



PARISH COURTS OF JAMAICA – CIVIL DIVISION

(JANUARY 1, 2025 – MARCH 31, 2025)

Court Metrics	January - March Highlights				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	101.38	103.03	154.38	156.57	116.93
Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	90.75	91.71	92.11	90.20	86.83
Average Time to Disposition	11.30	11.07	14.62	11.96	10.40
	months	months	months	months	months

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CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE, CIVIL COURT FIRST QUARTER 2025

This is the first quarterly report with the new reporting standards of 18 months as the maximum for which a case should be undisposed of in the Parish Court Civil Division.

The new time standard is justified by the data. The average time for disposition of cases in the Parish Court is 11.30 months. Using the previous time standard of 24 months, the net backlog rate for this quarter is 3.82%. If the new time standard is 18 months, the net backlog rate is 5.11%, that is to say, the current net backlog rate on the new time standard is 0.11% above the international standard of $\leq 5\%$.

With the previous standard of 24 months, the gross backlog is 19.92%. On the new standard of 18 months the gross backlog is 22.42%.

In other words, there is nothing to suggest that the net and gross backlog have increased using the new time standard that would suggest that a wrong decision was made to reduce the time. As it presently stands, the data suggest a case for reducing the time standard even more given that the average time to disposition is 11.30 months. Put another way, the average time to disposition is less than 12 months.

The report notes that the primary causes of adjournments are (a) no returns; (b) the absence of defendants; (c) parties having ongoing discussions; and (d) referrals to mediation. These reasons do not suggest that adjournments are granted unreasonably, thereby lengthening the time to disposal unnecessarily. Whether the time is further reduced will await further analysis of the data.

What is not doubted is that the Parish Courts continue to maintain high standards of performance. Now that this is established, it is necessary to examine each court more closely to see how each court can fine tune its operations to improve service delivery by reducing time to disposition, reducing cost of engaging with the court process without compromising quality. That will be the additional analysis done as we move forward. This is how effect is given to aim 2 of our Policy Statement: *optimise efficiency by reducing backlog and streamlining court operations.*

What has just been stated is the constant quest for courts: reduce time, improve efficiency, no deterioration and definitely improvement in quality of adjudication.

The next three years of this plan is dedicated to that refinement on the journey to a world class judiciary.

I extend sincere appreciation to our judges, staff, and stakeholders whose commitment and collaboration have demonstrated what is possible with proper planning and reasonable execution.

Executive summary

The Honourable Chief Justice has outlined the following strategic objectives for the court system: a court-wide case clearance rate of 130%, a trial date certainty rate of 85%, and an overall net case backlog rate of under 5%. The results presented in this first quarter report (covering January 1 to March 31, 2025) indicate that the Civil Division of the Parish Courts is on track to meet these targets.

Regarding gross case clearance rates, the Civil Division of the Parish Courts recorded 101.38% during the report period. This represents a decrease of 1.65 percentage points compared to the same period in 2024 and meets the international standard for this metric. Nine parish courts surpassed the 90% mark for case clearance rates during the first quarter of 2025. The trial date certainty rate for the Civil Division of the Parish Courts stood at 90.75%, meeting the required standard. The average time to dispose of a civil case in the quarter was approximately 339 days (11.30 months). The Manchester (5.13 months), St. Mary (5.56 months), and Trelawny (5.69 months) Parish Courts had the lowest average times to disposition. The backlog rate remains a key metric in this report. As of the end of the first quarter of 2025, the estimated gross case backlog rate for cases older than 24 months in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts was 19.92%, meaning approximately 19.92% of combined active and inactive cases were over two years old. This is above the targeted value of 10%. However, when inactive cases are excluded, the net case backlog rate for active cases was approximately 3.82%, which meets the required annual standard of $\leq 5\%$. The Trelawny, St. Thomas, Manchester, Clarendon and St. Catherine Parish Courts performed best in this regard, each with less than 2.0% of active civil cases in backlog.

As of the end of the first quarter of 2025, the estimated gross case backlog rate for cases older than 18 months in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts was 22.42%, meaning approximately 22.42% of combined active and inactive cases were over 18 months old. This is above the targeted value of 10%. However, when inactive cases are excluded, the net case backlog rate for active cases was approximately 5.11%, which slightly exceeds the required annual standard of $\leq 5\%$. The Trelawny, St. Thomas and St. Catherine Parish Courts performed best in this regard, each with less than 2.0% of active civil cases in backlog.

Several factors influenced case progression in the first quarter of 2025, with the leading causes of adjournment being no returns, the absence of defendants, plaintiffs or both parties, ongoing discussions, and referrals to mediation. The five primary methods of case disposition during the quarter were by being struck out, settlement, consent judgment, default judgment, and withdrawal. The Civil Division of the Parish Courts continues to demonstrate strong performance, having already achieved the target of reducing the overall net case backlog rate to under 5%. As of the end of the first quarter of 2025, the division is well positioned to make noteworthy progress toward meeting the overall quantitative targets. The Judiciary of Jamaica remains on a steady path towards becoming a world-class institution that leverages innovation and technology to deliver efficient services and timely judgments in an environment where all stakeholders are valued.

See below aggregate case activity summary:

Table i: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Disposal rate (%)	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
4194	977	4252	23.30	101.38	90.75	11.30

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

Forecast:

Using the method of exponential smoothing, it is forecast that in the second quarter of 2025, 3,832 new civil cases will be filed in the civil division of the parish courts, while 4,533 cases are expected to be disposed of or become inactive. The overall forecasted case clearance rate for the second quarter of 2025 in the civil division of the parish courts is therefore 118.29%. The parish courts of St. Mary, Corporate Area and Manchester are expected 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 ii: Key Performance Metrics of High-Performing Courts

Parameter	Minimum Annual Required Standard
Case Disposal Rate	$\geq 75\%$
Case Clearance Rate	$\geq 100\%$
Case Congestion Rate	$\leq 115\%$
Trial Date Certainty Rate	$\geq 85\%$
Net Case Backlog Rate	$\leq 5\%$
Gross Case Backlog Rate	$\leq 10\%$
Average Number of Mentions	≤ 3

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

Methodology

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

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

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

Disclaimer

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

Introduction

This report provides an overview of case activity in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the first quarter of 2025, ending on March 31, 2025. It covers key areas such as the number of new cases filed, cases disposed of, and inactive cases during the period, alongside the most common causes of action and applications. Additionally, the report examines the number of reissue dates, the leading methods of case disposition, and reasons for adjournments. It also addresses the various enforcement actions taken, such as judgment summonses, warrants of levy, and warrants of attachment, noting how these cases are reactivated and their outcomes.

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

For several courts, the data is based on population estimates derived from representative samples, ensuring reliability and data integrity. However, one limitation is that data collection timelines differ between courts, affecting comparability at this stage. In some instances, scientific sampling methods are used to fill data gaps. The report concludes with cumulative case activity summaries for the Civil Courts for the first quarter of 2025.

Chapter 1.0: The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division

1.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division for the first quarter of 2025.

Table 1.01: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	679	68.24
Disposed	165	16.58
Inactive	151	15.18
Total	995	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 995 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, 679 or 68.24% cases were still active, 165 were disposed and 151 were inactive at the end of the quarter. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 31.76% for big claims for the quarter, which is 2.36 percentage points below the estimated disposal rate recorded for big claims in the corresponding first quarter of 2024.

Table 1.02: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	319	37.66
Recovery of Possession	178	21.02
Negligence	69	8.15
Damages for Negligence	54	6.38
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	51	6.02
Sub-total	671	79.22

Total sample size of causes of action= 847

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases entered in the quarter at the Corporate Area Civil Court was breach of contract with 319 or roughly 37.66% of the sample. Recovery of possession and negligence with 178 or 21.02% and 69 or 8.15% respectively rank next. The top five causes of action were rounded off by damages for negligence with 54 or 6.38% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 51 or 6.02% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 79.22% of the total sample of 847 causes of action.

Table 1.03: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	30	85.71
Bailiff	4	11.43
District Constable	1	2.86
Total	35	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, against whom a claim is made, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority with 30 or 85.71% of the sample, followed by service by the bailiff with 4 or 11.43% and service by the District Constable with 1 or 2.86%.

Table 1.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	605	54.16
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	512	45.84
Total	1117*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 993 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1117 matters entered in the first quarter of 2025 were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 605 or 54.16% of the sample, followed by courtroom 1 with 512 or 45.84% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Table 1.05: Distribution of plaintiffs in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	360	40.91
Female	307	34.89
Registered Company	196	22.27
Trading As	17	1.93
Total	880	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 880 matters entered in the first quarter of 2025 at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 360 or 40.91% of the sample. Females accounted for 307 or 34.89% and registered companies accounted for 196 or 22.27% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 17 or 1.93% of the sample.

Table 1.06: Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	454	54.24
Female	321	38.35
Registered Company	44	5.26
Trading As	18	2.15
Total	837	100.00

There were 837 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the first quarter of 2025. The majority of defendants were male with 454 or 54.24% of the sample, followed by females with 321 or 38.35%. Registered companies accounted for 44 or 5.26% of the sample.

Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 18 or 2.15% of the sample.

1.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

Table 1.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	261	45.47
Trial	138	24.04
Default Judgment Date	130	22.65
Part-Heard Date	20	3.48
Hearing of Application	16	2.79
Date for Order	5	0.87
Final Judgment Date	4	0.70
Total	574	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 574 matters that went to court during the first quarter of 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 261 or 45.47% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 138 or 24.04%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for default judgment dates with 130 or 22.65% of the sample. It is of note that 20 or 3.48% of the matters in

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

Table 1.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	128	23.36
Hearing of Application	18	3.28
For Sentence/Order	5	0.91
Referred to Mediation	4	0.73
Judgment Reserved	3	0.55
Sub-total	158	28.83

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 548

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 548 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the first quarter of 2025. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants accounted for 128 or 23.36% of the sample and adjournments for the hearing of an application accounted for 18 or 3.28% of the sample. Adjournments for sentence/order accounted for 5 or 0.91%, matters referred to mediation accounted for 4 or 0.73% and for the reservation of judgments accounted for 0.55% of the sample.

Table 1.09: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	129
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 116 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 129 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 116 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

Table 1.10: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	283	38.87
Consent	140	19.23
Withdrawal	84	11.54
Default Judgment	63	8.65
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	46	6.32
Sub-total	616	84.62

NB: there were 728 matters were disposed in Q1 2025

A total of 728 matters were disposed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the first quarter of 2025. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 616 or 84.62% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 283 or 38.87% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 140 or 19.23% and withdrawals with 84 or 11.54%. Matters disposed by default judgments and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) round off the top five methods with 63 or 8.65% and 46 or 6.32% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 1.11: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
995	316	1068	107.34	31.76

The above table shows 995 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, a total of 165 of these cases were disposed and 151 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 31.76%, a 2.36 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2024. An approximate gross figure of 631 cases were disposed, and 437 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 107.34%, which meets the international standard on this metric, and is a 5.26 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2024.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 19.55%, which is 2.51 percentage points below the net disposal rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The estimated net case clearance rate is 74.76%, which is roughly 2.28 percentage points above the rate recorded in 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 1.12a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	532
Mean	369.7387
Median	187.5000
Mode	133.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	548.44747
Skewness	3.622
Std. Error of Skewness	.106
Range	3111.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	3112.00

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on 532 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2025 at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 370 days or approximately 12.3 months, while the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 133 days. The standard deviation of roughly 548 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness is seen as an indication that there were markedly more scores in the data set which fall below the overall average time. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 3,112 days or roughly 8.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 1.12b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	90
Mean	301.9889
Median	251.5000
Mode	488.00
Std. Deviation	258.83974
Skewness	3.316
Std. Error of Skewness	.254
Range	1757.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	1775.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 90 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 302 days or roughly 10.1 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 97 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 136 days.

Table 1.13a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	3593
Mean	719.7028
Median	628.0000
Mode	18.00
Std. Deviation	582.98169
Skewness	1.641
Std. Error of Skewness	.041
Range	4850.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	4854.00

The above data is based on a sample of 3,593 active civil matters as of the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 720 days or roughly 24 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 18 days. The standard deviation of roughly 583 days suggests that there is some dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 4,854 days old or roughly 13.5 years, while the minimum time is 4 days.

Table 1.13b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	100
Mean	320.4000
Median	277.0000
Mode	193.00
Std. Deviation	327.14032
Skewness	3.545
Std. Error of Skewness	.241
Range	2422.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	2426.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 100 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 320 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 193 days and the median age was 277 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large variation among the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the overall series average. The highest age in the data set was 2,426 days and the lowest was 4 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 2.0: Clarendon Parish Court – Civil Division

2.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Clarendon Parish Court for the first quarter of 2025.

Table 2.01: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	220	85.60
Disposed	37	14.40
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	257	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 257 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, 220 cases or 85.60% of these cases were still active, while 37 were disposed. These results produce an estimated net case disposal rate of 14.40%, which is 6.71 percentage points below the net disposal rate recorded in the previous first quarter of 2025.

Table 2.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	252	84.00
Small Claim	48	16.00
Total	300	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 300 civil claims filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. The majority of which 252 or 84% were big claims, while 48 or 16% were small claims.

Table 2.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Clarendon parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	149	49.67
Recovery of Possession	34	11.33
Damages for Negligence	29	9.67
Detinue and Conversion	11	3.67
Rent Owing and Continuing	9	3.00
Sub-total	232	77.33

Total sample size of causes of action= 300

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases filed in the quarter at the Clarendon Parish Court was breach of contract with 149 or roughly 49.67% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 34 or 11.33% and damages for negligence with 29 or 9.67% rank next. Detinue and conversion with 11 or 3.67% and rent owing and continuing with 3% of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

Table 2.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	229	76.33
Lionel Town Outstation	40	13.33
Chapleton Outstation	22	7.33
Frankfield Outstation	9	3.00
Total	300*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 357 cases**

The majority of a sample of 300 new matters filed in the quarter were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 229 or 76.33% of the total sample. The Lionel Town Outstation accounted for 40 or 13.33% of the cases filed. The Chapleton outstation accounted for 22 or 7.33% and the Frankfield outstation accounted for 9 or 3% of the new cases heard.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Table 2.05: Distribution of plaintiffs in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	155	51.67
Male	139	46.33
Trading As	5	1.67
Registered Company	1	0.33
Total	300	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 300 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025 at the Clarendon Parish Court, females accounted for the majority of the sample with 155 or 51.67% of the sample, followed by males with 139 or 46.33%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 5 or 1.67% and registered companies accounted for 1 or 0.33% of the sample.

