

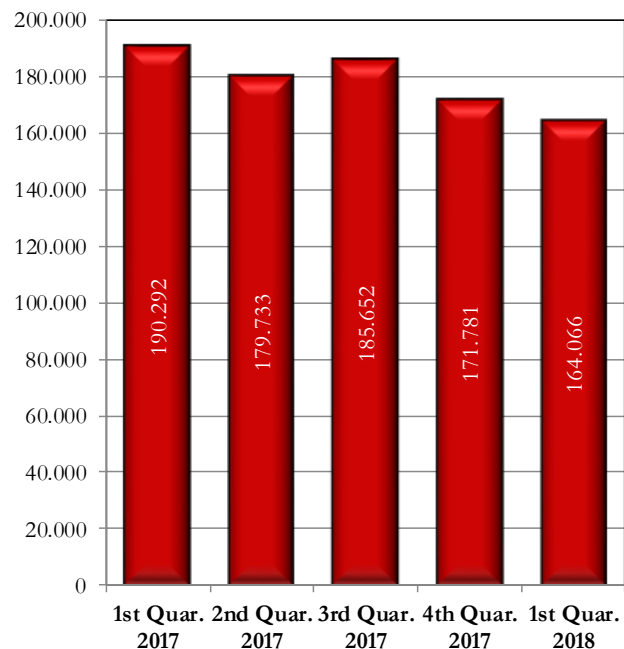
Quarterly Statistics on civil actions (2007-2018)

The current report aims to portray the quarterly evolution of the civil actions¹, from 2007 to 2018.

Pending civil actions² and clearance rate³ - Quarterly evolution

The number of pending civil actions in the first quarter of 2018 decreased by 13.8% in view of the first quarter of 2017. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2017, the number of pending civil actions in the first quarter of 2018 had a decrease of 4.5%. On 31 March 2018, the number of pending civil actions was of 164.066 (table 1).

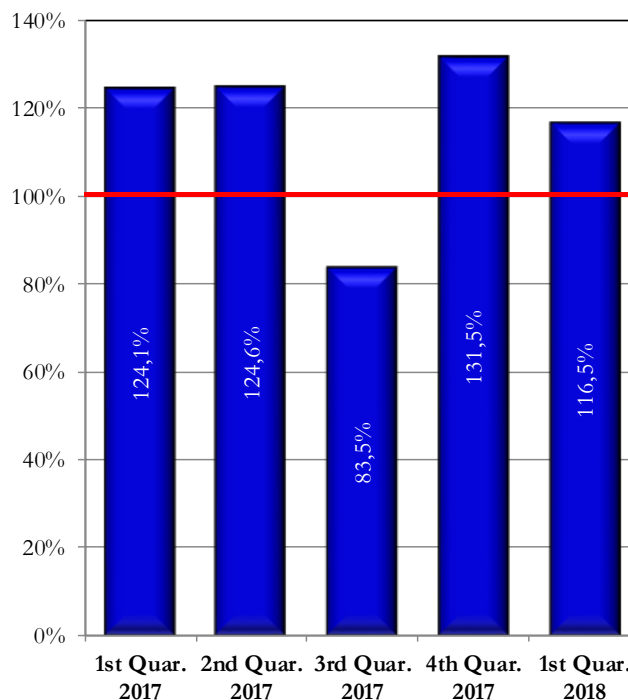
Table 1 - Pending civil actions, consecutive quarters



The clearance rate (table 2), that measures the capacity of the system on a given moment to face the demand verified on that same moment was, in the first quarter of 2018, of 116.5%. This result has the effect of a decrease in the

pendency at the end of this quarter. The last five quarters have clearance rates of over 100%, except for the third quarter of 2017, period in which occurred the judicial vacations.

Table 2 - Procedural resolution rate for the civil actions, consecutive quarters



Pending civil actions, clearance rate and disposition time⁴ – Similar periods

Between the first quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2018 there was an accumulated decrease of 42.4% in the number of pending civil actions. In the similar periods corresponding to the first quarters of the years of 2017 and 2018 there was a decrease of 13.8% in the number of pending civil actions (table 3).

