



**Republic of Serbia
SUPREME COURT**

**ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE WORK OF THE COURTS
IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
FOR 2023**

Belgrade, March 2024



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Republic of Serbia
SUPREME COURT
Su I-1 31/2024
March 8th, 2024
B e l g r a d e

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF ALL COURTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FOR 2023

I. INTRODUCTION

I.1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Annual Report on the work of the courts of the Republic of Serbia for 2023 was prepared on the basis of individual statistical reports of all courts on their work, which are collected and processed by the Supreme Court, as the highest court in the Republic of Serbia.

The Annual Report on the work of the courts of the Republic of Serbia for 2023 represents a shortened analysis of the work of all the courts of the Republic of Serbia in the previous year, observed through statistical data – indicators of efficiency, performance and quality.

In addition to the statistical data on the work of the courts in 2023, data from the annual reports on the work of the courts for the past *five* years (period *from 2019 to 2023*), except for backlog cases, are also presented, with the aim of monitoring progress in reducing the number of pending, especially backlog cases, the workload of courts, the quality and length of court proceedings, as indicators of the court efficiency.

**The data used in the Annual Report were collected from the High Court Council and the company "Atos", which processes statistical data, and the Supreme Court is not responsible for the accuracy of data.*

I.2. WORK OF THE COURTS IN 2023 WAS MARKED BY THE FOLLOWING

- 1. In February 2023, a set of new judicial laws was adopted, inter alia, the Law on the Organization of Courts and the Law on Judges are especially important for the work of the courts.*
- 2. In 2023, the courts acted with a reduced number of judges, since the procedure for selecting judges slowed down the entry into office of newly elected judges.*
- 3. The new Law on the Organization of Courts, in accordance with the constitutional amendments in 2022, changed the name of the Supreme Court of Cassation to the Supreme court, starting on May 11, 2023.*
- 4. Of the total number of cases pending before basic and higher courts in civil matters (914,190 cases), a significant number of cases in which the Republic of Serbia and other state bodies are sued are represented by the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Serbia. According to data from the records of the State Attorney's Office, the total caseload was 316,113 cases.*
- 5. Competent courts are still burdened with a large number of repetitive cases in civil matters (cases with a basis of dispute, where the purpose of collecting the costs of processing bank loans, following lawsuits against banks).*
- 6. In the Case Law Database of Appellate and national level courts, as of December 31, 2023, there were 416,387 integral decisions, 54,183 anonymized decisions, 139 legal opinions, 65 case law bulletins and 55 Supreme Court decisions wordings.*

I.3. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Pursuant to Article 205, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, at the session held on November 30, 2021, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Constitutional Law for the implementation of the Act on Amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and the Decision on Calling a Republic Referendum to Confirm the Act on Amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, which were published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 115/2021. As the main reason for the adoption of the Act on the Amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia in the part on the judiciary, the necessity to achieve a higher level of realization of the fundamental constitutional principle of the rule of law in the Republic of Serbia which, *inter alia*, presupposes a consistently organized and enforced separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary and judicial protection of human rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. The Act on Amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia was confirmed at the republic referendum held on January 16, 2022.

Pursuant to Article 203, paragraph 9 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and Article 42, paragraph 1 of the Law on Referendum and People's Initiative ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 111/21 and 119/21), the National Assembly, at the session held on February 9, 2022, passed the Decision on the Promulgation of the Act on Amendments to the

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Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, which was published in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 16/2022.

The amended provisions of the Constitution on courts and the High Court Council are contained in Articles 142 - 154.

New judicial laws aligned with constitutional amendments, including the Law on Judges, the Law on the Organization of Courts and the Law on the High Court Council, were adopted in 2023 and published in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 10/2023 on February 9, 2023.

According to the current provisions of the Constitution and laws, the judicial power belongs to the courts and is independent of the legislative and executive powers. Courts protect the legal order of the Republic of Serbia, the freedoms and rights of citizens, the legally established rights and interests of legal subjects, ensure constitutionality and legality, uniform application of rights and equal protection of all before the law.

A court decision can be reviewed only by a competent court in a procedure prescribed by law, as well as by the Constitutional Court in a procedure based on a constitutional appeal. Everyone shall respect the final and enforceable court decision.

Judicial power is unique on the territory of the Republic of Serbia and belongs to the courts of general and special jurisdiction.

Courts of general jurisdiction are basic courts, higher courts, appellate courts and the Supreme Court.

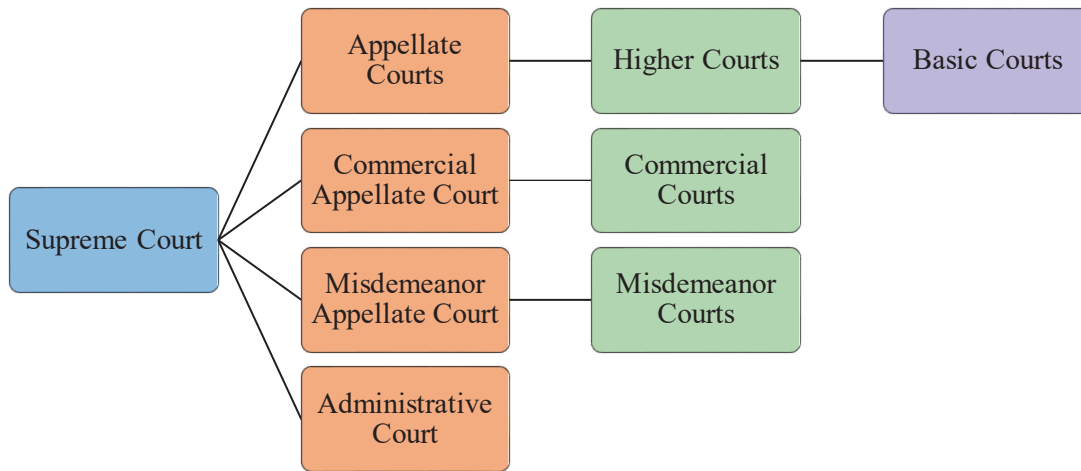
Courts of special jurisdiction are commercial courts, Commercial Appellate Court, misdemeanor courts, Misdemeanor Appellate Court and Administrative Court.

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the Republic of Serbia and it is directly superior to the Commercial Appellate Court, Misdemeanor Appellate Court, the Administrative Court and the Appellate Court.

In addition to the Supreme Court, the Commercial Appellate Court, the Misdemeanor Appellate Court and the Administrative Court are republic-level courts.

As of January 1, 2014, in the Republic of Serbia there is the total of 159 courts, out of which 66 courts act as basic courts, 25 as higher, 16 commercial, 44 misdemeanor and the Administrative Court. Higher courts act as second instance courts, as well as four appellate courts, Commercial Appellate Court and Misdemeanor Appellate Court.

I.4. COURT NETWORK IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA



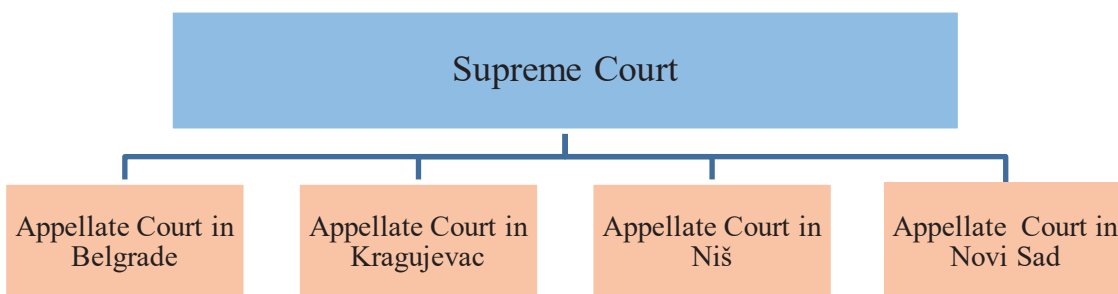
Map No. 1

I.4.1. COURTS OF GENERAL JURISDICTION

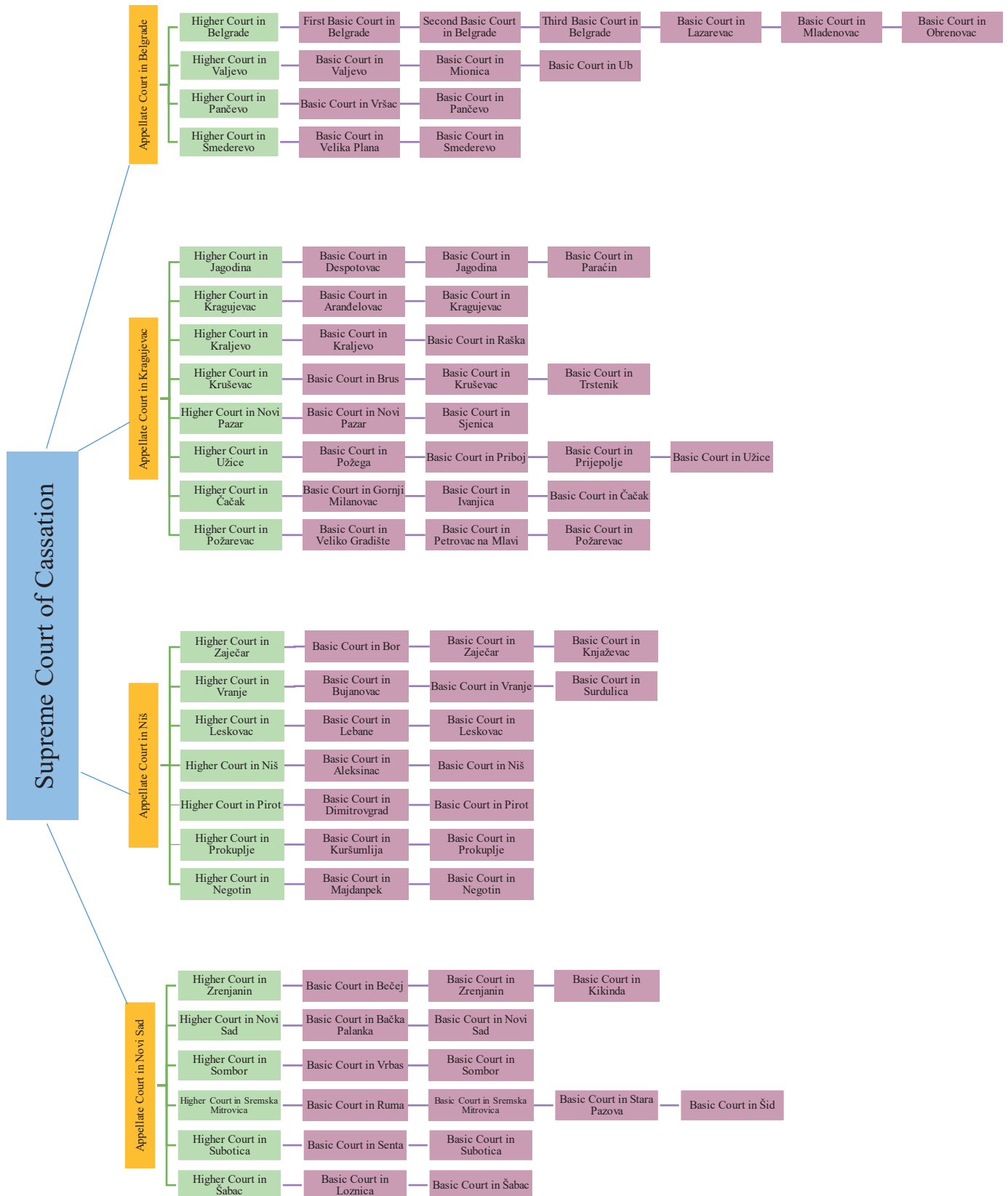
Courts of general jurisdiction are basic courts, higher courts, appellate courts and the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is directly superior to the appellate courts, the appellate courts are directly superior to higher and basic courts, and the higher courts are directly superior to the basic courts.

In the Republic of Serbia, 4 appellate courts were established with seats in: Belgrade, Kragujevac, Niš and Novi Sad.



Map No. 2



Map No. 3

I.4.2. COURTS OF SPECIAL JURISDICTION

Courts of special jurisdiction are: Administrative Court, Commercial Appellate Court, Misdemeanor Appellate Court, commercial courts and misdemeanor courts.

Commercial Appellate Court is directly superior to commercial courts, while the Misdemeanor Appellate Court is directly superior to misdemeanor courts.

Commercial Appellate Court	Commercial Court in Belgrade	Commercial Court in Kraljevo	Commercial Court in Novi Sad	Commercial Court in Sremska Mitrovica
	Commercial Court in Valjevo	Commercial Court in Kragujevac	Commercial Court in Pančevo	Commercial Court in Subotica
	Commercial Court in Zaječar	Commercial Court in Leskovac	Commercial Court in Požarevac	Commercial Court in Užice
	Commercial Court in Zrenjanin	Commercial Court in Niš	Commercial Court in Sombor	Commercial Court in Čačak

Map No. 4

Misdemeanor Appellate Court	Misdemeanor Court in Aranđelovac	Misdemeanor Court in Kikinda	Misdemeanor Court in Novi Sad	Misdemeanor Court in Raška
	Misdemeanor Court in Bačka Palanka	Misdemeanor Court in Kragujevac	Misdemeanor Court in Obrenovac	Misdemeanor Court in Senta
	Misdemeanor Court in Belgrade	Misdemeanor Court in Kraljevo	Misdemeanor Court in Pančevo	Misdemeanor Court in Sjenica
	Misdemeanor Court in Bečej	Misdemeanor Court in Kruševac	Misdemeanor Court in Paraćin	Misdemeanor Court in Smederevo
	Misdemeanor Court in Valjevo	Misdemeanor Court in Lazarevac	Misdemeanor Court in Pirot	Misdemeanor Court in Sombor
	Misdemeanor Court in Vranje	Misdemeanor Court in Leskovac	Misdemeanor Court in Požarevac	Misdemeanor Court in Subotica
	Misdemeanor Court in Vršac	Misdemeanor Court in Loznica	Misdemeanor Court in Požega	Misdemeanor Court in Sremska Mitrovica
	Misdemeanor Court in Gornji Milanovac	Misdemeanor Court in Mladenovac	Misdemeanor Court in Preševo	Misdemeanor Court in Trstenik
	Misdemeanor Court in Zaječar	Misdemeanor Court in Negotin	Misdemeanor Court in Prijepolje	Misdemeanor Court in Užice
	Misdemeanor Court in Zrenjanin	Misdemeanor Court in Niš	Misdemeanor Court in Prokuplje	Misdemeanor Court in Čačak
	Misdemeanor Court in Jagodina	Misdemeanor Court in Novi Pazar	Misdemeanor Court in Ruma	Misdemeanor Court in Šabac

Map No. 5

I.5. NUMBER OF JUDGES AND COURT STAFF IN COURTS

According to the data of the High Court Council as of December 31, 2023, the total number of all judicial positions in all courts in the Republic of Serbia, determined by the Decision of the High Court Council was **3,102** of which **2,636** positions were filled, while **2,475** judges were effectively working.

