



THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT ON THE TRAFFIC COURTS OF JAMAICA

(JULY – SEPTEMBER, 2026)

Consolidated Performance Analysis,
Forecasts and Strategic Recommendations
for a More Efficient and Responsive System



PERFORMANCE
ANALYSIS



FORECASTS
AND TRENDS



OPERATIONAL
INSIGHTS



CONSOLIDATED
RECOMMENDATIONS

OVERALL QUANTITATIVE HIGHLIGHTS (Q3 2026)

Performance Indicator	Value
New Cases Filed	92,435
New Cases Disposed	16,448
Total Cases Disposed	49,108
National New Case Disposal Rate	17.79%
National Case Clearance Rate	53.13%
Best Performing Court (Clearance)	Corporate Area Traffic Court – 110.01%
Courts Below 100% Break-even	12 of 13
Projected National Clearance Rate (Q4 2026)	56.76%
Projected National Clearance Rate (Q2 2027)	58.09%



TRAFFIC COURT

THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S

THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT

ON THE TRAFFIC COURTS OF JAMAICA

(July - September 2026)

92,435	17.79%	53.13%
Q3 NEW FILINGS	NEW-CASE DISPOSAL RATE	OVERALL CLEARANCE RATE

Prepared for the Office of the Chief Justice of Jamaica

Based on Traffic Information Management System (TiMS) data for July-September 2026, with comparative reference to earlier 2026 traffic-court reporting periods

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1. Executive Summary

For the July-September 2026 reporting period, the Traffic Courts of Jamaica recorded 92,435 new filings across the 13 traffic courts, 16,448 new-case disposals and 32,660 legacy-case disposals, producing 49,108 total disposals. The weighted new-case disposal rate is 17.79% and the overall case clearance rate is 53.13%. Within the reported flow, 75,987 more new matters were filed than new matters disposed, equivalent to a backlog-accumulation indicator of 82.21%.

Compared with the second quarter, the weighted national new-case disposal rate increases from 12.67% to 17.79% (+5.12 percentage points) and the overall clearance rate increases from 36.59% to 53.13% (+16.54 percentage points). The improvement is, however, highly concentrated: Corporate Area alone accounts for 65.9% of the increase in total disposals between Q2 and Q3, while Corporate Area and St. James together account for 92.3%. Excluding Corporate Area, the Q3 weighted clearance rate is 34.3%, materially below the national headline rate of 53.1%.

Performance remains uneven across the network. Corporate Area Traffic Court records a clearance rate above 100%, providing the first break-even/backlog-reduction signal recorded in the 2026 quarterly reporting sequence. St. James also shows a substantial improvement from its second-quarter position. By contrast, St. Catherine, St. Ann and Manchester remain structurally vulnerable because low new-case disposal rates coincide with sizeable intake volumes.

The third-quarter results therefore support differentiated court-level management rather than a single national intervention. The final-quarter outlook should preserve and validate the gains in Corporate Area and St. James while concentrating remedial capacity on St. Catherine, St. Ann and Manchester. Under the conservative damped-trend forecast framework used in this report, the weighted clearance rate is projected at approximately 56.8% for Q4 2026 and 58.1% for Q2 2027. Those forecasts remain strongly influenced by Corporate Area; without that court, the corresponding weighted clearance forecasts are approximately 35.0% and 35.3%.

Headline indicators

Indicator	Q2 report	Q3 2026	Movement / interpretation
New filings	87,405	92,435	+5.8%
New-case disposal rate	12.67%	17.79%	+5.12 pp
Overall clearance rate	36.59%	53.13%	+16.54 pp
Backlog accumulation indicator	87.33%	82.21%	-5.12 pp
Legacy share of disposals	65.36%	66.51%	+1.15 pp
Courts at/above 100% clearance	0	1	Corporate Area crosses break-even

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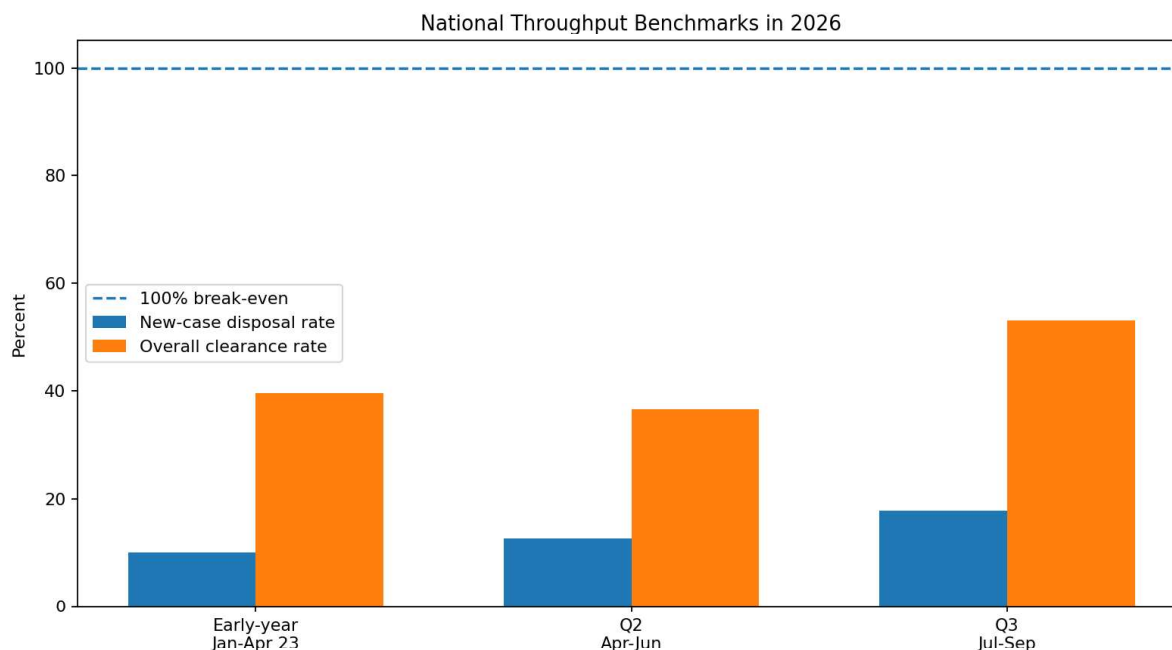


Chart 1.0: National throughput benchmarks across the 2026 reporting periods. The January-April 23 report overlaps the second quarter and is therefore shown for context rather than treated as an additive quarter.

The chart shows improvement in contemporary-case conversion across the 2026 reporting periods, with the new-case disposal rate moving from 10.03% in the January-April 23 report to 12.67% in Q2 and 17.79% in Q3. Total clearance is less linear, declining from 39.62% in the overlapping January-April period to 36.59% in Q2 before rising to 53.13% in Q3. The third-quarter increase should be read as stronger weighted throughput rather than evidence of uniform improvement across all courts, because a substantial share of the increase is concentrated in Corporate Area and St. James.

2. Disclaimer and Statistical Quality Note

The statistical data utilised to prepare this third-quarter report are based on information available in the Traffic Information Management System (TiMS) for the July-September 2026 reporting extract. Variances may exist across individual courts concerning the timeliness and completeness of local system updates. Nevertheless, the aggregated data provide a reliable basis for assessing relative workload, throughput and operational performance across the traffic-court network.