Table 2.06: Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	192	64.21
Female	99	33.11
Trading As	7	2.34
Registered Company	1	0.33
Total	299	100.00

There were 299 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the first quarter of 2025. The majority of defendants were male with 192 or 64.21% of the sample, followed by females with 99 or 33.11% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 2.34% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 1 or 0.33% of the sample.

2.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

Table 2.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	179	44.64
Trial	151	37.66
Default Judgment Date	41	10.22
Part-Heard Date	30	7.48
Total	401	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 401 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The highest proportion, 179 or 44.64% of the sample, were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a trial date with 151 or 37.66%, matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 41 or 10.22% and matters adjournment for a part-heard date with 7.48% of the sample.

Table 2.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	99	19.53
Defendant Absent	55	10.85
Both Parties Absent	27	5.33
Plaintiff Absent	21	4.14
Parties in Discussion	17	3.35
Sub-total	219	43.20

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 507

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 507 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the first quarter of 2025. Adjournments for no return or for re-issue accounted for 99 or 19.53% of the sample and the absence of defendants accounted for 55 or 10.85% of the sample. The absence of both parties accounted for 27 or 5.33%, the absence of plaintiffs accounted for 21 or 4.14% and parties in discussion accounted for 17 or 3.35% of the sample.

Table 2.09: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	54
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 45 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 54 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 45 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 2.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	113	39.10
Consent	47	16.26
Settlement	40	13.84
Default Judgment	16	5.54
Oral Admission	16	5.54
Sub-total	232	80.28

NB: there were 289 matters were disposed in Q1 2025

A total of 289 civil matters were disposed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 232 or 80.28% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 113 or 39.10%, matters disposed by consent with 47 or 16.26% of the sample and settlement with 40 or 13.84% of the sample. Matters disposed by oral admissions and by default judgments round off the top methods of disposition with 16 or 5.54% each of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 2.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
91	15	83.52

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 91 trial dates was set in the quarter, of which 15 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 83.52%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 84% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 13.25 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024.

Table 2.12: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate net case disposal rate (%)
257	37	257	100	14.40

The above table shows 257 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court during first quarter of 2025. An approximate gross figure of 244 cases were disposed, and 13 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 100%, which meets the international standard on this metric, and is a 21.48 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2024.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 14.40%, which is 6.71 percentage points below the net disposal rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The estimated net case clearance rate is 94.94%, which is roughly 17.53 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 2.13a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	182
Mean	241.0549
Median	155.5000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	219.65542
Skewness	1.413
Std. Error of Skewness	.180
Range	1098.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	1099.00

The above table outlines sample data on 182 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2025 at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 241 days or 8 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days and the median time was 155.50 days. The standard deviation of roughly 220 days is an indication that there is some variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that a higher proportion of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The oldest matter disposed in the sample was 1,099 days or roughly 3.1 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 2.13b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Number of observations	46
Mean	302.0217
Median	241.5000
Mode	518.00
Std. Deviation	232.70568
Skewness	.691
Std. Error of Skewness	.350
Range	847.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	848.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 46 matters at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 302 days or roughly 10.1 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. The oldest matter disposed in the sample was 848 days, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 2.14a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	518
Mean	396.4189
Median	273.0000
Mode	10.00
Std. Deviation	390.61318
Skewness	1.106
Std. Error of Skewness	.107
Range	1481.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	1491.00

The above data is based on a sample of 518 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 396 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 10 days and the median age in the distribution was 273 days. The standard deviation of roughly 390 days suggests that there is a large variation in the individual scores around the average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 1,491 days old or roughly 4.1 years, while the minimum time taken is 10 days.

Table 2.14b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	140
Mean	383.8429
Median	283.0000
Mode	210.00
Std. Deviation	324.69475
Skewness	1.034
Std. Error of Skewness	.205
Range	1355.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	1365.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 140 active reissued matters at the Clarendon Civil Court as at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 384 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 210 days and the median age was 283 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 1,365 days and the lowest was 10 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 3.0: St. Catherine Parish Court –Civil Division

3.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Catherine Parish Court for the first quarter of 2025.

Table 3.01: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	592	86.30
Disposed	88	12.83
Inactive	6	0.87
Total	686	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 686 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, 592 cases or 86.30% of these cases were still active, while 88 were disposed and 6 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 13.70%, which is 2.32 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024.

Table 3.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	737	92.01
Small Claim	64	7.99
Total	801	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 801 claims filed in the first quarter of 2025, 737 or 92.01% were big claims and 64 or 7.99% were small claims.

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

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	247	31.07
Negligence	120	15.09
Recovery of Possession	102	12.83
Rent Owing and Continuing	72	9.06
Damages for Negligence	41	5.16
Sub-total	582	73.21

Total sample size of causes of action= 795

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table details a sample of 795 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was breach of contract with 247 or roughly 31.07% of the sample, negligence with 120 or 15.09% and recovery of possession with 102 or 12.83%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing and continuing with 72 or 9.06% and damages for negligence with 41 or 5.16% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 73.21% of the total sample of causes of action.

Table 3.04: Sampling distribution of types of service for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	71	67.62
District Constable	17	16.19
Personal	17	16.19
Total	105	100.00

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the majority of the sample with 71 or 67.62% of the sample, personal service and service by the district constable accounted for 17 or 16.19% each of the sample.

Table 3.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	572	71.77
Courtroom #6 (main courthouse)	86	10.79
Linstead Outstation	80	10.04
Old Harbour Outstation	59	7.40
Total	797*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 682 cases**

The majority of the sample of 797 new claims filed in the first quarter was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 572 or 71.77% of the total sample. The 86 or 10.79% that were entered in courtroom number 6 at the main courthouse followed this. The Linstead outstation accounted for 80 or 10.04% of the claims and sittings at the Old Harbour outstation accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 59 or 7.40%.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Table 3.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	367	45.99
Male	357	44.74
Registered Company	72	9.02
Trading As	2	0.25
Total	798	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the 798 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025, females accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 367 or 45.99%, followed by males with 357 or 44.74% and registered companies with 72 or 9.02% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name ("trading as") accounted for the remaining 0.25% of the sample.

Table 3.07: Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	498	62.33
Female	279	34.92
Registered Company	22	2.75
Total	799	100.00

There were 799 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025

The majority of defendants were male with 498 or 62.33% of the total sample, followed by females with 279 or 34.92%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 22 or 2.75% of the total sample.

3.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

Table 3.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	375	35.82
Mention Date	347	33.14
Default Judgment Date	195	18.62
Part-Heard Date	121	11.56
Hearing of Application	9	0.86
Total	1047	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1,047 matters that went to court during the first quarter of 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The highest proportion of the sample, 375 or 35.82% were adjourned for a trial date and 347 or 33.14% were adjourned for a mention date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 195 or 18.62% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 121 or 11.56% of the sample.

Table 3.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	476	31.13
Defendant absent	239	15.63
Parties in Discussion	73	4.77
Both Parties Absent	61	3.99
Plaintiff absent	38	2.49
Sub-total	887	58.01

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled= 1,529

The above table details a sample of 1,529 adjournments or continuances heard in the quarter, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for reissue with 476 or 31.13% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 239 or 15.63% and parties in discussion with 73 or 4.77% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 61 or 3.99% and absence of plaintiffs with 38 or 2.49% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 58.01% of the total sample.

Table 3.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	313	39.27
Consent	121	15.18
Default Judgment	114	14.30
Settlement	91	11.42
Withdrawal	39	4.89
Sub-total	678	85.07

NB: There were 797 matters disposed in Q1 2025

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 797 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2025. The list is led by matters struck out with 313 or 39.27% of the disposals, followed matters disposed by consent with 121 or

15.18%, matters disposed by default judgments with 114 or 14.30% and matters disposed by settlement with 91 or 11.42%. Withdrawals account for 39 or 4.89% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 85.07% of the sample.

Table 3.11: Sampling distribution of Trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
148	17	88.51

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 148 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 17 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 88.51%, suggesting that during the quarter, there was a roughly 89% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate falls below the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 7.2 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024.

Table 3.12: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Estimated gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated gross Case disposal rate (%)
686	94	678	98.83	13.70

The above table shows 686 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, a total of 88 of these cases were disposed and 6 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 13.70%, which is 2.32 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. An approximate gross figure of 662 cases were disposed, and 16 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 98.83%, which meets the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 57.16 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 12.94%, which is 2.14 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance for the quarter is 97.35%, which is 51.44 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 3.13: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	557
Mean	476.2244
Median	253.0000
Mode	35.00
Std. Deviation	591.07988
Skewness	2.472
Std. Error of Skewness	.104
Range	3899.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	3902.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 557 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2025 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 476 days or 15.9 months, which is roughly 49 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2024. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 35 days. There is a high standard deviation of 591 days, which is an indication that there is a large dispersion of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores are below around the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 3,902 days or roughly 10.8 years old, while the youngest was 3 days.

Table 3.14a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1664
Mean	660.1346
Median	379.0000
Mode	207.00
Std. Deviation	736.59403
Skewness	1.927
Std. Error of Skewness	.060
Range	6216.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	6222.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,664 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 660 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 207 days. The standard deviation of roughly 737 days suggests that there is a large dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 6,222 days old or roughly 17.3 years, while the minimum time taken is 6 days.

Table 3.14b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	114
Mean	1153.0702
Median	1221.0000
Mode	1243.00
Std. Deviation	576.12202
Skewness	.721
Std. Error of Skewness	.226
Range	3247.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	3252.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 114 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court as at the end of the first ended March 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 1,153 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 1,243 days and the median age was 1,221 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the negative skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were above the overall average. The highest age in the data set was 3,252 days and the lowest was 5 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 4.0: Trelawny Parish Court –Civil Division

4.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Trelawny Parish Court for the first quarter of 2025.

Table 4.01: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	107	87.70
Disposed	15	12.30
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	122	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 122 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, 107 or 87.70% of these cases were active, 15 or 12.30% were disposed. This produces a net case disposal rate of 12.30% for the quarter, a 1.99 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2024.

Table 4.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	102	78.46
Small Claim	28	21.54
Total	130	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 130 civil claims filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. The majority of which 102 or 78.46% were big claims, while 28 or 21.54% were small claims.

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

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Money Owing	22	17.60
Arrears of rent	15	12.00
Return of Cash	13	10.40
Recovery of Possession	11	8.80
Money Loaned	8	6.40
Sub-total	69	55.20

Total sample size of causes of action = 125

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action in the quarter were money owing with 22 or 17.60% and arrears of rent with 15 or 12% of the sample. Return of cash with 13 or 10.40%, recovery of possession with 11 or 8.80% and money loaned with 8 or 6.40% of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 55.20% of all the total sample of 125 causes of action.

Table 4.04: Sampling distribution of types of service for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	120	92.31
Bailiff	10	7.69
Total	130	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants whom a claim is made against are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 120 or 92.31% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 10 or 7.69% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 4.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Falmouth Outstation	88	67.69
Ulster Spring Outstation	22	16.92
Clarks Town Outstation	20	15.38
Total	130*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 122 cases**

The majority of the sample of 130 new matters filed in 67.69% of the accommodations was entered in the Falmouth outstation. The 22 or 16.92% matters that were entered in the Ulster Spring Outstation followed this, while court sittings at the Clarks Town outstation ranked next with 20 or 15.38% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Table 4.05: Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	80	62.02
Female	41	31.78
Registered Company	8	6.20
Total	129	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 129 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025 at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 80 or 62.02%, followed by females with 41 or 31.78%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 6.20% of the sample.

Table 4.06: Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	94	74.60
Female	26	20.63
Registered Company	6	4.76
Total	126	100.00

There were 126 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025. The majority of defendants were male with 94 or 74.60% of the sample, followed by females with 26 or 20.63% and registered companies with 6 or 4.76%.

4.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

Table 4.07: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	57	39.04
Trial	40	27.40
Default Judgment Date	25	17.12
Part-Heard Date	23	15.75
Hearing of Application	1	0.68
Total	146	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 146 matters that were heard during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 57 or 39.04% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 40 or 27.40%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for default judgment dates with 25 or 17.12% and for part heard dates with 23 or 15.75% rank next. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for mention dates which is expected in civil and most other case types.

Table 4.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	40	21.62
Re-issue	35	18.92
Both Parties Absent	27	14.59
Defendant Absent	12	6.49
Plaintiff Absent	11	5.95
Sub-total	125	67.57

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 185

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 185 incidence of adjournments heard in the first quarter of 2025. Adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 40 or 21.62% of the sample, re-issue applications with 35 or 18.92%, the absence of both parties with 27 or 14.59% and the absence of defendants with 12 or 6.49% of the sample feature prominently on the list. The absence of plaintiffs with 11 or 5.95% of the sample respectively close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 67.57% of the entire sample.

Table 4.09: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	70
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponds to 65 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 70 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 65 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

Table 4.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	40	37.74
Consent	16	15.09
Oral Admission	16	15.09
Settlement	11	10.38
Default judgment	10	9.43
Sub-total	93	87.74

NB: There were 106 matters disposed in Q1 2025

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 106 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2025. The list is led by matters struck out with 40 or 37.74% of the dispositions, followed by matters disposed by consent and oral admissions with 16 or 15.09% each of the sample. Settlements account for 11 or 10.38% of the sample and default judgments account for 10 or 9.43% of the sample. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 87.74% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 4.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
22	2	90.91

Another important performance metric is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 22 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that 2 were adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial date certainty rate of 90.91% which suggests that during the quarter there was roughly an 91% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This outcome meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 5.72 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2024.

Table 4.12: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Estimated Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated net case disposal rate (%)
122	15	101	82.79	12.30

The above table shows 122 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. An approximate gross figure of 97 cases were disposed and 4 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 82.79%, which falls below the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 14.16 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 12.30%, which is 1.99 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance for the quarter is 79.51%, which is 12.28 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 4.13: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)	
Number of observations	74
Mean	170.5541
Median	105.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	175.07549
Skewness	2.213
Std. Error of Skewness	.279
Range	867.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	875.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 74 civil cases disposed in the first quarter of 2025 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 171 days or 5.7 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days and the median time was 105 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 175 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the positive skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the quarter was 875 days or roughly 2.4 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed cases was 8 days.

