

Court Structure and Caseload Activity

The Unified Court System is comprised of 11 separate trial courts, an Appellate Division with four regional departments, an Appellate Term that hears appeals from certain trial courts in certain regions of the state, and the Court of Appeals — the highest court in the State.

Appellate Courts

The Court of Appeals is the state's court of last resort. It consists of the Chief Judge and six Associate Judges appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to 14-year terms. The court's caseload activity is reported in TABLE 1.

Table 1: Caseload Activity in Court of Appeals - 2021

Applications Decided [CPL 460.20(3)(b)]						1,658
Records on Appeal Filed						91
Oral Arguments						58
Appeals Decided						81
Motions Decided						988
Judicial Conduct Determinations Reviewed						0
Dispositions of Appeals Decided in the Court of Appeals by Basis of Jurisdiction						
BASIS OF JURISDICTION	AFFIRMED	REVERSED	MODIFIED	DISMISSED	OTHER*	TOTAL
All Cases						
Dissents in Appellate Division	4	2	0	1	0	7
Permission of Court of Appeals or Judge thereof	25	20	1	0	0	46
Permission of Appellate Division or Justice thereof	7	10	2	0	0	19
Constitutional Question	1	2	0	0	0	3
Stipulation for Judgment Absolute	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	1	0	0	5	6
Total	37	35	3	1	5	81
Civil Cases						
Dissents in Appellate Division	4	2	0	1	0	7
Permission of Court of Appeals	7	9	0	0	0	16
Permission of Appellate Division	0	4	1	0	0	5
Constitutional Question	1	2	0	0	0	3
Stipulation for Judgment Absolute	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	1	0	0	5	6
Total	12	18	1	1	5	37
Criminal Cases						
Permission of Court of Appeals Judge	18	11	1	0	0	30
Permission of Appellate Division Justice	7	6	1	0	0	14
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	25	17	2	0	0	44

*Includes anomalies which did not result in an affirmation, reversal, modification or dismissal (e.g., judicial suspensions, acceptance of a case for review pursuant to Court Rule 500.27)

Court Structure and Caseload Activity

Below the Court of Appeals is the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court, a mid-level appellate court. The Presiding Justice and Associate Justices of the Appellate Division in each Judicial Department are designated by the Governor from among Justices elected to the Supreme Court. The Presiding Justices serve for the duration of the term for which they were elected to Supreme Court; the Associate Justices may serve terms of five years or of indeterminate length, depending on the seats they are appointed to fill. The Appellate Division's caseload activity is listed in TABLE 2.

Table 2: Caseload Activity in the Appellate Division - 2021

	FIRST DEPT		SECOND DEPT		THIRD DEPT		FOURTH DEPT		TOTAL
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	
Records on Appeal Filed	1,630	650	2,655	529	856	306	596	489	7,711
Disposed of before argument or submission (e.g., dismissed, withdrawn, settled)	1,924	135	2,981	322	746	112	0	0	6,220
Disposed of after argument or submission:									
Affirmed	1,018	390	1,192	511	516	236	347	412	4,622
Reversed	296	31	460	62	88	15	104	50	1,106
Modified	263	74	249	75	104	19	122	51	957
Dismissed	189	5	392	6	75	3	130	15	815
Other	14	10	93	67	7	2	4	16	213
Total Dispositions	3,704	645	5,367	1,043	1,536	387	707	544	13,933
	FIRST DEPT		SECOND DEPT		THIRD DEPT		FOURTH DEPT		TOTAL
Oral Arguments*	1,365		1,655		531		727		4,278
Motions Decided*	3,621		5,640		5,589		5,618		20,468
Admissions to the Bar	1,820		2,126		3,571		312		7,829
Atty. Disciplinary Proceedings Decided	36		132		191		35		394

*Not broken down by civil or criminal.