For comparative continuity, the report references the 2026 Progress Report and the Second Quarter Statistics Report. The January-April 23 report recorded 106,460 filings, a 10.03% new-case disposal rate and a 39.62% clearance rate. The second-quarter report recorded 87,405 filings, a 12.67% new-case disposal rate and a 36.59% clearance rate for April-June 2026. Because the January-April 23 period overlaps the second quarter, Q2 remains the principal period comparator.

3. Introduction and National Third-Quarter Performance

The third-quarter results indicate stronger weighted throughput than the second quarter. New-case disposal improves by 5.12 percentage points and total clearance by 16.54 percentage points. The network records 17,130 more total disposals than in Q2, of which Corporate Area contributes 11,284 (65.9%) and St. James a further 4,526. Together, those two courts account for 92.3% of the increase, indicating that the national improvement is substantial but concentrated.

Legacy processing remains central to national output. Of 49,108 total disposals, 32,660 (66.5%) relate to older matters. This is broadly consistent with Q2, when legacy cases represented 65.4% of disposals. The increase in total clearance therefore reflects both stronger contemporary processing and continued dependence on the resolution of brought-forward cases.

Distributional profile across the 13 courts

Metric	Mean	Median	Std. dev.	Minimum	Maximum
New filings	7,110.38	4,722.00	6,547.28	1,750.00	22,966.00
New-case disposal rate (%)	21.01	19.85	13.00	4.18	55.20
Clearance rate (%)	46.39	35.78	26.83	20.49	110.01

Workload remains highly unequal, but slightly less concentrated than in Q2. The three largest Q3 intake courts - Corporate Area, St. Catherine and St. James - account for 55.6% of filings, down from 61.8% in Q2. The intake concentration index (HHI) falls from 1607 to 1371, indicating a modest broadening of caseload pressure across the network.

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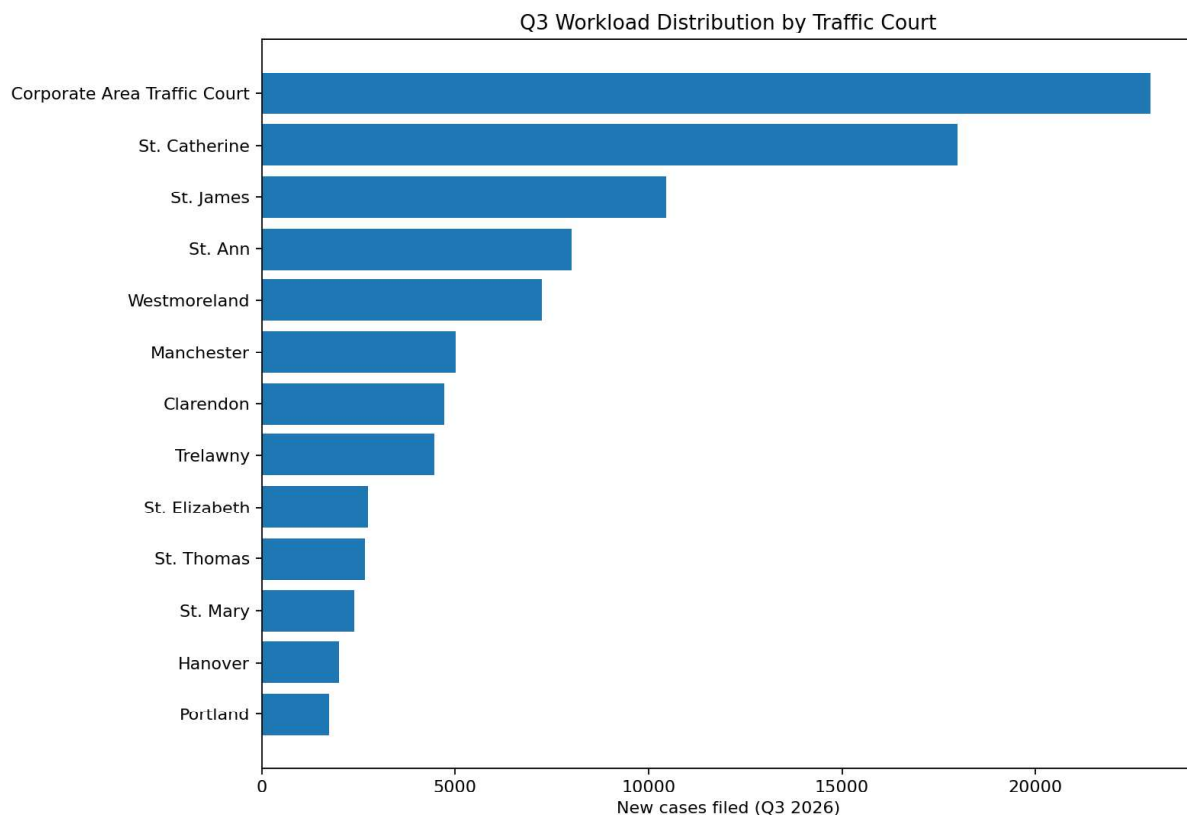


Chart 2.0: Distribution of new cases filed by traffic court, July-September 2026.

Workload remains sharply concentrated. Corporate Area represents 24.9% of Q3 filings and St. Catherine 19.5%; together they account for 44.3% of national intake. Adding St. James lifts the top-three share to 55.6%, and adding St. Ann raises the top-four share to 64.3%. This concentration means that relatively modest percentage improvements in the largest courts can materially affect the national weighted rate, while similar percentage gains in smaller courts have less effect on national throughput. Resource and performance comparisons should therefore remain volume-adjusted.

4. Court-Level Performance and Backlog Analysis

Court-level results demonstrate why national averages alone are insufficient. Corporate Area accounts for 24.9% of intake but 51.5% of all third-quarter disposals, driven by 19,899 legacy-case resolutions. St. Catherine, by contrast, carries 19.5% of intake but only 7.5% of total disposals. St. Ann and Manchester also remain weak on contemporary processing, with new-case disposal rates of 4.18% and 4.56% respectively.

Portland records the highest new-case disposal rate at 55.20%, while St. Mary combines a 27.26% new-case disposal rate with 80.35% overall clearance. Corporate Area is the only court at or above the 100% break-even standard in the third quarter, posting 110.01%. This indicates that total recorded disposals

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exceeded new inflow for the period; it does not establish that the court has eliminated its entire pending inventory.

