

Judicial Statistics

3rd Bi-Annual Report

*An insight to the cases decided and new institutions during
January to June 2024*



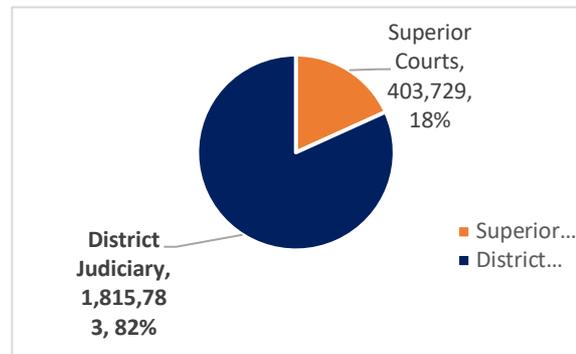
Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan
Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad
www.ljcp.gov.pk

1. Summary

This report provides an overview of cases initiated, resolved, and pending across various tiers of the judiciary from January to June 2024. It is based on data collected bi-weekly from the Superior Courts.

Key findings as of June 30, 2024, include:

- The total number of pending cases nationwide is 2,221,512 (2.22 million).
- Of these, 347,173 cases (0.35 million) are pending in the Superior Courts.
- The District Judiciary has 1,815,783 cases (1.82 million) pending.
- Approximately 82% of the cases awaiting adjudication are at the District Judiciary level.



Courts	Pendency of Cases 01-01-2024	Pendency of Cases 30-06-2024
Supreme Court of Pakistan	55,302	58,479
Federal Shariat Court	102	77
High Courts	342,249	347,173
District Judiciary	1,863,028	1815783
Total	2,258,070	2221512

Supreme Court of Pakistan: Increase in Pendency: 5.74%, indicating a higher rate of new cases compared to disposals. This suggests a need for enhanced efficiency or resource allocation to manage the caseload effectively.

Federal Shariat Court: Decrease in Pendency: 24.51%, showcasing efficient case management and a reduction in backlog. This is a positive trend and could serve as a model for other courts.

High Courts: Slight Increase in Pendency: 2.22%, indicating a minor rise in the number of pending cases. While the increase is not substantial, it still points to the need for measures to improve case disposal rates.

District Judiciary: Decrease in Pendency: 2.54%, showing effective management in reducing the backlog of cases. Given the large volume of cases handled by the District Judiciary, this reduction is significant and indicates positive progress.

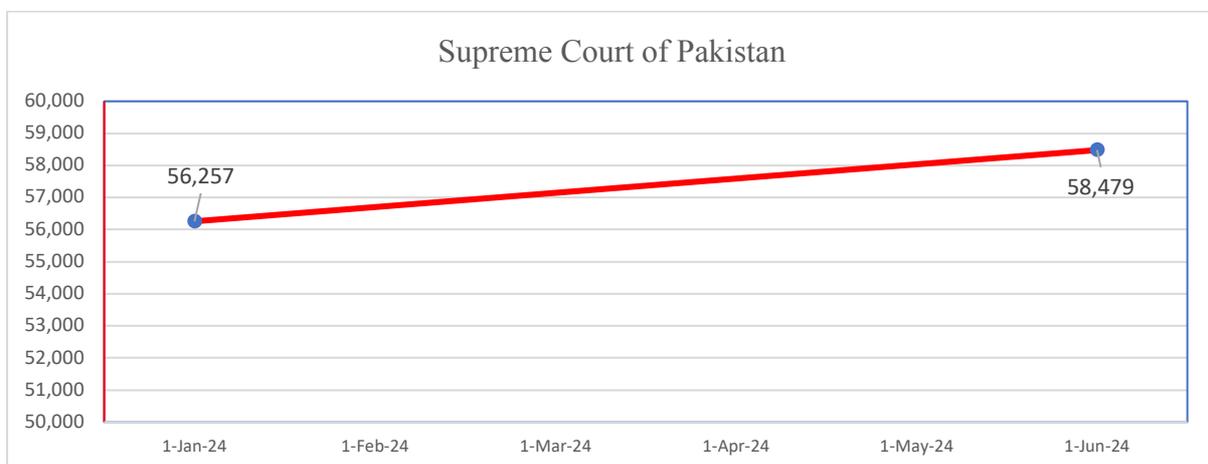
2. Supreme Court of Pakistan

Pendency 1 Jan 2024	Institution Jan – Jun 24	Disposal Jan – Jun 24	Balance 30 Jun 24
56157	9,135	6943	58479

The Supreme Court of Pakistan was able to resolve 6,943 cases in six months, but the influx of new cases (9,135) outpaced the number of resolved cases, leading to a net increase in pending cases. An increase of around **4.13%** in cases pending for adjudication has been observed during the First six months of the year 2024.