Appellate Terms of the Supreme Court in the First and Second Judicial Departments hear appeals from civil and criminal cases originating in New York City's Civil and Criminal Courts. In the Second Department, the Appellate Terms also hear appeals from civil and criminal cases originating in District, City, and town and village Justice Courts. Justices are selected by the Chief Administrative Judge upon approval of the Presiding Justice of the appropriate Appellate Division. The Appellate Terms' caseload activity is listed in TABLE 3.

Table 3: Caseload Activity in the Appellate Terms - 2021

	FIRST DEPT			SECOND DEPT			TOTAL
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	
Records on Appeal Filed	66	65	131	489	289	778	909
Disposed of before argument or submission (e.g., dismissed, withdrawn, settled)	-	11	11	343	111	454	465
Disposed of after argument or submission:							
Affirmed	57	92	149	157	123	280	429
Reversed	24	13	37	110	42	152	189
Modified	8	3	11	43	8	51	62
Dismissed	9	4	13	30	7	37	50
Other	1	-	1	33	3	36	37
Total Dispositions	99	123	222	716	294	1,010	1,232
Oral Arguments*	122			211			333
Motions Decided*	433			1,380			1,813

*Not broken down by civil or criminal.

Trial Courts

In 2021, 2,160,646 cases were filed statewide in the trial courts. Criminal cases accounted for 30.5%. Civil cases accounted for 46%. Seventeen percent of the cases were in Family Court and 6.5% were in Surrogate's Court. TABLE 4 shows total filings in the trial courts over a five-year period. FIGURE A shows the percentage of filings by case type.

Table 4: Filings in the Trial Courts: Five-Year Comparison*

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Criminal					
Supreme and County Courts Criminal ^a	44,283	43,040	39,324	19,059	29,670
Criminal Court of the City of NY ^b	438,525	318,340	325,570	172,451	204,112
City & District Courts Outside NYC ^b	631,255	592,231	606,245	395,448	412,485
Parking Tickets ^c	104,984	93,286	14,331	5,445	17,542
Criminal Total	1,219,047	1,046,897	985,470	592,403	663,809
Civil					
Supreme Court Civil ^d	466,949	460,671	453,140	306,270	345,805
Civil Court of the City of NY ^e	532,043	555,549	540,980	327,371	327,309
City & District Courts Outside NYC ^e	188,550	196,824	191,228	118,024	125,378
County Courts Civil ^d	108,451	93,002	83,278	86,523	96,727
Court of Claims	1,816	1,765	1,801	1,590	1,577
Small Claims Assessment Review Program	44,211	40,466	42,029	102,571	91,426
Civil Total	1,342,020	1,348,277	1,312,456	942,349	988,222
<i>Family</i> ^f	611,470	580,548	578,346	325,694	369,186
<i>Surrogate's</i>	141,735	144,325	141,237	118,284	139,429
Total	3,314,272	3,120,047	3,017,509	1,978,730	2,160,646

*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/22.

^a Includes felonies and misdemeanors, of which 1,845 were misdemeanor filings in 2021.

^b NYC includes arrest and summons cases, and beginning in 2019, includes uniform traffic tickets that require the court's involvement.

Outside NYC includes arrest cases and uniform traffic tickets that require the court's involvement.

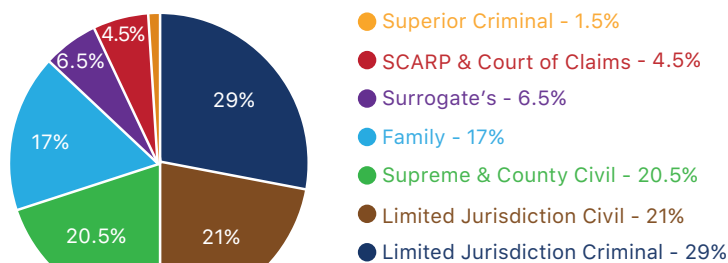
^c Beginning in 2019, parking ticket counts only include those tickets that require the court's involvement. The counts for 2019, and going forward, include both NYC and outside NYC.

