



Parish Courts of Jamaica
The Chief Justice's Annual Statistics
Report for 2020
(Civil Matters)

	JANUARY TO DECEMBER	
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Gross Case Disposal rate (%)	50.84	77.29
Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	95.34	90.73
Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	81.16	79.40
Average time to disposition	10.40 months	5.67 months

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The Chief Justice's Message

The performance of the Civil Division of the Parish Courts in 2020 can be aptly described as a demonstration of resilience. March 2020 saw the arrival of the COVID 19 pandemic in Jamaica. The courts were not spared the ravages of that virus. By March 23, 2020, the courts had scaled down operations significantly and were only offering emergency services. Trials were suspended and gradually resumed beginning in June 2020. Words and phrases such as physical distancing, COVID 19 virus, mask wearing, and hand sanitization became etched in our vocabulary. Towards the end of 2020 and early 2021 we learnt about antigen tests and PCR tests.

While the pandemic raged, the Parish Courts showed courage and resilience and were able to recover gradually to an extent that there were improvements in 2020 over 2019 on two major productivity measures – Gross Clearance Rate and Hearing Date Certainty. The gross clearance rate of 95.34% was an improvement over the 2019 rate which was 90.74%. Hearing date certainty moved from 79.40% in 2019 to 81.16% in 2020. The drop in case disposal rate from 77.29% in 2019 to 50.84% in 2020 was not unexpected in light of the impact of COVID 19 on the operations of the courts. This fall is consistent with the reduced hours of work and consequently many cases filed in 2020 were not disposed of, but it is heartening that we are still within our twenty-four-month time standard for disposal cases from the date of entry into the court. Also the increase in clearance rate and hearing date certainty reflected greater focus and insistence that despite the court closures, the matters that were set down for hearing (which largely would be cases filed before 2020) were heard. That is, despite the pandemic, there was an 81.26% likelihood of the matter proceeding as scheduled and being disposed of.

The performance of these courts is commendable given that these courts do not have the technological support comparable to that of the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court. What is important now, is that all that can be done, is done, to prevent any further slippage and recover and push on towards the stated target of 95% hearing date certainty and 130% clearance rate. The courts have shown that the leadership and staff are competent and prepared to works towards achieving the targets set out in our strategic plan of 2019.

Bryan Sykes OJ, CD

Executive Summary

The Jamaican court system entered 2020 with significant momentum, buoyed by record case clearance and case disposal rates over the previous eighteen months, a steady improvement in trial date certainty rates and strong and consistent reductions in the both the case congestion and case backlog rates. This progress placed the court system on the trajectory to reduce its net case backlog incidence to below 5% within the next 2-3 years, a feat that would make it one of the best performing courts in the world. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic caused a reduction in court activity especially during the second and third quarters of 2020, however the civil division of the parish courts, like other divisions are showing immense resilience. As at the end of 2021, stochastic probability analysis suggests that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on court activity in the civil division of the parish courts in 2020 were not sufficient to warrant undue concern about the ability to meet the key quantitative targets in the judiciary's strategic plan. In fact, it will be illustrated below that the parish courts were able to surpass 2019 on some key performance metrics.

The civil division of the parish courts recorded an overall estimated gross case clearance rate of 95.34% in 2020, an increase of 4.61 percentage points when compared to 2019. Six parish courts, namely the Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division (165.25%), the Portland Parish Court (115.63%), the Hanover Parish Court (113.98%), the St. Thomas Parish Court (113.98%), the St. Mary Parish Court (100.92%), the St. Catherine Parish Court (95.45%), and the Westmoreland Parish Court (90.68%) exceeded the minimum international prescription of 90% on this metric while several other courts had commendable outcomes. The Clarendon Parish Court for example with a case clearance rate of 88.16% fell just short of the required minimum standard. The overall

gross case disposal rate recorded was a modest 50.84%, a decline of 26.45 percentage points when compared to 2019. This decline and the sizeable spread from the case clearance rate recorded in the civil division of the parish courts was partly a result of the challenges experienced by the courts with new summonses. Thus, as a whole proportionately less of the cases disposed were new cases. The parish courts of Hanover (88.65%), the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division (80.42%) and the Westmoreland parish Court (76.71%) were the only three parish courts which exceeded the desired 70% mark on the gross case clearance rate measure. 15920 new cases were filed in the civil division of the parish courts in 2020, a sharp decline of 26.11 percentage points when compared to 2019. An estimated 79.83% of the new cases filed in 2020 were big claims, while roughly 20.03% were small claims and the remaining proportion were either proceeds of crime (POCA) and miscellaneous matters. Among the most frequently occurring causes of action for the quarter are – breach of contract, recovery of possession, negligence and rent owing.

When dates adjourned due to the COVID-19 pandemic were isolated, the civil division of the parish courts recorded an overall estimated trial date certainty rate of 81.16% in 2020, a slight improvement of 1.76 percentage points when compared to 2019. The Trelawny Parish court (91.11%), the Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division (90.03%), the Westmoreland Parish Court (90%) and the Clarendon Parish Court (89.25%) were the best performing courts on this metric for 2020. Among the leading causes of delay in the progression of hearings, which were encountered across the civil division of the parish courts in the third quarter of 2020 are adjournments due to the absence of defendants and plaintiffs respectively, the absence of both parties, matters reissued and adjournments pending settlements.

The civil division of the parish courts also fared reasonably well with respect to the average length of time taken to dispose of cases which were resolved in the third quarter of 2020. The estimated average time to dispose these cases was 10.40 months, an increase of 4.73 percentage points when compared to 2019. This increase is largely on account of the marked decline in the number of new cases disposed in 2020.

The cumulative progress highlighted is quite commendable but there is still some way to go in creating the most efficient and productive civil courts in Jamaica, especially within the context of the current challenges. The speed of adaptation of the courts to the prevailing realities is crucial to consistently delivering the highest standard of justice. This effort will be greatly aided by the anticipated introduction of an advanced data capture and case management system called the Judicial Case Management System (JCMS) in 2021/22 fiscal year.

See below aggregate case activity summary:

Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2020

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)
15920	8093	15178	50.84	95.34	81.16	10.4

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, 2020. 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.

Case activity across all courts in much of 2020 has been notably impacted by the downturn court activity due the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly all statistical measures used to quantify the performance of the courts therefore experienced were adversely affected. Great care should therefore be taken when using the statistics illustrated in this report for the purposes of generalization. The resilience of the Jamaican court system will be severely tested over the next 9-12 months as the judiciary seeks to recover ground lost in progressing towards the attainment of key numerical targets which are seen as necessary to become the best court system in the Caribbean Region over the next 2-3 years and among the bests in the world in the next 4-5 years.

The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed in the 2020 calendar year at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. The data used in this section, largely represents the results of representative samples taken of case activity at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting but is nonetheless highly reliable.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	547	19.58
Disposed	1001	35.83
Inactive	1246	44.60
Total	2794	100

Reopened cases= 41; Reactivated cases= 40

The above table presents a status distribution of 2794 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, 547 or 19.58% cases were still active, 1001 were disposed and 1246 were inactive at the end of the year. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 80.42% for the year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	2576	79.48
Small Claim	650	20.06
Miscellaneous	9	0.28
POCA	6	0.19
Total	3241	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 3241 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2020 calendar year. The largest proportion of which 2576 or 79.48% were big claims, while 650 or 20.06% were small claims. Miscellaneous matters with 0.28% and Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) matters with 0.19% account for remainder the sample of claims filed.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	1025	72.44
Bailiff	291	20.57
District Constable	99	7.00
Total	1415	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 this table, personal service accounted for the highest proportion with 1025 or 72.44% of the sample. Service by the bailiff accounted for 291 or 20.57% and service by the district constable accounted for 99 or 7% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2020

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	1036	34.11
Recovery of Possession	446	14.69
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	271	8.92
Negligence	182	5.99
Rent Owing and Continuing	175	5.76
Sub-total	2110	69.48

Total sample size of causes of action= 3037

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 the year at the Corporate Area Civil Court was breach of contract with 1036 or roughly 34.11% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 446 or 14.69% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 271 or 8.92% round off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. The top five causes of action were rounded off with negligence with 182 or 5.99% and rent owing and continuing with 175 or 5.76% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 69.48% of all the total sample of 3037 causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1233	38.11
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1223	37.81
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	638	19.72
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	53	1.64
Night Court (main courthouse)	50	1.55
Night Court 1 (main courthouse)	25	0.77
Night Court 2 (main courthouse)	11	0.34
Gordon Town Outstation	2	0.06
Total	3235	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 2793 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 3235 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 1233 or 38.11% of the sample. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse had 1223 matters entered or 37.81% of the sample and courtroom 4 (small claims) had 638 matters entered or 19.72%.

Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Relist	23	28.40
Application for Court Order	19	23.46
Application for Substituted Service	18	22.22
Vary Court Order	17	20.98
Set Aside Default Judgment	2	2.47
Set Aside Default Judgment and to Stay Execution	2	2.47
Total	81	100.00

A sample of 81 applications filed during the 2020 calendar year revealed that applications for relist with 23 or 28.40% of the sample accounted for the highest proportion applications filed, followed by application for court order with 19 or 23.46% of the sample. Applications for

substituted service with 18 or 22.22%, applications for vary court orders with 17 or 20.98% rounds off the leading applications filed during the year.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2020

Table 7.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1345	42.38
Female	1251	39.41
Registered Company	541	17.04
Trading As	37	1.17
Total	3174	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 3174 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs with 1345 or 42.38%, followed by females with 1251 or 39.41%. Registered companies accounted for 541 or 17.04% of the sample, while individuals trading under a business name ('trading as') accounted for 1.17% of the sample.

Table 8.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1594	50.49
Female	1299	41.15
Registered Company	219	6.94
Trading As	45	1.43
Total	3157	100.00

There were 3157 records on the gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 1594 or 50.49% of the sample, followed by females with 1299 or 41.15%. Registered companies accounted for 219 or

6.94% of the sample, while individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 1.43% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2020

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, 2020

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	1290	40.04
Default Date	748	23.22
Trial	698	21.66
Part-Heard Date	206	6.39
Hearing of Application	117	3.63
Date for Order	98	3.04
Judgment Date	65	2.02
Total	3222	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 3222 matters that went to court during the 2020 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date. The largest proportion, 1290 or 40.04% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 748 or 23.22%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for trial with 698 or

21.66% of sample. It is of note that 206 or 6.39% 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. This result is however not an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are central 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, 2020

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	461	23.70
Placed on Trial List	404	20.77
Defendant Absent	254	13.06
Both Parties Absent	52	2.67
Document/Disclosure	45	2.31
Sub-total	1216	62.52

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 1945

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 1945 incidence of adjournments in the 2020 calendar year. Adjournments for no return/re-issued with 461 or 23.70% of the sample, adjournments for placement on the trial list with 404 or 20.77% and adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 254 or 13.06% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the year. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 52 or 2.67% of the sample and adjournments for disclosure/document with 45 or 2.31% rounds off the list. The top five reasons for adjournment, which are listed above, account for 62.52% of all the total sample of reasons for adjournments and continuances.