Table 1.0: Performance Summary by Traffic Court for the Third Quarter of 2026

Traffic Court	New filed	New disposed	Legacy disposed	Total disposed	New disposal	Clearance
Corporate Area Traffic Court	22,966	5,366	19,899	25,265	23.36%	110.01%
St. Catherine	17,976	1,521	2,163	3,684	8.46%	20.49%
St. James	10,462	2,274	3,107	5,381	21.74%	51.43%
St. Ann	8,017	335	1,558	1,893	4.18%	23.61%
Westmoreland	7,239	1,852	738	2,590	25.58%	35.78%
Manchester	5,024	229	961	1,190	4.56%	23.69%
Clarendon	4,722	857	675	1,532	18.15%	32.44%
Trelawny	4,464	774	743	1,517	17.34%	33.98%
St. Elizabeth	2,746	545	640	1,185	19.85%	43.15%
St. Thomas	2,671	506	176	682	18.94%	25.53%
St. Mary	2,392	652	1,270	1,922	27.26%	80.35%
Hanover	2,006	571	390	961	28.46%	47.91%
Portland	1,750	966	340	1,306	55.20%	74.63%

Table 2.0: Backlog Accumulation and Legacy-Resolution Indicators for the Third Quarter of 2026

Traffic Court	Backlog accumulation	Legacy share of disposals	Intake share	Flow gap
St. Ann	95.82%	82.30%	8.67%	7,682
Manchester	95.44%	80.76%	5.44%	4,795
St. Catherine	91.54%	58.71%	19.45%	16,455
Trelawny	82.66%	48.98%	4.83%	3,690
Clarendon	81.85%	44.06%	5.11%	3,865
St. Thomas	81.06%	25.81%	2.89%	2,165
St. Elizabeth	80.15%	54.01%	2.97%	2,201
St. James	78.26%	57.74%	11.32%	8,188
Corporate Area Traffic Court	76.64%	78.76%	24.85%	17,600
Westmoreland	74.42%	28.49%	7.83%	5,387
St. Mary	72.74%	66.08%	2.59%	1,740

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Traffic Court	Backlog accumulation	Legacy share of disposals	Intake share	Flow gap
Hanover	71.54%	40.58%	2.17%	1,435
Portland	44.80%	26.03%	1.89%	784

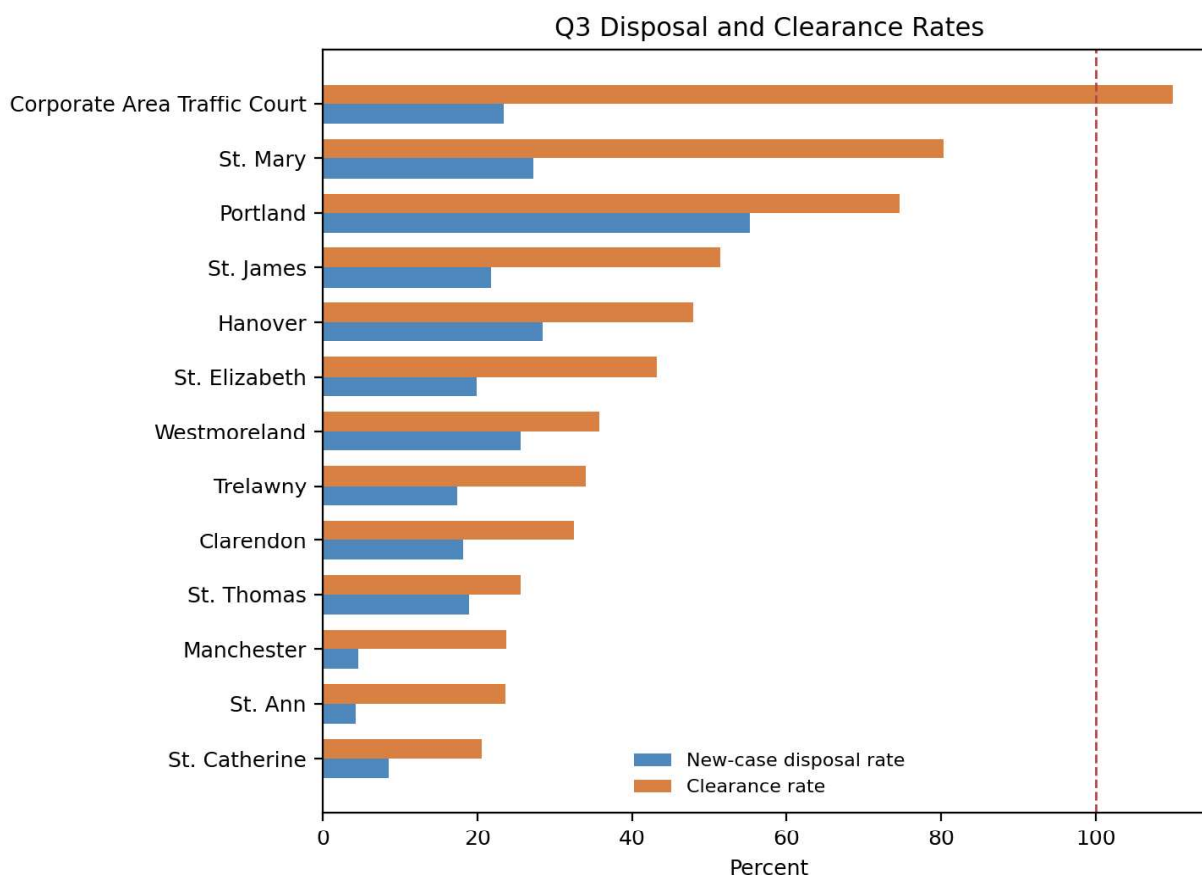


Chart 3.0: New-case disposal and total clearance rates by traffic court, third quarter 2026. The dashed line marks the 100% break-even threshold.

The gap between each court’s new-case disposal rate and total clearance rate reflects the contribution of legacy-case resolution to current throughput. The effect is especially large in Corporate Area, where legacy disposals lift clearance by 86.65 percentage points above the new-case disposal rate, and in St. Mary, where the lift is 53.09 points. Portland is distinctive because it combines the strongest new-case disposal rate (55.2%) with substantial overall clearance (74.6%), indicating a more balanced mix of current and legacy resolution. At the other end, St. Catherine, St. Ann and Manchester remain below 24% total clearance, confirming that low contemporary conversion is not being offset sufficiently by legacy-case work.

5. Quarter-on-Quarter Comparative Analysis

The most consequential feature of Q3 is the widening dispersion in court trajectories. The national rates improve, but the gains are driven disproportionately by a small number of courts. Corporate Area improves from 52.11% clearance in Q2 to 110.01% in Q3, while St. James rises from 7.34% to 51.43%. Excluding Corporate Area, Q3 clearance is approximately 34.3%, compared with 29.7% for Q2 excluding Corporate Area - an improvement, but far smaller than the headline national increase.

Traffic Court	Q2 new disposal	Q3 new disposal	Δ pp	Q2 clearance	Q3 clearance	Δ pp
Corporate Area Traffic Court	12.90%	23.36%	+10.46	52.11%	110.01%	+57.90
St. James	1.69%	21.74%	+20.05	7.34%	51.43%	+44.09
St. Mary	20.18%	27.26%	+7.08	69.91%	80.35%	+10.44
Trelawny	13.59%	17.34%	+3.75	24.71%	33.98%	+9.27
Westmoreland	24.72%	25.58%	+0.86	33.78%	35.78%	+2.00
St. Elizabeth	14.48%	19.85%	+5.37	41.84%	43.15%	+1.31
Clarendon	18.08%	18.15%	+0.07	31.70%	32.44%	+0.74
St. Ann	10.07%	4.18%	-5.89	25.77%	23.61%	-2.16
St. Catherine	7.72%	8.46%	+0.74	27.58%	20.49%	-7.09
Hanover	30.01%	28.46%	-1.55	56.44%	47.91%	-8.53
Manchester	8.84%	4.56%	-4.28	32.84%	23.69%	-9.15
St. Thomas	19.85%	18.94%	-0.91	35.86%	25.53%	-10.33
Portland	45.45%	55.20%	+9.75	92.73%	74.63%	-18.10