NUMBER OF JUDGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA ON DECEMBER 31, 2023

Court	Number of judges according to the Decision of the High Court Council	Number of filled positions	Number of judges in the report on the work of court for the period 01.01. – 31.12.2023
Supreme Court	55	43	31
Administrative Court	64	50	50
Commercial Appellate Court	41	38	32
Misdemeanor Appellate Court	65	47	46
Appellate Courts	240	195	169
Higher Courts	446	355	351
Basic Courts	1,456	1,279	1,186
Commercial Courts	189	166	170
Misdemeanor Courts	546	463	440
TOTAL:	3,102	2,636	2,475

Table No. 1

In 2023, as in the previous four years, once again there were vacant judicial posts in the judicial system: 2019-319, 2020-386, 2021-353, 2022-416, and in **2023-466**.

OVERVIEW OF THE NUMBER OF JUDGES IN THE COURTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA WHO EFFECTIVELY ADJUDICATED

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TOTAL NUMBER OF JUDGES	2,531	2,570	2,508	2,503	2,475

Table No. 2

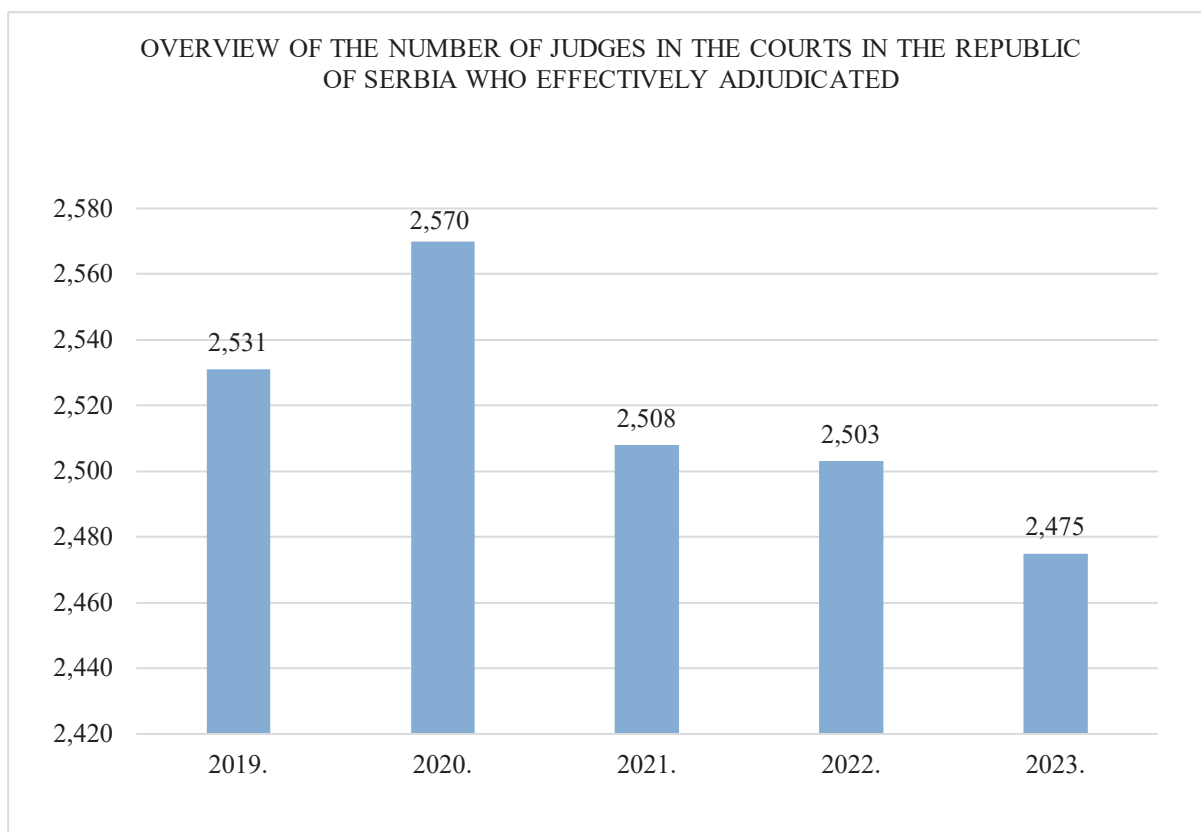


Chart No. 1

The average age of judges in Serbia is **52**. There was a total of **730** male and **1,906** female judges. There were **336** judges that were 40 years old or younger, **827** judges from 40 to 50, **907** judges from 50 to 60 and **566** judges that were older than 60.

According to the High Court Council, there was a total of **11,013** employees – court staff, of which: **1,721** judicial assistants, **6,592** civil servants and **2,700** general service employees.

NUMBER OF ENGAGED CIVIL SERVANTS AND GENERAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES IN 2023

No.	Court staff	Total engaged	Average age
1.	Judicial assistants	1,721	41
2.	Other civil servants	6,592	49
3.	General service employees	2,700	51
TOTAL		11,013	48

Table No. 3

According to the data of the High Court Council, the average age of court staff is **48**, of which the average age of judicial assistants is **41**, other civil servants **49**, and general service employees **51**.

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In the period from 2019 to 2023, the number of court staff in the court system was as follows: **2019-10,685, 2020-10,795, 2021-10,697, 2022-10,660 and 2023-11,013.**

NUMBER OF ENGAGED CIVIL SERVANTS AND GENERAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES BY YEARS

No.	Court staff	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Judicial assistants	1,634	1,704	1,661	1,675	1,721
2	Other civil servants	6,055	6,153	6,205	6,276	6,592
3	General service employees	2,996	2,938	2,831	2,709	2,700
Total engaged		10,685	10,795	10,697	10,660	11,013
Average age		44	46	47	48	48

Table No. 4

The number of judicial assistants in the same period was: **2019-1,634, 2020-1,704, 2021-1,661, 2022-1,675 and 2023-1,721** which is still insufficient number, compared to the influx of cases and the number of judges, and further reduced the performance of judicial function, especially regarding drafting of court decisions.

The slower pace of filling vacant positions according to valid systematizations, continued from 2019 with valid budget laws for the current year, which further increased the volume of work performed by employees who remained in the court system.

I.6. FINANCING THE COURTS

I.6.1. COURT BUDGET

The Law on the organization of courts stipulates that funds for the work of courts are provided in the Budget of the Republic of Serbia. Funds for the work of the courts should maintain the independence of the judiciary and enable the regular work of the courts.

The Law on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2023 (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 138/2022 and 75/2023), within Section 6 – Courts, allocated funds for the work of the courts in the total amount of RSD **37,042,873,000.00**, which is **1.823 %** of the total budget of the Republic of Serbia, which amounted to RSD **2,031,438,408,000.00**.

I.6.2. REVENUES FROM COLLECTED COURT FEES

In **2023**, the total revenues from collected court fees were RSD **5,637,742,593.17**.

The Law on Court Fees prescribes the manner of using part of the funds from the collected court fees. The collected fees are revenue from the Budget of the Republic of Serbia, however,

40% of the collected fees is being distributed for current expenditures of the courts, 20% for improving the financial position of court and prosecutorial staff, and 40% remains as revenues of the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

I.6.3. COURT ARREARS

Allocated resources that were insufficient for the work of the courts negatively affect the efficiency of the work of the courts. Court accounts are often blocked, arrears are created (assumed, but overdue payments), which together leads to a halt in the work of the courts, because they are unable to settle assumed obligations, especially those related to the costs of court proceedings, delivery of court documents, utility and energy services, procurement of office supplies and fuel, etc.

On December 31, 2023, court arrears amounted to a total of RSD **1,449,704,692.37**, while in the forced collected system the total of RSD **991,941,000.16** remained unpaid on the accounts of commercial courts and RSD **260,109,000.00** on the accounts of misdemeanor courts, which was not included in the court arrears.

I.6.4. PAYMENT OF DAMAGES PURSUANT TO JUDGEMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC COURTS IN 2023

Compensation of intangible damage based on the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg was RSD **94,969,682.01**.

Compensation of damages based on the violation of the right to a trial within reasonable time based on the judgements of domestic courts, paid voluntarily by courts was RSD **166,263,292.52**.

Compensation of damages based on the violation of the right to a trial within reasonable time based on the judgements of domestic courts, paid voluntarily by courts was RSD **4,090,654,824.02**.

Compensation of damages based on the violation of the right to a trial within reasonable time based on the judgements of domestic courts, paid voluntarily based on an agreement with the State Attorney's Office was RSD **63,007,938.00**.

II. INCOMING, DISPOSED AND PENDING CASES

II.1. DISPOSED CASES IN 2023

During 2023, all courts in the Republic of Serbia disposed **1,844,337** cases, while **2,475** judges effectively worked.

Although the courts in 2023 had positive clearance rate, compared to 2022, a total of **287,968 fewer** cases were disposed, and without enforcement cases, **248,359 fewer** cases were disposed.

The lower overall number of disposed cases is the result, *inter alia*, of an enormous number of incoming cases in 2021, that the number of judges effectively working was not able to resolve, which also had a spillover effect to 2022 and 2023.

Additionally, a new set of judicial laws came into force in 2023, which significantly slowed down the entry into office of elected judges.

Also, a significant number of the most experienced judges (113) ceased to serve as judges in the abovementioned period.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TOTAL AT THE LEVEL OF SERBIA – ALL CASES	2,268,769	2,013,829	2,415,672	2,132,305	1,844,337
TOTAL AT THE LEVEL OF SERBIA – WITHOUT ENFORCEMENT	2,068,435	1,670,418	2,103,190	2,039,884	1,791,525

Table No. 5

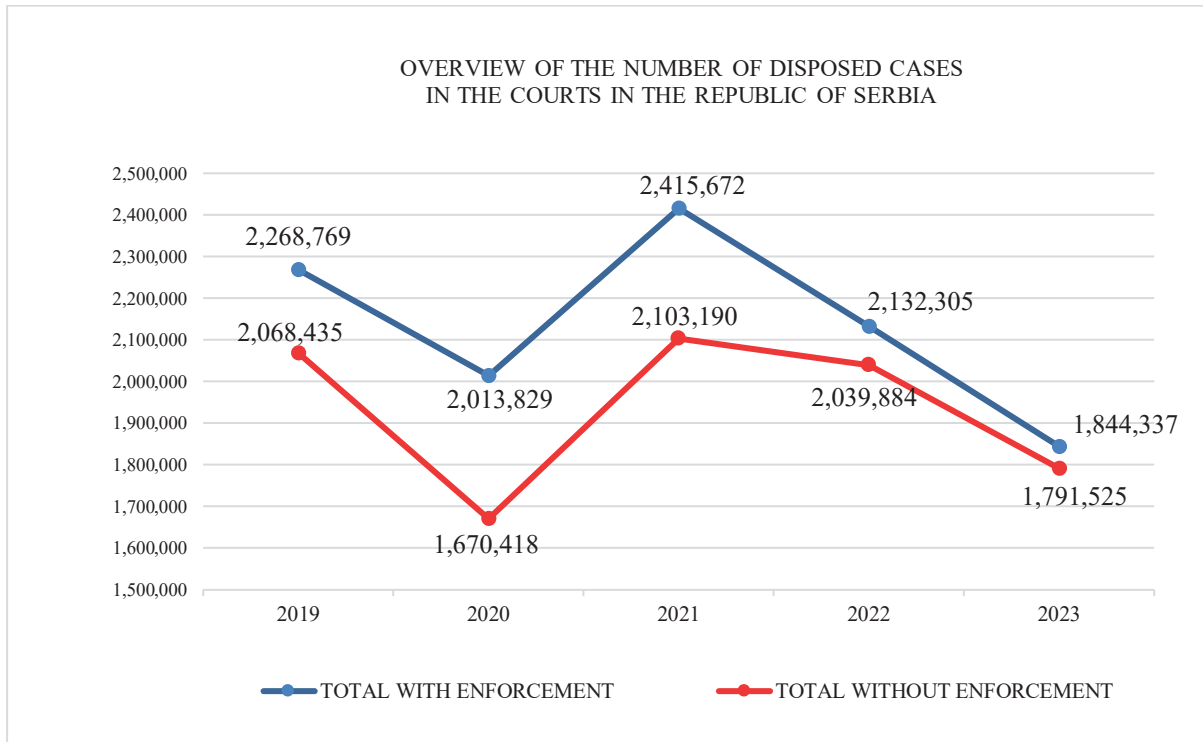


Chart No. 2

There is a noticeable decrease in the number of disposed cases in all courts in the Republic of Serbia, without enforcement cases, which indicates the need to undertake systemic measures.

Moreover, in 2023, basic courts also disposed **395,085** cases based on the citizens' requests for verification of signatures, manuscripts and transcripts (that are not under the jurisdiction of public notaries), issuing certificates and the like, while higher courts disposed additional **38,845** cases of this type. There were **899,157** such cases disposed in misdemeanor courts. These cases are resolved by the court administration under the supervision of judges, which creates additional **1,333,087** cases disposed by the courts in 2023, that are not shown in the tables in this report as disposed cases.

Pursuant to the Recommendation R 86 (12) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe regarding reduction of workload in courts, Articles 30a and 110a of the Law on Extra-Judicial Proceedings and Article 98 of the Law on Public Notaries, in 2023 basic courts handed over to public notaries, as entrusted tasks, the total of 87,911 requests for providing death certificates and 102,445 cases (out of the total of 136,769 received "O" cases in basic courts in 2023) in order to implement probate proceedings.