Table 11: Sampling distribution of the incidence of reissued matters in 2020

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	579
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 486 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 579 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 486 reissued cases. This result 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 year ended December 31, 2020

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	670	29.21
Consent	428	18.66
Default Judgment	341	14.86
Settlement	193	8.41
Withdrawal	153	6.67
Sub-total	1785	77.81

NB there were 2294 matters were disposed in 2020

A total of 409 matters were disposed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the 2020 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 1785 or 77.81% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 670 or 29.21% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 428 or 18.66% and by default judgments with 341 or 14.86%. Settlements and withdrawals round off the top five methods with 193 or 8.41% and 153 or 6.67% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 13: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	512	91.59
Settlement	43	7.69
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	4	0.72
Total	559	100.00

The above table summarizes the sample distribution of case outcomes in 2020 at the Corporate Area Civil Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 512 or 91.59% of the sample of matters, account for the largest proportion, while settlements with 43 account for 7.69%. Judgment in favour of defendants with 4 or 0.72% round off the list. 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 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2020

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 (%)
2794	2247	4617	165.25	80.42

The above table shows 2794 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 1001 of these cases were disposed, and 1246 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 80.42%, a decline of 8.12 percentage points when compared to 2019. A gross figure of 2696 cases were disposed, and

1921 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 165.25%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric. This rate represents a 41.62 percentage points increase when compared to the previous year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 64.66% and the estimated net clearance rate is 174.16%. 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 15.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2020

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
572	57	90.03

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 572 trial dates set in the year revealed that 57 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 90.03% which meets the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 90% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. The 2020 result is 9.10 percentage points above the figure registered in 2019.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1972
Mean	273.4539
Std. Error of Mean	7.48166
Median	172
Mode	147
Std. Deviation	332.2398
Skewness	3.002
Std. Error of Skewness	0.055
Range	3044
Minimum	4
Maximum	3048

The above table outlines summary data on 1972 civil matters disposed in the 2020 calendar year at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 273 days or 9.1 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 147 days or 4.9 months. The standard deviation of roughly 332 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the high 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 3048 days or roughly 8.5 years old, while the minimum time taken was 4 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (days)

Number of observations	157
Mean	114.0701
Std. Error of Mean	6.45385
Median	102
Mode	203
Std. Deviation	80.86655
Skewness	0.452
Std. Error of Skewness	0.194
Range	283
Minimum	1
Maximum	284

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 157 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 114 days. The moderate standard deviation is an indication 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 848 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 170 days.

Table 17.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1351
Mean	465.1954
Std. Error of Mean	14.18719
Median	357
Mode	76
Std. Deviation	521.4637
Skewness	2.653
Std. Error of Skewness	0.067
Range	5340
Minimum	13
Maximum	5353

The above data is based on a sample of 1351 active civil matters at the end of the 2020 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 465 days or roughly 15.5 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 76 days. The standard deviation of roughly 521 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion in the individual scores, while the high 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 5353 days old or roughly 15 years, while the minimum time taken is 13 days.

Table 17.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	201
Mean	132.1592
Std. Error of Mean	7.22375
Median	104
Mode	112
Std. Deviation	102.4143
Skewness	0.798
Std. Error of Skewness	0.172
Range	343
Minimum	13
Maximum	356

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 201 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 132 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 112 and the median age was 104 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion 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 356 days and the lowest was 13 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 18.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	30	100
Total	30	100

It is seen in the above sample of 30 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, that all were judgement summonses. 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, 2020

Description	Sample of judgement summonses filed	Sample of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	30	38	1.3

The above table shows that the sample of 30 Judgment summonses filed which equated to 38 court appearances in the 2020 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 approximately 13 appearances dates.

Table 20.0: Sampling distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the year ended December 31, 2020

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	61.38	229.17	0.28	35.29	55.91	1

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the 2020 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 allocating 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 61.38%, which is an indication that on average roughly 61% of the available hours for court hearings in 2020. 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 data also isolates the courtroom utilization rate for matters heard at Night Court sittings. An important part of the designation of Night Courts is to bolster the capacity of the courts to hear and dispose more cases in a timely manner. At an overall courtroom utilization rate of 55.91%, the Night Courts use 5.47 percentage points less of the available time than overall utilization rate.

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

Hanover Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed in the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. The data used in this section, largely represents the results of representative samples taken of case activity at the court. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	43	11.35
Disposed	240	63.32
Inactive	96	25.33
Total	379	100.00

Reactivated cases=17

The above table presents a status distribution of 379 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, 43 cases or 11.35% of these cases were still active, while 240 were disposed and 96 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 88.65%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of claim	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	369	85.61
Small Claim	62	14.39
Total	431	100.00

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 431 civil claims filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the 2020 calendar year. The larger proportion of which 369 or 85.61% were big claims, while 62 or 14.39% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service in the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	140	53.23
Bailiff	108	41.06
Personal	15	5.70
Total	263	100.00

Methods 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 district constable accounted for the highest proportion with 140 or 53.23% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 108 or 41.06% and personal service with 15 or 5.70% of the sample ran next.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Hanover Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2020

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	107	46.52
Breach of Contract	46	20.00
Arrears of Rent	35	15.22
Negligence	19	8.26
Damages	9	3.91
Sub-Total	216	93.91

Total sample size of causes of action (N)=230

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 the year at the Hanover Parish Court was recovery of possession with 107 or roughly 46.52% of the sample. Breach of contract with 46 or 20% and arrears of rent with 35 or 15.22% of the sample rounds off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. The list is rounded off by negligence with 19 or 8.26% and damages with 9 or 3.91% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for roughly 93.91% of all the total sample of 230 causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	170	39.53%
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	137	31.86%
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	65	15.12%
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #2)	22	5.12%
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	18	4.19%
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #1)	11	2.56%
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #2)	6	1.40%
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #2)	1	0.23%
Total	430*	100.00%

***Note: Corresponding to 378 cases**

The largest proportions of a sample of 430 new matters filed in the year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 170 or 39.53% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 137 or 31.86% of the cases filed. The courtrooms at the outstations located at Sandy Bay, Green Island and Ramble collectively accounted for the remaining 28.61% of cases heard.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	232	53.95
Female	124	28.84
Registered Company	37	8.60
Trading As	37	8.60
Total	430	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 430 plaintiffs in the 2020 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court, 232 or 53.95% were males and females accounted for 124 or 28.84% of the sample. Registered companies and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 8.60% each of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	268	62.18
Female	157	36.43
Registered Company	6	1.39
Total	431	100.00

There were 431 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 268 or 62.18% of the sample, followed by females with 157 or 36.43% of the sample and registered companies with 6 or 1.39% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2020

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantity of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delays factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. 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, 2020

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	51	45.54
Trial	45	40.18
Part-Heard Date	9	8.04
Default Judgment Date	5	4.46
Hearing of Application	2	1.79
Total	112	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 112 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2020, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 51 or 45.54% of the sample, were adjourned for mention dates. Matters adjourned for a trial date accounted for 45 or 40.18% of the sample and

matters adjourned for a part-heard date accounted for 9 or 8.04% of the sample. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 5 or 4.46% of the sample and for the hearing of an application with 1.79% of the sample. As with other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for mention. This is however not an abnormal 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 adjournments/continuances for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2020

Reasons for adjournments/continuances	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	97	58.79
Attorney Absent	12	7.27
Defendant Absent	9	5.45
Plaintiff Absent	8	4.85
Both Parties Absent	7	4.24
Sub-total	133	80.61

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)= 165

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 165 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the 2020 calendar year. Adjournments due to no return/for reissue accounted for 97 or 58.79% of the sample and attorneys being absent with 12 or 7.27% accounted for the largest proportion of the sample. Adjournments for the absenteeism of defendants accounted for 9 or 5.45% of the sample and the absence of plaintiffs with 8 or 4.85% rank next. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties round off the top of reasons for adjournments during the year with 4.24% of the sample. The reasons for adjournments enumerated above account for 80.61% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the Incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2020

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	60
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 53 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 60 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 53 reissued cases. This result 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 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2020

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oral Admission	95	26.84
Consent	71	20.06
Default Judgment	38	10.73
Settlement	36	10.17
Final Judgment	33	9.32
Struck Out	33	9.32
Sub-Total	306	86.44

NB: There were 354 matters disposed of in 2020

A total of 354 civil matters were disposed at the Hanover Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 306 or 86.44% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by oral admissions with 95 or 26.84% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 71 or 20.06% and disposals by default judgments with 38 or 10.73%. Settlements account for 36 or 10.17% and

final judgments and matters struck out round off the top five methods of disposition with 9.32% each of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	186	89.00
Settlement	22	10.53
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	1	0.48
Total	209	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2020 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 186 or 89% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion of the sample. Settlements account for 10.53% of the sample and judgment in favour of ancillary plaintiff account for the remaining 0.48% 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 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2020

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	Approximate Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)
379	336	432	113.98	88.65

The above table shows 379 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 240 of these cases were disposed and 96 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 88.65%, a 3.66 percentage points decline when compared to 2019. An approximate gross figure of 324 cases was disposed, and

108 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 113.98%, which satisfies the international standard on this metric but is a 13.22 percentage points decline when compared to 2019.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the year is 84.81% and the estimated net case clearance rate is 114.49%. 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 in a given year.

Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2020

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
52	11	78.85

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 52 trial dates were set in the 2020 calendar year shows that 11 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 78.85%. The output suggests that during the year there was a roughly 79% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This outcome is a 0.78 percentage points decline when compared to 2019.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	226
Mean	179.72
Std. Error of Mean	25.749
Median	60.00
Mode	23
Std. Deviation	387.099
Skewness	5.954
Std. Error of Skewness	.162
Range	3511
Minimum	1
Maximum	3512

The above table outlines sample data on 226 civil matters disposed in the 2020 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 180 days or 6 months and the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 23 days, while the median time was 60 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 387 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores. The high positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the data points in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The oldest matter disposed in the sample was 3512 days or roughly 9.8 years, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 16.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matter as the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	90
Mean	712.77
Std. Error of Mean	102.001
Median	324.00
Mode	114
Std. Deviation	967.666
Skewness	2.604
Std. Error of Skewness	.254
Range	4327
Minimum	77
Maximum	4404

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the 2020 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 713 days or roughly 2 years, while the most frequently occurring age was 114 days and the median age in the distribution was 324 days. The standard deviation of roughly 968 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion in the individual scores around the average, and 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 in this data set is 4404 days old or roughly 12 years, while the lowest is 77 days.

Manchester Parish Court – Civil Division (Small Claims Court)

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new small claims cases filed for the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	96	56.14
Disposed	75	43.86
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	171	100.00

Reactivated cases=2

The above table presents a status distribution of 171 new small claim cases filed at the Manchester Court in the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, 96 of these cases were still active and 75 were disposed. This led to an estimated net disposal rate of 43.86%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for small claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	31	56.36
District Constable	23	41.82
Personal	1	1.82
Total	55	100.00

Methods 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 highest

proportion with 31 or 56.36% of the sample. Service by the district constable with 23 or 41.82% and personal service with 1.82% of the sample rank next.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action for smalls claims filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2020

Cause of action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Arrears of Rent	21	12.88
Monies Due & Owing	19	11.66
Monies Owing	7	4.29
Damages to Motor Vehicle	3	1.84
Other	101	61.96
Sub-total	151	92.64

Total sample size of cause of action =163

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, otherwise from the causes of action pooled under “other”, the leading cause of action for the 2020 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court was arrears of rent with 21 or roughly 12.88% of the sample. Monies due and owing with 19 or 11.66% and monies with 7 or 4.29% of the sample round off the leading causes of action in this representative sample. Damages to motor vehicle with 3 or 1.84% rank next. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 92.64% of all the total sample of 163 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of new small claims matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Small Claim Court #2	84	48.84
Small Claim Court #3	84	48.84
Night Court (main courthouse)	4	2.33
Total	172*	100.00

***Note: corresponding to 171 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 172 new small claims filed in the 2020 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 2 and courtroom number 3 at the small claims court, with each accounting for 84 or 48.84% of the total sample. Night court accounted for the remaining 2.33% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of applications filed for the year ended December 31,2020 (relating to small claims only)

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Court Order	172	100
Total	172	100

