

Parish Courts of Jamaica
The Chief Justice's Annual Statistics
Report for 2023
(Civil Matters)

	JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 2023		
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	117.13	120.98	101.10
Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	77.57	74.40	75.63
Average time to disposition	12.52 months	17.95 months	12.34 months

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Executive Summary

In 2023, the civil division of the parish courts continued its overall trend of high output across a range of key performance indices. One of the most impressive findings in this regards is the result that the net backlog rate, that is, the proportion of active cases over 24 months old which are in a state of backlog is well under the targeted 5%, ending the year at an overall estimated figure of 2.25%. The overall gross case backlog rate which takes into account both active and inactive cases over 24 months old however stands at a substantially higher estimated figure of 19.09%, largely on account of the relatively high incidence of matters reissued without a date. Among the most impressive courts on this metric are the parish courts of Clarendon, St. Thomas, Trelawny and the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division.

The civil division of the parish courts also continue to record impressive case clearance rates, closing the year at 117.13%, a 3.85 percentage points decline when compared to the previous year, but 2.05 percentage points above the forecasted figure for the year. It is of note that 10 of the parish courts exceeded the 100% mark on this measurement for 2023, topped by the St. Catherine and Hanover Parish Courts which recorded gross case clearance rates of 147.62% and 133.94% respectively. Notably, the Corporate Area Civil Court, the largest civil court in the parish court jurisdiction was third on this measurement with a rate of 121.31%.

A total of 16182 new civil were filed across the civil divisions of the parish courts in 2023, a decline of 5.41% when compared to the previous year. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division with 4199 new cases or 25.95% accounted for the largest number of new cases filed while the St. Catherine Parish Court with 2497 new cases filed or 15.43% ranks second and the St. Ann Parish

Court with 1718 or 10.62% of new cases filed accounts for the third highest proportion of new cases filed during the year. Taken together, these three courts account for roughly 52% of the number of new cases filed in 2023. The overall average time taken to dispose a case in the civil division of the parish courts in 2023 is 12.52 months, a decline of 5.43 months when compared to the previous year. The parish courts of Westmoreland and St. Mary took the shortest times to dispose of civil cases with 4.62 months and 4.72 month respectively while the parish courts of St. Catherine with and average time to disposition of 25.58 months and Portland with an average time to disposition of 23.85 months took the longest times on average to resolve civil cases in 2023.

The timely and efficient progression of cases in the civil courts is affected by several delays factors, among which in 2023 were the absence of defendants, no returns, the absence of both parties, the absence of the plaintiffs and attorney absenteeism, all of which were among the leading reasons for adjournment across the courts in the period. The dominant method of disposition for cases resolved were disposals by being struck out, by consent judgment, case transfers, through settlement and by way of final judgments and default judgments.

The civil division of the parish courts continue the trend of creditable performances and is well positioned as at the end of 2023 to make a profound contribution to the overall quantitative targets of the Jamaican judiciary as it strives to become the best in the region and one of the bests in the world over the coming few years.

See below summary:

Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate Gross Disposal rate (%)	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
16182	9394	18954	60.76	117.13	77.57	12.52

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

Methodology – Generating Court Statistics in Jamaica

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policymaking and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past five years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer (soon to be called Statistical Officers) in each court. These officers update the system on a daily basis so that the data produced is as close as possible to real time. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed-up to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized,

secure medium for processing by the Statistical Unit of the Supreme Court. A data validation mechanism is in place to periodically sample case files in all parish courts and the Divisions of the Supreme Court on a quarterly basis. A representative sample of case files are taken in each case and crosschecked against the electronic data to detect and eliminate errors of omission and commission.

The Court Statistics Unit at the Supreme Court produces various quarterly and annual court reports which 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.

Introduction

This report details case activity in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the year ended December 31, 2023. Among the key case activity areas reported on are new cases filed, cases disposed and inactive over the period as well as the common causes of action and applications. Other key areas reported on include the absolute number of reissue dates over the period as well as the dominant methods of disposition and reasons for adjournment. The report also highlights the number of matters, which go into various types of enforcements such as judgment summons, warrants of levy and warrants of attachment and are thus reactivated as well as the outcomes of matters that proceed along this path. Important efficiency measures such as the case clearance rate, case disposal rates; trial date certainty rate and case congestion and courtroom utilization rates are computed as measures of court performance, where sufficient data is available. These are important yardstick for assessing the courts in both an absolute and a relative way.

A full report is presented for each court and is subdivided into three main sections. The first section summarizes case flow activity and case demographics, the second section details case delay factors and dispositions as well as important performance metrics, and the third and final section summarizes case activity in the enforcement phase. The data produced for several of the courts rely on point estimates of the population parameters using a body of available representative data. This approach is however quite reliable and preserves data integrity and validity. One limitation is that the starting points of the data sets for all courts are not homogenous and therefore not entirely comparable at this stage. In some cases, the report also relies on the application of scientific sampling techniques to compensate for some data gaps.

The report culminates with critical cumulative case active summaries for the civil courts as a whole in 2023.

The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division for the 2023 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	1498	40.92
Disposed	1384	37.80
Inactive	779	21.28
Total	3661	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 3661 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, 1498 or 40.92% cases were still active, 1384 were disposed of and 779 were inactive at the end of the year. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 59.08% for big claims for the year, which is 20.50 percentage points above the estimated disposal rate recorded for big claims in the corresponding 2022 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	3990	87.96
Small Claim	538	11.86
POCA	8	0.18
Total	4536	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 4536 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2023 calendar year. Big claims accounted for 3990 or 87.96% of the sample, small claims accounted for 538 or 11.86% and 8 or 0.18% were Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the year ended December 31, 2023

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	1219	31.34
Recovery of Possession	831	21.36
Damages for Negligence	400	10.28
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	283	7.28
Monies Owing	129	3.32
Sub-total	2862	73.57

Total sample size of causes of action= 3,890

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases entered in the year at the Corporate Area Civil Court was breach of contract with 1219 or roughly 31.34% of the sample. Recovery of possession and damages for negligence with 831 or 21.36% and 400 or 10.28% respectively rank next. The top five causes of action were rounded off by rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 283 or 7.28% and monies owing with 129 or 3.32% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 73.57% of the total sample of 3,890 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	1239	68.19
Bailiff	507	27.90
District Constable	71	3.91
Total	1817	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 1239 or 68.19% of the sample, followed by service by the bailiff with 507 or 27.90% and service by the District Constable with 71 or 3.91%.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	2121	53.08
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1875	46.92
Total	3996*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 3,659 cases**

The majority of a sample of 3996 matters entered in the 2023 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 2121 or 53.08% of the sample, followed by courtroom 2 with 1875 or 46.92% of the sample.

Table 6.0: Distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Relist	38	47.50
Application for Substituted Service	22	27.50
Vary Court Order	10	12.50
Application for Court Order	6	7.50
Application For Court Order for Leave to Effect Substituted Service	2	2.50
Application For Leave to Dispense with Personal Service	1	1.25
Set Aside Default Judgment	1	1.25
Total	80	100.00

A sample of 80 applications filed during the 2023 calendar year revealed that applications for relist with 38 or 47.50% of the sample accounted for the highest proportion of applications filed, followed by application for substituted service with 22 or 27.50% of the sample. Applications for vary court order with 10 or 12.50% round off the top applications filed during the year.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2023

Table 7.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1635	42.02
Female	1467	37.70
Registered Company	772	19.84
Trading As	17	0.44
Total	3891	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 3891 matters entered in the 2023 calendar year at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 1635 or 42.02% of the sample. Females accounted for 1467 or 37.70% and registered companies

accounted for 772 or 19.84% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 17 or 0.44% of the sample.

Table 8.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1972	51.31
Female	1481	38.54
Registered Company	344	8.95
Trading As	46	1.20
Total	3843	100.00

There were 3843 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the 2023 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 1972 or 51.31% of the sample, followed by females with 1481 or 38.54%. Registered companies accounted for 344 or 8.95% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 46 or 1.20% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2023

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 year, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	1272	42.74
Default Judgment Date	979	32.90
Trial	515	17.31
Part-Heard Date	93	3.13
Hearing of Application	61	2.05
Date for Order	48	1.61
Final Judgment Date	8	0.27
Total	2976	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 2976 matters that went to court during the 2023 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 1272 or 42.74% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 979 or 32.90%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for trial dates with 515 or 17.31% of the sample. It is of note that 93 or 3.13% 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 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	352	28.21
Referred to Mediation	43	3.45
Parties in Discussion	26	2.08
Hearing of Application	15	1.20
Notice of Adjournment	14	1.12
Sub-total	450	36.06

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 1,248

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 1,248 incidences of adjournments heard in the 2023 calendar year. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 352 or 28.21% of the sample and referrals to mediation with 43 or 3.45% round off the top incidences in the sample. Adjournments for parties in discussion with 26 or 2.08% and for the hearing of an application with 15 or 1.20% rank next. The list is completed by adjournments for the notices of adjournment with 14 or 1.12% of the sample. The top reasons for adjournments listed above account for 36.06% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	1291
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 1111 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 1291 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

1111 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	1834	49.88
Consent	666	18.11
Withdrawal	305	8.29
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	214	5.82
Transferred	183	4.98
Sub-total	3202	87.08

NB there were 3,677 matters were disposed of in 2023

A total of 3,677 matters were disposed of at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the 2023 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 3202 or 87.08% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 1834 or 49.88% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 666 or 18.11% and withdrawals with 305 or 8.29%. Matters disposed by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) and transfers to another court round off the top five methods with 214 or 5.82% and 183 or 4.98% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 13: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	419	99.05
Settlement	4	0.95
Total	423	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 423 matters in the 2023 calendar year. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff account for 419 or 99.05% of the sample of outcome, while settlements accounted for 4 or 0.95%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)
4199	5094	121.31

The above table shows 4199 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, a gross figure of 3550 cases were disposed of, and 1544 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 121.31%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net case clearance rate for the 2023 calendar year is 84.54%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1365
Mean	232.5604
Median	127.0000
Mode	105.00
Std. Deviation	300.99253
Skewness	4.038
Std. Error of Skewness	.066
Range	2771.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	2772.00

The above table outlines summary data on 1365 civil matters disposed of in the 2023 calendar year at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 233 days or approximately 7.8 months, which is roughly 48 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2022 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 105 days. The standard deviation of roughly 301 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness is seen as an indication that there were markedly more scores in the data set which fall below the overall average time. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 2772 days or roughly 7.7 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	123
Mean	233.8130
Median	152.0000
Mode	90.00
Std. Deviation	288.54284
Skewness	2.853
Std. Error of Skewness	.218
Range	1594.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	1595.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 123 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 234 days or roughly 7.8 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 522 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 121.04 days.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	3321
Mean	468.0379
Median	290.0000
Mode	108.00
Std. Deviation	475.61872
Skewness	2.439
Std. Error of Skewness	.042
Range	4382.00
Minimum	16.00
Maximum	4398.00

The above data is based on a sample of 3321 active civil matters as of the year ended December 31, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 468 days or roughly 15.6 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 108 days. The standard deviation of roughly 476 days suggests that there is a wide 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 4398 days old or roughly 12.2 years, while the minimum time is 16 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	353
Mean	228.8130
Median	107.0000
Mode	101.00
Std. Deviation	274.95088
Skewness	2.820
Std. Error of Skewness	.130
Range	1911.00
Minimum	16.00
Maximum	1927.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 353 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 229 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 101 days and the median age was 107 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 1927 days and the lowest was 16 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.

Table 17.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the year ended December 31, 2023

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
Corporate Area Court-Civil Division	84.13	137.50	1.39	25.01	NA	1.3

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the 2023 calendar year. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtrooms (including outstations) which are 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 overall average courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Civil Court in the year was roughly 84.13%, which is an indication that on average roughly 84% of the available hours for court hearings in the 2023 calendar year. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates did not vary widely from the overall mean.