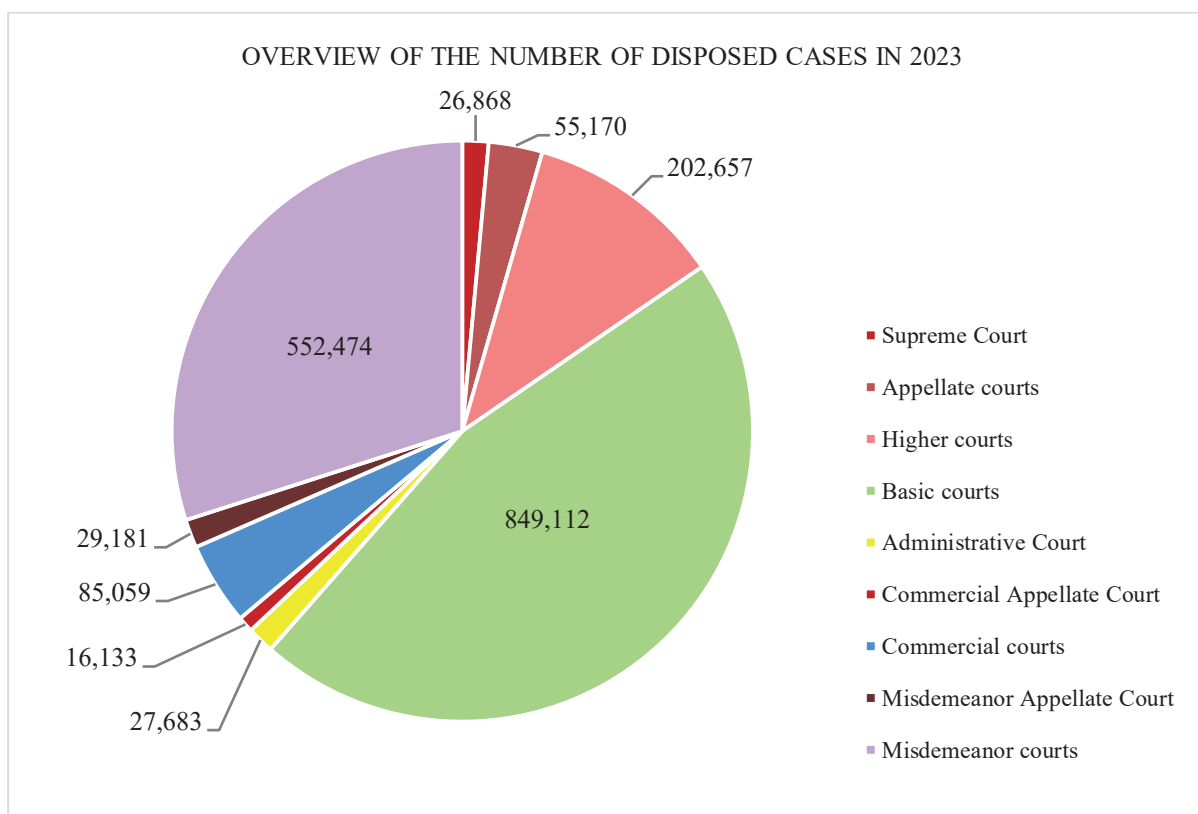


Chart No. 3

II.2. INCOMING CASES IN 2023

In **2023**, all courts in the Republic of Serbia received **1,765,479** cases, i.e. **1,713,122** without enforcement cases, which is the **lowest number of incoming cases since 2019**.

OVERVIEW OF THE NUMBER OF INCOMING CASES IN THE COURTS
IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TOTAL AT THE LEVEL OF SERBIA – ALL CASES	2,224,102	1,867,911	2,402,486	1,808,813	1,765,479
TOTAL AT THE LEVEL OF SERBIA – WITHOUT ENFORCEMENT	2,116,339	1,808,149	2,343,489	1,752,747	1,713,122

Table No. 6

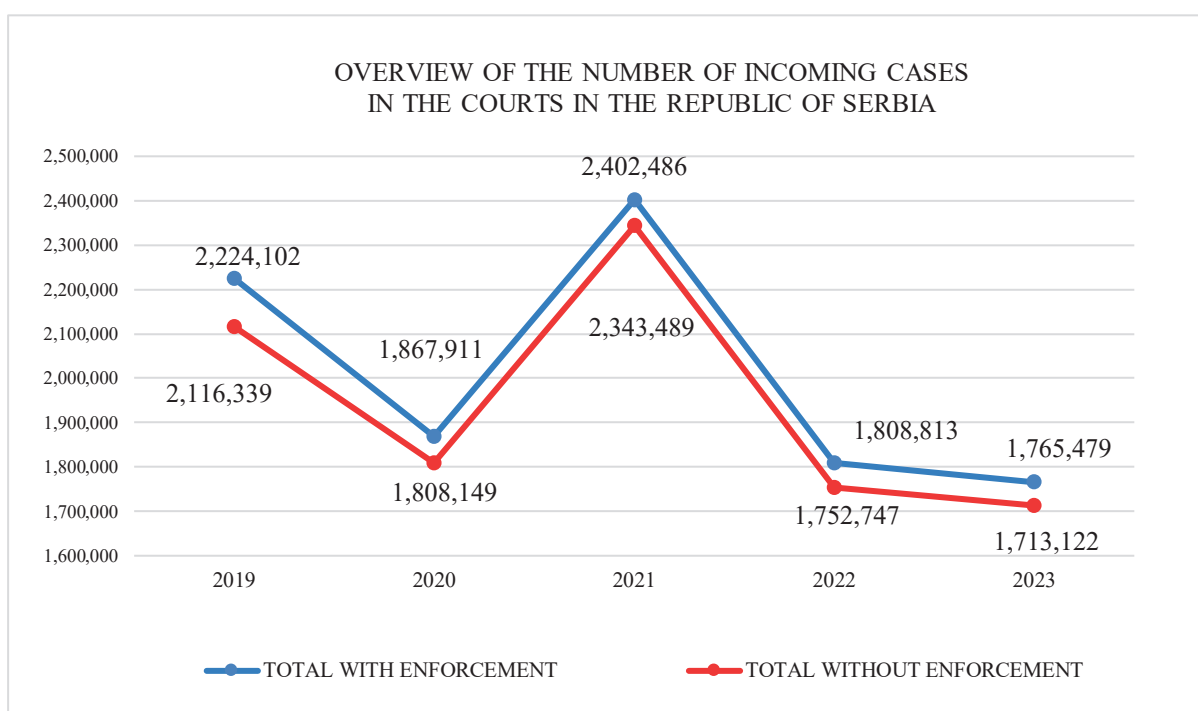


Chart No. 4

Overall, **in the past five years**, there was a total of **10,068,791 incoming** cases in the court system, which continues to significantly burden the court system.

The number of incoming cases, the existing, apparently still insufficient capacity of judges and judicial staff, give the huge inflow of cases in earlier years, especially in 2021, could not be absorbed in 2023 either.

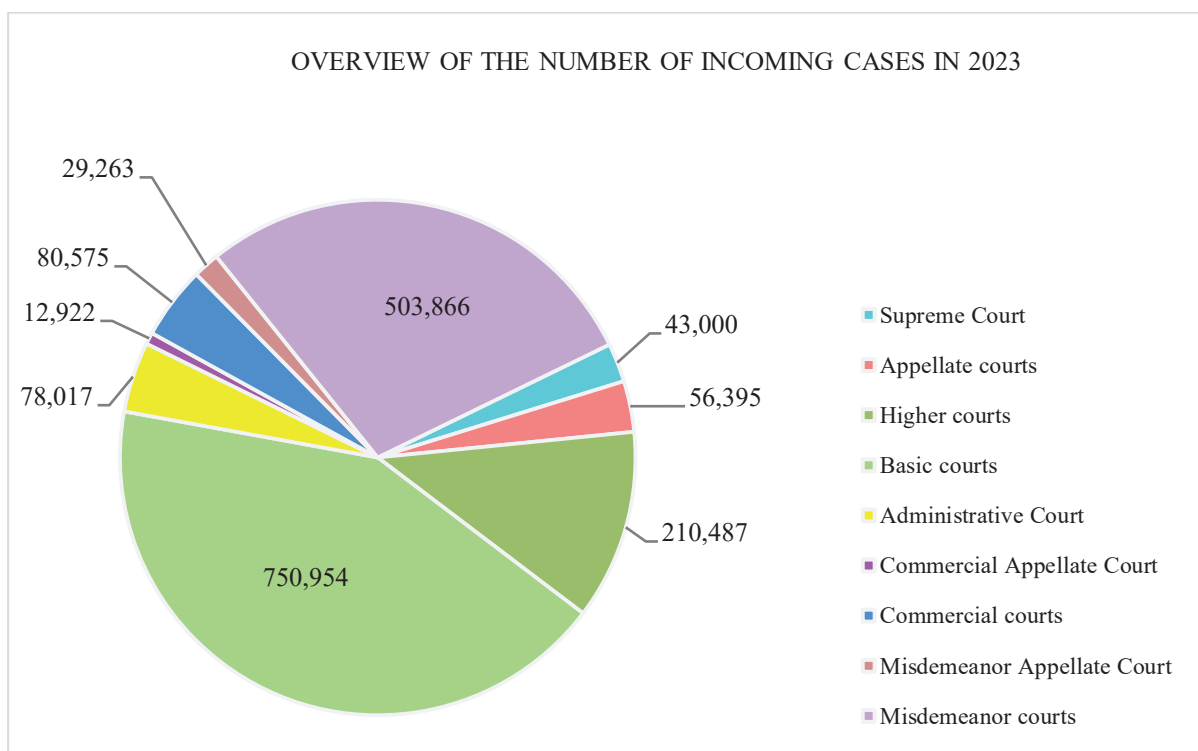


Chart No. 5

Most cases in 2023 were received by basic and misdemeanor courts.

In the previous period, **basic courts** had the following number of incoming cases: **2019** – 1,067,405, **2020** – 883,416, **2021** – 1,197,831, **2022** – 765,305, while in **2023** the total number of incoming cases was **750,954** cases, which is **14,351** cases **less** than in the previous year.

In the previous period, **misdemeanor courts** had the following number of incoming cases: **2019** – 124,820, **2020** – 100,116, **2021** – 119,112, **2022** – 96,117, while in **2023** the total number of incoming cases was **80,575**, which is **15,542** cases **less** than in 2022.

In the previous period, **misdemeanor courts** had the following number of incoming cases: **2019** – 632,715, **2020** – 501,547, **2021** – 571,796, **2022** – 528,891 cases, while in **2023** the total of incoming cases was **503,866**, which is **25,025** cases **less** than in the previous year.

In the previous period, **higher courts** had the following number of incoming cases: **2019** – 248,561, **2020** – 246,293, **2021** – 252,164, **2022** – 212,555, while in **2023** the total of **210,487** incoming cases was received, which is **2,068** cases **less** than in the previous year.

In the previous period, **appellate courts** had the following number of incoming cases: **2019** – 61,246, **2020** – 52,244, **2021** – 58,322, **2022** – 57,972, while in **2023** the total of incoming cases was **56,395**, which is **1,577** cases **less** than in 2022.

In the previous period, the **Commercial Appellate Court** received the following number of cases: **2019** – 17,043, **2020** – 13,803, **2021** – 23,314, **2022** – 19,904 cases, while in **2023**, the total of **12,922** cases were received, which his **6,982** cases **less** than in 2022.

In the previous period, the **Misdemeanor Appellate Court** received the following number of cases: **2019** – 29,178, **2020** – 28,478, **2021** – 30,607, **2022** – 30,154, while in **2023** the court received **29,263** cases, which is **891** cases **less** than in 2022.

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

A special category of cases within the increased inflow are the cases of the **Administrative Court**, due to the continuous expansion of the jurisdiction through new laws. In 2023 alone, the following laws were passed: the Law on the management of companies owned by the Republic of Serbia, the Law on the participation of civilians in international missions and operations outside the borders of the Republic of Serbia, the Law on film and other audiovisual heritage, and the Law on health documentation and records in healthcare. In the previous period, the following number of cases was received: **2019** – 22,537, **2020** – 32,968, **2021** – 38,927, **2022** – 63,534, while in **2023**, **78,017** cases were received, which is **14,483** cases **more** than in 2022. The most incoming cases in **2023** referred to the disputes due to the silence of the administration (**61,772**).

The Supreme Court of Cassation received the following number of cases in the previous period: **2019** – 20,597, **2020** – 14,048, **2021** – 19,292 (110,413 with delegated cases), **2022** – 34,381, while in **2023** the court received **43,000** cases, which is **8,619** cases **more** than in 2022, and from these data it can be concluded that in the last two years, the influx of cases in the Supreme Court has increased by more than 100% compared to previous years, while the number of judges who act effectively has remained the same.

II.3. CLEARANCE RATE

The chart below shows clearance rate (ratio of the number of disposed and the number of incoming cases) in the courts in the Republic of Serbia in 2023 with **104.47%**.

