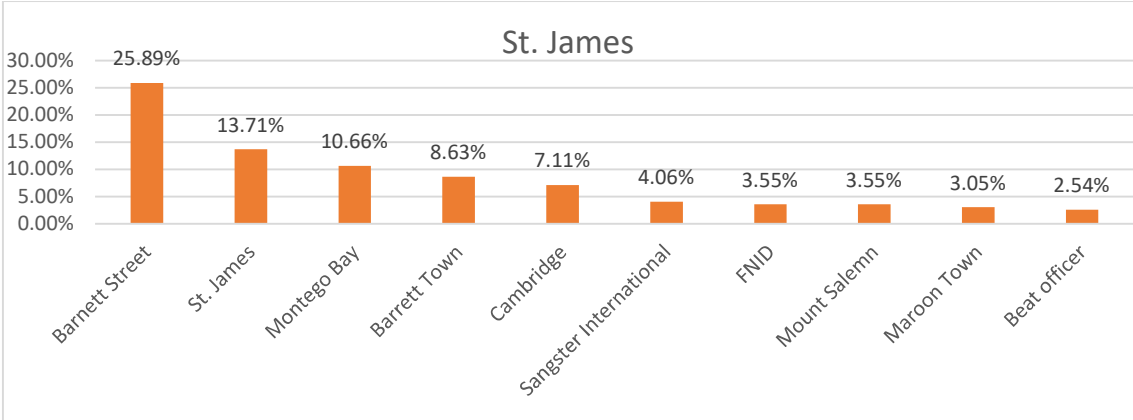
Chart 2.03.06: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 288 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2025, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 24.31%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Oracabessa Police Station which accounts for 18.75% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Highgate Police Station with 12.15%. In the previous first quarter of 2024, the top three comprised of the Port Maria Police Station, the Annotto Bay Police Station and the Highgate Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

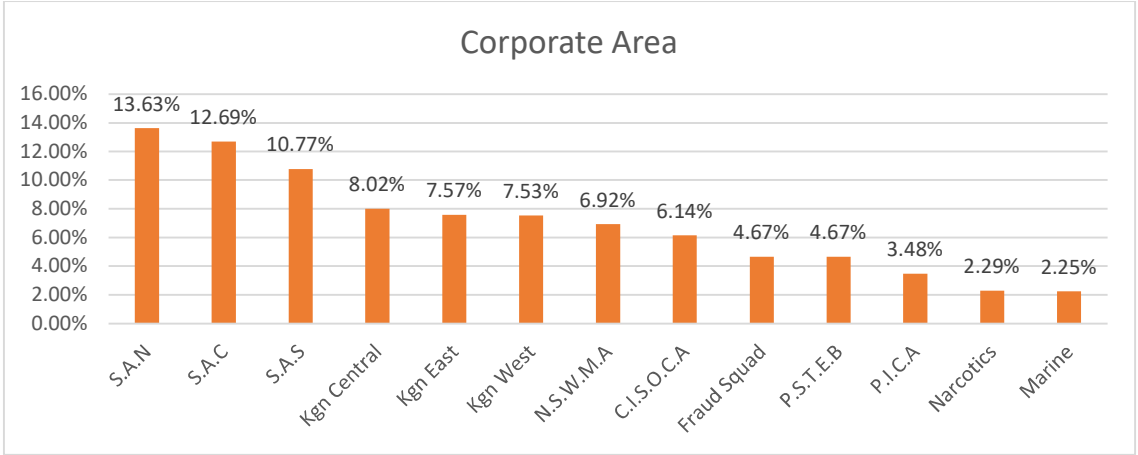
Chart 2.03.07: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 197 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2025, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 25.89%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the St. James Police Station, which accounts for 13.71% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Montego Bay Police Station with 10.66%. In the previous first quarter of 2024, the top three comprised of the Barnett Street Police Station, the Montego Bay Police station and the Mount Salem Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