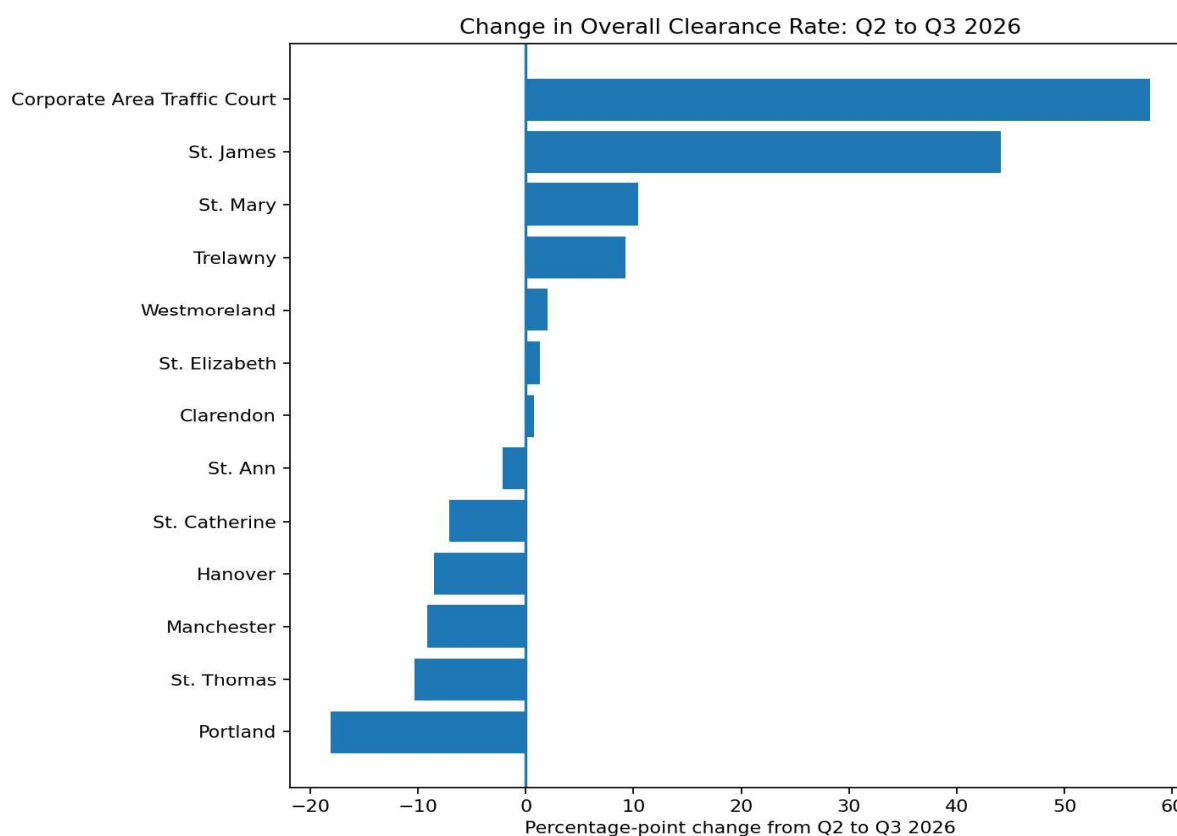


Chart 4.0: Percentage-point movement in overall case clearance from Q2 to Q3 2026.

The chart makes the concentration of the quarter-to-quarter improvement explicit. Corporate Area and St. James record the largest positive movements, while several courts move backward. The result is a higher national weighted clearance rate even though a meaningful share of the network did not improve. Accordingly, the national movement should always be read alongside the court-level distribution: the third quarter identifies potentially transferable high-performing practices, but the network has not yet demonstrated broad convergence toward the 100% break-even standard.

Quarter-to-quarter performance movement

The largest positive movements are concentrated in Corporate Area and St. James. Corporate Area clearance rises by 57.90 percentage points and St. James by 44.09 points; St. Mary (+10.44), Trelawny (+9.28) and Westmoreland (+2.00) also improve. In contrast, Portland's total clearance declines by 18.10 points despite a 9.75-point increase in its new-case disposal rate, indicating a sharp reduction in legacy-case contribution. St. Thomas (-10.33), Manchester (-9.15), Hanover (-8.54), St. Catherine (-7.09) and St. Ann (-2.15) also record lower clearance. The pattern is therefore one of widening dispersion rather than uniform recovery.

6. Workload Concentration and Operational Risk

A volume-weighted operating model remains essential. High-volume and low-clearance courts generate more national risk than small courts with similar percentages. St. Catherine combines 17,976 filings with only 3,684 total disposals and therefore represents the clearest high-volume throughput deficit in Q3. St. Ann and Manchester have smaller but still material volumes and exceptionally low contemporary disposal rates.

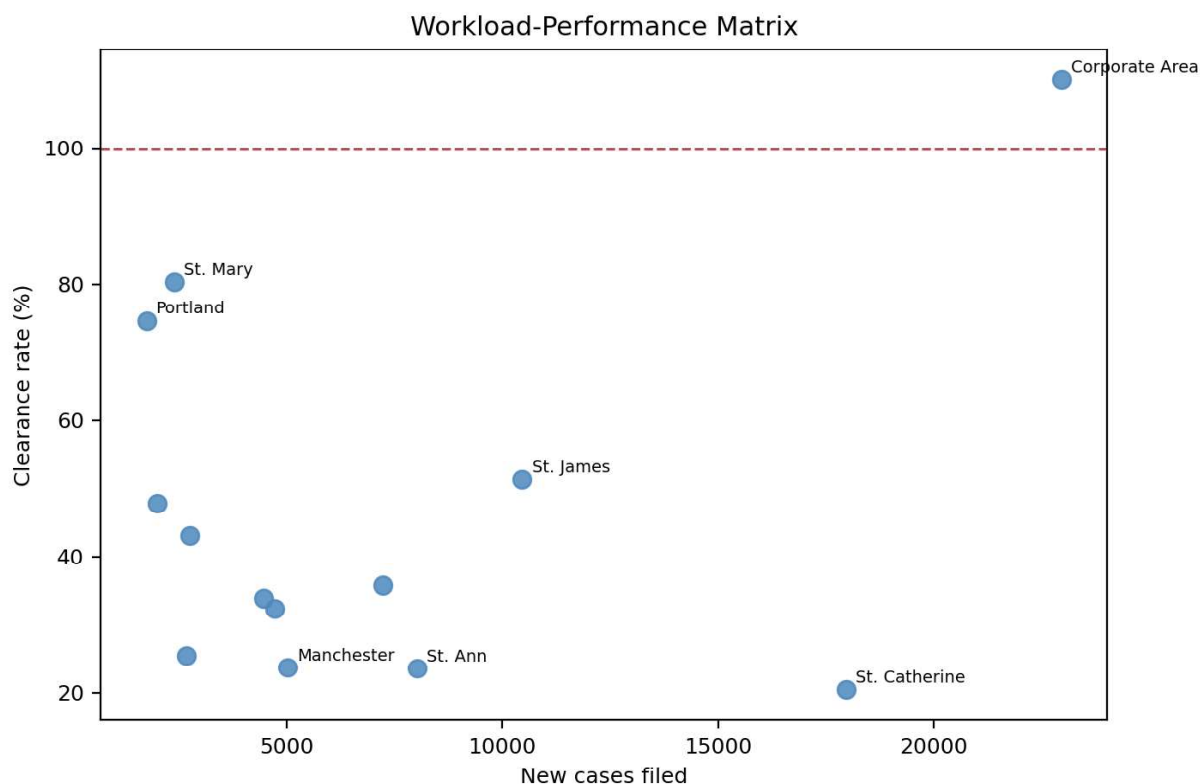


Chart 5.0: Workload and clearance matrix by traffic court, third quarter 2026.