Table 4.14: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	205
Mean	424.8683
Median	210.0000
Mode	146.00
Std. Deviation	535.73561
Skewness	2.143
Std. Error of Skewness	.170
Range	2562.00
Minimum	20.00
Maximum	2582.00

The above data is computed using 205 active cases at the end of the first quarter of 2025. The average age of these cases was roughly 425 days (1.2 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 146 days. The standard deviation of roughly 536 days suggests that there is a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fall below the overall mean. The oldest active case in this sample is 2,582 days (7.2 years old), while the youngest is 20 days.

Chapter 5.0: St. Ann Parish Court –Civil Division

5.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Ann Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025.

Table 5.01: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	259	77.31
Disposed	76	22.69
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	335	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 335 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, 259 cases or 77.31% of these cases were still active and 76 were disposed. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 22.69%, which is a 7.44 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2024.

Table 5.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	375	84.46
Small Claims	67	15.09
POCA	2	0.45
Total	444	100.00

The above table shows that from 444 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2025, the majority of which were big claims with 375 or 84.46%, while 67 or 15.09% were small claims and 2 or 0.45% were Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

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

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	136	32.38
Recovery of Possession	56	13.33
Money Owing	43	10.24
Rent Owing and continuing	34	8.10
Damages for Negligence	26	6.19
Sub-total	295	70.24

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 420

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 420 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the first quarter of 2025 was breach of contract with 136 or roughly 32.38% of the sample and recovery of possession with 56 or 13.33% of the sample. Money owing with 43 or 10.24% of the sample rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 34 or 8.10% and damages for negligence with 26 or 6.19% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 70.24% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 5.04: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	41	50.00
Bailiff	24	29.27
Personal	17	20.73
Total	82	100.00

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 41 or 50% of the sample. Service by the bailiff accounted for 24 or 29.27% and personal service with 17 or 20.73% of the sample rank next.

Table 5.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	130	56.03
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	70	30.17
Claremont Outstation	32	13.79
Total	232*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 188 cases**

The majority of a sample of 232 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 130 or 56.03% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 70 or 30.17%, and the Claremont Outstation accounted for 32 or 13.79% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Table 5.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	198	44.80
Female	160	36.20
Registered Company	75	16.97
Trading As	9	2.04
Total	442	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 442 new matters filed in the quarter, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 198 or 44.80%, followed by females with 160 or 36.20% and registered companies with 75 or 16.97% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 2.04% accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

Table 5.07: Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	247	57.71
Female	148	34.58
Registered Company	28	6.54
Trading as	5	1.17
Total	428	100.00

There were 428 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025. The majority of defendants were male with 247 or 57.71% of the total sample, followed by females with 148 or 34.58%. Registered companies accounted for 28 or 6.54% of the total sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 5 or 1.17% of the sample.

5.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

Table 5.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	258	37.45
Trial	160	23.22
Part-Heard Date	152	22.06
Default judgment Date	68	9.87
Hearing of Application	27	3.92
Final Judgment Date	24	3.48
Total	689	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 689 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 258 or 37.45% of the sample, followed by 160 or 23.22%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for part heard dates accounted for 152 or 22.06% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date account for 68 or 9.87% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 5.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	125	15.39
Defendant Absent	117	14.41
Referred to Mediation	26	3.20
parties in discussion	22	2.71
Hearing of Application	19	2.34
Sub-total	309	38.05

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 812

The above table details a sample of 812 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the first quarter of 2025, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 125 or 15.39% of the sample, adjournments due to defendants being absent with 117 or 14.41% and referrals to mediation with 26 or 3.20% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by parties in discussion with 22 or 2.71% and the hearing of an application

with 19 or 2.34% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 38.05% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 5.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	91
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponds to 72 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 91 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 72 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

Table 5.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	148	30.33
Consent	110	22.54
Default Judgment	54	11.07
Settlement	47	9.63
Withdrawal	44	9.02
Sub-total	403	82.58

NB: There were 488 matters disposed

A sample of 488 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2025 revealed that 148 or 30.33% of matters were disposed by being struck out, 110 or 22.54% were disposed by consent and 54 or 11.07% of the sample were disposed by default judgments. Matters disposed by settlements with 47 or 9.63% and withdrawals with 44 or 9.02% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for

82.58% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the first quarter of 2025.

Table 5.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
141	8	94.33

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 141 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that 8 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 94.33%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 94% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 1.91 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2024.

Table 5.13: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net case disposal rate (%)
335	76	431	128.66	22.69

The above table shows 335 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. An approximate gross figure of 413 cases were disposed, and 18 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 128.66%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric

and represents a 12.65 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2024.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 22.69%, an improvement of 7.44 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2024. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 123.28%, an improvement of 31.75 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 5.14a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	309
Mean	462.6796
Median	124
Mode	63
Std. Deviation	880.82
Skewness	3.576127
Std. Error of Skewness	0.138677
Range	5127
Minimum	1
Maximum	5128

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 309 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2025 at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 463 days or 15.4 months, which is roughly 130 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2024. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. The standard deviation of 881 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately

more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 5,128 days or roughly 14.2 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 5.14b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	60
Mean	892.8500
Median	364.0000
Mode	4974.00
Std. Deviation	1400.68145
Skewness	2.234
Std. Error of Skewness	.309
Range	4969.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	4974.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 60 matters at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 893 days or roughly 29.8 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the majority of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. The oldest matter in the quarter was 4,974 days or roughly 13.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 5 days.

Table 5.15a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1527
Mean	666.0740
Median	516.0000
Mode	635.00
Std. Deviation	624.43062
Skewness	1.959
Std. Error of Skewness	.063
Range	5034.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	5039.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,527 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 666 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 635 days. The standard deviation of roughly 624 days suggests that there is a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 5,039 days old or roughly 14 years, while the minimum age is 5 days.

Table 5.15b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	120
Mean	372.3083
Median	356.0000
Mode	356.00
Std. Deviation	349.13119
Skewness	1.353
Std. Error of Skewness	.221
Range	1569.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	1574.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 120 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 372 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age were both 356 days. The high standard deviation indicates that there was some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of cases. The highest age in the data set was 1,574 days and the lowest was 5 days.

5.3: Browns Town Outstation –Civil Division

5.3.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Brown’s Town outstation in the first quarter of 2025.

Table 5.3.01: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	60	84.51
Disposed	11	15.49
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	71	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 71 new cases filed at Brown’s Town Court in the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, 60 cases or 84.51% of these cases were still active and 11 were disposed. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 15.49% for the quarter, which is a 12.16 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2024.

Table 5.3.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	81	81.00
Small Claims	19	19.00
Total	100	100.00

The above table shows that of the 100 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2025, the majority of which were big claims with 81 or 81%, while 19 or 19% were small claims.

Table 5.3.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Browns Town Outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	44	55.00
Money Owing	18	22.50
Recovery of Possession	9	11.25
Rent Owing and Continuing	3	3.75
Value of blocks	2	2.50
Sub-total	76	95.00

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 80

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 80 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the first quarter of 2025 was breach of contract with 44 or roughly 55% of the sample and money owing with 18 or 22.50% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 9 or 11.25% of the sample rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 3 or 3.75% and value of blocks with 2 or 2.50% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 95% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 5.3.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

***Note: Corresponds to 71 cases**

All of a sample of 100 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Table 5.3.05: Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Registered Company	48	48.48
Male	24	24.24
Female	20	20.20
Trading As	7	7.07
Total	99	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 99 new matters filed in the quarter, registered companies accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 48 or 48.48% of the sample, followed by males with 24 or 24.24% of the total sample. Females accounted for 20 or 20.20% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 7.07%.

Table 5.3.06: Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	51	60.00
female	32	37.65
Registered Company	1	1.18
Trading as	1	1.18
Total	85	100.00

There were 85 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025. The majority of defendants were male with 51 or 60% of the total sample, followed by females with 32 or 37.65%. Registered companies and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 1.18% each.

5.3.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

Table 5.3.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	55	37.67
Trial	40	27.40
Default Judgment Date	23	15.75
Part-Heard Date	23	15.75
Hearing of Application	3	2.05
Final Judgment Date	2	1.37
Total	146	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 146 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 55 or 37.67% of the sample, followed by 40 or 27.40%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for default judgment dates for a part-heard date account for 23 or 15.75% each of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 5.3.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	23	15.33
Judge Absent/Ill	9	6.00
No Return/Re-Issued	7	4.67
Referred to Mediation	5	3.33
Both parties absent	3	2.00
Sub-total	47	31.33

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 150

The above table details a sample of 150 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the first quarter of 2025, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 23 or 15.33% of the sample, adjournments due to the judge being absent/ill with 9 or 6% and for no return/for re-issue with 7 or 4.67% of the sample rounds off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by referrals to mediation with 5 or 3.33% and the absence of both parties with 3 or 2% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 31.33% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 5.3.09: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	19	30.16
Default Judgment	13	20.63
Settlement	10	15.87
Struck out	10	15.87
Oral Admission	4	6.35
Sub-total	56	88.89

NB: There were 63 matters disposed in Q1 2025

A sample of 63 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2025 revealed that 19 or 30.16% of matters were disposed by consent and 13 or 20.63% were disposed by default judgment. Matters

disposed by settlements and matters struck out with 10 or 15.87% each rank next. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 4 or 6.35% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 88.89% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the first quarter of 2024.

Table 5.3.10: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net case disposal rate (%)
71	11	59	83.10	15.49

The above table shows 71 new cases filed at the Brown’s Town Outstation during the first quarter of 2025. An approximate gross figure of 56 cases were disposed, and 3 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 83.10%, which falls below the international standard for this metric and represents a 3.89 percentage points improvement when compared to the first quarter of 2024.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 15.49%, an increase of 12.16 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2024. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 78.87%, an increase of 12.20 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 5.3.11.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	55
Mean	306.9455
Median	101.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	423.61073
Skewness	1.919
Std. Error of Skewness	.322
Range	1551.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	1561.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 55 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2025 at the Brown's Town Outstation. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 307 days or 10.2 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days and the median time was 101 days. The standard deviation of roughly 424 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1,561 days or roughly 4.3 years old, while the minimum time taken was 10 days.

Table 5.3.12.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	848
Mean	695.1073
Median	572.0000
Mode	635.00
Std. Deviation	480.61698
Skewness	.599
Std. Error of Skewness	.084
Range	1894.00
Minimum	17.00
Maximum	1911.00

The above data is based on a sample of 848 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 695 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 635 days. The standard deviation of roughly 481 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 1,911 days old or roughly 5.3 years, while the minimum age is 17 days.

Chapter 6.0: Westmoreland Parish Court –Civil Division

6.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the first quarter of 2025.

Table 6.01: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	108	66.67
Disposed	50	30.86
Inactive	4	2.47
Total	162	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 162 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, 108 cases or 66.67% of these cases were still active, while 50 or 30.86% were disposed and 4 or 2.47% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 33.33%, which is a 12.97 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2024.

Table 6.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	196	97.03
Small Claim	6	2.97
Total	202	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 202 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025, the majority of which 196 or 97.03% were big claims, while 6 or 2.97% were small claims.

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

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	43	21.83
Recovery of Possession	32	16.24
Rent Due and Continuing	19	9.64
Monies Owing	16	8.12
Negligence	15	7.61
Sub-total	125	63.45

Total sample size of causes of action = 197

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action filed in the first quarter of 2025 at the Westmoreland Parish Court was breach of contract with 43 or roughly 21.83% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 32 or 16.24%, rent due and continuing with 19 or 9.64%, monies owing with 16 or 8.12% and negligence with 15 or 7.61% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 63.45% of the sample of 197 causes of action.

Table 6.04: Sampling distribution of types of service in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	112	58.33
Personal	80	41.67
Total	192	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for 112 or 58.33% and personal service accounted for 80 or 41.67% of the sample.

Table 6.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	55	48.67
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	31	27.43
Whithorn Outstation	20	17.70
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	7	6.19
Total	113	100.00

***Note: Corresponds to 93 cases**

The highest proportion of a sample of 113 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2024 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 55 or 48.67% of the sample. The 31 or 27.43% that were entered in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse followed this. Whithorn Outstation accounted for 20 or 17.70% and sittings at courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the remaining 6.19% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Table 6.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	101	52.33
Female	83	43.01
Registered Company	9	4.66
Total	193	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 193 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025 at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 101 or 52.33%, followed by females with 83 or 43.01% and registered companies with 9 or 4.66%.

Table 6.07: Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	134	68.37
Female	56	28.57
Registered Company	3	1.53
Trading As	3	1.53
Total	196	100.00

There were 196 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 134 or 68.37% of the sample, followed by females with 56 or 28.57%. Registered companies and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 3 or 1.53% each.

6.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

Table 6.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	148	45.26
Trial	132	40.37
Part-Heard Date	40	12.23
Hearing of Application	4	1.22
Final Judgment Date	3	0.92
Total	327	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 327 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The highest proportion, 148 or 45.26%, were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 132 or 40.37%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 40 or 12.23% of matters, which were adjourned for part heard dates and 4 or 1.22% which were adjourned for the hearing of an application date. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for trial or mention court hearings. This is, however, not an unusual outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 6.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	38	45.78
Not Reached	6	7.23
Parties in Discussion	3	3.61
Pending Settlement	3	3.61
At Counsel's Request	2	2.41
Sub-total	52	62.65

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 83

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 83 incidences of adjournments for matters heard in the first quarter of 2025. Adjournments for no return/ for re-issue account for the highest proportion of the sample with 38 or 45.78%, while not reached rank next with 6 or 7.23% of the sample. Parties in discussion and pending settlements with 3 or 3.61% each followed. Adjournment at counsel's request with 2 or 2.41% of the sample completes the top five reasons

for adjournment for the quarter. The top five reasons for adjournment enumerated above account for 62.65% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances heard in the quarter.