Table 3 - Pending civil actions, 1st quarter

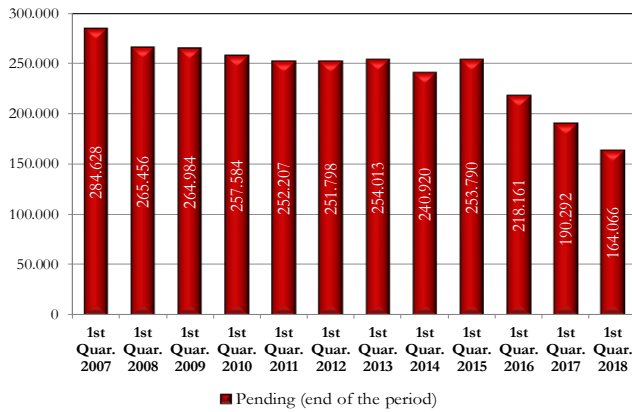
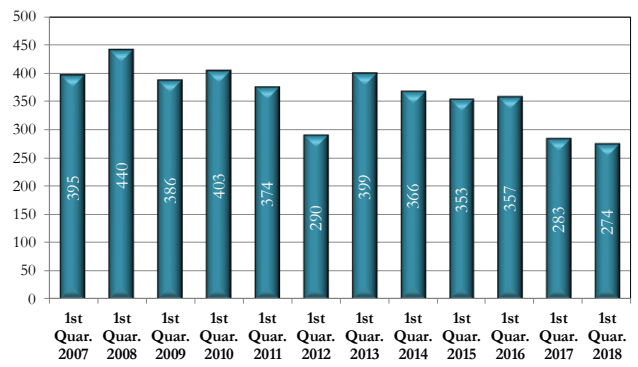
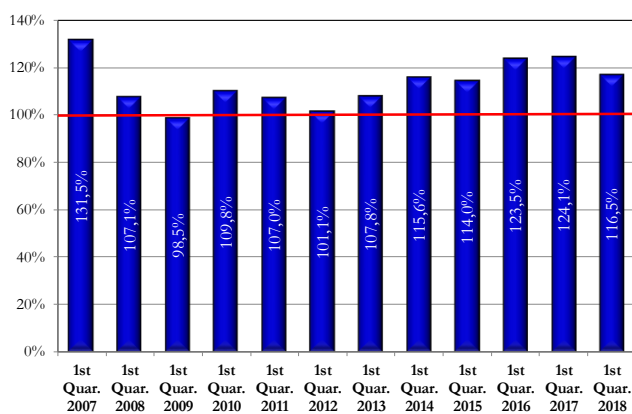


Table 5 - Disposition time (in days) for civil actions, 1st quarter



The clearance rate was, in the first quarter of 2018, of 116.5%, an increase of 18.0% in view of the minimum value of 98.5% registered in the first quarter of 2009 (table 4).

Table 4 - Procedural resolution rate for civil actions, 1st quarter



The disposition time was, in the first quarter of 2018, of 274 days, having been registered a decrease of 37.6% in view of the maximum value registered in the first quarter of 2008. Considering the similar previous periods, the value registered in the first quarter of 2018 is lowest value of disposition time (table 5).

New and completed civil actions and procedural balance – Similar periods^{5 6}

In the first quarter of 2018, the number of completed civil actions was higher than the number of new civil actions (table 6). As a result, the procedural balance in the first quarter of 2018 was favorable, corresponding to 7.715 less cases. This procedural balance was the sixth most favorable of the similar period under analysis (table 7).

Table 6 - New and completed civil actions, 1st quarter

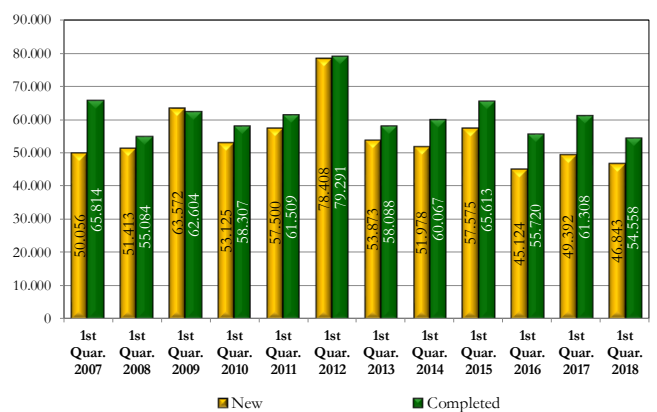
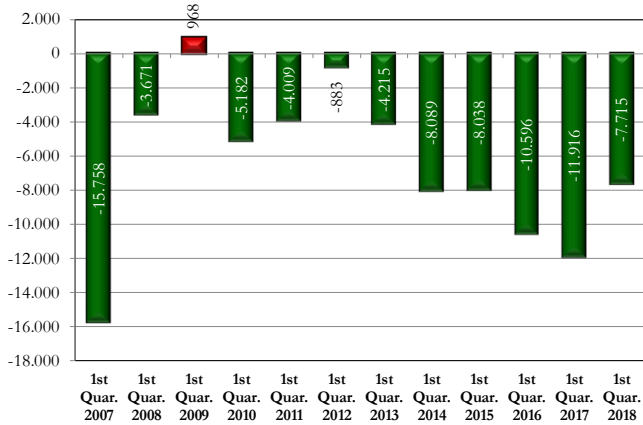