A sample of 172 applications filed relating to small claims during the 2020 calendar year were all applications for court order.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of small claim plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	103	60.59
Female	66	38.82
Registered Company	1	0.59
Total	170	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 170 new small claims filed in the 2020 calendar year at the Manchester Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 103 or 60.59% of the sample, followed by females with 66 or 38.82% of the sample and registered company with 0.59% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of small claims defendants for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	111	67.27
Female	52	31.52
Registered Company	2	1.21
Total	165	100.00

There were 165 records on gender of defendants for new small claims filed in the 2020 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 111 or 67.27% of the sample, followed by females with 52 or 31.52% of the sample and registered companies with 1.21%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2020

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantity of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delays factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. His section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of small claims cases, which were completed in the year as well as other metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for small claims matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2020

Case flow stage	Frequency of adjournments	Percentage (%)
Trial	36	36.36
Mention Date	33	33.33
Default Judgment Date	29	29.29
Part-Heard Date	1	1.01
Total	99	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 99 small claims that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2020, which were adjourned for a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 36 or 36.36% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 33 or 33.33%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 29 or 29.29% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date and 1.01% of the sample which was adjourned for a part heard date.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for small claims matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2020

Reasons for adjournment/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	37	32.17
Defendant Absent	19	16.52
Placed on Trial List	10	8.70
No Return/Re-Issued	7	6.09
Plaintiff Absent	5	4.35
Sub-total	78	67.83

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)=115

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 115 incidences of adjournments in the 2020 calendar year. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 37 or 32.17% of the sample, adjournments due to absence of defendants with 19 or 16.52% and adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 10 or 8.70% of the sample rounds off the top three incidences in the sample. The list is completed by adjournments for no return/re-issued with 6.09% of the sample and for the hearing of applications with 4.35% of the sample. The top reasons of adjournment listed above account for 67.83% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances for small claim matters heard in 2020.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for small claims in the year ended December 31, 2020

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	109	67.70
Final Judgment	34	21.12
Settlement	10	6.21
Withdrawal	4	2.48
Non-Suited	2	1.24
Default	2	1.24
Total	161	100

The above table summarizes 161 small claims which were disposed at the Manchester Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year and the above table details the methods of disposition. The list is led by matters struck out with 109 or 67.70% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by final judgements with 34 or 21.12% and by settlements with 10 or 6.21%. Withdrawals with 2.48% and matters non-suited and those disposed by default judgments with 1.24% each round off the methods round off of the sample of dispositions.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for small claims for the year ended December 31, 2020

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate number of disposed cases in the year	Approximate net case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net case disposal rate (%)
171	75	147	85.96	43.86

The above table shows 171 new small claims filed at the Manchester Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 75 of these cases were disposed, leading to an estimated net case disposal rate of 43.86%. An approximate gross figure of 147 cases were

disposed, during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated net case clearance rate of 85.96%.

The overall net case clearance rate (big and small claims combined) at the Manchester Parish Court for the year was 67.40%.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty related to small claims for the year ended December 31, 2020

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
19	5	73.68

Another important performance metric is the trial date certainty which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 19 trial dates which were set during the year in relation to small claims revealed that 5 were adjourned. This produced a trial date certainty rate of 73.68% which suggests that during the year there was a roughly 74% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of small claims in the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	52
Mean	198.13
Std. Error of Mean	22.962
Median	203.00
Mode	28
Std. Deviation	165.579
Skewness	2.360
Range	973
Minimum	28
Maximum	1001

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 52 small claims disposed in the 2020 calendar year at the Manchester Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 198 days or 6.6 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days and the median time was 203 days. The standard deviation of roughly 166 days is an indication that there is moderately high variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 1001 days or roughly 2.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 28 days.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active small claims as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	226
Mean	531.8363
Std. Error of Mean	23.57467
Median	472.0000
Mode	864.00
Std. Deviation	354.40493
Skewness	4.705
Std. Error of Skewness	.162
Range	4086.00
Minimum	38.00
Maximum	4124.00

The above data is based on sample of 226 active small claims at the end of the 2020 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 531 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 864 days. The standard deviation of roughly 354 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the average, while the large positive skewness seen is an indication that there were markedly more scores in the data set,

which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 4124 days old or roughly 11.5 years, while the minimum age is 38 days.

St. Catherine Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	1283	41.71
Disposed	638	20.74
Inactive	1155	37.55
Total	3076	100

Reactivated cases= 57

The above table presents a status distribution of 3076 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, 1283 cases or 41.71% of these cases were still active, while 638 were disposed and 1155 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 58.29%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed for the year ended December 31, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	3358	89.26
Small Claim	401	10.66
POCA	3	0.08
Total	3762	100.00

The above table shows that from a sample of 3762 claims filed in the 2020 calendar year, 3358 or 89.26% were big claims, 401 or 10.66% were small claims and 3 or 0.08% were Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	789	56.40
Bailiff	408	29.16
District Constable	202	14.44
Total	1399	100

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, personal service accounted for the highest proportion with 789 or 56.40% of the sample, service by the bailiff accounted for 408 or 29.16% and service by the district constable accounted for 202 or 14.44% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil Division for the year ended December 31, 2020

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Damages for negligence	1301	35.33
Breach of Contract	1184	32.16
Recovery of Possession	335	9.10
Rent owing and continuing	286	7.77
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	226	6.14
Sub-total	3332	90.49

Total sample size of causes of action=3682

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 3682 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. The leading cause of action shown in this sample were damages for negligence with 1301 or roughly 35.33% of the sample, Breach of contract with 1184 or 32.16% and recovery of possession with 335 or 9.10%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing and continuing with 286 or 7.77% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 226 or 6.14% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 90.49% of the total sample of causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	2883	76.90
Linstead (Courtroom #1)	572	15.26
Old Harbour (Courtroom #1)	276	7.36
Night Court (main courthouse)	11	0.29
Portmore Outstation (Courtroom #1)	5	0.13
Portmore Outstation (Night Court)	2	0.05
Total	3749*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 3064 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 3749 new claims filed in the 2020 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 2883 or 76.90% of the sample of claims. The 572 or 15.26% that were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Linstead outstation followed this while courtroom number 1 at the Old Harbour outstation accounted for 276 or 7.36% of the claims, ranking next. Night court proceedings at the main courthouse accounted for 11 or 0.29% of the matters and courtroom 1 and night court proceedings at the Portmore Outstation accounted for 0.13% and 0.05% respectively.

Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of applications filed for the year ended December 31,2020

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Substituted Service	54	73.97
Extension of Time Under Section 250	10	13.70
Application for Court Order	3	4.11
Relist	3	4.11
Continued Detention of Seized Cash	1	1.37
Extension of Time to File Notice to Defend	1	1.37
Set Aside Default Judgment	1	1.37
Total	73	100.00

A sample of 73 applications filed during the 2020 calendar year revealed that applications for substituted service with 54 or 73.97% of the sample accounted for the highest proportion applications filed, followed by applications for extension of time under Section 250 with 10 or 13.70% of the sample. Applications for court orders and for relisting with 3 or 4.11% each and applications for continued detention of seized case, application for the extension of time to file notice to defend and application to set aside default judgment with 1.37% each round off the applications filed during the year.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2020

Table 7.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1946	51.91
Female	1422	37.93
Registered company	381	10.16
Total	3749	100

It is seen in the above table that of the new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year, males accounted for the largest proportion with 1946 or 51.91% of the sample, followed by females with 1422 or 37.93% and registered companies with 381 or 10.16% of the sample.

Table 8.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	2317	62.00
Female	1225	32.78
Registered Company	195	5.22
Total	3737	100

There were 3737 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 2317 or 62% of the total sample, followed by females with 1225 or 32.78%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 195 or 5.22% of the total sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2020

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, 2020

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	734	38.35
Trial	633	33.07
Default Judgment Date	377	19.70
Part-Heard Date	119	6.22
Hearing of Application	42	2.19
Final Judgment Date	9	0.47
Total	1914	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1914 matters that went to court during the 2020 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 734 or 38.35% were adjourned for a mention date and 633 or 33.07% were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 377 or 19.70% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 119 or 6.22% of the 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 again not an unsurprising result given that mention court sittings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2020

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	411	21.33
Defendant Absent	286	14.84
Both Parties Absent	135	7.01
Pending Settlement	76	3.94
Parties in Discussion	49	2.54
Sub-total	957	49.66

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)=1927

The above table details a sample of 1927 adjournments heard in the year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for placement on the trial list with 411 or 21.33% of the total sample, adjournments due to the defendant being absent with 286 or 14.84% and adjournments due to both parties being absent with 135 or 7.01% and pending settlements with 76 or 3.94% of the sample rank next. Adjournments for parties in discussion with 2.54% of the sample complete the top five reasons for adjournment in the year. The top 5 reasons for adjournment listed above account for 49.66% of the total sample of adjournments/continuances.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2020

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	215
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 177 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 215 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 177 reissued cases. This result 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 12.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2020

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	424	22.98
Consent	394	21.36
Settlement	308	16.69
Default Judgments	232	12.57
Oral Admission	116	6.29
Sub-total	1474	79.89

NB: There were 1845 matters disposed in the 2020

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 1845 matters disposed during the 2020 calendar year. The list is led by matters struck out with 424 or 22.98% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 394 or 21.36%, settlements with 308 or 16.69% and default judgments with 232 or 12.57% of the sample. Oral admissions complete the list with 116 or 6.29% of the sample of disposals. The top five methods of disposition listed above account for 79.89% of the sample of disposals.

Table 13: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	399	84.00
Settlement	74	15.58
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	2	0.42
Total	475	100

The above table summarizes the sampling distribution of case outcomes in the 2020 calendar year at the St. Catherine Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 399 or 84% of the sample of matters, account for the largest proportion. Settlements account for 74 or 15.58% and judgment in favour of defendant account for the remaining proportion with 0.42% 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 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2020

Approximate number of new cases filed	Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
3076	1793	2936	95.45	58.29

The above table shows 3076 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 638 of these cases were disposed and 1155 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 58.29%, 13.27 percentage points lower than the figure recorded in 2019. An approximate gross figure of 1534 cases were disposed, and 1402 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 95.45%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate. This output represents a 6.79 percentage points decrease when compared to 2019.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 33.21%, while the estimated net clearance is 79.85%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of active cases which were disposed in the year.

Table 15.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2020

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
493	75	84.79

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 493 trial dates were set in the year shows that 75 were adjourned. This results in a commendable trial date certainty rate of 84.79%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 85% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate is below the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100 but is nonetheless an increase of 1.37 percentage points when compared to 2019.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1240
Mean	448.4121
Std. Error of Mean	14.31782
Median	259.0000
Mode	154.00
Std. Deviation	504.18238
Skewness	1.961
Std. Error of Skewness	.069
Range	3121.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	3123.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 1240 civil matters disposed in the 2020 calendar year at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these

matters is roughly 448 days or 1.2 years. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 154 days. There is a high standard deviation of 504 days, which is an indication that there is a wide variation of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that proportionately more of the scores fall below the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 3123 days or roughly 8.7 years old, while the minimum time taken was 2 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved for the year ended December 31,2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	85
Mean	138.4706
Std. Error of Mean	10.50717
Median	140.0000
Mode	28.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	96.87137
Skewness	.041
Std. Error of Skewness	.261
Range	294.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	295.00

^a Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 85 civil matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court in 2020. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 138 days. The moderate standard deviation is an indication that there was some variation in the distribution of the scores and the small positive skewness

suggests that the bulk of the scores were clustered around the overall average. The oldest time was 295 days and the minimum was 1 day.