Table 6.10: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	33
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponds to 27 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 33 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 27 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 6.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	53	26.11
Struck Out	38	18.72
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	29	14.29
Oral Admission	20	9.85
Default Judgment	19	9.36
Sub-total	159	78.33

NB: There were 203 matters disposed in Q1 2025

A total of 203 civil matters were disposed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which account for 78.33% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 53 or 26.11% of the disposals, followed by matters struck out with 38 or 18.72% of the sample and matters

disposed by Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) with 29 or 14.29% of the sample. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 20 or 9.85% and default judgments with 19 or 9.36% round off the top five methods dispositions.

Table 6.12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	37	90.24
Settlement	3	7.32
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	1	2.44
Total	41	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the first quarter of 2025 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favor of the plaintiff with 37 or 90.24% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 3 or 7.32% and judgment in favor of defendant with 2.44%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favor of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 6.13: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
66	0	100

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 66 trial dates were set in the quarter; of which none were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 100% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 6.14: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
162	54	180	111.11	33.33

The above table shows 162 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, a total of 50 of these cases were disposed, and 4 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 33.33%, a decrease of 12.97 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2024. A gross figure of 163 cases were disposed, and 17 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 111.11%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and is 32.41 percentage points below the first quarter of 2024 rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 31.65%, which is 10.92 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 103.16%, which is 35.45 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 6.15: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	117
Mean	221.5897
Median	127.0000
Mode	257.00
Std. Deviation	225.55239
Skewness	1.617
Std. Error of Skewness	.224
Range	956.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	957.00

The above table outlines summary data on 117 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2025 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 222 days or 7.4 months, which is roughly 58 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2024. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 257 days. The standard deviation is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time and the positive skewness is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 957 days or roughly 2.7 years, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

Table 6.16a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	409
Mean	730.6699
Median	390.0000
Mode	19.00
Std. Deviation	720.96717
Skewness	.799
Std. Error of Skewness	.121
Range	2196.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	2210.00

The above data is based on a sample of 409 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 731 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 19 days. The standard deviation of roughly 721 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores around the average. The positive skewness seen is an indication that more scores in the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest age of active cases was 2,210 days or 6.1 years, and the youngest time is 14 days.

Table 6.16b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	52
Mean	265.0769
Median	173.0000
Mode	145.00
Std. Deviation	267.47951
Skewness	1.642
Std. Error of Skewness	.330
Range	980.00
Minimum	19.00
Maximum	999.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 52 active reissued matters at the Westmoreland Parish Court as at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 265 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 145 days and the median age was 173 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large amount of dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 999 days and the lowest was 19 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Chapter 7.0: St. Mary Parish Court –Civil Division

7.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Mary Parish Court for the first quarter of 2025.

Table 7.01: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	127	69.40
Disposed	56	30.60
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	183	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 183 new civil cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, 127 or 69.40% were still active and 56 or 30.60% were disposed. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 30.60% for the quarter, which is a 1.99 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2024.

Table 7.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	157	78.50
Small Claim	43	21.50
Total	200	100.00

The above table shows that from the 200 new claims filed in the quarter, the majority were big claims, which accounted for 157 or 78.50% of the total sample, while 43 or 21.50% were small claims.

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

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	42	21.43
Breach of Contract	40	20.41
Monies Owing	33	16.84
Arrears of Rent & Continuing	7	3.57
Damages for Negligence	5	2.55
Sub-total	127	64.80

Total sample size of causes of action = 196

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The data in the above table is computed using a sample of 196 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the quarter at the St. Mary Parish Court were recovery of possession with 42 or roughly 21.43% of the sample and breach of contract with 40 or 20.41% of the total sample of causes of action. Monies owing with 33 or 16.84%, arrears of rent and continuing with 7 or 3.57% and damages for negligence with 5 or 2.55% rank next.

Table 7.04: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	134	82.21
Bailiff	29	17.79
Total	163	100.00

Types of service as used above refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 134 or 82.21% of the sample, with service by the bailiff accounting for 29 or 17.79% of the sample.

Table 7.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	136	68.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	34	17.00
Annotto Bay Outstation	12	6.00
Richmond Outstation	11	5.50
Galye Outstation	7	3.50
Total	200*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 131 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 200 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025.

The majority of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 136 or 68% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with 34 or 17% of the sample, the Annotto Bay outstation with 12 or 6% and the Richmond Bay outstation with 11 or 5.50% of the sample rounds off the top accommodations.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Table 7.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	107	53.50
Female	84	42.00
Registered Company	9	4.50
Total	200	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 200 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025 at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 107 or 53.50%, followed by females with 84 or 42%. Registered companies with 9 or 4.50% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

Table 7.07: Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	124	62.00
Female	73	36.50
Registered Company	3	1.50
Total	200	100.00

There were 200 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025. The majority of defendants were males with 124 or 62%, followed by females with 73 or 36.50% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 3 or 1.50% of the sample.

7.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

Table 7.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	50	54.95
Mention Date	33	36.26
Default Judgment Date	8	8.79
Total	91	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 91 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part

heard, trial or similar procedural date. The majority, 50 or 54.95% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 33 or 36.26%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were the 8 or 8.79% of the matters which were adjourned for default judgment dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention hearing and that a notable proportion of the adjournments are for default judgments. The high frequency of adjournments associated with default judgments is not unusual as this stage is intrinsic to case management and case preparation and to the overall case process flow.

Table 7.09: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	34
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponds to 27 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 34 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 27 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

Table 7.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	74	30.58
Struck Out	47	19.42
Default Judgment	44	18.18
Settlement	27	11.16
Withdrawal	17	7.02
Sub-total	209	86.36

NB: There were 242 matters disposed in Q1 2025

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 242 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. Matters disposed by consent with 74 or 30.58%, matters struck out with 47 or 19.42% and matters disposed by default Judgment with 44 or 18.18% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Matters disposed by settlements with 27 or 11.16% of the sample rank next followed by withdrawals with 17 or 7.02% of the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 86.36% of the total sample of matters disposed during the quarter.

Table 7.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
25	8	68.00

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 25 trial dates were set in the first quarter of 2025 shows that 8 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 68%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 68% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 7.12: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate combined number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate net case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net case disposal rate (%)
183	56	202	110.38	30.60

The above table shows 183 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, a total of 56 of these cases were disposed and a gross figure of 202 cases were disposed, many of which have dates of origin predating 2024. This led to an estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 30.60%, which is 1.99 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 110.38%, which is 23.71 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 7.13: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	174
Mean	166.7471
Median	63.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	345.92696
Skewness	4.644
Std. Error of Skewness	.184
Range	2746.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	2747.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 174 civil cases disposed in the first quarter of 2025 at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 167 days or 5.6 months, which is roughly 55 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2024. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days and the median time was 63 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 346 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the positive skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the quarter was 2,747 days or roughly 7.6 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed cases was 1 day. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the center of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

Table 7.14: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	295
Mean	854.5051
Median	574.0000
Mode	28.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	860.21199
Skewness	1.466
Std. Error of Skewness	.142
Range	4237.00
Minimum	19.00
Maximum	4256.00

^a Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above data is based on a sample of 295 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 855 days (or roughly 28.5 months), while the most frequently occurring age was 28 days and the median age in the distribution was 574 days. The standard deviation of roughly 860 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were decidedly more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter in the data set is 4,256 days old or roughly 11.8 years, while the minimum age was 19 days.

Chapter 8.0: Portland Parish Court –Civil Division

8.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Portland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025.

Table 8.01: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	74	89.16
Disposed	9	10.84
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	83	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 83 new civil cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, 74 or 89.16% were still active and 9 or 10.84% were disposed. These results produce an estimated net case disposal rate of 10.84% for the quarter, which is 2.62 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024.

Table 8.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	137	89.54
Small Claim	16	10.46
Total	153	100.00

The above table shows that out of the 153 new claims filed in the quarter, the majority of 137 or 89.54% were big claims, while 16 or 10.46% were small claims.

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

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Prescriptive Rights	45	29.41
Recovery of Possession	25	16.34
Breach of contract	17	11.11
Monies owing	16	10.46
Rent Owing and continuing	12	7.84
Sub-total	115	75.16

Total sample size of causes of action = 153

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 153 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action filed were prescriptive rights with 45 or roughly 29.41% of the total sample, recovery of possession with 25 or 16.34%, and breach of contract with 17 or 11.11% followed. Monies owing with 16 or 10.46% and rent owing and continuing with 12 or 7.84% round off the top five causes of action for the quarter. The top causes of action, which are listed above, account for 75.16% of the sample.

Table 8.04: Sampling distribution of types of cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	106	69.28
Bailiff	47	30.72
Total	153	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority with 106 or 69.28% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 47 or 30.72%.

Table 8.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	74	66.67
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	19	17.12
Manchioneal Outstation	9	8.11
Buff Bay Outstation	7	6.31
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	2	1.80
Total	111*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 59 cases**

The majority of the sample of 111 new matters filed in the quarter was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 74 or 66.67% of the sample of accommodations. The 19 or 17.12% that were entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse followed this, while the 9 matters that entered in the Manchioneal outstation rank next. Sittings at the Buff Bay outstation account for 7 or 6.31% and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 2 or 1.80% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Table 8.06: Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	95	62.09
Female	35	22.88
Registered Company	23	15.03
Total	153	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 153 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025, males accounted for the majority with 95 or 62.09%, followed by females with 35 or 22.88%. Registered companies with 23 or 15.03% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 8.07: Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	69	45.10
Registered Company	47	30.72
Female	37	24.18
Total	153	100.00

There were 153 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2024/25. The highest proportion of defendants were male with 69 or 45.10% of the sample, followed by registered companies with 47 or 30.72% of the sample and females with 37 or 24.18%.

8.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

Table 8.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	109	56.48
Trial	36	18.65
Part-Heard Date	30	15.54
Hearing of Application	12	6.22
Default judgment Date	6	3.11
Total	193	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 193 matters that were heard during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The majority, 109 or 56.48% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 36 or 18.65%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for part heard dates with 30 or 15.54% and for the hearing of an application dates with 12 or 6.22% rank next. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the quarter at the Portland Parish Court.

Table 8.09: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	21	22.34
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	18	19.15
Struck Out	14	14.89
Default Judgment	12	12.77
Settlement	12	12.77
Sub-total	77	81.91

NB: There were 94 matters disposed in Q1 2025

A total of 94 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. The distribution is led by matters disposed by consent with 21 or 22.34% of the sample, followed by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 18 or 19.15% and matters disposed by being struck out with 14 or 14.89%. Matters disposed by default judgments and settlements with 12 or 12.77% each complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the quarter. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 81.91% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 8.10: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
12	6	50.00

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. Using a sample of 12 trial dates set in the quarter, it is seen that 6 were adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 50% which suggests that during the quarter there was roughly a 50% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. The 2025 result is 5.88 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2024.

Table 8.11: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net Case disposal rate (%)
83	9	69	83.13	10.84

The above table shows 83 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. An approximate gross figure of 67 cases were disposed, and 2 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 83.13%, which falls below the international standard on this metric, and is a 43.79 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2024.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 10.84%, which is 2.62 percentage points below the net disposal rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The estimated net case clearance rate is 80.72%, which is roughly 42.36 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 8.12: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	107
Mean	384.8879
Median	472.0000
Mode	472.00
Std. Deviation	319.75735
Skewness	2.308
Std. Error of Skewness	.234
Range	1982.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	1989.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 107 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2025 at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 385 days (12.8 months), which is roughly 84 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2024. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition and the median time to disposition were both 472 days. The standard deviation of roughly 320 days is an indication that there is some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness observed is an indication that the larger proportion of the scores in this data

series fall below the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1,989 days or roughly 5.5 years old, while the youngest was 7 days.

Table 8.13: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	275
Mean	772.0145
Median	511.0000
Mode	511.00
Std. Deviation	796.81423
Skewness	1.951
Std. Error of Skewness	.147
Range	4721.00
Minimum	25.00
Maximum	4746.00

The above data is computed using 275 active cases at the end of the first quarter of 2025. The average age of these cases was roughly 772 days (2.1 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution and the median age were both 511 days (17 months). The standard deviation of roughly 797 days suggests that there is some dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that most of the scores in the data set fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample was 4,746 days (13.2 years), while the youngest 25 days.

Chapter 9.0: St. Thomas Parish Court – Civil Division

9.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Thomas Parish Court for the first quarter of 2025.

Table 9.01: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	120	70.59
Disposed	15	8.82
Inactive	35	20.59
Total	170	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 170 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, 120 cases or 70.59% of these cases were still active, while 15 were disposed and 35 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 29.41%, which is a 14.97 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2024.

Table 9.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	146	75.26
Small Claim	48	24.74
Total	194	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 194 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2025, the majority of which 146 or 75.26% were big claims, while 48 or 24.74% were small claims.

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

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

Total sample size of causes of action= 194

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action filed in the first quarter of 2025 at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 79 or roughly 40.31% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 38 or 19.39%, dog liability and order for forfeiture with 8 or 4.08% each of the sample rounds off the top causes of action in this representative sample. Arrears of rent with 6 or 3.06% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 70.92% of all the total sample of 194 causes of action.

Table 9.04: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	34	60.71
District Constable	19	33.93
Personal	3	5.36
Total	56	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the majority with 34 or 60.71% of the sample. Service by the district constable with 19 or 33.93% and personal service with 3 or 5.36% ran next.

Table 9.05: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	101	52.06
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	55	28.35
Yallahs Outstation	38	19.59
Total	194*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 170 cases**

The majority of a sample of 194 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025 was entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 101 or 52.06% of the sample, while sittings at courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 55 or 28.35% and sittings at the Yallahs outstation accounted for 38 or 19.59% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Table 9.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	117	60.31
Female	73	37.63
Trading As	4	2.06
Total	194	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 194 new matters filed in first quarter of 2025 at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 117 or 60.31%, followed by females with 73 or 37.63%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) had the lowest proportion with 4 or 2.06% of the sample.

Table 9.07: Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	128	65.98
Female	62	31.96
Registered Company	2	1.03
Trading As	2	1.03
Total	194	100.00

There were 194 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025. The majority of defendants were male with 128 or 65.98% of the sample, followed by females with 62 or 31.96% of the sample. Registered companies and Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 2 or 1.03% each of the sample.