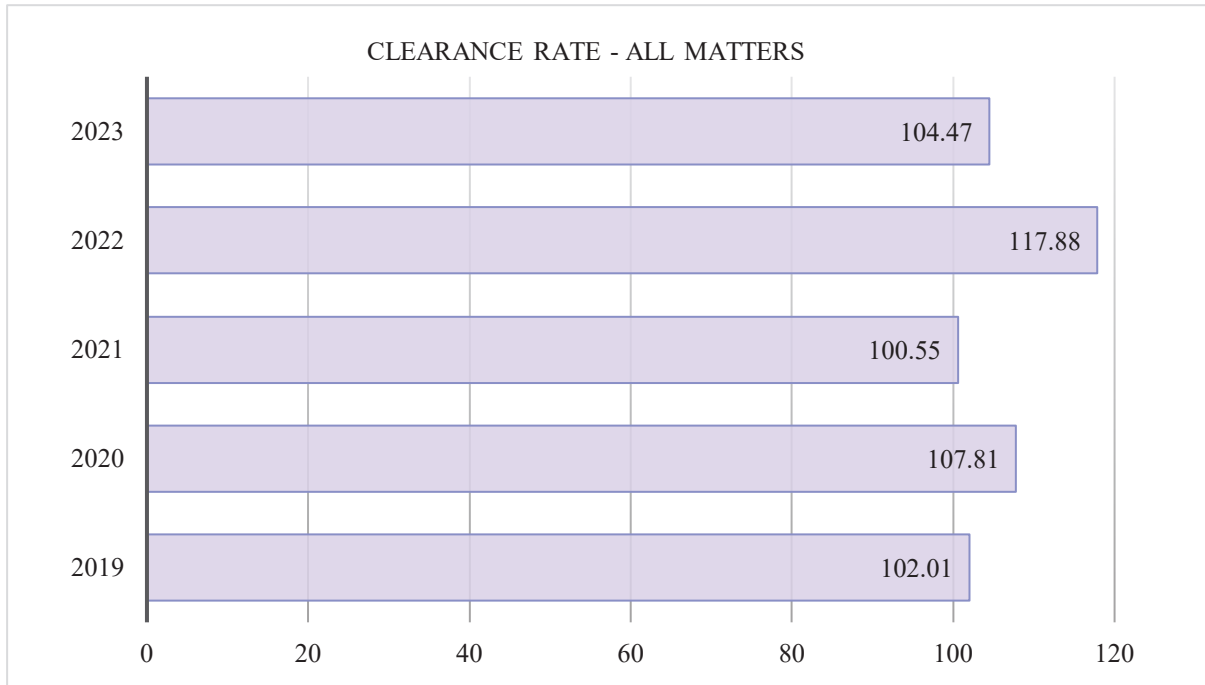


Chart No. 6

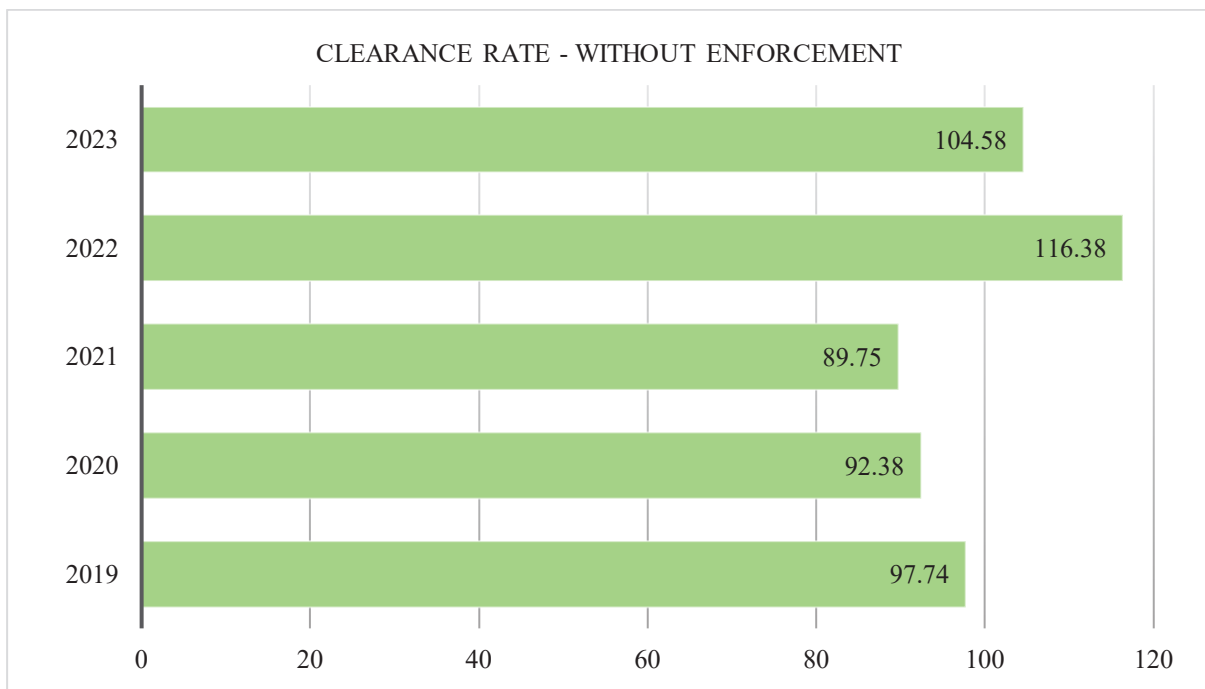


Chart No. 7

The chart indicates that in 2023, the number of disposed cases in the courts, **without the enforcement cases**, was **higher** compared to the number of incoming cases, which shows that the clearance rate was **104.58%**.

II.4. PENDING CASES AT THE END OF 2023

At the end of 2023, there was a total of **1,095,479 pending cases of all types**, i.e. **1,084,930 cases without enforcement cases**.

OVERVIEW OF THE NUMBER OF PENDING CASES IN THE COURTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TOTAL AT THE LEVEL OF SERBIA – ALL CASES	1,656,645	1,510,472	1,498,237	1,174,642	1,095,479
TOTAL AT THE LEVEL OF SERBIA – WITHOUT ENFORCEMENT	1,072,156	1,209,631	1,450,878	1,163,638	1,084,930

Table No. 7

Comparative indicators for the period 2019-2023 show a **significant decrease in the number of pending cases in all courts** in the Republic of Serbia, despite the reduced number of judges that adjudicate, and compared to 2019, there is 561,166 pending cases **less** at the end of **2023**, while at the end of **2023** there were **12,774 pending cases more** without the enforcement cases.

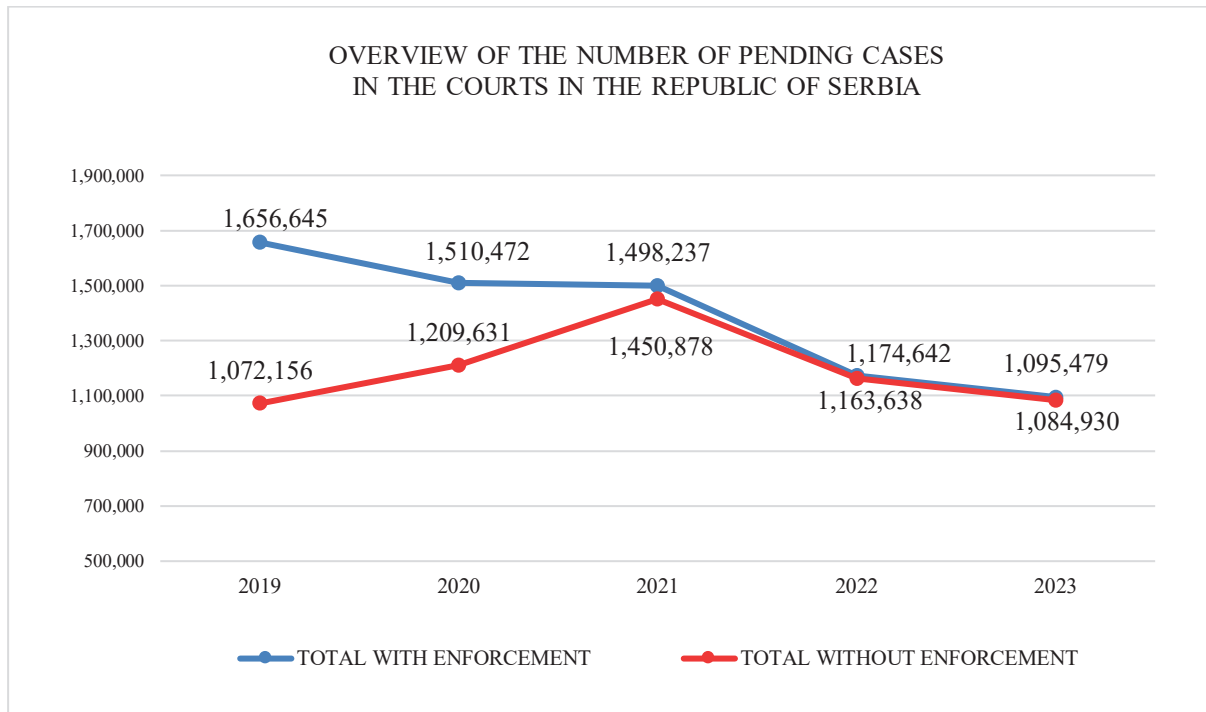


Chart No. 8

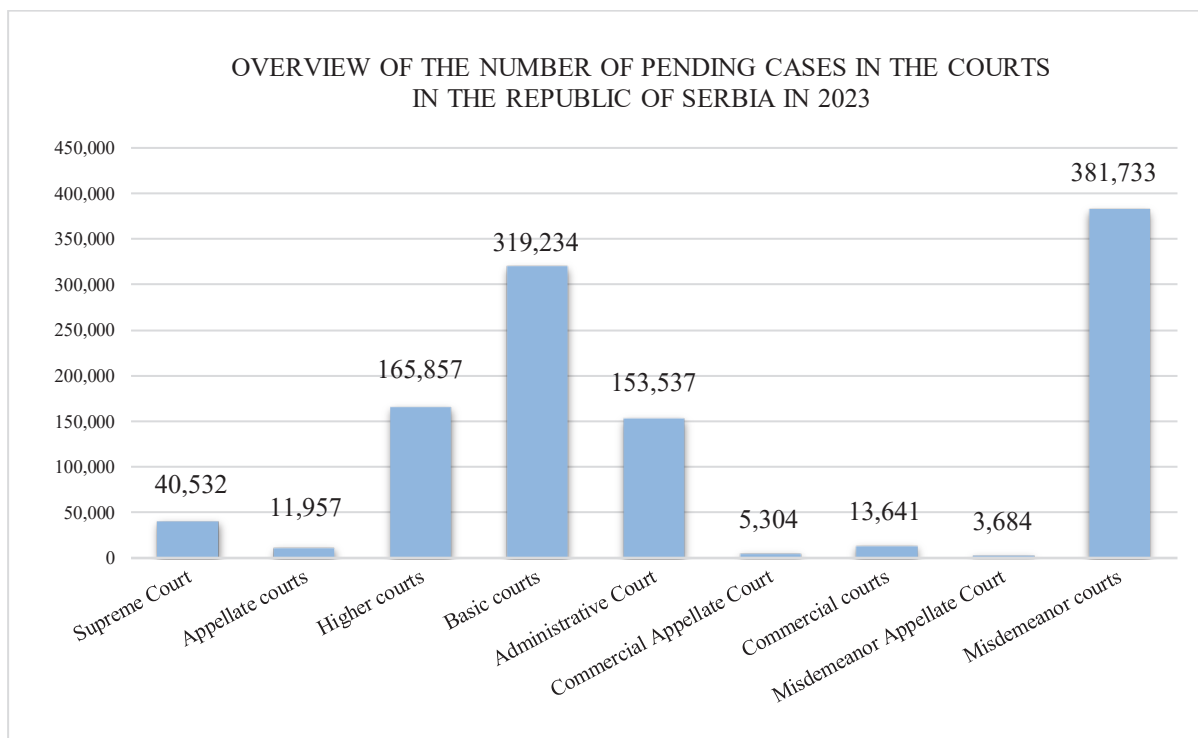


Chart No. 9

Courts with fewer pending cases at the end of 2023 compared to 2022:

At the end of 2023, there were 309,797 pending cases, without enforcement in basic courts, which is **97,527** cases less than in 2022, when there were 407,324 of those cases.

At the end of 2023, there were 381,733 pending cases without enforcement in misdemeanor courts, which is **48,920** cases less than in 2022, when there were 430,653 of those cases.

At the end of 2023, there were 12,529 pending cases without enforcement in commercial courts, which is **4,693** cases less than in 2022, when there were 17,222 of those cases.

At the end of 2023, there were 5,304 pending cases in the Commercial Appellate Court, which is **3,211** cases less than in 2022, when there were 8,515 of those cases.

Courts with more pending cases at the end of 2023 compared to 2022:

At the end of 2023, there were 11,957 pending cases in appellate courts, which is **1,225** cases more than in 2022, when there were 10,732 of those cases.

At the end of 2023, there were 165,857 pending cases in higher courts, which is **7,866** cases more than in 2022, when there were 157,991 of those cases.

At the end of 2023, there were 153,537 pending cases in the Administrative Court, which is **50,339** cases more than in 2022, when there were 103,198 of those cases.

At the end of 2023, there were 3,684 pending cases in the Misdemeanor Appellate Court, which is **82** cases more than in 2022, when there were 3,602 of those cases.

At the end of 2023, there were 40,532 pending cases in the Supreme Court, which is **29,800** cases more than in 2022, when there were 10,732 of those cases.