Table 17.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1880
Mean	589.8819
Std. Error of Mean	13.57031
Median	392.0000
Mode	107.00
Std. Deviation	588.39461
Skewness	1.930
Std. Error of Skewness	.056
Range	7014.00
Minimum	13.00
Maximum	7027.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1880 active civil matters at the end of the 2020 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 590 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 107 days. The standard deviation of roughly 588 days suggests that there is a wide variation in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the data points fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 7027 days old or roughly 19.5 years, while the minimum age is 13 days.

Table 17.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	275
Mean	106.92
Std. Error of Mean	5.682
Median	90.00
Mode	44
Std. Deviation	94.226
Skewness	1.338
Std. Error of Skewness	.147
Range	340
Minimum	16
Maximum	356

The above table outlines summary data on the age of a sample of 275 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Court as at the year ended December 31, 2020. The average age of these matters at the end of the year roughly 107 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 44 days. The modest standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that proportionately more of the data points were below the average. The highest age of active reissued cases in the sample set is 356 days and the lowest is 16 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 18.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed for the year ended December 31,2020

Types of enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	31	58.49
Warrant of Possession	20	37.74
Warrant of Commitment	1	1.89
Warrant of Levy	1	1.89
Total	53	100

It is seen in the above sample of 53 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the highest proportion of which were judgement summonses with 31 or 58.49%, while warrants of possession with 20 or 37.74% and warrant of levy and warrant of commitment with 1 or 1.89% each 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, 2020

Description	Total number of judgement summonses	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearance
Judgement summons	31	31	1

The above table shows that the sample of 31 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 31 court appearances in the 2020 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 case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	244	41.43
Disposed	248	42.11
Inactive	97	16.47
Total	589	100.00

Re-opened cases =2; Reactivated cases =8

The above table presents a status distribution of 589 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, 244 or 41.43% of these cases were active, 248 were disposed and 97 became inactive at the end of the year. This produces an estimated gross case disposal rate of 58.57%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed for the year ended December 31, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	451	71.47
Small Claim	180	28.53
Total	631	100

The above table shows that from the 631 new claims filed in the 2020 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court, 451 or 71.47% were big claims, while 180 or 28.53% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	162	65.85
Bailiff	57	23.17
District Constable	27	10.98
Total	246	100

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, personal service accounted for the highest proportion with 162 or 65.85% of the sample, service by the bailiff accounted for 57 or 23.17% and service by the district constable accounted for 27 or 10.98% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2020

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	109	18.89
Money Owing	88	15.25
Arrears of Rent	70	12.13
Damages for Negligence	34	5.89
Monies Due & Owing	27	4.68
Sub-Total	328	56.84

Total sample size of causes of action=577

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 was recovery of possession with 109 or 18.89% of the sample and monies owing with 88 or 15.25%. Arrears of rent with 70 or 12.13%, damages for negligence with 34 or 5.89% and monies due and owing with 4.68% of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 56.84% of all the total sample of 166 causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Falmouth Outstation	364	57.69
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	108	17.12
Ulster Spring Outstation	102	16.16
Falmouth Outstation (Night Court)	38	6.02
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	19	3.01
Total	631*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 589 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 631 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year was entered in the Falmouth outstation, which accounted for 364 or 57.69% of the accommodations. 108 or 17.12% that were entered in courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town outstation followed this, while court sittings at the Ulster Spring outstation ranked next with 102 is 16.16% of the accommodations. Night court sittings at the Falmouth outstation accounted for 38 or 6.02% and courtroom number 1 at main courthouse outstation accounted for 19 or 3.01% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	310	53.36
Female	266	45.78
Registered Company	5	0.86
Total	581	100

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 581 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 310 or 53.36% of the sample, followed by females with 266 or 45.78% and registered companies with 0.86%.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	434	70.11
Female	177	28.59
Registered Company	8	1.29
Total	619	100

There were 619 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 434 or 70.11% of the sample, followed by females with 177 or 28.59% and registered companies with 0.86%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2020

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 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2020

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	195	54.78
Default Judgement Date	76	21.35
Trial	56	15.73
Part-Heard Date	27	7.58
Final Judgment Date	2	0.56
Total	356	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 356 matters that were heard during the year ended December 31, 2020 which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 195 or 54.78% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 76 or 21.35%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters adjourned for trial dates with 56 or 15.73% and for part heard dates with 27 or 7.58% rank next while adjourned for a final judgment date accounted for the remaining 0.56%. 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 other case types.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2020

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	102	22.72
No Return/Re-Issued	78	17.37
Defendant Absent	70	15.59
Referred to Mediation	27	6.01
Placed on Trial List	18	4.01
Sub-total	295	65.70

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)= 449

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 449 incidence of adjournments/continuance heard in the 2020 calendar year. Adjournments due absence of both parties with 102 or 22.72% of the sample, no return/re-issued with 78 or 17.37% and defendants being absent with 70 or 15.59% of the sample feature prominently on the list. Adjournments for referrals to mediation with 27 or 6.01% and adjournments due to placement on trial list with 18 or 4.01% of the sample close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 65.70% of the entire sample.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2020

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	35
Average Incidence	1.02

Corresponding to 34 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 35 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 34 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.02 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2020

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	185	52.56
Oral Admission	37	10.51
Default Judgment	31	8.81
Consent	30	8.52
Settlement	24	6.82
Sub-total	307	87.22

NB: There were 352 matters disposed in 2020

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 352 matters disposed during the 2020 calendar year. The list is led by matters struck out with 185 or 52.56% of the dispositions, followed by oral admissions with 37 or 10.51% and matters disposed by default judgments with 31 or 8.81% of the sample. Matters disposed by consent account for 30 or 8.52% of the sample and settlements account for 24 or 6.82%. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 87.22% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	115	94.26
Settlement	5	4.10
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	1	0.82
Judgement for Ancillary Plaintiff	1	0.82
Total	122	100

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2020 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 115 or 94.26% of the sample of matters accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements with 5 or 4.10% account for the second highest proportion. Judgements for ancillary plaintiff and judgements in favour of

defendants with 0.82% each complete the list. 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 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2020

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of cases disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in year)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
589	345	498	84.55	58.57

The above table shows 589 new cases were filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 248 cases were disposed and 97 became inactive which led to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 58.57%, a decline of 29.82 percentage points when compared to 2019. An approximate gross figure of 359 cases were disposed, and 139 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 84.55%, which is below the international standard for this metric and 15.55 percentage points below the corresponding output in 2019.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 50.41% and the net clearance rate is 72.97%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the active cases which were disposed.

Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2020

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
45	4	91.11

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 45 trial dates set in the year revealed that 4 were adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial date certainty rate of 91.11% which suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 91% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This outcome satisfied the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 13.52 percentage points higher than the corresponding figure in 2019.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	176
Mean	206.04
Std. Error of Mean	17.867
Median	119.00
Mode	28
Std. Deviation	237.033
Skewness	1.784
Std. Error of Skewness	.183
Range	1035
Minimum	1
Maximum	1036

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 176 civil cases disposed in the 2020 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 206 days or 6.9 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days and the median time was 119 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 237 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 1036 days or roughly 2.9 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 16.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	261
Mean	288.1341
Std. Error of Mean	15.79888
Median	240.0000
Mode	58.00
Std. Deviation	255.23864
Skewness	1.153
Std. Error of Skewness	.151
Range	1008.00
Minimum	24.00
Maximum	1032.00

The above data is computed using 261 active cases at the end of the 2020 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 288 days (9.6 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 58 days. The moderate standard deviation of roughly 255 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set which fall below the overall mean. The oldest active case in this sample is 1032 days (2.9 years old), while the youngest is 24 days.

St. Ann Parish Court –Civil Division (Including Brown’s Town)

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	1112	57.14
Disposed	427	21.94
Inactive	407	20.91
Total	1946	100.00

Reactivated cases=29

The above table presents a status distribution of 1946 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, 1112 cases or 57.14% of these cases were still active, 427 were disposed and 407 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 42.86%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed for the year ended December 31, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	1990	81.79
Small Claim	442	18.17
POCA	1	0.04
Total	2433	100.00

The above table shows that from 2433 new claims filed in the 2020 calendar year, the largest proportion of which were big claims with 1990 or 81.79%, while 442 or 18.17% were big claims and 1 was a Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claim.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of Service for the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	187	37.33
District Constable	161	32.14
Personal	153	30.54
Total	501	100.0

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 with 187 or 37.33% of the sample. Service by the district constable accounted for 161 or 32.14% and personal service accounted for the remaining 153 or 30.54% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2020

Cause of action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	645	31.73
Damages for Negligence	262	12.89
Recovery of Possession	229	11.26
Monies Owing	155	7.62
Breach of contract under Section 146 (Pink Summons)	110	5.41
Sub-total	1401	68.91

Total sample size of causes of action =2033

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 2033 matters, from which the leading causes of action for the 2020 calendar year was breach of contract with 645 or roughly 31.73% of the sample and damages for negligence with 262 or 12.89%. Recovery of possession with 229 or 11.26%, monies owing with 155 or 7.62% and breach of contract under section 146 (pink summons) with 110 or 5.41% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 68.91% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1097	61.39
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	574	32.12
Claremont Outstation	103	5.76
Night Court (main courthouse)	13	0.73
Total	1787*	100.00

***Corresponding to 1470 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 1787 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 1097 or 61.39% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 574 or 32.12% and the

Claremont outstation accounted for 103 or 5.76% of the accommodations. Night court sittings at the main courthouse accounted for the remaining 0.73% of the sample of accommodations.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1094	45.06
Female	830	34.18
Registered Company	493	20.30
Trading As	11	0.45
Total	2428	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 2428 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the largest proportion with 1094 or 45.06% of the sample, followed by females with 830 or 34.18% and registered companies with 493 or 20.30% of the sample. Individuals trading as businesses (“Trading as”) accounted for the remaining 0.45% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1489	63.04
Female	714	30.23
Registered Company	139	5.88
Trading As	20	0.85
Total	2362	100.00

There were 2362 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 1489 or 63.04% of the total sample, followed by females with 714 or 30.23%. Registered companies accounted for 139 or 5.88% of the sample, followed by individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 20 or 0.85% of the total sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2020

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantity of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delays factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. His 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 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2020

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	582	41.22
Trial	386	27.34
Default Judgment Date	315	22.31
Part-Heard Date	112	7.93
Hearing of Application	10	0.71
Final Judgment Date	5	0.35
Date for Order	2	0.14
Total	1412	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 1412 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2020, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 582 or 41.22% of the sample, followed by 386 or 27.34%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 315 or 22.31% of matters, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 112 or 7.93% of the 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, 2020

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	606	31.01
Defendant Absent	325	16.63
Both Parties Absent	197	10.08
Placed on Trial List	159	8.14
Pending Settlement	126	6.45
Sub-total	1413	72.31

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)=1954

The above table details a sample of 1954 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the 2020 calendar year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the no return/re-issued with 606 or 31.01% of the sample, adjournments due to the defendant being absent with 325 or 16.63% and the absence of both parties with 197 or 10.08% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the year in this sample. The list is completed by adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 159 or 8.14% and pending settlements with 126 or 6.45% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 72.31% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2020

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	146
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 119 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 146 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 119 reissued cases. This result 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, 2020

Methods of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	208	25.33
Settlement	179	21.80
Consent	120	14.62
Oral Admission	91	11.08
Default Judgment	75	9.14
Sub-Total	673	81.97

NB. There were 821 matters disposed in 2020

A sample of 821 matters disposed during 2020 revealed that 208 or 25.33% of matters were struck out, 179 or 21.80% were disposed by settlements and 120 or 14.62% of the sample were disposed by consent. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 91 or 11.08% and disposals by default judgments with 75 or 9.14% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 81.97% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2020 calendar year.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	139	62.61
Settlement	79	35.59
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	4	1.80
Total	222	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2020 calendar year at the St. Ann Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 139 or 62.61% of the sample of matters, account for the largest proportion, while settlements with 79 or 35.59% and judgments in favour of the defendant with 1.80% 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 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2020

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	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
1946	834	1329	68.29	42.86

The above table shows 1946 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 427 cases were disposed and 407 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 42.86%, a fall of 26.10 percentage points compared to 2019. An approximate gross figure of 814 cases were disposed, and 515 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 68.29%, which is below the international standard for

this metric and represents a 33.98 percentage points decline when compared to the previous year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 27.75% and the estimated net clearance rate for the year is 52.89%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of active cases which were disposed.

Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2020

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
171	39	77.19

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 171 trial dates set in the year revealed that 39 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 77.19%. The output suggests that during the year there was a roughly 77% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This is below the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100% and 1.75 percentage points above the corresponding rate in 2019.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters for the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	553
Mean	351.31
Std. Error of Mean	20.199
Median	203.00
Mode	63
Std. Deviation	474.988
Skewness	2.574
Std. Error of Skewness	.104
Range	2609
Minimum	2
Maximum	2611

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 553 civil matters disposed in the 2020 calendar year at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 351 days or 11.7 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 475 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were markedly more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 2611 days or roughly 7.3 years old, while the minimum time taken was 2 days.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved for the year ended December 31,2020

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	30
Mean	141.4333
Std. Error of Mean	17.69607
Median	140.0000
Mode	63.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	96.92538
Skewness	.023
Std. Error of Skewness	.427
Range	280.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	287.00

^a Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 30 matters at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 141 days. The moderate standard deviation is an indication that there was some variation in the distribution of the scores and the small positive skewness suggests that most of the scores were clustered around the overall average. The oldest time was 287 days, and the minimum was 7 days. A sample of 117 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 158 days.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	1140
Mean	639.3974
Std. Error of Mean	21.10524
Median	435.0000
Mode	29.00
Std. Deviation	712.59480
Skewness	2.608
Std. Error of Skewness	.072
Range	5763.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	5777.00

The above data is based on sample of 1140 active civil matters at the end of the 2020 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 639 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 29 days. The standard deviation of roughly 713 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the relatively large 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 5777 days old or roughly 16 years, while the minimum age is 14 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued for the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	63
Mean	176.79
Std. Error of Mean	13.583
Median	168.00
Mode	105
Std. Deviation	107.810
Skewness	-.005
Std. Error of Skewness	.302
Range	342
Minimum	10
Maximum	352

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 63 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the year ended December 31, 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 177 days, with the most frequently occurring age was 105 days and the median age was 168 days. The modest standard deviation indicates that there was some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series mean, with the small negative skewness indicating that most of the ages were clustered around the series average. The highest age in the data set was 352 days and the lowest was 10 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 17.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed for the year ended December 31,2020

Type of enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	49	89.09
Warrant of Possession	6	10.91
Total	55	100.00

It is seen in the above sample of 55 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the higher proportion of which were judgement summonses with 49 or 89.09%, while warrants of possession accounted for the remaining 10.91% 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, 2020

Description	Total number of Judgement summonses filed	Total number of Judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	49	72	1.5

The above table shows that the sample of 49 Judgment summonses filed which equated to 72 court appearances in the 2020 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.5 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were approximately 15 appearances dates.

Westmoreland Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. The data presented on the Westmoreland Parish Court constitutes a representative sample of case activity in 2020.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	160	23.29
Disposed	353	51.38
Inactive	174	25.33
Total	687	100.00

Reactivated cases=3

The above table presents a status distribution of 687 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, 160 cases or 23.29% of these cases were still active, while 353 or 51.38% were disposed and 174 or 25.33% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 76.71%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed for the year ended December 31, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	694	80.89%
Small Claim	164	19.11%
Total	858	100

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 858 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2020. The larger proportion of which 694 or 80.89% were big claims, while 164 or 19.11% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	447	52.65
Personal	402	47.35
Total	849	100

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 higher proportion with 447 or 52.65% of the sample, while personal service accounted for 402 or 47.35%.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2020

Cause of action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	152	17.74
Breach of Contract	68	7.93
Monies Owing	60	7.00
Rent Due and Continuing	50	5.83
Negligence	42	4.90
Sub-Total	372	43.41

Total sample size of causes of action= 857

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 the 2020 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court were recovery of possession with 152 or roughly 17.74% of the sample. Breach of contract with 68 or 7.93%, monies owing with 60 or 7%, rent due and owing

with 50 or 5.83% and negligence 42 or 4.90% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 43.41% of the sample of 857 causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	446	56.60
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	183	23.22
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	81	10.28
Whithorn Outstation	47	5.96
Night Court (main courthouse)	31	3.93
Total	788*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 627 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 788 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 446 or 56.60% of the sample. The 183 or 23.22% that were entered in courtroom 2 followed this, while courtroom 1 at the main courthouse accounted for roughly 10.28% of the incidences. Sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for 47 or 5.96% and night court sittings at the main courthouse accounted for 3.93% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	462	53.66
Female	284	32.98
Registered Company	81	9.41
Trading As	34	3.95
Total	861	100.0

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 861 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 462 or 53.66% of the sample, followed by females with 284 or 32.98%. Registered companies accounted for 81 or 9.41% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining 3.95%.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	539	58.75
Female	283	35.83
Trading As	25	1.25
Registered Company	12	2.08
Total	859	100.0

There were 859 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 539 or 58.75% of the sample, followed by females with 283 or 35.83%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 1.25% of the sample, while registered companies accounted for 2.08%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2020

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, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. 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, 2020

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	244	69.91
Trial	47	13.47
Final Judgment Date	46	13.18
Default Judgment Date	8	2.29
Part-Heard Date	4	1.15
Total	349	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 349 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2020, which were adjourned for a procedural date. The largest proportion, 244 or 69.91% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 47 or 13.47%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 46 or 13.18% of matters, 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 abnormal 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/continuance for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2020

Reasons for adjournment/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	14	9.46
Defendant Absent	9	6.08
File Incomplete	5	3.38
Plaintiff Absent	5	3.38
Other	79	53.38
Sub-total	112	75.68

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)= 148

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 148 incidences of adjournments or continuances for matters heard in the 2020 calendar year. Apart from the reasons for

adjournment pooled under “other”, adjournments due to placement on the trial list account for the largest proportion of the sample with 14 or 9.46% while defendants being absent rank next with 9 or 6.08%. Adjournments for incomplete files and for the plaintiffs being absent accounted for 3.38% each of the sample which completes the top five reasons for adjournment or continuance for the year. The top five reasons for adjournment enumerated above account for 75.68% 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, 2020

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	31
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 29 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 31 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 29 reissued cases. This result 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 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2020

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oral Admission	94	21.36
Struck Out	86	19.55
Consent	75	17.05
Settlement	43	9.77
Default Judgment	26	5.91
Final Judgment	26	5.91
Withdrawal	26	5.91
Total	376	85.45

NB: There were 440 matters disposed of in 2020

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 440 civil matters disposed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. It is shown that oral admissions with 94 or 21.36%, matters struck out with 86 or 19.55% and matters disposed by consent with 75 or 17.05% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Settlements accounted for 43 or 9.77% and withdrawals, default judgments and final judgments with 26 or 5.91% each round off the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 85.45% of the total sample of matters disposed during the year.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	198	81.48
Settlement	40	16.46
Judgment for Ancillary Defendant	5	2.06
Total	243	100.0

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2020 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 198 or 81.48% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account for 40 or 16.46%. Judgements in favour of ancillary defendants account for the smallest share with 2.06% 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: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2020

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 (%)
687	527	623	90.68	76.71

The above table shows 687 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 353 of these cases were disposed, and 174 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 76.71, a decline of 3.29 percentage points when compared to 2019. A gross figure of 440 cases was disposed, and 183 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 90.68%, which meets the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 68.81% and the estimated net clearance rate is 85.77%. 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.

It is important to note that there is a margin of error of plus or minus 5% in the case clearance rate estimates highlighted above for the civil division of the Westmoreland Parish Court.

Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of the trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2020

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
110	11	90.00

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 adjournment. A sample of 110 trial dates were set in year, of which 11 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 90%. The output suggests that during the year there was an estimated 90% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment, an increase of 12.92 percentage points when compared to 2019.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters for heard in the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	234
Mean	78.39
Std. Error of Mean	5.483
Median	54.00
Mode	70
Std. Deviation	83.869
Skewness	2.721
Std. Error of Skewness	.159
Range	573
Minimum	1
Maximum	574

The above table outlines summary data on 234 civil matters disposed in the 2020 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 78 days or 2.6 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 70 days. The high standard deviation is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time and the relatively 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 574 days or roughly 1.6 years, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

Table 16.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	280
Mean	210.3357
Std. Error of Mean	11.15150
Median	148.0000
Mode	148.00
Std. Deviation	186.60034
Skewness	1.172
Std. Error of Skewness	.146
Range	621.00
Minimum	17.00
Maximum	638.00

The above data is based on sample of 280 active civil matters at the end of the 2020 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 210 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution and the median age were both 148 days. The standard deviation of roughly 186 days suggests that there some dispersion of the individual scores around the average. The positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more scores in the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest age of active cases was 638 days or 1.8 years, and the youngest time is 17 days.

St. Mary Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	228	35.02
Disposed	291	44.70
Inactive	132	20.28
Total	651	100.00

Reactivated cases=14

The above table presents a status distribution of 651 civil new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, 228 or 35.02% were still active, 291 or 44.70% were disposed and 132 or 20.28% were inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 64.98% for the year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed for the year ended December 31, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	610	75.87
Small Claim	194	24.13
Total	804	100.00

The above table shows that from the 804 new claims filed in the year, the larger proportion were big claims, which accounted for 610 or 75.87% of the total sample, while 194 or 24.13% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	737	91.67
Bailiff	67	8.33
Total	804	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 higher proportion with 737 or 91.67%, with service by the bailiff accounting for the remaining 67 or 8.33% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2020

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	119	40.20
Money Owing	70	23.65
Damages for Negligence	37	12.50
Breach of Contract	19	6.42
Damages	15	5.07
Sub-total	260	87.84

Total sample size of causes of action=296

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 296 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for 2020 at the St. Mary Parish Court were recovery of possession with 119 or roughly 40.20% of the sample and money owing with 70 or 23.65% of the total sample of causes of action. Damages for negligence with 37 or 12.50% and breach of

contract with 19 or 6.42% rank next. The top causes of action in this sample are rounded off by damages with 5.07% of the sample. The sample of causes of action enumerated above accounts for 87.84% of the total causes of action in the year.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2020

Courtroom	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (Main Courthouse)	454	56.47
Courtroom #3 (Main Courthouse)	134	16.67
Annotto Bay Outstation	73	9.08
Richmond Outstation	54	6.72
Courtroom #2 (Main Courthouse)	52	6.47
Night Court (Main Courthouse)	21	2.61
Gayle Outstation	16	1.99
Total	804*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 651 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 804 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year. The largest proportion of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 454 or 56.47% of the sample. Courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse with 134 or 16.67% of the sample and the Annotto Bay outstation with 73 or 9.08% of the sample rounds off the top 3 accommodations. The list is complete by the Richmond outstation with 54 or 6.72%, courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with 52 or 6.47%, night court sittings at the main courthouse with 21 or 2.61% and the Gayle outstation with 16 or 1.99% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	388	48.26
Female	288	35.82
Registered Company	126	15.67
Trading As	2	0.25
Total	804	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 804 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs with 388 or 48.26%, followed by females with 288 or 35.82%. Registered companies accounted for 126 or 15.67% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name ('trading as') with 0.25% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	490	61.10
Female	287	35.79
Registered Company	25	3.12
Total	802	100.00

There were 802 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year. The majority of defendants were males with 490 or 61.10%, followed by females with 287 or 35.79% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 25 or 3.12% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2020

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, 2020

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	131	62.38
Trial	40	19.05
Default Judgment Date	20	9.52
Part-Heard Date	19	9.05
Total	210	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 210 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2020, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 131 or 62.38% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 40 or 19.05%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were the 20 or 9.52% 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 abnormal 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 incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2020

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	91
Average Incidence	1.4

Corresponding to 67 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 91 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 67 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.4 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 14 reissue incidences.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2020

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	143	23.60
Struck Out	109	17.99
Settlement	71	11.72
Default Judgment	41	6.77
Withdrawal	26	4.29
Sub-total	390	64.36

NB There were 606 matters disposed of in 2020

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 606 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. It is shown that matters disposed by consent with 143 or 23.60%, matters struck out with 109 or 17.99% and settlements with 71 or 11.72% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Matters disposed by

default judgments with 41 or 6.77% and withdrawals with 4.29% of the sample round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for 64.36% of the total sample of matters disposed during the year.

