Improving the efficiency and budgeting of the Latvian judicial system

TSIC-RoC-26576 REFORM/2021/OP/0006 Lot 1

Deliverable 5:

Statistical model for assessing the workload of courts and managing the budget resources of the justice system

06.01.2026

Technical Support Instrument

Supporting reforms in 27 Member States

Funded by the European Union

Tieslietu padome

This document was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. Its content is the sole responsibility of the author(s). The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

The project is funded by the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument, managed by the European Commission Reform and Investment Task Force (SG REFORM).

This report has been delivered in September 2025, under the EC Contract No. REFORM/2021/OP/0006-07 - PWC. It has been delivered as part of the project "Improving judicial efficiency and budgeting in Latvia".

© European Union, *2025*

The Commission's reuse policy is implemented by Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39 – https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2011/833/oj).

Unless otherwise noted, the reuse of this document is authorised under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). This means that reuse is allowed, provided that appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated.

Reform and Investment Task Force
+32 2 299 11 11 (Commission switchboard)
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 170 / Wetstraat 170
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Disclaimer of the European Commission

© European Union, 2026

Reuse of this message is permitted provided that the source is acknowledged and that the original meaning or message of the document is not distorted. The Commission shall not accept any liability arising from re-use. The Commission's re-use policy shall be implemented by the Commission on 12.12.2011. Decision 2011/833/EU on the re-use of Commission documents.

The views expressed in this report are solely those of the authors and do not reflect the official opinion of the European Commission.

PwC disclaimer

This report was prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers EU Services EESV (hereinafter – PwC) on the basis of an agreement concluded on 06.09.2024 between the European Commission's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support and PwC on the specific procurement no. TSIC-RoC-26576 contract no. 300103206 "Improving judicial efficiency and budgeting in Latvia" (Latvian: "Improvement of the efficiency and budgeting of the Latvian judicial system").

This report was prepared by PwC based on the instructions provided by the client. In providing this report, we assume no responsibility for other purposes or for other persons to whom this report is presented or into whose hands it may fall, unless expressly stated with our prior written consent.

If any other person has access to this message and reads this message, by reading this message, that person agrees and agrees to the following terms:

1. The reader of this report understands that PwC's work was carried out in accordance with the instructions provided by our client's addressee and was carried out solely for the benefit and use of our client's addressee and related parties directly involved in the planned restructuring.
2. The reader of this message is aware that this message has been prepared on the instructions of the recipient of our client and may not include all the procedures that the reader deems necessary.
3. The reader agrees that PwC, its partners, employees and agents shall not assume any contractual or tortious duty or liability (including, but not limited to, negligence and breach of statutory obligation) and shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of any kind incurred by the reader as a result of the reader's use of this message or otherwise resulting from the reader's gaining access to this message. In addition, the reader agrees that this report may not be withdrawn or cited, in whole or in part, in a prospectus, registration notice, offer circular, public application, loan, other contract or document and that it may not be distributed without PwC's prior written permission.

Table of Contents

Abbreviations, terms and their explanations

Abbreviation	Explanation	Abbreviation	Explanation
ang.	English	**Case weighing model**	Methodology for assessing the time and work required to deal with different categories of cases, including a model for determining the degree of complexity of cases in district (city) courts and district courts
APK Cases	Administrative offense cases	**normal working hours**	Working time during a period of the day not exceeding eight hours, but during a period of the week - 40 hours
CEPEJ	Council of Europe's Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (*Ang.* Council of Europe European Commission for the efficiency of justice)	**self-assessment working hours**	The working time indicated by the judges in the survey as the actual time worked during the week – an average of 46.5 hours.
CL	Civil cases	**PwC**	"PricewaterhouseCoopers SIA"
empirical analysis	A research process in which conclusions are drawn based on observations, data and experience.	**regression**	In mathematics: The dependence of the average value of what magnitude on different values of another magnitude or of several magnitudes[1]. See the detailed description of regression in the Annex "General description of the regression analysis":
ELT	Court of Economic Affairs	**Regression analysis**	The method of mathematical statistics for determining regression using the results of statistical experiments.
grouped Case weighing model	A version of the case-weighing model, in which cases are combined into larger categories.	**R2**	See more detailed description of regression in the Annex "General description of regression analysis"
KL	Criminal cases	**SG REFORM**	European Commission's Reform and Investment Task Force
Correlation	A statistical indicator that characterizes the strength and direction of interrelationships between two variables. The correlation coefficient ranges from -1 (complete negative relation) to +1 (complete positive relation), while 0 means that there is no linear relationship. The higher the absolute	**SIL**	Cases of execution of sentences

[1] https://tezaurs.lv/regresija

Abbreviation	Explanation	Abbreviation	Explanation
	value, the closer the relationship between variables.		
LSM	Case weighing model		
standard deviation	A size that shows how widely the values are dispersed from the average.	**TIS**	Judicial information system
TSI	Technical Support Instrument		

Summary

The aim of this work was to develop a model based on statistical principles for assessing the efficiency of the work of the judicial system and improving its functioning (hereinafter - the Statistical Model). The statistical model will be able to be used to, based on evidence, more objectively assess the workload of Latvian judicial institutions and to justify the formation of the budget of the judicial system. Based on the statistical analysis, recommendations are made to improve the Case Weighing Model developed[2] by the Court Administration's Task Force on the Efficiency of the Courts.

The case-weighing model[3] is a systematised assessment of the workload of cases that are most frequently viewed in courts. It is built on the practical work experience of judges, groups cases into statistically more significant categories than the Court Information System (hereinafter – TIS) and has the potential to become a central tool both for a fairer distribution of cases received in court and for equalizing the workload of judges. Therefore, the Statistical Model is aimed at further developing the established Case Weighing Model, respecting the value of the work undertaken.

A statistical estimate was carried out to test the average labour intensity of the case categories used in the Case Weighing Model. The regression analysis reflected well the workload of handling cases in 2024 in the district (city) courts and the Administrative District Court, but its results were too weak to be used in district courts of general jurisdiction.

Taking into account the average weekly working time of 46.5 hours per week, determined by judges' self-assessment, the results of the regression analysis revealed that the Case Weighing Model scores several categories of cases in district (city) courts too highly, sometimes by as much as 60 - 70%.

It was not possible to obtain results on the workload of the categories of district court cases of general jurisdiction using the regression analysis method, taking into account the sharply different workloads of district courts. Therefore, these are the only courts where the most optimal solution was the application of empirically determined weights of cases. With the help of regression analysis, the possible workload of administrative cases in the Administrative District Court and the Administrative Regional Court was determined.

An analysis of the workload of judges by specialization leads to the conclusion that judges of district (city) courts, who deal only with cases of administrative offenses, are the busiest. In district courts, the workload of judges, regardless of specialization, is similar, however, it can be observed that the workload distribution of criminal judges is more uneven and there are more judges with significantly higher working hours.

When analyzing the workload of district (city) courts, it can be observed that the workload in the courts is quite different. The highest weight of cases per judge is in the Court of Economic Affairs, the Riga City Court and the Latgale District Court.

An analysis of the workload in district courts shows that the workload of judges in the Riga Regional Court is significantly higher than in other district courts of general jurisdiction, indicating the need to review the placement of judges in the courts or the regulatory framework for the allocation of cases.

As a result of the statistical analysis, evidence was obtained that in district (city) and administrative courts, in order to deal with the 381 185 cases received in 2024 (t.sk. land register issues and non-contentious cases, questions of investigating judges), 3 41 judges would be optimally needed instead of the current 405 judicial positions (about 16% less). In

[2] A working group set up by the Court Administration, consisting of judges of district (city) courts and district courts.
[3] Report of the Court Administration to the Council for the Judiciary "On a model for determining the degree of complexity of cases in district (city) courts and district courts"

the district courts, on the other hand, a total of 6,088 cases would optimally require131 judges instead of the existing 141 posts (7% less).

Objective and expected results of the project

Objective of the project and result to be achieved

General purpose of the service contract
To promote institutional, administrative and growth-enhancing structural reforms in Latvia in accordance with Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2021/240 establishing the Technical Support Instrument (TSI Regulation).
Specific purpose of the service contract
Help national authorities improve their capacity to plan, amend, implement and review reforms in accordance with Article 4 of the MDG Regulation.
Project results[4]
Outcome 1: Development of a roadmap for institutional reforms necessary to increase the efficiency of the judicial system.
Result 2: Development and adaptation of a model (methodology) for assessing the efficiency of the work of the judicial system based on statistical data.

The achievement of results and the promotion of the long-term impact of this Agreement largely depends on the specific follow-up measures taken by Latvia and the implementation and further execution of the results to be achieved, as well as on broader policy conditions that are not within the competence of the European Commission and the contractor. Such supervision and implementation shall be the sole competence of Latvia.

Delivery objectives and tasks to be performed

The aim of the fifth deliverable of the project and the tasks to be performed within the framework of the report derive from the technical specification of the procurement, which is an integral part of the contract between the European Commission's SG REFORM and PwC.

Purpose of the report
Develop a model based on statistical principles for assessing the efficiency of the work of the judicial system and improving its functioning.

[4] The achievement of the goal is not only the responsibility of the contractor and will depend in part on the actions of Latvia. It is expected that Latvia, having been closely involved in the implementation of the contract and having consulted with the contracting authority on all deliverables projects, will approve deliverables and implement the work included in the final deliverables with the help of its internal mechanisms.

Tasks to be performed in the preparation of the report

- To develop a statistical methodology / model intended for the assessment of the efficiency of the Latvian judicial system;
- Develop recommendations:
  1) how to improve the existing Case Weighing Model (the amount of time and effort required to deal with different categories of cases), the workload of individual judges of different specialisations and the workload of different judicial authorities;
  2) how to determine the optimal number of judges and the optimal institutional distribution of judges in the country, taking into account demographic, geographical and specialization principles;
  3) the implementation of institutional reforms of the judicial system with the aim of promoting the efficient use of state budget funds.
- Develop a plan for the implementation of the methodology;
- Organize a workshop with the beneficiary, SG REFORM and other stakeholders to present the results and recommend solutions/improvements, as well as discuss the action plan for the implementation of the methodology/model.

Our approach

This is the fifth deliverable of the project, the content of which is based on the analytical work carried out previously:

1) Initial analysis:
   a. An introductory report outlining the main project activities and the methodology used.
   b. Analytical report, which includes an analysis of the current situation, a study of good practice and a comparative analysis.
2) Analysis of information obtained through interviews, workshops and surveys, which complements and clarifies the above analysis, in order to develop, in cooperation with stakeholders, a statistical model for assessing the efficiency of the work of the judicial system and improving its functioning.
3) Data analysis, which serves as the basis for the development of a statistical model, including indicators on the categories and number of cases, the workload of judges, institutional workload.

The statistical model has been developed by assessing the current situation according to the criteria set out in the terms of reference and listed in the Council of Europe's Commission for the Efficiency of Courts (CEPEJ) in the time management tools of the judicial system[5], in particular the updated Saturn Guidelines for Court Time Management[6]. The statistical model has been developed on the basis of the results of the analysis of data accumulated in the Court Information System (TIS) and the State Unified Computerized Land Register (VVDZ) for the period from 2019 to December 2024, other data obtained during the project, as well as best practices in other countries identified in the Analytical Report. The following research methods have been used to conduct the research and prepare the model:

[5] BAKE. CEPEJ tools on judicial time management. Available at: https://www.coe.int/en/web/cepej/saturn-tools.
[6] European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ). Revised SATURN Guidelines for Judicial Time Management. Available at: https://rm.coe.int/cepej-2021-13-en-revised-saturn-guidelines-4th-revision/1680a4cf81.

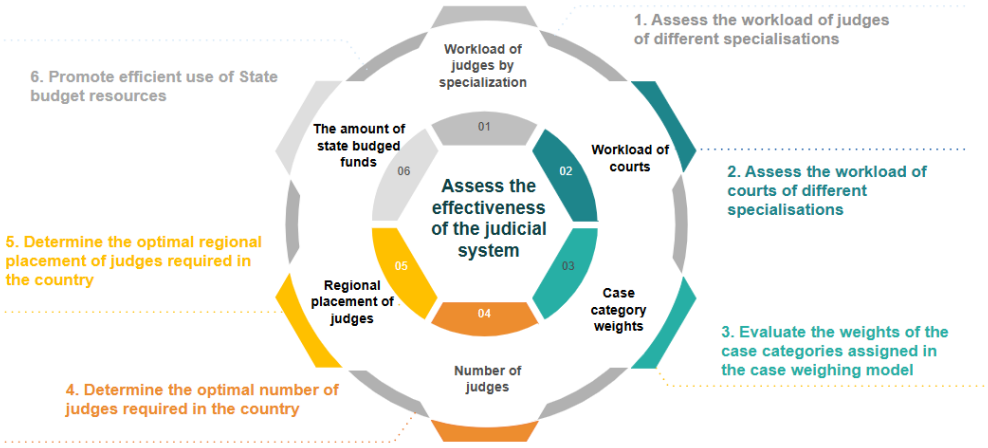
1. table. An overview of the methods used to draw up the report.

Method	Description
Literature research	Compilation and systematic analysis of documents (analysis of secondary data, t.sk. publicly available documents and data, regulatory framework, PwC knowledge database), performing analysis of Latvian and foreign practice.
Interviews	Interviews with individual stakeholders were organised as an integral part of the information gathering process as part of the third deliverable to identify the current system and the necessary improvements. As necessary, interviews with representatives of the courts were organized to identify shortcomings in the existing Case Weighing Model and the case allocation algorithm. The method was used to obtain additional information for the assessment of foreign and Latvian practices.
Analysis of statistical data	The analysis of descriptive statistics covered the acquisition, aggregation, grouping and graphing of data, focusing on the calculation of basic statistical indicators and the identification of the internal structure and characteristics of the data set. The analysis uses data provided by the Council for the Judiciary and the Court Administration.
Workshops (discussion)	Workshops with a wider stakeholder group and representatives of the courts to discuss interim results, suggested solutions, based on the study of the current situation and data analysis. The workshops took place on 16 and 30 July, 13 and 27 August 2025, bringing together around 20 participants from the Secretariat of the Council for the Judiciary, the Court Administration, district (city) courts and district courts, including a working group on weighing cases.

In order to develop a statistical model that would allow to quantitatively assess the efficiency of the Latvian judicial system, the following were followed:

4) an analysis of the judge's working time has been carried out, the amount of judicial time per year and its share during the judge's working time have been determined;
5) the degree of involvement and contribution of the assistant judge to the judicial process;
6) analyse the weights of the categories of cases assigned in the Case Weighing Model and verify their quality by statistical methods;
7) Based on the data obtained, the workload of judges of different specializations was assessed and the workload of different judicial institutions was assessed.

1. image. Steps for the development of a statistical model



2. Determination of the total amount of working time devoted to litigation

The judicial system has so far not recorded the working time devoted to litigation, which would allow to accurately determine the total amount of the judge's workload. A judge is bound by the working hours set by the judicial authority, but at the same time he has the opportunity to plan his working hours flexibly, taking into account the requirements for the performance of professional duties. Such flexibility of the judge's working time is not suitable for the creation of a statistical model, therefore, for the purposes of the model, it was assumed that the judge usually uses annual leave, therefore, on average, he works 1968 hours per year, including 1633 hours on cases.

As part of the project, several methods were used to determine the total number of working hours per year that one judge typically devotes to litigation. Calculation of the working time (hours per year) of the judge devoted to the hearing of cases (see Annex III). Annex 9) is based on the total number of hours of normal working time per year minus the time provided for annual leave or other duties.

The Court Administration issued information on the working time of judges for 2024, which lists information on the judge's normal working hours and absences (for example, vacation, incapacity for work or other reasons).[7] From this information, data were obtained on the number of normal working hours worked by each judge.

Within the framework of the project, a survey[8] and a time survey were conducted[9], survey data conducted by the Secretariat of the Council for the Judiciary were used[10], a statistical analysis of the TIS was carried out and the results obtained were reviewed and confirmed in cooperation with the presidents of several courts[11]. From this data, information was obtained on the percentage distribution of working time and the judges' self-assessment of the time actually worked.

According to the explanations of the Judicial Ethics Commission[12] and what has been expressed in interviews, a judge is generally bound by the working hours established by the judicial authority, but at the same time he has the opportunity to plan his working hours flexibly, taking into account the requirements for the performance of professional duties. Consequently, the judge is not restricted by the requirement to work "normal working hours" – an average of 8 hours a day, or 40 hours a week. The flexibility of a judge's working time is unsuitable for the creation of a statistical model, therefore, for its purposes, it was necessary to make an assumption about the hours worked per year devoted to litigation.

The results of a survey conducted by PwC on the workload of judges and court staff[13] show that the time worked by judges based on self-esteem is significantly higher than normal working hours. Of the 154 judges who responded to the survey, 65% said they regularly exceed a 40-hour work week. At the same time, the survey data reveals that the average number of hours worked for the entire group of judges[14] is 46.5 hours per week.. . . Most of the working time – 83% – is devoted to working with cases, of which 79% directly to handling cases and 4% to administrative duties in the case. In addition to this, 9% of working time is spenton administrative duties that are not related to the handling of cases (for example,

[7] Working time during a period of the day not exceeding eight hours, but during a period of the week - 40 hours
[8] PwC, "Report on the survey of judges and court staff". The survey took place from 3 to 18 April 2025 within the framework of the project "Improvement of the efficiency and budget of the Latvian judicial system".
[9] PwC, "Survey of the working time invested by judges and court staff". The survey took place from the beginning of May to the beginning of September 2025 within the framework of the project "Improvement of the efficiency and budget of the Latvian judicial system".
[10] Secretariat of the Council for the Judiciary, "Survey of Judges 2024".
[11] Interviews with the presidents of individual district (city) courts were held on August 8, 18 and 20, 2025.
[12] 16.03.2018. Explanation No.56 of the Judicial Ethics Commission "On attending training during the working hours of the court". Available at: https://www.tiesas.lv/Media/Default/Page/e-gramata_TEKA_krajums_2023.pdf.; Explanation of the Judicial Ethics Commission of 14.02.2014, explanation of 14.10.2016.
[13] PwC, "Report on the survey of judges and court staff". The survey took place from 3 to 18 April 2025 within the framework of the project "Improvement of the efficiency and budget of the Latvian judicial system".
[14] Regardless of whether the judge answered that regularly exceeds the 40-hour work week.

various meetings, participation in the work of selection committees, planning the work of the court, analysis of statistics of the work of the court and other duties that must be performed but do not relate to a specific case).

To illustrate the difference in a judge's workload between normal working time and working time according to the judges' self-assessment, Table 2 is attached below, which compares the two amounts of a judge's annual working time:

2. table. Comparison of the normal and self-esteem working hours of the judge.