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

Clarendon Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Clarendon Parish Court for the 2023 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	242	24.59
Disposed	635	64.53
Inactive	107	10.87
Total	984	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 984 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, 242 cases or 24.59% of these cases were still active, while 635 were disposed of and 107 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 75.41%, which is 11.01 percentage points above the gross disposal rate recorded in the previous 2022 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	966	84.29
Small Claim	180	15.71
Total	1146	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 1146 civil claims filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. The majority of which 966 or 84.29% were big claims, while 180 or 15.71% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Clarendon parish court for the year ended December 31, 2023

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	562	49.17
Recovery of Possession	99	8.66
Damages for Negligence	95	8.31
Rent Owing and Continuing	44	3.85
Trespass	41	3.59
Sub-total	841	73.58

Total sample size of causes of action= 1143

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases filed in the year at the Clarendon Parish Court was breach of contract with 562 or roughly 49.17% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 99 or 8.66% and damages for negligence with 95 or 8.31% rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 44 or 3.85% and trespass with 3.59% of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	29	63.04
Bailiff	13	28.26
Personal	4	8.70
Total	46	100.00

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the majority of the sample with 29 or 63.04% of the sample, service by the bailiff accounted for 13 or 28.26% and personal service accounted for 4 or 8.70% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	883	77.05
Chapleton Outstation	118	10.30
Lionel Town Outstation	113	9.86
Frankfield Outstation	31	2.71
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	1	0.09
Total	1146*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 984 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1146 new matters filed in the year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 883 or 77.05% of the total sample. The Chapleton Outstation accounted for 118 or 10.30% of the cases filed. The Lionel Town outstation accounted for 113 or 9.86% and the Frankfield outstation accounted for 31 or 2.71% of the new cases heard.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2023

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	522	45.55
Female	470	41.01
Registered Company	126	10.99
Trading As	28	2.44
Total	1146	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1146 new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year at the Clarendon Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 522 or 45.55% of the sample, followed by females with 470 or 41.01%. Registered companies accounted for 126 or 10.99% of the sample and Individuals trading under a business

name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 28 or 2.44% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	727	63.83
Female	374	32.84
Registered Company	29	2.55
Trading As	9	0.79
Total	1139	100.00

There were 1139 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the 2023 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 727 or 63.83% of the sample, followed by females with 374 or 32.84% and registered companies with 2.55% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 9 or 0.79% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2023

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 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	150	39.06
Trial	144	37.50
Default Judgment Date	71	18.49
Part-Heard Date	19	4.95
Total	384	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 384 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2023, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 150 or 39.06% of the sample, were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a trial date with 144 or 37.50%, matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 71 or 18.49% and matters adjournment for a part-heard date with 4.95% of the sample.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2023

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
New Date	73	38.83
Parties in Discussion	41	21.81
Referred to mediation	16	8.51
Defendant Absent	13	6.91
At Counsel's Request	10	5.32
Sub-total	153	81.38

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 188

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 188 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the 2023 calendar year. Adjournments for a new date to be set accounted for 73 or 38.83% of the sample and adjournments for parties in discussion accounted for 41 or 21.81% of the sample. Adjournments due to referrals to mediation accounted for 16 or 8.51%, the absence of defendants accounted for 13 or 6.91% and adjournment at council's request accounted for 5.32% of the sample.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	274
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponding to 215 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 274 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 215 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	520	46.64
Consent	158	14.17
Settlement	114	10.22
Default Judgement	79	7.09
Oral Admission	59	5.29
Sub-total	930	83.41

NB: there were 1115 matters were disposed of in 2023

A total of 1115 civil matters were disposed of at the Clarendon Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 930 or 83.41% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 520 or 46.64% and matters disposed by consent with 158 or 14.17% of the sample. Matters disposed by settlements with 114 or 10.22% of the sample ranked next and matters disposed by default judgment with 79 or 7.09% and matters disposed by oral admissions round off the top methods of disposition with 5.29% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	207	73.40
Settlement	73	25.89
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	2	0.71
Total	282	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of 282 case outcomes in the 2023 calendar year at the Clarendon Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 207 or 73.40% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 73 or 25.89%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for 2 or 0.71% of the sample of outcomes. This

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

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2023

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
202	80	60.40

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 202 trial dates was set in the year, of which 80 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 60.40%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 60% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 4.69 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
984	742	1088	110.57	75.41

The above table shows 984 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 635 of these cases were disposed of and 107 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 75.41%, an 11.01

percentage points improvement when compared to the 2022 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 960 cases were disposed of, and 128 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 110.57%, which meets the international standard on this metric, and is a 22.37 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2022 calendar year.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the year is 72.41%, which is 15.84 percentage points above the net disposal rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year. The estimated net case clearance rate is 109.46%, which is roughly 30.43 percentage points above the rate recorded in 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	539
Mean	200.1911
Median	139.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	171.27452
Skewness	1.362
Std. Error of Skewness	.105
Range	1005.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	1008.00

The above table outlines sample data on 539 civil matters disposed in the 2023 calendar year at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 200 days or 6.7 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days and the median time was 139 days. The standard deviation of roughly 171 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 1008 days or roughly 2.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 3 days.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	107
Mean	226.6822
Median	172.0000
Mode	154.00
Std. Deviation	165.85909
Skewness	1.233
Std. Error of Skewness	.234
Range	957.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	958.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 107 matters at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 227 days or roughly 7.6 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 31 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 171 days or 5.7 months.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	445
Mean	301.8989
Median	209.0000
Mode	181.00
Std. Deviation	255.06021
Skewness	1.110
Std. Error of Skewness	.116
Range	1019.00
Minimum	16.00
Maximum	1035.00

The above data is based on a sample of 445 active civil matters at the end of the 2023 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 302 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 181 days. The standard deviation of roughly 255 days suggests that there is some variation in the individual scores around the average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 1035 days old or roughly 2.9 years, while the minimum time taken is 16 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	145
Mean	245.7931
Median	181.0000
Mode	328.00
Std. Deviation	206.91470
Skewness	1.417
Std. Error of Skewness	.201
Range	893.00
Minimum	16.00
Maximum	909.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 145 active reissued matters at the Clarendon Civil Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 246 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 328 days and the median age was 181 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 909 days and the lowest was 16 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: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcement entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	43	100.00
Total	43	100.00

It is seen in the above sample of 43 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, all of which were judgement summonses with 100% of the sample. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2023

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	43	43	1

The above table shows that the sample of 43 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 43 court appearances in the 2023 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were exactly 10 appearances dates.

St. Catherine Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Catherine Parish Court for the 2023 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	1193	47.78
Disposed	1163	46.58
Inactive	141	5.65
Total	2497	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 2497 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, 1193 cases or 47.78% of these cases were still active, while 1163 were disposed of and 141 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 52.22%, which is 12.80 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	2746	90.60
Small Claim	285	9.40
Total	3031	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 3031 claims filed in the 2023 calendar year, 2746 or 90.60% were big claims and 285 or 9.40% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2023

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	1034	34.20
Damages for Negligence	476	15.75
Recovery of Possession	345	11.41
Negligence	186	6.15
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	160	5.29
Sub-total	2201	72.81

Total sample size of causes of action= 3,023

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 3023 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was breach of contract with 1034 or roughly 34.20% of the sample, damages for negligence with 476 or 15.75% and recovery of possession with 345 or 11.41%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by negligence with 186 or 6.15% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 160 or 5.29% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 72.81% of the total sample of causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	407	49.51
Personal	253	30.78
District Constable	162	19.71
Total	822	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 highest proportion of the sample with 407 or 49.51% of the sample, personal service

accounted for 253 or 30.38% and service by the district constable accounted for 162 or 19.71% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	2398	79.64
Linstead Outstation	405	13.45
Old Harbour Outstation	208	6.91
Total	3011	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 2,481 cases**

The majority of the sample of 3011 new claims filed in the 2023 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 2398 or 79.64% of the total sample. The 405 or 13.45% that were entered in the Linstead outstation followed this. The Old Harbour outstation accounted for 208 or 6.91% of the claims.

Table 6.0: Distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Substituted Service	117	84.78
Application for Court Order	12	8.70
Extension of Time Under Section 250	8	5.80
Relist	1	0.72
Total	138	100.00

A sample of 138 applications filed during the 2023 calendar year revealed that applications for substituted service with 117 or 84.78% of the sample accounted for the majority applications filed, followed by application for court order with 12 or 8.70% of the sample. Applications for extension of time under Section 250 with 8 or 5.80% and application for relist with 0.72% round off the applications filed during the year.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2023

Table 7.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1430	47.73
Female	1164	38.85
Registered Company	402	13.42
Total	2996	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the 2996 new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 1430 or 47.73%, followed by females with 1164 or 38.85% and registered companies with 402 or 13.42% of the sample.

Table 8.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1734	59.42
Female	1081	37.05
Registered Company	103	3.53
Total	2918	100.00

There were 2918 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 1734 or 59.42% of the total sample, followed by females with 1081 or 37.05%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 103 or 3.53% of the total sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2023

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 9.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	736	36.89
Trial	670	33.58
Default Judgment Date	462	23.16
Part-Heard Date	97	4.86
Hearing of Application	30	1.50
Total	1995	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1995 matters that went to court during the 2023 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The majority of the sample, 736 or 36.89% were adjourned for a mention date and 670 or 33.58% were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 462 or 23.16% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 97 or 4.86% of the sample.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	661	24.55
Defendant Absent	439	16.31
Both Parties Absent	237	8.80
Parties in Discussion	190	7.06
Plaintiff absent	68	2.53
Sub-total	1595	59.25

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled= 2,692

The above table details a sample of 2,692 adjournments or continuances heard in the year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for reissue with 661 or 24.55% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 439 or 16.31% and absence of both parties with 237 or 8.80% and adjournments due to parties in discussion with 190 or 7.06% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the year. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiff with 68 or 2.53% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 59.25% of the total sample.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	134
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponding to 104 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 134 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 104 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	2433	56.29
Settlement	474	10.97
Consent	427	9.88
Default Judgment	262	6.06
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	212	4.91
Sub-total	3808	88.11

NB: There were 4322 matters disposed of in 2023

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 4,322 matters disposed of during the 2023 calendar year. The list is led by matters struck out with 2,433 or 56.29% of the disposals, followed matters disposed by settlement with 474 or 10.97%, matters disposed by consent with 427 or 9.88% and matters disposed by default judgments with 262 or 6.06%. Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) account for 212 or 2.91% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 88.11% of the sample.

Table 13: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	404	80.80
Settlement	93	18.60
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	2	0.40
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	1	0.20
Total	500	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 500 matters in the 2023 calendar year. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 404 or 80.80% of the total sample, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 93 or 18.60%, judgment in favour of ancillary plaintiff with 2 or 0.40% and judgment in favour of defendant with 0.20% account for the remaining proportion. This probability distribution provides important insights

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

Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of Trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
614	201	67.26

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 614 trial dates were set in the year shows that 201 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 67.26%, suggesting that during the year, there was a roughly 67% 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 6.14 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2022.

Table 15.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Estimated gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated gross Case disposal rate (%)
2497	1304	3686	147.62	52.22

The above table shows 2497 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 1163 of these cases were disposed of and 141 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 52.22%, which is 12.80 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 3470

cases were disposed of, and 216 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 147.62%, which exceeds the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 0.92 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year.

The net disposal rate for the year is 49.36%, which is 14.19 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year. The net clearance for the year is 147.28%, which is 1.36 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	3218
Mean	767.4136
Median	556.0000
Mode	1646.00
Std. Deviation	682.17660
Skewness	.899
Std. Error of Skewness	.043
Range	4073.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	4074.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 3218 civil matters disposed in the 2023 calendar year at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 767 days or 25.6 months, which is roughly 2 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2022 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 1646

days. There is moderate standard deviation of 682 days, which is an indication that there is a moderate dispersion of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores are below around the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 4074 days or roughly 11.3 years old, while the youngest was 1 day.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	356
Mean	753.3455
Median	609.0000
Mode	1191.00
Std. Deviation	514.51072
Skewness	1.256
Std. Error of Skewness	.129
Range	3098.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	3102.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 356 matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 753 days or roughly 25.1 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 are below the overall average.

Table 17.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	2707
Mean	623.3484
Median	422.0000
Mode	40.00
Std. Deviation	636.67957
Skewness	1.875
Std. Error of Skewness	.047
Range	5754.00
Minimum	12.00
Maximum	5766.00

The above data is based on a sample of 2707 active civil matters at the end of the 2023 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 623 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 40 days. The standard deviation of roughly 637 days suggests that there is a large dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 5766 days old or roughly 16 years, while the minimum time taken is 12 days.

Table 17.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	414
Mean	711.9565
Median	712.0000
Mode	213.00
Std. Deviation	420.68566
Skewness	1.352
Std. Error of Skewness	.120
Range	2772.00
Minimum	24.00
Maximum	2796.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 414 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 712 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 213 days and the median age was 712 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the overall average. The highest age in the data set was 2796 days and the lowest was 24 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: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	74	79.57
Warrant of Possession	18	19.35
Warrant of Levy	1	1.08
Total	93	100.00

It is seen in the above sample of 93 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the majority of which were judgement summonses with 74 or 79.57%, while warrants of possession with 18 or 19.35% and warrant of levy with 1 or 1.08% followed. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 19.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2023

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	74	74	1

The above table shows that the sample of 74 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 74 court appearances in the 2023 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were exactly 10 appearances dates.

Trelawny Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Trelawny Parish Court for the 2023 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	177	29.60
Disposed	243	40.64
Inactive	178	29.77
Total	598	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 598 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, 177 or 29.60% of these cases were active, 243 or 40.64% were disposed of and 178 cases became inactive at the end of the year. This produces a gross case disposal rate of 70.40% for the year, a 4.82 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2022 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	535	81.93
Small Claim	117	17.92
POCA	1	0.15
Total	653	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 653 civil claims filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. The majority of which 535 or 81.93% were big claims, while 117 or 17.92% were small claims and 1 was Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claim.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2023

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	103	15.97
Money Owing	56	8.68
Monies Due & Owing	46	7.13
Return Of Cash	40	6.20
Arrears of Rent	33	5.12
Sub-total	278	43.10

Total sample size of causes of action = 645

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action in the year were recovery of possession with 103 or 15.97% and money owing with 56 or 8.68% of the sample. Monies due and owing with 46 or 7.13%, return of cash with 40 or 6.30% and arrears of rent with 33 or 5.12% of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 43.10% of all the total sample of 645 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	562	86.59
Bailiff	81	12.48
District Constable	6	0.92
Total	649	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 562 or 86.59% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 81 or 12.48% and service by the district constable with 6 or 0.92% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Falmouth Outstation	426	65.24
Ulster Spring Outstation	115	17.61
Clarks Town Outstation (Courtroom #1)	110	16.85
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1	0.15
Clarks Town Outstation (Courtroom #2)	1	0.15
Total	653*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 598 cases**

The majority of the sample of 653 new matters filed in 65.24% of the accommodations was entered in the Falmouth outstation. The 115 or 17.61% matters that were entered in the Ulster Spring Outstation followed this, while court sittings at the courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town outstation ranked next with 110 or 16.85% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2023

Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	356	54.69
Female	231	35.48
Registered Company	64	9.83
Total	651	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 651 new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 356 or 54.69%, followed by females with 231 or 35.48%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 9.83% of the sample.

Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	409	63.71
Female	214	33.33
Registered Company	19	2.96
Total	642	100.00

There were 642 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year.