9.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

Table 9.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Date for Order	136	39.31
Mention Date	75	21.68
Trial	62	17.92
Default Judgment Date	42	12.14
Part-Heard Date	31	8.96
Total	346	100.00

The above table is computed based on a sample of 346 cases adjourned during the first quarter of 2025. The highest proportion, 136 or 39.31% were adjourned for an order to be handed down, followed by 75 or 21.68% which were adjourned for a mention date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 62 or 17.92% of matters, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 42 or 12.14% and matters adjourned for a part heard date with 31 or 8.96% of the sample rank next.

Table 9.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	75	24.92
Both Parties Absent	23	7.64
Not Reached	16	5.32
Plaintiff Absent	15	4.98
Referred to Mediation	15	4.98
Sub-total	144	47.84

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 301

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 301 incidences of adjournments in the first quarter of 2025. Adjournments due to absence of defendants with 75 or 24.92% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 23 or 7.64% and not reached with 16 or 5.32% rounds off the top three. Referrals to mediation and the absence of plaintiffs with 15 or 4.98% each of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 47.84% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 9.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	18
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 17 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 18 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 17 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

Table 9.11: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment	36	24.16
Oral Admission	31	20.81
Struck Out	26	17.45
Consent	21	14.09
Settlement	10	6.71
Sub-total	124	83.22

NB: there were 149 matters disposed in Q1 2025

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 149 matters. The list is led by matters disposed by default judgment with 36 or 24.16% of the sample. Oral admissions and matters struck out with 31 or 20.81% and 26 or 17.45% respectively rank next. Matters disposed by consent with 21 or 14.09% and matters disposed by settlement with 10 or 6.71% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 83.22% of the sample.

Table 9.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
30	2	93.33

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 30 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 2 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 93.33%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 93% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 0.47 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024.

Table 9.13: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
170	50	191	112.35	29.41

The above table shows 170 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, a total of 15 cases were disposed and 35 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 29.41%, a decrease of 14.97 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2024. A gross figure of 131 cases were disposed, and 60 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 112.35%, which exceeds the international

standard for this metric, and represents an increase of 3.36 percentage points when compared to the first quarter of 2024.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 11.11%, a 15.56 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2024. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 97.04%, a 6.66 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 9.14: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	109
Mean	210.1376
Median	133.0000
Mode	126.00
Std. Deviation	284.66079
Skewness	5.071
Std. Error of Skewness	.231
Range	2302.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	2316.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 109 civil matters disposed in first quarter of 2025 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 210 days or 7 months, which is roughly 13 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the first quarter of 2024. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 126 days. The standard deviation of roughly 285 days is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that there were

proportionately more scores falling below the overall average time taken to dispose of the cases. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2,316 days or roughly 6.4 years old, while the minimum time taken was 14 days.

Table 9.15: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	304
Mean	435.3783
Median	271.5000
Mode	572.00
Std. Deviation	536.88027
Skewness	2.476
Std. Error of Skewness	.140
Range	3635.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	3646.00

The above data is based on a sample of 304 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 435 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 572 days or 1.6 years. The high standard deviation of roughly 537 days suggests that there is wide dispersion in the individual scores in the data set, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 3,646 days or 10.1 years, while the youngest case was 11 days.

Chapter 10.0: St. James Parish Court –Civil Division

10.1: Case Activity Summary

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

Table 10.01: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	342	78.26
Disposed	61	13.96
Inactive	34	7.78
Total	437	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 437 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, 342 cases or 78.26% of these cases were still active, 61 were disposed and 34 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 21.74% for the quarter, which is a 7.82 percentage points deterioration when compared to the first quarter of 2024.

Table 10.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	412	80.47
Small Claim	100	19.53
Total	512	100.00

The above table shows that from 512 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2025, the majority of which were big claims with 412 or 80.47%, while 100 or 19.53% were small claims.

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

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	120	23.62
Monies Owing	73	14.37
Recovery of Possession	56	11.02
Sums Due and Owing	49	9.65
Damages for Negligence	40	7.87
Sub-total	338	66.54

Total sample size of causes of action = 508

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 508 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the first quarter of 2025 was breach of contract with 120 or roughly 23.62% of the sample and monies owing with 73 or 14.37% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 56 or 11.02% of the sample rank next. Sums due and owing with 49 or 9.65% and damages for negligence with 40 or 7.87% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 66.54% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 10.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	185	53.47
Cambridge Outstation	127	36.71
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	30	8.67
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	3	0.87
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1	0.29
Total	346*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 293 cases**

The majority of a sample of 346 matters entered in the first quarter of 2025 were entered in courtroom number 4 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 185 or 53.47% of the sample.

Sittings at the Cambridge Outstation had 127 matters entered or 36.71% of the sample, followed by Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse with 30 or 8.67%.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Table 10.05: Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	217	45.21
Female	157	32.71
Registered Company	106	22.08
Total	480	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 480 new matters filed in first quarter of 2025 at the St. James Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 217 or 45.21%, followed by females with 157 or 32.71%. Registered companies had the lowest proportion with 22.08% of the sample.

Table 10.06: Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	219	46.50
Female	162	34.39
Registered Company	90	19.11
Total	471	100.00

There were 471 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025. The highest proportion of defendants were male with 219 or 46.50% of the total sample, followed by females with 162 or 34.39%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 19.11%.

10.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

Table 10.07: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	160	41.88
Trial	111	29.06
Part-Heard Date	59	15.45
Default Judgment Date	48	12.57
Hearing of Application	4	1.05
Total	382	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 382 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 160 or 41.88% of the sample, followed by 111 or 29.06%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for part heard dates accounted for 59 or 15.45% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date account for 48 or 12.57% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 10.08: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	60	49.18
Attorney Absent	14	11.48
No Return/Re-Issued	9	7.38
Referred to Mediation	7	5.74
Defendant Absent	6	4.92
Sub-total	96	78.69

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 122

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 122 incidences of adjournments in the first quarter of 2025. Adjournments due to absence of both parties with 60 or 49.18% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of attorneys with 14 or 11.48% and for no return or re-issue with 9 or 7.38% rounds off the top three. Referrals to mediation with 7 or 5.74% and the absence of defendants with 6 or 4.92% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 78.69% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10.09: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	48
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 45 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 48 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 45 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

Table 10.10: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	78	26.80
Consent	70	24.05
Default Judgment	42	14.43
Oral Admission	39	13.40
Withdrawal	19	6.53
Sub-total	248	85.22

NB: There were 291 matters disposed in Q1 2025

A sample of 291 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2025 revealed that 78 or 26.80% of matters were disposed by being struck out and 70 or 24.05% were disposed by consent. Matters disposed by default judgments with 42 or 14.43% and matters disposed by oral admissions with 39 or 13.40% rank next. Matters disposed by withdrawals with 19 or 6.53% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 85.22% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the first quarter of 2025.

Table 10.11: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
113	6	94.69

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 113 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 6 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 94.69%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 95% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 10.12: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
437	95	392	89.70	21.74

The above table shows 437 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, a total of 61 cases were disposed and 34 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 21.74%, which is 7.82 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. An approximate gross figure of 254 cases were disposed, and 138 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 89.70%, which falls below the international standard for this metric and is 14.17 percentage points below the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 15.14%, which is 4.61 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 63.03%, a 0.48 percentage points decrease when compared to the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 10.13: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	205
Mean	268.9220
Median	113.0000
Mode	113.00
Std. Deviation	482.73396
Skewness	3.409
Std. Error of Skewness	.170
Range	3574.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	3577.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 205 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2025 at the St. James Parish court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 269 days or 9 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to and the median time were both 113 days. The standard deviation of roughly 483 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 3,577 days or roughly 9.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 3 days.

Table 10.14: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	704
Mean	473.2614
Median	276.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	522.62858
Skewness	1.693
Std. Error of Skewness	.092
Range	2814.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	2817.00

The above data is based on a sample of 704 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 473 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 28 days. The standard deviation of roughly 523 days suggests that there is a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 2,817 days old or roughly 7.8 years, while the minimum age is 3 days.

Chapter 11.0: St. Elizabeth Parish Court – Civil Division

11.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the first quarter of 2025.

Table 11.01: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	220	78.57
Disposed	58	20.71
Inactive	2	0.71
Total	280	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 280 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, 220 or 78.57% of cases were still active, 58 were disposed and 2 cases became inactive at the end of the quarter. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 21.43% for the quarter.

Table 11.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	195	68.18
Small Claim	91	31.82
Total	286	100.00

The above table shows that from 286 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2025, the majority of which were big claims with 195 or 68.18%, while 91 or 31.82% were small claims.

Table 11.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Monies Owing	48	16.78
Goods Sold and Delivered	36	12.59
Cattle Trespass	22	7.69
Breach of Contract	21	7.34
Recovery of Possession	20	6.99
Sub-total	147	51.40

Total sample size of causes of action= 286

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 286 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the first quarter of 2025 were monies owing with 48 or roughly 16.78% of the sample and goods sold and delivered with 36 or 12.59% of the sample. Cattle trespass with 22 or 7.69% and breach of contract with 21 or 7.34% of the sample ranks next. Recovery of possession with 20 or 6.99% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 51.40% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 11.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom 1)	147	51.40
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom 2)	78	27.27
Courtroom 1 (main courthouse)	27	9.44
Balaclava Outstation	22	7.69
Courtroom 2 (main courthouse)	12	4.20
Total	286*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 280 cases**

The majority of a sample of 286 matters entered in the first quarter of 2025 were entered in courtroom 1 at the Santa Cruz Outstation, which accounted for 147 or 51.40% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 2 at the Santa Cruz Outstation had 78 matters entered or 27.27% of the

sample and sittings at courtroom 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 27 or 9.44% of the sample.

11.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

Table 11.05: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention	119	28.13
Part Heard	71	16.78
Return day/New (first before court)	69	16.31
Trial	42	9.93
Judgment Summons	38	8.98
Reissue date	32	7.57
Default Judgement	28	6.62
Case Management	22	5.20
For Judgement	2	0.47
Total	423	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 423 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 119 or 28.13% of the sample, followed by 71 or 16.78%, which were adjourned for part heard dates. Matters

adjourned for return dates accounted for 69 or 16.31% and matters adjourned for a trial date account for 42 or 9.93% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 11.06: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	37	9.07
Default Judgement	32	7.84
Referred to Mediation	20	4.90
Plaintiff Absent	19	4.66
Judge Absent/ Ill	14	3.43
Sub-total	122	29.90

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 408

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 408 incidences of adjournments heard in the first quarter of 2025. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 37 or 9.07% of the sample and for default judgment with 32 or 7.84% round off the top incidences in the sample. Adjournments due to referrals to mediation with 20 or 4.90% and the absence of plaintiffs with 19 or 4.66% rank next. The list is completed by adjournments due to the absence of the judge with 14 or 3.43% of the sample. The top reasons for adjournments listed above account for 29.90% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 11.07: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	76
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 70 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 76 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 70 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

Table 11.08: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck out	110	45.64
Final Judgement	81	33.61
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	18	7.47
Consent	13	5.39
Settlement	8	3.32
Sub-total	230	95.44

NB there were 241 matters disposed in Q1 2025

A total of 241 matters were disposed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 230 or 95.44% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 110 or 45.64% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by final judgment with 81 or 33.61% and Notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 18 or 7.47% and matters disposed by consent with 13 or 5.39%. Matters disposed by settlements round off the top five methods with 8 or 3.32% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.09: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
86	5	94.19

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 86 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 5 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 94.19%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 94% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 11.10: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross Case disposal rate (%)
280	60	253	90.36	21.43

The above table shows 280 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, a total of 58 cases were disposed and 2 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 21.43%. An approximate gross figure of 247 cases were disposed, and 6 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 90.36%, which meets the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 20.86%, a 5.50 percentage points decline when compared to the first quarter of 2024. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 88.85%, a 5.97 percentage points increase when compared to first quarter of 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Chapter 12: Manchester Parish Court – Civil Division

12.1: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Manchester Parish Court for the first quarter of 2025.

Table 12.01 Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	336	84.00
Disposed	60	15.00
Inactive	4	1.00
Total	400	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 400 new cases filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, 336 cases or 84% of these cases were still active, while 60 were disposed and 4 became inactive at the end of the quarter. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 16%.

Table 12.02: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	419	89.34
Small Claim	50	10.66
Total	469	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 469 claims filed in the first quarter of 2025, 419 or 89.34% were big claims and 50 or 10.66% were small claims.

Table 12.03: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	114	27.21
Breach of Contract	73	17.42
Arrears of Rent	44	10.50
Refund of Money	24	5.73
Damages to Cultivation	19	4.53
Sub-total	274	65.39

Total sample size of causes of action= 419

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table details a sample of 419 causes of action entered before the Manchester Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was recovery of possession with 114 or roughly 27.21% of the sample, breach of contract with 73 or 17.42% and arrears of rent with 44 or 10.50%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by refund of money with 24 or 5.73% and damages to cultivation with 19 or 4.53% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 65.39% of the total sample of causes of action.

Table 12.04: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	302	72.08
Christiana Outstation	56	13.37
Spalding Outstation	23	5.49
Porus Outstation	21	5.01
Cottage Outstation	10	2.39
Cross Keys Outstation	7	1.67
Total	419*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 400 cases**

The majority of the sample of 419 new claims filed in the first quarter was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 302 or 72.08% of the total sample. The

56 or 13.37% that were entered in the Christiana outstation followed this. The Spalding outstation accounted for 23 or 5.49% of the claims.

Table 12.05: Distribution of applications filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Court Order	260	100
Total	260	100

A sample of 260 applications filed during the first quarter of 2025 revealed that applications for court order accounted for 100% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Table 12.06: Distribution of plaintiffs in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	249	59.43
Female	136	32.46
Registered Company	31	7.40
Trading As	3	0.72
Total	419	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the 419 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 249 or 59.43%, followed by females with 136 or 32.46% and registered companies with 31 or 7.40% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining 0.72% of the sample.

Table 12.07: Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	266	63.48
Female	131	31.26
Registered Company	22	5.25
Total	419	100.00

There were 419 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2025. The majority of defendants were male with 266 or 63.48% of the total sample, followed by females with 131 or 31.26%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 22 or 5.25% of the total sample.