	Working hours per week (hours (h))	Working hours per year (hours (h) / days)	Time to deal with cases per year (hours (h) / days)[15]
Normal weekly working hours[16]	40 h	1730 h / 216 days	1436 h / 179.5 days
Working hours per week after judges' self-assessment[17]	46.5 h	1968 h / 246 days	1633 h / 204.13 days

Due to the small number of participants, the PwC Working Time Survey of judges is not used to verify the length of working time.[18] Although the results of the survey provide an insight into the workload of judges and the distribution of time actually spent on dealing with cases in certain categories of cases and working time, it should be noted that the data obtained are not representative. Of the 18 judges who have submitted a time-survey record sheet for at least one working week, only 10 have completed it in full so that the average working week declared by these judges reaches 40 hours.

In order to provide reliable data on the time worked by judges per week, it would be necessary to conduct a time survey with a much larger number of judges involved and a longer observation period, obtaining a more accurate picture of the working time of the judge, as well as the work intensity of the different categories of cases.

[15] According to a survey of judges, which took place from 3 to 18 April 2025, 83% of the working time is devoted to viewing cases within the framework of the project "Improvement of the efficiency and budget of the Latvian judicial system".
[16] Working time which conforms to Section 131, Paragraph one of the Labour Law.
[17] PwC, "Report on the survey of judges and court staff". The survey took place from 3 to 18 April 2025 within the framework of the project "Improvement of the efficiency and budget of the Latvian judicial system".
[18] PwC, "Survey of the working time invested by judges and court staff". The survey took place from the beginning of May to the beginning of September 2025 within the framework of the project "Improvement of the efficiency and budget of the Latvian judicial system".

3. Options for improving the case weighing model

Statistical test of the case-weighing model

A test of the existing Case Weighing Model using statistical methods identified that the number of points awarded in certain categories of cases is too high, but too low in other categories of cases, since when compared to the number of cases actually handled by judges, the total working time potentially consumed by an individual judge would be either incredibly high or incredibly low.

Statistical methods were used to test the weights of the categories of cases estimated in the model for determining the degree of complexity of cases[19] (hereinafter - the Case Weighing Model). The Working Group on the Efficiency of Courts[20] has developed a methodology and model for determining the complexity of court cases in district (city) courts and district courts (hereinafter - the Case Weighing Model). The case-weighing model does not include administrative cases. The developed Case Weighing Model is currently a useful tool that allows you to get an idea of the workload of judges in district (city) courts and district courts of general jurisdiction, taking into account not only the number of cases handled, but also their complexity.

In the case-weighing model, cases are grouped according to the basic type of case (civil, criminal, administrative offense cases, land register cases), the case weighing group (the "baskets" of cases approved by the task force (labour law, liability law, family law, criminal cases with or without evidence, etc.) and by categories of weighing cases (detailed grouping of cases). The complexity of each weighing group is assessed in points, determining that one point corresponds to two hours of work. The case-weighing model does not cover administrative cases.

In the case-weighting model, district (city) court cases are divided into 40 groups (including five groups for cases under the jurisdiction of land registry judges and two for the duties of an investigating judge), with points in the range of 0.1 to 20 points (see Section III). Annex 3). District court cases are divided into 34 groups, with each case assigned 15, 20 or 35 points (see Annex III). Annex 4). District court cases are given a higher score than district (city) courts. The approach is explained by the fact that in district courts the decision is made collegiately by three judges, so the weight of the case is calculated as the sum total of the time invested by all three judges.

Empirical analysis of the weights of cases

As a result of an empirical analysis of the weights of cases, reliable indicators of the duration of proceedings of individual categories of cases were obtained, which were consistent with the productivity of statistically recorded judges.

The aim of the empirical analysis was to normalize the total number of hours worked by judges per year so that the typical or median working time of judges per year devoted to viewing cases does not exceed the normal working time per year devoted to hearing cases – 1436 hours.

[19] REPORT of the Court Administration of 04.09.2025 to the Council for the Judiciary on the model for determining the degree of complexity of cases in district (city) courts and district courts.
[20] A working group set up by the Court Administration, consisting of judges of district (city) courts and district courts.

An empirical analysis was carried out on the basis of TIS data on cases completed by judges in a given year and adjusting the basic types of cases and the duration of the hearing of categories of cases. [21]

In the project, the method of empirical analysis was applied to test the hypothesis put forward above about the relationship between the total number of hours worked by judges per year and the number of different categories of cases completed by judges. For the development of the mathematical model, decisions of statistical experts of the project team were used, based on observations and analysis of available information. Available data from the TIS were used to test the hypothesis (experiment) and the results of the test were discussed with experts in the field of justice.

Consolidation of categories of cases into groups in district (city) courts

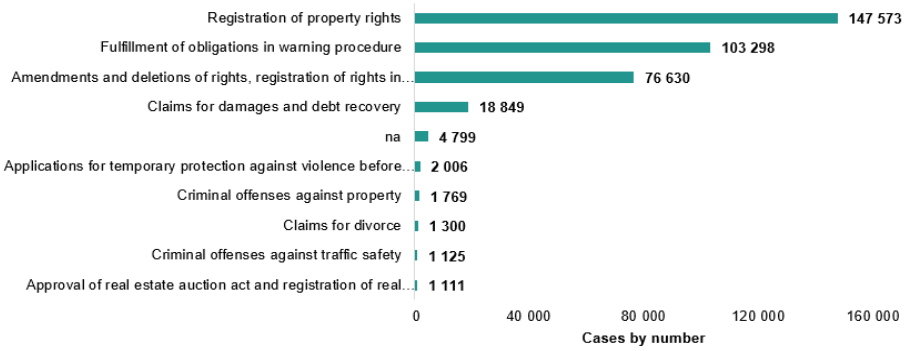
The analysis shows that it is more appropriate to combine categories of cases into larger groups for the purpose of assessing the workload of judges. By combining the groups of the Case Weighing Model, the workload calculations of judges did not change significantly, but the distribution became closer to normal.

According to the Case Weighing Model, the estimated number of hours worked per year for most judges would be close to 1830 hours per year, which would be about 28% above normal working hours. Moreover, the high load would not be the result of only isolated exceptions, but a systematic trend. Such a result indicates that, most likely, the weights of individual categories of cases are set too high in the Case Weighing Model.

First, the number of different categories of cases was determined and they were classified into statistically significant data groups. Only the most numerous categories of cases are statistically significant (those that have a greater impact on the judge's workload).

Most of the cases dealt with in the courts of first instance by number of cases are non-contentious and land register cases – their share of the total number of completed cases in the courts of first instance in 2024 is about 89%. These cases are dealt with by judges specialising in non-contentious and land register cases and who deal with other categories of cases (disputed cases, hereinafter referred to as litigation cases) in exceptional cases. Other judges of general jurisdiction do not consider land register and non-contentious cases.

2. image. In district (city) courts in 2024, the most considered categories of cases according to the TIS classification.



Source of information: Data from TIS.

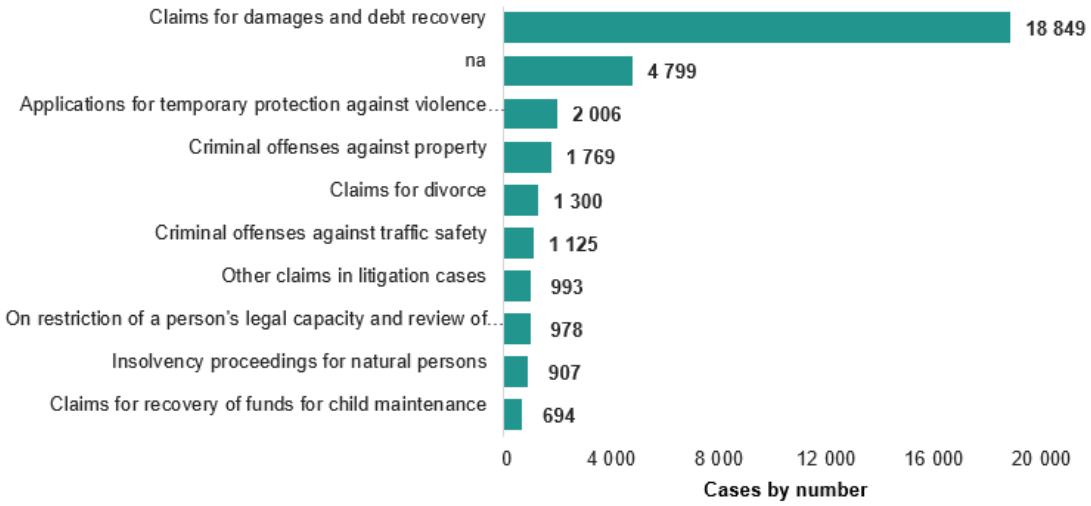
From the point of view of statistical analysis, it is significant that the litigation cases completed in 2024 in the TIS are divided into 108 categories, but only 10 categories account for more

[21] Empirical analysis is the examination and interpretation of data using observations and experiments to draw conclusions or to gain an understanding of actual phenomena. It is often used to test hypotheses or to study the relationship between variables based on evidence that is data obtained through observations or experiments.

than 1% of the total number of litigation cases. In addition, 44% of the pending litigation cases fall into one category – claims for damages and debt recovery (see Annex III). Figure 3). Consequently, the time taken to deal with a small number of cases is statistically insignificant.

In the case-weighing model, cases are divided into 40 groups, which is less than the number of TIS case categories, however, the number of groups is still too large, given that the largest number of cases belong to only a few categories of cases. The compatibility of data between Case Weighing Model groups and TIS case categories is difficult – the number of breakdown units varies significantly and there is not always a clear match (which TIS case categories correspond to which Case Weighing Model group).

3. image. In 2024, the categories of litigation cases most heard in district (city) courts according to the TIS classification.



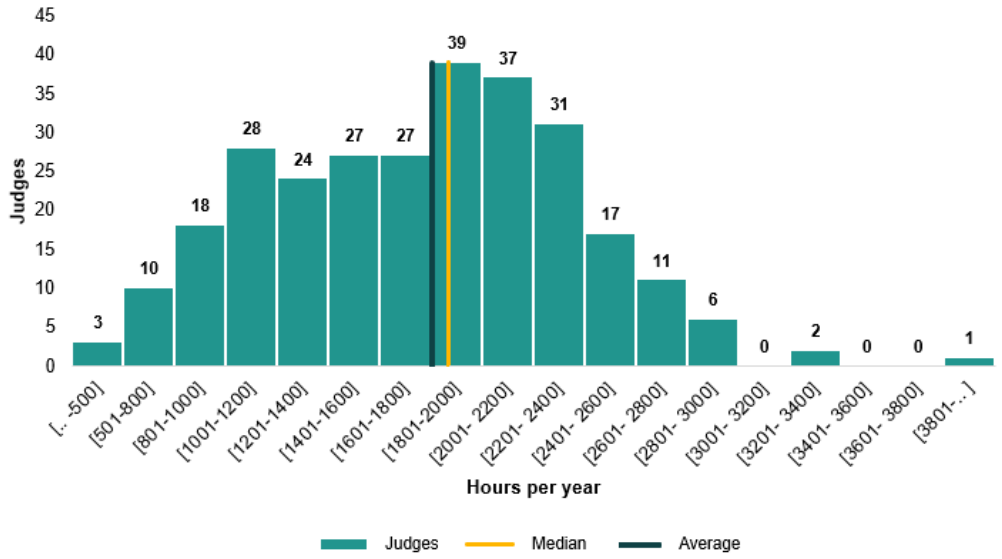
Source of information: Data from TIS.

The statistical analysis confirmed that it is most appropriate to combine the categories of cases into larger groups for the purposes of analysing the workload of judges. The calculations have shown that by combining cases into larger groups, simplification of the data structure does not leadto a loss of information. A comparison of the judges' workload calculations derived from the current Case Weighing Model and from the model in which the groups are combined found a very high correlation, namely 0.9, which means that the results of the calculations in both cases are almost identical and the combination of case categories is justified. Therefore, for the purposes of empirical analysis of the weights of cases, the categories of district (city) court cases were combined into 16 groups. In addition, there is also a category of 'Decisions of the investigating judge', which, although not a case in substance, constitutes a workload for a separate group of judges appointed as an investigating judge. The economic courts are not included in this grouping because they have different specificities and should be assessed separately.

By merging the groups of the Case Weighing Model, the largest groups of cases from the existing Case Weighing Model were retained by the number of cases. In such categories, it was also possible to keep the original weights, for example, in the category "Family law cases", "Land register cases - strengthening of rights in rem", "Land register cases - modifications and deletions of rights, strengthening of rights in the form of marks". On the other hand, in smaller categories with a small number of cases or for which it was not possible to obtain accurate information due to the limitations of the classification of TIS data, average or approximate weights were assigned. Also, the categories of non-contentious cases were merged into one group, given that 98.7% of cases belong to one category (Fulfilment of obligations under the order of warning).

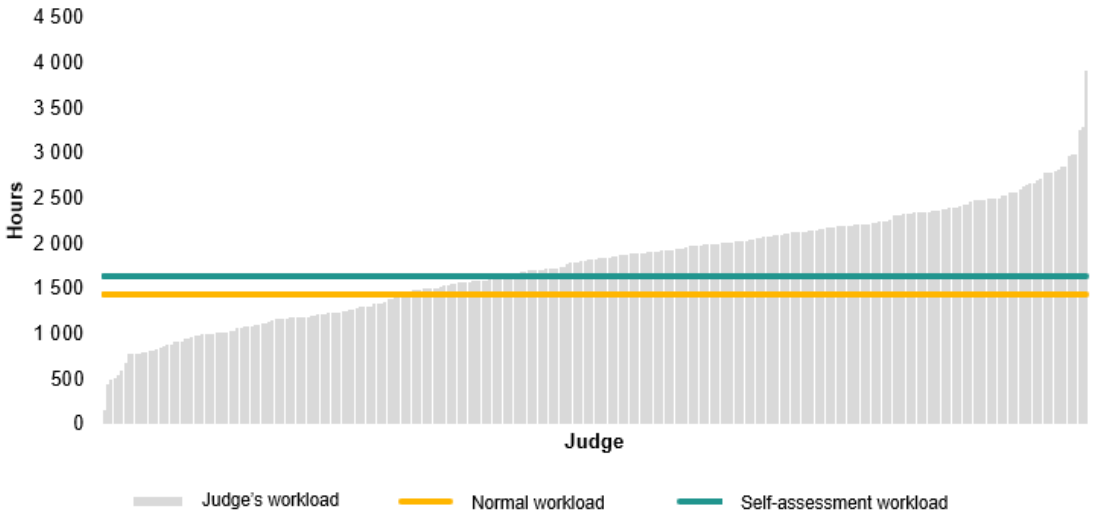
The analysis shows that the distribution of the workload of judges is closer to normal when the groups of the Case Weighing Model are combined (see Annex III). Figures 4 and 5). After the merger of the groups, the number of judges whose estimated total hours worked per year exceeded the normal working time decreased by 30%, i.e. 70% of the judges who were included in the evaluation sample, the estimated total number of hours worked per year exceeded the normal working time (1436 hours per year for the hearing of cases), of which 60% also exceeded the increased working hours determined by the self-assessment (1633 hours per year for the hearing of cases).

4. image. The estimated breakdown of the number of hours worked by judges for the handling of completed cases in 2024 by combining the groups of the case-weighing model.



Data source: PwC calculations.

5. image. The estimated number of hours worked by judges in 2024 to hear completed cases by merging the groups of the Case Weighing Model.



Data source: PwC calculations.

Determination of the duration of the hearing of cases in district (city) courts

In order to identify the categories of cases that were rated as high, that is, to normalize the calculations of the number of hours worked by judges and the median duration of working time not to exceed the normal working time per year for viewing cases, an empirical analysis of the weights of cases was carried out. **Adjusting the weights of cases obtained during the empirical analysis, the proportion of judges who were estimated to exceed normal working hours decreased to 50%, while the proportion of judges who also exceeded the self-esteem working hours – 3.7%.**

By statistically examining the data of the Case Weighing Model with an analysis of empirical case weights, the assessment sample included those judges who had served for at least 10 months in 2024. A month of service is considered to be one in which the judge has at least one completed case. In 2024, 93% of the judges employed in district (city) courts (excluding judges of the Administrative District Court and the Economic Court) met this criterion.

Initially, data on the estimated number of hours worked by judges per year were ranked in descending order, with an in-depth analysis of the weights of cases completed by judges that had the greatest impact on the calculation of hours worked. Next, these categories of cases were analyzed in relation to the total number of working hours of all judges.

In the first iteration, after the number of hours worked, the top of the list was dominated by judges who specialize in handling administrative violation cases and whose workload had previously been identified as overrated. In order to bring the assessment of the working time consumed by judges closer to the amount of normal annual working time (in some cases at least the amount of total working time of self-assessment), the labor intensity in hours was reduced for this category of cases.

The next category where a reduction in the weight of cases was made was "Land register cases – strengthening rights in rem". This was followed by "Civil cases - simplified procedure cases" and "Criminal cases with examination of evidence".

The reduction in the weighting of other categories of civil cases and enforcement cases did not significantly affect the overall assessment of the workload of judges, as the number of these cases is relatively small. Also, the change in the weights of the investigating judge's decisions did not have a significant impact on the workload of judges.

The number of cases in the categories "Non-contentious cases" and "Land register cases - modifications and extinguishments of rights, consolidation of rights in the form of marks" is significant, however, the initial weights of these categories are already low and further reductions are not justified. Previous calculations suggest that, within normal working hours, these cases should be viewed on average within 14 minutes, which corresponds to the existing weight of cases[22].

In Table 3, the results of the empirical case weight analysis in the combined groups of the Case Weighing Model are compared with the working time spent on the examination of one case (hereinafter - the labor intensity in hours), indicating the initial weight of the case according to the Case Weighing Model and the weight obtained as a result of the empirical analysis of the case weights (in bold, the categories of cases for which the weights were reduced).

[22] PwC, "Improving the efficiency of the Latvian judicial system and budget planning. Analytical Report" (2025).

3. table. Comparison of the weights of the grouped Case Weighing Model and the weights of empirical analysis cases to district (city) court cases.

Combined Case Weighing Model Categories	Number of completed cases in 2024	Hourly labor intensity (LSM scales)	Labor intensity in hours (scales of empirical analysis, normal working time)
Administrative offense cases	2 761	**~10.5**	**4.5**
Non-contentious cases	103 269	**~0.2**	**0.2**
Civil cases - family law cases	2 945	14	14
Civil cases - applications for temporary protection against violence	1 767	8	8
Civil cases - liability law cases	3 970	12	12
Civil cases - special litigation cases	971	6	6
Civil cases - legal protection proceedings and insolvency proceedings	941	10	10
Civil cases - simplified procedure cases	10 405	**6**	**3**
Civil cases - Other cases	7 135	~10	10
Decisions of the investigating judge	19 225	~1	1
Criminal cases with examination of evidence	897	**40**	**25**
Criminal cases without examination of evidence	2 125	10	10
Criminal cases – n/z	2 042	~10	10
Cases of execution of sentences	1 309	3	3
Land register cases - strengthening rights in rem	147 573	0.6	0.3
Land register cases - modifications and extinguishments of rights, corroborations of rights in the form of marks	76 630	0.2	0.2

Data source: Data from TIS, PwC calculations.