Recommendations:

- **Efficiency Improvement:** Explore measures to increase the rate of case resolutions to reduce the backlog.
- **Resource Allocation:** Assess resource allocation to handle the increasing case load effectively.
- **Augment Judicial Human Resource:** If feasible, appoint additional judges & support staff to handle the caseload more effectively. Ensuring that the judiciary is well-staffed can prevent future backlogs.
- **Implement Case Management Systems:** Use advanced case management systems to track case progress, identify bottlenecks, and ensure timely resolutions. Automated reminders and alerts for pending actions can help keep cases moving efficiently.
- **Legislative Reforms:** Advocate for legislative reforms to simplify and streamline legal procedures where possible, reducing unnecessary delays in the judicial process.
- **Feedback Mechanism:** Establish a feedback mechanism for litigants and lawyers to report issues or suggest improvements. This can provide valuable insights into operational inefficiencies and areas for improvement.
- **Discourage Frivolous Litigation,** it is essential to implement clear legislative reforms defining frivolous claims, establish pre-filing screenings, and streamline dismissal processes. Introducing financial disincentives can deter baseless lawsuits.



* The difference in balance (i.e. pendency + institution - disposal) is due to remand, re-open, physical verification etc.

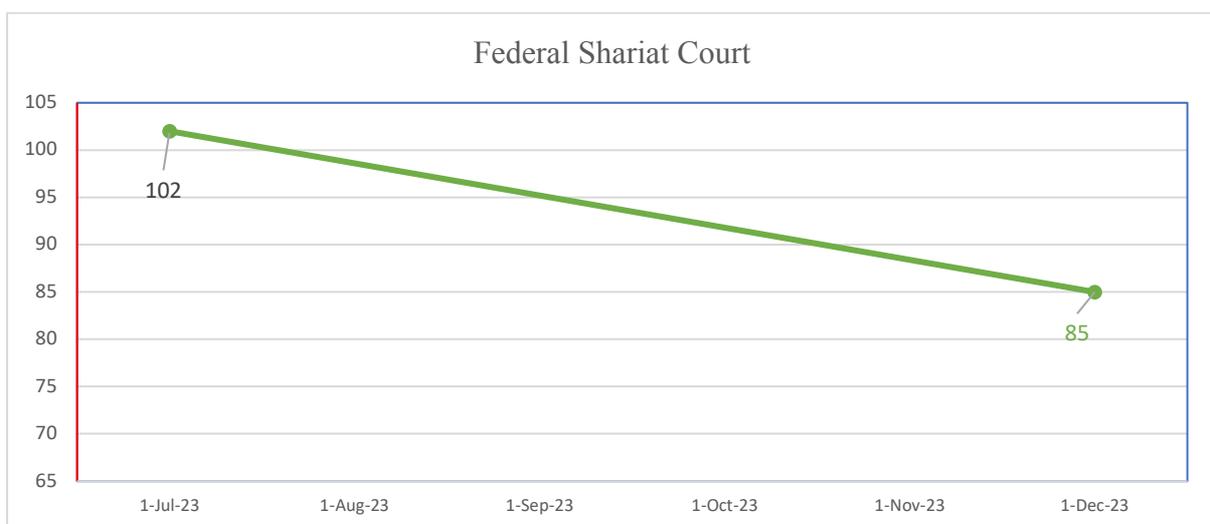
3. Federal Shariat Court

Pendency 1 Jan 2024	Institution Jan – Jun 24	Disposal Jan – Jun 24	Balance 30 Jun 24
85	40	48	77

This data indicates a decrease in the number of pending cases from 85 to 77 over the first six months of 2024. The judicial system managed to resolve more cases (48) than the number of new cases instituted (40), which led to a reduction in the overall backlog. A decrease of around **9%** in cases pending for adjudication has been observed during the First six months of the year 2024.

Recommendations:

- **Continue Efforts to Resolve Cases Efficiently:** Given the reduction in pending cases, it's important to maintain or even increase the rate of case resolution. Consider adopting best practices from jurisdictions with high case clearance rates.
- **Implement Case Management Systems:** Use advanced case management systems to track case progress, identify bottlenecks, and ensure timely resolutions. Automated reminders and alerts for pending actions can help keep cases moving efficiently.
- **Legislative Reforms:** Advocate for legislative reforms to simplify and streamline legal procedures where possible, reducing unnecessary delays in the judicial process.
- **Capacity Building and Training:** Regular training programs for judges and court staff on efficient case management, new laws, and technology can improve overall efficiency.