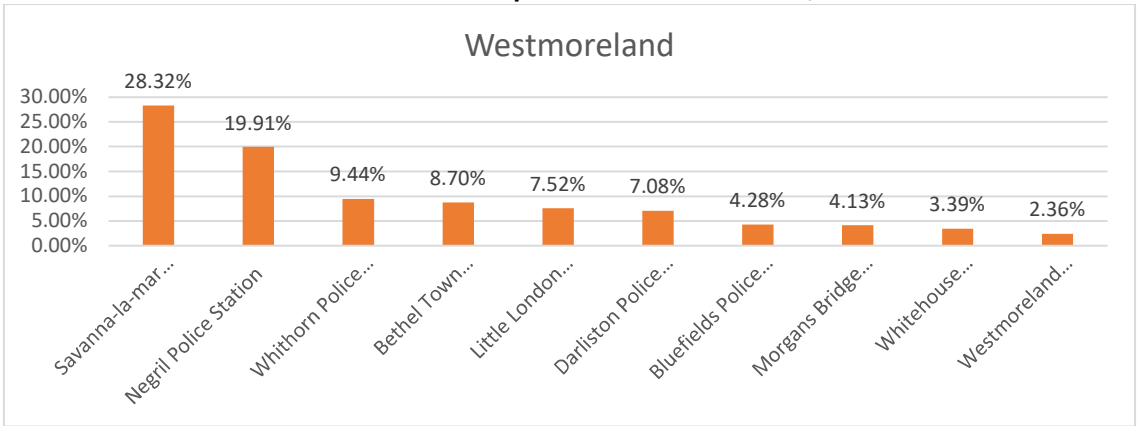
Chart 2.03.08: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 2,443 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2025, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 13.63%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the St. Andrew North Police Station. This was followed by the St. Andrew Central Police Station which accounts for 12.69% of the sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the St. Andrew South Police Station with 10.77%. In the previous first quarter of 2024, the top three comprised of the Kingston Central Police Station, the N.S.W.M.A Police and the St. Andrew South Police Station.

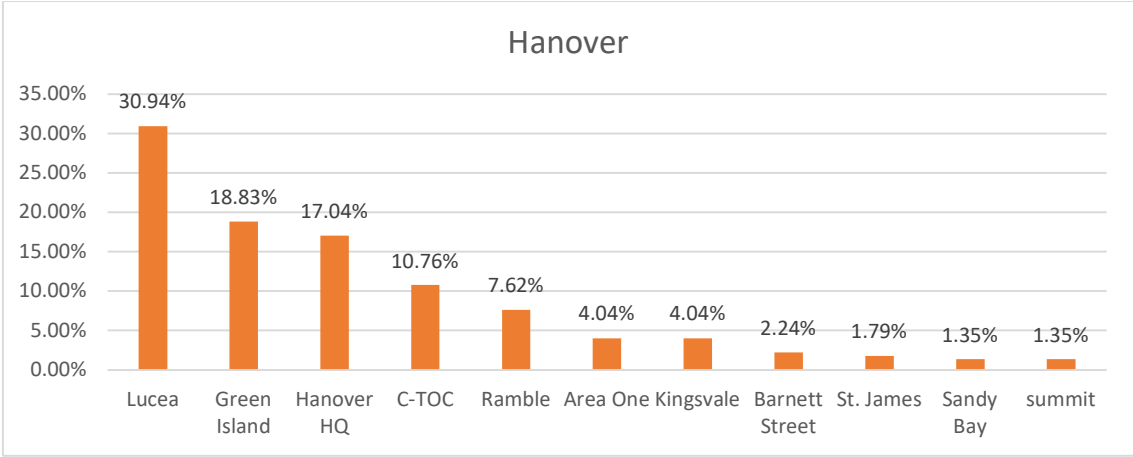
This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 2.03.08: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 678 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2025, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 28.32%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Savanna-la-mar Police Station. This was followed by the Negril Police Station which accounts for 19.91% of the total sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Whithorn Town Police Station with 9.44%. In the previous first quarter of 2024, the top three comprised of the Savanna-la-mar Police Station, the Negril Police Station and Bethel Town Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