The majority of defendants were male with 409 or 63.71% of the sample, followed by females with 214 or 33.33% and registered companies with 19 or 2.96%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2023

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 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	154	35.00
Default Judgment Date	123	27.95
Trial	89	20.23
Part-Heard Date	67	15.23
Final Judgment Date	4	0.91
Hearing of Application	3	0.68
Total	440	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 440 matters that were heard during the year ended December 31, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 154 or 35% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 123 or 27.95%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters adjourned for trial dates with 89 or 20.23% and for part heard dates with 67 or 15.23% 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 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	224	43.08
Both Parties Absent	100	19.23
Defendant Absent	74	14.23
Plaintiff Absent	28	5.38
Referred to Mediation	7	1.35
Sub-total	433	83.27

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 520

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 520 incidence of adjournments heard in the 2023 calendar year. Adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 224 or 43.08% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 100 or 19.23%, the absence of defendants with 74 or 14.23% and the absence of plaintiffs with 28 or 5.38% of the sample feature prominently on the list. Referrals to mediation with 7 or 1.35% of the sample respectively close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 83.27% of the entire sample.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2023

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	124
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponds to 108 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 124 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 108 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	95	21.89
Default Judgment	86	19.82
Struck Out	63	14.52
Oral Admission	56	12.90
Settlement	38	8.76
Sub-total	338	77.88

NB: There were 434 matters disposed of 2023

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 434 matters disposed of during the 2023 calendar year. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 95 or 21.89% of the dispositions, followed by matters disposed by default judgment with 86 or 19.82% and matters struck out with 63 or 14.52% of the sample. Matters disposed by oral admissions account for 56 or 12.90% of the sample and settlements account for 38 or 8.76% of the sample. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 77.88% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	142	89.87
Settlement	13	8.23
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	3	1.90
Total	158	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of 158 case outcomes in the 2023 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 142 or 89.87% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 13 or 8.23%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for 3 or 1.90% of the sample of outcomes. This

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

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
92	13	85.87

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 92 trial dates set in the year revealed that 13 were adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial date certainty rate of 85.87% which suggests that during the year there was roughly an 86% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This outcome falls below the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 12.88 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2022.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of cases disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Estimated Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated Gross case disposal rate (%)
598	421	619	103.51	70.40

The above table shows 598 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 243 of these cases were disposed of and 178 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 70.40%, which is 4.82 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 391 cases were disposed of and 228 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 103.51%, which meets the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 7.39 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year.

The net disposal rate for the year is 57.86%, which is 2.53 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year. The net clearance for the year is 93.10%, which is 11.61 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 14a.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	289
Mean	220.4879
Median	80.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	335.98379
Skewness	2.480
Std. Error of Skewness	.143
Range	1643.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	1645.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 289 civil cases disposed in the 2023 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 220 days or 7.3 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days and the median time was 80 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 336 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 year was 1645 days or roughly 4.6 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 2 days.

Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	45
Mean	147.2889
Median	82.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	253.72620
Skewness	3.124
Std. Error of Skewness	.354
Range	1161.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	1162.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 45 matters at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 147 days or roughly 4.9 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 61 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 194.48 days.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	188
Mean	646.6117
Median	452.0000
Mode	117.00
Std. Deviation	586.59972
Skewness	.712
Std. Error of Skewness	.177
Range	2102.00
Minimum	24.00
Maximum	2126.00

The above data is computed using 188 active cases at the end of the 2023 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 647 days (1.8 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 117 days. The standard deviation of roughly 587 days suggests that there is a small 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 2126 days (5.9 years old), while the youngest is 24 days.

Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

Table 16.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	30	100.00
Total	30	100.00

It is seen in the above sample of 30 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, all of which were judgement summonses. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2023

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	30	50	1.7

The above table shows that the sample of 30 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 50 court appearances in the 2023 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.7 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were exactly 17 appearances dates.

St. Ann Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	589	34.28
Disposed	663	38.59
Inactive	466	27.12
Total	1718	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 1718 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, 589 cases or 34.28% of these cases were still active, 663 were disposed of and 466 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 65.72%, which is a 13.99 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2022 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	1854	83.14
Small Claims	372	16.68
POCA	4	0.18
Total	2230	100.00

The above table shows that from 2230 new claims filed in the 2023 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 1854 or 83.14%, while 372 or 16.68% were small claims and 4 or 0.18% were Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2023

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	652	29.68
Recovery of Possession	239	10.88
Damages for Negligence	213	9.70
Money Owing	112	5.10
Rent Owing and Continuing	105	4.78
Sub-total	1321	60.13

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 2,197

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 2197 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2023 calendar year was breach of contract with 652 or roughly 29.68% of the sample and recovery of possession with 239 or 10.88% of the sample. Damages for negligence with 213 or 9.70% of the sample rank next. Money owing with 112 or 5.10% and rent owing and continuing with 105 or 4.78% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 60.13% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District constable	225	42.21
Bailiff	204	38.27
Personal	104	19.51
Total	533	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 225 or 42.21% of the sample. Service by the bailiff accounted for 204 or 38.27% and personal service with 104 or 19.51% of the sample rank next.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1111	55.72
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	622	31.19
Church Hall	133	6.67
Claremont Outstation	128	6.42
Total	1994*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 1542 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1994 new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 1111 or 55.72% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 622 or 31.19%, Church Hall accounted for 133 or 6.67% and the Claremont Outstation accounted for 128 or 6.42% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2023

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1037	47.01
Female	805	36.49
Registered Company	334	15.14
Trading As	30	1.36
Total	2206	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 2206 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 1037 or 47.01%, followed by females with 805 or 36.49% and registered companies with 334 or 15.14% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 1.36 % accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1386	62.69
Female	692	31.30
Registered Company	116	5.25
Trading As	17	0.77
Total	2211	100.00

There were 2211 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 1386 or 62.69% of the total sample, followed by females with 692 or 31.30%. Registered companies accounted for 116 or 5.25% of the total sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 17 or 0.77% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2023

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 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	496	45.50
Trial	231	21.19
Default Judgment Date	197	18.07
Part-Heard Date	130	11.93
Hearing of Application	28	2.57
Final Judgment Date	8	0.73
Total	1090	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 1090 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 496 or 45.50% of the sample, followed by 231 or 21.19%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters disposed for default judgment dates accounted for 197 or 18.07% and matters adjourned for a part heard date account for 130 or 11.93% 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 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	779	41.79
Defendant Absent	181	9.71
Both Parties Absent	70	3.76
Referred to mediation	53	2.84
Pending Settlement	51	2.74
Sub-total	1134	60.84

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 1,864

The above table details a sample of 1,864 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the 2023 calendar year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 779 or 41.79% of the sample, adjournments due to defendants being absent with 181 or 9.71% and adjournments due to both parties being absent with 70 or 3.76% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the year in this sample. The list is completed by referrals to mediation with 53 or 2.84% and pending settlements with 51 or 2.74% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 60.84% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2023

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	393
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponds to 301 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 393 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 301 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	510	29.46
Default Judgement	252	14.56
Struck Out	234	13.52
Settlement	207	11.96
Oral Admission	160	9.24
Sub-total	1363	78.74

NB: There were 1731 matters disposed of in 2023

A sample of 1731 matters disposed of during the 2023 calendar year revealed that 510 or 29.46% of matters were disposed by consent, 252 or 14.56% were disposed by default judgments and 234 or 13.52% of the sample were struck out. Matters disposed by settlements with 207 or 11.96% and oral admissions with 160 or 9.24% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 78.74% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2023 calendar year.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	482	85.46
Settlement	77	13.65
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	5	0.89
Total	564	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2023 calendar year at the St. Ann Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 482 or 85.46% of the sample of matters, account for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 77 or 13.65% and judgments in favour of the defendants with 5 or 0.89% of the sample account for the remaining proportion. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
239	3	98.74

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 239 trial dates set in the year revealed that 3 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 98.74%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 99% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 6.65 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2022.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
1718	1129	2062	120.02	65.72

The above table shows 1718 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 663 cases were disposed of and 466 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 65.72%, an increase of 13.99 percentage points compared to the 2022 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 1343 cases were disposed of, and 719 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 120.02%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and represents a 13.66 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2022 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 52.96%, an improvement of 14.81 percentage points when compared to the 2022 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 107.27%, an improvement of 18.53 percentage points when compared to the 2022 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1110
Mean	375.5108
Median	145.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	612.01765
Skewness	4.075
Std. Error of Skewness	.073
Range	5719.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	5720.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 1110 civil matters disposed of in the 2023 calendar year at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 376 days or 12.5 months, which is roughly 90 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2022 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. The standard deviation of 612 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed of in the year was 5720 days or roughly 15.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	142
Mean	460.7183
Median	149.0000
Mode	161.00
Std. Deviation	781.85045
Skewness	2.894
Std. Error of Skewness	.203
Range	4392.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	4393.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 142 matters at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 461 days or roughly 15.4 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the majority of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 176 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 299 days.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1293
Mean	620.7262
Median	389.0000
Mode	179.00
Std. Deviation	695.55248
Skewness	2.705
Std. Error of Skewness	.068
Range	5059.00
Minimum	19.00
Maximum	5078.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1293 active civil matters at the end of the 2023 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 621 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 179 days. The standard deviation of roughly 696 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 5078 days old or roughly 14 years, while the minimum age is 19 days.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	172
Mean	615.8605
Median	216.0000
Mode	25.00
Std. Deviation	905.40146
Skewness	2.720
Std. Error of Skewness	.185
Range	4541.00
Minimum	19.00
Maximum	4560.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 172 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the year ended December 31, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 616 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 25 days and the median age was 216 days. The high standard deviation indicates that there was a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of cases. The highest age in the data set was 4560 days and the lowest was 19 days.

Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by

the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

Table 16.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	133	97.08
Warrant of Possession	4	2.92
Total	137	100.00

It is seen in the above sample of 137 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the majority of which were judgement summonses with 133 or 97.08%, while warrants of possession with 4 or 2.92% followed. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2023

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	133	179	1.3

The above table shows that the sample of 133 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 179 court appearances in the 2023 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.3 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were exactly 13 appearances dates.

Browns Town Outstation –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Brown’s Town outstation in the 2023 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	241	51.83
Disposed	126	27.10
Inactive	98	21.08
Total	465	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 465 new cases filed at the Brown’s Town Court in the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, 241 cases or 51.83% of these cases were still active, 126 were disposed of and 98 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 48.17% for the year, which is a 2.50 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2022 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	470	81.60
Small Claims	106	18.40
Total	576	100.00

The above table shows that from 576 new claims filed in the 2023 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 470 or 81.60%, while 106 or 18.40% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Browns Town Outstation for the year ended December 31, 2023

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Damages done to cultivation	41	47.67
Goods credited	12	13.95
Value of goat killed	7	8.14
Damages done laptop	3	3.49
Value of pigs killed	3	3.49
Sub-total	66	76.74

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 86

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 86 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2023 calendar year was damages done to cultivation with 41 or roughly 47.67% of the sample and goods credited with 12 or 13.95% of the sample. Value of goat killed with 7 or 8.14% of the sample rank next. Damages done to laptop and value of pigs killed with 3 or 3.49% each of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 76.74% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	576	100.0
Total	576*	100

***Note: Corresponds to 465 cases**

All of a sample of 576 new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2023

Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	236	41.48
Female	167	29.35
Registered Company	142	24.96
Trading As	24	4.22
Total	569	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 569 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 236 or 41.48% of the sample, followed by females with 167 or 29.35% of the total sample. Registered companies accounted for 142 or 24.96% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 4.22%.

Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	370	65.84
Female	180	32.03
Registered Company	8	1.42
Trading as	4	0.71
Total	562	100.00

There were 562 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 370 or 65.84% of the total sample, followed by females with 180 or 32.03%. Registered companies accounted for 8 or 1.42% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.71%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2023

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 7.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	216	48.11
Default Judgment Date	92	20.49
Trial	68	15.14
Part-Heard Date	63	14.03
Hearing of Application	10	2.23
Total	449	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 449 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 216 or 48.11% of the sample, followed by 92 or 20.49%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters disposed for trial dates with 68 or 15.14% and matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 63 or 14.03% 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 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	132	22.80
Defendant Absent	101	17.44
Referred to Mediation	32	5.53
Pending Settlement	15	2.59
Both Parties Absent	13	2.25
Sub-total	293	50.60

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 579

The above table details a sample of 579 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the 2023 calendar year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 132 or 22.80% of the sample, the absence of defendants with 101 or 17.44% and referrals to mediation with 32 or 5.53% and pending settlements with 15 or 2.59% of the sample rounds off the top reasons for adjournment for the year in this sample. The list is completed by the absence of both parties with 13 or 2.25% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 50.60% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2023

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	72
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponds to 57 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 72 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

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

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	74	22.70
Default Judgment	53	16.26
struck out	48	14.72
Settlement	43	13.19
Oral Admission	40	12.27
Sub-total	258	79.14

NB: There were 326 matters disposed of in 2023

A sample of 326 matters disposed during the 2023 calendar year revealed that 74 or 22.70% of matters were disposed by consent and 53 or 16.26% were disposed by default judgments. Matters struck out with 48 or 14.72% and settlements with 43 or 13.19% rank next. Oral admissions with 40 or 12.27% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 79.14% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2023 calendar year.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
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 year shows that 2 were adjourned. This results in an estimated

trial date certainty rate of 93.33%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 93% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
465	224	406	87.31	48.17

The above table shows 465 new cases filed at the Brown’s Town Outstation during the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 126 cases were disposed of and 98 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 48.17%, an increase of 2.50 percentage points compared to the 2022 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 277 cases were disposed of, and 129 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 87.31%, which falls below the international standard for this metric and represents a 3.42 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2022 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 34.33%, a decline of 1.28 percentage points when compared to the 2022 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 75.48%, an improvement of 4.54 percentage points when compared to the 2022 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	230
Mean	251.8304
Median	123.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	276.64991
Skewness	1.567
Std. Error of Skewness	.160
Range	1208.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	1209.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 230 civil matters disposed of in the 2023 calendar year at the Brown’s Town Outstation. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 252 days or 8.4 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days and the median time was 123 days. The standard deviation of roughly 277 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 1209 days or roughly 3.4 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	623
Mean	499.5474
Median	415.0000
Mode	179.00
Std. Deviation	379.39002
Skewness	.591
Std. Error of Skewness	.098
Range	1432.00
Minimum	23.00
Maximum	1455.00

The above data is based on a sample of 623 active civil matters at the end of the 2023 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 500 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 179 days. The standard deviation of roughly 379 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 1455 days old or roughly 4 years, while the minimum age is 23 days.

Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	58
Mean	213.8276
Median	114.0000
Mode	25.00
Std. Deviation	297.15240
Skewness	2.420
Std. Error of Skewness	.314
Range	1190.00
Minimum	25.00
Maximum	1215.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 58 active reissued matters at the Brown’s Town Outstation as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 214 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 25 days and the median age was 114 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a larger variation among the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the series average. The highest age in the data set was 1215 days and the lowest was 25 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.

Westmoreland Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the 2023 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	157	20.15
Disposed	495	63.54
Inactive	127	16.30
Total	779	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 779 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, 157 cases or 20.15% of these cases were still active, while 495 or 63.54% were disposed of and 127 or 16.30% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 79.85%, which is a 1.05 percentage points decline when compared to the 2022 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	835	82.35
Small Claim	178	17.55
POCA	1	0.10
Total	1014	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1014 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year, the majority of which 835 or 82.35% were big claims, while 178 or 17.55% were small claims. There was 1 Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claim.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2023

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	298	29.65
Recovery of Possession	209	20.80
Rent Due and Continuing	79	7.86
Negligence	60	5.97
Damages to Property	40	3.98
Sub-total	686	68.26

Total sample size of causes of action = 1,005

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 2023 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court was breach of contract with 298 or roughly 29.65% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 209 or 20.80%, rent due and owing with 79 or 7.86%, negligence with 60 or 5.97% and damages to property with 40 or 3.98% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 68.26% of the sample of 1,005 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service in the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	581	58.75
Personal	408	41.25
Total	989	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 581 or 58.75% and personal service accounted for 408 or 41.25% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	434	42.93
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	429	42.43
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	77	7.62
Whithorn Outstation	71	7.02
Total	1011*	100.00

***Note: Corresponds to 777 cases**

The highest proportion of a sample of 1011 new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 434 or 42.93% of the sample. The 429 or 42.43% that were entered in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse followed this. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 77 or 7.62% and sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for the remaining 7.02% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2023

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	533	52.98
Female	416	41.35
Registered Company	41	4.08
Trading As	16	1.59
Total	1006	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1006 new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 533 or 52.98%, followed by females with 416 or 41.35%. Registered companies accounted for 41 or 4.08% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 1.59%.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	600	60.18
Female	356	35.71
Trading As	26	2.61
Registered Company	15	1.50
Total	997	100.00

There were 997 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 600 or 60.18% of the sample, followed by females with 356 or 35.71%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) account for 2.61% of the sample and registered companies accounted for 15 or 1.50%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2023

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 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	413	54.92
Mention Date	270	35.90
Part-Heard Date	58	7.71
Final Judgment Date	11	1.46
Total	752	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 752 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The majority, 413 or 54.92%, were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 270 or 35.90%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 58 or 7.71% of matters, which were adjourned for part heard dates and 11 or 1.46% which were adjourned for final judgment dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for trial or 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 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	168	60.43
Referred to Mediation	20	7.19
Pending Settlement	6	2.16
Refer to Surveyor	4	1.44
To Settle Legal Representation	4	1.44
Sub-total	202	72.66

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 278

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 278 incidences of adjournments for matters heard in the 2023 calendar year. Adjournments for no return/ for re-issue account for the majority of the sample with 168 or 60.43%, while referrals to mediation rank next with 20 or 7.19% of the sample. Pending settlements accounted for 6 or 2.16% of the sample and referrals to surveyor and to settle legal representation with 1.44% each the sample completes the top five reasons for adjournment for the year. The top five reasons for adjournment enumerated above account for 72.66% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances heard in the year.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2023

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	252
Average Incidence	1.5

Corresponds to 170 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 252 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 170 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.5 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 15 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	206	24.07
Consent	150	17.52
Oral Admission	120	14.02
Default Judgment	118	13.79
Settlement	60	7.01
Sub-total	654	76.40

NB: There were 856 matters disposed of in 2023

A total of 856 civil matters were disposed of at the Westmoreland Parish Court during 2023 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 76.40% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 206 or 24.07% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 150 or 17.52% of the sample and oral admissions with 120 or 14.02% of the sample. Matters disposed by default judgments with 118 or 13.79% and settlements with 60 or 7.01% round off the top five methods dispositions.

Table 12:0 Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	349	86.60
Settlement	52	12.90
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	2	0.50
Total	403	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2023 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 349 or 86.60% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 52 or 12.90%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for the smallest share with 0.50% of the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
320	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 320 trial dates were set in the year; of which none were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 100% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment and is 0.84 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2022.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
779	622	837	107.45	79.85

The above table shows 779 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 495 of these cases were disposed of, and 127 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 79.85%, a decrease of 1.05 percentage points when compared to the 2022 calendar year. A gross figure of 674 cases were disposed of, and 163 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 107.45%, which meets the international standard for this metric and is 14.67 percentage points above the 2022 calendar year rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 75.92%, which is 0.90 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 103.37%, which is 13.41 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	500
Mean	138.7000
Median	66.0000
Mode	61.00
Std. Deviation	210.01436
Skewness	4.061
Std. Error of Skewness	.109
Range	1565.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	1568.00

The above table outlines summary data on 500 civil matters disposed in the 2023 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 139 days or 4.6 months, which is roughly 18 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2022 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 61 days. The standard deviation is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time and the positive skewness is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 1568 days or roughly 4.4 years, while the minimum time taken was just 3 days.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	64
Mean	152.9531
Median	104.5000
Mode	83.00
Std. Deviation	125.40480
Skewness	1.549
Std. Error of Skewness	.299
Range	647.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	651.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 64 matters at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 153 days or roughly 5.1 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 155 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 205 days.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	382
Mean	524.5759
Median	238.5000
Mode	60.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	565.95475
Skewness	.924
Std. Error of Skewness	.125
Range	1736.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	1754.00

^aMultiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above data is based on sample of 382 active civil matters at the end of the 2023 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 525 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 60 days. The standard deviation of roughly 566 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 1754 days or 4.9 years, and the youngest time is 18 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	46
Mean	173.6304
Median	130.0000
Mode	60.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	148.35728
Skewness	1.124
Std. Error of Skewness	.350
Range	525.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	543.00

^aMultiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 46 active reissued matters at the Westmoreland Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2023.

The average age of these matters was roughly 174 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 60 days and the median age was 130 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some amount of dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 543 days and the lowest was 18 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.

St. Mary Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Mary Parish Court for the 2023 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	184	28.84
Disposed	451	70.69
Inactive	3	0.47
Total	638	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 6638 new civil cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, 184 or 28.84% were still active, 451 or 70.69% were disposed of and 3 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 71.16% for the year, which is a 1.99 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2022 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	608	80.00
Small Claim	152	20.00
Total	760	100.00

The above table shows that from the 760 new claims filed in the year, the majority of which were big claims, which accounted for 608 or 80% of the total sample, while 152 or 20% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2023

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	226	29.97
Recovery of Possession	100	13.26
Damages for Negligence	49	6.50
Damages	29	3.85
Arrears of Rent and Continuing	26	3.45
Sub-total	430	57.03

Total sample size of causes of action = 754

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 754 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the year at the St. Mary Parish Court were breach of contract with 226 or roughly 29.97% of the sample and recovery of possession with 100 or 13.26% of the total sample of causes of action. Damages for negligence with 49 or 6.50%, damages with 29 or 3.85% and arrears of rent and continuing with 26 or 3.45% rank next.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	500	66.14
Bailiff	178	23.54
District Constable	78	10.32
Total	756	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 500 or 66.14% of the sample, with service by the bailiff accounting for 178 or 23.54% and service by the district constable accounting for the remaining 78 or 10.32% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	514	67.63
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	103	13.55
Richmond Outstation	69	9.08
Annotto Bay Outstation	50	6.58
Gayle Outstation	24	3.16
Total	760*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 638 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 760 new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year. The majority of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 514 or 67.63% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 3 at the main courthouse with 103 or 13.55% of the sample and the Richmond outstation with 69 or 9.08% and the Annotto Bay outstation with 50 or 6.58% of the sample rounds off the top accommodations. The list is completed by sittings at the Gayle Outstation with 24 or 3.16%.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2023

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	387	50.92
Female	288	37.89
Registered Company	85	11.18
Total	760	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 760 new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 387 or 50.92%, followed by females with 288 or 37.89%. Registered companies with 11.18% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	497	65.74
Female	246	32.54
Registered Company	13	1.72
Total	756	100.00

There were 756 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year. The majority of defendants were males with 497 or 65.74%, followed by females with 246 or 32.54% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 1.72% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2023

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 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	78	54.17
Trial	33	22.92
Default Judgment Date	21	14.58
Part-Heard Date	12	8.33
Total	144	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 144 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The majority, 78 or 54.17% were adjourned for mention

dates, followed by 33 or 22.92%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were the 21 or 14.58% 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 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	50	26.60
Defendant Absent	16	8.51
Referred to mediation	14	7.45
To Settle Legal Representation	8	4.26
Parties in Discussion	2	1.06
Sub-total	90	47.87

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 188

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 188 incidences of adjournments in the 2023 calendar year. Adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 50 or 26.60% of the sample, adjournments for adjournments due to absence of defendants with 16 or 8.51% and referrals to mediation with 14 or 7.45% and to settle legal representation with 8 or 4.26% round off the top reasons for adjournment. Adjournments due to parties in discussion with 2 or 1.06% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 47.87% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2023

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	128
Average Incidence	1.3

Corresponds to 102 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 128 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 102 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	274	37.69
Consent	136	18.71
Oral Admission	107	14.72
Default Judgment	77	10.59
Withdrawal	57	7.84
Sub-total	651	89.55

NB: There were 727 matters disposed of in 2023

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 727 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. Matters struck out with 274 or 37.69%, matters disposed by consent with 136 or 18.71% and matters disposed by oral admissions with 107 or 14.72% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Matters disposed by default judgments with 10.59% of the sample rank next followed by withdrawals with 7.84% of the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 89.55% of the total sample of matters disposed during the year.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	275	95.16
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	9	3.11
Settlement	5	1.73
Total	289	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of 289 case outcomes in the 2023 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 275 or 95.16% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while judgments in favour of the defendant account for 9 or 3.11%. Settlements account for 5 or 1.73% of the sample of outcomes. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
119	61	48.74

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 119 trial dates were set in the 2023 calendar year shows that 61 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 48.74%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 49% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate combined number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
638	454	627	98.28	71.16

The above table shows 638 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 451 of these cases were disposed of, and 3 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 71.16%, an increase of 1.99 percentage points when compared to the 2022 calendar year. A gross figure of 622 cases were disposed of, and 5 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 98.28%, which meets the international standard for this metric and is 5.07 percentage points below the 2022 calendar year rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 71.02%, which is 2.15 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 97.95%, which is 4.31 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	408
Mean	141.6569
Median	57.0000
Mode	35.00
Std. Deviation	266.56508
Skewness	6.608
Std. Error of Skewness	.121
Range	3527.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	3528.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 408 civil cases disposed of in the 2023 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 142 days or 4.7 months, which is roughly 64 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2022 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 35 days and the median time was 57 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 267 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 year was 3528 days or roughly 9.8 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 1 day. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	49
Mean	78.7755
Median	55.0000
Mode	14.00
Std. Deviation	90.74076
Skewness	2.252
Std. Error of Skewness	.340
Range	412.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	415.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 49 matters at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 79 days or roughly 2.6 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	319
Mean	613.9436
Median	328.0000
Mode	27.00
Std. Deviation	716.28446
Skewness	1.835
Std. Error of Skewness	.137
Range	3775.00
Minimum	25.00
Maximum	3800.00

The above data is based on a sample of 319 active civil matters at the end of the 2023 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 614 days (or roughly 20.5 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 27 days. The standard deviation of roughly 716 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 3800 days old or roughly 10.6 years, while the minimum age was 25 days.