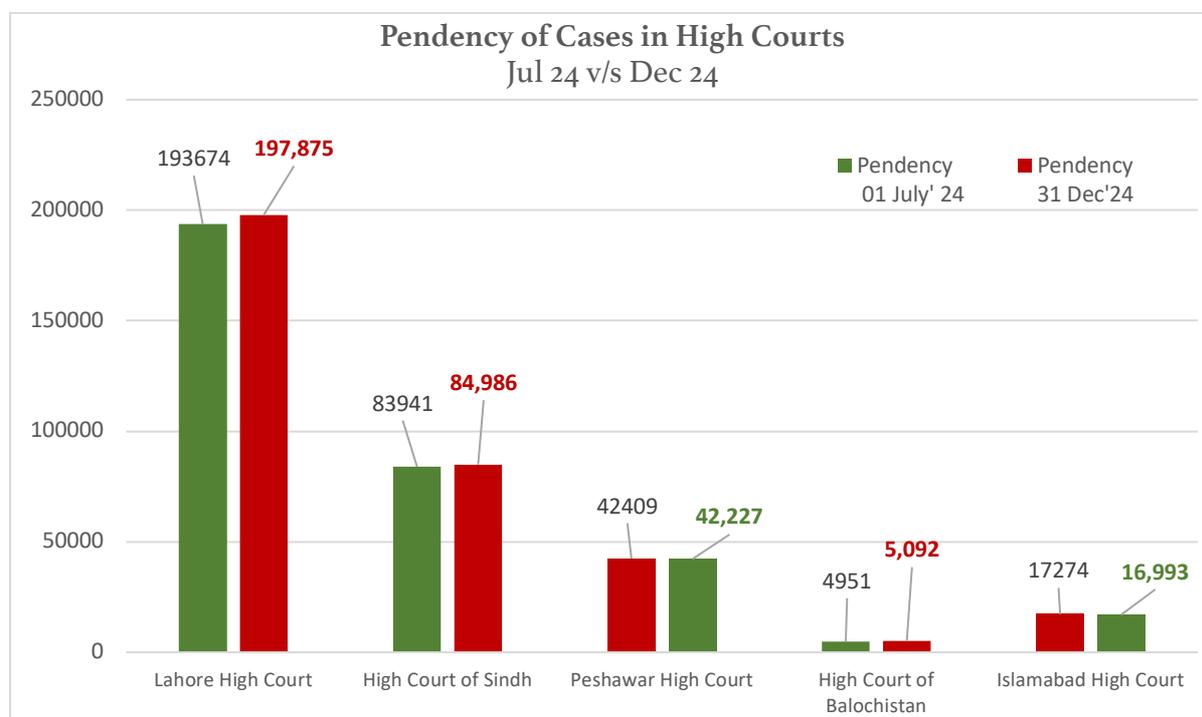
* The difference in balance (i.e. pendency + institution - disposal) is due to remand, re-open, physical verification etc.

4. High Courts

The institution, disposal and pendency of cases in all High Courts during the period from July to December, 2024:

High Court	Pendency 1 Jan 2024	Institution Jan – Jun 24	Disposal Jan – Jun 24	Balance 30 Jun 24
Lahore High Court	193674	74841	70640	197875
High Court of Sindh	83941	18375	17393	84986
Peshawar High Court	42409	11434	11903	42227
High Court of Balochistan	4951	3096	2955	5092
Islamabad High Court	17274	6553	6148	16993
Total	342249	114299	109039	347173

The data from January to June 2024 for the High Courts of Pakistan shows significant judicial activity with a total initial pendency of 342,249 cases. The courts received 114,299 new cases and disposed of 109,039 cases. The overall balance at the end of June 2024 was 347,173 cases, reflecting a net increase of 2.2%.



* The difference in balance (i.e. pendency + institution - disposal) is due to remand, re-open, physical verification etc.

Statistical Findings

- The Lahore High Court had the highest initial pendency at 193,674 cases and saw a net increase of 2.2% to 197,875 cases despite disposing of 70,640 cases and receiving 74,841 new cases.
- The High Court of Sindh had an initial pendency of 83,941 cases, with a 1.2% net increase to 84,986 cases after instituting 18,375 new cases and disposing of 17,393 cases.
- The Peshawar High Court started with 42,409 cases and effectively managed its caseload, ending with a slight decrease of 0.4% to 42,227 cases, having added 11,434 new cases and resolved 11,903 cases.
- The High Court of Balochistan, with the lowest initial pendency of 4,951 cases, saw a significant increase of 3% to 5,092 cases, despite disposing of more cases (2,955) than it received (3,096).
- The Islamabad High Court started with 17,274 cases and experienced a slight decrease of 1.6% to 16,993 cases after instituting 6,553 new cases and disposing of 6,148 cases.

This analysis highlights the varying levels of case management efficiency across the High Courts, with some effectively reducing their backlog while others experienced increases despite significant disposal rates. The overall net increase in pending cases underscores the need for continued efforts to improve judicial efficiency and manage the growing caseload.