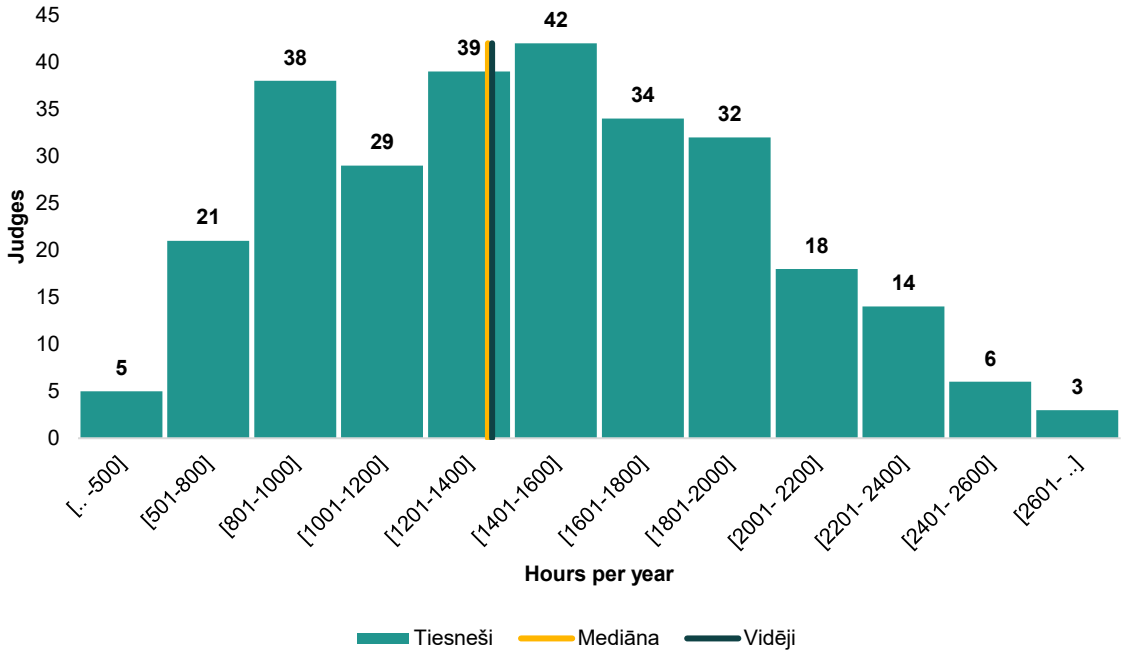
4. table. Comparison of statistics on the workload of district (city) court judges depending on the weights applied.

Statistical indicators of the weights used	LSM scales	Emplrish analysis scales
Median load (hours)	1830	1436
Standard deviation of the load (hours)	599	508
Average excess over self-assessment working time (hours)	321	132
Average excess above normal working time (hours)	449	216

Data source: PwC calculations.

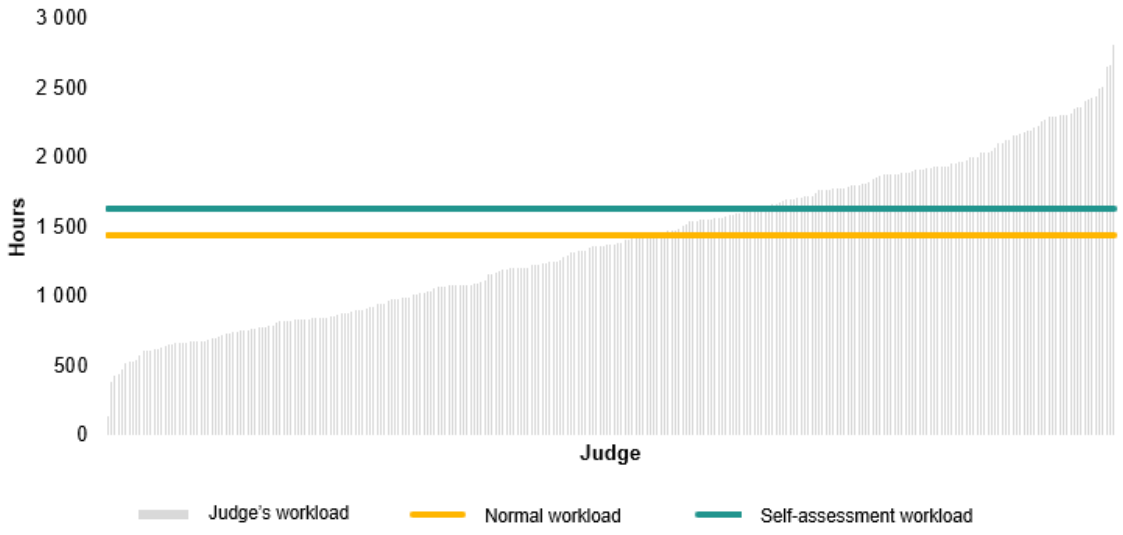
A reduction in typical working hours per year to 1436 hours has also been achieved (see Annex III). Table 4, Figures 6 and 7). The standard deviation is smaller when applying the case weights of empirical analysis. This means that the estimated unevenness of the workload of judges has been reduced. This confirms the need to periodically review the Case Weighing Model and adjust the case weights based on a comparison of the number of cases actually completed and the weight of cases in order to get a more realistic picture of the workload of judges.

6. image. Workload of judges in district (city) courts in 2024 using the weights of empirical analysis cases.



Data source: PwC calculations.

7. image. Time (hours) spent by judges to consider cases completed in 2024 according to adjusted case group weights using the empirical case weight analysis method.



Data source: PwC calculations.

Merging categories of cases in district courts

In the case of district courts, due to the smaller number of cases and a similar degree of complexity in the basic types, the Case Weighing Model groups were reduced to four large categories – administrative offense cases, civil cases, criminal cases and penalty enforcement cases.

Analogous to the statistical analysis of district (city) court cases, the compatibility of data in district courts was also difficult and could not be done algorithmically, since the case groups of the Case Weighing Model do not coincide with the categories of TIS cases. District court cases in the Case Weighing Model are divided into 34 groups and do not coincide with the 74 categories of cases registered in the TIS. Although the classification of cases dealt with in district courts into groups is not as fragmented as in district (city) courts, still very few categories of cases exceed 1% of the total number of cases dealt with (see Annex III). Figure 8).

8. image. The most common categories of cases handled in district courts in 2024.

Data source: TIS.

As thenumber of cases completed per year in district courts by case categories is also rather fragmented and only the most numerous categories of cases have a statistically significant impact on the workload of judges, it is also more effective in district courts to reduce the number of groups of the Case Weighing Model for the purpose of assessing the workload of judges.By analysing the TIS data, statistical assessments show that the level of complexity of cases in district courts is very similar within the basic types of cases, so the groups of the Case Weighing Model were reduced to the basic types of cases – administrative offense cases, civil cases, criminal cases and penalty enforcement cases, forming a grouped Case Weighing Model for district courts. The conclusions reached as part of the statistical analysis on the number of reduced categories of weighing cases are close to the approach used in the current version of the Case Weighing Model, where in district courts, groups of cases are assigned only three different point values - 15, 20 and 35 (see Annex III). Annex 4 with a detailed overview of the number of points in case groups).

It should be noted that in district courts, most cases are dealt with by three judges (one referee and two non-refereeing judges). Therefore, the weight of cases includes the work of all judges. The point breakdown is given below:

- In cases with a weight of 15 points – 5 points for each judge;
- In cases with a weight of 20 points – for the referee 8 points, for non-referees 6 points;
- In cases with a weight of 35 points – for the referee 13 points, for non-referees 11 points.

Thus, the case categories of the grouped Case Weighing Model are divided into two groups, for refereeing and non-refereeing judges, respectively. The exception is sentencing cases, which are dealt with by only one judge.

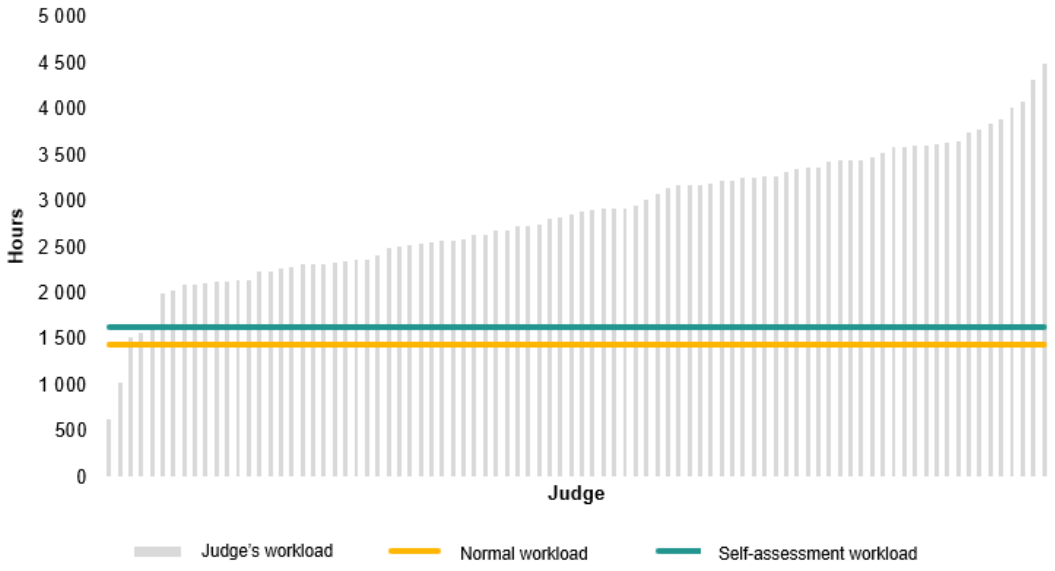
In the grouped Case Weighting Model, the weights assigned to the case categories reflect the average point values in the basic types of cases handled in 2024.

Determination of the duration of proceedings in district courts

Applying the case weights obtained from the empirical analysis resulted in a more realistic overview of the workload of judges in district courts and reduced the estimated unevenness in the distribution of the workload of judges. The share of judges estimated to exceed normal working hours decreased to 39%, while the share of judges who also exceeded self-assessment working hours – 11%.

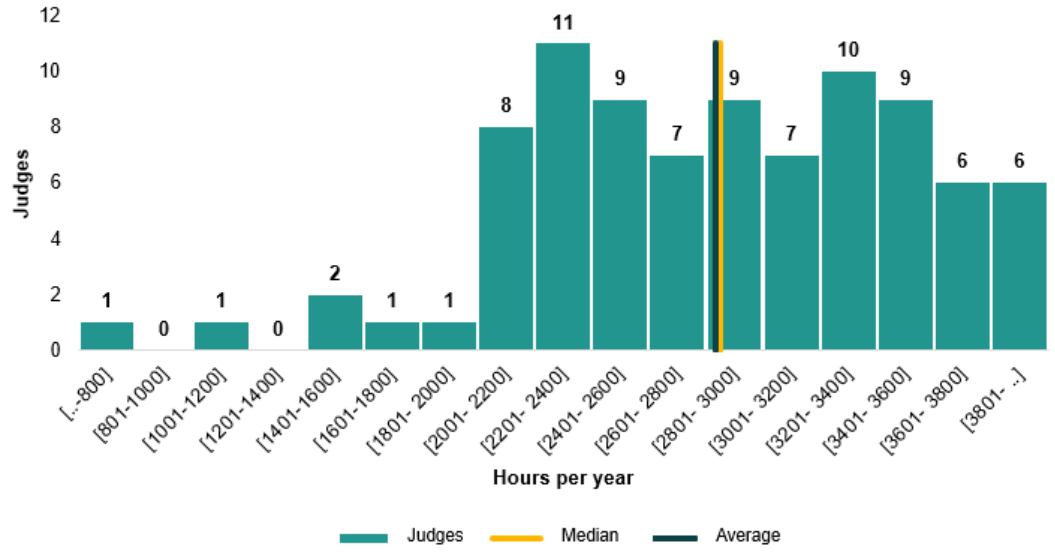
District courts also have a problem of overestimated case weights with overestimated case weights, which will not be confirmed by statistical calculations (see Annex III). Figures 9 and 10). Applying the case weights of the grouped Case Weighing Model to the statistics of cases completed in 2024, only the result is that almost all judges (98%) devote more hours per year to viewing cases than would be the normal working time (1436 hours), 94% of judges also exceed the working hours set in the self-assessment to view cases (1633 h). The typical load (median) reaches 2875 hours per year (see photo). Figures 9 and 10).

9. image. Time (hours) spent by district court judges to hear cases completed in 2024 according to the grouped Case Weighing Model.



Data source: PwC calculations.

10. image. Distribution of the workload of district court judges according to the grouped Case Weighing Model in 2024.



Data source: PwC calculations.

Finding that the weight of district court cases was overestimated, a similar approach was taken to district (city) courts (see section "3.2. Empirical analysis of the weights of cases. Determination of the duration of district (city) court hearings") and through empirical analysis the weights of the grouped Case Weighing Model are reduced so that the median does not exceed the normal working time per year for viewing cases. As a result, for all categories of cases, the weights of cases had to be reduced, an overview of what can be seen in Table 5, which provides a comparison with the original weights of the original Case Weighing Model and the weights of the grouped Case Weighing Model.

5. table. Comparison of the weights of the original Case Weighing Model and the weights of empirical analysis cases for district court cases.

Combined Case Weighing Model Categories	Number of completed cases in 2024	Total labor intensity in hours (LSM scales)	Total labor intensity in hours (empirical analysis scales, normal working time)
Administrative offense cases	563	40	17
Civil cases	2485	~62	26
Criminal cases	1262	~70	34
Cases of execution of sentences	162	30	13

Data source: PwC calculations.

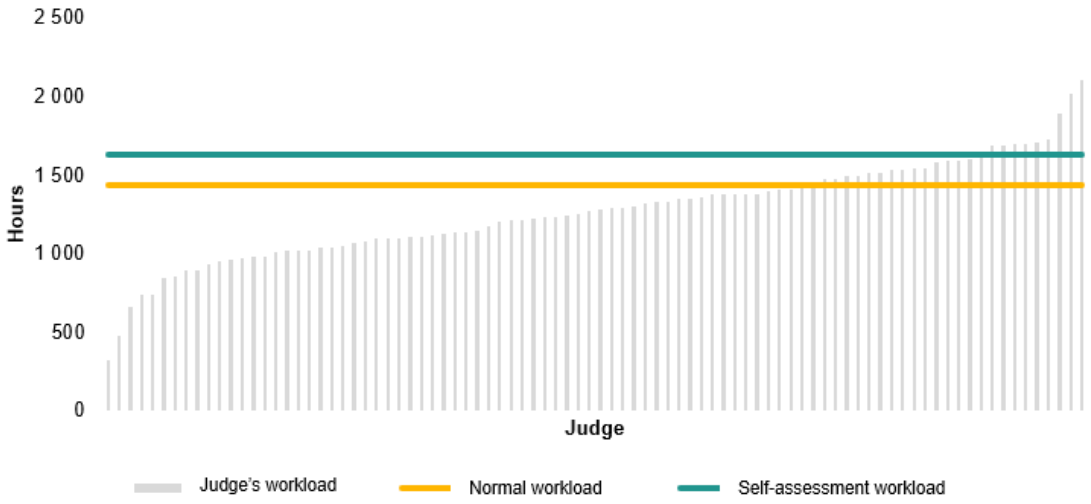
The share of judges estimated to exceed normal working hours decreased to 39%, while the share of judges who also exceeded self-assessment working hours – 11%. This was evidenced by the fact that the typical workload was reduced to 1279 working hours per year (see Annex III). Figures 11 and 12). The standard deviation has also been reduced, which means that applying the weights of empirical analysis reduces the unevenness of the estimated distribution of the workload of judges.

6. table. Comparison of the workload statistics of district court judges depending on the weights applied.

Scales used to determine the workload of judges	LSM scales	The scales of empirical analysis cases
Median load (hours)	2875	1279
Standard deviation of the load (hours)	701	311
Average excess over self-assessment working time (hours)	1241	155
Average excess above normal working time	1431	204

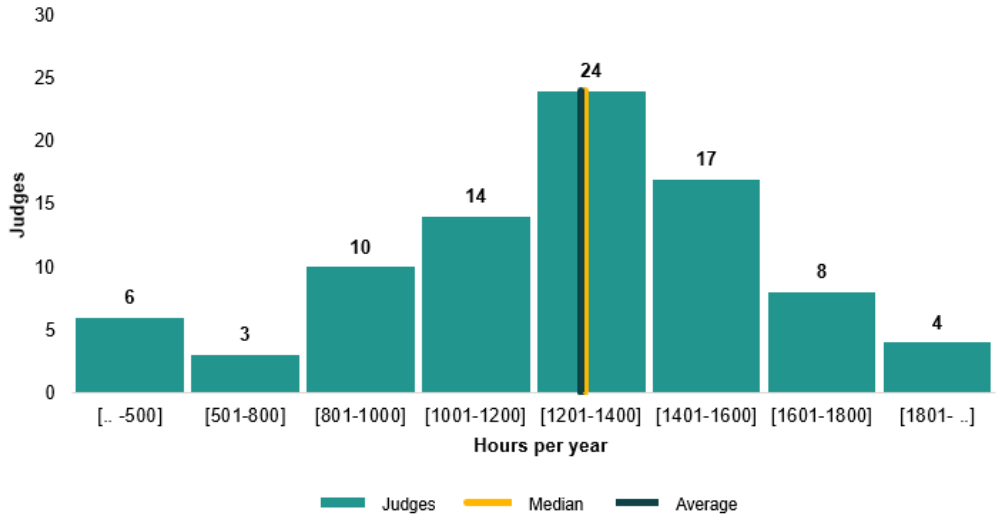
Data source: PwC calculations.

11. image. The time (hours) spent by district court judges to hear cases completed in 2024 according to the grouped Case Weighing Model with empirical analysis case weights.



Data source: PwC calculations.

12. image. Distribution of the workload of district court judges according to the weights of empirical analysis cases.



Data source: PwC calculations.

Determining case weights with regression analysis

The weights of the combined groups of the Case Weighing Model, calculated using the regression analysis method, confirmed the conclusion that the weights of the Case Weighing Model categories are set too high – individual case categories are estimated to be as high as 60-70% too high compared to the labor intensity obtained in the regression analysis.

Regression analysis (see Annex III). Annex 1) is a statistical method for studying the relationship between a dependent variable (usually denoted by Y) and one or more independent variables (X). It is used for two main purposes:

- to predict the values of the dependent variable,
- to determine whether and how strong a causal relationship exists between independent and dependent variables.

If there is a hypothesis that a set of variables affects the outcome, regression analysis helps to determine which variables are the most significant and which have the greatest impact on the dependent variable. Also, regression can be used to predict the result based on what happened in similar situations (existing datasets).

Most often, linear regression is used, in which a linear combination is found (in the case of one independent variable - a straight line) that most accurately corresponds to the data according to a specific mathematical criterion. The least squares method is usually used to reduce the sum of the squares differences between the true data and the regression line. In a linear regression model, the outcome is continuous, and a straight-line equation is created to predict future values.