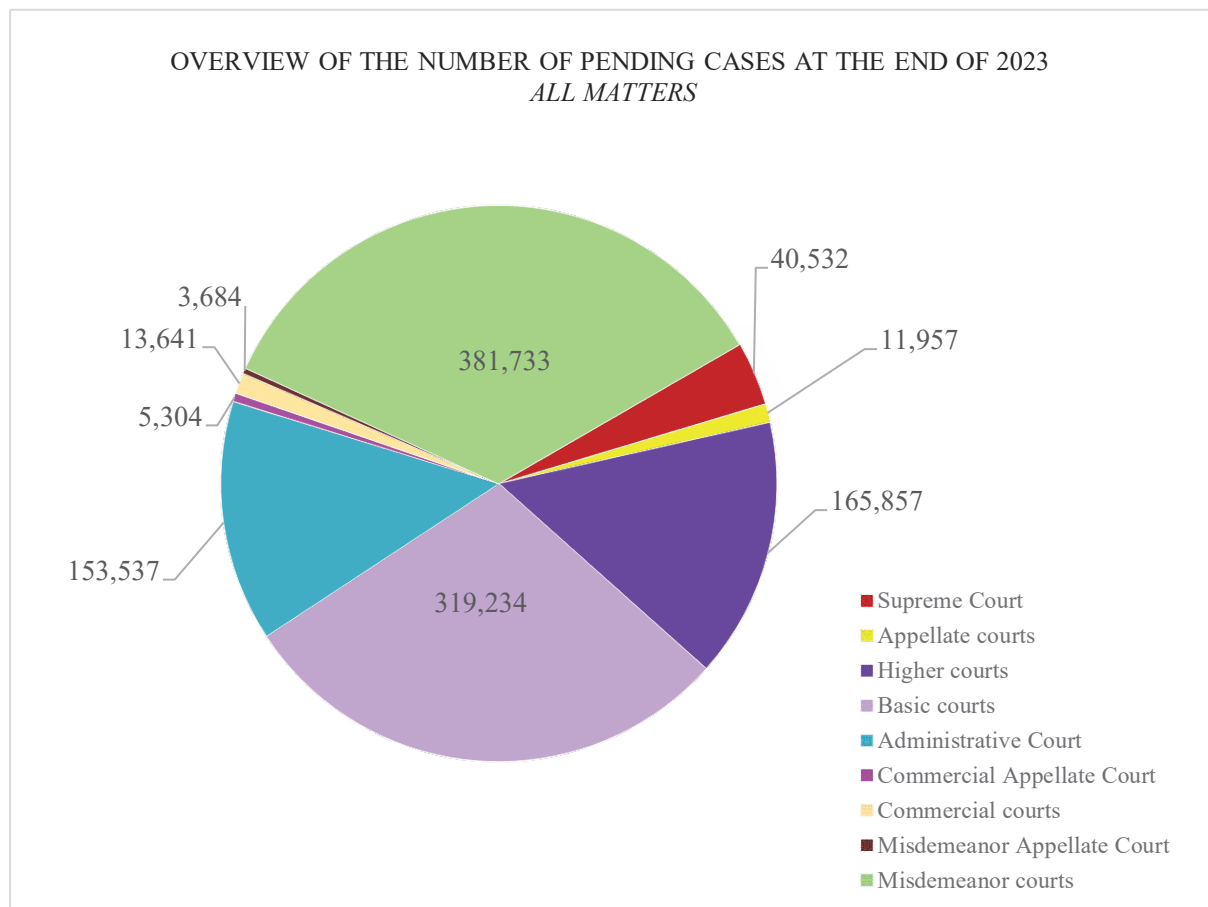


Chart No. 10

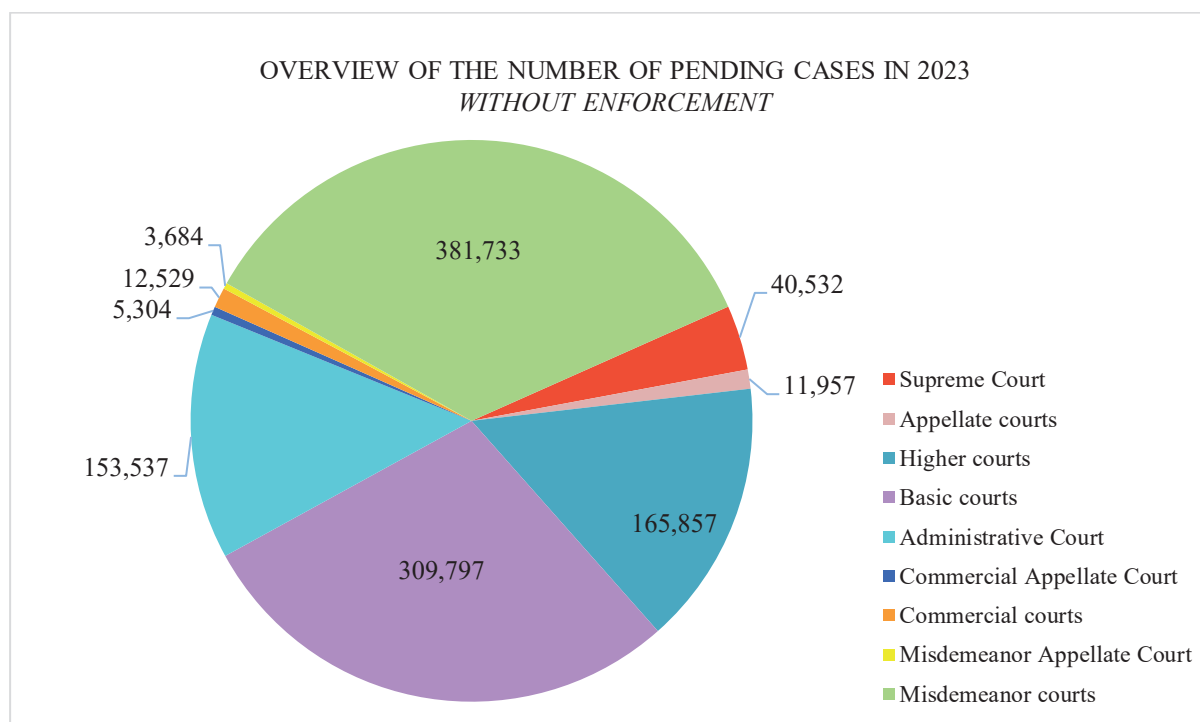


Chart No. 11

II.5. THE RATIO OF INCOMING, DISPOSED AND PENDING CASES

The ratio of incoming, disposed and pending cases at the end of 2023 compared to the previous year and the previously observed period from 2019 to 2023, indicates further decrease in the number of pending cases (1,095,479), as well as the lower number of disposed cases (1,844,337) and incoming cases (1,765,479).

The ratio of incoming, disposed and pending cases in the observed period in the courts indicates the following: continuous decrease in the number of pending cases, which might be the consequence of additional engagement of judges and court staff, as well as a slight decrease in the number of disposed cases, except in 2021, when there was a rapid growth as well as the variation in the number of incoming cases, with the largest increase recorded in 2021.

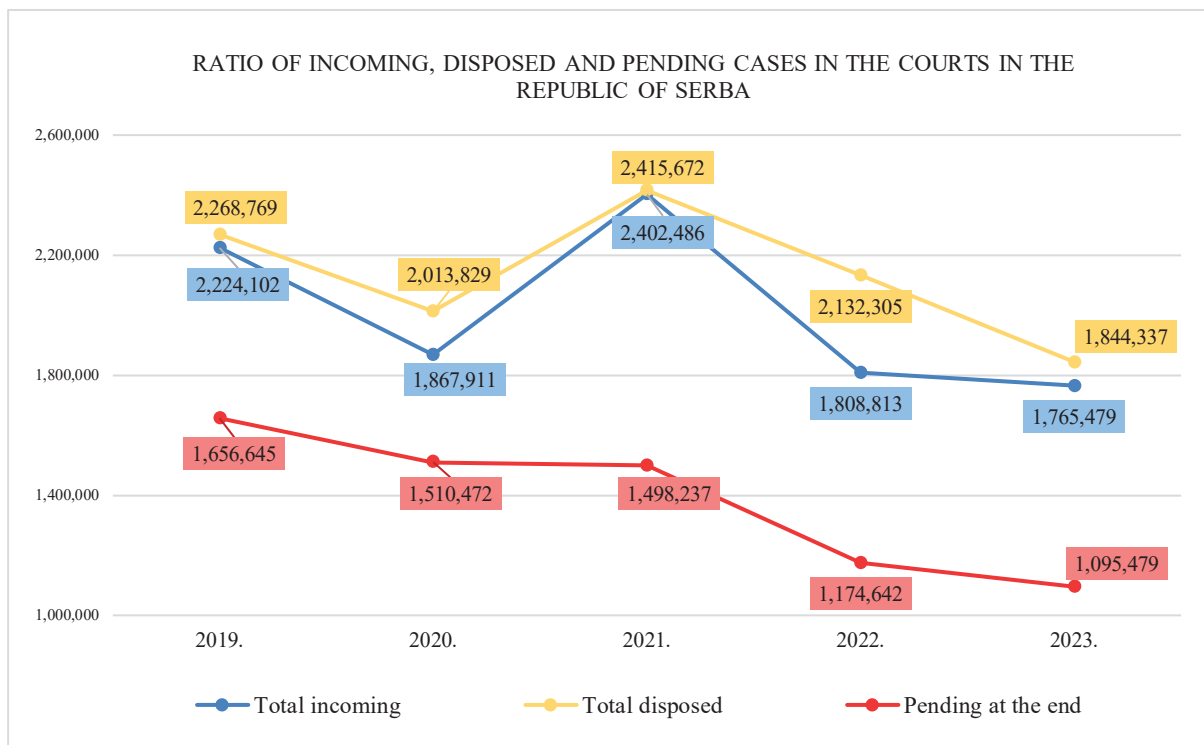


Chart No. 12

The presented data indicate that in 2023, in the observed categories, the courts in the Republic of Serbia saw a decrease in the number of incoming, disposed and pending cases, but that the courts are still burdened with an enormously large number of cases, since in 2023 there was a workload of the total of 2,940,121 cases (number of pending cases transferred from the previous period, increased by the number of incoming cases).

II.5.1. RATIO OF INCOMING, DISPOSED AND PENDING CASES BY TYPES OF COURTS IN 2023



Chart No.13

The data presented indicate the problem of the workload of the Supreme Court, the Administrative Court and the higher courts, since due to the increase inflow, those judges acting in those courts cannot solve the inflow, while the basic, commercial and misdemeanor courts, although they manage to have good clearance rates, cannot solve the problem of long duration of the procedure, considering the vacant judicial positions.

III. BACKLOG CASES

Based on the analysis of the disposition of backlog cases according to the Amended Single Backlog Reduction Program for the period 2016-2020, and the statement that the defined targets were not achieved, based on Measures 5 and 6 of the Judicial Development Strategy for the 2020-2025 period and Activities 1.3.6.3. and 1.6.3.4. of the Revised Action Plan for Chapter 23 “Judiciary and Fundamental Rights” within the accession negotiations of the Republic of Serbia with the European Union, the Supreme Court of Cassation adopted the Single Backlog Reduction Program in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021-2025 (measures, recommendations, implementation and monitoring).

The aforementioned document sets the goal that the total number of pending cases in the courts of the Republic of Serbia at the end of 2020 should be reduced from 1,510,472 (around 570 pending cases per judge) to 1,000,000 (around 330 cases per judge), which would decrease the share of backlog cases in the total number of pending cases, according to the current trend, to 2.61%.

In order to achieve that goal, the following is planned: systemic measures, special measures for pending enforcement cases, measures to be implemented by the Supreme Court, measures to be implemented by the Ministry of Justice, measures to be implemented by the courts, measures to be implemented by the courts in the territory of the City of Belgrade, general and procedural measures.

Implementing measures from strategic documents – the Supreme Court of Cassation presented in this report the number of pending backlog cases from 2019, bearing in mind the amended Rules of Procedure of courts regarding the determination of backlog cases (cases in which the procedure lasts longer than three years, counting from the date of submission of the initial act) and separated indicators that include all pending backlog cases and indicators on the number of backlog cases, without enforcement.

III.1. DISPOSED BACKLOG CASES

In 2023, the **total number of disposed backlog cases significantly decreased (148,531)**, by **65,703** cases compared to 2019, **while in matter without enforcement cases (146,491)**, **39,543 more cases** were disposed compared to 2019.

OVERVIEW OF THE NUMBER OF DISPOSED BACKLOG CASES IN THE COURTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA ACCORDING TO THE DATE OF THE INITIAL ACT

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TOTAL AT THE LEVEL OF SERBIA – ALL CASES	214,234	353,563	375,567	288,654	148,531
*TOTAL AT THE LEVEL OF SERBIA – WITHOUT ENFORCEMENT	106,948	91,919	118,823	250,185	146,491

Table No. 8

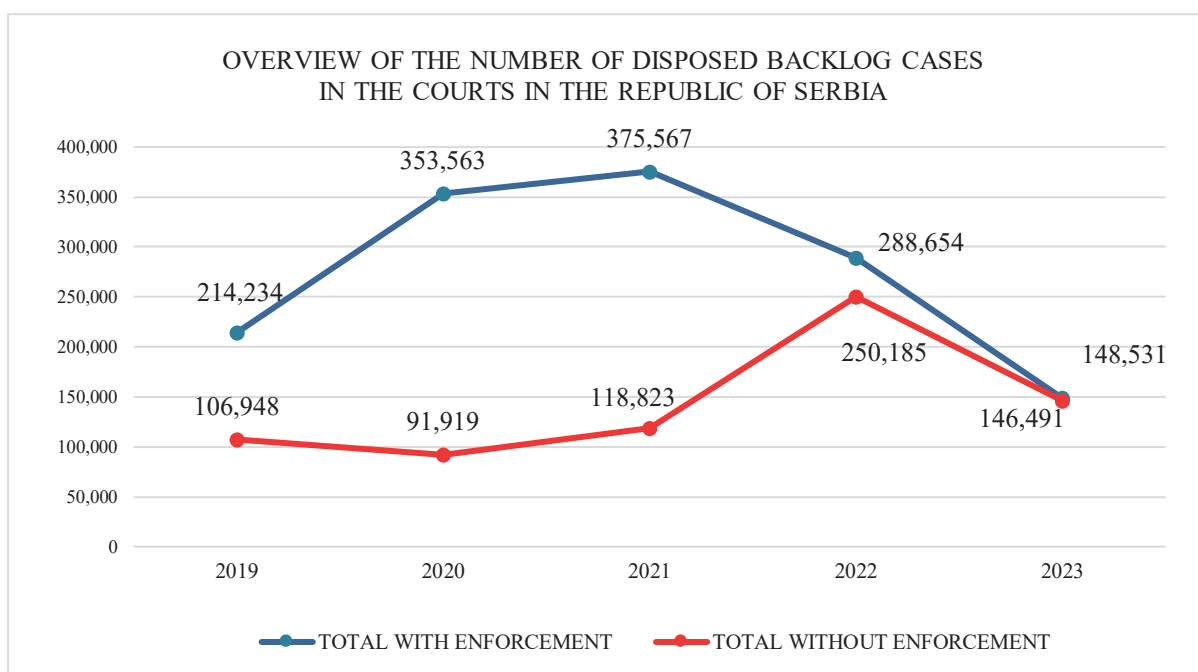


Chart No. 14

III.2. PENDING BACKLOG CASES ON DECEMBER 31, 2023

According to statistical data on the work of the courts for the year 2023, on December 31, 2023, there were **185,860** pending backlog cases with enforcement cases, while in other matters, without enforcement cases, there were **184,928** pending backlog cases.

REPORT ON PENDING BACKLOG CASES ON DECEMBER 31, 2023
ACCORDING TO THE DATE OF THE INITIAL ACT

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TOTAL AT THE LEVEL OF SERBIA – ALL CASES	621,324	382,646	137,637	130,260	185,860
*TOTAL AT THE LEVEL OF SERBIA – WITHOUT ENFORCEMENT	86,962	95,173	100,753	128,855	184,928

Table No. 9

* Figures for basic courts cover I and Iv cases, while commercial courts cover all enforcement cases

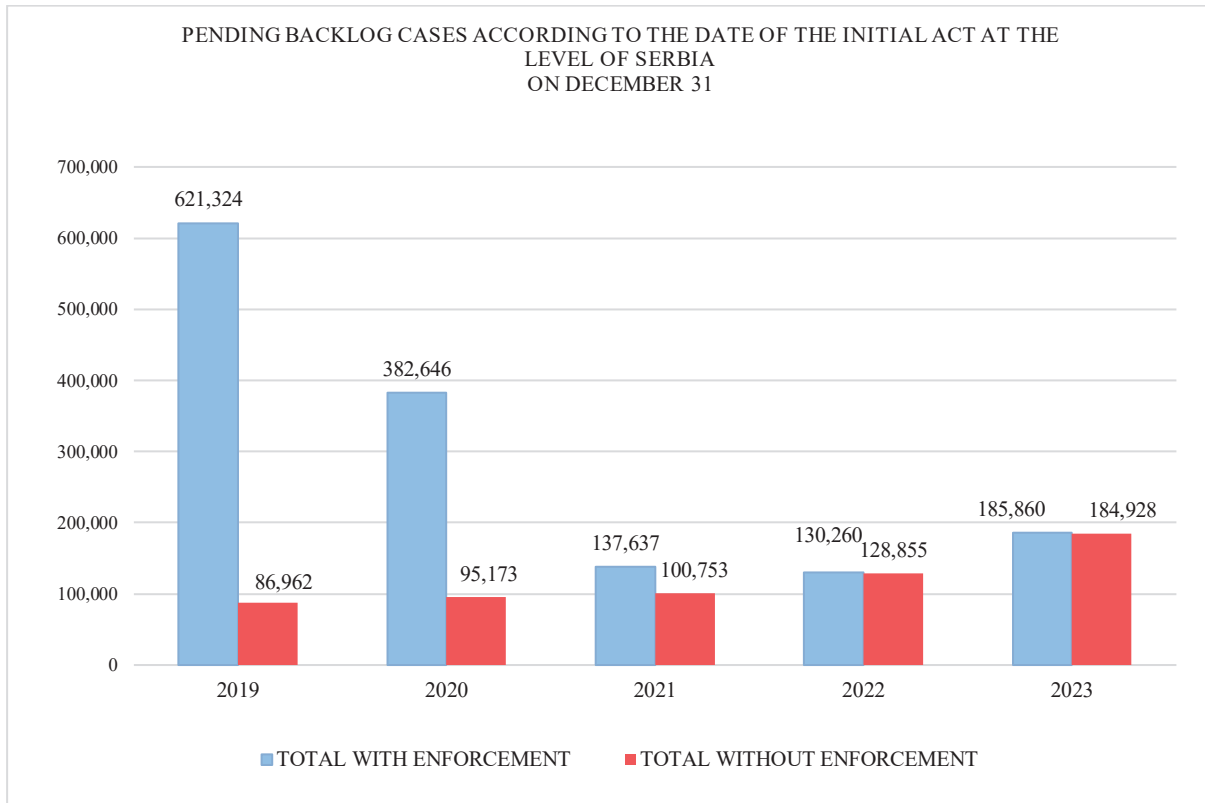


Chart No. 15

An increase in the number of pending backlog cases in all matters and an increase in the number of pending backlog cases, without enforcement cases, was observed, which, despite the objective circumstances (a large inflow of cases and insufficiently filled vacant judge positions), indicates the need to assess the fulfillment of goals set by the Single Backlog Reduction Program in the courts in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021-2025.