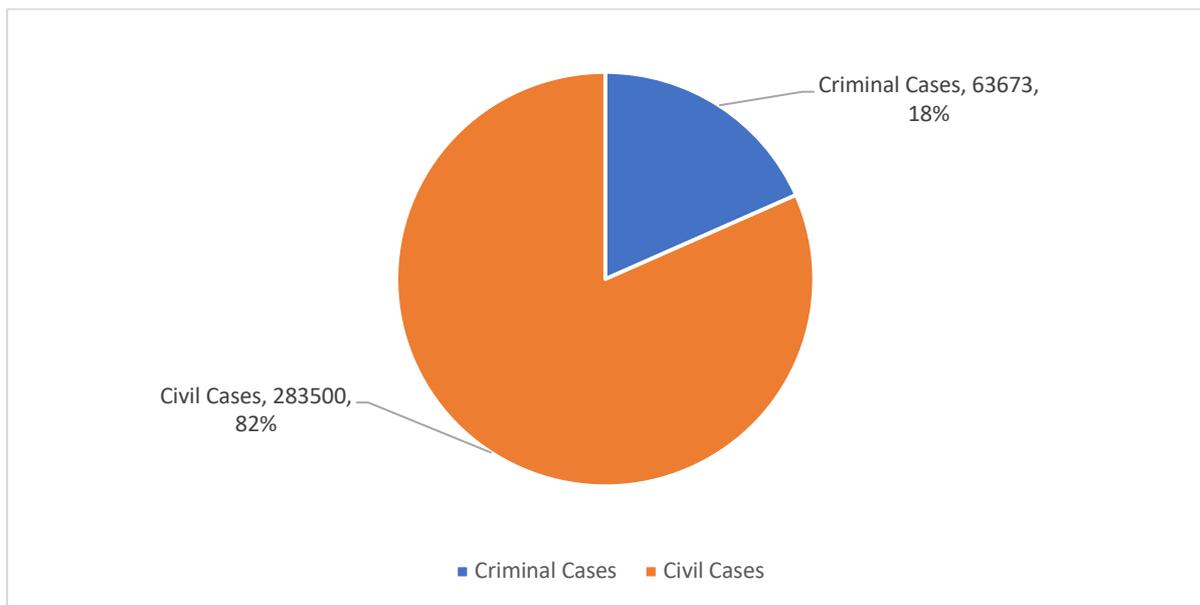
Recommendations

1. **Fill up of Vacant Positions** of judges and officers/staff in the High Court is a critical step in addressing the growing backlog of cases. By increasing judicial capacity, balancing workloads, and enhancing support systems, the High Court can more effectively manage its caseload, improve access to justice, and ensure timely resolutions for litigants. Immediate action to fill these vacancies is essential to create a more efficient and responsive judicial system.
2. **Implement Case Management Systems:** Use advanced case management systems to track case progress, identify bottlenecks, and ensure timely resolutions. Automated reminders and alerts for pending actions can help keep cases moving efficiently.
3. **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Promote the use of ADR methods such as mediation and arbitration to resolve cases without full judicial proceedings. ADR can significantly reduce the burden on courts.
4. **Capacity Building and Training:** Regular training programs for judges and court staff on efficient case management, new laws, and technology can improve overall efficiency.
5. **Public Awareness and Legal Aid:** Enhance public awareness about legal processes and provide legal aid to ensure that cases are well-prepared and presented, reducing delays caused by poorly prepared cases.

6. **Discourage Frivolous Litigation:** it is essential to implement clear legislative reforms defining frivolous claims, establish pre-filing screenings, and streamline dismissal processes. Introducing financial disincentives can deter baseless lawsuits.
7. **Legislative Reforms:** Advocate for legislative reforms to simplify and streamline legal procedures where possible, reducing unnecessary delays in the judicial process.
8. **Regular Monitoring and Reporting:** Implement a robust monitoring and reporting system to regularly review case statistics and identify areas needing improvement. Periodic audits can ensure data accuracy and highlight trends.
9. **Feedback Mechanism:** Establish a feedback mechanism for litigants and lawyers to report issues or suggest improvements. This can provide valuable insights into operational inefficiencies and areas for improvement.

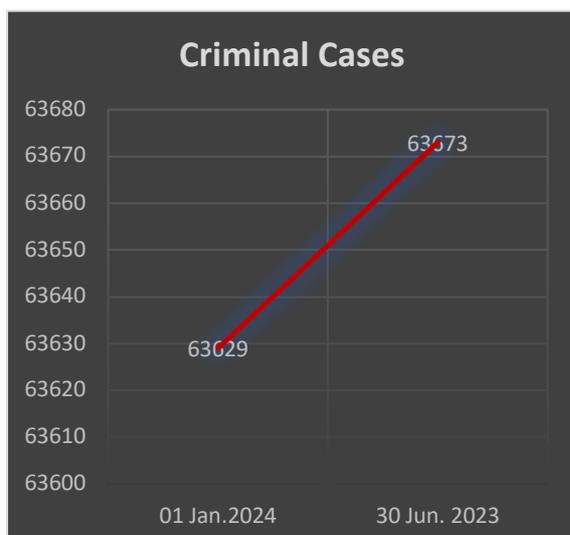
5.1 Jurisdiction-wise break-up of Cases in the High Courts