Corporate Area occupies the high-volume/high-clearance position, reflecting its exceptional legacy-case output. St. Catherine is the clearest high-volume/low-clearance risk, with 17,976 filings and only 20.49% clearance. St. Ann and Westmoreland also combine material intake with below-break-even throughput, while St. James occupies an intermediate position after its substantial third-quarter rebound. The chart demonstrates why a single national percentage is insufficient for management purposes: the operational consequence of a 20% clearance rate is substantially greater in a court receiving nearly 18,000 matters than in one receiving approximately 2,000.

Operational risk segmentation

Priority group	Courts	Why they matter	Operational interpretation
Critical throughput risk	St. Catherine; St. Ann; Manchester	Clearance below 25% or new-case disposal below 10%, with material intake	High-volume courts in this group exert disproportionate pressure on the national backlog and dominate the near-term risk profile.
High-pressure / below break-even	St. Thomas; Clarendon; Trelawny; Westmoreland; Hanover; St. Elizabeth	Clearance 25-50% and continuing positive flow gaps	These courts remain below break-even and continue to add net workload, but the severity varies materially by volume and legacy share.
Improving but still below break-even	St. James; Portland; St. Mary	Materially stronger throughput but clearance still under 100%	The pattern is improving, but sustainability must be confirmed because the gains may reflect temporary legacy-case clearance or data timing.
Backlog-reduction signal	Corporate Area Traffic Court	Total disposals exceed new filings in Q3 2026	This is the only third-quarter jurisdiction above the break-even threshold; its result materially lifts the national weighted rate.

7. Hearing-Type Activity

The hearing-type data should be interpreted as an activity distribution, not automatically as unique cases. Under the first-hearing-date convention, “Initial hearing” dominates at 35,269 records, followed by Mention hearings (1,454), Executed Warrant (1,301), Re-listings (1,239), Application to Vacate Warrant (743) and Re-issue (653). Under the ticket-issue-date convention the distribution changes substantially, particularly for Re-listings (10,081) and Executed Warrant (6,491).

The large divergence between date conventions is operationally important. It indicates that a hearing-based dashboard could tell a very different story depending on whether activity is attributed to the first hearing date or the ticket issue date. Future quarterly reporting will select one primary convention for performance tracking and use the alternative only as a reconciliation view.

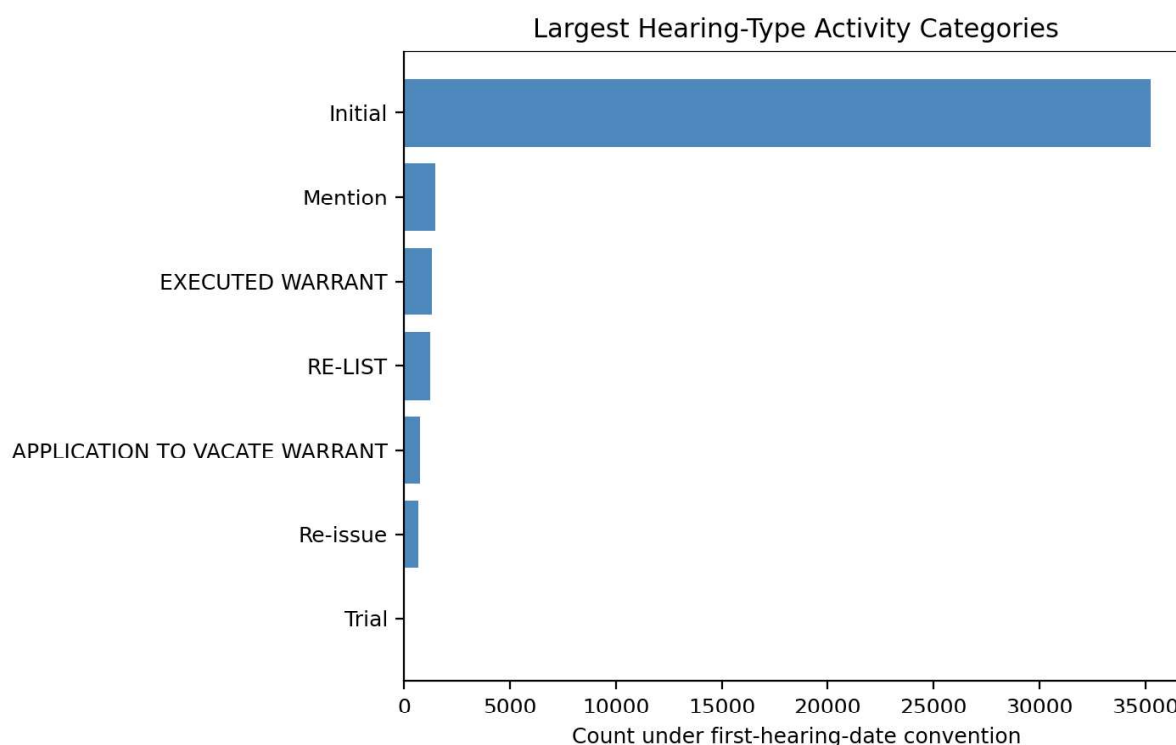


Chart 6.0: Largest hearing-type categories under the first-hearing-date convention, third quarter 2026.

Under the first-hearing-date convention, Initial hearings account for approximately 86.6% of the 40,736 hearing-type records summarized in the table, producing a heavily front-loaded activity profile. The ticket-issue-date convention produces a materially different distribution: RE-LIST represents approximately 42.5% of the 23,725 records and EXECUTED WARRANT approximately 27.4%, while Initial falls to roughly 13.2%. The contrast confirms that the attribution date materially changes the operational narrative; one convention should therefore be used consistently for quarterly performance tracking, with the alternative retained as a reconciliation view.

Hearing type	First-hearing-date count	Ticket-issue-date count
Initial	35,269	3,129
Mention	1,454	428
EXECUTED WARRANT	1,301	6,491
RE-LIST	1,239	10,081
APPLICATION TO VACATE WARRANT	743	1,047
Re-issue	653	2,405
Trial	40	43
Sentence	34	83
Part Heard	3	18

8. Warrant-State Indicators and Enforcement Analysis

The warrant-state data records 24,967 “Create warrant” events and 3,560 “Vacate Warrant order” events under the first-hearing-date convention. Under the ticket-issue-date convention, the corresponding counts are 157 and 11,748. These are system-state records, not a verified stock of outstanding, served or executed warrants.

The warrant-state results reinforce the need to distinguish operational activity from warrant lifecycle performance. Earlier 2026 reports identified warrants as a significant operational concern; the third-quarter data demonstrate that aggregate state counts alone cannot establish service or execution effectiveness. A quarterly warrant dashboard will therefore track a unique warrant identifier, creation date, service attempts, execution date, vacating order, current state, elapsed days and closure reason. Without this reconciliation, high counts of created or vacated warrant states cannot be translated reliably into enforcement performance.