In the analysis of the working time of judges, the number of hours worked per year by a judge is selected as the dependent variable (Y) and the number of cases completed by each judge per year in each of the grouped categories of the Case Weighing Model is selected as independent variables (X).

In the process of empirical analysis of the weights of cases, the hypothesis was reinforced that the total time that judges devote to hearing cases in one year depends on the number of cases completed by the judge. In the process of empirical analysis, the weights of cases were calculated based on the assessments of experts and judges. Regression analysis would allow the weights of cases (laborious for a particular category of case) to be determined using statistical analysis. The method of multivariate linear regression was chosen. In the process of regression analysis, coefficients were obtained that best characterize the linear relationship between variables – case weights as independent variables and total time spent handling cases as dependent variable. In fact, these coefficients are the number of hours required in each category of cases that a judge spends on hearing a single case (or case weights).

The number of cases completed by each judge in 2024 in each of the grouped categories of the Case Weighing Model are used as regression analysis factors.

Multiplying the weights of each grouped category of the Case Weighing Model by the number of cases actually completed in that category, the sum results in the total number of hours per year spent by each judge on hearing cases. The target value for regression analysis is based on the information provided by the Court Administration on the hours worked recorded in the accounting of judges' working time in 2024 (see the formula variable H), for which a coefficient of 0.83 has been applied (judges consume ~83% of all working time for viewing cases). The weights of the categories of cases obtained in this way are hereinafter referred to as "Labor intensity in hours (regression analysis, normal working time)"

$$H * 0.83 = \sum_{n=1}^{k} [number\ of\ cases\ in\ the\ case\ category] * [weight\ of\ the\ category]$$

According to the results of a survey of judges and court staff conducted by PwC, judges work on average about 46.5 hours per week, while the Court Administration's time records are based on the assumption that judges work normal working hours (i.e. 40 hours per week). An alternative variant of regression analysis is also proposed. Multiplying the hours worked recorded in the records of the Court Administration by a factor of 1.15 (46.5 hours of judges' self-assessment per week, divided by 40 hours per week of normal working hours) so that the weights of cases better reflect the real-time contribution to the handling of cases. The weights of the categories of cases obtained in this way are hereinafter referred to as "Workload in hours (regression analysis, working hours of self-assessment)". The alternative version uses the following formula:

$$H * 1.15 * 0.83 = \sum_{n=1}^{k} [number\ of\ cases\ in\ the\ case\ category] * [weight\ of\ the\ category]$$

Consequently, by way of regression analysis, the weights of the combined groups of the Case Weighing Model were calculated, which generally lead to the least error, taking into account the time spent on the handling of cases self-declared by judges, attributed by a coefficient of 1.15 to the time recorded in the records of the working time of the Court Administration.

In the regression analysis of district (city) court data:

- data were included only on cases completed by judges (approximately 96% of all cases completed in 2024) who have worked for at least 10 months in 2024
- For the selection of judges, TIS data on the cases completed by each judge in each month of 2024 are used
- 13 grouped LSM categories used (k=13)

The regression analysis of district court data uses 6 groups of cases (k=6) – "Civil cases" for refereeing and non-refereeing judges, "JPK cases" for refereeing judges and non-refereeing judges, "Criminal cases" refereeing judges (including sentencing cases, the number of which is small and which, according to the judges, arises from criminal cases) and non-refereeing judges.

The economic court's data regression analysis uses the single-factor linear regression method (k=1).

The regression analysis of administrative court data uses the single-factor linear regression method (k=1), without dividing administrative cases into groups. Since administrative cases are not currently included in the Case Weighing Model, this regression analysis was an attempt to determine the possible weight of administrative cases if the Case Weighing Model were also applied to administrative cases.

Results of the assessment of the labor intensity of the categories of district (city) court cases

For seven case categories, the labor intensity estimate is reduced by 13-69% compared to the combined groups of the Case Weighing Model, depending on the regression analysis approach used. The labour intensity assessment of the four case categories as a result of the regression analysis should be increased, for two case categories the labour intensity coincides with the data of the Case Weighing Model.

Initially, an analysis was conducted with 16 combined groups of the Case Weighing Model. According to its results, the category "Land register cases – strengthening of rights in rem" resulted in a labour intensity of –0.0015. Therefore, the categories "Land register cases - strengthening of rights in rem", "Land register cases - modifications and extinguishments of rights, corroboration of rights in the form of marks" and "Non-contentious cases" were combined into one group ("Land register and non-contentious cases"), assuming that their work intensity is quite similar. In addition, the category "Criminal cases - n/z" was added to the category "Criminal cases without examination of evidence", since in the initial regression analysis the labor intensity they obtained was very similar – 14.3 and 13.6 hours, respectively. This approach avoids confusion as to the interpretation of the category 'Criminal cases - n/z'.

Statistical indicators for multivariate regression analysis (k=13) for district (city) court cases, assuming that judges work working hours according to the records of the Court Administration, show that:

- the adjusted determination factor (R^2) is 95%, which means that 95% of the number of hours worked by district (city) court judges during the year, which is a dependent variable, can be statistically explained by the number of cases completed by these judges during the year for each of the selected groups of cases, which are independent variables;
- With the calculated case weights, the average quadratic error for the calculated time of judges is ~304 hours (i.e., for district (city) court judges included in the analysis, the number of hours actually worked per year differed from the theoretically calculated number of hours, using regression coefficients, or case weights, by 293 hours).

Statistical indicators for the analysis of multivariate regression (k=13) for district (city) court cases, assuming that judges work self-esteem working hours, show similar results:

- the adjusted determination factor (R^2) is 95%, which means that 95% of the number of hours worked by district (city) court judges during the year, which is a dependent variable, can be statistically explained by the number of cases completed by these judges during the year for each of the selected groups of cases, which are independent variables;
- With the calculated case weights, the average quadratic error for the calculated time of judges is ~381.

In both variants of the regression analysis (i.e. with and without overtime), the results are similar. Only in one of the 13 grouped case categories of the Case Weighing Model ('Decisions of the Investigating Judge') was it found that the work intensity coincided with the Case Weighing Model data of 1 hour. The labor intensity of the category "Land registers and non-contentious cases" also roughly coincides, where the weight obtained in the regression analysis falls within the range of weights specified in the Case Weighing Model (0.2 - 0.6 hours).

In both cases, the results of the statistical analysis confirm the same thing – the weights of cases need to be reduced. see. Table 7). For seven case categories, the labor intensity estimate is reduced by 13-69% compared to the combined groups of the Case Weighing Model, depending on the regression analysis approach used.

The assessment of the labour intensity of the four categories of cases should be increased as a result of the regression analysis: "Civil cases - cases of legal protection proceedings and insolvency proceedings", "Civil cases - cases of liability law", "Criminal cases without examination of evidence", "Cases of execution of sentences" (see Annex III). Table 7). Perhaps the increase may not be justified in all cases, for example, in the category "Penalty enforcement cases", where the regression calculation indicates a rather large weight gain of 396%.

Given that the results of the regression analysis are mathematically based and based on the work actually done by the judges, it is recommended to use regression analysis scales (self-assessment working time, highlighted in bold in Table 7). These balances have also been used in the subsequent analysis.

7. table. Comparison of the weights of the initial Case Weighing Model, empirical analysis and regression analysis of cases determined by district (city) court case categories.

Combined Case Weighing Model Categories	Number of completed cases in 2024	Hourly labor intensity (LSM scales)	Workload in hours (empirically determined weights)	Work intensity in hours (regression analysis scales, self-assessment working hours)*	Labor intensity in hours (regression analysis scales, normal working time)
Administrative offense cases	2 761	~10.5	4.5	**5.7**	5.0
Civil cases - family law cases	2945	14	14	**5.6**	4.8
Civil cases - applications for temporary protection against violence	1767	8	8	**6.6**	5.7
Civil cases - liability law cases	3970	12	12	**19.1**	16.6
Civil cases - special litigation cases	971	6	6	**5.2**	4.5
Civil cases - legal protection proceedings and insolvency proceedings	941	10	10	**15.3**	13.3
Civil cases - simplified procedure cases	10405	6	3	**3.0**	2.6
Civil cases - Other cases	7135	~10	10	**3.5**	3.0
Decisions of the investigating judge	19 225	1	1	**1.3**	1.1
Criminal cases with examination of evidence	897	~40	25	**25.6**	22.5
Criminal cases without examination of evidence	4 167	~10	10	**15.8**	13.7
Cases of execution of sentences	1 309	3	3	**14.9**	12.9
Land register and non-contentious cases	327 472	0.2-0.6	0.2-0.3	**0.26**	0.23

* Recommended case scales in district (city) courts.
Data source: PwC calculations.

Results of the assessment of the work intensity of the cases of the Court of Economic Affairs

The analysis of regression in the court of economic cases confirms that it is not appropriate to single out separate weights for civil and criminal cases, since almost all judges deal with both types of cases. The results of the one-factor regression analysis are reliable and provide high accuracy, therefore this approach is suitable for assessing the workload of the Economic Court cases.

Only civil and criminal cases belonging to it are heard before the Economic Court, so the regression analysis is carried out separately. Initially, a multivariate regression analysis (k=2) was carried out with two groups of cases – "ELT-affiliated civil cases" and "ELT-affiliated "Criminal cases". Given that the majority of the cases handled by the ELT are criminal cases, no conclusive results were obtained in the multivariate regression analysis. Therefore, a single-factor regression analysis (k=1) was performed with one group of cases "ELT-owned". Such a decision is also justified by the fact that, among the Economic Courts included in the evaluation sample, all but one of the judges have dealt with both civil and criminal cases.

A one-factor regression analysis for Economic Court cases, assuming that judges work self-esteem working hours, shows that:

- the determination coefficient (R^2) is 97%, which means that 97% of the number of hours worked by district (city) court judges during the year, which is a dependent variable, can be statistically explained by the number of cases completed by these judges during the year for each of the selected groups of cases, which are independent variables;
- With the calculated weight of cases, the average quadratic error for the calculated time of judges is 318 hours.

A one-factor regression analysis for Economic Court cases, assuming that judges work normal working hours, shows that:

- the determination coefficient (R^2) is 97%, which means that 9.7% of the number of hours worked by district (city) court judges during the year, which is a dependent variable, can be statistically explained by the number of cases completed by these judges during the year for each of the selected groups of cases, which are independent variables;
- With the weight of the cases calculated, the average quadratic error for the calculated time of judges is 276 hours.

The following analysis uses case weights, assuming that judges work self-esteem working hours (see Annex III). Table 8).

8. table. The scales of regression analysis cases in the Court of Economic Affairs.

Case category	Number of completed cases in 2024	Work intensity in hours (regression analysis scales, self-assessment working hours)*	Hourly labour intensity (regression analysis scales, normal working time)
cases belonging to ELT	369	**39**	34

* Recommended case scales in the Court of Economic Affairs.
Data source: PwC calculations.

Results of the assessment of the workload of administrative cases

An assessment of the actual work done by judges shows that the workload of all administrative cases is relatively similar and it is not necessary to distinguish between different categories of cases for the purposes of determining the number of judges.

The Administrative District Court has its own special system for assessing the workload of received cases and equalizing the workload of judges[23]. Cases are evaluated, assigning them from one to three points, depending on the degree of complexity of cases. One point is awarded to cases that could potentially be dealt with in a relatively short period of time, two points to typical administrative cases with an average duration of proceedings, three points to

[23] Information is provided in an interview with the President of the Administrative Court Aiga Putniņš on 11.04.2025.

cases that are complex in content, contain atypical elements and are expected to take longer than typical cases. An additional point may be awarded in cases where circumstances that increase the complexity of cases have been identified, for example, if there are many participants or witnesses in the case, the case is related to an official secret. Given that the available TIS data does not show any signs of whether there is any complicating circumstance in the case, the regression analysis evaluates administrative cases in the Administrative District Court in groups according to the three-point classification used. Both assuming that judges work self-esteem working hours and assuming that judges work normal working hours, the results of the multivariate regression analysis are inconclusive, so it is recommended that all administrative cases be grouped together.

A one-factor regression analysis for cases of the Administrative District Court, assuming that judges work self-assessment working hours, shows that:

- the determination coefficient (R^2) is 93%, which means that 93% of the number of hours worked by district (city) court judges during the year, which is a dependent variable, can be statistically explained by the number of cases completed by these judges during the year for each of the selected groups of cases, which are independent variables;
- With the weight of the cases calculated, the average quadratic error for the calculated time of judges is 426 hours.

A one-factor regression analysis of cases of the Administrative District Court, assuming that judges work normal working hours, shows that:

- the determination coefficient (R^2) is 93%, which means that 93% of the number of hours worked by district (city) court judges during the year, which is a dependent variable, can be statistically explained by the number of cases completed by these judges during the year for each of the selected groups of cases, which are independent variables;
- With the calculated weight of cases, the average quadratic error for the calculated time of judges amounts to 370 hours.

In the following analysis, the scales of regression analysis are used, assuming that judges work self-esteem working hours.

9. table. The scales of regression analysis cases in the Administrative District Court.

Case category	Number of completed cases in 2024	Work intensity in hours (regression analysis scales, self-assessment working hours)*	Hourly labour intensity (regression analysis scales, normal working time)
Administrative cases before the Administrative District Court	1618	**31**	27

* Recommended case scales in the Administrative District Court.
Data source: PwC calculations.

There is no information available on the allocation of cases before the Administrative Regional Court, so the weights set by the regression analysis for the TIS data[24] are the only indication of the workload of administrative cases. Therefore, the data obtained in the regression analysis on the total work intensity of cases (i.e. summing up the work intensity of the non-referee and the referee judge) are used in the subsequent analysis.

[24] Data on refereeing and non-refereeing judges completed in district courts in 2024 were received from the Court Administration only on October 10, 2025.

10. table. The scales of regression analysis cases in the Administrative Regional Court

Case category	Number of completed cases in 2024	Work intensity in hours (regression analysis scales, self-assessment working hours)*	Hourly labour intensity (regression analysis scales, normal working time)
Administrative cases before the Administrative Regional Court	609	**31**	27

* Recommended case scales in the Administrative Regional Court.
Data source: PwC calculations.

A multivariate regression analysis (k=2) for cases of the Administrative District Court, assuming that judges work self-esteem working hours, shows that:

- the adjusted determination factor (R^2) is 90%, which means that 90% of the number of hours worked by district (city) court judges during the year, which is a dependent variable, can be statistically explained by the number of cases completed by these judges during the year for each of the selected groups of cases, which are independent variables;
- with the calculated weight of cases, the average quadratic error for the calculated time of judges is ~109 hours.

A multivariate regression analysis (k=2) for cases of the Administrative District Court, assuming that judges work normal working hours, shows that:

- the adjusted determination factor (R^2) is 90%, which means that 90% of the number of hours worked by district (city) court judges during the year, which is a dependent variable, can be statistically explained by the number of cases completed by these judges during the year for each of the selected groups of cases, which are independent variables;
- With the calculated weight of cases, the average quadratic error for the calculated time of judges is 95 hours.

Results of the assessment of the labour intensity of the categories of district court cases

The most likely results of the labor intensity of the categories of district court cases could be obtained only using the empirical method of analysis. Compared to the case-weighing model, it is advisable to group cases pending in the district court into four categories and lower the weight of cases for different categories of cases by about 40 - 53%.

The regression analysis did not provide reliable results for district courts (see Annex 6 for the results obtained) because the data structure is very uneven[25] and the workload per judge varies significantly from district court to district[26]. As a result of the regression analysis, large case weights were determined in some categories of cases that were inconsistent with existing practice[27].

In order to obtain a reliable result with the regression analysis method, it was necessary to combine cases of execution of sentences, cases of administrative offenses and criminal cases into one group, which, in general, corresponds to the specializations of judges in district courts. However, in negotiations with individual district court judges, it was stressed that JPC cases cannot be counted together with criminal cases because they are fundamentally different.

[25] In different categories, the number of completed cases varies greatly. For example, 162 execution cases, which is very few compared to the number of civil and criminal cases – 2485 cases and 1262 cases, respectively.
[26] In 2024, one judge heard an average of 54 cases in the Riga Regional Court, while in the other district courts about 33 - 40 cases. Detailed analysis in the section Assessment of the workload of district courts.
[27] For example, the JPC case scales were 42 hours, while criminal cases were three hours.

For these reasons, the linear regression model was not applicable to assessing the workload of district courts.

Only by the method of empirical case weight analysis was it possible to obtain the workload of cases for refereeing and non-refereeing judges, which is most likely to correspond to the number of cases actually handled by judges during the time they worked.

Therefore, the following analysis uses the weights of empirical analysis, assuming that judges work self-esteem working hours (see Annex III). Table 11, highlighted in bold).

11. table. The scales of empirical analysis cases in district courts.

Combined Case Weighing Model Categories	Number of completed cases in 2024	Total labor intensity in hours (LSM scales)	Total work intensity in hours (empirical analysis scales, self-assessment working time)*	Total labor intensity in hours (scales of empirical analysis, normal working time)
Administrative offense cases	563	40	**24**	17
Civil cases	2485	~62	**30**	26
Criminal cases	1262	~70	**39**	34
Cases of execution of sentences	162	30	**14**	13

* Recommended case scales in district courts.
Data source: PwC calculations.

Table 12 shows the distribution of recommended empirical case weights for referee and non-referee judges. The average square error of these determined weights is only 40 hours, which indicates that the empirical weights correspond well to the actual workload of the judges.

12. table. Distribution of the weights of cases used in district courts by referee and non-refereeing judges.

	APK case non-refereeing judge	APK Case Reporting Judge	Civil case non-referee judge	Judge reporting civil case	Criminal casenon-reporting judge	Criminal judge	Sentencing case
Laboriousness	7	10	**8**	14	12	15	14

Data source: PwC calculations.

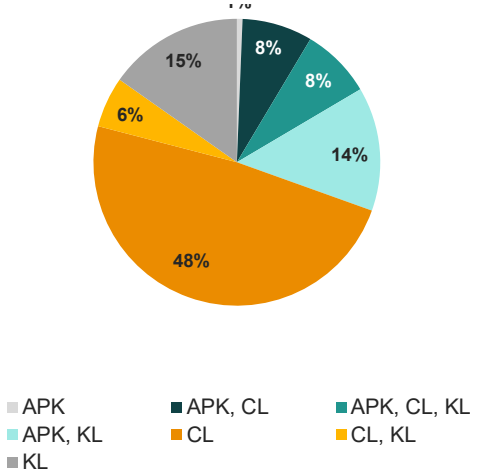
4. Analysis of the workload of judges by specialization

The specialization of the judge in the examination of certain categories of cases contributes to faster, more efficient and better quality of the examination of cases. Although the term "Specialization of a judge" is not defined in the Law on the Judiciary, in the organization of work it refers to the specialization of a judge in the branches of law – civil, criminal and administrative cases[28].