Jurisdiction	Pendency 1 Jan 2024	Institution Jan – Jun 24	Disposal Jan – Jun 24	Balance 30 Jun 24
Criminal Cases	63629	44948	45045	63673
Civil Cases	278620	69524	64151	283500
Total	342249	114299	109039	347173

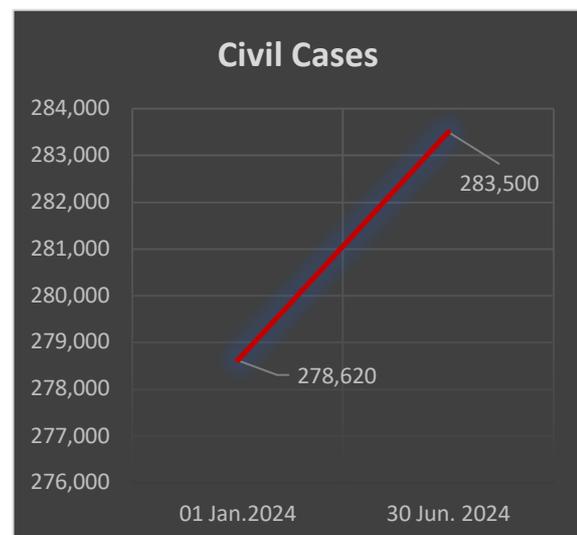


⇒ **18%** of the cases pending in the High Court's pertain to criminal jurisdiction

⇒ **82%** of the cases pending in the High Court's pertain to civil jurisdiction.



An increase of 0.71% reported in Criminal Cases



An increase of 2.2 % reported on Civil Cases

i. Criminal Cases – High Courts

High Court	Pendency 1 Jan 2024	Institution Jan – Jun 24	Disposal Jan – Jun 24	Balance 30 Jun 24
Lahore High Court	40225	29311	29593	39942
High Court of Sindh	11448	7307	6931	11866
Peshawar High Court	9609	5786	6083	9328
High Court of Balochistan	1142	1058	912	1288
Islamabad High Court	1205	1486	1526	1249
Total	63629	44948	45045	63673

ii. Civil Cases – High Courts

High Court	Pendency 1 Jan 2024	Institution Jan – Jun 24	Disposal Jan – Jun 24	Balance 30 Jun 24
Lahore High Court	153449	45530	41047	157933
High Court of Sindh	72493	11068	10462	73120
Peshawar High Court	32800	5648	5820	32899
High Court of Balochistan	3809	2038	2043	3804
Islamabad High Court	16069	5240	4779	15744
Total	278620	69524	64151	283500

Statistical Findings

1. Criminal Cases:

- The total number of criminal cases increased slightly by 0.07%, from 63,629 to 63,673.
- The Lahore High Court showed a minor decrease in criminal case pendency by 0.70%, indicating near-parity between new cases and disposals.
- The High Court of Balochistan has increase in pendency.
- The Peshawar High Court has small decrease and the Islamabad High Court had small increases in pendency, indicating efficient case handling during this period.

2. Civil Cases:

- The overall number of civil cases increased by 1.75%, from 278,620 to 283,500.
- The Lahore High Court saw a 2.92% increase in civil case pendency, reflecting a high volume of new cases exceeding disposals.
- The High Court of Balochistan had a slight decrease in civil case pendency by 0.13%, showing effective management of case disposals.
- The Islamabad High Court had a decrease in pendency by 2.02%, indicating an improvement in handling civil cases.

Summary

The analysis indicates that the High Courts have varied performance in managing their criminal and civil case backlogs. While some courts like the Peshawar High Court and the Islamabad High Court show improvements, others like the Lahore High Court face increasing backlogs, particularly in civil cases. The percentage changes highlight areas needing attention and those where management practices are more effective

5. District Judiciary

The provided data outlines the institution, disposal, and pendency of cases across the district judiciaries in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Islamabad for the period from January to June 2024.