Warrant state	First-hearing-date count	Ticket-issue-date count
Create warrant	24,967	157
Vacate Warrant order	3,560	11,748

Warrant-state interpretation

The warrant-state data support a governance conclusion rather than an enforcement-performance conclusion. Under the first-hearing-date convention, “Create warrant” represents 24,967 of 28,527 recorded warrant-state events (87.5%), whereas under the ticket-issue-date convention “Vacate Warrant order” represents 11,748 of 11,905 events (98.7%). The near reversal of the distribution shows that lifecycle state and attribution date are intertwined. A valid enforcement measure would require warrant- and case-level identifiers, clearly separated issued/served/executed/vacated/expired/outstanding states, elapsed-time fields, and reconciliation with service or police records; the consolidated recommendations section addresses how this should be implemented.

9. Regression and Statistical Diagnostics

Ordinary least squares regressions were estimated across the 13 third-quarter court observations. These models describe cross-court association rather than causation. The small sample, unobserved differences in staffing and case mix, and the influence of Corporate Area mean that the coefficients should be used as diagnostic indicators rather than productivity targets.

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Outcome	Intercept	Slope on new filings	R ²	p-value
Total disposals	-2,046.964	0.8192	0.664	0.0007
New-case disposals	29.429	0.1738	0.687	0.0005
Clearance rate (%)	37.773	0.0012	0.087	0.3268
Legacy-case disposals	-2,076.393	0.6454	0.639	0.0010
Total disposals (excluding Corporate Area)	736.394	0.2160	0.573	0.0044

The total-disposals model has $R^2=0.664$; each additional 1,000 filings is associated with approximately 819 additional total disposals on the full fitted line. Spearman's rank correlation between intake and total disposals is 0.758 ($p=0.0027$). The sensitivity test is important: excluding Corporate Area reduces the fitted slope from 0.819 to 0.216 disposals per filing, although the relationship remains statistically significant ($R^2=0.573$; $p=0.0044$). Cook's-distance diagnostics also identify Corporate Area and St. Catherine as influential observations. The regression therefore supports a broad association between workload and output, but the magnitude of the full-sample coefficient is not stable enough to be treated as a production rule or staffing formula.

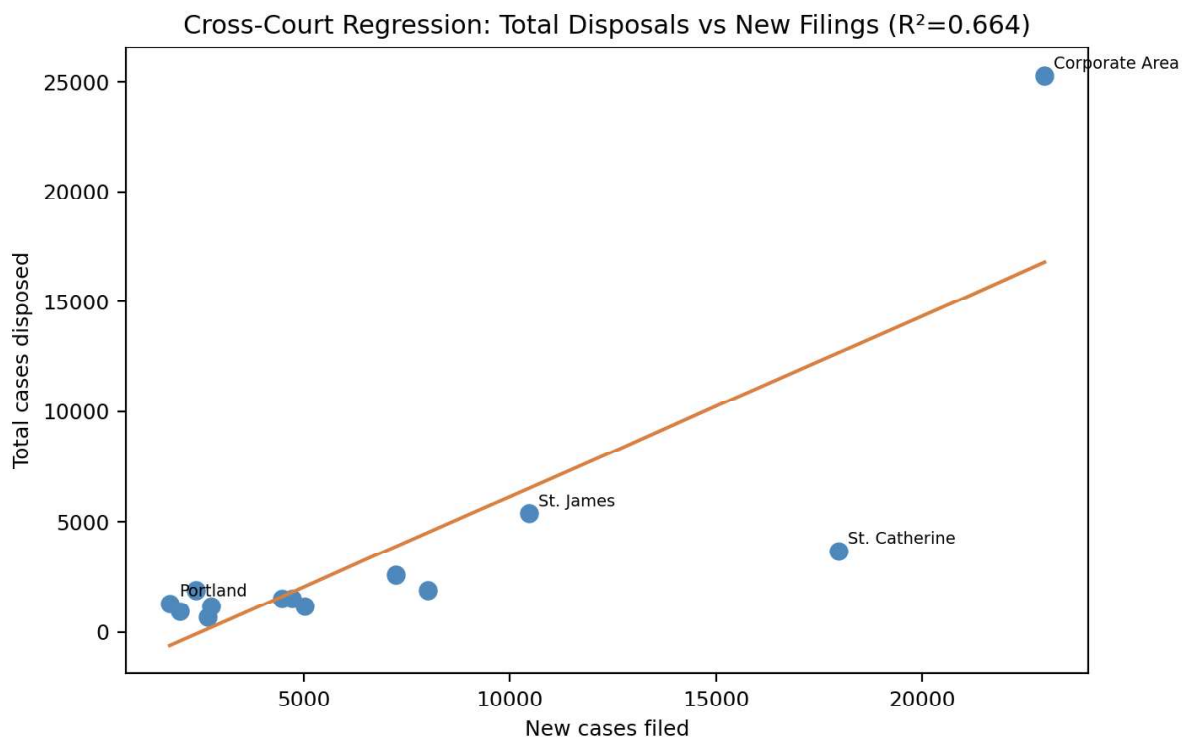


Chart 7.0: Cross-court relationship between new filings and total disposals, third quarter 2026. Corporate Area is an influential high-volume observation.

The scatterplot shows a positive association between intake and total disposals, but the fitted line is strongly influenced by Corporate Area. The relationship is therefore useful for describing broad workload-

output association but should not be interpreted as a staffing formula or causal productivity rule. The sensitivity regression excluding Corporate Area retains a statistically significant relationship, but the much lower slope confirms that the full-sample coefficient is not stable across the network.

The weak explanatory power of intake for clearance rate is especially important. Clearance is a ratio with filings in its denominator, and differences in legacy inventory, staffing, hearing days, service success and case complexity are omitted. A future panel-data model should include those factors and multiple quarters before regression is used for benchmarking or resource-allocation decisions.

10. Forecasted Case Clearance Rates: Q4 2026 and Q2 2027

The second-quarter report projected 370,597 new cases and 149,494 total disposals for 2026, equivalent to a 40.3% annual clearance rate. The third-quarter results are materially stronger on a weighted basis, but the available quarterly history remains too short for a defensible seasonal or conventional time-series forecast. In addition, the TiMS extract contains the unresolved “Average Annual” field-label issue. The forecasts below are therefore scenario-based planning forecasts intended to support capacity and workload decisions rather than precise statistical predictions.

Forecast methodology and limitations

For each court, new filings, new-case disposal rate and total clearance rate are projected from the confirmed Q2 level and the Q3 level using a damped recent-trend rule. One-third of the Q2-to-Q3 change is carried into Q4 2026. The incremental trend is then reduced to one-third of its prior size in each subsequent quarter, so the Q2 2027 forecast equals the Q3 level plus $\frac{13}{27}$ (48.15%) of the Q2-to-Q3 change. Forecast total disposals are derived by multiplying forecast clearance by forecast filings. The method deliberately suppresses full extrapolation of unusually large Q3 movements, especially in Corporate Area and St. James; all forecast counts are rounded to the nearest ten cases for reporting.