12.2: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

Table 12.08: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment Date	264	47.65
Mention Date	185	33.39
Trial	85	15.34
Part-Heard Date	14	2.53
Hearing of Application	6	1.08
Total	554	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 554 matters that went to court during the first quarter of 2025, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The highest proportion of the sample, 264 or 47.65% were adjourned for a default judgment date and 185 or 33.39% were adjourned for a mention date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 85 or 15.34% of matters,

which were adjourned for a trial date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 14 or 2.53% of the sample.

Table 12.09: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	236	31.30
Defendant Absent	138	18.30
No Return/Re-Issued	101	13.40
Plaintiff Absent	17	2.25
Pending Settlement	15	1.99
Sub-total	507	67.24

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 754

The above table details a sample of 754 adjournments or continuances heard in the quarter, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 236 or 31.30% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 138 or 18.30% and for no return/for reissue with 101 or 13.40% and adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 17 or 2.25% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Pending settlements with 15 or 1.99% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 67.24% of the total sample.

Table 12.10: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	41
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 36 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance of cases in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 41 incidences of reissue,

corresponding to 36 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

Table 12.11 Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	159	48.92
Consent	35	10.77
Final Judgment	27	8.31
Default Judgment	21	6.46
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	21	6.46
Sub-total	263	80.92

NB there were 325 matters disposed in Q1 2025

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 325 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2025. The list is led by matters struck out with 159 or 48.92% of the disposals, followed matters disposed by consent with 35 or 10.77% and matters disposed by final judgments with 27 or 8.31%. Default judgments and Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) account for 21 or 6.46% each of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 80.92% of the sample.

Table 12.12: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
44	3	93.18

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 44 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 3 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 93.18%, suggesting that during the quarter, there was a roughly 93% chance that

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

Table 12.13: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross Case disposal rate (%)
400	64	338	84.50	16.00

The above table shows 400 new cases filed at the Manchester Parish Court during the first quarter of 2025. At the end of the quarter, a total of 60 of these cases were disposed and 4 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 16%. An approximate gross figure of 332 cases were disposed, and 6 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2025. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 84.50%, which falls below the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 15.15%, which is 4.04 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance for the quarter is 83.84%, which is 41.91 percentage points above the rate recorded in the first quarter of 2024. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 12.14: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	180
Mean	153.9667
Median	127.5000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	117.36654
Skewness	2.035
Std. Error of Skewness	.181
Range	777.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	787.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 180 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2025 at the Manchester Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 154 days or 5.1 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. There is moderate standard deviation of 117 days, which is an indication that there is some dispersion of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores are below around the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 787 days or roughly 2.2 years old, while the youngest was 10 days.

Table 12.15: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1121
Mean	358.4460
Median	420.0000
Mode	486.00
Std. Deviation	205.26355
Skewness	-.237
Std. Error of Skewness	.073
Range	782.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	789.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1,121 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2025. The average age of these matters was roughly 358 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 486 days. The standard deviation of roughly 205 days suggests that there is a small dispersion in the individual scores, while the negative skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set were close to the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 789 days old or roughly 2.2 years, while the minimum time taken is 7 days.

Performance Summaries-Other Parish Court

Table 13.01: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Division of the Hanover Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Net Case Clearance Rate (%)	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Net Case Disposal Rate (%)	Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)
Hanover PC	NA	109.52	NA	60.71	NA

The summary of key performance metrics for the Hanover Parish Court shows that the civil division of the Hanover Parish Court recorded an estimated net clearance rate of 109.52% and an estimated net disposal rate of 60.71% for the quarter.

Aggregate data summaries – all Parish Courts

Table 13.02: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)
4194	4252	101.38

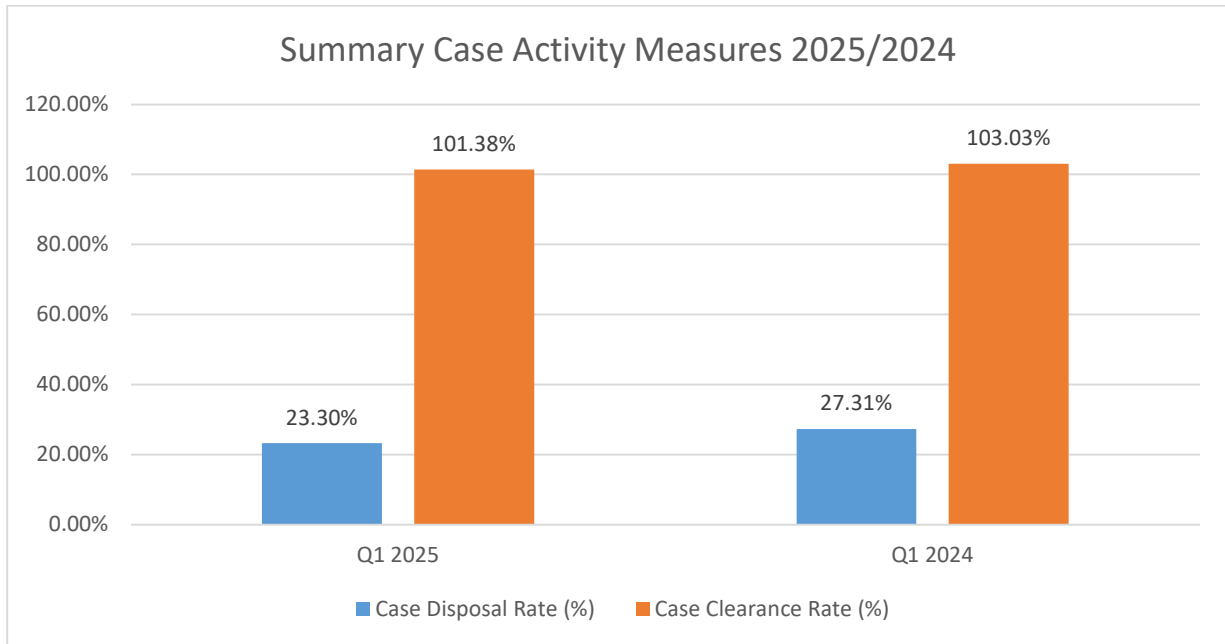
The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the first quarter of 2025. It shows that a total of 4,194 new cases were filed over the quarter, while 4,252 became inactive or were disposed, leading to an estimated gross clearance rate of 101.38%. This is a 1.65 percentage points decrease when compared to the corresponding period in 2024.

Table 13.03: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2025	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1 2024	Change in the Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2025	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1 2024	Change in the Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)
St. Thomas	29.41	44.38	-14.97	112.35	108.99	3.36
Corporate Area- Civil	31.76	34.12	-2.36	107.34	102.08	5.26
St. Elizabeth	21.43	NA	NA	90.36	NA	NA
Hanover	NA	65.59	NA	NA	166.67	NA
Manchester	16.00	NA	NA	84.5	NA	NA
Portland	NA	NA	NA	83.13	126.92	-43.79
St. Ann	NA	26.11	NA	128.66	116.01	12.65
St. Catherine	13.7	16.02	-2.32	98.83	155.99	-57.16
St. Mary	NA	33.09	NA	NA	88.97	NA
Trelawny	NA	22.14	NA	82.79	96.95	-14.16
St. James	21.74	29.56	-7.82	89.7	103.87	-14.17
Clarendon	NA	NA	NA	100.00	78.52	21.48
Westmoreland	33.33	46.3	-12.97	111.11	143.52	-32.41
Average /Weighted Average	23.30	27.31	-4.01	101.38	103.03	-1.65
Standard Deviation	13.56	20.88		39.52	50.94	
Skewness	-0.05	0.95		0.70	0.58	

The table above provides a comparison of the gross case disposal rate and the gross case clearance rate for the first quarter of 2025 and 2024. The weighted average gross case disposal rate for the first quarter of 2025 is 23.30%, which is a 4.01 percentage points decrease when compared to the first quarter of 2024 weighted average rate of 27.31%. The gross case clearance rate of 101.38% for the first quarter of 2025 is 1.65 percentage points below the 103.03% recorded in the first quarter of 2024.

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



The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal and case clearance for the first quarters of 2025 and 2024. It is seen that there has been a decrease in the gross case disposal rate and in the gross case clearance rate over the comparative period. The case clearance rate moved from 103.03% in the first quarter of 2024 to 101.38% in the first quarter of 2025. The case disposal rate moved from 27.31% in the first quarter of 2024 to 23.30% in the first quarter of 2025, a decrease of 4.01 percentage points.

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

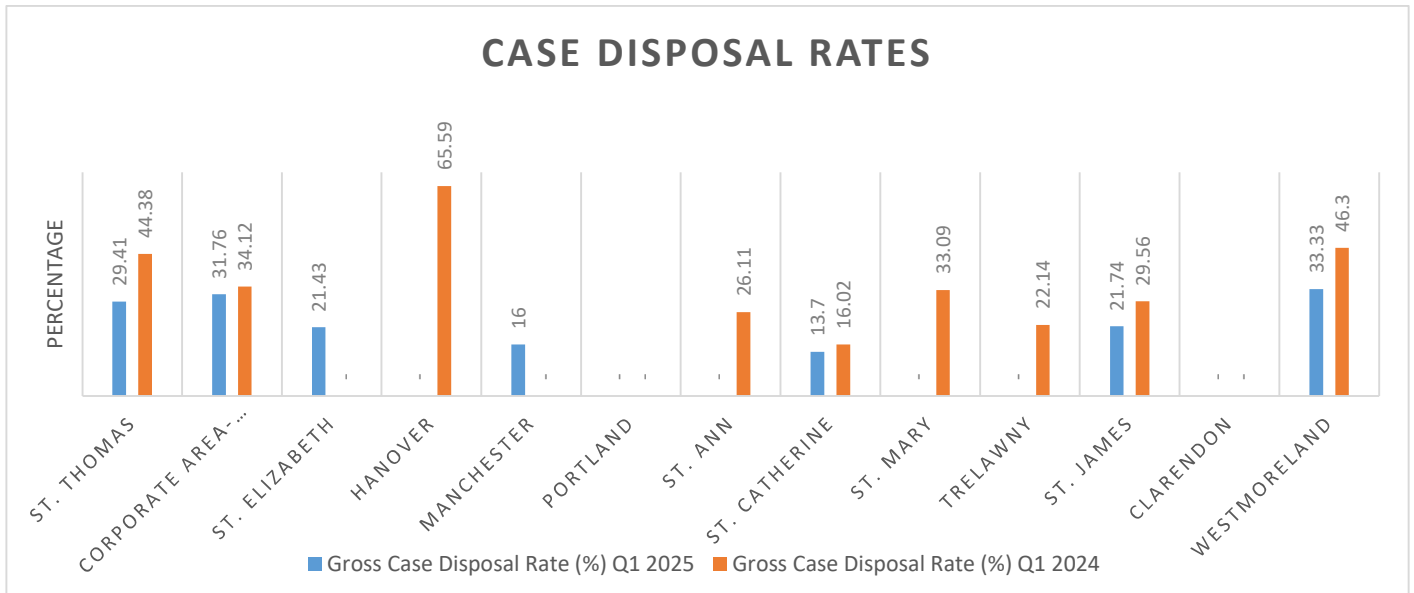


Chart 13.05b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for the first quarters of 2024 and 2025

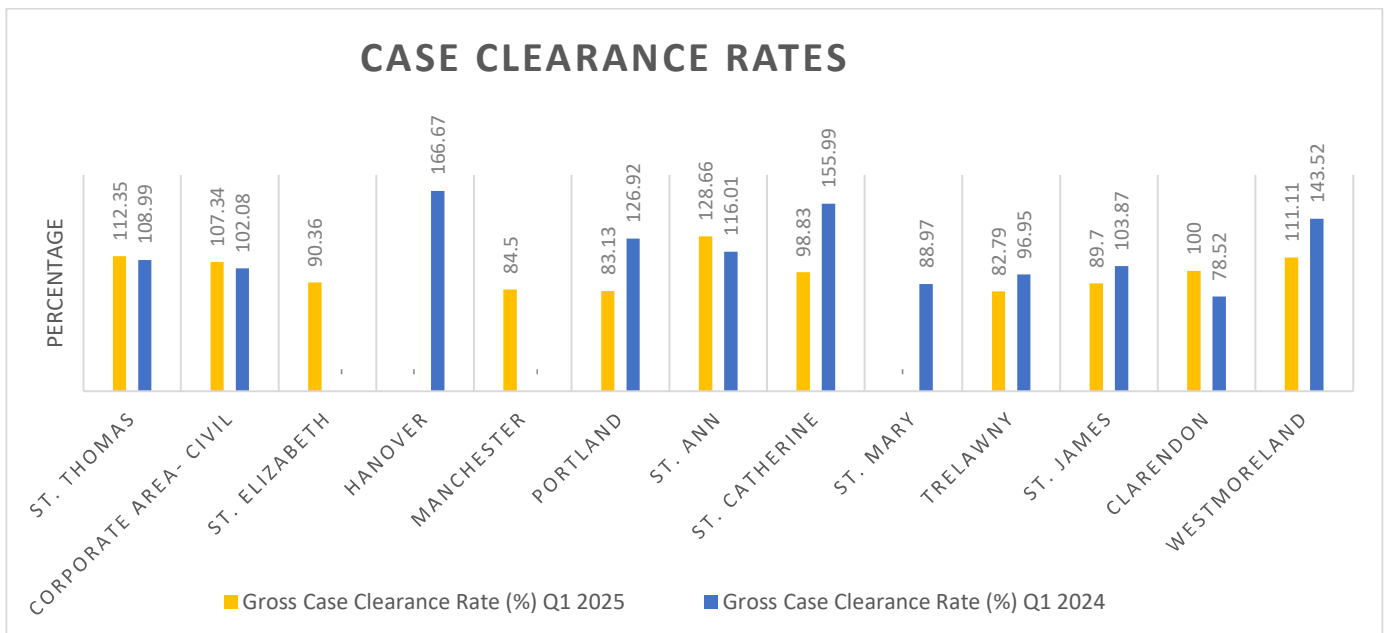


Table 13.06: Sampling distribution of claims filed during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Big Claims	Small Claims	POCA	Miscellaneous	Total
Corporate area	1123	-	-	-	1123
Portland	137	16	-	-	153
St. Ann	375	67	2	-	444
St. Catherine	737	64	-	-	801
St. Elizabeth	195	91	-	-	286
St. Mary	157	43	-	-	200
St. Thomas	146	48	-	-	194
Trelawny	102	28	-	-	130
Westmoreland	196	6	-	-	202
St. James	412	100	-	-	512
Clarendon	252	48	-	-	300
Manchester	419	50	-	-	469
Total	4251	561	2	0	4814

The above table provides an overall summary of the claims files across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2025. The sample of 4,814 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2025 reveals that 4,251 or 88.30% were big claims, while 11.65% were small claims and 0.04% were POCA matters. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine Parish Court, and the St. James Parish Court account for the largest share of new complaints filed in the quarter. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine, and the Manchester Parish Courts account for the largest share of big claims filed in the quarter, while the St. James, St. Elizabeth and the St. Ann Parish Court account for the largest shares of small claims filed.