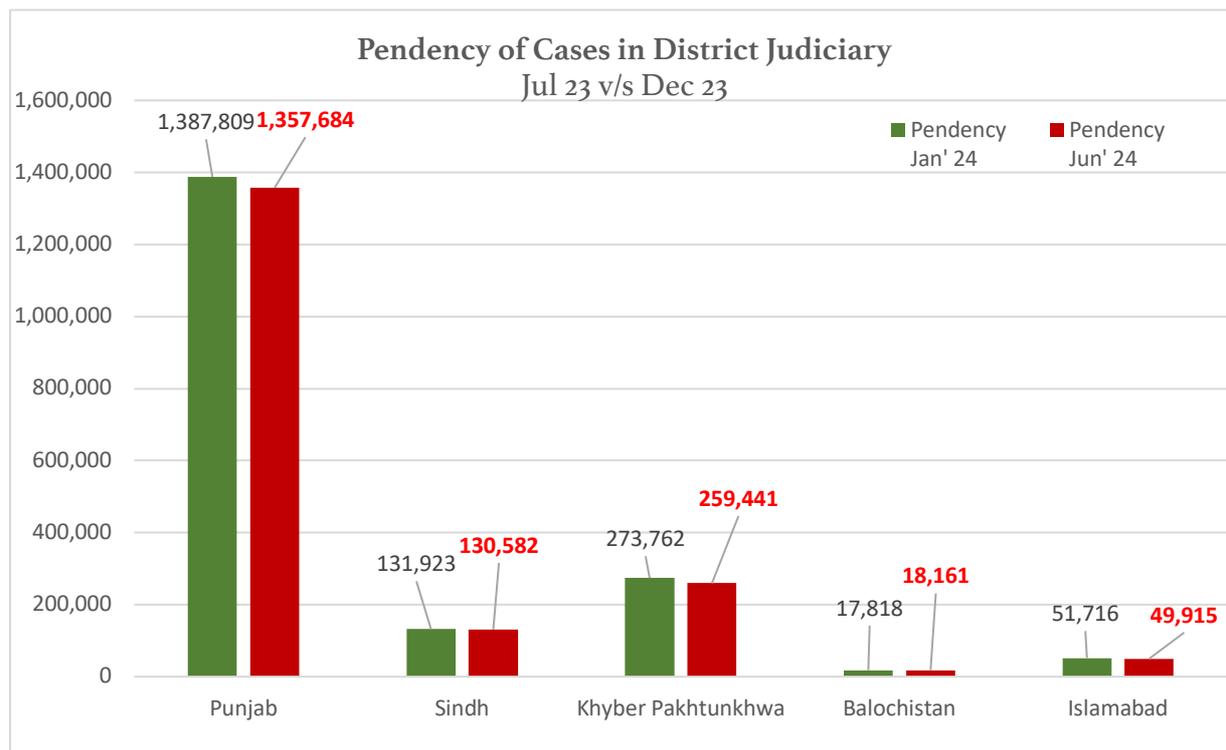
District Judiciary	Pendency 1 Jan 2024	Institution Jan – Jun 24	Disposal Jan – Jun 24	Balance 30 Jun 24
Punjab	1387809	1859419	1891242	1357684
Sindh	131923	184604	186417	130582
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	273762	244864	259752	259441
Balochistan	17818	25972	25629	18161
Islamabad	51716	64960	66715	49915
Total	1863028	2379819	2429755	1815783

- Across all districts, there was a total initial pendency of 1,863,028 cases.
- During the first half of 2024, 2,379,819 new cases were instituted, and 2,429,755 cases were disposed of.
- This led to a net decrease in the overall pendency to 1,815,783 cases, reflecting an overall reduction of 47,245 cases (approximately 2.5%).

The data indicates that the district judiciaries have been effective in managing and slightly reducing their overall caseloads.

Continued efforts to enhance judicial efficiency and discourage frivolous litigation will be crucial in further reducing the backlog and improving the judicial process.

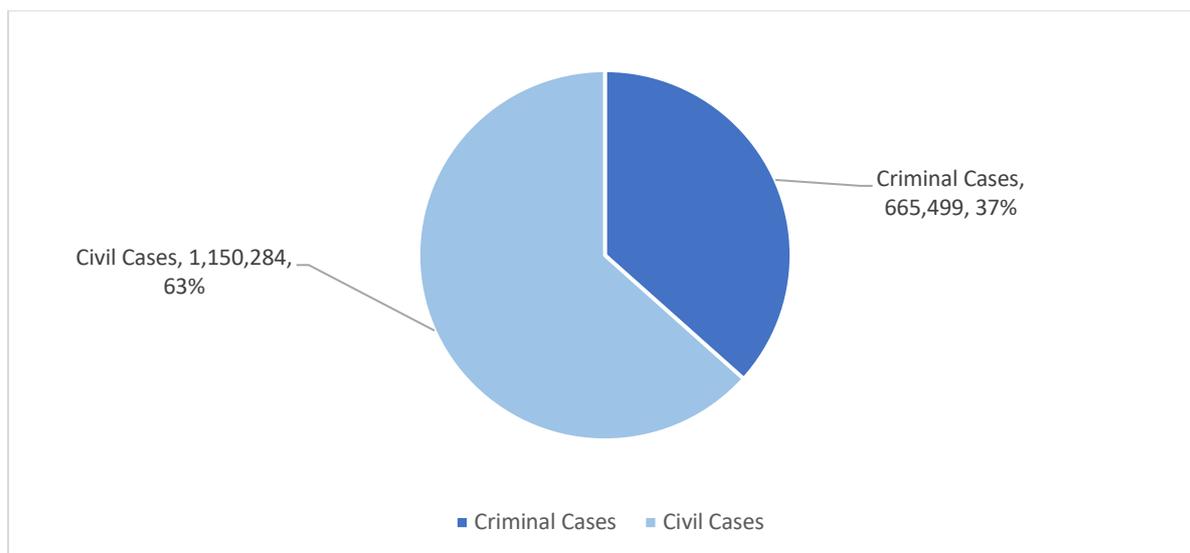
Key Observations:



1. **Punjab:** The number of cases disposed of (1,891,242) slightly exceeds the number of new cases instituted (1,859,419), leading to a net decrease in pendency by 30,125 cases (approximately 2.2%).
2. **Sindh:** The number of cases disposed of (186,417) is slightly higher than the number of new cases instituted (184,604), resulting in a marginal net decrease in pendency by 1,341 cases (approximately 1%).
3. **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:** The number of cases disposed of (259,752) exceeds the new cases instituted (244,864), leading to a significant net decrease in pendency by 14,321 cases (approximately 5.2%).
4. **Balochistan:** Despite a higher disposal rate (25,629) compared to new cases instituted (25,972), there is a minimal net increase in pendency by 343 cases (approximately 1.9%).
5. **Islamabad:** The number of cases disposed of (66,715) is higher than the new cases instituted (64,960), resulting in a decrease in pendency by 1,801 cases (approximately 3.5%).

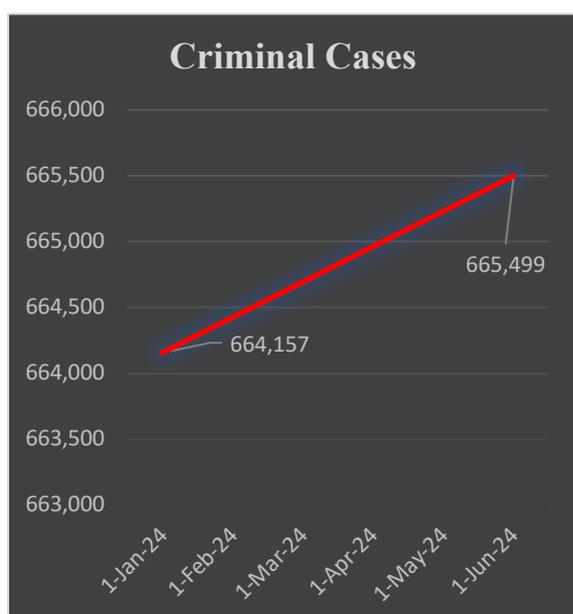
6.1 Jurisdiction-wise break-up of Cases in the District Judiciary

District Judiciary	Pendency 1 Jan 2024	Institution Jan – Jun 24	Disposal Jan – Jun 24	Balance 30 Jun 24
Criminal Cases	664157	1550282	1547459	665499
Civil Cases	1198871	829537	882297	1150284
Total	1863028	2379819	2429756	1815783

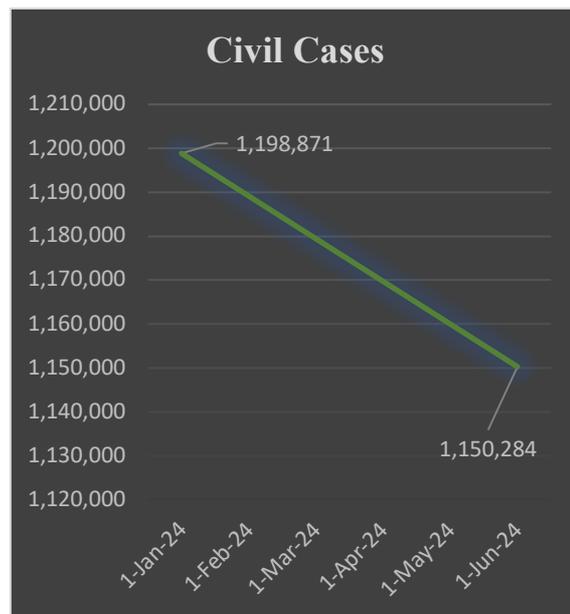


⇒ **37%** of the cases pending in the District Judiciary pertain to criminal jurisdiction

⇒ **63%** of the cases pending in the District Judiciary pertain to civil jurisdiction.