Table 11: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	142	75.53
Settlement	32	17.02
Judgment in favour of Defendant	14	7.45
Total	188	100

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of 188 case outcomes in the 2020 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 142 or 75.53% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account for 32 or 17.02% of the sample and judgments on favour of defendants account for the remaining 7.45% 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 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2020

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 in the year	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
651	423	657	100.92	64.98

The above table shows 651 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 291 of these cases were disposed and 132 cases became

inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 64.98%, a decline of 6.27 percentage points when compared to 2019. An approximate gross figure of 491 cases were disposed, and 166 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 100.92%, which meets the international standard for this metric but 12.17 percentage points lower than 2019.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 56.07% and the estimated net clearance rate is 94.61%. 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: Sampling distribution of the trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2020

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
133	64	51.88

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 133 trial dates were set in the 2020 calendar year shows that 64 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 51.88%. The output suggests that during the year there was a roughly 52% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment, a decline of 27.29 percentage points when compared to 2019.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	423
Mean	282.43
Std. Error of Mean	23.065
Median	106.00
Mode	56
Std. Deviation	474.368
Skewness	4.014
Std. Error of Skewness	.119
Range	4707
Minimum	3
Maximum	4710

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 423 civil cases disposed in the 2020 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 282 days or 9.4 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 56 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 474 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the relatively high positive skewness of 4 is an indication that a markedly greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the year was 4710 days or roughly 13.1 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 3 days. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

Table 14.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved for the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	43
Mean	95.2093
Std. Error of Mean	9.06043
Median	71.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	59.41323
Skewness	1.196
Std. Error of Skewness	.361
Range	220.00
Minimum	25.00
Maximum	245.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 43 matters at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 95 days. The moderate standard deviation is an indication that there was some variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that proportionately more of the scores were below the overall average. The oldest time recorded was 245 days and the minimum was 25 days.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	325
Mean	331.8738
Std. Error of Mean	27.52004
Median	115.0000
Mode	24.00
Std. Deviation	496.12463
Skewness	2.861
Std. Error of Skewness	.135

Range	2681.00
Minimum	24.00
Maximum	2705.00

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the 2020 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 332 days (or roughly 11 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 24 days. The standard deviation of roughly 496 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 was 2705 days old or roughly 7.5 years, while the minimum time is 24 days. 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 age of active matters reissued for the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	47
Mean	66.55
Std. Error of Mean	3.995
Median	58.00
Mode	58
Std. Deviation	27.388
Skewness	1.359
Std. Error of Skewness	.347
Range	100
Minimum	27
Maximum	127

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 47 active reissued matters at the St. Mary Parish Court as at the year ended December 31, 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 67 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median

age are both 58 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness is an indication that proportionately more of the ages were above the series average. The highest age in the data set was 127 days and the lowest was 27 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 for the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	47	100

It is seen in the above sample of 47 civil matters, which went into enforcement during the year, that all 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, 2020

Description	Total number of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	47	66	1.40

The above table shows that the sample of 47 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 66 court appearances in the 2020 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.4 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were about 14 appearance dates.

Portland Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	163	56.60
Disposed	102	35.42
Inactive	23	7.99
Total	288	100.00

Reactivated cases=5

The above table presents a status distribution of 288 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, 163 or 56.60% were still active, 102 cases were disposed and 23 were rendered inactive. This data suggests that the estimated gross case disposal rate for the year was 43.40%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed for the year ended December 31, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	339	86.70
Small Claim	52	13.30
Total	391	100.00

The above table shows that from the 391 new claims filed in the year, the larger proportion of which 339 or 86.70% were big claims, while 52 or 13.30% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	179	68.06
Bailiff	83	31.56
District Constable	1	0.38
Total	263	99.62

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 highest proportion with 179 or 68.06% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 83 or 31.56%. Service by the district constable accounted for the remaining 0.38% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2020

Causes of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	118	36.53
Recovery of Possession	57	17.65
Monies Owing	30	9.29
Rent Owing and Continuing	21	6.50
Damages	16	4.95
Sub-total	242	74.92

Total sample size of causes of action=323

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 323 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action were breach of contract with 118 or roughly 36.53% of the sample, recovery of possession with 57 or 17.65% rank next and monies owing with 30 or 9.29% of the sample followed. Rent owing and continuing with 21 or 6.50% and damages with 16 or 4.95% of the sample rounds off the top five causes of action for the year. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 74.92% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	122	41.78
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	65	22.26
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	52	17.81
Buff Bay Outstation (Courthouse #1)	35	11.99
Manchioneal Outstation	18	6.16
Total	292*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 249 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 292 new matters filed in the year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 122 or 41.78% of the sample of accommodations. 65 or 22.26% that were entered in courtroom number 3 followed this, while

the 52 matters that entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse rank next. Courtroom number 1 at Buff Bay outstation account for 35 or 11.99% and the Manchioneal outstation account for the remaining 6.16% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	147	44.55
Female	117	35.45
Registered Company	53	16.06
Trading As	13	3.94
Total	330	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 330 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year, males accounted for the largest proportion with 147 or 44.55% of the sample, followed by females with 117 or 35.45% and registered companies with 53 or 16.06% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) account for the remaining 3.94% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	196	58.86
Female	131	39.34
Registered Company	6	1.80
Total	333	100.00

There were 333 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the year. The majority of defendants were male with 196 or 58.86% of the sample, followed by females with 131 or 39.34% of the sample and registered companies with 6 or 1.80%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2020

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, 2020

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	302	55.01
Trial	113	20.58
Part-Heard Date	73	13.30
Default Judgment Date	56	10.20
Date for Order	4	0.73
Hearing of Application	1	0.18
Total	549	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 549 matters that were heard during the year ended December 31, 2020 which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 302 or 55.01% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 113 or 20.58%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for part heard dates with 73 or 13.30% and for default judgment dates with 56 or 10.20% accounted for the largest proportions. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the year at the Portland Parish Court.

Table 9.0a: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2020

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	63	12.78
Both Parties Absent	60	12.17
No Return/Re-Issued	54	10.95
New Date	40	8.11
Pending Settlement	39	7.91
Sub-total	256	51.93

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)=493

The above data is computed from a sample of 493 reasons for adjournment heard in the 2020 calendar year. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 63 or 12.78% account for the highest share of the adjournments, followed by the absence of both parties with 60 or 12.17%. No return/re-issued with 54 or 10.95% of the sample account for the third highest share of the reasons for adjournment. The list is completed by adjournments for new date to be set with 40 or 8.11% of the sample and pending settlements with 39 or 7.91%. The reasons for adjournment listed account for 51.93% of the total sample of reasons for adjournments/continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution for the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2020

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	35
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 30 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 35 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

30 reissued cases. This result 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, 2020

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	85	31.72
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	40	14.93
Settlement	38	14.18
Struck Out	25	9.33
Final Judgment	24	8.96
Sub-Total	212	79.10

NB. There were 268 matters disposed of in 2020

A total of 268 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. The distribution is led by dispositions by consent with 85 or 31.72%, followed by notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 40 or 14.93% and settlements with 38 or 14.18%. Matters struck out with 25 or 9.33% and matters disposed by final judgments with 24 or 8.96% complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the year. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 79.10% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement in favour of plaintiff	35	72.92
Settlement	12	25.00
Judgement in Favour of defendant	1	2.08
Total	48	100

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2020 calendar year at the Portland Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 35 or 72.92% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion of the sample. Settlements account for

25% of the sample and judgment in favour of ancillary plaintiff account for the remaining 2.08% 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 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2020

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 (%)
288	125	333	115.63	43.40

The above table shows 288 new cases filed at the Portland Court during the 2020 calendar. At the end of the year, 102 of these cases were disposed and 23 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 43.40%, a decline of 17.76 percentage points when compared to 2019. An approximate gross figure of 293 cases were disposed, and 40 cases became inactive during the year, many of which having dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 115.63%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and represents an increase of 27.26 percentage points when compared to 2019

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 38.49% and the estimated net clearance rate is 110.57%. 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 14.0: Sampling distribution of the trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2020

Sample of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
56	17	69.64

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 56 trial dates set in the year, it is seen that 17 were adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 69.64%. The output suggests that during the year there was roughly an 70% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment, representing a 12.17 percentage points increase when compared to 2019.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters for the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	229
Mean	567.95
Std. Error of Mean	56.114
Median	245.00
Mode	63
Std. Deviation	849.161
Skewness	2.774
Std. Error of Skewness	.161
Range	4512
Minimum	3
Maximum	4515

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 229 civil matters disposed in the 2020 calendar year at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is

roughly 568 days (1.6 months). However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. There is a high standard deviation of roughly 849 days, which is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores around the series mean. The positive skewness observed is an indication that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fall below the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 4515 days or roughly 12.5 years old, while the minimum time was 3 days.

Table 16.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	478
Mean	710.9268
Std. Error of Mean	29.19501
Median	549.0000
Mode	59.00
Std. Deviation	638.29670
Skewness	1.016
Std. Error of Skewness	.112
Range	3290.00
Minimum	24.00
Maximum	3314.00

The above data is computed using 478 active cases at the end of the 2020 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 711 days (2 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 59 days. The standard deviation of roughly 638 days suggests that there is some dispersion of the individual scores from the mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more scores in the data set fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample is 3314 days (9.2 years), while the minimum age is 24 days.

St. Thomas Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed in the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	180	34.82
Disposed	161	31.14
Inactive	176	34.04
Total	517	100

Reactivated cases= 4

The above table presents a status distribution of 517 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, 180 cases or 34.82% of these cases were still active, while 161 were disposed and 176 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 65.18%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	388	65.76
Small Claim	202	34.24
Total	590	100

The above table shows that from the 590 new claims filed in the 2020 calendar year, the larger proportion of which 388 or 65.76% were big claims, while 202 or 34.24% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	220	47.41
Personal	172	37.07
Bailiff	72	15.52
Total	464	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 district constable accounted for the highest proportion with 220 or 47.41% of the sample. Personal service with 172 or 37.07% and service by the bailiff with 72 or 15.52% ran next.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the year ended December 31, 2020

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	189	33.39
Money Owning	76	13.43
Recovery of Possession	61	10.78
Damages for Negligence	40	7.07
Defamation of Character	24	4.24
Sub-total	390	68.90

Total sample size of causes of action= 566

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 the 2020 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 189 or roughly 33.39% of the sample. Monies owing with 76 or 13.43% and recovery of possession with 61 or 10.78% of the sample round off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. Damages for negligence with 40 or 7.07% and defamation of character with 24 or 4.24% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes

of action, which are listed above, account for 68.90% of all the total sample of 566 causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	328	55.59
Yallahs Outstation	162	27.46
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	95	16.10
Night Court (main courthouse)	5	0.85
Total	590	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 517 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 590 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 328 or 55.59% of the sample. The Yallahs outstation accounted for 162 or 27.46% and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 95 or 16.10% of the sample. Night court sittings at the main courthouse accounted for the remaining 0.85% of the sample of accommodations.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	269	45.59
Female	250	42.37
Registered Company	53	8.98
Trading As	18	3.05
Total	590	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 590 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 269 or 45.59%,

followed by females with 250 or 42.37%. Registered companies accounted for 53 or 8.98% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 3.05%.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	377	64.44
Female	194	33.16
Registered Company	7	1.20
Trading As	7	1.20
Total	585	100.00

There were 585 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year.