Table 13.07: 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	101	105	4	108.70
Manchester	393	354	143	126.44
St. Mary	168	294	1	175.98
St. James	369	229	146	101.87
St. Catherine	607	698	26	119.31
Portland	69	80	3	119.85
St. Ann	335	333	43	112.38
St. Elizabeth	267	272	4	103.52
Corporate Area Civil	818	653	416	130.64
Westmoreland	171	153	17	99.61
St. Thomas	176	123	58	102.73
Clarendon	250	241	10	100.27
Trelawny	108	107	18	115.63
Total/Weighted Average	3832	3644	889	118.29

Note: The forecasted case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the first quarter of 2025 is 88.03%.

The above table forecasts core case activity for the civil 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 rate for the civil division of the parish courts for the second quarter of 2025 is 118.29%, which would be 16.91 percentage points higher than that of the first quarter of 2025. All thirteen (13) 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 175.98%, the Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division with 130.64% and the Manchester Parish Court with 126.44%.

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

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	84	69,533	12
St. Catherine	686	516,218	13
Westmoreland	162	144,103	11
St. Mary	183	113,615	16
Clarendon	257	245,103	10
Portland	83	81,744	10
St. Elizabeth	280	150,205	19
Corporate Area Civil	995	662,426	15
St. Thomas	170	93,902	18
St. James	437	183,811	24
St. Ann	335	172,362	19
Trelawny	122	75,164	16
Manchester	400	189,797	21
Total	4194	2697983	16

The above table provides an outline of the number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts (civil division) in the first quarter of 2025. The population sizes used are based on the last national population census in 2011 and therefore the data does not have full current value. Nevertheless, this kind of data provides interesting insights into the demand for civil adjudication in the various parishes. It is seen that the parish of St. James, which is among the courts with the larger caseloads and midrange population size, registered the largest number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the first quarter of 2025. Manchester, which is among the courts with the larger caseloads and population size, ranked second. Equally interesting is the result that the parish of Portland tied for the smallest number of new cases filed

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

Table 13.09: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	909	16.19
Defendant Absent	807	14.37
Both Parties Absent	456	8.12
Plaintiff Absent	139	2.48
Parties in Discussion	134	2.39
Referred to Mediation	106	1.89
Pending Settlement	66	1.18
Hearing of Application	54	0.96
Judge Absent/Ill	47	0.84
Attorney Absent	42	0.75
Sub-total	2760	49.15

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 5,616)

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 5,616 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the first quarter of 2025 across all of the parish courts (civil division). The largest proportion (16.19%) was for no return/ for reissue. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 14.37% and the absence of both parties with 8.12% round out the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. The absence of plaintiffs with 2.48% and parties in discussion with 2.39% round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 49.15% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 13.10a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 -547 days	548-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Civil	5179 (31.0%)	3916 (23.5%)	1986 (11.9%)	1470 (8.8%)	1643 (9.8%)	828 (5.0%)	1669 (10.0%)	16691 (100%)
St. Catherine	3030 (17.2%)	2567 (14.6%)	1611 (9.2%)	1261 (7.2%)	1896 (10.8%)	1427 (8.1%)	5805 (33.0%)	17597 (100%)
St. James	933 (43.5%)	392 (18.3%)	186 (8.7%)	130 (6.1%)	178 (8.3%)	98 (4.6%)	226 (10.5%)	2143 (100%)
Clarendon	676 (35.2%)	533 (27.7%)	312 (16.2%)	138 (7.2%)	144 (7.5%)	93 (4.8%)	27 (1.4%)	1923 (100%)
Westmoreland	1254 (52.8%)	492 (20.7%)	228 (9.6%)	132 (5.6%)	149 (6.3%)	61 (2.6%)	58 (2.4%)	2374 (100%)
St. Ann	2002 (32.2%)	1321 (21.2%)	671 (10.8%)	476 (7.7%)	619 (10.0%)	322 (5.2%)	807 (13.0%)	6218 (100%)
St. Thomas	854 (34.0%)	580 (23.1%)	266 (10.6%)	179 (7.1%)	200 (8.0%)	117 (4.7%)	317 (12.6%)	2513 (100%)
Portland	537 (25.2%)	369 (17.3%)	200 (9.4%)	160 (7.5%)	287 (13.5%)	120 (5.6%)	459 (21.5%)	2132 (100%)
St. Mary	1995 (46.9%)	624 (14.7%)	255 (6.0%)	157 (3.7%)	213 (5.0%)	113 (2.7%)	900 (21.1%)	4257 (100%)
Trelawny	1153 (53.0%)	434 (20.0%)	167 (7.7%)	113 (5.2%)	133 (6.1%)	66 (3.0%)	109 (5.0%)	2175 (100%)
Manchester	320 (42.3%)	251 (33.2%)	138 (18.2%)	37 (4.9%)	7 (0.9%)	1 (0.1%)	3 (0.4%)	757 (100%)
% of Total	30.51	19.53	10.24	7.24	9.30	5.52	17.66	-
Average	1630.27	1043.55	547.27	386.64	497.18	295.09	943.64	5343.64
Standard Deviation	1431.50	1147.41	630.75	488.04	635.68	427.97	1633.30	5932.93
Skewness	1.81	1.99	1.80	1.77	1.74	2.18	2.83	1.70

Number of charges sampled (N) = 58,780

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 87 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at March 31, 2025. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least an 87-month period. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 30.51% of the

disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Ann and St. Mary are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively 67.52% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in 3-5 years. From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of St. Catherine, Corporate Area, and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 17.66% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Catherine, Corporate Area, and St. Mary had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are all relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

Table 13.10b: 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 Civil	294.24	27	154	371.41	2.93	1	4254	16691
St. Catherine	578.77	28	404	551.49	1.35	1	4854	17597
St. James	266.17	28	113	370.11	2.53	1	3577	2143
Clarendon	187.24	63	128	178.12	1.93	1	1210	1923
Westmoreland	157.74	28	82	213.58	3.70	1	1903	2374
St. Ann	368.06	63	155	571.52	3.60	1	5929	6218
St. Thomas	360.86	28	140	613.12	3.58	1	3471	2513
Portland	500.51	63	245	651.35	2.38	1	4515	2132
St. Mary	451.43	28	100	679.56	1.66	1	3845	4257
Trelawny	184.50	28	77	284.81	3.45	1	2710	2175
Manchester	121.29	91	91	95.25	2.13	1	787	757
Total/Weighted Average	392.62	43.18	153.55	416.39	2.66	1.00	3368.64	5343.64
Standard Deviation	150.31	22.60	95.57	206.88	0.84	0.00	1582.63	6008.50
Skewness	0.42	1.14	2.13	-0.17	-0.11	0.00	-0.26	1.70

Number of charges sampled (N) = 58,780

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 87 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at March 31, 2025. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least an 87-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 393 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive figure, suggesting that most of these times fell below the overall mean. For matters disposed in the period, the parish courts of Manchester (121 days), Westmoreland (158 days) and Trelawny (185 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (579 days), Portland (501 days) and St. Mary (451 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the

period of analysis. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is shown to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 150.31 days. The minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1 day; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 787 days (26.2 months/2.2 years) in the Manchester Parish Court, to a high of 5,929 days (197.6 months/16.5 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a low negative value, which is an indication that a larger proportion of the maximum times to disposition were close to the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 58,780 matters.

Table 13.11a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 -547 days	548-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Civil	123 (23.1%)	138 (25.9%)	66 (12.4%)	56 (10.5%)	51 (9.6%)	45 (8.5%)	53 (10.0%)	532 (100%)
St. Catherine	130 (23.3%)	110 (19.7%)	51 (9.2%)	47 (8.4%)	53 (9.5%)	56 (10.1%)	110 (19.7%)	557 (100%)
St. James	94 (45.9%)	51 (24.9%)	18 (8.8%)	8 (3.9%)	6 (2.9%)	8 (3.9%)	20 (9.8%)	205 (100%)
Clarendon	57 (31.3%)	43 (23.6%)	23 (12.6%)	16 (8.8%)	23 (12.6%)	15 (8.2%)	5 (2.7%)	182 (100%)
Westmoreland	43 (36.8%)	27 (23.1%)	13 (11.1%)	11 (9.4%)	10 (8.5%)	8 (6.8%)	5 (4.3%)	117 (100%)
St. Ann	117 (37.9%)	56 (18.1%)	38 (12.3%)	10 (3.2%)	21 (6.8%)	18 (5.8%)	49 (15.9%)	309 (100%)
St. Thomas	25 (22.9%)	41 (37.6%)	19 (17.4%)	15 (13.8%)	3 (2.8%)	2 (1.8%)	4 (3.7%)	109 (100%)
Portland	19 (17.8%)	15 (14.0%)	6 (5.6%)	2 (1.9%)	55 (51.4%)	4 (3.7%)	6 (5.6%)	107 (100%)
St. Mary	122 (70.1%)	19 (10.9%)	8 (4.6%)	5 (2.9%)	2 (1.1%)	9 (5.2%)	9 (5.2%)	174 (100%)
Trelawny	24 (32.4%)	25 (33.8%)	10 (13.5%)	6 (8.1%)	6 (8.1%)	1 (1.4%)	2 (2.7%)	74 (100%)
Manchester	67 (37.2%)	43 (23.9%)	42 (23.3%)	24 (13.3%)	2 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.1%)	180 (100%)
% of Total	32.25	22.31	11.55	7.86	9.11	6.52	10.41	-
Average	74.64	51.64	26.73	18.18	21.09	15.09	24.09	231.45
Standard Deviation	43.94	38.56	19.72	17.65	21.68	18.53	33.94	167.27
Skewness	0.02	1.54	0.89	1.51	0.84	1.62	1.94	1.37

Number of charges sampled (N) = 2,546

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 results shown suggest that only 32.25% of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days. The St. Catherine parish court along with the parish courts of Corporate Area Civil, St. Mary and St. Ann are among the courts

accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 73.97% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year. From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Civil and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that approximately 10.41% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Catherine, Corporate Area Civil and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are mostly relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

Table 13.11b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed 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 Civil Division	369.74	133	187.50	548.45	3.62	1	3112	532
St. Catherine	476.22	35	253	591.08	2.47	3	3902	557
St. James	268.92	113	113	482.73	3.41	3	3577	205
Clarendon	241.05	63	155.50	219.66	1.41	1	1099	182
Westmoreland	221.59	257	127	225.55	1.62	1	957	117
St. Ann	462.68	63	124	880.82	3.58	1	5128	309
St. Thomas	210.14	126	133	284.66	5.07	14	2316	109
Portland	384.89	472	472	319.76	2.31	7	1989	107
St. Mary	166.75	28	63	345.93	4.64	1	2747	174
Trelawny	170.55	91	105	175.08	2.21	8	875	74
Manchester	153.97	63	127.50	117.37	2.04	10	787	180
Total/Weighted Average	339.08	131.27	169.14	381.01	2.94	4.55	2408.09	231.45
Standard Deviation	118.89	129.54	111.65	225.54	1.21	4.52	1434.86	167.27
Skewness	0.61	2.17	2.32	1.10	0.54	1.10	0.50	1.37

Number of charges sampled (N) = 2,546

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 overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 339 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 0.61, suggesting that most of the scores were below the overall mean. For matters disposed in the period, the parish courts of Manchester (154 days), St. Mary (167 days) and Trelawny (171 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (476 days), St. Ann (463 days) and Portland (385 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period of analysis. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is shown to be modest, as conferred by the standard

deviation of 118.89 days. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 4.55 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 787 days (26.2 months/2.2 years) in the Manchester Parish Court, to a high of 5,128 days (170.9 months/14.2 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 0.50, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were clustered around the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 2,546 matters.

Table 13.11c: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Struck Out	Consent	Settlement	Default Judgment	Oral Admission	Withdrawal	Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	Other	Total
St. Catherine	313	121	91	114	16	39	36	67	797
Corporate Area Civil	283	140	22	63	30	84	46	60	728
Westmoreland	38	53	9	19	20	7	29	28	203
Clarendon	113	47	40	16	16	11	12	34	289
Trelawny	40	16	11	10	16	3	-	10	106
Portland	14	21	12	12	-	3	18	14	94
St. Mary	47	74	27	44	12	17	5	16	242
St. Thomas	26	21	10	36	31	4	10	11	149
St. Ann	148	110	47	54	15	44	26	44	488
St. James	78	70	18	42	39	19	16	9	291
St. Elizabeth	110	13	8	-	-	3	18	89	241
Manchester	159	35	19	21	12	25	21	33	325
Total	1369	721	314	431	207	259	237	415	3953
Percentage of total	34.63	18.24	7.94	10.90	5.24	6.55	6.00	10.50	-

Number of charges sampled (N): 3,953

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts-civil division for the first the first quarter of 2025. From the sample, it is observed that the highest proportion of matters disposed during the quarter were by being struck out with 34.63% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by consent with 18.24%, default judgments with 10.90% and dispositions grouped under the category, “other methods” with 10.50% of the sample. Settlements with 7.94% and withdrawals with 6.55% rank next. Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 6% and oral admissions with 5.24% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter.

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

Paris Court	Net Case Backlog Rate (%)	Gross Case Backlog Rate (%)
Clarendon	1.43	14.42
Corporate Area	3.27	29.16
Manchester	1.23	NA
Portland	2.44	14.41
St. Ann	3.69	27.80
St. Catherine	1.50	4.26
St. Elizabeth	18.89	26.20
St. James	2.90	19.52
St. Mary	2.19	3.31
St. Thomas	0.80	23.92
Trelawny	0.65	25.58
Westmoreland	3.02	16.95
Weighted Average	3.82	19.92
Standard Deviation	4.95	8.99

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q1 2025 is 11.70% and the gross backlog is 26.64%.