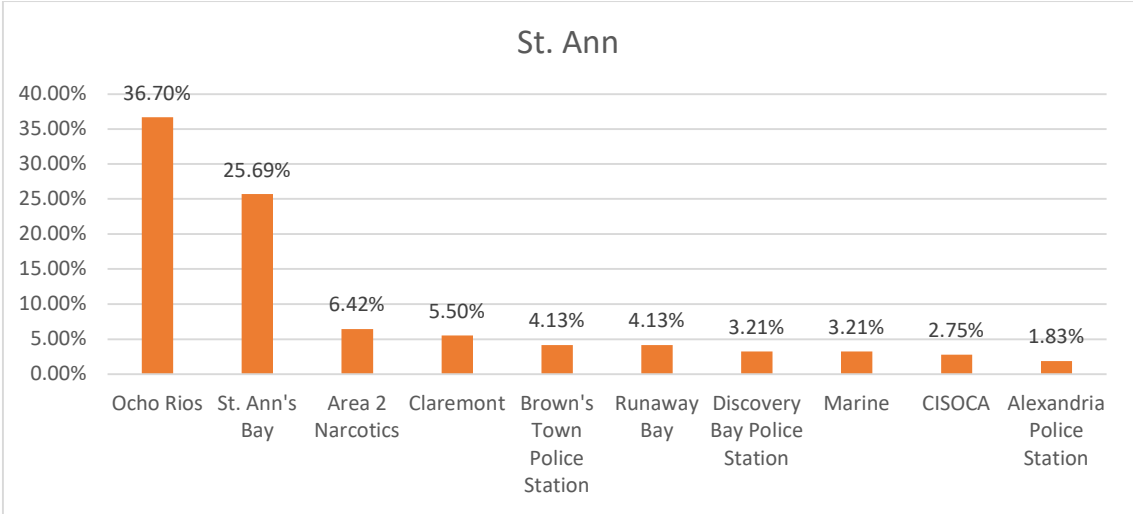
Chart 2.03.09: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 223 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2025, the highest proportion of criminal matters, 30.94%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Green Island Police Station, which accounts for 18.83% of the sample of matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Hanover HQ Police Station with 17.04%. In the previous first quarter of 2024, the top three comprised of the Lucea Police Station, Green Island Police Station and the Ramble Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

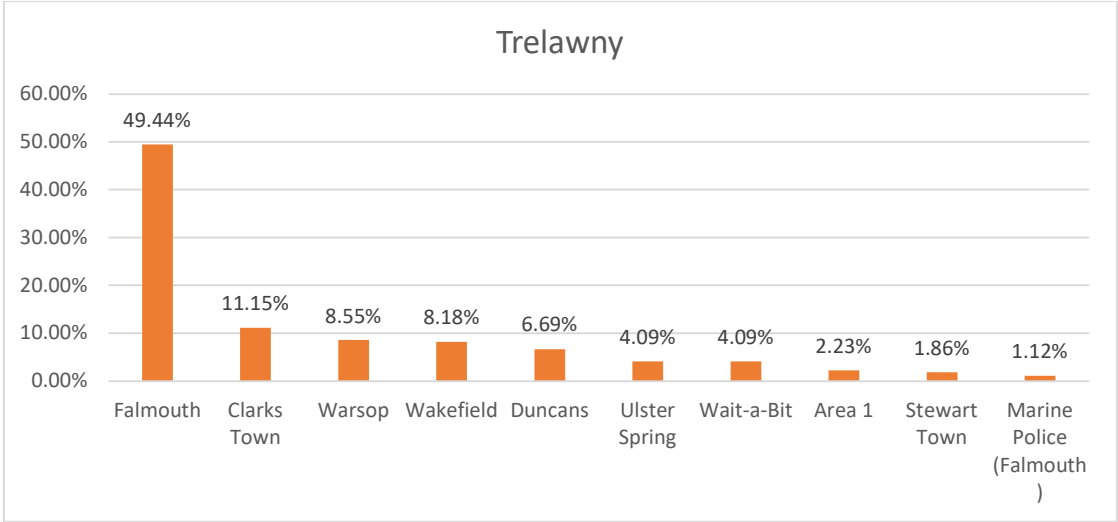
Chart 2.03.10: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart shows the distribution of criminal charges filed at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 218 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2025, the largest proportion of criminal matters, 36.70%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Ocho Rios Police Station. This was followed by the St. Ann’s Bay Police Station which accounts for 25.69% of the total sample matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Area 2 Narcotics Police with 6.42%. In the previous first quarter of 2024, the top three comprised of the Ocho Rios Police Station, the St. Ann’s Bay Police Station and the Area 2 Narcotics Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 2.03.11: Distribution of criminal charges by the police station of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025