Table 3.0: Forecasted Case Activity and Clearance Rates by Traffic Court for Q4 2026

Traffic Court	Forecast new filings	Forecast new-case disposal rate	Forecast total disposals	Forecast clearance rate
Clarendon	4,990	18.2%	1,630	32.7%
Corporate Area Traffic Court	21,680	26.9%	28,030	129.3%
Hanover	2,020	27.9%	910	45.1%
Manchester	5,510	3.1%	1,140	20.6%
Portland	1,790	58.5%	1,230	68.6%
St. Ann	9,230	2.2%	2,110	22.9%
St. Catherine	18,780	8.7%	3,410	18.1%
St. Elizabeth	2,630	21.6%	1,150	43.6%
St. James	10,070	28.4%	6,660	66.1%
St. Mary	2,510	29.6%	2,100	83.8%
St. Thomas	2,830	18.6%	630	22.1%
Trelawny	4,480	18.6%	1,660	37.1%
Westmoreland	7,580	25.9%	2,760	36.4%
Overall / weighted	94,110	19.0%	53,420	56.8%

The Q4 2026 base forecast is approximately 94,110 new filings and 53,420 total disposals, producing a weighted clearance rate of 56.8% and a weighted new-case disposal rate of 19.0%. Corporate Area is projected to remain above the 100% break-even threshold at about 129.3% if a portion of its Q3 legacy-clearance momentum persists. St. Mary (83.8%), Portland (68.6%) and St. James (66.1%) form the next performance tier. In contrast, St. Catherine (18.1%), Manchester (20.6%), St. Thomas (22.1%) and St. Ann (22.9%) remain far from equilibrium and would continue adding substantial unresolved flow under the model.

Table 4.0: Forecasted Case Activity and Clearance Rates by Traffic Court for Q2 2027

Traffic Court	Forecast new filings	Forecast new-case disposal rate	Forecast total disposals	Forecast clearance rate
Clarendon	5,120	18.2%	1,680	32.8%
Corporate Area Traffic Court	21,110	28.4%	29,100	137.9%
Hanover	2,030	27.7%	890	43.8%
Manchester	5,720	2.5%	1,100	19.3%
Portland	1,800	59.9%	1,190	65.9%
St. Ann	9,770	1.3%	2,210	22.6%
St. Catherine	19,140	8.8%	3,270	17.1%
St. Elizabeth	2,580	22.4%	1,130	43.8%
St. James	9,890	31.4%	7,190	72.7%
St. Mary	2,560	30.7%	2,180	85.4%
St. Thomas	2,900	18.5%	600	20.6%
Trelawny	4,490	19.1%	1,730	38.5%
Westmoreland	7,740	26.0%	2,840	36.7%
Overall / weighted	94,860	19.4%	55,110	58.1%

By Q2 2027, the forecast model projects approximately 94,860 new filings and 55,110 total disposals, for a weighted clearance rate of 58.1%. The strongest projected trajectories remain Corporate Area (137.9%), St. Mary (85.4%) and St. James (72.7%). Portland remains comparatively strong at 65.9%, although its projected total clearance eases because its Q2-to-Q3 legacy contribution declined. The structural risk group remains largely unchanged: St. Catherine is projected at 17.1%, Manchester at 19.3%, St. Thomas at 20.6% and St. Ann at 22.6%. The persistence of these low rates confirms that the forecast does not imply network equilibrium even if the national weighted figure improves.

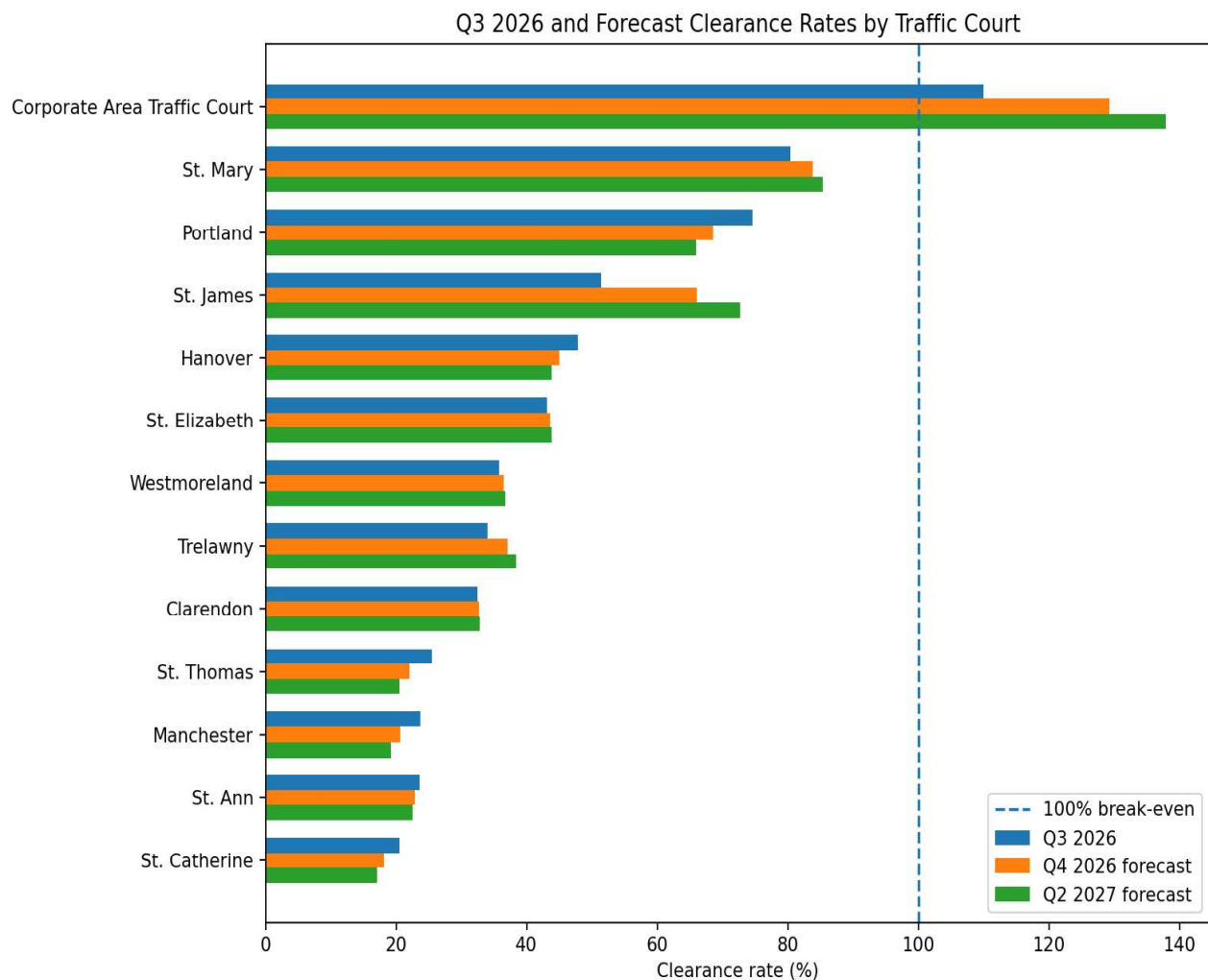


Chart 8.0: Q3 2026 clearance compared with forecast clearance rates for Q4 2026 and Q2 2027. The dashed line marks the 100% break-even threshold.

The forecast chart separates two distinct trajectories. Corporate Area, and to a lesser extent St. James and St. Mary, show positive forward movement. Several other courts remain below 25% projected clearance despite the passage of time. Because the national weighted forecast is heavily influenced by the largest court, the headline 56.8%-58.1% path overstates the degree of broad-based improvement. Excluding Corporate Area, weighted clearance is approximately 35.0% in Q4 2026 and 35.3% in Q2 2027. The forecast should therefore be used to establish court-specific intervention thresholds rather than as evidence that the national backlog challenge is approaching resolution.