Portland Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Portland Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	154	52.38
Disposed	107	36.39
Inactive	33	11.22
Total	294	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 294 new civil cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, 154 or 52.38% were still active 107 or 36.39% were disposed of and 33 were inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 47.62% for the year, which is 11.18 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	412	88.98
Small Claim	51	11.02
Total	463	100.00

The above table shows that from the 463 new claims filed in the year, the majority of which 412 or 88.98% were big claims, while 51 or 11.02% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2023

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of contract	116	26.54
Recovery of possession	71	16.25
Prescriptive rights	42	9.61
Breach of Contract (monies owing plus interest)	39	8.92
Negligence, Damages & Special Damages	27	6.18
Sub-total	295	67.51

Total sample size of causes of action = 437

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 437 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action filed were breach of contract with 116 or roughly 26.54% of the total sample, recovery of possession with 71 or 16.25%, and prescriptive rights with 42 or 9.61% and breach of contract (monies owing plus interest) with 39 or 8.92% followed. Negligence, damages and special damages with 27 or 6.18% round off the top five causes of action for the year. The top causes of action, which are listed above, account for 67.51% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	345	76.16
Bailiff	108	23.84
Total	453	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 345 or 76.16% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 108 or 23.84%.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	169	39.30
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	114	26.51
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	81	18.84
Buff Bay Outstation	37	8.60
Manchioneal Outstation	29	6.74
Total	430*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 264 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 430 new matters filed in the year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 169 or 39.30% of the sample of accommodations. The 114 or 26.51% that were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse followed this, while the 81 matters that entered in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse rank next. The Buff Bay outstation account for 37 or 8.60% and the Manchioneal outstation accounted for 29 or 6.74% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2023

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	222	47.95
Female	138	29.81
Registered Company	101	21.81
Trading As	2	0.43
Total	463	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 463 new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year, males accounted for the largest proportion with 222 or 47.95%, followed by females with 138 or 29.81%. Registered companies account for 101 or 21.81% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 2 or 0.43% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	238	51.63
Female	178	38.61
Registered Company	44	9.54
Trading As	1	0.22
Total	461	100.00

There were 461 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 238 or 51.63% of the sample, followed by females with 178 or 38.61% of the sample and registered companies with 44 or 9.54%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 0.22% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2023

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 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	201	57.10
Trial	104	29.55
Default Judgment Date	26	7.39
Part-Heard Date	10	2.84
Hearing of Application	7	1.99
Final Judgment Date	3	0.85
Date for Order	1	0.28
Total	352	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 352 matters that were heard during the year ended December 31, 2023, which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The majority, 201 or 57.10% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 104 or 29.55%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for default judgment dates with 26 or 7.39% and for part heard dates with 10 or 2.84% rank next. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the year at the Portland Parish Court.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	87	23.84
Consent	60	16.44
Settlement	45	12.33
Struck Out	34	9.32
Default Judgment	25	6.85
Sub-total	251	68.77

NB: There were 365 matters disposed of in 2023

A total of 365 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. The distribution is led by disposals by notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 87 or 23.84%

of the sample, followed by disposals by consent with 60 or 16.44%, settlements with 45 or 12.33% and matters struck out with 34 or 9.32%. Matters disposed by default judgment with 25 or 6.85% complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the year. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 68.77% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 10: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	27	69.23
Settlement	9	23.08
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	3	7.69
Total	39	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2023 calendar year at the Portland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 27 or 69.23% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample. Settlements account for 23.08% of the sample and judgment in favour of defendants account for the remaining 7.69% of the total sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
95	41	56.84

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 95 trial dates set in the year, it is seen that 41 were adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 56.84% which suggests that during the year there was roughly a 57% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. The 2023 result is 4.24 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2022.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
294	140	294	100.00	47.62

The above table shows 294 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 107 of these cases were disposed of and 33 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 47.62%, a decline of 11.18 percentage points when compared to the 2022 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 246 cases were disposed of, and 48 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 100%, which meets the international standard for this metric, and is 19.01 percentage points less than the 2022 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 41.00%, a 13.83 percentage point decline when compared to the 2022 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate is 94.25%, a 24.28

percentage point decline when compared to the 2022 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	306
Mean	715.3660
Median	321.0000
Mode	2251.00
Std. Deviation	856.94775
Skewness	1.335
Std. Error of Skewness	.139
Range	3396.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	3400.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 306 civil matters disposed of in 2023 calendar year at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 715 days (23.8 months), which is roughly 212 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2022 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 2251 days and the median time to disposition was 321 days. The standard deviation of roughly 857 days, is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness observed is an indication that the larger proportion of the scores in this

data series fall below the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed of in the year was 3400 days or roughly 9.4 years old, while the youngest was 4 days.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	468
Mean	640.2073
Median	272.0000
Mode	55.00
Std. Deviation	788.34123
Skewness	1.612
Std. Error of Skewness	.113
Range	4266.00
Minimum	24.00
Maximum	4290.00

The above data is computed using 468 active cases at the end of the 2023 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 640 days (1.8 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 55 days (1.8 months). The standard deviation of roughly 788 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 4290 days (11.9 years), while the youngest 24 days.

St. Thomas Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Thomas Parish Court for the 2023 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	165	28.21
Disposed	251	42.91
Inactive	169	28.89
Total	585	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 585 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, 165 cases or 28.21% of these cases were still active, while 251 were disposed of and 169 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 71.79%, which is a 1.10 percentage points deterioration when compared to the 2022 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	494	73.19
Small Claim	181	26.81
Total	675	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 675 new claims filed in the 2023 calendar year, the majority of which 494 or 73.19% were big claims, while 181 or 26.81% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the year ended December 31, 2023

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	226	33.63
Recovery of Possession	94	13.99
Monies Owing	58	8.63
Defamation of Character	37	5.51
Negligence	28	4.17
Sub-total	443	65.92

Total sample size of causes of action= 672

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 2023 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 226 or roughly 33.63% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 94 or 13.99%, monies owing with 58 or 8.63% and defamation of character with 37 or 5.51% of the sample rounds off the top causes of action in this representative sample. Negligence with 28 or 4.17% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 65.92% of all the total sample of 672 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2023

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	185	55.56
District Constable	130	39.04
Personal	18	5.41
Total	333	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 185 or 55.56% of the sample. Service by the district constable with 130 or 39.04% and personal service with 18 or 5.41% rant next.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	452	66.96
Yallahs Outstation	222	32.89
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1	0.15
Total	675	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 585 cases**

The majority of a sample of 675 new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 452 or 66.96% of the sample. Sittings at the Yallahs outstation accounted for 222 or 32.89% and courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 1 or 0.15% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2023

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	344	51.04
Male	310	45.99
Trading As	12	1.78
Registered Company	8	1.19
Total	674	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 674 new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court, females accounted for the majority of the sample with 344 or 51.04%, followed by males with 310 or 45.99%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 12 or 1.78% and registered companies had the lowest proportion with 1.19% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	401	60.03
Female	254	38.02
Trading As	9	1.35
Registered Company	4	0.60
Total	668	100.00

There were 668 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 401 or 60.03% of the sample, followed by females with 254 or 38.02% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 9 or 1.35% of the sample and registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 0.60% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2023

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 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Date for Order	476	81.51
Trial	44	7.53
Default Judgment Date	39	6.68
Mention Date	19	3.25
Part-Heard Date	6	1.03
Total	584	100.00

The above table is computed based on a sample of 584 cases adjourned during the 2023 calendar year. The majority, 476 or 81.51% were adjourned for an order to be handed down, followed by 44 or 7.53% which were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 39 or 6.68% of matters, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters adjourned for a mention date with 19 or 3.25% and matters adjourned for a part heard date with 6 or 1.03% of the sample rank next.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2023

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	102	28.02
Both Parties Absent	53	14.56
Plaintiff Absent	19	5.22
To Settle Legal Representation	12	3.30
Attorney Absent	10	2.75
Sub-total	196	53.85

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 364

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 364 incidences of adjournments in the 2023 calendar year. Adjournments due to absence of defendants with 102 or 28.02% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 53 or 14.56% and adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 19 or 5.22% rounds off the top three. Adjournments to settle legal representation with 3.30% and the absence of attorney with 10 or 2.75% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 53.85% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	133
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 113 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 133 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 113 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	101	21.13
Oral Admission	86	17.99
Struck Out	78	16.32
Default Judgment	70	14.64
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	56	11.72
Sub-total	391	81.80

NB: there were 478 matters were disposed of in 2023

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 478 matters. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 101 or 21.13% of the sample. Oral admissions and matters struck out with 86 or 17.99% and 78 or 16.32% respectively rank next. Matters disposed by default judgments with 70 or 14.64% and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 56 or 11.72% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 81.80% of the sample.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	173	82.78
Settlement	29	13.88
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	5	2.39
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	2	0.96
Total	209	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of 209 case outcomes in the 2022 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 173 or 82.78% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 29 or 13.88%. Judgements in favour of ancillary plaintiff account for 5 or 2.39% of the sample of outcomes, followed by judgments in favour of the defendants. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2023

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
75	12	84.00

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 75 trial dates were set in the year shows that 12 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 84%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 84% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 5.19 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2022 calendar year.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
585	420	604	103.25	71.79

The above table shows 585 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 251 cases were disposed of and 169 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 71.79%, a decrease of 1.1 percentage points when compared to the 2022 calendar year. A gross figure of 427 cases were disposed of, and 177 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 103.25%, which meets the international standard for this metric, but represents a decline of 11.65 percentage points when compared to the 2022 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 60.34%, a 2 percentage points decline when compared to the 2022 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 102.64%, a 11.82 percentage points decrease when compared to the 2022 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	306
Mean	375.7026
Median	126.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	539.73618
Skewness	2.424
Std. Error of Skewness	.139
Range	2952.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	2955.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 306 civil matters disposed of in the 2023 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 375 days or 12.5 months, which is roughly 3 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2022 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. There is a standard deviation of roughly 540 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 year was 2955 days or roughly 8.3 years old, while the minimum time taken was 3 days.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	86
Mean	425.2674
Median	140.5000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	538.14451
Skewness	1.443
Std. Error of Skewness	.260
Range	1980.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	1994.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 86 matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 425 days. The high standard deviation is an indication that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that most of the scores were below the overall average. The oldest time was 1994 days, and the minimum was 14 days.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	314
Mean	965.3439
Median	390.0000
Mode	3190.00
Std. Deviation	1175.58405
Skewness	1.128
Std. Error of Skewness	.138
Range	3177.00
Minimum	13.00
Maximum	3190.00

The above data is based on sample of 314 active civil matters at the end of the 2023 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 965 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 3190 days or 8.9 years. The high standard deviation of roughly 1041 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 3190 days or 8.9 years, while the youngest case was 13 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	36
Mean	135.9167
Median	54.5000
Mode	25.00
Std. Deviation	180.23863
Skewness	2.488
Std. Error of Skewness	.393
Range	729.00
Minimum	25.00
Maximum	754.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 36 active reissued matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 136 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 25 days and the median age was 54.50 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large variation in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 754 days and the lowest was 25 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: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	44	93.62
Warrant of Possession	3	6.38
Total	47	100.00

It is seen in the above sample of 47 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the majority of which were judgement summonses with 44 or 93.62%, while warrants of possession with 3 or 6.38% followed. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2023

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	44	44	1

The above table shows that the sample of 44 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 44 court appearances in the 2023 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were exactly 10 appearances dates.

St. James Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

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

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	390	28.12
Disposed	392	28.26
Inactive	605	43.62
Total	1387	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 1387 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, 390 cases or 28.12% of these cases were still active, 392 were disposed of and 605 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 71.88% for the year, which is a 1.34 percentage points deterioration when compared to the 2022 calendar year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	1030	65.11
Small Claim	552	34.89
Total	1582	100.00

The above table shows that from 1582 new claims filed in the 2023 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 1030 or 65.11%, while 552 or 34.89% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. James Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2023

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	231	15.03
Breach of Contract	165	10.74
Monies Loaned	95	6.18
Rent Owing and Continuing	81	5.27
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	57	3.71
Sub-total	629	40.92

Total sample size of causes of action = 1,537

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 1,537 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2023 calendar year were recovery of possession with 231 or roughly 15.03% of the sample and breach of contract with 165 or 10.74% of the sample. Monies loaned with 95 or 6.18% and rent owing continuing with 81 or 5.27% of the sample rank next. Rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 57 or 3.71% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 40.92% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Cambridge Outstation	828	53.77
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	710	46.10
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	2	0.13
Total	1540*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 1356 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1540 matters entered in the 2023 calendar year were entered in the Cambridge Outstation, which accounted for 828 or 53.77% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom

4 at the main courthouse had 710 matters entered or 46.10% of the sample and sittings at courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 2 or 0.13% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2023

Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	456	43.80
Female	395	37.94
Registered Company	189	18.16
Trading As	1	0.10
Total	1041	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1041 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the highest proportions of the sample with 456 or 43.80% of the sample, followed by females with 395 or 37.94% of the total sample. Registered companies with 189 or 18.16% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.10%.

Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	395	51.77
Female	274	35.91
Registered Company	93	12.19
Trading As	1	0.13
Total	763	100.00

There were 763 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2023 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 395 or 51.77% of the total sample, followed by females with 274 or 35.91%. Registered companies accounted for 93 or 12.19% of the sample

and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.13%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2023

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 7.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	211	49.53
Trial	127	29.81
Part-Heard Date	39	9.15
Default Judgment Date	36	8.45
Final Judgment Date	10	2.35
Hearing of Application	2	0.47
Date for Order	1	0.23
Total	426	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 426 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 211 or 49.53% of the sample, followed by 127 or 29.81%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters disposed for part heard dates accounted for 39 or 9.15% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date account for 36 or 8.45% 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 8.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment	253	24.35
Withdrawal	179	17.23
Oral Admission	159	15.30
Struck Out	128	12.32
Consent	119	11.45
Sub-total	838	80.65

NB: There were 1,039 matters disposed of in 2023

A sample of 1039 matters disposed of during the 2023 calendar year revealed that 253 or 24.35% of matters were disposed of by default judgments and 179 or 17.230% were disposed by withdrawals. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 159 or 15.30% and matters struck out with 128 or 12.32% rank next. Matters disposed by consent with 119 or 11.45% of the total sample of disposals completing the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above account for 80.65% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2023 calendar year.