An increase of 0.2% reported in Criminal Cases



A 4% decrease reported in Civil Case

i. Criminal Cases – District Judiciary

District Judiciary	Pendency 1 Jan 2024	Institution Jan – Jun 24	Disposal Jan – Jun 24	Balance 30 Jun 24
Punjab	465253	1189565	1180365	473848
Sindh	65328	140600	140340	66025
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	103686	168064	175060	95424
Balochistan	7902	17909	17385	8427
Islamabad	21988	34144	34309	21775
Total	664157	1550282	1547459	*665499

ii. Civil Cases – District Judiciary

District Judiciary	Pendency 1 Jan 2024	Institution Jan – Jun 24	Disposal Jan – Jun 24	Balance 30 Jun 24
Punjab	922556	669854	710877	883836
Sindh	66595	44004	46077	64557
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	170076	76800	84692	164017
Balochistan	9916	8063	8245	9734
Islamabad	29728	30816	32406	28140
Total	1198871	829537	882297	1150284

Key Insights and Trends

1. Criminal Cases:

- **Overall:** A minor overall increase in pendency (+0.20%), with Punjab contributing significantly to this rise.
- **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad:** Show positive trends with reductions in pendency, indicating efficient case management.
- **Balochistan:** Faces the highest percentage increase in criminal case pendency (+6.65%), suggesting a need for improved disposal rates.

2. Civil Cases:

- **Overall:** A substantial overall decrease in pendency (-4.05%), indicating better disposal rates compared to new institutions.
- **Punjab:** Despite having the highest volume of cases, it achieved a significant reduction in pendency (-4.19%).
- **Islamabad:** Shows the most substantial percentage decrease in pendency (-5.34%), reflecting high efficiency in case management.

Conclusion

- **Punjab:** Needs focused efforts to manage criminal cases better, though it shows positive trends in civil case management.
- **Sindh:** Shows stability but requires minor improvements, especially in criminal case disposal rates.
- **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad:** Demonstrate effective judiciary management with reductions in both criminal and civil cases.
- **Balochistan:** Needs immediate attention to address the rising pendency in criminal cases while maintaining efficiency in civil case management.

Recommendations:

To effectively curtail the pendency of cases, the following recommendations could be implemented:

1. Discourage Frivolous Litigation:

- **Impose Costs:** Implement strict penalties or fines for filing frivolous or baseless lawsuits to deter parties from engaging in such practices.
- **Pre-Screening Mechanisms:** Introduce pre-screening processes for cases to assess their merit before they proceed to court, reducing unnecessary judicial workload.

2. Enhance Case Management Systems:

- **Automation and Technology:** Adopt advanced case management systems and artificial intelligence to automate routine tasks, schedule hearings efficiently, and track case progress.
- **Data Analytics:** Utilize data analytics to identify and address bottlenecks in the judicial process, optimizing resource allocation and case handling.

3. Increase Judicial Capacity:

- **Appoint Judges:** Fill in the vacant positions of the judges to ensure a sufficient number of judicial officers to handle the caseload effectively.
- **Support Staff Augmentation:** Increase the number of support staff, including clerks and administrative personnel, to assist judges and expedite case processing.

4. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):

- **Promote ADR Mechanisms:** Encourage the use of ADR methods such as mediation, arbitration, and conciliation to resolve disputes outside the formal court system.
- **Mandatory ADR Sessions:** Implement mandatory ADR sessions for certain categories of cases before they proceed to trial.

5. Judicial Training and Capacity Building:

- **Continuous Training:** Provide regular training programs for judges and court staff to keep them updated with the latest legal developments and efficient case management practices.
- **Specialized Courts:** Establish specialized courts or tribunals for specific types of cases (e.g., family law, commercial disputes) to ensure faster and more informed adjudication.

6. Streamline Legal Procedures:

- **Simplify Procedures:** Simplify and standardize court procedures to reduce delays caused by complex legal formalities.
- **Case Prioritization:** Implement a system to prioritize older and more urgent cases, ensuring timely justice for critical matters.

7. Public Awareness and Legal Literacy:

- **Legal Literacy Programs:** Conduct public awareness campaigns and legal literacy programs to educate citizens about their legal rights and the judicial process, reducing the likelihood of unnecessary litigation.
- **Pro Bono Legal Services:** Encourage pro bono legal services to assist underprivileged litigants in resolving disputes amicably and efficiently.

8. Infrastructure Development:

- **Court Infrastructure:** Invest in modernizing court infrastructure, including virtual courtrooms and better facilities, to handle cases more efficiently.
- **IT Infrastructure:** Enhance IT infrastructure to support digital filing, virtual hearings, and electronic case management systems.

9. Performance Monitoring and Accountability:

- **Regular Audits:** Conduct regular audits of judicial performance to identify areas for improvement and ensure accountability.
- **Performance Metrics:** Develop and implement performance metrics for judges and court staff to monitor productivity and case resolution rates.

10. Legislative Reforms:

- **Law Reforms:** Review and amend outdated laws and regulations that contribute to delays in the judicial process.
- **Fast-Track Legislation:** Introduce fast-track procedures for specific categories of cases that require expedited resolution.

By implementing these recommendations, the judicial system can enhance its efficiency, reduce case backlogs, and ensure timely delivery of justice.