As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 377 or 64.44% of the sample, followed by females with 194 or 33.16%. Registered companies and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 1.20% each of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2020

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, 2020

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Date for Order	308	41.45
Trial	177	23.82
Mention Date	151	20.32
Default Judgment Date	56	7.54
Part-Heard Date	50	6.73
Hearing of Application	1	0.13
Total	743	100.00

The above table is computed based on a sample of cases adjourned during the 2020 calendar year. The largest proportion, 308 or 41.45% were adjourned for an order to be handed down, followed by 177 or 23.82% which were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 151 or 20.32% of matters, which were adjourned for mention dates. Matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 56 or 7.54%, for a part heard date with 50 or 6.73% and for the hearing of an application date with 0.13% complete the list.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for the year ended December 31, 2020

Reasons For Adjournment/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Attorney Absent	88	20.80
Defendant Absent	64	15.13
Placed on Trial List	63	14.89
Both Parties Absent	38	8.98
Plaintiff Absent	31	7.33
Sub-total	284	67.14

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 423

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 423 incidences of adjournments in the 2020 calendar year. Adjournments for the absence of attorneys with 88 or 20.80% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 64 or 15.13% and adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 63 or 14.89% of the adjournments rounds off the top three. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 38 or 8.98% and adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 7.33% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 67.14% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10: Sampling distribution of the incidence of reissued matters in 2020

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	57
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 49 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 57 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 49 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, 2020

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	106	26.97
Oral Admission	75	19.08
Consent	63	16.03
Default Judgment	41	10.43
Settlement	28	7.12
Sub-total	313	79.64

NB there were 393 matters were disposed of in 2020

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 393 matters. The list is led by matters struck out with 106 or 26.97% of the sample. Oral admissions with 75 or 19.08% rank next. Matters disposed by consent with 63 or 16.03%, matters disposed by default judgments with 41 or 10.43% and settlements with 28 or 7.12% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 79.64% of the sample.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	100	97.09
Settlement	2	1.94
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	1	0.97
Total	103	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2020 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 100 or 97.09% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion of the sample. Settlements account for 1.94% of the sample and judgment in favour of ancillary plaintiff account for the remaining 0.97% 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 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2020

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 (%)
517	337	550	106.38	65.18

The above table shows 517 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 161 cases were disposed and 176 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 65.18%, a decrease of 7.77 percentage points when compared to 2019. A gross figure of 348 cases were disposed, and 202 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 106.38%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents an increase of 15.16 percentage points when compared to 2019.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 47.21% and the estimated net clearance rate for the year is 102.05%. 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 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2020

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
120	55	54.17

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 120 trial dates were set in the 2020 calendar year shows that 55 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 54.17%. The output suggests that during the year there was a roughly 54% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment, representing a decline of 25.24 percentage points when compared to 2019.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	284
Mean	350.1725
Std. Error of Mean	23.19864
Median	203.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	390.95047
Skewness	2.295
Std. Error of Skewness	.145
Range	2364.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	2365.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 284 civil matters disposed in the 2020 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 350 days or 11.7 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days. There is a high standard deviation which is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores in the series. 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 2365 days or roughly 6.6 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, 2020

Descriptive statistics (days)

Number of observations	39
Mean	143.1026
Std. Error of Mean	15.16659
Median	118.0000
Mode	21.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	94.71531
Skewness	.180
Std. Error of Skewness	.378
Range	315.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	329.00

^a Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 39 matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 143 days. The moderate standard deviation is an indication that there was some variation in the distribution of the scores and the small positive skewness suggests that most of the scores were clustered around the overall average. The oldest time was 329 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, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	395
Mean	702.4304
Std. Error of Mean	35.52463
Median	456.0000
Mode	2095.00
Std. Deviation	706.03815
Skewness	1.162
Std. Error of Skewness	.123
Range	2452.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	2466.00

The above data is based on sample of 395 active civil matters at the end of the 2020 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 702 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 2095 days or roughly 5.8 years. The high standard deviation of roughly 706 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 in the data set fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 2466 days or 6.9 years, while the youngest case was 14 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	50
Mean	191.4200
Std. Error of Mean	16.93532
Median	166.0000
Mode	331.00
Std. Deviation	119.75078
Skewness	.101
Std. Error of Skewness	.337
Range	329.00
Minimum	30.00
Maximum	359.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 50 active reissued matters at the St. Thomas Court as at the year ended December 31, 2020. The average age of these matters at the end of the year was roughly 191 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 331 days. The modest standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, while the slight positive skewness indicates that proportionately more of the data points were clustered around the average. The highest age of active reissued cases in the sample set is 359 days and the lowest is 30 days.

St. Elizabeth Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed in the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. The data used in this section, largely represents the results of representative samples taken of case activity at the court. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	786	63.80
Disposed	407	33.04
Inactive	39	3.17
Total	1232	100

Reopened cases= 2; Reactivated cases= 38

The above table presents a status distribution of 1232 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, 786 cases or 63.80% of these cases were still active, while 407 were disposed and 39 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 36.20%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	836	59.63
Small Claim	566	40.37
Total	1402	100

The above table shows that from 1402 new claims filed in the year, the larger proportion were big claims, which accounted for 836, or 59.63% of the sample, while 566 or 40.37% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	288	86.75
Bailiff	35	10.54
Personal	9	2.71
Total	332	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 with 288 or 86.75% of the sample, service by the bailiff accounted for 35 or 10.54% and personal service accounted for 9 or 2.71% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2020

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Goods Sold and Delivered	229	26.26
Monies Owing	178	20.41
Recovery of Possession	91	10.44
Negligence	57	6.54
Rent Owing	48	5.50
Sub-total	603	69.15

Total sample size of causes of action= 872

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 872 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading cause of action for the 2020 calendar at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court were goods sold and delivered with 229 or roughly 26.26% of the sample. Monies owing with 178 or 20.41% and recovery of possession with 91 or 10.44% of the sample rounds off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. The top five causes of action are rounded off by negligence with 57 or 6.54% of the sample and rent owing with 48 or 5.50% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which is listed above, accounts for 69.15% of all the total sample of 872 causes of action.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom #1)	952	67.90
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	329	23.47
Balaclava Outstation (Courtroom #1)	69	4.92
Santa Cruz Outstation (Night Court)	37	2.64
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom #2)	15	1.07
Total	1402	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 1232 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 1402 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation, which accounted for 952 or 67.90% of the sample. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 329 or 23.47% while the Balaclava outstation (courtroom #1) accounted for 69 or 4.92% of the total. The Santa Cruz

outstation (night court) with 37 or 2.64% and courtroom number 2 at the Santa Cruz outstation with 15 or 1.07% rounds off the list.

Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Order for Personal Service	1376	98.50
Formal Order	9	0.64
Injunction (Ex Parte or Inter-Parties)	4	0.29
Application for Substituted Service	3	0.21
Set Aside Default Judgment	3	0.21
Application for Court Order	2	0.14
Total	1397	100.00

A sample of 1397 applications filed during the 2020 calendar year revealed that applications for an order for personal service with 1376 or 98.50% of the sample accounted for the highest proportion of applications filed, followed by applications for formal orders with 9 or 0.64%. Applications for injunctions (Ex Parte or Inter-Parties) with 4 or 0.29% follow this. This list is completed with applications for substituted service and to set aside default judgment with 0.21% each and application for court order with 0.14%.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2020

Table 7.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	692	49.43
Female	598	42.71
Registered Company	67	4.79
Trading As	43	3.07
Total	1400	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1400 new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 692 or

49.43% of the sample, followed by females with 598 or 42.71%. Registered companies accounted for 67 or 4.79% and individuals trading under a business name (“Trading as”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 43 or 3.07% of the sample.

Table 8.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	906	64.76
Female	460	32.88
Trading As	17	1.22
Registered Company	16	1.14
Total	1399	100.00

There were 1399 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2020 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 906 or 64.76% of the sample, followed by females with 460 or 32.88%. Registered companies accounted for 17 or 1.22% and individuals trading as businesses (“Trading as”) accounted for 1.14% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2020

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, 2020

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	248	48.44
Mention Date	163	31.84
Default Judgment Date	85	16.60
Part-Heard Date	8	1.56
Hearing of Application	6	1.17
Final Judgment Date	2	0.39
Total	512	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 512 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2020, which were adjourned for a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 248 or 48.44% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 163 or 31.84%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 85 or 16.60% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment dates, 8 or 1.56% which were adjourned for a part heard date, 1.17% which were adjourned for the hearing of an application date and 0.39% which were adjourned for a final judgment date.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2020

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	142	27.47
Defendant Absent	117	22.63
For Mention (continuance)	90	17.41
Plaintiff Absent	66	12.77
Referred to Mediation	37	7.16
Sub-total	452	87.43

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 517

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 517 incidences of adjournments heard in the 2020 calendar year. Adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 142 or 27.47% of the sample, adjournments due the absence of defendants with 117 or 22.63% and continuances, which are intrinsic to the progression of a case, for mention with 90 or 17.41% rounds off the top three incidences in the sample. The list is completed by adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 66 or 12.77% of the sample and referrals to mediation with 7.16% of the sample. The top reasons of adjournment and continuance listed above accounts for 87.43% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 11: Sampling distribution of the incidence of reissued matters in 2020

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	261
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 234 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 261 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 234 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 12.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2020

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	145	19.31
Default Judgment	135	17.98
Oral Admission	133	17.71
Consent	118	15.71
Settlement	91	12.12
Sub-total	622	82.82

NB there were 751 matters were disposed in 2020

A total of 751 civil matters were disposed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year and the above table details the methods of disposal. The list is led by matters struck out with 145 or 19.31% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by default judgements with 135 or 17.98% and by oral admissions with 133 or 17.71%. Matters disposed by consent with 118 and 15.71% and by final judgments with 91 or 12.12% round off the top five methods with of the total sample of dispositions. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 82.82% of the total sample.

Table 13: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2020

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	250	78.86
Settlement	62	19.56
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	5	1.58
Total	317	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2020 calendar year at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 250 or 78.86% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account for 62 or 19.56%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for 5 or just 1.58% 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 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2020

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 net case disposal rate (%)
1232	446	750	60.88	36.20

The above table shows 1232 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the 2020 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 407 of these cases were disposed and 39 cases became inactive leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 36.20%, a decline of 19.98 percentage points when compared to 2019. A gross figure of 685 cases were disposed, and 65 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 60.88%, which is below the international standard for this metric. The result on this metric was approximately the same as 2019.