^d Includes new cases, ex parte applications and uncontested matrimonial cases.

^e Includes civil, housing, small claims and commercial claims.

^f Includes Permanency Planning Hearings held.

Figure A: Trial Court Filings by Case Type - 2021*



*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/22.

The Supreme Court generally handles cases outside the authority of the lower courts such as civil matters beyond the monetary limits of the lower courts' jurisdiction; divorce, separation and annulment proceedings; equity suits, such as mortgage foreclosures and injunctions; and criminal prosecutions of felonies. During 2021, there were 345,805 civil filings in Supreme Court, including 150,537 new cases, 156,192 ex parte applications and 39,076 uncontested matrimonial cases. A total of 324,980 matters reached disposition. The Supreme Court's caseload activity is listed in TABLE 5. FIGURE B shows the percentage of filings by case type and FIGURE C shows the breakdown of cases by manner of disposition.

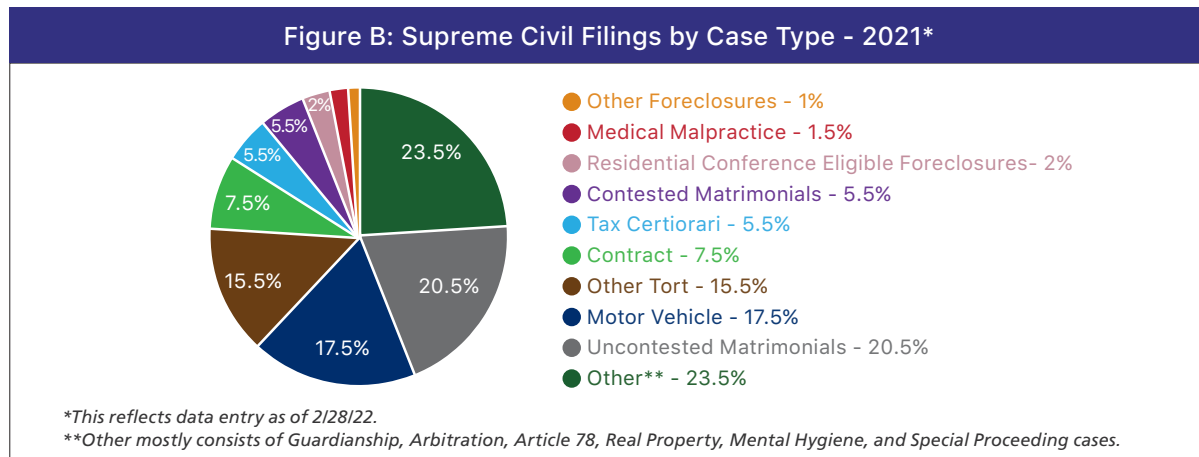


Table 5: Supreme Civil Cases - 2021*

Location	FILINGS		DISPOSITIONS				
	New Cases	Note of Issue	Total	Pre-Note	Note of Issue	Settlements	Verdicts
TOTAL STATE	150,537	30,140	129,959	105,471	24,488	24,934	867
NYC	75,068	12,968	55,679	45,555	10,124	8,795	467
BRONX	15,063	2,022	10,683	9,184	1,499	3,825	51
KINGS	22,816	4,280	14,810	11,101	3,709	1,054	88
NEW YORK	17,800	2,898	14,625	12,669	1,956	1,808	115
QUEENS	16,674	3,148	12,535	10,265	2,270	1,456	178
RICHMOND	2,715	620	3,026	2,336	690	652	35
ONYC	75,469	17,172	74,280	59,916	14,364	16,139	400
Albany	3,007	408	3,390	2,956	434	354	8
Allegany	115	22	120	92	28	9	0
Broome	1,017	145	942	801	141	8	0
Cattaraugus	238	39	244	237	7	59	0
Cayuga	290	50	294	245	49	3	0
Chautauqua	443	80	638	555	83	61	1
Chemung	314	63	327	263	64	7	0
Chenango	153	46	144	105	39	10	1
Clinton	296	35	310	251	59	61	1
Columbia	304	69	244	194	50	45	1
Cortland	118	41	130	92	38	1	2
Delaware	172	27	253	203	50	8	1
Dutchess	2,199	522	2,210	1,798	412	370	7
Erie	7,268	963	7,015	6,137	878	1,384	28
Essex	152	23	149	124	25	1	0
Franklin	215	29	233	198	35	45	0
Fulton	270	50	363	301	62	112	3
Genesee	208	25	214	193	21	25	0