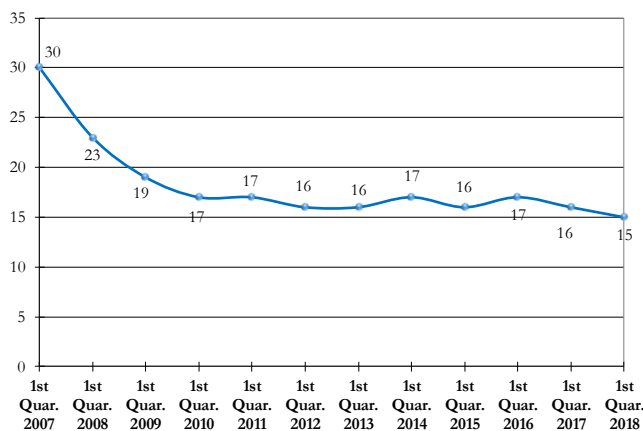
Table 7 - Procedural balance for civil actions, 1st quarter



Average duration⁷ of the completed civil actions – Similar periods

Regarding the average duration of the completed civil actions in the first quarters, from 2007 to 2018, it is possible to verify that the value ranged between 15 and 30 months. In view of the first quarter of 2007, in the first quarter of 2017 there was a decrease of 15 months in the average duration of the completed civil actions (going from 30 to 15 months). Considering the previous similar period, there was a decrease of one month in the average duration of the completed civil actions, from 16 to 15 months (table 8).

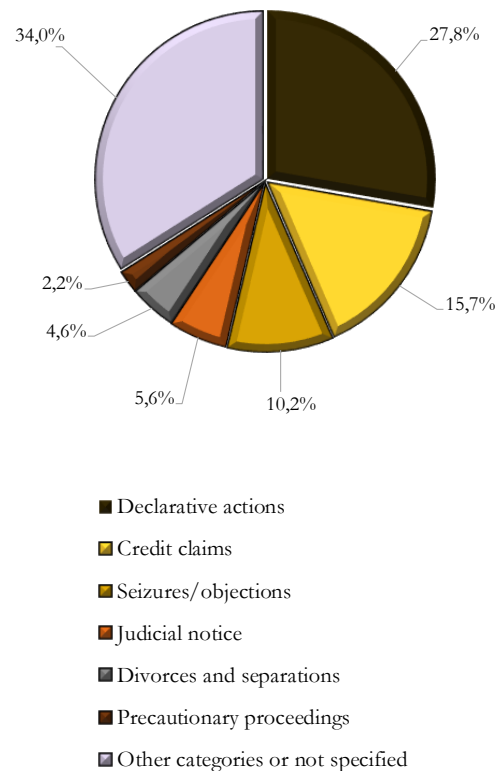
Table 8 - Average duration (in months) of the completed civil actions, 1st quarter



Distribution of the type of completed civil actions – Similar periods

Considering the distribution of the types of completed civil actions in the first quarter of 2018, it is possible to state that 27.8% corresponded to declarative actions, 15.7% to credit claims, 10.2% to seizures/objections, 5.6% to loose court notices and 4.6% to divorces and separations (table 9).

Table 9 - Distribution of the type of completed civil actions - 1st quarter of 2018



Footnotes

¹ In the current statistical highlight, the civil actions do not include enforcement actions, cases of bankruptcy, insolvencies and company recovery and cases of the special process of revitalization, since the behavior of this type of cases was subject of analysis in separate quarterly statistical highlights (see quarterly statistical highlight 55 on civil enforcement actions and quarterly statistical highlight 54 on cases of bankruptcy, insolvency and company recovery and on cases of the special process of revitalization).