[28] Report of the Working Group on the Specialisation of Judges "Basic principles of specialisation of judges". Available in: https://www.tieslietupadome.lv/lv/media/9016/download?attachment

An evaluation of the TIS data shows that the specialization of district (city) courts by the basic type of cases (civil, criminal and administrative violation cases) is limited (see Annex III). Figure 13). For example, among district (city) court judges who have dealt with litigation cases in 2024, 64% have one basic specialization, 28% have two, 8% have three specializations. In addition, judges with one basic specialisation have actually also dealt with cases outside their specialisation – 25% of the cases handled in 2024 by judges with a specialisation in administrative offense cases were civil cases. Similarly, judges specialising in criminal cases have also dealt with a small number of civil cases.

13. image. Distribution of district (city) court judges according to the specializations of the main types of cases in 2024.



The principles of specialisation of judges and the associated principles for the allocation of cases are not uniform in all courts. For example, cases of administrative violations in the case of the city of Riga are dealt with by judges specializing in civil cases, as well as by individual judges who specialize only in the examination of cases of administrative violations. In contrast, in the Riga District Court, they are viewed by judges specializing in criminal cases and individual judges who deal only with cases of administrative violations. At the Latgale District Court, they are judges specializing in both criminal and civil cases. This practice can have a negative impact on the efficiency of the courts: broad specialisations covering several basic types of cases make it difficult for a judge to maintain a high level of competence in an increasingly complex context of cases.

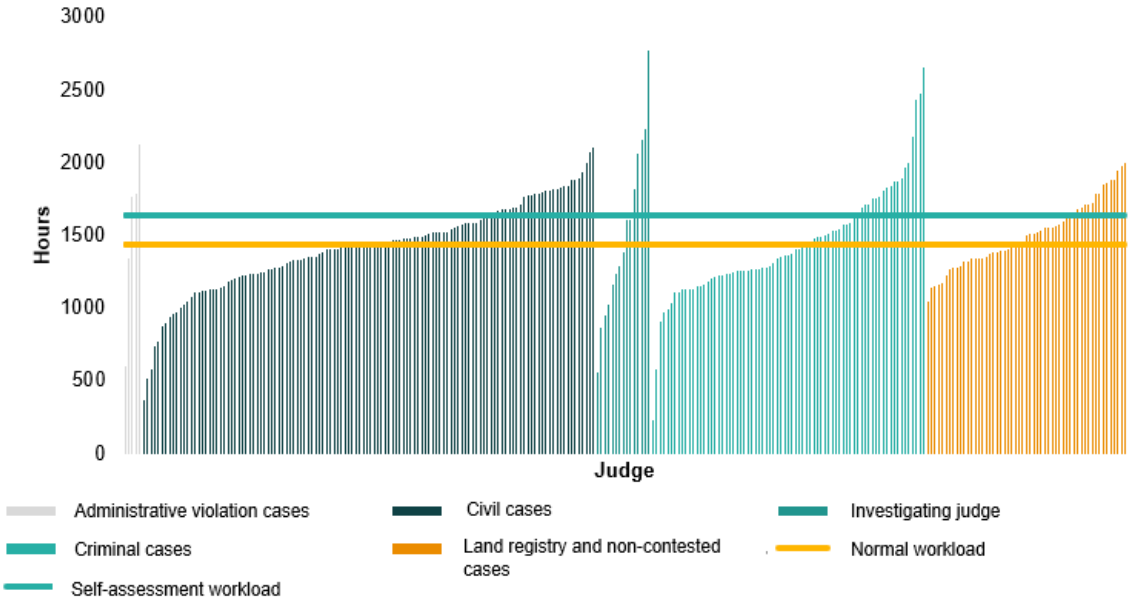
The problem is particularly acute in regional courthouses of district (city) courts, where often a very small number of judges work. In such courthouses, a small number of judges must be able to deal with a very diverse range of cases, so deep specialisation in a particular basic way or category is difficult.

The workload of judges, depending on the specialisation, can essentially be assessed on the assumption that the specialisation of the judge corresponds to the basic type where the largest number of cases have been dealt with. It is possible that a judge who has a specialization in this way also deals with cases that are outside his specialization.

Workload of judges by specialization in district (city) courts

An analysis of the workload of district (city) court judges by specialization of judges shows that a significant proportion of judges work above normal and self-esteem working hours, especially judges who have dealt with administrative offense cases as a priority and judges with specialization in land register cases (see Annex III). Figure 14). **There is a disproportionate distribution of the burden between judges who primarily deal with cases of administrative offenses and investigating judges.**

15. image. The time (hours) spent by district (city) court judges of different specializations for cases completed in 2024, according to the weights of regression analysis cases in courts of general jurisdiction.



Data source: PwC calculations.

Comparing the workload of judges of different specializations (using the number of cases handled by a judge and the weights of cases determined in the regression analysis) in district (city) courts, it can be seen that a large proportion of judges in different specializations exceed both normal working hours and self-assessment working hours, with a particular standout for judges in administrative offense cases, where 60% of judges exceed both normal (1436 hours) and self-assessment working hours (1633 hours). A significant proportion of judges specialising in other categories of cases, such as civil, criminal and land register cases, also exceed these thresholds. In total, 48% of judges exceed normal working hours, 26% work above self-esteem working hours.

There is a rather disproportionate distribution of the burden between judges who primarily deal with administrative offense cases and between investigating judges, where the results of data analysis show the greatest standard deviation of 526 and 582 hours, respectively. Investigating judges also recorded the highest average excess over self-esteem working hours (see Annex III). Table 13).

The typical (median) annual workload of judges in administrative offence cases reaches 1766 hours, and for judges specialising in land register cases – 1500 hours. The typical workload of judges specializing in civil cases reaches 1430 hours. In criminal cases, the workload of specialised judges and investigating judges is lower – 1367 hours and 1379 hours, respectively. The interviewed presidents of individual district (city) courts confirmed that mostly it is the civil judges who are the busiest.

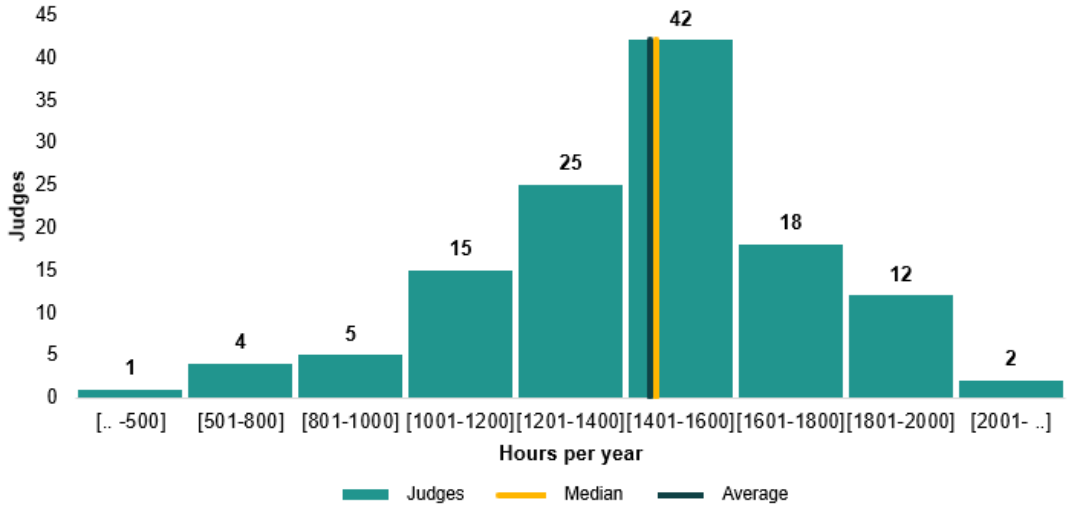
13. table. Comparison of statistics on the workload of district (city) court judges by specialization.

Specialisation of judges	Median load (hours)	Standard deviation of the load (hours)	Average excess over self-assessment working time (hours)	Average excess above normal working time (hours)
Administrative offense cases	1766	526	258	455
Civil cases	1430	308	169	600

Specialisation of judges	Median load (hours)	Standard deviation of the load (hours)	Average excess over self-assessment working time (hours)	Average excess above normal working time (hours)
Investigating judge	1379	582	576	600
Criminal cases	1367	384	307	347
Land register and non-contentious cases	1500	231	177	240

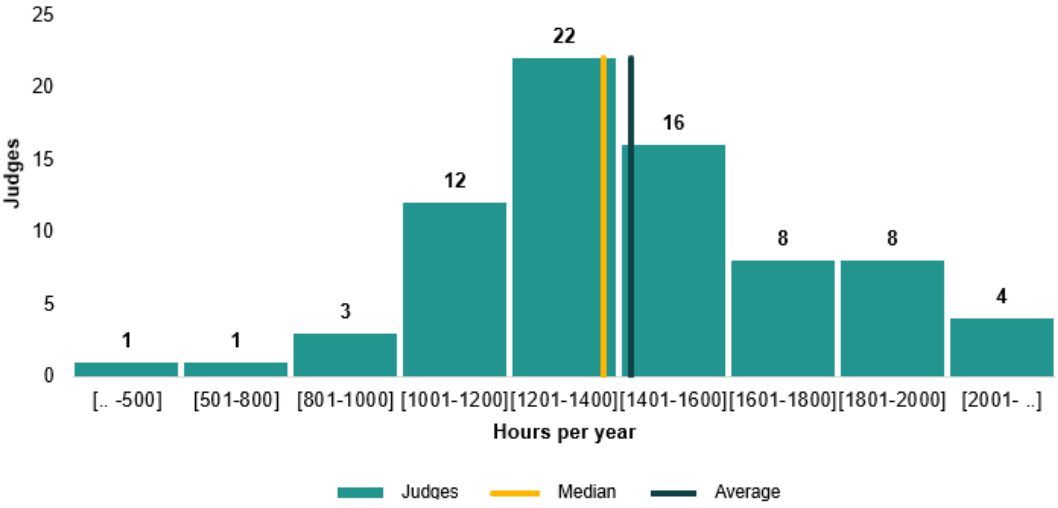
Data source: PwC calculations.

16. image. Workload of district (city) court civil judges for hearing cases in 2024.



Data source: PwC calculations.

17. image. Workload of criminal judges of district (city) courts in the handling of cases in 2024.

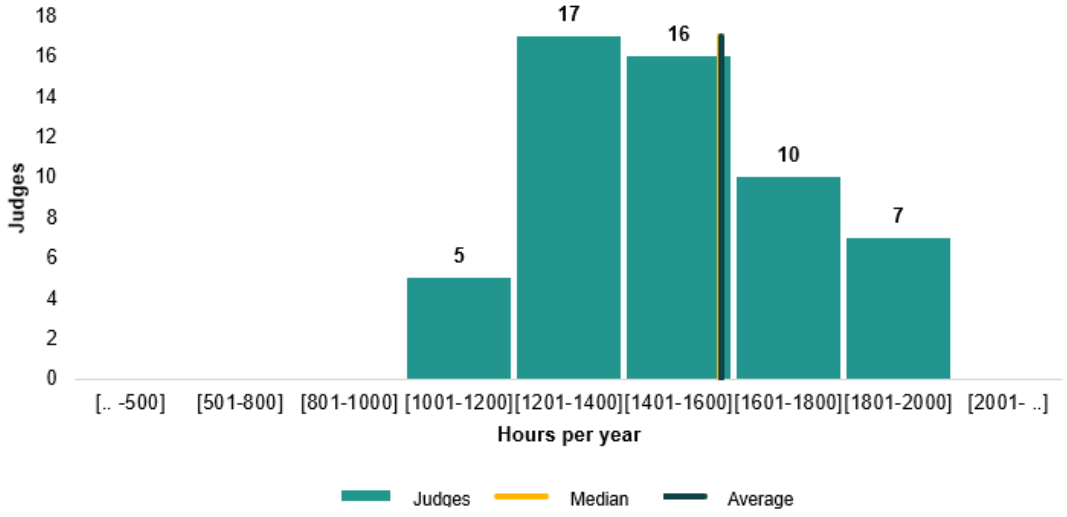


Data source: PwC calculations.

18. image. Workload of investigating judges of district (city) courts in hearing cases in 2024

Data source: PwC calculations.

19. image. Workload of judges in cases in 2024 (courts of first instance, specialization in land register cases).



Data source: PwC calculations.

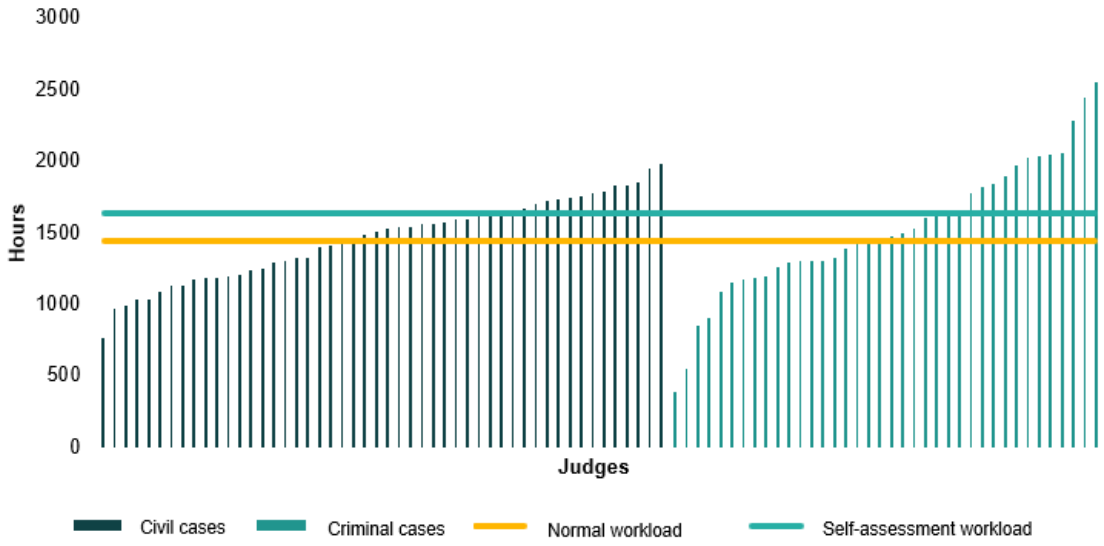
Workload of judges by specialisation in district courts

An analysis of the workload of district court judges by specialization in civil or criminal matters shows that the total workload for judges is similar. However, judges specialising in criminal matters are characterised by a higher standard deviation and a higher average overshoot of working time norms, indicating a more uneven distribution of the workload between judges of the same specialisation and a significant overload of individual judges. The median workload of civil judges is slightly higher, but the busiest criminal judges work significantly more than the busiest civil judges (see Annex III). Figure 19).

In district courts, the specialisation of judges is more strictly defined, as each judge has only one specialisation – in civil or criminal matters. The division of specializations is strengthened by the establishment of civil and criminal colleges.

An assessment of the workload of district court judges in 2024 shows that the division according to the specialization of a judge is consistently observed – judges also mainly deal with civil cases of specialization in civil cases, judges also specialization in criminal cases – criminal cases, cases of administrative offenses and execution of sentences. In some cases, judges view cases outside their specialization, but only as non-refereeing judges, indicating that such involvement is exceptional.

20. image. Time (hours) spent by district court judges of different specializations for cases completed in 2024.



Data source: PwC calculations.

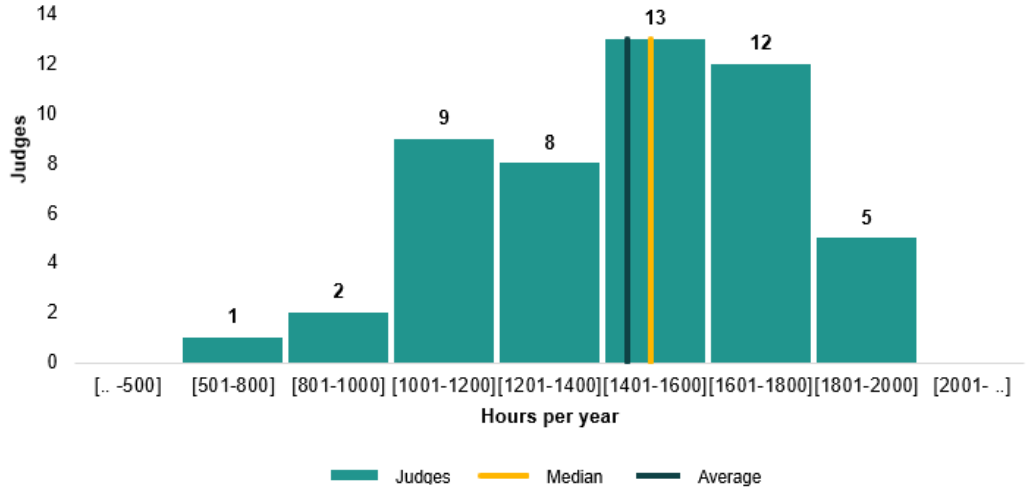
A comparison of the workload of civil and criminal judges of district courts shows that it is similar, the median workload of civil judges is slightly higher. A similar proportion of judges exceeds the normal working hours for viewing cases – 54% of civil judges and 53% of criminal judges. At the same time, a higher proportion of criminal judges – 37%, civil judges – 28% – exceed the working hours of self-esteem. The standard deviation in the workload of criminal judges is higher, indicating a more uneven distribution of workload directly between judges who specialize in viewing criminal cases. The average working time of criminal judges is the highest, i.e. the workload of the busiest criminal judges is higher than that of the busiest civil judges (see Annex III). Table 14, Figures 19-21).

14. table. Comparison of statistics on the workload of district court judges by specialization.

Specialisation of judges	Median load (hours)	Standard deviation of the load (hours)	Average excess over self-assessment working time (hours)	Average excess above normal working time (hours)
Civil cases	1514	283	149	240
Criminal cases	1458	468	368	422

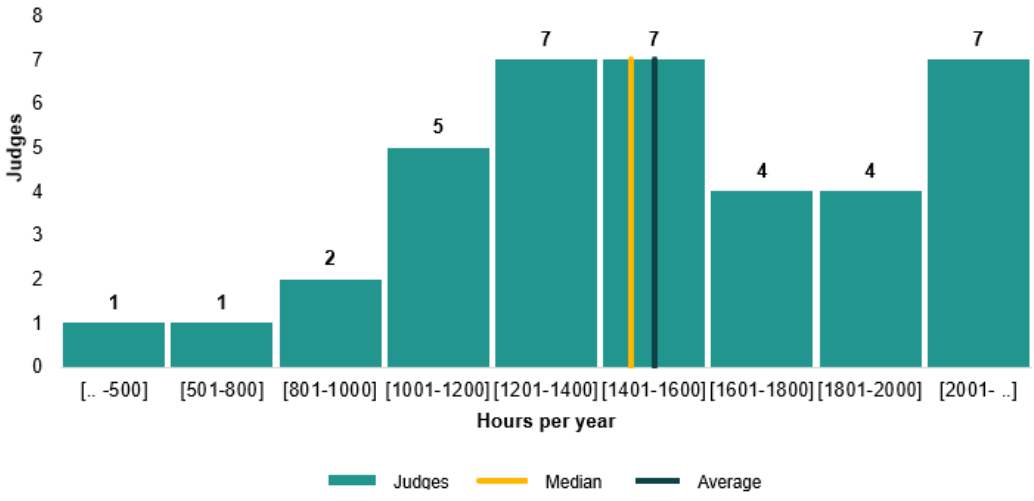
Data source: PwC calculations.