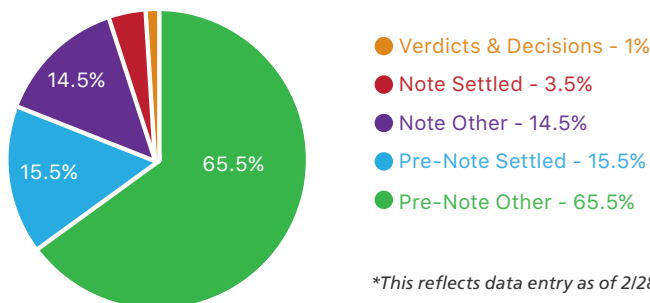
*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/22.

Table 5: Supreme Civil Cases - 2021*

Location	FILINGS		DISPOSITIONS				
	New Cases	Note of Issue	Total	Pre-Note	Note of Issue	Settlements	Verdicts
TOTAL STATE	150,537	30,140	129,959	105,471	24,488	24,934	867
Greene	287	79	228	154	74	49	1
Herkimer	277	69	344	286	58	34	0
Jefferson	455	125	404	292	112	7	0
Lewis	49	20	92	62	30	16	0
Livingston	171	28	164	137	27	11	0
Madison	211	60	129	90	39	4	1
Monroe	3,225	682	2,861	2,260	601	122	4
Montgomery	232	34	269	227	42	127	1
Nassau	15,182	4,098	13,820	10,859	2,961	3,941	124
Niagara	1,018	222	1,255	1,059	196	207	4
Oneida	1,317	366	1,290	918	372	256	20
Onondaga	2,261	716	2,194	1,603	591	44	10
Ontario	496	91	480	412	68	21	0
Orange	2,817	625	2,747	2,285	462	597	9
Orleans	146	8	176	170	6	36	0
Oswego	444	65	300	243	57	35	22
Otsego	216	54	212	161	51	3	1
Putnam	476	117	565	445	120	20	4
Rensselaer	664	121	696	580	116	84	6
Rockland	2,653	717	2,655	2,095	560	738	7
St. Lawrence	482	124	508	401	107	101	0
Saratoga	954	184	932	732	200	342	1
Schenectady	746	174	835	680	155	320	5
Schoharie	111	26	86	65	21	1	0
Schuyler	47	19	34	19	15	0	0
Seneca	238	15	226	211	15	1	0
Steuben	234	75	231	181	50	14	0
Suffolk	12,461	1,956	12,882	10,904	1,978	5,042	83
Sullivan	592	121	497	395	102	22	5
Tioga	144	33	180	146	34	8	0
Tompkins	216	59	192	140	52	10	9
Ulster	1,300	434	1,233	875	358	222	5
Warren	285	68	262	219	43	10	0
Washington	259	53	257	199	58	81	0
Wayne	365	78	403	338	65	29	0
Westchester	7,359	2,788	7,135	5,067	2,068	990	24
Wyoming	242	26	224	214	10	28	1
Yates	58	5	62	47	15	3	0

*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/22.

Figure C: Supreme Civil Disposition by Type of Disposition - 2021*



*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/22.