² Pending cases correspond to cases that have not yet received the final decision in the form of judgment, sentence or order, in their respective instance, regardless of *res judicata*. These cases are thus awaiting the practice of acts or diligences by the court, the parties or other entities and may also, in certain types of cases, await for certain facts to occur or the expiration of a time. A suspended case is, for example, a pending case, irrespective of the cause of suspension. A pending case is not necessarily a case in delay, such as the case of those being handled within the legal timelines.

³ The clearance rate is the total volume of the ratio of completed cases on the total volume of new cases. Being equal to 100% the volume of new cases was equal to the completed ones, then the variation of the pendency is zero. Being greater than 100%, there was a recovery in pendency. The higher this indicator the higher the recovery in the pendency in that year. If less than 100%, the volume of new cases was higher than the completed ones, generating pendency for the following year.

⁴ The disposition time is an indicator that measures, in days, the time that would be required to complete all the processes that are pending at the end of a particular period based on the rate of work done in the same time interval, i.e., the number of completed cases in this period. Applied to a quarter, this indicator is the multiplication by 91.25 (average number of days in a quarter) of the total of pending cases at the end of the quarter divided by the total number of completed cases during that same period of time.

⁵ In the 12 first quarters from 2007 to 2018 were registered, respectively, 50.056, 51.413, 63.572, 53.125, 57.500, 78.408, 53.873, 51.978, 57.575, 45.124, 49.392 and 46.843 new civil actions and, also respectively, 65.814, 55.084, 62.604, 58.307, 61.509, 79.291, 58.088, 60.067, 65.613, 55.720, 61.308 and 54.558 completed civil actions. However, from these totals, only 47.036, 48.043, 59.585, 49.774, 53.596, 55.785, 50.942, 49.308, 53.644, 42.051, 44.959 and 43.689 new civil actions and 62.794, 51.714, 58.617, 54.956, 57.605, 56.668, 55.157, 57.397, 61.682, 52.647, 56.875 and 51.404 completed civil actions correspond to actual movements of beginning and end of the cases. The remaining 3.020, 3.370, 3.987, 3.351, 3.904, 22.623, 2.931, 2.670, 3.929, 3.073 and 4.4463.083, 3.580, 20.060, 3.283, 3.962, 3.359, 3.083, 2.686, 3.778, 3.201 and 2.779 cases do not correspond to new civil actions in the courts or to civil actions that have been completed. This numbers of new and completed cases refer to the total of civil actions that were handled internally between organic units/courts. It is not, therefore, processes that re-entered in the Portuguese courts. It processes who completed the organizational unit/court where left and entered the organizational units/courts to which they were transferred.

⁶ The procedural balance corresponds to the difference between new and completed cases. If the procedural balance is positive, there is an increase in pendency. If the procedural balance is negative, there is a decrease in pendency.

⁷ The average duration of a completed case in the court is the period of time between the date of its beginning and the date in which the case was completed, even if it was redistributed, i.e., between the date of commencement of the case in the court where it entered and the date of completion of the case in this or in another court to which it was redistributed. The concept of average duration used in this statistical highlight corresponds to the also called duration of the initial case, by adding the duration in the various courts by where it passed.

Framing note – Time scope and other considerations

From 2007 onwards, the statistical data on cases at the courts of first instance are received through the courts' computer system and represents the state of the cases recorded in this system. New and completed cases include those transferred between organizational units as a result of extinction and creation of new courts or court sections.

Technical sheet:

The Directorate-General for Justice Policy (DGPJ) of the Ministry of Justice, in accordance with Article 2 (1) of Decree-Law 163/2012 of 31 July has the mission to give technical support within the scope of legislative production and legal assessment, to monitor the policies and the strategic planning for the sector, to coordinate the external affairs and the cooperation in the justice area, being also responsible for the statistical data in the Ministry of Justice.

Law 22/2008 of 13 May defines the basic general guidelines and principles that govern the National Statistical System (NSS), particularly with regard to the delegation of attributions of the National Statistics Institute (INE), in other entities.

Under the provisions of Article 24 of Law 22/2008, of 13 May, a protocol was celebrated empowering the DGPJ of the production and dissemination of the official Justice statistics.

As delegated entity, the DGPJ is subject to the fulfilment, in its relevant part, of Law 22/2008, of 13 May, of Decree-Law 166/2007, of 3 May, as well as of rules established by Community legislation, adopting the Code of Conduct for European Statistics and the Regulation for the Application of the Principle of Statistical Confidentiality of the National Statistics Institute.

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