The estimated net disposal rate is 34.12% and the net clearance rate is 57.42%. 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 15.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2020

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)
213	69	67.61

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 213 trial dates was set in the year of which 69 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 67.61%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 68% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	424
Mean	167.6274
Std. Error of Mean	7.91429
Median	126.5000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	162.96515
Skewness	2.084
Std. Error of Skewness	.119
Range	1000.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	1001.00

The above table outlines summary data on 424 civil matters disposed in the 2020 calendar year at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 168 days or 5.6 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. The standard deviation of roughly 163 days is an indication that there is a relatively wide variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the ages in the sample were below the average. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 1001 days or roughly 2.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive statistics (days)

Number of observations	97
Mean	69.2577
Std. Error of Mean	4.65683
Median	56.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	45.86445
Skewness	.750
Std. Error of Skewness	.245
Range	167.00
Minimum	9.00
Maximum	176.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 97 matters at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 69 days. The moderate standard deviation is an indication that there was some 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 176 days and the minimum was 9 days.

Table 17.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1368
Mean	297.7120
Std. Error of Mean	6.30360
Median	272.0000
Mode	120.00
Std. Deviation	233.14804
Skewness	.695
Std. Error of Skewness	.066

Range	1043.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	1057.00

The above data is based on sample of 1368 active civil matters at the end of the 2020 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 298 days or 9.9 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 120 days. The standard deviation of roughly 233 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores, while the modest 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 was 1057 days old or roughly 2.9 years, while the minimum time taken is 14 days.

Table 17.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number	148
Mean	154.2500
Std. Error of Mean	6.24088
Median	175.0000
Mode	177.00
Std. Deviation	75.92360
Skewness	.388
Std. Error of Skewness	.199
Range	346.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	360.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 148 active reissued matters at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 154 days, with the most frequently occurring

age is 177 days and the median age is 175 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series mean, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were above the series average. The highest age in the data set was 360 days and the lowest was 14 days.

Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2020

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	42	100
Total	42	100.

It is seen in the above table that a sample of 42 civil cases that went into enforcement during the year were all judgement summonses. 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, 2020

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	42	49	1.17

The above table shows that the sample of 42 Judgment summonses filed which equated to 49 court appearances in the 2020 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.17 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were approximately 12 appearances dates.

Performance Summaries – Other Parish Courts

Table 1.0: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the St. James, Manchester and Clarendon Parish Courts for 2020

Parish Court	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Net Case Clearance Rate (%)	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Net Case Disposal Rate (%)	Trial Date certainty Rate (%)
Clarendon PC	88.16	45.50	33.79	20.47	89.25
St. James PC	-	53.27	-	22.91	-
Manchester PC	-	67.40	-	-	-

The summary of key performance metrics for the parish courts of Clarendon, Manchester and St. James shows that the civil division of the Clarendon Parish Court recorded an estimated gross case clearance rate of 88.16% in 2020, a decline of 43.95 percentage points when compared to 2019. This court also registered an estimated net clearance rate of 45.50% in the 2020 and gross and net case disposal rates of 33.79% and 20.47% respectively. The Clarendon Parish Court also recorded an impressive 89.25% trial date certainty rate for 2020, one of the best for the year.

The estimated case net clearance rate for the St. James Parish Court in 2020 was 53.27% and the estimated net disposal rate was 22.91%. The Manchester Parish Court (small and big claims combined) recorded an estimated net clearance rate of 67.40% for the year.

Aggregate data summaries – all Parish Courts

Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2020

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)
15920	15178	95.34

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the 2020 calendar year. It shows that a total of 15920 new cases were filed during the year, while 15178 became inactive or were disposed, leading to an estimated gross clearance rate of 95.34%.

Table 2.0: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the year ended December 31, 2020

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Portland	390.89	28	172	650.30	3.72	3	4515	471
St. Mary	262.98	28	84	443.86	3.44	1	4710	1251
Manchester (small claims)	261.80	28	203	414.40	6.28	28	3652	92
St. Ann	244.33	28	119	387.31	3.52	1	2611	1104
St. Catherine	260.30	35	133	369.48	3.20	1	3123	3034
Corporate Area Court-Civil Division	264.41	27	123	368.77	3.15	1	3534	9892
St. Thomas	228.86	28	115	312.48	2.96	1	2365	975
Hanover	163.47	28	63	312.15	5.93	1	3512	522

Trelawny	115.12	28	62	152.71	2.95	1	1036	749
St. Elizabeth	113.81	28	71	124.33	2.74	1	1001	1253
Westmoreland	68.72	70	37	80.25	2.90	1	574	278
Total/Weighted Average	243.04	32.36	107.45	328.73	3.71	3.64	2784.82	1783.73
Standard Deviation	92.32	12.67	50.26	163.02	1.22	8.10	1413.89	2801.85
Skewness	0.06	3.16	0.55	0.18	1.69	3.28	-0.35	2.89

Number of matters sampled (N) = 19,621

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 36 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, 2020. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 36-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 243 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a low positive 0.06, suggesting that these times were generally clustered around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (69 days), St. Elizabeth (114 days) and Trelawny (115 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of Portland (391 days), Corporate Area Court-Civil Division (264 days) and St. Mary (263 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 showed to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 92.32. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 3.64 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These result 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 574 days (19.1 months/1.6 years) in the Westmoreland Parish Court, to a high of 4515 days (151 months/12.5 years) in the Portland Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a small negative 0.35, which is an indication that slightly more of the maximum times to disposition were fell below the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 19,621 matters.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 in the civil division of the parish courts in 2020.

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Population size in parish	Case per 10,000 population
St. Ann	1946	172362	113
St. James	1772	183811	96
St. Mary	651	69533	94
St. Elizabeth	1232	150205	82
Trelawny	589	75164	78
Manchester	1178	189797	62
St. Catherine	3076	516218	60
Hanover	379	69533	55
St. Thomas	517	93902	55
Westmoreland	687	144103	48
Corporate area	2794	662426	42
Portland	288	81744	35
Clarendon	811	245103	33
Total	15920	2,697983	59

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 2020. 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 the civil adjudication in the various parishes. It is seen that the parishes of St. Ann and St. James, which are among the

parishes with the largest caseload, registered the largest number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in 2020. St. Mary which is on the lower end in population size and among the courts with the smaller caseloads was third. Equally interesting is the result that the Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division was among the courts with the smallest number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in 2020. This parish is among those with the larger annual caseload and has the biggest population. Clarendon had the lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population for the year.

Table 4.0: Summary of changes in cases filed and cases disposed for 2019-2020

Parish Court	Increase/Decrease in number of new cases filed in 2020 compared to 2019		Increase/Decrease in gross number of cases disposed in 2020 compared to 2019	
	Count	(%)	Count	(%)
St. Ann	10	0.52	-300	-26.93
Clarendon	-388	-32.36	-548	-59.76
Corporate area-Civil Division	-3594	-56.26	-1666	-38.19
Hanover	15	4.12	-1	-0.31
Manchester	479	68.53	485	156.96
Portland	-142	-33.02	-8	-2.66
St. Catherine	-644	-17.31	34	2.27
St. Elizabeth	-338	-21.53	-77	-10.10
St. James	-154	-8.00	542	134.83
St. Mary	-128	-16.43	-157	-24.23
St. Thomas	-337	-39.46	-29	-7.69
Trelawny	-376	-38.96	-211	-37.02
Westmoreland	-174	-20.21	174	65.41
Total Change	-5771	-26.61	-1762	-14.87

(+) indicates an increase and (-) indicates a decrease.

The above table outlines the changes in the number of new civil cases filed as well as changes in the number of civil disposed cases between 2019 and 2020 for each parish court. Three Parish courts recorded an increase in the number of new cases filed, namely the St. Ann, Hanover and

the Manchester Parish Courts, with Manchester experiencing by far the biggest gain with 68.53% when compared to 2019. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division saw the biggest decline in 2020 in the number of new cases filed with a 56.26% fall compared to 2019. The St. Thomas and Trelawny Parish Courts saw the next highest percentage declines in the number of new cases filed in 2020. The overall change in the number of new cases combined for all parish courts was a decline of 26.61% when compared to 2019. In term of cases disposed, three Parish courts recorded an increase in the number of cases disposed, namely the Westmoreland, St. James and the Manchester Parish Courts. The Clarendon Parish Court saw the biggest decline in 2020 in the number of cases disposed with a 59.76% fall when compared to 2019. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division and the Trelawny Parish Court also saw significant decline in the number of cases disposed. The overall change in the number of cases disposed combined for all parish courts was a decline of 14.87% when compared to 2019.

Below is a summary of a range of selected civil case activity performance metrics for all parish courts.

Table 5.0: Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in 2020

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 (%)	Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
St. Thomas	517	337	550	65.18	106.38	54.17	11.7
Corporate Area-Civil	2794	2247	4617	80.42	165.25	90.03	9.1
St. Elizabeth	1232	446	750	36.20	60.88	67.61	5.6
Hanover	379	336	432	88.65	113.98	78.85	6
Manchester	1178	-	794	-	-	73.68	6.6
Portland	288	125	333	43.40	115.63	69.64	18.9
St. Ann	1946	834	1329	42.86	68.29	77.19	11.7
St. Catherine	3076	1793	2936	58.29	95.45	84.79	14.9
St. Mary	651	423	657	64.98	100.92	51.88	9.4
Trelawny	589	345	498	58.57	84.55	91.11	6.9
St. James	1772	406	944	-	53.27	-	-
Clarendon	811	274	715	33.79	88.16	89.25	-
Westmoreland	687	527	623	76.71	90.68	90.00	2.6
Total/Weighted Average	15920	8093	15178	50.84	95.34	81.16	10.4
Skewness	1.074	1.879	2.340	0.117	0.931	-0.705	0.725
Standard Deviation	912.827	657.679	1233.059	18.400	29.662	13.668	4.664

Conclusion

This annual statistics report for 2020 on civil case activity in the Parish Courts represent the continuation of the entrenchment of a data driven approach to court management in the Jamaican court system. 2020 was a year of special challenges for the institutions of the society, which amidst the COVID-19 pandemic struggled to maintain some semblance of normal activity. The Jamaican court system was no exception to this and while there were overall losses in some performance areas, there were also gains in some key areas, an indication of the resilience that the system has managed to galvanize over several years. The overall results from 2020, while not being entirely generalizable, provides crucial insights into overall activity across the courts and the impact of the pandemic on aggregate case activity. Among the most interesting overall findings of this report is that the overall gross case disposal rates fell sharply by 26.45 percentage points when compared to 2019, registering a rate of 35.88% in 2020. This result is not surprising as the civil courts were adversely impacted by a marked decline in the service of new summonses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This constraint limited the quantum of new cases which were able to move through the court system in 2020 and thus open court activity was somewhat tilted towards cases filed prior to 2020. It is therefore not surprising that the overall weighted average case clearance rate stood at a substantially higher 95.34%, a gain of 4.61 percentage points when compared to 2019. Concomitantly, due to the comparatively higher open court activity on older cases, the weighted average time taken to dispose a civil case in the parish courts in 2020 was 10.40 months, an increase of 4.73 months when compared to 2019. When the direct effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are isolated, the data further reveals the estimated weighted trial date certainty rate across the civil division of the parish courts in 2020 was 81.16%, a slight increase

of 1.76 percentage points when compared to 2019. There were six parish courts which managed to satisfy the international standard on case clearance rate in 2020. The number of new cases filed in 2020 was 15920, a decline of 26.11% when compared to the 21545 recorded in 2019. This decline assisted in buttressing the case clearance rate as the number of cases disposed also fell in absolute terms.

The overall results suggest that as with the criminal division of the parish courts, the civil division showed considerable resilience throughout 2020, bouncing back strongly in the latter part of the third quarter and the fourth quarter, after exceptionally sharp declines in especially the second quarter. The results augur well for the probability that the civil division of the parish courts will be able to restore the momentum necessary to attain its quantitative targets in 2021 and beyond.

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 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>