Table 9.0 Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	271	90.94
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	15	5.03
Settlement	6	2.01
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	3	1.01
Judgment for Ancillary Defendant	2	0.67
Counter Claim Defendant	1	0.34
Total	298	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of 298 case outcomes in the 2023 calendar year at the St. James Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 271 or 90.94% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while judgements in favour of defendants account for 15 or 5.03%. Settlements account for 6 or 1.01% of the sample of outcomes. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
163	11	93.25

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 163 trial dates were set in the year shows that 11 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 93.25%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 93% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
1387	997	1577	113.70	71.88

The above table shows 1387 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 392 cases were disposed of and 605 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 71.88%, a decrease of 1.34 percentage points when compared to the 2022 calendar year. A gross figure of 792 cases were disposed of, and 785 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 113.70%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and represents an improvement of 14.32 percentage points when compared to the 2022 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 50.13%, a 6.29 percentage points decline when compared to the 2022 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 101.28%, a 12.54 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2022 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 12.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	665
Mean	234.2030
Median	97.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	328.94119
Skewness	2.784
Std. Error of Skewness	.095
Range	2815.00

Minimum	2.00
Maximum	2817.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 665 civil matters disposed in the 2023 calendar year at the St. James Parish court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 234 days or 7.8 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days and the median time was 97 days. The standard deviation of roughly 329 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed of in the year was 2817 days or roughly 7.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 2 days.

Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	507
Mean	464.0217
Median	300.0000
Mode	419.00
Std. Deviation	467.53375
Skewness	1.314
Std. Error of Skewness	.108
Range	2353.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	2361.00

The above data is based on a sample of 507 active civil matters at the end of the 2023 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 464 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 419 days. The standard deviation of roughly 468 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 2361 days old or roughly 6.6 years, while the minimum age is 8 days.

Manchester Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Manchester Parish Court for the 2023 calendar year.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	276	50.92
Disposed	266	49.08
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	542	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 542 new big claims cases filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, 276 or 50.92% cases were still active and 266 were disposed of at the end of the year. These results produce an estimated net case disposal rate of 49.08% for big claims for the year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action in the year ended December 31, 2023

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	188	24.87
Damages for Negligence	150	19.84
Arrears of Rent	79	10.45
Negligence	32	4.23
Damages to Motor Vehicle	26	3.44
Sub-total	475	62.83

Total sample size of causes of action= 756

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases entered in the year at the Manchester Parish Court was recovery of possession with 188 or roughly 24.87% of the sample. Damages for negligence and arrears of rent with 150 or 19.84% and 79 or 10.45% respectively rank next. The top five causes of action were rounded off by negligence with 32 or 4.23% and damages to motor vehicle with 26 or 3.44% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 62.83% of the total sample of 756 causes of action.

Table 3.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2023

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	595	78.39
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	133	17.52
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	31	4.08
Total	759*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 542 cases**

The majority of a sample of 759 matters entered in the 2023 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 595 or 78.39% of the sample, followed by courtroom 2 with 133 or 17.52% of the sample and courtroom 3 with 31 or 4.08%.

Table 4.0: Distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Court Order	757	100
Total	757	100

A sample of 757 applications filed during the 2023 calendar year revealed that applications for court order accounted for 100% of the sample of applications filed.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2023

Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	382	50.46
Female	310	40.95
Registered Company	65	8.59
Total	757	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 757 matters entered in the 2023 calendar year at the Manchester Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 382 or 50.46% of the sample. Females accounted for 310 or 40.95% and registered companies accounted for 65 or 8.59% of the sample.

Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2023

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	514	67.90
Female	223	29.46
Registered Company	20	2.64
Total	757	100.00

There were 757 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the 2023 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 514 or 67.90% of the sample, followed by females with 223 or 29.46%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 20 or 2.64% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2023

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 year, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 7.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	206	42.56
Trial	168	34.71
Default Judgment Date	73	15.08
Part-Heard Date	27	5.58
Final Judgment Date	8	1.65
Hearing of Application	2	0.41
Total	484	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 484 matters that went to court during the 2023 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 206 or 42.56% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 168 or 34.71%, 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 73 or 15.08% of the sample. It is of note that 27 or 5.58% 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 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2023

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	433	29.16
Defendant Absent	223	15.02
Plaintiff Absent	142	9.56
For Judgment	120	8.08
No Return/Re-Issued	109	7.34
Sub-total	1027	69.16

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 1485

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 1485 incidences of adjournments heard in the 2023 calendar year. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 433 or 29.16% of the sample and the absence of defendants with 223 or 15.02% round off the top incidences in the sample. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 142 or 9.56% and for judgment with 120 or 8.08% rank next. The list is completed by adjournments for no return or for re-issue with 109 or 7.34% of the sample. The top reasons for adjournments listed above account for 69.16% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	78
Average Incidence	1.6

Corresponding to 48 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 78 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 48 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.6 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 16 reissue incidences.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	357	44.79
Judgment	70	8.78
Consent	68	8.53
Withdrawal	59	7.40
Settlement	58	7.28
Sub-total	612	76.79

NB there were 797 matters were disposed of in 2023

A total of 797 matters were disposed of at the Manchester Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 612 or 76.79% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 357 or 44.79% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by final judgment with 70 or 8.78% and matters disposed by consent with 68 or 8.53%. Withdrawals and settlements round off the top five methods with 59 or 7.40% and 58 or 7.28% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
221	58	73.76

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 221 trial dates were set in the year shows that 58 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 73.76%, suggesting that during the year, there was a roughly 74% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate falls below the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate gross number of disposed cases in the year	Approximate net clearance rate (%)
725	727	100.28

The above table shows 725 new cases filed at the Manchester Parish Court during the 2023 calendar year. At the end of the year, a gross figure of 727 cases were disposed of, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to a net case clearance rate of 100.28%, which meets the international standard for this metric and is an 18.25 percentage points decline when compared to the 2022 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	580
Mean	323.4879
Median	270.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	235.60890
Skewness	1.322
Std. Error of Skewness	.101
Range	1788.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	1792.00

The above table outlines summary data on 580 civil matters disposed of in the 2023 calendar year at the Manchester Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 323 days or approximately 10.8 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days. The standard deviation of roughly 236 days is an indication that there is some variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness is seen as an indication that there were markedly more scores in the data set which fall below the overall average time. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 1792 days or roughly 5 years old, while the minimum time taken was 4 days.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	920
Mean	459.4315
Median	535.5000
Mode	86.00
Std. Deviation	325.70710
Skewness	.063
Std. Error of Skewness	.081
Range	1123.00
Minimum	30.00
Maximum	1153.00

The above data is based on a sample of 920 active civil matters as of the year ended December 31, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 459 days or roughly 15.3 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 86 days. The standard deviation of roughly 326 days suggests that there is a small amount of variation in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set which were close to the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 1153 days old or roughly 3.2 years, while the minimum time is 30 days.

Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	76
Mean	135.9079
Median	58.0000
Mode	30.00
Std. Deviation	188.14811
Skewness	2.319
Std. Error of Skewness	.276
Range	791.00
Minimum	30.00
Maximum	821.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 76 active reissued matters at the Manchester Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 32, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 136 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 30 days and the median age was 58 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 821 days and the lowest was 30 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Performance Summaries - Other Parish Courts

Table 1.0: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the St. Elizabeth and Hanover Parish Courts for year ended December 31, 2023

Parish Court	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Net Case Clearance Rate (%)	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Net Case Disposal Rate (%)	Trial Date certainty Rate (%)
St. Elizabeth PC	83.75	83.59	33.52	33.20	-
Hanover PC	133.94	100.00	61.65	59.45	-

The summary of key performance metrics for the parish courts of St. Elizabeth and Hanover shows that the civil division of the St. Elizabeth Parish Court recorded an estimated gross clearance rate of 83.75% and an estimated net clearance rate of 83.59%. The St. Elizabeth Parish Court also recorded an estimated gross disposal rate of 33.52% and an estimated net disposal rate of 33.20% for the year. The Hanover Parish Court recorded an estimated gross clearance rate of 133.94% and an estimated net clearance rate of 100%. The Hanover Parish Court also recorded an estimated gross disposal rate of 61.65% and an estimated net disposal rate of 59.45% for the year.

Aggregate data summaries – all Parish Courts

Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2023

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)
16182	18954	117.13

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the 2023 calendar year. It shows that a total of 16,182 new cases were filed over the year, while 18,954 became inactive or were disposed of, leading to an estimated gross clearance rate of 117.13%. This is a 3.85 percentage points decline when compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

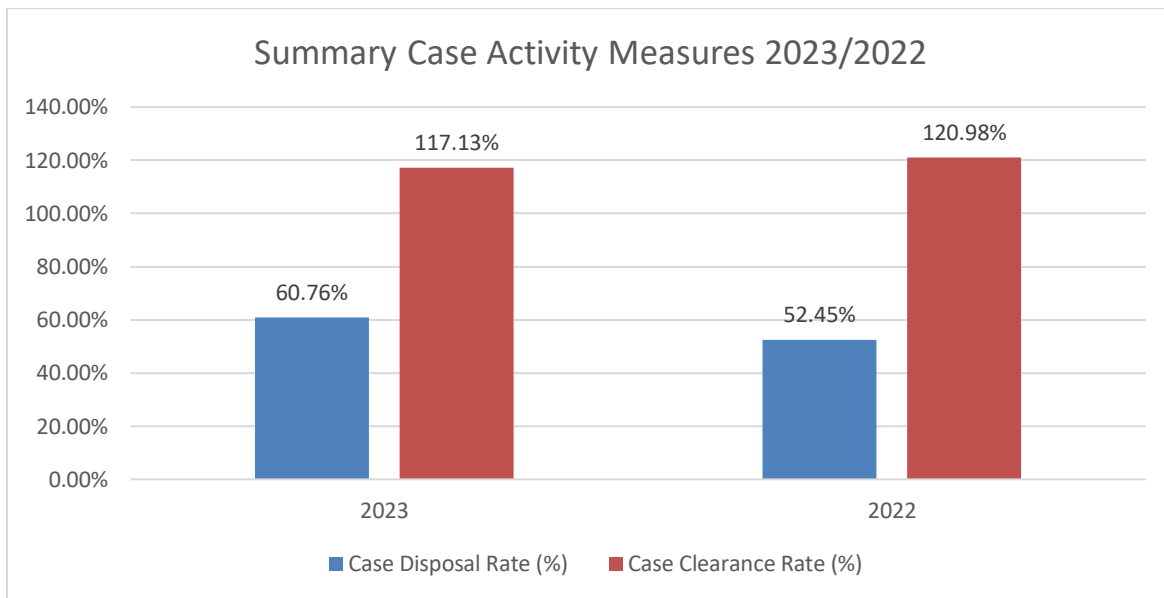
Table 2.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the year ended December 31, 2023

Parish Court	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) 2023	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) 2022	Change in the Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) 2023	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) 2022	Change in the Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)
St. Thomas	71.79	72.89	-1.1	103.25	114.9	-11.65
Corporate Area- Civil	59.08	38.58	20.5	121.31	NA	NA
St. Elizabeth	33.52	NA	NA	83.75	87.51	-3.76
Hanover	61.65	85.71	-24.06	133.94	131.93	2.01
Manchester	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Portland	47.62	58.8	-11.18	100	119.01	-19.01
St. Ann	65.72	51.73	13.99	120.02	106.36	13.66
St. Catherine	52.22	65.02	-12.8	147.62	148.54	-0.92
St. Mary	71.16	69.17	1.99	98.28	103.35	-5.07
Trelawny	70.4	65.58	4.82	103.51	110.9	-7.39
St. James	71.88	73.22	-1.34	113.7	99.38	14.32
Clarendon	75.41	64.4	11.01	110.57	88.2	22.37
Westmoreland	79.85	80.9	-1.05	107.45	92.78	14.67
Average /Weighted Average	60.76	52.45	8.31	117.13	120.98	-3.85
Standard Deviation	13.35	13.16		17.07	18.75	
Skewness	-1.08	-0.65		0.64	0.87	

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate and the case clearance rate and for the 2023 and 2022 calendar years. The weighted average gross case disposal rate for the 2023 calendar year was 60.76%, which was an 8.31 percentage points improvement when compared

to the 2022 calendar year weighted average rate of 52.45%. The gross case clearance rate of 117.13% for the 2023 calendar year was 3.85 percentage points below the 120.98% recorded in the 2022 calendar year.

Chart 1.0: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for 2022 and 2023



The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal and case clearance for the 2023 and 2022 calendar years. It is seen that there has been an improvement in the gross case disposal rate and a decrease in the gross case clearance rate over the comparative period. The case clearance rate moved from 120.98% in the 2022 calendar year to 117.13% in the 2023 calendar year. The case disposal rate moved from 52.45% in the 2022 calendar year to 60.76% in the 2023 calendar year, an increase of 8.31 percentage points.