The above chart shows the distribution of charges field at the Trelawny Parish Court, using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 269 records indicate that for the first quarter of 2025, the highest proportion of charges, 49.44%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in the Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by the Clarks Town Police Station, which accounts for 11.15% of total sample of matters reported. The Warsop Police station rounded off the top three with 8.55%. In the previous first quarter of 2024, the top three comprised of the Falmouth Police Station, Ulster Spring Police Station and the Warsop Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Inferential Statistics and Conclusion

The first quarter of 2025 represents the continuation of an impressive trend in the criminal division of the Parish Courts where a steady state equilibrium average case clearance rate of over 90% and net case backlog rate of a little above 2.0% has been sustainable achieved. With this kind of consistency in output, the criminal division of the Parish Courts is by all accounts among the top performing in the Caribbean and Latin American region at present. Among the key highlights from the quarterly statistical report for the first quarter of 2025 is that the criminal division of the Parish Courts as a whole recorded an overall case clearance rate of 95.05%, with eight (8) of the thirteen courts attaining or exceeding the international standard on this metric.

The overall net case backlog rate for cases over 24 months old in the courts is above 2% at 2.23%, with the Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Catherine Parish Courts having near zero net backlog rates. The overall gross case backlog rate which takes into account inactive cases, decreased by 0.48 percentage points to 16.49%, reflecting a general increase in the inactive caseload in the criminal division of the Parish Courts.

The overall net case backlog rate for cases over 20 months old ² in the courts is above 2% at 2.36%, with the Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Catherine Parish Courts having near zero net backlog rates. The overall gross case backlog rate for cases above 20 months which takes into account inactive cases for the first quarter of 2025 was 17.02%.

The overall time taken to dispose of cases in the criminal division of the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2025 is roughly 9.6 months, with the average time taken to dispose of cases in

² Effective December 1, 2023

20 months is considered the maximum time that any criminal case should take to be disposed, regardless of complexity dynamics.

Hence, any unresolved criminal case that is over 20 months old is considered to be in a state of backlog

some Parish Courts such as Hanover and Westmoreland Parish Courts in the quarter being 5 months or more less than the overall average. As a whole roughly 78% of the cases disposed during the first quarter of 2025 took a year or less to be resolved. The overall trial date certainty rate recorded was 81%, which is still below the targeted minimum of 95%, but has improved cumulatively by over 2 percentage points when compared to the past four years.

These statistical highlights, among several others which are detailed in this report strongly suggest that the criminal division of the Parish Courts are on the right path of excellence. Among the main areas of concern are the persistence of the gross case backlog rate over 10%, which suggests that there is a relatively high incidence of inactive cases as a percentage of the total caseload, particularly for courts like the Corporate Area Court - Criminal Division and the St. Ann Parish Court. Additionally, the rate of case adjournments remains moderately high, which is one of the reasons that the trial date adjournments have failed to meet the desired target. Among these are adjournments due to files to be completed, adjournments due to the non-appearance of the accused and adjournments for mediation.

Inferential analysis the size of a court as measured by its caseload did not make a statistically significant difference to performance as measured by the case clearance rate during the first quarter of 2025. This was established using the Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) test which reveals an observed level of significance of greater than 5%, leading to a failure to reject the null hypothesis that court size made no difference to performance.

The Parish Courts of Westmoreland, Hanover and St. Catherine have the enviable status of less than 0.40% of active cases in backlog, meaning that there is a close to zero probability that a case filed at this court will remain active for 20 months, an outstanding accomplishment which is worthy of acclaim. The Parish Courts of Jamaica, having demonstrated significant progress, are well-positioned to further contribute to Jamaica's Vision 2030 National Goal 2,

“The Jamaican Society is Secure, Cohesive and Just,” and the 2030 Global Agenda Goal 16, “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.”

Glossary of 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

ⁱ Source :

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

ii Source :

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