21. image. Workload of judges in 2024 (district courts, specialization in civil cases).



Data source: PwC calculations.

22. image. Workload of judges in the handling of cases in 2024 (district courts, specialization in criminal cases).



Data source: PwC calculations.

5. Assessment of the workload of the judicial authorities in the light of the cases falling within the jurisdiction of the institution

Assessment of the workload of district (city) courts

Analysing the workload of district (city) courts (see Annex III). Table 15), it can be observed that the workload in the courts is quite different. The highest weight of cases to a judge in the Court of Economic Affairs, the Riga City Court and the Latgale District Court.

Among the district (city) courts of general jurisdiction, the Riga City Court has the smallest number of completed cases per judge, however, the highest weight of cases per judge, which indicates that a larger number of complex cases are heard in this court. High weight of cases to the judge also in the Latgale District Court. The number of completed cases per judge in specialised courts, i.e. the Administrative District Court and the Court of Economic Affairs, is much lower than in general jurisdiction, but these courts have a higher weight of cases per judge than in most courts of general jurisdiction, which indicates the nature and complexity of the work of these courts.

15. table. Comparison of the workload of district (city) courts[29].

True	Actual number of judges[30]	Number of completed cases[31]	Weight of finished cases	Completed cases to the judge	The weight of cases per judge in hours
Administrative District Court	35	1 618	50 158	46.2	1 433
Court of Economic Affairs	9	369	14 391	41	1 599
Courland District Court	37	52 265	50 901	1 412.6	1 375.7
Latgale District Court	34	45 820	49 030	1 347.6	1 442.1
Riga City Court	92	109 919	140 876	1 194.8	1 531.3
Riga District Court	36	57 688	47 599	1 602.4	1 370.1
Vidzeme District Court	29	46 102	39 386	1 590	1 394.6
Zemgale District Court	51	64 557	69 695	1 266	1 401.5

Data source: PwC calculations.

The highest workload per judge in the number of cases handled is in the Riga District Court and the Vidzeme District Courts, however, the weight of the cases considered per judge in

[29] Only judges who have served for at least 10 months in 2024 are included.
[30] Including land registry judges and investigating judges in courts of general jurisdiction.
[31] Including land register and non-contentious cases and decisions of investigating judges in courts of general jurisdiction.

these courts is lower than in other district (city) courts of general jurisdiction, which indicates that the cases heard in these courts are most likely not as laborious as elsewhere. The highest weight of cases per judge is in the Riga City Court. This court also has the highest proportion of judges among courts of general jurisdiction, exceeding normal working hours and self-assessment working hours – 62% and 37%, respectively. In economic courts, the proportion of judges exceeding normal working hours and self-esteem working hours is the highest – 78% and 67%. In other courts, these rates range from 24%-57% and 14%-37%, respectively.

After evaluating what types of cases make up the workload of district (city) courts, it can be concluded that in all courts of general jurisdiction, most of the workload is made up of civil cases (see Annex III). Table 16). Cases of administrative violations a little more in the Riga City and Riga District Courts. The Latgale District Court has the highest proportion of criminal cases compared to other courts of general jurisdiction. The Riga City Court has the smallest share of land registers and non-contentious cases, whereas the Riga District Court has the highest proportion. The proportion of the investigating judge's decisions is slightly higher than elsewhere in the Riga City Court.

16. table. Proportion of district (city) court workload in different categories of cases by case workload.

True	Administrative infringement cases	Civil cases	Decisions of the investigating judge	Criminal cases	Cases of execution of sentences	Land-book and non-contentious cases
Administrative District Court	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Court of Economic Affairs	0%	27%	0%	63%	0%	0%
Courland District Court	3%	44%	6%	22%	1%	23%
Latgale District Court	3%	42%	4%	29%	1%	21%
Riga City Court	5%	48%	8%	22%	1%	16%
Riga District Court	6%	46%	5%	15%	1%	27%
Vidzeme District Court	2%	47%	5%	18%	1%	26%
Zemgale District Court	3%	48%	6%	23%	1%	19%

Data source: PwC calculations.

Assessment of the workload of district courts

Applying the weights of empirical analysis cases, it can be concluded that the highest workload among district courts is in the Riga Regional Court, where the weight of completed cases per judge (1 667.8 hours) and the number of completed cases per judge (60.6), which is about 40% more than the average for district courts of general jurisdiction. The second highest rate is in the Administrative Regional Court (1,493 hours and 48.1 cases per judge). In turn, the lowest workload in terms of both the number and weight of cases is in the Vidzeme Regional Court, where the number of completed cases per judge is 32.9, but the weight of cases is 1 031.8 hours.

The unevenness of the workload between the district courts of general jurisdiction indicates the need for a redistribution of human resources or a change in the allocation of cases between

district courts. Currently, for example, the regulatory framework provides[32] that the Riga Regional Court is the only regional court where cases of the Court of Economic Affairs are referred for consideration, which often tend to be more complex than other cases. The other district courts should also have jurisdiction to hear these cases.

17. table. Comparison of district court workloads[33].

True	Actual number of judges	Number of completed cases	Weight of finished cases	Completed cases to the judge	The weight of cases per judge in hours
Administrative Regional Court	13	625	19 415	48.1	1 493
Courland Regional Court	10	398	12 622	39.8	1 262.2
Latgale Regional Court	11	435	13 299	39.5	1 329.9
Riga Regional Court	48	2 910	80 054	60.6	1 667.8
Vidzeme Regional Court	9	296	9 286	32.9	1 031.8
Zemgale Regional Court	11	503	14 995	45.7	1 363.2

Data source: PwC calculations.

An assessment of the workload structure of district courts shows that there are greater differences between district courts of general jurisdiction than between district (city) courts (see Annex III). Table 18). Although, as in district (city) courts, the workload in district courts is primarily made up of civil cases (in three out of five district courts of general jurisdiction), there are more marked differences in the distribution of the proportion of types of cases in the courts. For example, for civil cases it ranges in the range of 34-65%, for criminal cases in the range of 22-54%. This indicates a different profile of the work of the courts.

18. table. The proportion of district court workloads in different categories of cases.

True	Administrative cases	Administrative offense cases	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Cases of execution of sentences
Administrative Regional Court	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Courland Regional Court	0%	9%	36%	54%	1%
Latgale Regional Court	0%	8%	43%	47%	3%
Riga Regional Court	0%	11%	65%	22%	2%
Vidzeme Regional Court	0%	12%	34%	51%	2%
Zemgale Regional Court	0%	7%	51%	41%	1%

Data source: PwC calculations.

[32] Decision of the Council for the Judiciary No. 48 of 24 July 2025 "On courts, their territories and locations".
[33] The assessment includes only district court judges who have served for at least 10 months in 2024.

6. Determining the optimal number of judges

The evaluation gathered evidence that district (city) courts would optimally need 341 judges with average productivity to deal with the 381,185 cases received in 2024(t.sk. land register and non-contentious cases, administrative cases and decisions of investigating judges). For comparison, as of 31.12.2024, there were 405 judicial posts in the judicial system.

In contrast, district courts would optimally need 131 judges to hear 6088 cases, compared to 141 judges as of 31.12.2024, which is very close to the actual number of judges in these courts.

The determination of the number of judges is an important tool for planning the capacity of the courts and ensuring an efficient judicial system. In order to implement an efficient allocation of resources appropriate to the judicial workload, it is necessary to rely on objective indicators that reflect both the number of cases pending and their degree of complexity.

In order to calculate the optimal number of judges, first of all, the total work intensity of the cases to be dealt with during the year was calculated – the amount of work in the hours required for the examination of cases of the relevant category, taking into account the weight of cases recommended for each group of courts in the section "Determination of case weights with regression analysis". Secondly, the total labour intensity of the cases pending during the year was divided by the number of hours per judge devoted to the handling of a case per year. Calculations of the optimal number of judges are based on the assumption that all judges worknormal working hours, devoting 1436 hours a year to hearing cases[34]. The optimal number of t-rounds is calculated according to the following formula:

$$Number\ of\ judges = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n}(N_i \times w_i)}{T}$$, where:

- n - the total number of categories of cases;
- Ni - the number of cases in a certain category;
- w_i - weight of the category of cases;
- T - the number of working hours per judge per year for viewing cases.

A detailed overview of the optimal number of judges in the judiciary and by specialisation of the judge is attached in Annexes 7 and 8.

Calculations of the optimal number of judges are based on statistics on the number of cases received directly in 2024 and calculations on the average time required to hear each category of cases according to the case weights recommended in the section "Determining the weight of cases with regression analysis". This methodology is applicable not only to retrospective analysis, but also to the required number of judgesforecasting – for example, by predicting the number of cases received by basic types of cases and categories of cases in the next year or period, it is possible to calculate the optimal number of judges.

The estimates of the optimal number of judges do not take into account the proportion of officials who are at risk of being absent due to incapacity for work. The calculations also fail to take into account the fact that the productivity of a judge may decrease in the event of a transfer of judges from one judicial authority to another and a change in the specialisation of the judge (e.g. by becoming an investigating judge).

34

The optimal number of judges to hear cases received in the courts

As a result of the statistical analysis, evidence was obtained that 334 judges would be optimally needed in district (city) and administrative courts to deal with 381 185 cases, t.sk. land register issues and non-contentious cases, instead of the current 405 judicial posts. In the district courts, on the other hand, a total of 6,088 cases would optimally require 13 1judges instead of the existing 141 posts.

Based on the methodology described above, the optimal number of judges in Latvia in district (city) courts and district courts has been calculated. The results are presented in Table 19.

19. table. The number of posts of a judge and the optimal number of judges in district (city) courts and district courts.

Instance	Number of cases received in 2024[35]	Number of judge's posts as of 31.12.2024.[36]	Mathematically justified (optimal) number of judges[37]
District (city) courts	381 185	405	341 (-16%)
District courts	6 088	141	131 (-7%)

Data source: PwC calculations.

Calculations of the workload of case categories in hours suggest that district (city) courts could have about 16% fewer judges than the positions currently provided for optimal handling of cases. In district courts – about 7% less. This indicates a mathematically justified possibility of reducing the number of judicial posts in order to ensure a more efficient use of resources and compliance with the actual workload.

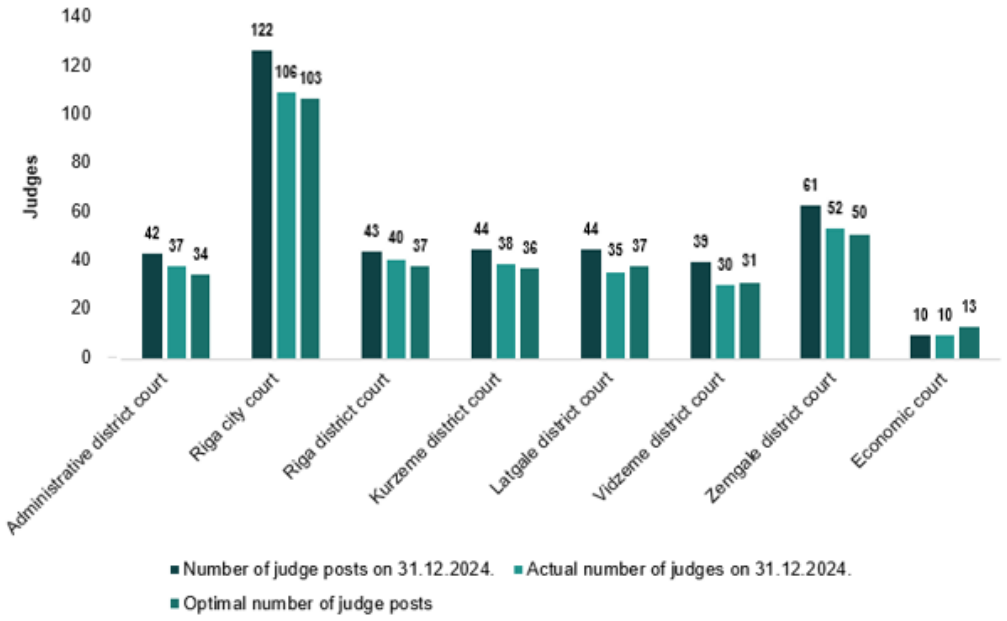
Optimal number of judges in judicial institutions

Applying the workload data of the regression analysis, calculations of the total weight of completed cases show that the optimal number of district (city) judges varies significantly from one judicial institution to another. Although the proposed changes in the number of judicial posts are at different levels, according to calculations, the number of judicial posts in almost all courts is too large (see photo). Annex 7).

Applying the labor intensity data of the regression analysis, a surplus of resources has been found in most district (city) courts, with the exception of the Economic Court, wheres three more postsare required. Mathematical calculations show that the highest percentage of surplus resources is in the Vidzeme District Court, where the number of judges could be 21% less than the specified number of posts (31 judge instead of 39). Of all the courts of general jurisdiction, the smallest reduction in the positions of a judge would be required in the Riga City Court and the Riga District Court – 16% and 14% less, respectively.

[35] Data provided by the Court Administration
[36] Data provided by the Court Administration
[37] The brackets indicate a decrease compared to the number of judge's posts as of 31.12.2024.

23. image. The number of positions of a judge and the actual number of judges in 2024 and, according to calculations, the optimal number of positions of a judge in district (city) courts.

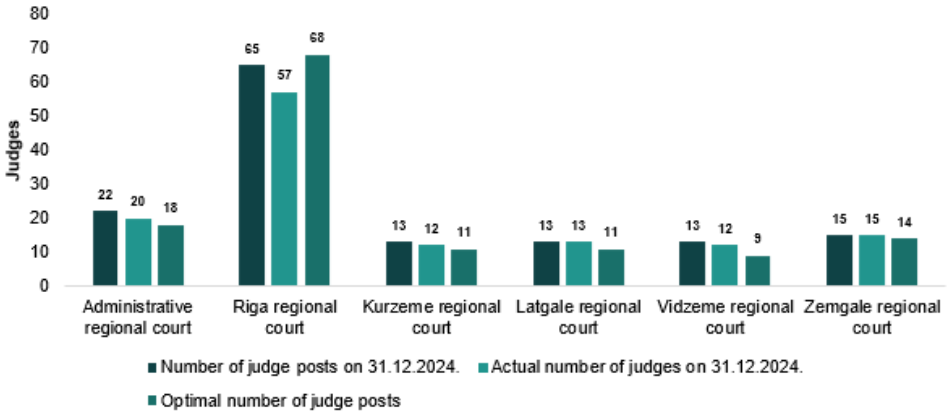


Data source: PwC calculations.

Applying the weights of empirical analysis cases (regression analysis weights in the Administrative Regional Court), the surplus of judge positions in district courts is estimated in all courts except the Riga Regional Court (3 more posts are required). A significant surplus of the number of judges has been calculated in the Vidzeme Regional Court, where 3.1% fewer posts would be needed (9 judge positions instead of 13).

The optimally required number of judges in the Riga Regional Court is explained by its high workload. Taking into account that other district courts require a smaller number of judges than the specified number of posts in them, there could be a possibility to transfer judges to the Riga Regional Court, thus equalizing the workload of district court judges.

24. image. The number of judicial posts and the actual number of judges in 2024 and, according to calculations, the optimal number of judicial posts in district courts.



Data source: PwC calculations.

Optimal number of judges of certain specializations

In order to ensure efficient and high-quality judicial work, it is recommended to deepen specialization in certain basic types of cases.

Calculations of the optimal number of judges by the specializations of a judge make it possible to determine the most significant capacity needs. The need for judges of courts of different specializations in courts varies according to the basic types of cases received in court.

When determining the optimal number of judges by specialization, it is assumed that judges consider only those cases that correspond to their specialization. In particular, in the calculations for the optimal number of civil judges, only the total amount of civil cases examined in hours is used. District (city) court judges specializing in criminal cases also deal with cases of execution of sentences and cases of administrative violations. Making an accurate comparison with the existing number of judges in specializations is difficult, since in fact judges deal with several types of cases. However, according to the available information, there were 44 judges who have only heard civil cases in district (city) courts in 2024 – according to estimates, 141 would be needed.

According to calculations (see Annex 8), civil judges are most needed in district (city) courts of general jurisdiction. Each of the courts should have at least two investigating judges. Each court must also have at least eight land registry judges. In the Latgale District Court, the optimal proportion of judges specializing in criminal cases is set slightly higher than in other courts – 3.8%. Elsewhere – 24-34%.

25. image. The optimal distribution of the number of judges by specialization in all courts by instance.

True	Administrative cases	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Investigating judges	Land register and non-contentious cases	Total
The Courts of First Instance	34	125	100	22	60	**341**
District courts	18	57	56	0	0	**131**

Data source: PwC calculations.

In district courts, the existing principle of specialisation has been retained in the calculations, namely that judges of the criminal division also deal with cases of execution of sentences and cases of administrative offences, so no separate number of judges has been allocated to this category.

In most district courts, criminal judges would be most needed . Most in the Courland Regional Court, where 64% of judges would have to deal with civil cases.

7. Recommendations

Ensuring a common understanding and intensity of work

- In order to promote transparency and a common understanding of the expected intensity of work in the courts, it is advisable to agree within the judicial system on the optimal amount of time per year that the judge must work, which we recommend to set at not less than 1600 hours. This amount of time includes both time for the examination of cases and professional development (training), as well as administrative and other tasks related to the duties of the position. For example, in Estonia, all types of proceedings assume that there are 1600 hours per year to deal with cases. In Latvia, such an overall indicator would help to ensure a unified approach to workload planning. The minimum amount of time worked is reduced in the event of justified absence and does not include vacation time.
- It is also advisable to develop guidelines for the optimal distribution of working time so that judges can plan their work more effectively and avoid overloading.

Improving the case-weighing model and data quality

- The improvement of the existing Case Weighing Model should be carried out on the basis of statistical analysis.
- Reconciliation of case groups: Ensure that case groups in the Case Weighing Model fully correspond to the categories of TIS cases – there are currently name and structure mismatches between classifications, which makes it difficult to reconcile the data. This would enable automated data analysis and more accurate load calculations.
- Improving data quality: Implement an automated mechanism for identifying and correcting misclassified information in the TIS system, as well as identify those responsible for monitoring data quality in each court.
- Consider the introduction of periodic working time surveys: Analogously, for other comparable countries, [38] either provide for the participation of judges and assistant judges in periodic working time surveys in laws and regulations in order to obtain an accurate overview of the distribution of working time of judges and assistant judges, as well as objective assessments of the work intensity of different categories of cases, especially in courts where it is not possible to assess the work intensity of categories of cases by statistical methods;
- Weighting review: Periodically review case weights in the case-weighing model based on the most up-to-date statistics and case law, as well as introduce the possibility of an extraordinary review if significant changes in the structure of cases or workload are detected.