III.3. PENDING BACKLOG CASES BY COURT TYPE AND BY TRIAL MATTERS

The Court Rules of Procedure regulate the monitoring of backlog cases based on the length of the proceedings according to the date of the initial act (three-five, five-ten and over 10 years), of which the courts keep special records, which represent the starting point for the development of individual backlog reduction program, but also for the assessment of the backlog reduction in courts.

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

REPORT ON PENDING BACKLOG CASES
ON DECEMBER 31, 2023 – ACCORDING TO THE DATE OF THE INITIAL ACT

No.	Court name	Number of judges	TOTAL CASELOAD (total pending at the beginning + total incoming) 01/01 - 12/31/2023	TOTAL PENDING CASES WITH DURATION OF PROCEEDINGS LONGER THAN 36 MONTHS SINCE THE INITIAL ACT on Dec 31, 2023	AGE OF PENDING BACKLOG CASES			% OF BACKLOG CASES COMPARED TO TOTAL CASELOAD	AVERAGE NUMBER OF BACKLOG CASES PER JUDGE
					3 TO 5	5 TO 10	MORE THAN 10		
1	Supreme Court	31	67,400	20,657	15,133	4,466	1,058	30.65	666.35

No.	Court name	Number of judges	TOTAL CASELOAD (total pending at the beginning + total incoming) 01/01 - 12/31/2023	TOTAL PENDING BACKLOG CASES on Dec 31, 2023	AGE OF PENDING BACKLOG CASES			% OF BACKLOG CASES COMPARED TO TOTAL CASELOAD	AVERAGE NUMBER OF BACKLOG CASES PER JUDGE
					3 TO 5	5 TO 10	MORE THAN 10		
1	Appellate courts	169	67,127	7,316	3,012	3,408	896	10,90	43,29
2	Higher courts	351	368,514	88,324	67,465	17,539	3,320	23,97	251,64
3	Basic courts	1,186	1,168,346	52,804	35,763	13,564	3,477	4,52	44,52
TOTAL:		1,706	1,603,987	148,144	106,240	34,511	7,693	9,25	87,01

No.	Court name	Number of judges	TOTAL CASELOAD (total pending at the beginning + total incoming) 01/01 - 12/31/2023	TOTAL PENDING BACKLOG CASES on Dec 31, 2023	AGE OF PENDING BACKLOG CASES			% OF BACKLOG CASES COMPARED TO TOTAL CASELOAD	AVERAGE NUMBER OF BACKLOG CASES PER JUDGE
					3 TO 5	5 TO 10	MORE THAN 10		
1	Administrative Court	50	181,220	8,223	7,664	558	1	4,54	164,46
2	Commercial Appellate Court	32	21,437	1,337	1,074	229	34	6,24	41,78
3	Commercial courts	170	98,700	2,133	828	801	504	2,16	12,55
4	Misdemeanor Appellate Court	46	32,865	93	61	32		0,28	2,02
5	Misdemeanor courts	440	934,207	4,973	3,223	1,720		0,53	11,30
TOTAL:		738	1,268,429	16,759	12,850	3,370	539	1,32	22,71
TOTAL - SERBIA		2,475	2,939,816	185,860	134,223	42,347	9,290	6,32	75,09

Table No. 10

The report shows that at the end of 2023, of all courts at the national level, the largest number of backlog cases was in the courts of general jurisdiction, namely in the higher courts (**88,324**), while the largest number of pending backlog cases older than 10 years is in the basic courts (**3,477**).

Of the courts of special jurisdiction, the largest number of pending backlog cases at the end of 2023 was in the Administrative Court (**8,223**), while the largest number of pending backlog cases older than 10 years was in the commercial courts (**504**).

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

REPORT ON PENDING BACKLOG CASES ON DECEMBER 31, 2023 – ACCORDING TO THE DATE OF THE INITIAL ACT, BY TYPE OF COURTS:

APPELLATE COURTS

No.	Matter	Number of judges	TOTAL CASELOAD (total pending at the beginning + total incoming) 01.01.-31.12.2023.	TOTAL PENDING BACKLOG CASES on 31.12.2023.	AGE OF PENDING BACKLOG CASES			% OF BACKLOG CASES COMPARED TO TOTAL CASELOAD	AVERAGE NUMBER OF BACKLOG CASES PER JUDGE
					3 TO 5	5 TO 10	MORE THAN 10		
1	Kž1	42	4,563	263	143	86	34	5.76	6.26
2	Kž2	42	6,747	4	2	1	1	0.06	0.10
3	Kžm1	16	455	1	1			0.22	0.06
4	Kžm2	22	333					0.00	0.00
5	Gž	79	24,431	5,218	2,044	2,483	691	21.36	66.05
6	Gž1	50	20,561	1,541	670	725	146	7.49	30.82
7	Gž2	71	2,527	65	41	23	1	2.57	0.92
TOTAL FOR PREDOMINANTLY TRIAL MATTERS		160	59,617	7,092	2,901	3,318	873	11.90	44.33
TOTAL FOR ALL MATTERS		169	67,127	7,316	3,012	3,408	896	10.90	43.29

Table No. 11

COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW FOR 2019-2023

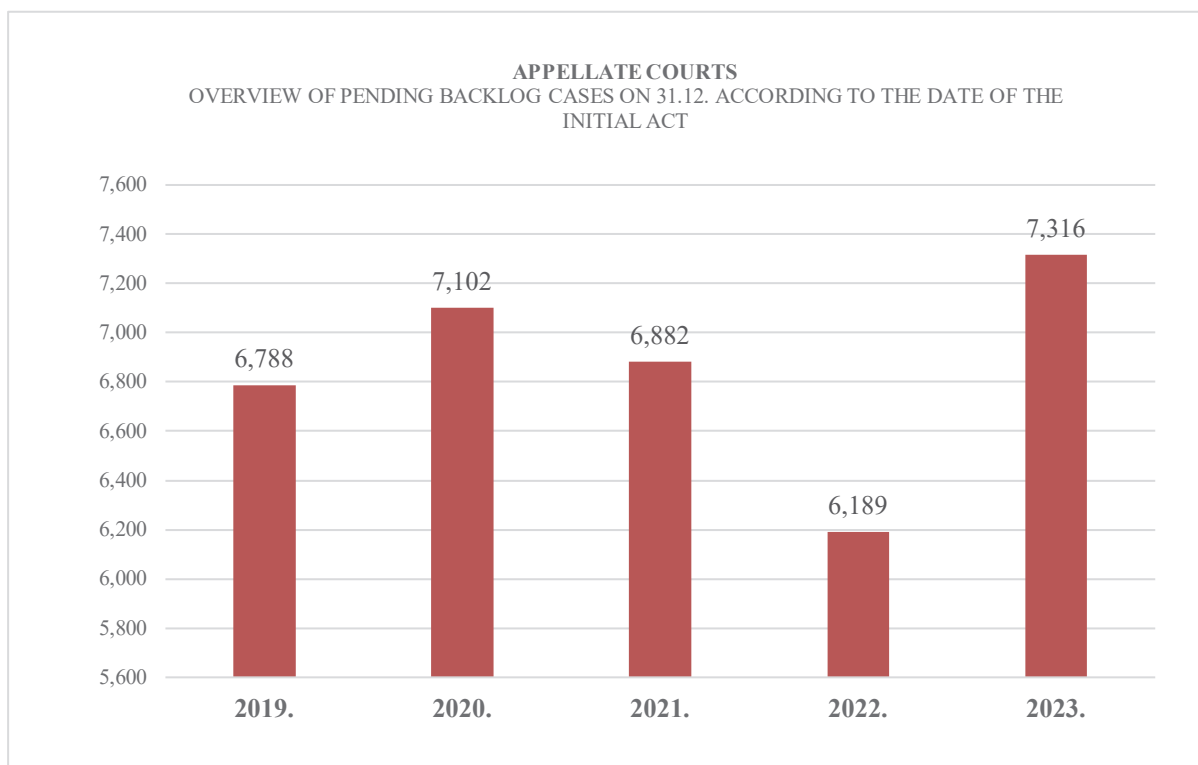


Chart No.16

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

HIGHER COURTS

No.	Matter	Number of judges	TOTAL CASELOAD (total pending at the beginning + total incoming) 01.01.-31.12.2023.	TOTAL PENDING BACKLOG CASES on 31.12.2023.	AGE OF PENDING BACKLOG CASES			% OF BACKLOG CASES COMPARED TO TOTAL CASELOAD	AVERAGE NUMBER OF BACKLOG CASES PER JUDGE
					3 TO 5	5 TO 10	MORE THAN 10		
1	P	107	12,907	2,606	1,134	1,251	221	20.19	24.36
2	P1	76	805	164	99	57	8	20.37	2.16
3	P2	84	1,028	20	16	4	0	1.95	0.24
4	GŽ	148	229,099	83,008	64,899	15,462	2,647	36.23	560.86
5	GŽ1	124	4,204	329	130	142	57	7.83	2.65
6	GŽ2	86	1,336	20	13	5	2	1.50	0.23
7	K	77	4,054	553	226	238	89	13.64	7.18
8	K-Po1	17	347	55	11	32	12	15.85	3.24
9	K-Po2	6	33	11	5	3	3	33.33	1.83
10	K-Po3	11	156	13	7	5	1	8.33	1.18
11	K-Po4	16	906	52	48	4	0	5.74	3.25
12	KŽ1	70	7,704	125	96	29	0	1.62	1.79
13	KIM	43	3,610	4	4	0	0	0.11	0.09
14	KM	44	2,208	4	4	0	0	0.18	0.09
TOTAL FOR PREDOMINANTLY TRIAL MATTERS		333	268,397	86,964	66,692	17,232	3,040	32.40	261.15
TOTAL FOR ALL MATTERS		351	368,514	88,324	67,465	17,539	3,320	23.97	251.64

Table No. 12

Of the courts of general jurisdiction, at the end of 2023, the higher courts had the largest number of pending backlog cases, namely in the second instance in civil Gž matter (**83,008**), while in the first instance the largest number of pending backlog cases was in civil P matter (**2,606**).

COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW FOR 2019-2023



Chart No. 17

In the observed period 2019-2023, the higher courts in first instance criminal matters (K) continuously reduced the number of pending backlog cases (from the end of 2019, when there were 631 backlog cases, to the end of **2023**, when there were **553** of those cases).

Despite the reduction in the number of backlog cases, it is necessary to implement individual measures to reduce the number of these backlog cases before the higher courts.

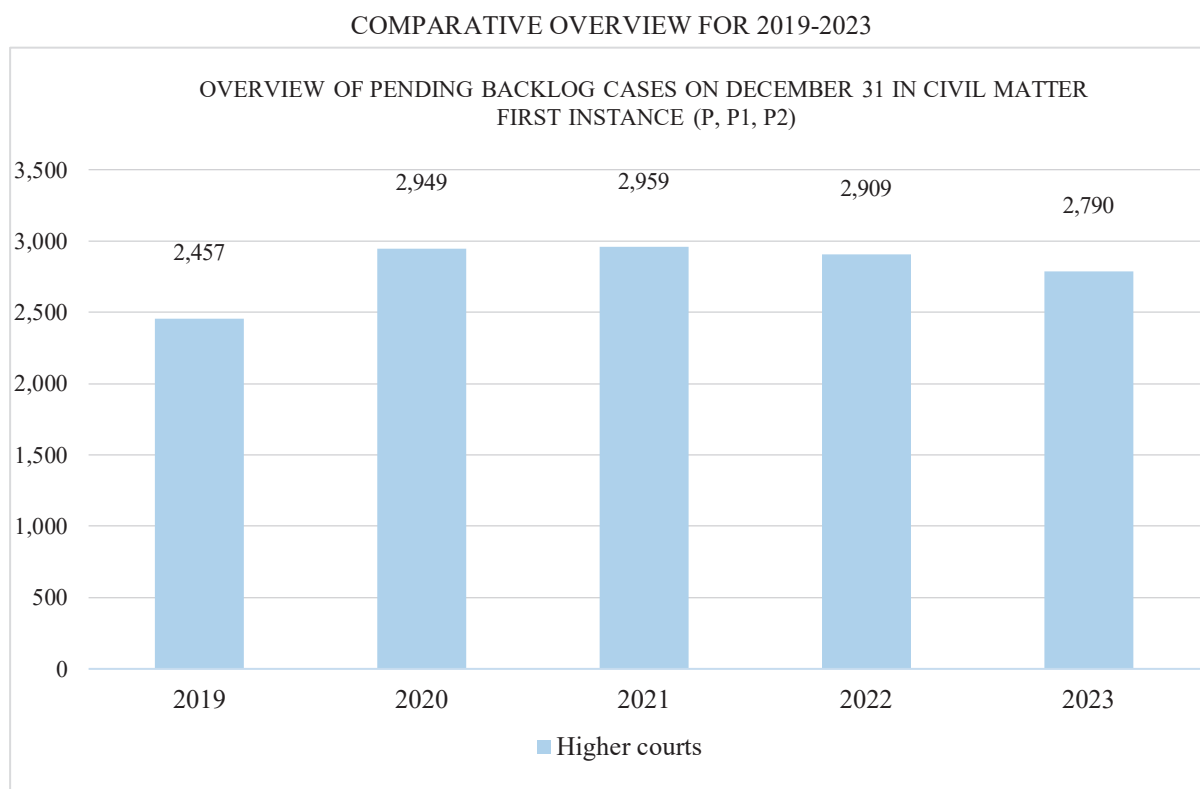


Chart No. 18

In the same period, in the first-instance civil matters (P, P1, P2) in higher courts until 2021 there was a trend of increased number of pending backlog cases, while after that the number of those cases continuously decreased (at the end of 2021 there were 2,959 of those cases, and at the end of **2023**, the number of those cases was **2,790**).