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

courts of 3.82% (with a standard deviation of 4.95%), which satisfies the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 19.92% (with a standard deviation of 8.99%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is 9.92 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10%, but can be improved to meet this standard with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the civil courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Trelawny with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.65%, St. Thomas and Manchester with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.80% and 1.23% respectively have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (18.89%), St. Ann (3.69%) and Corporate Area (3.27%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of St. Mary (3.31%) and St. Catherine (4.26%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (29.16%), St. Ann (27.80%) and St. Elizabeth (26.20%) have the highest rates.

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

Paris Court	Net Case Backlog Rate (%)	Gross Case Backlog Rate (%)
Clarendon	2.16	16.65
Corporate Area	5.32	32.73
Manchester	6.79	NA
Portland	2.98	15.14
St. Ann	4.68	30.95
St. Catherine	1.98	4.86
St. Elizabeth	21.09	28.41
St. James	3.48	26.70
St. Mary	2.46	3.57
St. Thomas	1.30	26.00
Trelawny	0.98	27.97
Westmoreland	3.30	19.22
Weighted Average	5.11	22.42
Standard Deviation	5.43	10.09

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q1 2025 is 15.28% and the gross backlog is 32.20%.

The net and gross case backlog rates provide one of the most decisive indicators of court performance as they are strongly influenced by most of the other critical court performance metrics such as the case clearance, case disposal, trial and hearing date certainty rates and are also directly correlated with the case congestion rate. The estimated gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) and are over two years old at the date of reporting. The closely related estimated net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are still active and exceeding two years old at the time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The results revealed a net case backlog rate (weighted average) for cases over 18 months in the parish

courts of 5.11% (with a standard deviation of 5.43%), which satisfies the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 22.42% (with a standard deviation of 10.09%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is 12.42 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10%, but can be improved to meet this standard with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the civil courts. The sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Trelawny with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.98%, St. Thomas and St. Catherine with an estimated net backlog rate of 1.30% and 1.98% respectively have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Elizabeth (21.09%), Manchester (6.79%) and Corporate Area-Civil Division (5.32%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of St. Mary (3.57%) and St. Catherine (4.86%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (32.73%), St. Ann (30.95%) and St. Elizabeth (28.41%) have the highest rates.

Trial court activity summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Table 13.13a: 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	Average time between first court appearance and trial	Average time between trial and disposition
Clarendon	51.09	226.58	225.34
Corporate Area-Civil Division	77.20	332.60	819.58
Manchester	68.90	180.27	116.14
Portland	46.15	616.02	756.90
St. Ann	91.47	458.72	843.98
St. Catherine	77.85	474.55	386.65
St. James	49.25	400.59	120.35
St. Mary	55.90	155.98	205.16
St. Thomas	45.94	244.84	248.59
Trelawny	50.55	337.13	228.00
Westmoreland	34.87	151.59	207.45
Weighted Average	66.28	370.94	432.15
Standard Deviation	17.31	150.52	285.00

Tracking the times between the occurrence of major hearing events along the case flow continuum is important to establishing precise points of possible delay in case progression. The above table provides a summary of the average times between filing a case and the first court appearance. The average time between the first court appearance and the first date of trial and the average duration between the first trial date and disposition. Overall, it is seen that the average time between filing a civil case, and the first court appearance is approximately 2.2 months, while the overall average time between first appearance of a civil matter in the parish courts and the first trial date is, however, much longer at approximately 12.4 months or 371 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is approximately

14.4 months or 432 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face lengthy delays after a first date set is postponed. Since less than a quarter of civil cases filed in the parish courts will proceed to trial, these findings may not have a dramatic impact on the overall time to disposition of civil cases.

Table 13.13b: Trial court activity summary during the first quarter ended March 31, 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	751	189	25.17
Portland	247	57	23.08
Manchester	766	88	11.49
St. Ann	1189	287	24.14
St. Catherine	2134	507	23.76
St. Elizabeth	538	86	15.99
St. James	958	171	17.85
St. Mary	378	61	16.14
St. Thomas	448	108	24.11
Trelawny	315	73	23.17
Westmoreland	426	130	30.52
Total/Weighted Average	8150	1757	21.56

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the first quarter of 2025 in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 8,150 civil cases heard across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2025, 1,757 or 21.56% proceeded to trial. The parish courts of the Manchester (11.49%), St. Elizabeth (15.99%) and St. Mary (16.14%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of Westmoreland (30.52%), Clarendon (25.17%) and St. Ann (24.14%) had the highest proportion.

Table 13.13c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	103	15.85
Struck Out	103	15.85
Default Judgment	83	12.77
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	69	10.62
Settlement	62	9.54
Withdrawal	54	8.31
Judgment	49	7.54
Trial	44	6.77
Transferred	30	4.62
Non Suited	29	4.46
Other	8	1.23
By Consent - Mediated Settlement	7	1.08
Oral Admission	7	1.08
Application For Plaintiff Granted	1	0.15
Dismissal	1	0.15
Total	650	100.00

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters struck out and matters disposed by consent with 15.85% each of the cases disposed and matters disposed by default judgments with 83 or 12.77% each account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample.

Table 13.13d: Summary of case management date activity for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Average number of case management dates per case	Standard Deviation of case management dates Per Case	Skewness of case management dates per case	Maximum case management dates Frequency	Minimum case management dates Frequency
Clarendon	3.90	3.84	1.54	16	1
Corporate Area	2.72	3.01	2.92	27	1
Manchester	1.95	1.46	2.07	9	1
Portland	9.58	9.60	1.35	35	1
St. Ann	6.34	7.63	2.29	40	1
St. Catherine	5.07	4.38	1.36	23	1
St. James	3.37	3.91	2.56	22	1
St. Mary	4.14	4.90	2.50	31	1
St. Thomas	3.02	3.43	3.71	22	1
Trelawny	4.49	4.98	1.88	27	1
Westmoreland	4.34	5.05	2.64	34	1
Weighted Average	4.13	-	-	26.00	1.00
Standard Deviation	2.08	-	-	8.93	0.00
Skewness	1.60	-	-	-0.34	0.00

The above table summarizes the number of appearances per case heard in the first quarter of 2025, which have at least one case management date. The overall average number of case management dates per 10 cases mentioned is 41, or approximately 4 dates per case with a standard deviation of 2.08 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.60. Together, these results suggest that the average number of case management dates per case is within the prescribed international standard, that a slightly larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of case management dates and that there is not on average a wide variation in the number of case management dates per case across the courts. Among the parish courts with the highest number of case management dates per cases for matters heard in the first quarter of 2025 are the Portland (9.58), St. Ann (6.34) and St. Catherine (5.07) Parish Courts,

while Manchester (1.95), Corporate Area (2.72) and St. Thomas (3.02) were among the courts with the lowest mean case management dates.

Table 13.13e: Summary of the average court appearance frequency for cases disposed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Average number of appearances per case	Standard Deviation
Clarendon	2.10	1.94
Corporate Area-Civil Division	3.56	3.63
Manchester	2.37	1.76
Portland	5.58	5.07
St. Ann	4.07	6.42
St. Catherine	4.47	4.36
St. James	2.93	2.77
St. Mary	3.38	4.12
St. Thomas	2.53	1.84
Trelawny	2.66	2.60
Westmoreland	3.15	3.27
Weighted Average	3.54	

The above summary specifically addresses the number of case management dates per case for matters disposed in the first quarter of 2025. The overall average observed is approximately 35 dates for every 10 cases disposed, not dissimilar to the findings from the previous table which provided a descriptive summary of appearances for all cases disposed. The Clarendon, Manchester and St. Thomas Parish Courts were among those with the lowest number of case management dates per disposed case in the quarter, while the parish courts of Portland, St. Catherine and St. Ann were among the locations with the highest incidence.

Table 13.14a: Distribution of courtroom utilization rates across the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the first quarter ended March 31, 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
Westmoreland	73.07	156.67	2.33	32.41	NA	NA
Trelawny	73.06	136.67	6.67	32.19	NA	1
St. Thomas	55.26	140.28	15.28	25.13	NA	NA
St. Mary	85.17	146	5.67	32.25	NA	1
St. James	50.76	149.72	4.17	28.31	NA	1
Corporate Area Civil Court	90.75	133.33	8.89	25.68	NA	NA
St. Ann	69.21	226.39	5	31.79	NA	1
Portland	58.88	144.44	11.94	25.91	NA	NA
Hanover	55.42	137.22	1.94	34.26	NA	1
Clarendon	66.52	115	27.33	25.44	NA	NA
Manchester	64.2	129.17	6.94	31.77	NA	NA
Overall Averages	67.98	148.28	8.55	29.49	152.08	1.00
Standard Deviation	12.11	27.75	7.02	3.32	0.00	0.00
Skewness	0.45	2.20	1.97	-0.16	0.00	0.00

Note: The courtroom utilization rate for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for Q1 2025 is 67.23%

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 67.98%, which is an indication that approximately 68% of the available hours for court hearings were utilized across the Parish Courts in the first quarter of 2025. The Parish Courts recording the highest courtroom utilization rates for the quarter are the Corporate Area Parish Court- Civil Division and St. Mary Parish Court with 90.75% and 85.17% respectively, followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court with 73.46% and the Westmoreland Parish Court with 73.07%. 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. It is quite commendable and worth noting that all Parish Courts exceeded a courtroom utilization rate of 50% for the quarter. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates was relatively low, suggesting that on average the rates for the individual courts did not vary widely from the overall mean. The positive skewness of the data suggests that proportionately more of the sample are clustered around the overall mean.

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

Table 13.14b: Percentile Rank on Courtroom utilization rates in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

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

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various Parish Courts with regards to their performances on the courtroom utilization rates for the first quarter of 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 Corporate Area Civil 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. James Parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization rate in the first quarter of 2025 and the St. Thomas parish Court had the lowest courtroom utilization in the first quarter of 2024.

Table 13.15: Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025

Parish Court	Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of Disposed cases and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of quarter of origin)	Gross Disposal rate (%)	Net Disposal rate (%)	Gross Clearance rate (%)	Net Clearance (%)	Approximate trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
St. Thomas	170	50	191	29.41	11.11	112.35	97.04	93.33	7.00
Corporate Area-Civil	995	316	1068	31.76	19.55	107.34	74.76	NA	12.32
St. Elizabeth	280	60	253	21.43	20.86	90.36	88.85	94.19	NA
Hanover	84	51	92	NA	60.71	NA	109.52	NA	NA
Manchester	400	64	338	16.00	15.15	84.50	83.84	93.18	5.13
Portland	83	9	69	NA	10.84	83.13	80.72	50.00	12.83
St. Ann	335	76	431	NA	22.69	128.66	123.28	94.33	15.42
St. Catherine	686	94	678	13.70	12.94	98.83	97.35	88.51	15.87
St. Mary	183	56	202	NA	30.60	NA	110.38	68.00	5.56
Trelawny	122	15	101	NA	12.30	82.79	79.51	90.91	5.69
St. James	437	95	392	21.74	15.14	89.70	63.03	94.69	8.96
Clarendon	257	37	257	NA	14.40	100.00	94.94	83.52	8.04
Westmoreland	162	54	180	33.33	31.65	111.11	103.16	100.00	7.39
Total/Weighted Average	4194	977	4252	23.30	18.72	101.38	89.31	90.75	11.30
Skewness	1.66	2.92	1.84	-0.05	2.25	0.70	0.06	-1.91	0.61
Standard Deviation	263.42	76.70	277.85	7.73	13.66	14.70	16.58	14.72	3.96

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

Note 2: The net case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for Q1 2025 is 15.49%

Note 3: The gross case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for Q1 2025 is 83.10% and the net case clearance rate is 78.87%.

Conclusion

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts sustained its remarkable performance trend in the first quarter of 2025, achieving outstanding results across most key metrics. A notable highlight of this period was an overall gross case clearance rate of 101.38%, meeting international standards, although being lower than the corresponding period in 2024. This achievement contributed to a further reduction in the net case backlog rate for matters pending for at least two years, which stood at approximately 3.82%. Notably, this rate aligns closely with that of the Criminal Division, underscoring the consistent performance of both divisions in addressing case backlogs. The gross backlog rate for the Civil Division during the same period was 19.92%, also comparable to the Criminal Division's metrics.

The Parish Courts of Westmoreland and St. Mary emerged as top performers across most critical indicators during this reporting period. Significantly, nine parish courts exceeded 90% gross case clearance rate for civil cases, with the St. Ann, St. Thomas, Westmoreland and St. Mary performing the best on this measure.

Despite these commendable achievements, there remains an urgent need to reduce the average case disposal time, which stood at 11.3 months for cases resolved during the quarter. Unnecessary adjournments continue to present a challenge, contributing to delays that must be addressed through strategic, court-driven interventions and operational reforms. It is important to acknowledge, however, that certain causes of delay, such as "No Return/Re-Issued," the absence of defendants, "parties in discussion," and the absence of both parties, fall outside the court's immediate control.

Under the visionary and data-driven leadership of the Honourable Chief Justice of Jamaica, the courts are poised to meet and potentially exceed key quantitative targets, positioning Jamaica's judiciary among the best globally. The progress recorded in the first quarter of 2025 establishes a strong foundation for achieving these strategic objectives, bringing the judiciary closer to delivering a world-class system of timely and effective justice for all stakeholders.

Glossary of Statistical Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The international standard for this rate is 100%.

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

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

The international benchmark for casefile integrity is 100%.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed 300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals were

possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

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

Weighted Average: Weighted average is a calculation that takes into account the varying degrees of significance of the groups or numbers in a data set. In calculating a weighted average for a particular variable, the individual scores or averages for each group are multiplied by the weight or number of observations in each of those groups and summed. The outcome is then divided by the summation of the number of observations in all groups combined. For example, if we wish to calculate the weighted average clearance rate for the parish courts, the product of the clearance rate and number of cases for each court are computed, added, and then divided by the total number of cases across all the parish courts. This means that a court with a larger caseload has a greater impact on the case clearance rate than a smaller court.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ⁱ Source :

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

ⁱⁱ Source :

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