Redistribution of specializations and resources

- Given the significant differences in the workload of judges of different specialisations, especially between those specialising in civil and criminal matters, it is recommended to develop a flexible approach to changing specialisation with training and a transition period so that judges specialising in criminal matters can make a qualitative transition to civil proceedings.
- Regularly analyse the flow of cases and anticipate the need for a change of specialisation using statistical models in order to adjust resources in a timely manner and avoid, for example, overloading of judges specialising in civil matters.

[38] Estonia, the Netherlands and Finland.

- Establish a centralised monitoring mechanism that monitors the results of the change in specialisation and provides recommendations on further reallocation of resources.
- The Court Administration should use the results of this report for the full implementation of the Case Weighing Model. The Judicial Efficiency Task Force[39] shall evaluate the functioning of the model once a year, make recommendations to the Court Administration and monitor the implementation of the recommendations.
- Develop a publicly available overview of the effectiveness of the work of the courts based on statistical model data, thereby contributing to transparency and public trust.

[39] A working group set up by the Court Administration, consisting of judges of district (city) courts and district courts.

Attachments

Annex 1. General description of regression analysis[40]

Regression analysis

Regression analysis is a statistical method that studies the relationship between a dependent variable and one or more independent variables.

Regression analysis is used to determine which independent variables affect the dependent variable. If there is a hypothesis that a set of variables affects your outcome, regression analysis can be used to determine which variables are the most significant in your model and which have the greatest impact on your outcome (dependent variable).

Regression can also be used as a way to predict a result based on what happened in similar situations (on existing datasets). This model can be used to predict an outcome (dependent variable) based on changes in other variables (independent variables). In a linear regression model, the outcome is continuous, and a straight-line equation function is created to predict future outcome values. The logistic regression model predicts the relationship between events (e.g. yes/no or happened/did not happen) and the probability of another dependent occurrenceuma.

Usually, in regression formulas, the letter "Y" denotes the dependent variable, and "X" denotes the independent variable.

Types of regression analysis

1. Single-factor linear regression formula

Linear regression is the most commonly used technique. This model works best when it comes to studying the relationship between one independent variable and one dependent variable. It creates a linear relationship, and thus the curve in the graph is a straight line.

$$Y = a + bX + \varepsilon$$

- Y: the value you are trying to predict (dependent variable)
- X: influencing factor (independent variable)
- a: a coefficient that indicates the value of Y when X = 0 (Interception)
- b: gradient indicating how much the value of Y changes with each increase (gradient positive) or decrease (gradient negative) of the X unit
- ε: error (difference between actual and predicted Y value)

2. Multivariate linear regression formula

When the output depends on multiple input data, multivariate linear regression is applied. It models a relationship in which several variables together affect the final result.

$$Y = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + \ldots + bnXn + \varepsilon$$

[40] Yan, X., & Su, X. (2009). "Linear Regression Analysis: Theory and computing". World Scientific Pub. Co.

• Each X represents a separate independent variable
• Each b (gradient) indicates how much influence this independent variable has on Y and in what direction this effect is
• ε: error (difference between actual and predicted Y value)

3. Logistic regression formula

When the predicted outcome is not numerical, but rather categorical (e.g. yes/no or true/false outcome), logistic regression is used to estimate the probability of an outcome (event).

$$P(Y = 1) = 1 / (1 + 1 / e^{(a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + ...)})$$

• P(Y=1): probability that the event occurs
• e: Constant Eilera ~2.718
• Each X represents a separate independent variable
• Each b (gradient) indicates how much influence this variable has on Y and in what direction
• The exponent element is a linear combination of independent input data

4. Polynomial regression formula

When the variable relationships of a data set form a curvature rather than a straight line, it indicates a polynomial relationship. In this case, polynomial regression is the most appropriate method. It introduces degrees of independent variable to model complex commitments.

$$Y = a + b_1X + b_2X^2 + b_3X^3 + ... + bnX^n + \varepsilon$$

• Each X represents a separate independent variable
• Each b (gradient) indicates how much influence this variable has on Y and in what direction
• ε: error (difference between actual and predicted Y value)

This method is ideal when trends are not linear and show curvature, for example, data with turning points or U-curves.

Basic elements of the regression concept

When conducting regression analysis, you need to work with certain basic elements: independent variables, dependent variables, correlation and causality.

1. Independent variables

In a regression model, independent variables are factors that we consider to affect the outcome of a variable. They are independent and can be manipulated to observe appropriate changes in the dependent variable.

For example, this study looks at data on cases completed by a judge (number of cases) during the year in different categories of cases as independent variables.

2. Dependent variables

The dependent variable is the result in the regression model. It is a variable that we are trying to understand, predict or explain. Its value depends on the change in independent variables.

For example, this study looks at the number of hours per year that a judge devotes to hearing cases as a dependent variable.

3. Correlation

Correlation is a statistical measurement that shows the magnitude of the relationship between several variables. The correlation coefficient (usually denoted as "R") can range from negative one to one.

If R is positive, the correlation is positive, which means that the two variables together increase or decrease. If R is negative, one variable decreases when the other increases. If R is equal to zero, it means that there is no correlation between the variables. It is important to note that correlation is not equal to causality.

4. Causality

Correlation may indicate a relationship between variables, but it does not respect causality. Correlation means that two variables are related and alternate with each other. Causality means that a change in one variable causes a change in another variable. If there are causal relationships between variables, regression analysis can predict the outcome of the dependent variable based on the change in independent variables.

Saying that changing one or more variables necessarily causes an outcome is a stronger statement than saying that two variables are related. For this reason, the determination of causal relationships requires much more rigorous assumptions and analyses than correlation.

Interpretation of the results of regression analysis

Regression analysis begins with data on the variables we want to evaluate. Using this data, you can create a mathematical model, usually in the form of lines or curves, that best shows the relationship between dependent and independent variables.

Once the data of the regression model (estimate or forecast) are obtained, statistical indicators can be studied to find out whether the hypothesis (forecast) is strong or weak, and to see how each of the included independent variables affects the outcome (dependent variable).

In regression analyses, quality has the following main statistical indicators:

- **R (correlation coefficient):** The value of R refers to the degree of linear relationship between variables. If R is positive, the correlation is positive, which means that the two variables together increase or decrease. A value of 1 demonstrates a very strong correlation between variables. If R is negative, one variable decreases when the other increases. A value of -1 demonstrates a very strong correlation between variables. If R is equal to zero, it means that there is no correlation between the variables.

- **R-square** (or coefficient of determination): The R-square demonstrates the degree of compliance. This means how many points correspond to the regression line, or what is the proportion of those cases where the dependento variable can be statistically explained by an independento variableo. The higher the R-squared value, the better the match of the regression line[41]. In the case of multivariate regression, attention should be paid to an adjusted R-square. The value of the square of R is calculated by the following formula:

R2 = 1 - (SSres / SStot)

[41] The square value of R can be negative,if SSres > SStot. In this case, it indicates that the regression model describes poorly or does not describe the dependent variable at all.

• SSres: the sum of the squares of the differences between all observed and predicted values
• SStot: the sum of the squares of all observed values and the difference in their average value)

• **Adjusted R** Square: A custom R square is valuable when you have two or more independent variables. It provides a comparison between the variables that are more important than others. The value will be higher than R-squared if a new independent variable improves the model or vice versa[42]. The value of the custom R-square is calculated by the following formula:

Custom R2 = 1 – ((1-R2) * (n-1) / (n-k-1))

• R2: R square value
• n: number of observations used in regression analysis
• k: number of independent variables

• **Standard error**: The standard error demonstrates the accuracy of the regression analysis – how much the predicted dependent variable differs from the measured value. The value is calculated as the square root of SSres.

Benefits of using regression analysis

One of the main advantages of regression analysis is its ability to quantify and model the relationships between different variables, which allows predictions to be made. It allows you to assess the force of influence of independent variables and the direction on the dependent variable.

Regression analysis is flexible and can include more than one independent variable at a time. This allows you to analyze complex, multivariate scenarios.

Disadvantages of regression analysis

Despite its many strengths, regression analysis is fraught with a number of limitations. For example, although regression analysis can identify relationships and correlations, it does not confirm causality. Regression analysis may additionally have the following disadvantages:

• Overfitting: Overfitting *occurs when the model adapts too tightly to the original data and cannot generalize new information.*

• **Multicollinicity**: Multicollinicity can occur when independent variables are interrelated. This can distort the results.

• **Lack of data**: When data is lacking, this can lead to a small sample size and reduced application of regression analysis .

• **Small sample size**: A small sample size can lead to unlikely results.

[42] Also, the value of the adjusted R-square can be negative. Again, it indicates that the regression model poorly describes or does not describe the dependent variable at all.

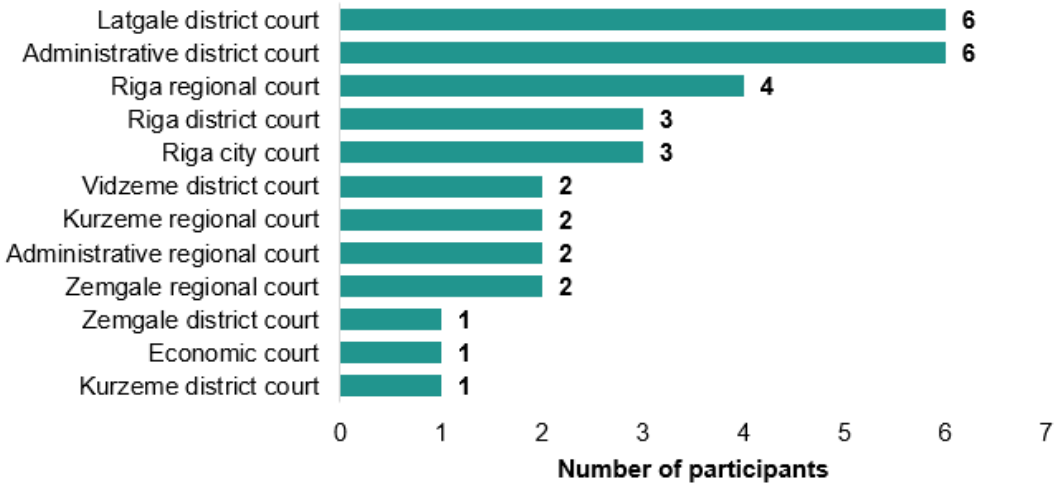
Annex 2. Overview of PwC's Time Survey of Judges and Court Staff

PwC's Time Survey of Judges and Court Staff ran from 6 May 2025 to 15 September 2025. **Participation in the time survey was voluntary**, and representatives of Latvian courts were invited to participate – judges, assistant judges, clerks of court hearings

The objectives of the survey were (1) to measure the distribution of working time between the different functions of judges and court staff; (2) to obtain data on the time spent on the examination of cases; (3) to serve as a basis for improving the model of weighing cases.

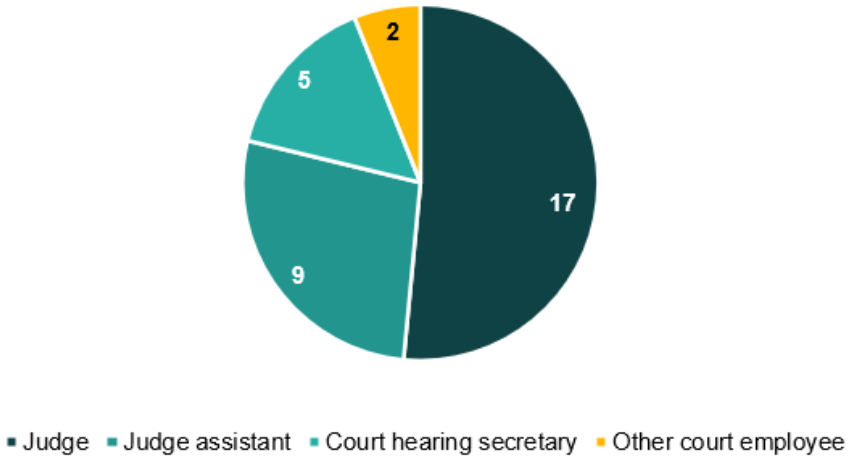
In total**, 33 court employees submitted data to the time survey**. The largest number of participants in the survey came from the Latgale District Court and the Administrative District Court.

26. image. Number of participants in the time survey by court



Most of the court staff who submitted data to the survey were judges.

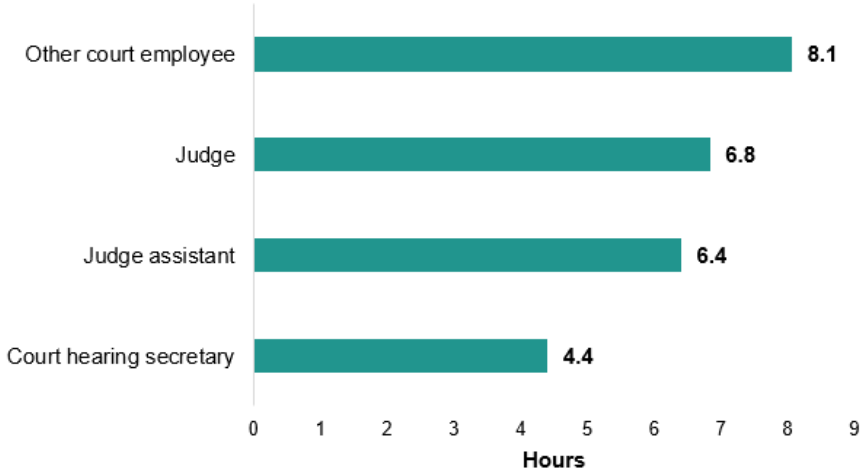
27. image. The number of participants in the time survey, depending on the type of position.



Of those court staff who participated in the time survey, just over half (18) recorded an average of at least 40 working hours, or working time equivalent to one working week with eight-hour working days.

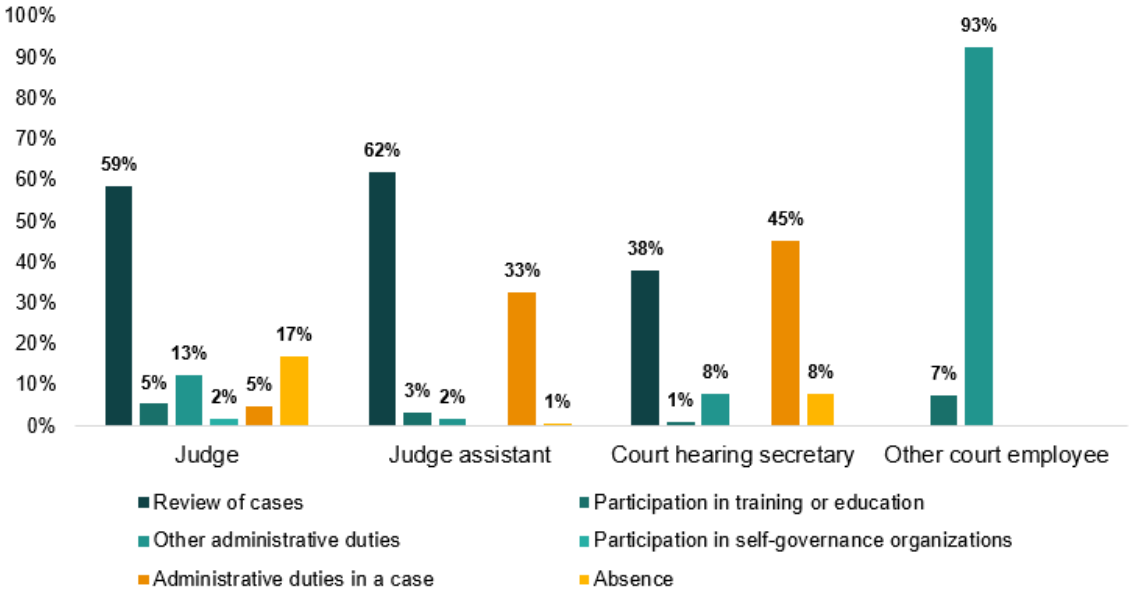
On average, the working hours recorded per day vary depending on the group of posts – the highest for other court employees, the lowest for clerks of court hearings.**The average daily working time recorded in none of the job groups shall significantly exceed eight hours**.

28. image. The average recorded time per day of groups of court staff.



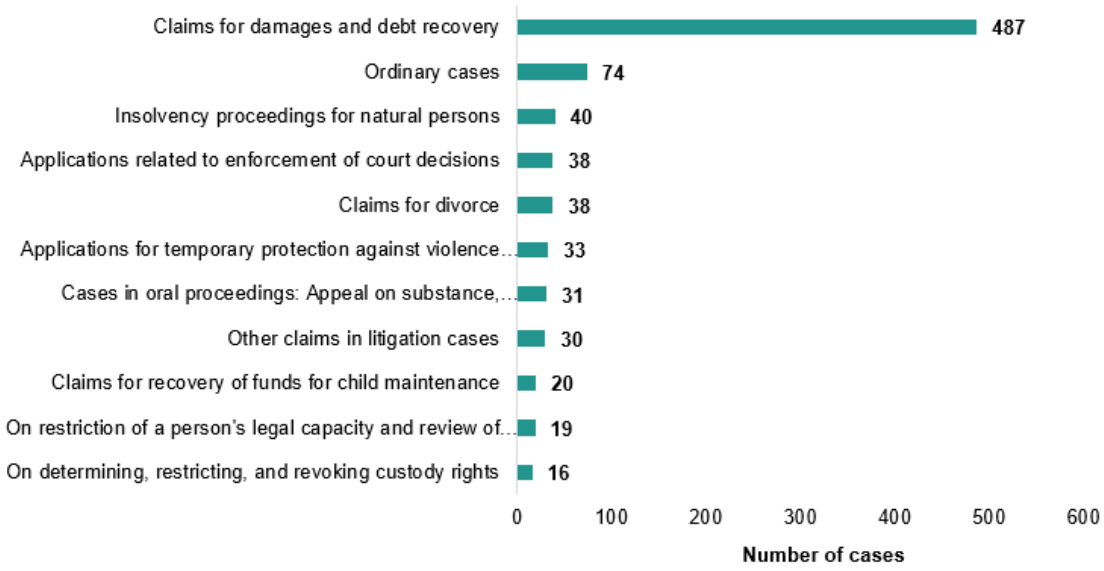
Judges and assistant judges devote most of their working time to the examination of the case (material). Assistant judges have devoted a little more of their time to hearing the case (materials) than judges. Registrars also devote a relatively large part of their working time to this duty.

29. image. Distribution of working time by main activities in different groups of positions of court staff (as a percentage of the total time registered).