Court Structure and Caseload Activity

County Courts, located in each county outside New York City, handle criminal prosecutions of felonies and misdemeanors committed within the county, although in practice most minor offenses are handled by lower courts. County Courts also have limited jurisdiction over civil lawsuits involving claims up to \$25,000. County Courts in the Third and Fourth Departments, while primarily trial courts, also hear appeals from cases originating in the City Courts and town and village Justice Courts. The statistical data for the County Courts' felony caseload are reported in combination with the felony caseload data for Supreme Court in TABLE 6.

Table 6: Supreme Criminal & County Court - Felony Cases 2021*

Location	FILINGS			DISPOSITIONS						
	Total	Indictments	SCI's**	Total	Guilty Pleas	Convictions	Acquittals	Nonjury Verdicts	Dismissals	Other
Total State	27,825	19,600	8,225	26,865	21,912	314	99	83	2,611	1,846
NYC	11,130	9,731	1,399	10,317	7,369	65	37	13	1,521	1,312
New York	2,477	2,337	140	1,549	1,097	10	8	2	313	119
Bronx	2,920	2,724	196	2,795	1,804	14	15	1	404	557
Kings	3,495	2,892	603	3,813	2,693	24	6	8	583	499
Queens	1,770	1,426	344	1,594	1,298	13	5	2	178	98
Richmond	468	352	116	566	477	4	3	0	43	39
ONYC	16,695	9,869	6,826	16,548	14,543	249	62	70	1,090	534
Albany	506	300	206	450	403	9	1	0	34	3
Allegany	62	14	48	77	65	0	0	0	1	11
Broome	440	228	212	421	380	15	2	1	20	3
Cattaraugus	200	104	96	269	224	3	0	0	38	4
Cayuga	163	95	68	151	146	4	0	0	1	0
Chautauqua	158	96	62	137	117	0	0	0	16	4
Chemung	277	270	7	318	276	6	0	4	31	1
Chenango	118	77	41	115	111	0	1	0	2	1
Clinton	167	64	103	222	197	8	2	0	5	10
Columbia	101	41	60	69	59	2	2	0	0	5
Cortland	127	59	68	138	103	2	0	0	11	22
Delaware	36	15	21	36	32	0	0	0	3	1
Dutchess	263	114	149	260	242	4	3	0	9	2
Erie	1,357	647	710	1,168	1,058	8	1	14	41	46
Essex	76	47	29	87	60	1	0	0	3	23
Franklin	89	51	38	81	77	1	0	0	1	2
Fulton	139	83	56	92	88	2	0	0	1	1
Genesee	193	111	82	185	173	4	1	3	1	3
Greene	113	75	38	117	99	0	0	0	4	14
Hamilton	3	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Herkimer	105	47	58	73	61	5	0	0	1	6
Jefferson	367	178	189	396	372	3	1	2	12	6
Lewis	60	12	48	82	81	0	0	0	1	0
Livingston	138	96	42	161	142	3	4	0	2	10
Madison	164	39	125	183	177	5	0	0	1	0
Monroe	1,302	963	339	1,269	922	29	10	24	249	35

*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/22.