Chart 2.0a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for 2022 and 2023

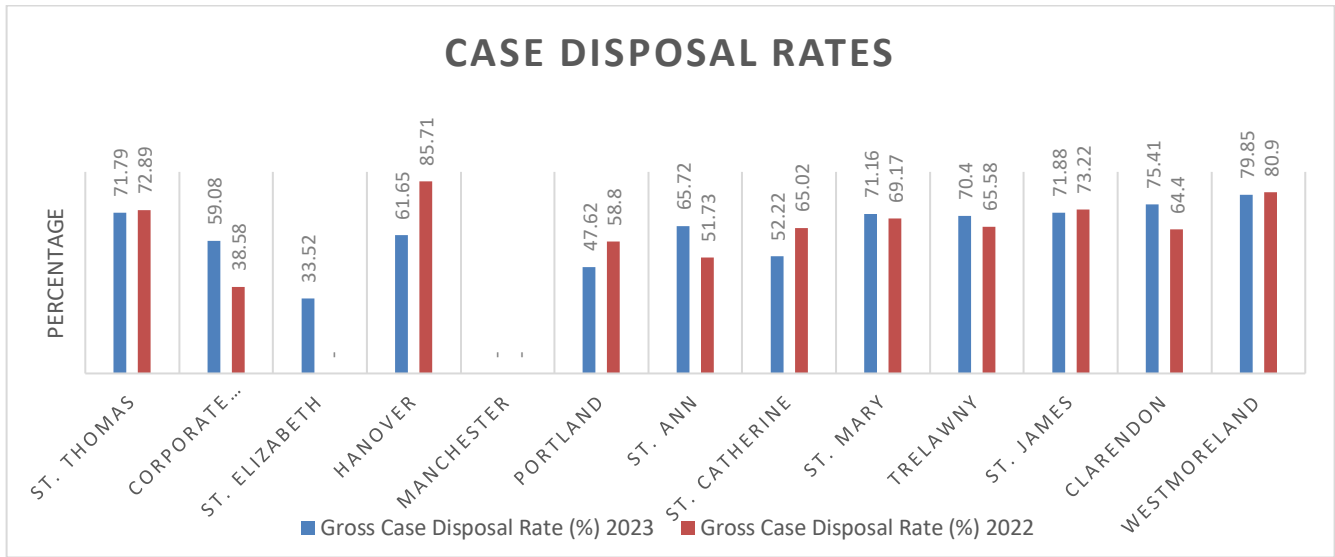


Chart 2.0b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for 2022 and 2023

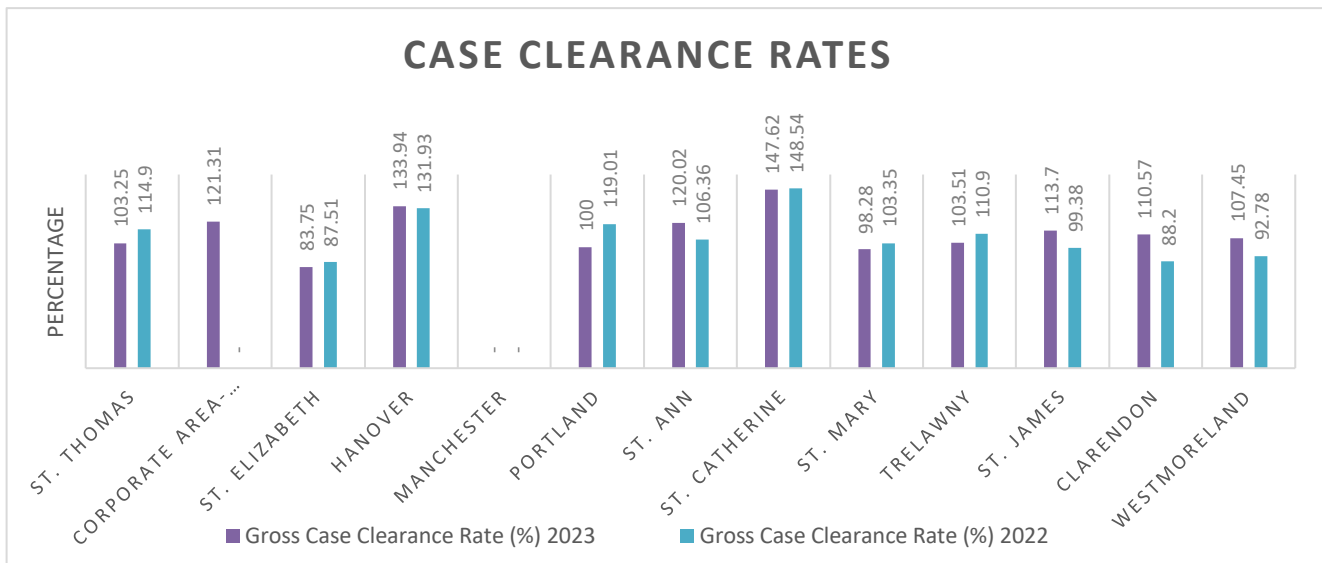


Table 3: Sampling distribution of claims filed during the year ended December 31, 2023

Parish Court	Big Claims	Small Claims	POCA	Miscellaneous	Total
Corporate area	3990	538	8	-	4536
Portland	412	51	-	-	463
St. Ann	1854	372	4		2230
St. Catherine	2746	285	-	-	3031
St. Mary	608	152	-	-	760
St. Thomas	494	181	-	-	675
Trelawny	535	117	1	-	653
Westmoreland	835	178	1	-	1014
St. James	1030	552	-	-	1582
Clarendon	966	180	-	-	1146
Manchester	759	183	-	-	942
Total	14229	2789	14	0	17032

The above table provides an overall summary of the claims files across the parish courts in the 2023 calendar year. The sample of 17,032 new claims filed in the 2023 calendar year reveals that 14,229 or 83.54% were big claims, while 16.38% were small claims and 0.08% were POCA matters. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine Parish Court, and the St. Ann Parish Court account for the largest share of new complaints filed in the year. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine, and the St. Ann Parish Courts account for the largest share of big claims filed in the year, while the St. James, Corporate Area Court-Civil Division and the St. Ann Parish Court account for the largest shares of small claims filed.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 in the civil division of the parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2023

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
Hanover	498	69,533	72
St. Catherine	2497	516,218	48
Westmoreland	779	144,103	54
St. Mary	638	113,615	56
Clarendon	984	245,103	40
Portland	294	81,744	36
St. Elizabeth	1280	150,205	85
Corporate Area Criminal	4199	662,426	63
St. Thomas	585	93,902	62
St. James	1387	183,811	75
St. Ann	1718	172,362	100
Trelawny	598	75,164	80
Manchester	725	189,797	38
Total	16182	2697983	60

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 2023 calendar year. 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. Ann, which is among the

courts with the larger caseloads and mid-range population size, registered the largest number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the 2023 calendar year. St. Elizabeth, which is midrange in caseload and population size, ranked second. Equally interesting is the result that the parish of Portland had the smallest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the year and is the parish with a smallest caseload and smaller in population size. The Manchester Parish Court recorded the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population, followed by the Clarendon Parish Court.

Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2023

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	2072	22.16
Defendant Absent	1401	14.98
Both Parties Absent	901	9.64
Parties in Discussion	296	3.17
Plaintiff Absent	289	3.09
Referred to Mediation	239	2.56
New Date	168	1.80
For Judgment	160	1.71
Pending Settlement	142	1.52
Attorney Absent	77	0.82
Sub-total	5745	61.44

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = (9,351))

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 9,351 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the 2023 calendar year across all of the parish courts (civil division). The largest proportion (22.16%) was for no return/ for reissue. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 14.98% and the absence of both parties with 9.64% round out the top three

reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Adjournments for parties in discussion with 3.17% and the absence of plaintiffs with 3.09% round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the year. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 61.44% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 6.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the year ended December 31, 2023

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	4608 (34.4%)	3095 (23.1%)	1523 (11.4%)	1104 (8.2%)	1268 (9.5%)	679 (5.1%)	1110 (8.3%)	13387 (100%)
St. Catherine	2132 (16.0%)	1768 (13.3%)	1128 (8.5%)	882 (6.6%)	1448 (10.9%)	1087 (8.2%)	4853 (36.5%)	13298 (100%)
St. James	565 (43.1%)	232 (17.7%)	112 (8.5%)	80 (6.1%)	129 (9.8%)	75 (5.7%)	118 (9.0%)	1311 (100%)
Manchester	267 (21.7%)	359 (29.2%)	186 (15.1%)	144 (11.7%)	163 (13.3%)	76 (6.2%)	33 (2.7%)	1228 (100%)
Clarendon	445 (37.0%)	364 (30.3%)	197 (16.4%)	82 (6.8%)	78 (6.5%)	33 (2.7%)	4 (0.3%)	1203 (100%)
Westmoreland	949 (57.4%)	314 (19.0%)	145 (8.8%)	88 (5.3%)	89 (5.4%)	38 (2.3%)	31 (1.9%)	1654 (100%)
St. Ann	1468 (31.4%)	1056 (22.6%)	534 (11.4%)	374 (8.0%)	483 (10.3%)	253 (5.4%)	508 (10.9%)	4676 (100%)
St. Thomas	666 (34.7%)	426 (22.2%)	215 (11.2%)	140 (7.3%)	171 (8.9%)	104 (5.4%)	195 (10.2%)	1917 (100%)
Portland	413 (27.4%)	275 (18.3%)	143 (9.5%)	119 (7.9%)	171 (11.4%)	82 (5.4%)	303 (20.1%)	1506 (100%)
St. Mary	1480 (54.8%)	482 (17.8%)	213 (7.9%)	120 (4.4%)	185 (6.8%)	82 (3.0%)	141 (5.2%)	2703 (100%)
Trelawny	918 (55.5%)	307 (18.6%)	127 (7.7%)	83 (5.0%)	98 (5.9%)	50 (3.0%)	71 (4.3%)	1654 (100%)
% of Total	31.23	19.48	10.16	7.22	9.62	5.75	16.54	-
Average	1264.64	788.91	411.18	292.36	389.36	232.64	669.73	4048.82
Standard Deviation	1244.11	892.82	474.60	359.59	492.92	339.41	1424.03	4700.91
Skewness	2.24	2.14	1.85	1.80	1.76	2.11	3.04	1.75

Number of charges sampled (N) = 44,537

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 72 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at December 31, 2023. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 72-month period. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 31.23% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Mary and St. Ann are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed of under 90 days. Cumulatively 68.09% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in 3-5 years. From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court, and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 16.54% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court, and St. 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 all relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

Table 6.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil	260.82	34	140	311.67	2.62	1	2860	13387
St. Catherine	599.66	28	460	518.80	0.89	1	2819	13298
St. James	248.36	28	110	320.66	2.51	1	2817	1311
Manchester	239.96	91	176	201.38	1.74	2	1792	1228
Clarendon	162.84	63	119	141.56	1.75	3	1008	1203
Westmoreland	140.18	35	72	182.56	3.11	1	1568	1654
St. Ann	312.44	63	154	404.93	2.47	1	2625	4676
St. Thomas	278.70	28	141	343.47	2.30	1	2379	1917
Portland	433.16	63	218	522.67	1.91	3	2648	1506
St. Mary	176.84	28	71	250.80	2.52	1	1634	2703
Trelawny	170.75	28	70	246.66	2.89	1	1674	1654
Total/Weighted Average	357.50	44.45	157.36	313.20	2.25	1.45	2165.82	4048.82
Standard Deviation	136.10	21.80	110.58	127.63	0.63	0.82	646.82	4700.91
Skewness	1.57	1.13	2.34	0.56	-0.87	1.50	-0.44	1.75

Number of charges sampled (N) = 44,537

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 72 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at December 31, 2023. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 72-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 358 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 Westmoreland (140 days), Clarendon (163 days) and Trelawny (171 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (600 days), Portland (433 days) and St. Ann (312 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 136.10. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1.45 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 1008 days (33.6 months/2.8 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court, to a high of 2,860 days (95.3 months/7.9 years) in the Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a small negative value, which is an indication that a larger proportion 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 44,537 matters.

Table 7.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition in the year ended December 31, 2023

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	330 (24.2%)	539 (39.5%)	169 (12.4%)	110 (8.1%)	108 (7.9%)	37 (2.7%)	72 (5.3%)	1365 (100%)
St. Catherine	367 (11.4%)	442 (13.7%)	344 (10.7%)	199 (6.2%)	249 (7.7%)	278 (8.6%)	1339 (41.6%)	3218 (100%)
St. James	316 (47.5%)	110 (16.5%)	74 (11.1%)	28 (4.2%)	44 (6.6%)	35 (5.3%)	58 (8.7%)	665 (100%)
Manchester	80 (13.8%)	115 (19.8%)	92 (15.9%)	75 (12.9%)	112 (19.3%)	74 (12.8%)	32 (5.5%)	580 (100%)
Clarendon	170 (31.5%)	140 (26.0%)	93 (17.3%)	44 (8.2%)	62 (11.5%)	26 (4.8%)	4 (0.7%)	539 (100%)
Westmoreland	302 (60.4%)	93 (18.6%)	43 (8.6%)	15 (3.0%)	25 (5.0%)	13 (2.6%)	9 (1.8%)	500 (100%)
St. Ann	388 (35.0%)	210 (18.9%)	93 (8.4%)	80 (7.2%)	124 (11.2%)	74 (6.7%)	141 (12.7%)	1110 (100%)
St. Thomas	115 (37.6%)	60 (19.6%)	21 (6.9%)	24 (7.8%)	19 (6.2%)	19 (6.2%)	48 (15.7%)	306 (100%)
Portland	60 (19.6%)	53 (17.3%)	25 (8.2%)	24 (7.8%)	48 (15.7%)	9 (2.9%)	87 (28.4%)	306 (100%)
St. Mary	256 (62.7%)	75 (18.4%)	30 (7.4%)	8 (2.0%)	20 (4.9%)	4 (1.0%)	15 (3.7%)	408 (100%)
Trelawny	150 (51.9%)	53 (18.3%)	24 (8.3%)	12 (4.2%)	11 (3.8%)	17 (5.9%)	22 (7.6%)	289 (100%)
% of Total	27.29	20.35	10.86	6.67	8.85	6.31	19.67	-
Average	230.36	171.82	91.64	56.27	74.73	53.27	166.09	844.18
Standard Deviation	119.00	165.43	94.95	57.62	70.53	78.23	391.10	858.38
Skewness	-0.16	1.69	2.17	1.74	1.65	2.80	3.25	2.49

Number of charges sampled (N) = 9,286

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the year ended December 31, 2023. The results shown suggest that only 27.29% of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days. The St. Ann parish court along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Civil and St. James are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 65.17% of the matters

disposed over the period took less than a year. From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of St. Catherine, St. Ann and Manchester had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 19.67% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Catherine, St. Ann and Portland 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 7.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil Division	232.56	105	127	300.99	4.04	1	2772	1365
St. Catherine	767.41	1646	556	682.18	0.90	1	4074	3218
St. James	234.20	28	97	328.94	2.78	2	2817	665
Manchester	323.49	91	270	235.61	1.32	4	1792	580
Clarendon	200.19	63	139	171.27	1.36	3	1008	539
Westmoreland	138.70	61	66	210.01	4.06	3	1568	500
St. Ann	375.51	63	145	612.02	4.07	1	5720	1110
St. Thomas	375.70	63	126	375.70	2.42	3	2955	306
Portland	715.37	2251	321	856.95	1.34	4	3400	306
St. Mary	141.66	35	57	266.57	6.61	1	3528	408
Trelawny	220.49	63	80	335.98	2.48	2	1645	289
Total/Weighted Average	450.12	406.27	180.36	397.84	2.85	2.27	2843.55	844.18
Standard Deviation	215.13	774.70	149.33	220.48	1.72	1.19	1346.21	858.38
Skewness	1.35	2.05	1.88	1.18	0.97	0.23	0.75	2.49

Number of charges sampled (N) = 9,286

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the year ended December 31, 2023. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 450 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 1.35, suggesting that most of the scores were below the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (139 days), St. Mary (142 days) and Clarendon (200 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (767 days), Portland (715 days) and St. Thomas (376 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 215.13. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 2.27 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 1008 days (33.6 months/2.8 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court, to a high of 5720 days (190.7 months/15.9 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 0.75, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were below the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 9,286 matters.