11. Court-Level Operational Outlook

Court / group	Third-quarter assessment	Evidence	Forward operational outlook
St. Catherine	Highest-volume priority risk	17,976 filings; 8.46% new-case disposal; 20.49% clearance. Intake rose relative to Q2 while total disposal performance weakened.	Q4 clearance is forecast near 18.1% and Q2 2027 near 17.1%, keeping this court at the center of the high-volume backlog risk.
St. Ann	Critical contemporary-flow weakness	8,017 filings; 4.18% new-case disposal; 95.82% backlog-accumulation indicator.	Forecast clearance remains near 23% through Q2 2027, with contemporary-case conversion projected to remain extremely weak.
Manchester	Critical contemporary-flow weakness	5,024 filings; 4.56% new-case disposal; 80.76% of disposals are legacy matters.	Forecast clearance remains around 19%-21%; the profile indicates persistent dependence on legacy-case output and weak current-case conversion.
Corporate Area Traffic Court	Backlog-reduction signal / replication opportunity	22,966 filings and 25,265 total disposals; 110.01% clearance; 78.76% legacy share.	The forecast remains above 100% if part of Q3 momentum persists, but this result is highly sensitive to continued legacy-case throughput.
St. James	Major rebound	Clearance rises from 7.34% in Q2 to 51.43% in Q3; new-case disposal rises from 1.69% to 21.74%.	The forecast rises to about 66.1% in Q4 and 72.7% by Q2 2027 if the rebound is sustained, making durability of the change the key question.
Portland / St. Mary	Resilient small-to-medium courts	Portland leads new-case disposal at 55.20%; St. Mary posts 80.35% clearance.	Both remain useful comparators, but their lower volumes and different legacy mixes limit direct transfer of performance ratios to larger courts.

12. Consolidated Strategic Recommendations

The third-quarter results, the second-quarter comparison and the forward forecasts point to one integrated management programme rather than a set of disconnected initiatives. The core operating challenge remains the simultaneous pressure of contemporary intake and inherited arrears: 66.5% of third-quarter disposals are legacy matters, while the weighted new-case disposal rate is only 17.8%. It is therefore recommended that the traffic-court network formalise a two-track production model in which new-case and legacy-case work have separate lists, capacity allocations, performance targets and accountability measures, but are managed within a single court-level operating plan. The objective should

be to prevent current filings from automatically becoming the next backlog while continuing to reduce older inventory in a controlled manner.

Resource deployment should be explicitly workload-adjusted and forecast-informed. St. Catherine warrants the most urgent operational review because it combines the second-largest intake with a Q3 clearance rate of 20.49% and forecast clearance of approximately 18.1% in Q4 2026 and 17.1% in Q2 2027. St. Ann and Manchester also show persistent contemporary-flow weakness, while St. Thomas remains vulnerable in the forecast. Additional sitting capacity, registry support, service-of-process support and prosecutorial or adjudicative resources should be directed according to case volume, age profile, sitting days, service difficulty and conversion performance rather than equal parish shares. At the same time, the exceptional Q3 movements in Corporate Area and St. James should be examined through a focused operational review so that sustainable scheduling, staffing, listing, digital or case-management practices can be distinguished from temporary legacy-clearance effects or data-timing effects before being replicated elsewhere.

The performance-management framework should move beyond quarterly retrospective reporting by introducing a monthly control series for every court. TiMS should consistently capture new filings, new-case disposals, legacy disposals, total clearance, verified opening and closing pending inventory, age bands, adjournments, sitting days, service outcomes and warrant states. Court-level thresholds should trigger management review when clearance or new-case conversion falls outside expected ranges, and the Q4 2026 and Q2 2027 forecasts should be refreshed as monthly observations become available. This would permit the year-end and 2027 reports to move from the present two-point trend model to a genuine time-series framework capable of estimating trend, seasonality and forecast uncertainty.

Warrant management should be integrated into the same control framework. The third-quarter results show a near reversal in warrant-state composition depending on the attribution-date convention, which means lifecycle status cannot presently be inferred reliably from aggregate counts. TiMS should use unique case and warrant identifiers and record issue, service attempt, service, execution, vacation, expiry and final case disposition as distinct timestamped events. Reconciliation with service and police records would then permit defensible measures such as outstanding-warrant inventory, median days to service or execution, execution-to-disposition time and the proportion of warrants that cycle repeatedly without final resolution.

Demand reduction should accompany productivity improvement because the forecasted gap is too large to be resolved through marginal increases in court output alone. For legally eligible minor matters, structured administrative resolution, digital payment or penalty pathways, scheduled settlement windows and other diversion mechanisms should be expanded in a manner that preserves due-process requirements while reducing unnecessary formal appearances. The capacity released by these measures should be targeted toward contested matters, repeat non-compliance, complex cases and aged inventory, where direct judicial intervention adds the greatest value.

13. Conclusion

The third-quarter results are more encouraging than the second-quarter national position, but the improvement is concentrated. Weighted clearance rises to 53.13%, yet Corporate Area alone contributes 65.9% of the increase in total disposals from Q2 and, together with St. James, accounts for 92.3% of that increase. The appropriate conclusion is therefore one of selective operational improvement rather than network-wide equilibrium.

The forward forecast reinforces that conclusion. Weighted clearance is projected at approximately 56.8% in Q4 2026 and 58.1% in Q2 2027, but the comparable forecasts excluding Corporate Area are only about 35.0% and 35.3%. St. Catherine, St. Ann, Manchester and St. Thomas remain at risk of carrying substantial volumes forward, while Corporate Area, St. James, St. Mary and Portland provide contrasting operational patterns from which sustainable practices may be identified.

14. Glossary and Methodological Notes

Term	Definition / use in this report
New-case disposal rate	New cases disposed ÷ new cases filed × 100. Measures conversion of contemporary intake.
Case clearance rate	Total cases disposed (new + legacy) ÷ new cases filed × 100. A rate above 100% is consistent with reducing older inventory, subject to complete backlog accounting.
Backlog accumulation indicator	100% minus new-case disposal rate. It is a flow indicator, not the verified stock of pending cases.
Legacy share of disposals	Legacy cases disposed ÷ total cases disposed × 100. Indicates the share of output directed to older inventory.
Flow gap	New cases filed minus new cases disposed. Not equivalent to total backlog.
HHI workload concentration	Sum of squared court shares of national filings × 10,000. Used here only to summarize concentration across the 13 courts.
Forecast scenario	A forward estimate used for workload and resource planning where the available history is too short for a conventional time-series model. It should not be interpreted as a prediction with a statistical confidence interval.
Damped recent-trend forecast rule	Forecast rule used in Section 10. One-third of the Q2-to-Q3 change is carried into Q4 2026, and the incremental trend is reduced by two-thirds in each subsequent quarter. The Q2 2027 level therefore equals Q3 plus 13/27 (48.15%) of the Q2-to-Q3 change.

Methodological note

National rates are weighted from summed numerators and denominators. Q2-to-Q3 changes use the published Q2 results and the Q3 extract. Regression results include a Corporate Area sensitivity test. Section 10 forecasts apply the damped recent-trend rule to filings and rates, with disposal counts derived from forecast clearance and filings and rounded to the nearest ten.