**Superior Court Information

Table 6: Supreme Criminal & County Court - Felony Cases 2021*

Location	FILINGS			DISPOSITIONS						
	Total	Indictments	SCI's**	Total	Guilty Pleas	Convictions	Acquittals	Nonjury Verdicts	Dismissals	Other
Total State	27,825	19,600	8,225	26,865	21,912	314	99	83	2,611	1,846
Montgomery	112	30	82	134	127	0	1	0	5	1
Nassau	1,621	884	737	1,555	1,363	12	2	3	142	33
Niagara	361	186	175	361	316	7	0	0	12	26
Oneida	515	318	197	521	468	12	4	1	18	18
Onondaga	1,039	726	313	969	868	15	6	1	63	16
Ontario	263	135	128	262	228	6	3	0	18	7
Orange	440	272	168	509	469	3	0	1	13	23
Orleans	67	58	9	76	72	0	1	0	2	1
Oswego	152	106	46	165	152	6	0	1	6	0
Otsego	43	36	7	43	42	1	0	0	0	0
Putnam	72	39	33	66	60	2	0	0	2	2
Rensselaer	269	191	78	264	233	4	0	0	21	6
Rockland	268	221	47	324	242	0	1	1	72	8
St. Lawrence	238	162	76	294	254	4	2	0	17	17
Saratoga	269	67	202	297	287	4	1	0	4	1
Schenectady	224	120	104	225	206	5	1	1	6	6
Schoharie	42	42	0	23	22	0	0	0	0	1
Schuyler	51	39	12	63	52	2	0	2	2	5
Seneca	102	34	68	112	104	1	0	0	5	2
Steuben	428	371	57	430	322	6	2	5	28	67
Suffolk	1,519	1,110	409	1,190	1,059	8	1	0	85	37
Sullivan	123	56	67	174	153	5	5	0	5	6
Tioga	69	34	35	73	65	4	0	1	3	0
Tompkins	101	62	39	104	86	3	0	0	9	6
Ulster	179	88	91	265	242	1	1	0	18	3
Warren	119	43	76	129	116	1	0	0	3	9
Washington	118	93	25	107	99	1	0	0	6	1
Wayne	236	191	45	244	221	4	1	2	8	8
Westchester	695	198	497	743	697	13	2	1	23	7
Wyoming	169	88	81	200	190	3	0	0	4	3
Yates	67	42	25	67	61	1	0	2	2	1

*This reflects data entry as of 2/28/22.

**Superior Court Information

The Court of Claims is a statewide court with exclusive authority over lawsuits involving monetary claims against the State of New York or certain other state-related entities such as the New York State Thruway, the City University of New York and the New York State Power Authority (claims for the appropriation of real property only). The Court hears cases at nine locations around the state. During 2021, 1,577 claims were filed and 1,341 were decided.

The Surrogate's Court, located in every county of the state, hears cases involving the affairs of the deceased, including the validity of wills and the administration of estates. These courts are also authorized to handle adoption and guardianships. See TABLE 7 for 2021 filings and dispositions by case type.

Table 7: Surrogate's Court Filings & Dispositions: Proceedings by Case Type - 2021

Case Type	TOTAL STATE		NYC		OUTSIDE NYC	
	Filings	Dispositions*	Filings	Dispositions*	Filings	Dispositions*
Total	139,429	113,067	35,747	31,246	103,682	81,821
Probate	42,417	43,036	11,402	10,058	31,015	32,978
Administration	20,696	20,899	9,016	7,783	11,680	13,116
Voluntary Admin.	28,640	28,640	7,571	7,571	21,069	21,069
Accounting	24,365	4,077	2,536	1,405	21,829	2,672
<i>Inter Vivos Trust</i>	1,344	1,075	132	151	1,212	924
Miscellaneous	6,839	6,690	2,307	2,638	4,532	4,052
Guardianship	14,359	7,219	2,671	1,478	11,688	5,741
Adoption	759	1,420	111	161	648	1,259
Estate Tax	10	11	1	1	9	10

**Includes orders and decrees signed.*

The Family Court, located in each county outside New York City and citywide in the City, hears matters involving children and families, including adoption, guardianship, foster care approval and review, juvenile delinquency, family violence, child abuse and neglect, custody and visitation, and child support. See TABLE 8 for a breakdown of Family Court filings and dispositions. This table also contains filings and dispositions for the State's Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Courts.