Table 7.0c: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2023

Parish Court	Struck Out	Consent	Settlement	Default Judgment	Oral Admission	Withdrawal	Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	Other	Total
St. Catherine	2433	427	474	262	63	201	212	250	4322
Corporate Area Civil	1834	666	44	179	170	305	214	265	3677
Westmoreland	206	150	60	118	120	55	50	97	856
Clarendon	520	158	114	79	59	35	54	96	1115
Trelawny	63	95	38	86	56	28	2	66	434
Portland	34	60	45	25	-	11	87	103	365
St. Mary	274	136	26	77	107	57	6	44	727
St. Thomas	78	101	37	70	86	-	56	50	478
St. Ann	234	510	207	252	160	103	129	136	1731
St. James	128	119	42	253	159	179	60	99	1039
Manchester	357	68	58	43	33	59	52	127	797
Total	6161	2490	1145	1444	1013	1033	922	1333	15541
Percentage of total	39.64	16.02	7.37	9.29	6.52	6.65	5.93	8.58	-

Number of charges sampled (N): 15,541

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts-civil division for the 2023 calendar year. From the sample, it is observed that the highest proportion of matters disposed of during the year were by being struck out with 39.64% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by consent with 16.02%, default judgments with 9.29% and dispositions grouped under the category, “other methods” with 8.58% of the sample. Settlements with 7.37% and withdrawals with 6.65% rank next. Oral admissions with 6.52% and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 5.93% account for the remaining disposals in the year.

15.0c: Net and gross criminal case backlog as at the year ended December 31, 2023

Paris Court	Net Case Backlog Rate (%)	Gross Case Backlog Rate (%)
Clarendon	0.72	10.71
Corporate Area	1.76	27.20
Portland	4.77	16.57
St. Ann	2.84	24.74
St. Catherine	2.71	5.57
St. James	3.13	5.97
St. Mary	2.00	17.62
St. Thomas	1.50	24.01
Trelawny	1.50	23.69
Westmoreland	3.15	16.18
Weighted Average	2.25	19.09
Standard Deviation	1.15	7.82

Note: The net backlog for the Browns Town Outstation in St. Ann for 2023 is 7.86% and the gross backlog is 21.53%.

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) in the parish courts of 2.25% (with a standard deviation of 1.15%), which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at 19.09% (with a standard deviation of 7.82%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is 9.09 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 Clarendon with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.72%, St. Thomas and Trelawny each with an estimated net backlog rate of 1.50% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of Portland (4.77%), Westmoreland (3.15%) and St. James (3.13%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of St. Catherine (5.57%), St. James (5.97%) and Clarendon (10.71%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area-Civil Division (27.20%), St. Ann (24.74%) and St. Thomas (24.01%) have the highest rates.

Trial court activity summary for the year ended December 31, 2023

Table 1.0a: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the year ended December 31, 2023

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	49.36	198.29	202.12
Corporate Area-Civil Division	148.10	276.20	181.62
Manchester	75.17	383.08	135.63
Portland	70.85	738.23	450.80
St. Ann	104.11	531.03	774.06
St. Catherine	87.83	455.16	442.36
St. James	54.49	506.90	108.40
St. Mary	66.20	137.80	190.46
St. Thomas	43.58	343.10	536.54
Trelawny	50.70	256.50	228.68
Westmoreland	36.10	78.23	101.45
Weighted Average	82.87	382.20	379.79
Standard Deviation	32.38	193.94	216.17

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 roughly 2.8 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 roughly 12.7 months or 382 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 12.7 months or 380 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face long delays after a first date set is postponed. Since 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 1.0b: Trial court activity summary during the year ended December 31, 2023

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	1422	284	19.97
Corporate Area	6962	440	6.32
Manchester	1073	212	19.76
Portland	526	154	29.28
St. Ann	3037	389	12.81
St. Catherine	5886	1082	18.38
St. James	2170	150	6.91
St. Mary	838	128	15.27
St. Thomas	790	136	17.22
Trelawny	849	132	15.55
Westmoreland	1027	323	31.45
Total/Weighted Average	24580	3430	13.95

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the 2023 calendar year in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 24,580 civil cases heard across the parish courts in the 2023 calendar year, 3,430 or 13.95% proceeded to trial. The parish courts of the Corporate Area-Civil Division (6.32%), St. James (6.91%) and St. Ann (12.81%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of Westmoreland (31.45%), Portland (29.28%) and Clarendon (19.97%) had the highest proportion.

Table 1.0c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the year ended December 31, 2023

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	429	20.40
Consent	266	12.65
Default Judgement	230	10.94
Settlement	204	9.70
Trial	177	8.42
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	175	8.32
Transferred	161	7.66
Withdrawal	126	5.99
Judgment	119	5.66
Non Suited	74	3.52
Other	52	2.47
Oral Admission	42	2.00
Mediated Settlement	35	1.66
Dismissal	7	0.33
Application For Plaintiff Denied	3	0.14
Order	2	0.10
Application For Defendant Denied	1	0.05
Total	2103	100.00

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters struck out with 20.40% of the cases disposed of,

matters disposed by consent with 266 or 12.65% and matters disposed by default judgments with 230 or 10.94% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample.

Table 1.0d: Summary of case appearance frequency for the year ended December 31, 2023

Parish Court	Average number of appearances per case	Standard Deviation of the number appearances per case	Skewness of the number of appearances per case	Maximum number of appearances per case	Minimum number of appearances per case
Clarendon	2.74	2.13	1.92	12	1
Corporate Area-Civil Division	2.08	2.08	3.47	24	1
Manchester	4.08	2.67	0.83	13	1
Portland	7.22	7.04	1.43	30	1
St. Ann	4.16	5.55	3.39	40	1
St. Catherine	4.01	3.20	1.32	24	1
St. James	2.43	2.00	1.82	14	1
St. Mary	3.13	3.68	3.43	37	1
St. Thomas	3.41	4.70	3.39	37	1
Trelawny	3.18	3.69	2.90	23	1
Westmoreland	2.84	3.19	3.33	31	1
Total/Weighted Average	3.26	-	-	25.91	1.00
Standard Deviation	1.39	-	-	10.02	0.00
Skewness	1.97	-	-	-0.10	0.00

The above table summarizes the number of appearances per case heard in the 2023 calendar year, which have at least one mention court appearance. The overall average number of

appearances per 10 cases mentioned is 33, or roughly 4 appearances per case with a standard deviation of 1.39 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.97. Together, these results suggest that the average number of court appearances per case is within the prescribed international standard, that a slightly larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of appearances and that there isn't on average a wide variation in the number of appearances per case across the courts. Among the parish courts with the highest number of appearances per cases for matters heard in the 2023 calendar year are the Portland (7.22), St. Ann (4.16) and Manchester (4.08) Parish Courts, while Corporate Area-Civil Division (2.08), St. James (2.43) and Clarendon (2.74) were among the courts with the lowest mean case appearance incidence.

Table 1.0e: Summary of the average court appearance frequency for cases disposed in the year ended December 31, 2023

Parish Court	Average number of appearances per case	Standard Deviation
Clarendon	2.30	1.67
Corporate Area-Civil Division	2.09	2.15
Manchester	3.72	2.44
Portland	6.99	6.03
St. Ann	3.67	4.68
St. Catherine	3.50	3.06
St. James	2.56	1.69
St. Mary	2.83	3.42
St. Thomas	3.53	4.96
Trelawny	3.31	3.68
Westmoreland	2.62	2.56
Weighted Average	3.06	-

The above summary specifically addresses the number of appearances per case for matters disposed of in the 2023 calendar year. The overall average observed is roughly 31 appearances 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 Corporate Area- Civil Division, Clarendon and St. James Parish Courts were among those with the lowest incidence of appearance per disposed case in the year, while the parish courts of Portland, Manchester and St. Ann were among the locations with the highest incidence.

Table 9.0: Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2023

Parish Court	Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of Disposed cases and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of year of origin)	Gross Disposal rate (%)	Net Disposal rate (%)	Gross Clearance rate (%)	Net Clearance (%)	Approximate trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
St. Thomas	585	420	604	71.79	60.34	103.25	102.64	84.00	12.52
Corporate Area-Civil	4199	2163	5094	59.08	48.02	121.31	84.54	NA	7.75
St. Elizabeth	1280	429	1072	33.52	33.20	83.75	83.59	NA	NA
Hanover	498	307	667	61.65	59.45	133.94	100.00	NA	NA
Manchester	725	266	727	NA	49.08	NA	100.28	73.76	10.78
Portland	294	140	294	47.62	41.00	100.00	94.25	56.84	23.85
St. Ann	1718	1129	2062	65.72	52.96	120.02	107.27	98.74	12.52
St. Catherine	2497	1304	3686	52.22	49.36	147.62	147.28	67.26	25.58
St. Mary	638	454	627	71.16	71.02	98.28	97.95	48.74	4.72
Trelawny	598	421	619	70.40	57.86	103.51	93.10	85.87	7.35
St. James	1387	997	1577	71.88	50.13	113.70	101.28	93.25	7.81
Clarendon	984	742	1088	75.41	72.41	110.57	109.46	60.40	6.67
Westmoreland	779	622	837	79.85	75.92	107.45	103.37	100.00	4.62
Total/Weighted Average	16182	9394	18954	60.76	52.68	117.13	102.92	77.57	12.52
Skewness	2.04	1.60	1.92	-1.08	0.12	0.64	2.08	-0.17	1.35

Standard Deviation	1071.58	557.17	1410.49	13.35	12.47	17.07	15.66	18.19	7.17
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Note 1: Corporate Area Court-Civil division gross and net disposal rates were calculated using only new big claims filed in the year.

Note 2: The Manchester Parish Court gross and net disposal rates were calculated using only new big claims filed in the year.

Note 3: The gross case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for 2023 is 48.17% and the net case disposal rate is 34.33%.

Note 4: The gross case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for 2023 is 87.31% and the net case clearance rate is 75.48%.

Conclusion

The civil division of the parish courts continue to make an appreciable contribution to the overall productivity of the judiciary. With an overall case clearance rate of 117.13% in 2023 and a net case backlog rate of 2.25% at the end of the year, and a trial date certainty rate of almost 78%, the civil division of the parish courts is now among the strongest performing business lines in the Jamaican court system. This division however continues to struggle with a relatively large gross case backlog rate of 19.09%, largely on account of a high incidence of cases reissued without a date.

In 2024 the civil division of the parish courts is forecasted to achieve an overall case clearance rate of 115.65% and its overall net case backlog rate is expected to dip to under 2% for the first time on record. This accomplishment will mean that the civil division of the parish courts will be positioned to contribute appreciably to the judiciary's strategic target for the upcoming financial year. Parish courts such as the Westmoreland and Hanover Parish Courts remain poised to become pioneers in attaining what may be termed as the quantitative gold standards of the judiciary, as summarized below.

With eight years of extensive data on criminal case activity in the parish courts of Jamaica, the Statistics Unit applied Lagrange multiplier techniques to determine that a highly successful court must meet the following minimum requirements in order to satisfy the efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of the case backlog and to provide optimal service to the public. The required minimum annual parameters are summarized below:

Parameter	Minimum Required Standard
Case disposal rate	>=70%
Case clearance rate	>=95%
Case congestion rate	<=115%
Trial Date Certainty Rate	>=85%
Net case backlog rate	<=5%
Gross case backlog rate	<=10%
Average number of mentions per case	<=3

The infusion of advanced case management software and the incorporation of more rigorous case management approaches will be extremely useful in fostering further increases in the efficiency of the operations of the civil division of the parish courts going forward.

Glossary of Terms

Sampling Distribution: A sampling distribution of a given population is the distribution of frequencies of a range of outcomes that could possibly occur for a statistic of a population. A population is the entire pool from which a statistical sample is drawn.

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%. A distinction is sometimes made between the gross and net case clearance rates. The simple difference is that the net rate completely excludes inactive cases from its computation while the gross rate does not.

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 system.¹

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%. A distinction is sometimes made between the gross and net case disposal rates. The simple difference is that the net rate completely excludes inactive cases from its computation while the gross rate does not.

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

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 the case file 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 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 roughly 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.

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. 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.

Source:

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

ⁱ *Source:*

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