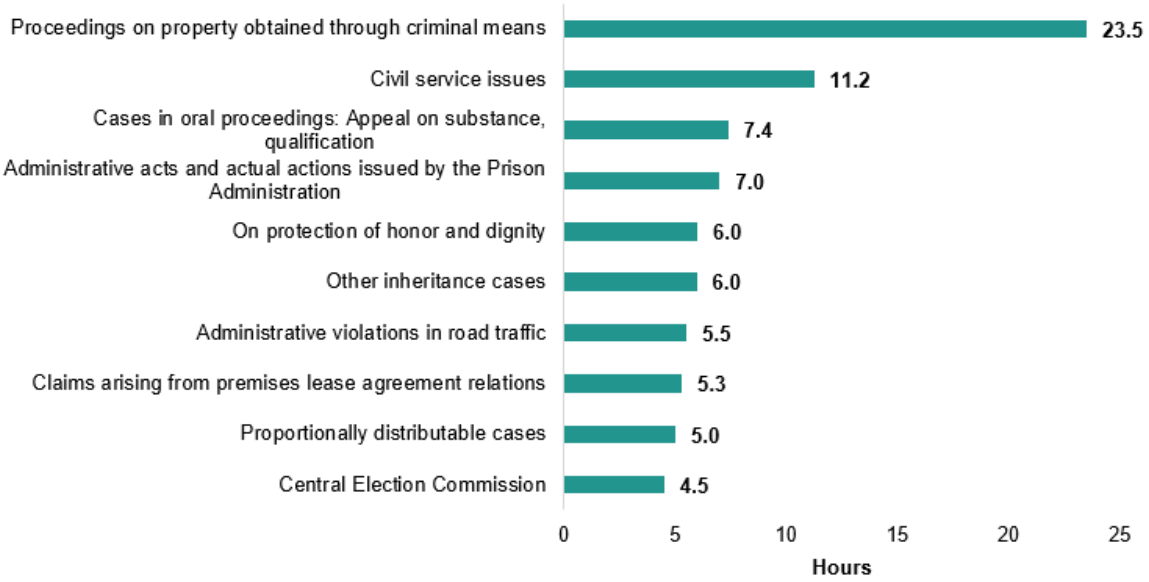
The most common category of cases noted by court staff in the time survey is **claims for damages and debt collection**. **This category of cases accounts for approximately 46% of all cases listed in the survey**, which roughly corresponds to their share of the total number of litigation cases handled in 2024. On average, in one case in this category, the time listed by court staff corresponds to 1.1 hours.

30. image. The most common categories of cases for which marks have been made in the time records of court employees.



According to the time accounting performed by court officers, **the most laborious category of cases is "Proceedings for Criminal Property",** where an average of 23.5 hours are listed in one case. In 85% of case categories, the average time recorded per case is less than five hours.

31. image. Average recorded time (in hours) per case – the most laborious categories of cases.



Given the low participation, the data obtained are not sufficient to be considered representative or to be used to draw meaningful conclusions about the overall workload of the Latvian judicial system. The data provide only limited insight and cannot serve as a basis for general recommendations.

3.Shipping: Appendix. Current model of weighing cases in district (city) courts[43]

Basic type of weighing	Weighing group	Number of points*
Administrative offense cases	Cases of administrative offences (in the written procedure)	5.0
	Administrative infringement cases (in oral procedure)	7.0
Civil cases	Labour law cases	6.0
	Liability law	6.0
	Family law cases	7.0
	Rights in rem	7.0
	Copyright, intellectual property cases	7.0
	Industrial property cases	6.0
	Special litigation cases (except insolvency)	3.0
	Succession law cases	7.0
	Complaints about the conduct of bailiffs (Articles 617 and 632 of the CPL), complaints in insolvency cases, complaints about the conduct of a notary	4.0
	Insolvency cases	5.0
	Recognition for enforcement of foreign court decisions	3.0
	Cases for interim measures (before the action is brought)	4.0
	Voluntary judicial sale of RE	2.0
	Issuance of a writ of execution for the enforcement of an arbitration judgment	2.0
	Applications under Part E of the CPL, with the exception of complaints under Articles 617 and 632	3.0
	Housing law cases	5.0
	Competition law cases	10.0
	Simplified procedure cases	3.0
	Civil cases under the jurisdiction of the ELT	10.0
	Law of the Sea cases	6
	Setting aside arbitral awards	6
	Collective demands of consumers	6
Investigative activities	Decisions of the investigating judge (in the written procedure)	0.5
	Decisions of the investigating judge (in the oral procedure)	1.5

[43] REPORT of the Court Administration 04.09.09 to the Council for the Judiciary on the model for determining the degree of complexity of cases in district (city) courts and district courts.

Basic type of weighing	Weighing group	Number of points*
Criminal cases and cases of execution of sentences	Execution of penalties	1.5
	Cases with examination of evidence	20.0
	Cases without examination of evidence	5.0
	Application of coercive means of influence on legal entities	7.0
	Proceedings on the proceeds of crime	9.0
	Arrangement process	3.0
	Case concerning the application of coercive measures of an educational nature	5.0
	Execution of a sentence imposed abroad in Latvia	3.0
	Coercive measures of a medical nature	7.0
Land register files	Approval of the auction deed	1.5
	Non-contentious enforcement of obligations	0.3
	Enforcement of obligations by means of a warning procedure	0.1
	Modifications and extinguishments of rights, corroborations of rights in the form of endorsements	0.1
	Strengthening rights in rem	0.3

4. Appendix. The current model of weighing cases in district courts[44]

Basic type of weighing	Weighing group	Number of points*
Administrative offense cases	Cases of administrative offences (in the written procedure)	20.0
	Administrative infringement cases (in oral procedure)	20.0
Civil cases	Labour law cases	35.0
	Liability law	35.0
	Family law cases	35.0
	Rights in rem	35.0
	Copyright, intellectual property cases	35.0
	Industrial property cases	35.0
	Special litigation cases (except insolvency)	35.0
	Succession law cases	35.0
	Complaints about the conduct of bailiffs (Articles 617 and 632 of the CPL), complaints in insolvency cases, complaints about the conduct of a notary	15.0
	Insolvency cases	15.0
	Cases for interim measures (before the action is brought)	15.0
	Issuance of a writ of execution for the enforcement of an arbitration judgment	15.0
	Applications under Part E of the CPL, with the exception of complaints under Articles 617 and 632	15.0
	Housing law cases	35.0
	Competition law cases	35.0
	Side complaints about various decisions, including procedural progress	15.0
	Simplified procedure in cases where appeal proceedings are refused	35.0
	Side complaint in the Land Register case	15.0
	Cases under Part F. of the CPL	15.0
	Appeals Simplified procedure cases (on the merits of a standard appeal case)	35.0
	Civil proceedings under the jurisdiction of ELT on appeal	35.0
Criminal cases and cases of execution of sentences	Execution of penalties	15.0
	Application of coercive means of influence on legal entities	35.0
	Proceedings on the proceeds of crime	35.0

[44] REPORT of the Court Administration 04.09.09 to the Council for the Judiciary on the model for determining the degree of complexity of cases in district (city) courts and district courts.

Basic type of weighing	Weighing group	Number of points*
	Case concerning the application of coercive measures of an educational nature	15.0
	Coercive measures of a medical nature	15.0
	Decisions of the investigating judge (in the written procedure)	15.0
	Complaints/protests in the settlement process	15.0
	Foreign applications for recognition and enforcement	15.0
	Criminal complaints/protests against punishment	35.0

5. Appendix. Belonging of case categories to the grouped Case Weighing Model

Basic type of cases	Grouped LSM categories	Related categories of cases
Administrative offense cases	Administrative offense cases	All cases of administrative violations
Civil cases	Family law cases	Child abduction cases; On the determination, limitation and revocation of custody rights; On the determination, restriction and cancellation of access rights; Requirements for the abolition of adoption; Requirements for the recovery of funds for the maintenance of children; Requirements for determining the ancestry of children; Claims for marriage annulment; Claims for termination and limitation of parental custody; Divorce claims
	Applications for temporary protection against violence	Applications for temporary protection against violence
	Liability law cases	Claims for loss and debt recovery For the defense of honor and dignity; Claims for personal injury due to non-compliance with road traffic rules and vehicle accidents; Claims for personal injury due to other circumstances; Claims for personal injury in the performance of work duties by the victim; Requirements for the removal of attachment of property;
	Special proceedings	On the restriction of a person's legal capacity and review of the restriction; Applications related to the enforcement of court decisions; Other special court cases; On the establishment of facts that have legal significance; Declaration of a missing person as dead; Requirement for recognition of a person as dead; Requirements for the abolition of adoption; Requirements for approval of adoption; On the trusteeship of a person's temporary or property
	Legal protection proceedings and insolvency cases	Insolvency cases of natural persons; Insolvency cases of legal entities; Cases of legal protection proceedings
	Simplified procedure cases	Claims for loss and debt recovery
	Other cases	Applications for the security of evidence; Applications for the provision of evidence before bringing an action to court; Applications for securing a claim before bringing an action to court; Complaints about the activities of a sworn notary; Complaints about the activities of sworn bailiffs; Requirements for reinstatement; Claims for the recovery of wages and other labour disputes; Requirements for eviction without the allocation of other living space; Requirements for eviction with the allocation of another living space; Eviction claims for non-payment of rent; Requirements arising from the relationship between the contract for the rental of premises; Disputes over copyright and related rights claims for infringements of competition law; Recognition and enforcement of a foreign court ruling in the territory of the Republic of Latvia; Approval of the real estate auction deed and consolidation of real estate in the name of the collector; Disputes over industrial property rights – designs; Disputes over industrial property rights – patents;

Basic type of cases	Grouped LSM categories	Related categories of cases
		Disputes over industrial property rights – trademarks; Recognition of property rights to property property; Recognition of property rights to land or to land and home ownership; Other claims in legal proceedings; Other inheritance matters; On the acceptance and confirmation of inheritance in the law of succession; On the entry into force of an act of the last will order; Applications for enforcement of arbitration decisions; Applications related to the enforcement of court decisions; Voluntary sale of real estate by judicial auction; Applications to challenge an arbitration award; Matters arising from the law of obligations
Criminal cases and cases of execution of sentences	Criminal cases	Criminal cases with/without verification of evidence; Proceedings on criminally acquired property; Procedure for agreeing a case
	Cases of execution of sentences	Penalty execution case; Prosecutor's injunction on punishment
Land register and non-contentious cases	Land register cases - rights in rem	Land register cases - rights in rem
	Land register cases – amendments and extinguishments of rights, consolidation of rights in the form of marks.	Land register cases – amendments and extinguishments of rights, consolidation of rights in the form of marks.
	Non-contentious cases	Approval of the real estate auction deed and consolidation of real estate in the name of the collector; Non-contentious enforcement of obligations; Fulfilment of obligations by means of a warning procedure
Decisions of the investigating judge	Decisions of the investigating judge	Permission of the investigating judge; Investigative activity; Procedural sanction; Special investigative activity; Arrests of property; Extradition of a person to a foreign country; Complaint to the investigating judge; Detention of a foreigner

6. Appendix. Unused results of regression analysis in general jurisdiction district courts

This annex provides an overview of the regression analysis variants that were tested to determine the weights of cases of district courts of general jurisdiction and the results of which indicated that the data obtained from the regression model (estimate or forecast) were weak.

All district courts of general jurisdiction

Combined Case Weighing Model Categories	Total work intensity in hours (regression analysis weights, self-assessment working time)	Total labor intensity in hours (regression analysis scales, normal working time)
Administrative infringement cases - non-refereeing judge	- 18	-16
Cases of administrative offences - Referee	14	12
Civil cases - non-refereeing judge	9	8
Civil cases – referee	12	11
Criminal cases - non-refereeing judge	19	17
Criminal cases - referee	17	14
Cases of execution of sentences	35	31

Riga Regional Court

Combined Case Weighing Model Categories	Total work intensity in hours (regression analysis weights, self-assessment working time)	Total labor intensity in hours (regression analysis scales, normal working time)
Administrative infringement cases - non-refereeing judge	5	4
Cases of administrative offences - Referee	32	28
Civil cases - non-refereeing judge	9	8
Civil cases – referee	11	9
Criminal cases - non-refereeing judge	1	1
Criminal cases - referee	1	1
Cases of execution of sentences	35	30

Other regional courts (excluding Riga Regional Court)

Combined Case Weighing Model Categories	Total work intensity in hours (regression analysis weights, self-assessment working time)	Total labor intensity in hours (regression analysis scales, normal working time)
Administrative infringement cases - non-refereeing judge	0.3	0.3
Cases of administrative offences - Referee	23	20
Civil cases - non-refereeing judge	3	2
Civil cases – referee	32	28
Criminal cases - non-refereeing judge	10	8
Criminal cases - referee	26	23
Cases of execution of sentences	-10	-9

All district courts, sentencing cases are counted as criminal cases

Combined Case Weighing Model Categories	Total work intensity in hours (regression analysis weights, self-assessment working time)	Total labor intensity in hours (regression analysis scales, normal working time)
Administrative infringement cases - non-refereeing judge	-17	-16
Cases of administrative offences - Referee	14	14
Civil cases - non-refereeing judge	10	9
Civil cases – referee	13	12
Criminal cases - non-refereeing judge	19	19
Criminal cases - referee	20	18

Riga Regional Court (cases of execution of sentences are included in criminal cases)

Combined Case Weighing Model Categories	Total work intensity in hours (regression analysis weights, self-assessment working time)	Total labor intensity in hours (regression analysis scales, normal working time)
Administrative infringement cases - non-refereeing judge	13	11
Cases of administrative offences - Referee	39	34

Combined Case Weighing Model Categories	Total work intensity in hours (regression analysis weights, self-assessment working time)	Total labor intensity in hours (regression analysis scales, normal working time)
Civil cases - non-refereeing judge	9	8
Civil cases – referee	11	10
Criminal cases - non-refereeing judge	-6	-5
Criminal cases - referee	4	3

Other district courts (criminal enforcement cases)

Combined Case Weighing Model Categories	Total work intensity in hours (regression analysis weights, self-assessment working time)	Total labor intensity in hours (regression analysis scales, normal working time)
Administrative infringement cases - non-refereeing judge	-2	-2
Cases of administrative offences - Referee	22	19
Civil cases - non-refereeing judge	3	2
Civil cases – referee	34	29
Criminal cases - non-refereeing judge	11	10
Criminal cases - referee	25	21

All district courts (cases of execution of sentences and cases of administrative offences included in criminal cases)

Combined Case Weighing Model Categories	Total work intensity in hours (regression analysis weights, self-assessment working time)	Total labor intensity in hours (regression analysis scales, normal working time)
Civil cases - non-refereeing judge	10	11
Civil cases – referee	10	11
Criminal cases - non-refereeing judge	10	10
Criminal cases - referee	10	11

Annex 7. The optimal number of judges in the courts[45]

	True	Number of judge's posts as of 31.12.2024.[46]	Actual number of judges as of 31.12.2024[47]	Actual number of judges as of 01.10.2025	Optimal number of judges[48]
District (city) courts	Administrative District Court	42	37	36	34 (-19%)
	Court of Economic Affairs	10	10	9	13 (+30%)
	Courland District Court	44	38	37	36 (-18%)
	Latgale District Court	44	35	31	37 (-16%)
	Riga City Court	122	106	106	103 (-16%)
	Riga District Court	43	40	38	37 (-14%)
	Vidzeme District Court	39	30	29	31 (-21%)
	Zemgale District Court	61	52	53	50 (-18%)
District courts	Administrative Regional Court	22	20	21	18 (-18%)
	Courland Regional Court	13	12	13	11 (-15%)
	Latgale Regional Court	13	13	12	11 (-15%)
	Riga Regional Court	65	57	57	68 (+5%)
	Vidzeme Regional Court	13	12	10	9 (-31%)
	Zemgale Regional Court	15	15	14	14 (-7%)

[45] PwC calculation.
[46] Data provided by the Court Administration.
[47] Data provided by the Court Administration.
[48] The percentage comparison is calculated against the number of judicial posts.

Annex 8. The optimal number of judges by specialization [49]

		Admin-tratious cases	Civil-cases	Criminal cases	Investigating judge	Earth-haired and non-contentious cases	Total
District (city) courts	Administrative District Court	34	0	0	0	0	34
	Court of Economic Affairs	0	4	9	0	0	13
	Courland District Court	0	15	10	3	8	36
	Latgale District Court	0	13	14	2	8	37
	Riga City Court	0	44	33	10	16	103
	Riga District Court	0	16	9	2	10	37
	Vidzeme District Court	0	13	8	2	8	31
	Zemgale District Court	0	20	17	3	10	50
	Total	**34**	**125**	**100**	**22**	**60**	**341**
District courts	Administrative Regional Court	18	0	0	0	0	18
	Courland Regional Court	0	4	7	0	0	11
	Latgale Regional Court	0	5	6	0	0	11
	Riga Regional Court	0	38	30	0	0	68
	Vidzeme Regional Court	0	4	5	0	0	9
	Zemgale Regional Court	0	6	8	0	0	14
	Total	**18**	**57**	**56**	**0**	**0**	**131**

[49] PwC calculation.

Annex 9. Calculation of the working time of the t incumbent devoted to the handling of casesa (hours per year)

Based on the results of [50]a survey conducted by PwC on the workload of judges and court staff.

No. p.k.	Position	2023 St.	2024 St.	2025 St.	Typical St.	%
1	Total hours per year	8760	8784	8760	8760	
2	**Total number of working hours per year[51]**	**1996**	**2003**	**1987**	**2002**	**100**
3	Annual paid leave[52]	200	200	200	**200**	**10**
3.1	Annual paid leave for a judge after five years of service as a judge (additional 3 days)	224	224	224	**224**	**11**
3.2	Annual paid leave for a judge after ten years of service as a judge (additional 6 days)	248	248	248	**248**	**12**
3.3	**Annual paid leave for a judge after 15 years of service as a judge (additional 9 days)[53]**	272	272	272	**272**	**14**
3.4	Annual paid leave for a judge after twenty years of service as a judge (additional 12 days)	296	296	296	**296**	**15**
3.5	Annual paid leave for a judge after twenty-five or more years of service as a judge (additional 15 days)	320	320	320	**320**	**16**
4	**Annual working hours of a judge[54]**	1724	1731	1730	**1730**	**86**
4.1	Examination of cases (materials)	1362	1367	1355	**1367**	**79**
4.2	Administrative responsibilities in the case	69	69	69	**69**	**4**
4.3	Other administrative responsibilities	155	156	154	**155**	**9**
4.4	Participation in training	121	121	120	**121**	**7**
4.5	Participation in self-government	17	17	17	**17**	**1**

[50] PwC, "Report on the survey of judges and court staff". The survey took place from 3 to 18 April 2025 within the framework of the project "Improvement of the efficiency and budget of the Latvian judicial system".
[51] The total number of hours worked per year, without deducting any kind of absence (vacation, study or anything else). From the total number of hours per year, minus Saturdays and Sundays, public holidays and postponed public holidays, as well as shortened working hours before public holidays.
[52] Annual paid leave. In accordance with Section 41 of the Law on Remuneration of Officials and Employees of State and Local Government Authorities, the Judge shall be granted annual paid leave - five calendar weeks, excluding public holidays. A judge's annual paid leave shall be extended by three working days after every five years of service as a judge or prosecutor, but not more than 15 working days in total.
[53] Median (typical indicator) selected for the calculation of working time.
[54] The proportion of time allotted for each duty is obtained within the framework of the survey, while the number of hours per year is calculated based on the working hours of the Judge in hours per year. Source: PwC, "Report on the survey of judges and court staff". The survey took place from 3 to 18 April 2025 within the framework of the project "Improvement of the efficiency and budget of the Latvian judicial system".