Table 8: Family & Supreme Court (IDV) Filings & Dispositions by Type of Petition - 2021*

Type of Petition	TOTAL STATE		NYC		OUTSIDE NYC	
	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions
Total	369,186	389,292	83,868	98,791	285,318	290,501
Termination of Parental Rights	2,990	2,798	539	514	2,451	2,284
Surrender of Child	1,586	1,584	261	244	1,325	1,340
Child Protective (Neglect & Abuse)	30,171	32,839	9,171	11,787	21,000	21,052
Juvenile Delinquency	7,171	7,045	2,248	2,208	4,923	4,837
Designated Felony	418	257	266	124	152	133
Persons in Need of Supervision	683	772	46	107	637	665
Adoption	1,970	2,055	533	639	1,437	1,416
Adoption Certification	139	180	53	64	86	116
Guardianship	9,025	8,730	2,817	2,606	6,208	6,124
Custody/Visitation	123,800	126,734	22,629	23,641	101,171	103,093
Foster Care Review	116	68	59	22	57	46
Foster Care Placement	317	244	136	80	181	164
Family Offense	52,238	53,619	15,841	17,811	36,397	35,808
Paternity	10,121	12,632	1,776	3,344	8,345	9,288
Support	95,131	105,560	13,772	21,223	81,359	84,337
Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	3,202	3,867	902	1,571	2,300	2,296
Consent to Marry	11	14	4	4	7	10
Other	412	609	72	59	340	550
Permanency Planning Hearings Held	29,685	29,685	12,743	12,743	16,942	16,942

**This reflects data entry as of 2/26/22.*

The Civil Court of the City of New York has jurisdiction over civil cases involving amounts up to \$25,000. It includes small claims and commercial claims parts for the informal resolution of matters involving amounts up to \$5,000, and a housing part presided over by judges designated by the Chief Administrator for landlord-tenant proceedings. New York City Civil Court Judges are elected to 10-year terms; housing judges are appointed to five-year terms. TABLE 9 shows the breakdown of filings and dispositions by case type and county.

Table 9: New York City Civil Court: Filings & Dispositions by Case Type - 2021*

	CIVIL ACTIONS		HOUSING		SMALL CLAIMS		COMMERCIAL CLAIMS	
	Filing ^a	Dispositions ^b	Filing ^a	Dispositions ^b	Filing	Dispositions	Filing	Dispositions
New York City	261,622	123,311	54,509	49,399	9,602	3,120	1,576	475
New York	37,253	14,332	10,436	10,987	1,530	279	155	32
Bronx	47,927	20,093	17,598	14,012	1,507	341	196	21
Kings	97,117	32,179	14,284	14,837	3,313	1,926	499	276
Queens	62,638	37,570	10,991	8,237	2,698	376	473	57
Richmond	16,687	19,137	1,200	1,326	554	198	253	89

**This reflects data entry as of 2/28/22.*

^a Includes both answered and unanswered cases.

^b Includes courtroom dispositions and default judgments.

The Criminal Court of the City of New York handles misdemeanors and violations. New York City Criminal Court Judges also conduct felony arraignments and other preliminary (pre-indictment) felony proceedings. They are appointed by the Mayor to 10-year terms. During 2021, 73 % of the arrests were misdemeanors, with 19% of all cases reaching disposition by plea. Another 71 % were dismissed; 6 % were sent to the grand jury; 3 % were disposed of by other means; and 1 % pled to a superior court information. TABLE 10 shows filings and dispositions by county for arrest cases, summons cases (cases in which an appearance ticket, returnable in court, is issued to the defendant), uniform traffic tickets, and parking tickets that require the court's involvement.

Table 10: New York City Criminal Court: Filings & Dispositions - 2021*

	ARREST CASES		SUMMONS CASES		TRAFFIC TICKETS		PARKING TICKETS	
	Filings	Dispositions	Filings*	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions
New York City	118,583	144,961	49,802	78,431	35,727	36,387	502	490
New York	31,229	36,696	8,425	15,400	2,648	3,167	0	0
Bronx	20,903	27,879	10,504	18,453	2,458	3,018	1	1
Kings	32,764	39,586	20,576	24,321	16,612	16,119	259	254
Queens	27,490	33,827	8,769	17,421	11,215	11,492	236	231
Richmond	6,197	6,973	1,528	2,836	2,794	2,591	6	4

**This reflects data entry as of 2/28/22.*

***Includes both answered and unanswered cases.*