Despite the reduction in the number of pending backlog cases, it is necessary to analyze the workload of higher courts and the causes behind pending backlog cases, with the aim of implementing measures in certain courts.

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

BASIC COURTS

No.	Matter	Number of judges	TOTAL CASELOAD (total pending at the beginning + total incoming) 01.01.-31.12.2023.	TOTAL PENDING BACKLOG CASES on 31.12.2023.	AGE OF PENDING BACKLOG CASES			% OF BACKLOG CASES COMPARED TO TOTAL CASELOAD	AVERAGE NUMBER OF BACKLOG CASES PER JUDGE
					3 TO 5	5 TO 10	MORE THAN 10		
1	P	691	394,567	40,231	28,627	9,259	2,345	10.20	58.22
2	P1	308	59,480	4,601	2,655	1,653	293	7.74	14.94
3	P2	282	47,087	349	297	51	1	0.74	1.24
4	K	244	56,326	2,127	1,426	593	108	3.78	8.72
TOTAL 1-4		1,029	557,460	47,308	33,005	11,556	2,747	8.49	45.97
5	Iv	67	2,164	385	1	20	364	17.79	5.75
6	I	121	23,768	504	247	211	46	2.12	4.17
TOTAL 5-6		133	25,932	889	248	231	410	3.43	6.68
ALL ENFORCEMENT		346	229,702	2,784	1,118	1,240	426	1.21	8.05
TOTAL FOR ALL MATTERS		1,186	1,168,346	52,804	35,763	13,564	3,477	4.52	44.52

Table No. 13

Number of pending backlog cases in all matters, without enforcement, in all basic courts in the Republic of Serbia at the end of **2023** was **47,308**.

COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW FOR 2019-2023

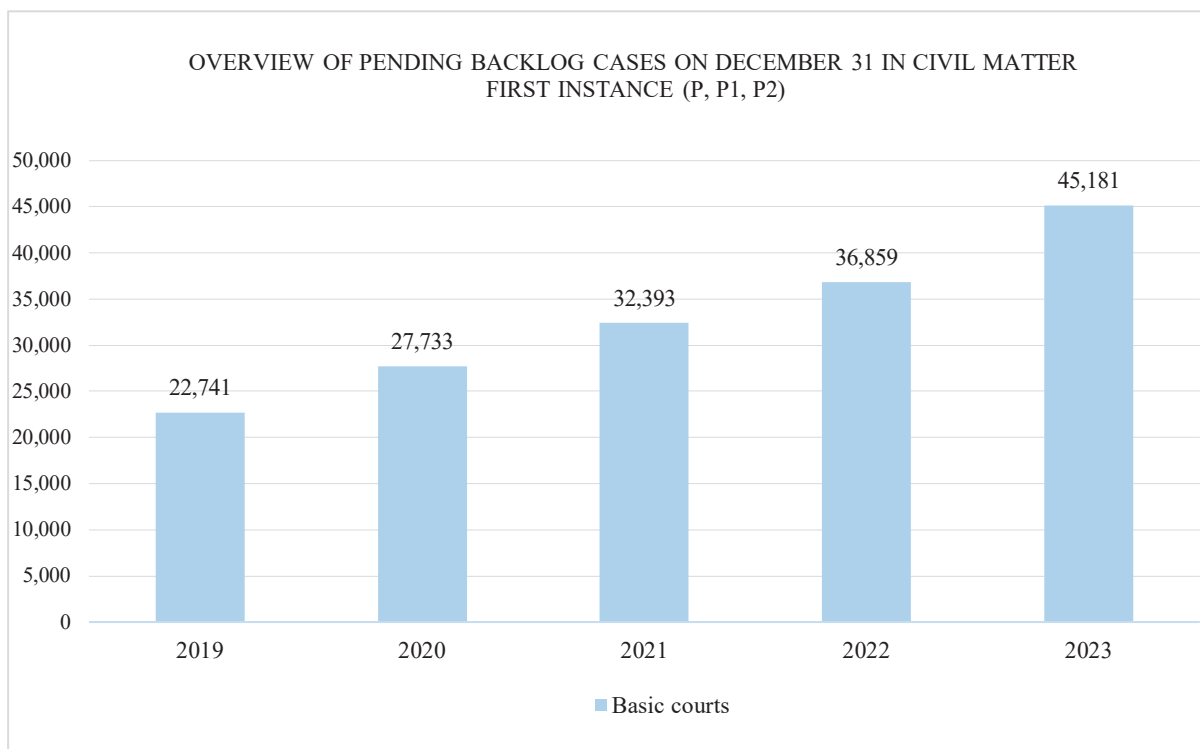


Chart No. 19

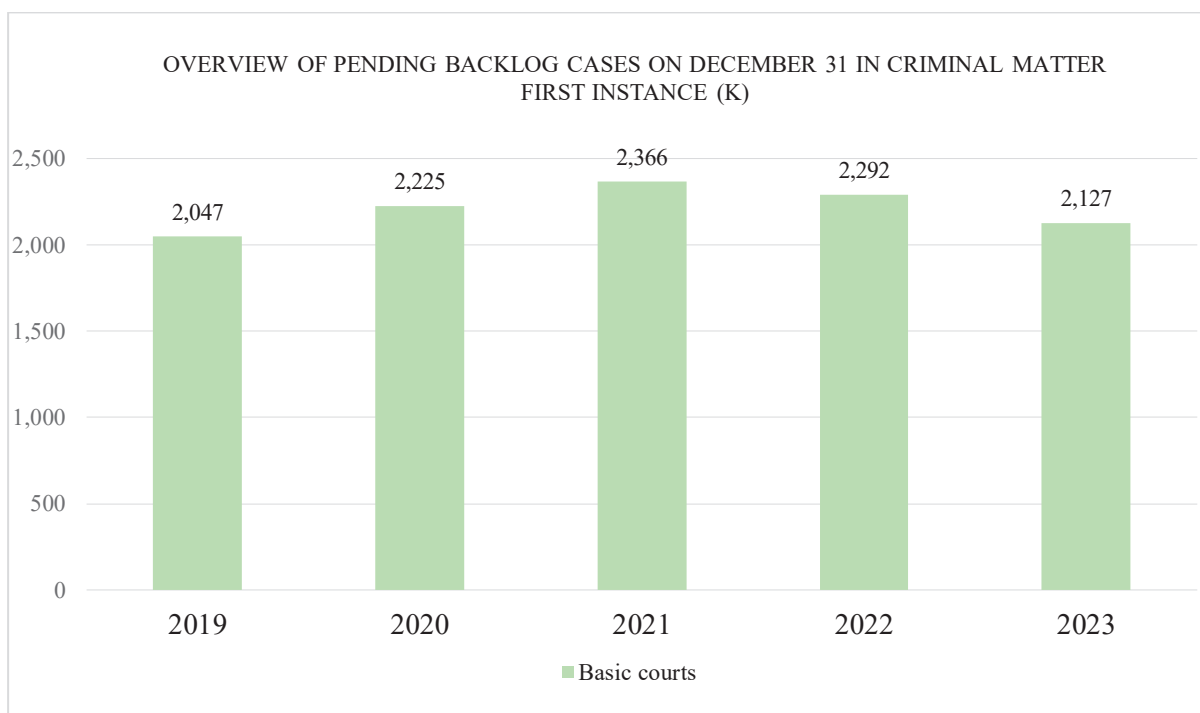


Chart No. 20

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

In the observed period (2019-2023), civil matters (P, P1, P2) in basic courts continuously showed increase in the number of pending backlog cases (at the end of 2019 there were 22,741 pending backlog cases, while at the end of **2023**, the number of pending backlog cases was **45,181**).

In the same period, basic courts in criminal matter (K) showed a trend of increasing the number of pending backlog cases until 2021, while after that the number of those cases continuously decreased (at the end of 2019, there were 2,047 pending backlog cases, at the end of 2021 a total of 2,366 of such cases, and at the end of **2023**, there were **2,127** pending backlog cases).

The enormous increase in the number of pending backlog cases in civil matter and the slight decrease in pending backlog cases in criminal matter indicated the need of an analysis of the workload of basic courts and the causes behind the fact that these cases remain pending, with the aim of implementing measures in certain courts, as well as the obligation of court presidents to implement additional special measures to resolve these cases, defined in the Single Backlog Reduction Program 2021-2025, in order to speed up their disposal.

ADMINISTRATIVE COURT

No.	Matter	Number of judges	TOTAL CASELOAD (total pending at the beginning + total incoming) 01.01.-31.12.2023.	TOTAL PENDING BACKLOG CASES on 31.12.2023.	AGE OF PENDING BACKLOG CASES			% OF BACKLOG CASES COMPARED TO TOTAL CASELOAD	AVERAGE NUMBER OF BACKLOG CASES PER JUDGE
					3 TO 5	5 TO 10	MORE THAN 10		
1	U	50	113,355	8,125	7,582	542	1	7.17	162.50
2	UR	48	331	4	3	1		1.21	0.08
3	UI	50	3,343	54	50	4		1.62	1.08
4	UO	50	117	0				0.00	0.00
5	UV	18	764	2	2			0.26	0.11
6	UP	36	172	26	19	7		15.12	0.72
7	U ću	50	61,794	12	8	4		0.02	0.24
TOTAL 1-7		50	179,876	8,223	7,664	558	1	4.57	164.46
TOTAL FOR ALL MATTERS		50	181,220	8,223	7,664	558	1	4.54	164.46

Table No. 14

Of the courts of special jurisdiction, the Administrative Court saw a huge increase in the number of pending backlog cases (**8,223**), of which administrative disputes are the most numerous (**8,125**).

COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW FOR 2019-2023

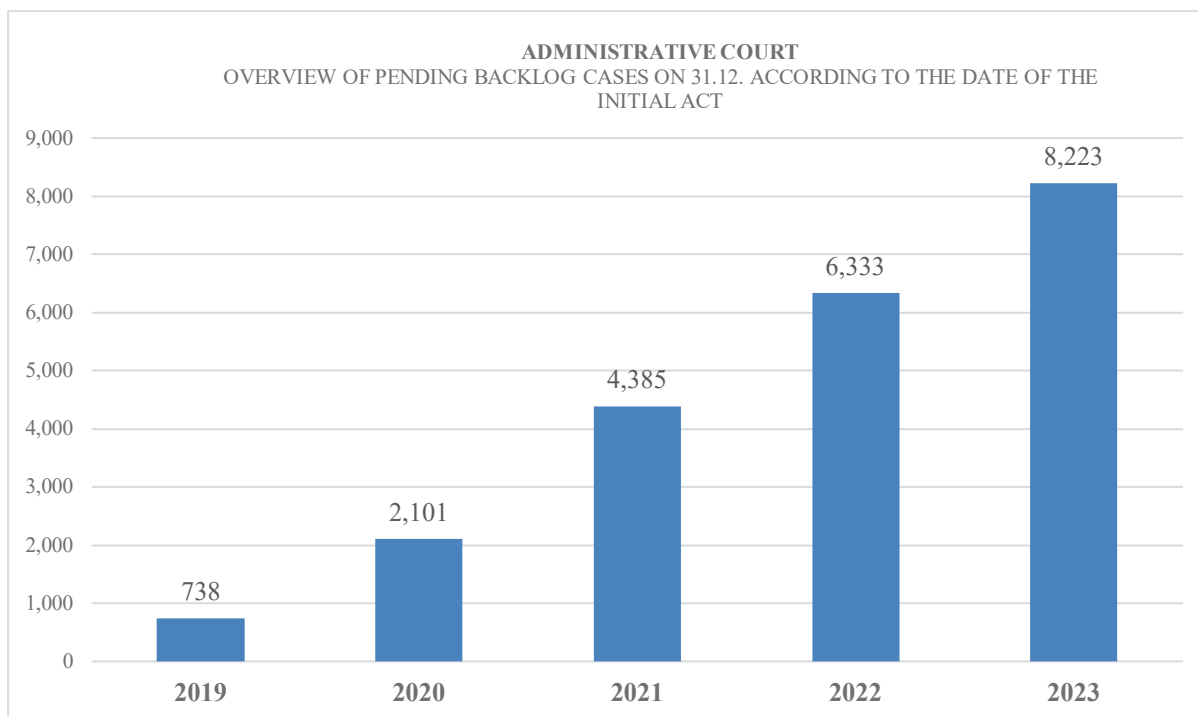


Chart No.21

Having in mind the extraordinary workload of the Administrative Court and the enormous increase in the inflow of cases, the number of backlog cases has been increasing since 2019, which indicates the need of introducing two-level decision-making in administrative matters, as well as an increase in the number of judges.

COMMERCIAL APPELLATE COURT

No.	Matter	Number of judges	TOTAL CASELOAD (total pending at the beginning + total incoming) 01.01.-31.12.2023.	TOTAL PENDING BACKLOG CASES on 31.12.2023.	AGE OF PENDING BACKLOG CASES			% OF BACKLOG CASES COMPARED TO TOTAL CASELOAD	AVERAGE NUMBER OF BACKLOG CASES PER JUDGE
					3 TO 5	5 TO 10	MORE THAN 10		
1	Pž	30	14,266	1,264	1,037	204	23	8.86	42.13
2	Pvž	12	519	32	6	16	10	6.17	2.67
3	Iž	31	1,107	13	8	4	1	1.17	0.42
4	R	0	39	0				0.00	
TOTAL 1-4		31	15,931	1,309	1,051	224	34	8.22	42.23
5	Pkž	2	649	28	23	5		4.31	14.00
TOTAL FOR ALL MATTERS		32	21,437	1,337	1,074	229	34	6.24	41.78

Table No. 15

In the Commercial Appellate Court on December 31, 2023, there were **1,337** pending backlog cases, of which the largest number of those cases were 3 to 5 years old (**1,074**).

COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW FOR 2019-2023

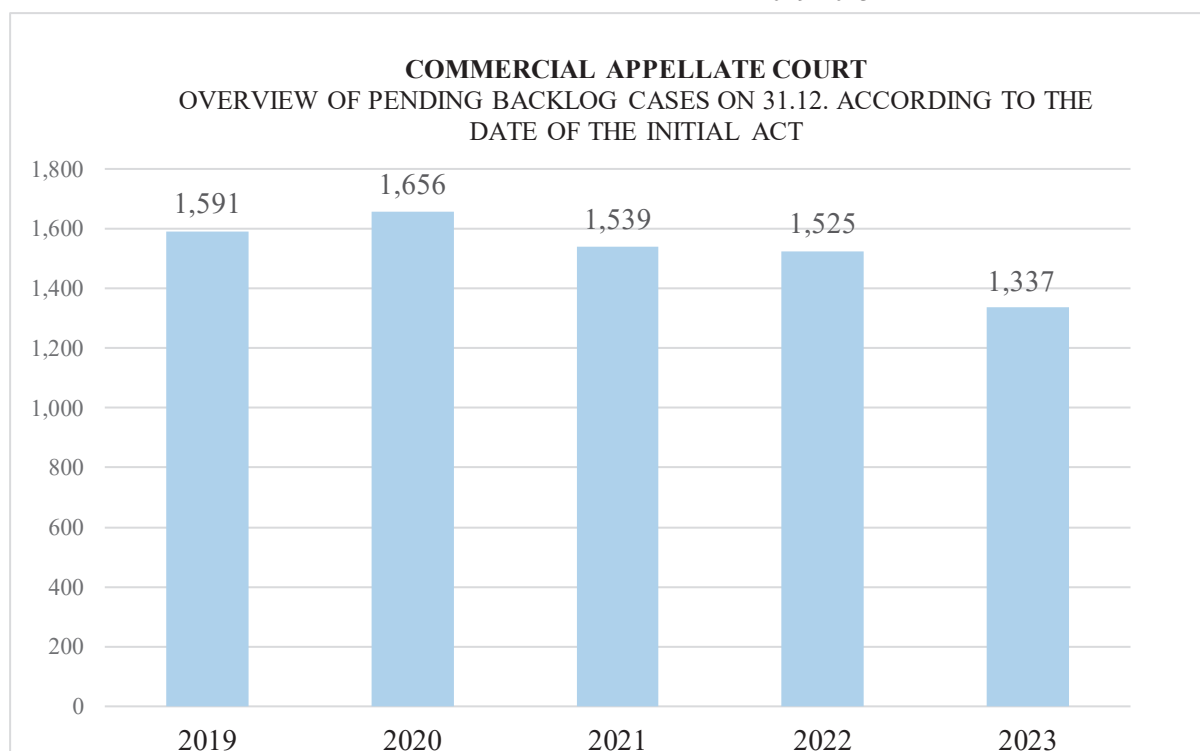


Chart No. 22

In the Commercial Appellate Court, a continuous decrease in the number of pending backlog cases was observed, starting in 2020 (1,656 cases). At the end of **2023**, there were **1,337** of those cases, which is **254 cases less**.

COMMERCIAL COURTS

No.	Matter	Number of judges	TOTAL CASELOAD (total pending at the beginning + total incoming) 01.01.-31.12.2023.	TOTAL PENDING BACKLOG CASES on 31.12.2023.	AGE OF PENDING BACKLOG CASES			% OF BACKLOG CASES COMPARED TO TOTAL CASELOAD	AVERAGE NUMBER OF BACKLOG CASES PER JUDGE
					3 TO 5	5 TO 10	MORE THAN 10		
1.	Commercial offences	60	22,360	109	106	3		0.49	1.82
2.	Bankruptcy	65	2,316	908	125	389	394	39.21	13.97
<i>a</i>	I	25	1,101	15	14	1		1.36	0.60
<i>b</i>	Iv	4	8					0.00	0.00
<i>c</i>	Total (a+b)	26	1,109	15	14	1		1.35	0.58
<i>d</i>	Other enforcement	72	36,320	28	2	16	10	0.08	0.39
3.	All enforcement (c+d)	77	37,429	43	16	17	10	0.11	0.56
4.	Payment order	53	696					0.00	0.00
5.	Litigation	110	21,110	1,065	576	390	99	5.05	9.68
6.	Non-litigious	70	4,526	8	5	2	1	0.18	0.11
TOTAL FOR ALL MATTERS		170	98,700	2,133	828	801	504	2.16	12.55

Table No. 16

On 31. 12. 2023, there were 2,133 pending backlog cases in commercial courts, of which the largest number was bankruptcy cases (**908**).

COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW FOR 2019-2023

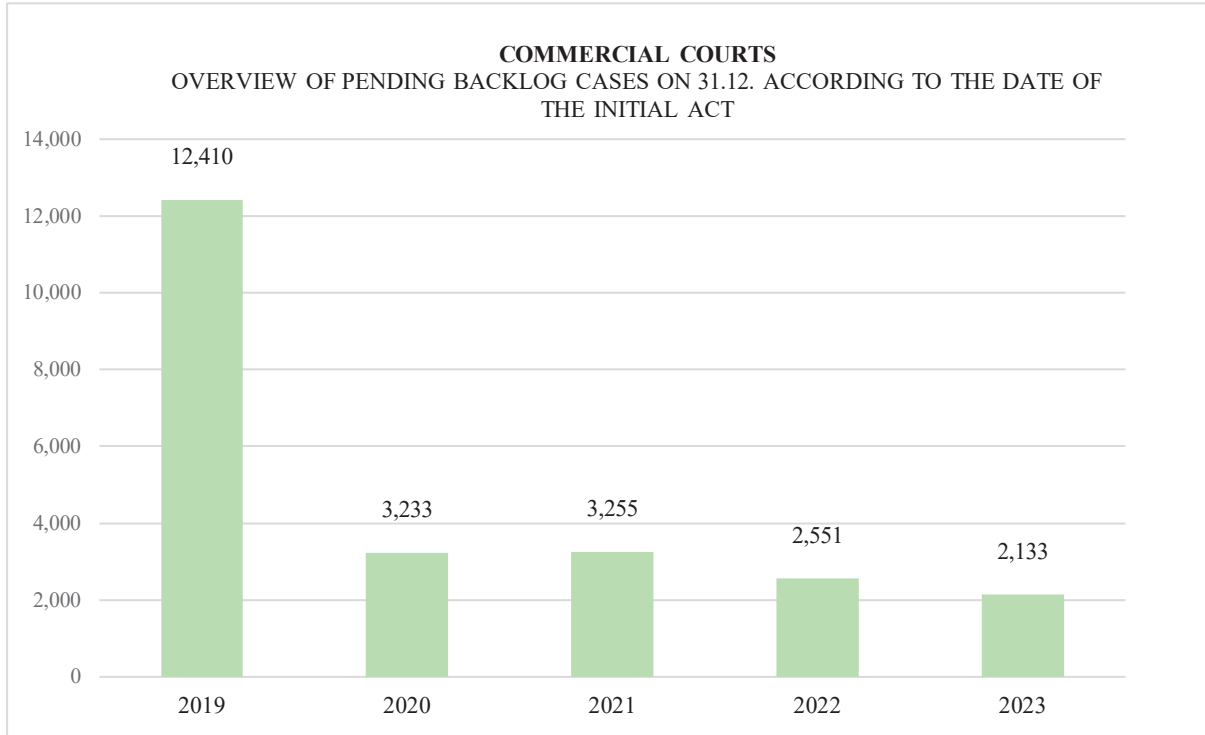


Chart No. 23

In the observed period, a continuous decrease in the number of pending backlog cases was also observed in the commercial courts, At the end of **2023**, there were **2,133** pending backlog cases, which is **10,277** cases **less** than in 2019.

Nevertheless, the commercial courts had the largest number of cases older than 10 years among the courts of special jurisdiction, and the numbers show an increasing trend: **2019** - 318; **2020** - 445; **2021** - 583, so that at the end of 2022 and 2023 the number of those cases would be **reduced: 2022** - 556, and in **2023** – **504**.

Among pending cases older than 10 years, the most numerous were bankruptcy cases: **2019** - 171; **2020** - 342, **2021** - 470, while at the end of **2022** and **2023**, the number of those cases **decreased: 2022** - 453, and in **2023** - **394**.

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

MISDEMEANOR APPELLATE COURT

No.	Matter		Number of judges	TOTAL CASELOAD (total pending at the beginning + total incoming) 01.01.- 31.12.2023.	TOTAL PENDING BACKLOG CASES on 31.12.2023.	AGE OF PENDING BACKLOG CASES		% OF BACKLOG CASES COMPARED TO TOTAL CASELOAD	AVERAGE NUMBER OF BACKLOG CASES PER JUDGE
	Classification	Registry				3 TO 5 YEARS	5 TO 10 YEARS		
1.	01-Public order and peace	PRŽ	46	2,797	2	1		0.07	0.04
		PRŽM	46	137				0.00	0.00
2.	02-Traffic	PRŽ	46	17,133	5	2		0.03	0.11
		PRŽM	46	257				0.00	0.00
3.	03-Public safety	PRŽ	46	1,463				0.00	0.00
		PRŽM	46	56				0.00	0.00
4.	04-Commercial	PRŽ	46	4,337	14	8		0.32	0.30
		PRŽM		0					
5.	05-Finance and customs	PRŽ	46	3,014	71	49		2.36	1.54
		PRŽM	3	3				0.00	0.00
6.	06-Labor, labor relations and protection at work	PRŽ	46	489				0.00	0.00
		PRŽM		0					
7.	07-Education, science, culture and information	PRŽ	46	1,240				0.00	0.00
		PRŽM		0					
8.	08-Health and social protection, health insurance and environmental protection	PRŽ	46	356				0.00	0.00
		PRŽM		0					
9.	09-Defense - Military	PRŽ	46	178				0.00	0.00
		PRŽM	3	3				0.00	0.00
10.	10-Administration	PRŽ	46	128	1	1		0.78	0.02
		PRŽM		0					
TOTAL 1-10		PRŽ	46	31,135	93	61	32	0.30	2.02
		PRŽM	46	456				0.00	0.00
TOTAL FOR ALL MATTERS			46	32,865	93	61	32	0.29	2.02

Table No. 17

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW FOR 2019-2023

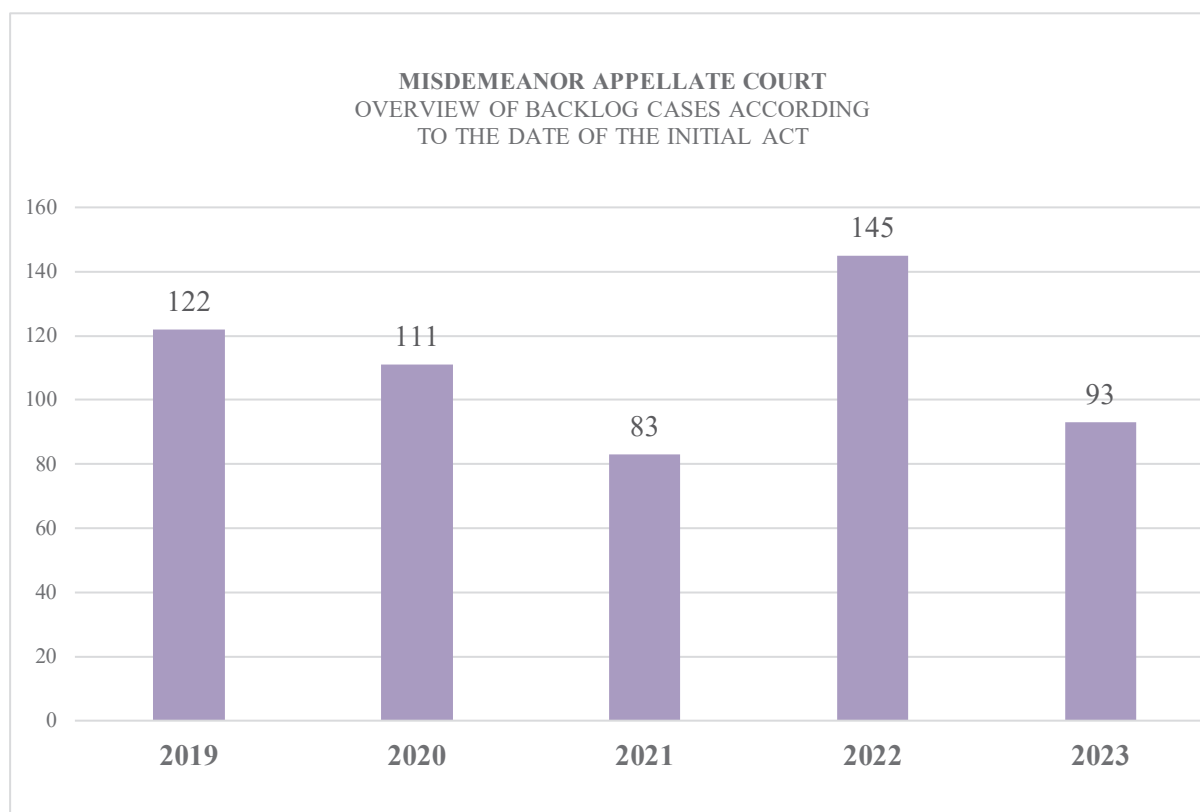


Chart No. 24

MISDEMEANOR COURTS

No.	Matter		Number of judges	TOTAL CASELOAD (total pending at the beginning + total incoming) 01.01.-31.12.2023.	TOTAL PENDING BACKLOG CASES on 31.12.2023.	AGE OF PENDING BACKLOG CASES		% OF BACKLOG CASES COMPARED TO TOTAL CASELOAD	AVERAGE NUMBER OF BACKLOG CASES PER JUDGE
	Classification	Registry				3 TO 5 YEARS	5 TO 10 YEARS		
1.	01-Public order and peace	PR	417	35,935	19	11	8	0.05	0.05
		PRM	344	1,928					
2.	02-Traffic	PR	418	304,494	70	44	26	0.02	0.17
		PRM	352	5,199					
3.	03-Public safety	PR	418	44,067	13	8	5	0.03	0.03
		PRM	330	1,750					
4.	04-Commercial	PR	416	50,254	133	94	39	0.26	0.32
		PRM	17	23					
5.	05-Finance and customs	PR	417	36,125	4,050	2,390	1,660	11.21	9.71
		PRM	24	30					
6.	06-Labor, labor relations and protection at work	PR	415	7,324	3	2	1	0.04	0.01
		PRM							
7.	07-Education, science, culture and information	PR	400	3,923	16	13	3	0.41	0.04
		PRM	5	9					
8.	08-Health and social protection, health insurance and environmental protection	PR	412	5,637	11	3	8	0.20	0.03
		PRM	21	22					
9.	09-Defense - Military	PR	406	12,476	2	2		0.02	0.00
		PRM	149	429					
10.	10-Administration	PR	116	805				0.00	0.00
		PRM	0	0					
TOTAL 1-410		PR	418	501,040	4,317	2,567	1,750	0.86	10.33
		PRM	353	9,390					
TOTAL FOR ALL MATTERS			440	934,207	4,973	3,223	1,750	0.53	11.30

Table No. 18

The number of pending backlog cases in misdemeanor courts at the end of **2023** was **4,973**, of which the most numerous were the cases related to finance and customs: **4,050** of those cases.

COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW FOR 2019-2023

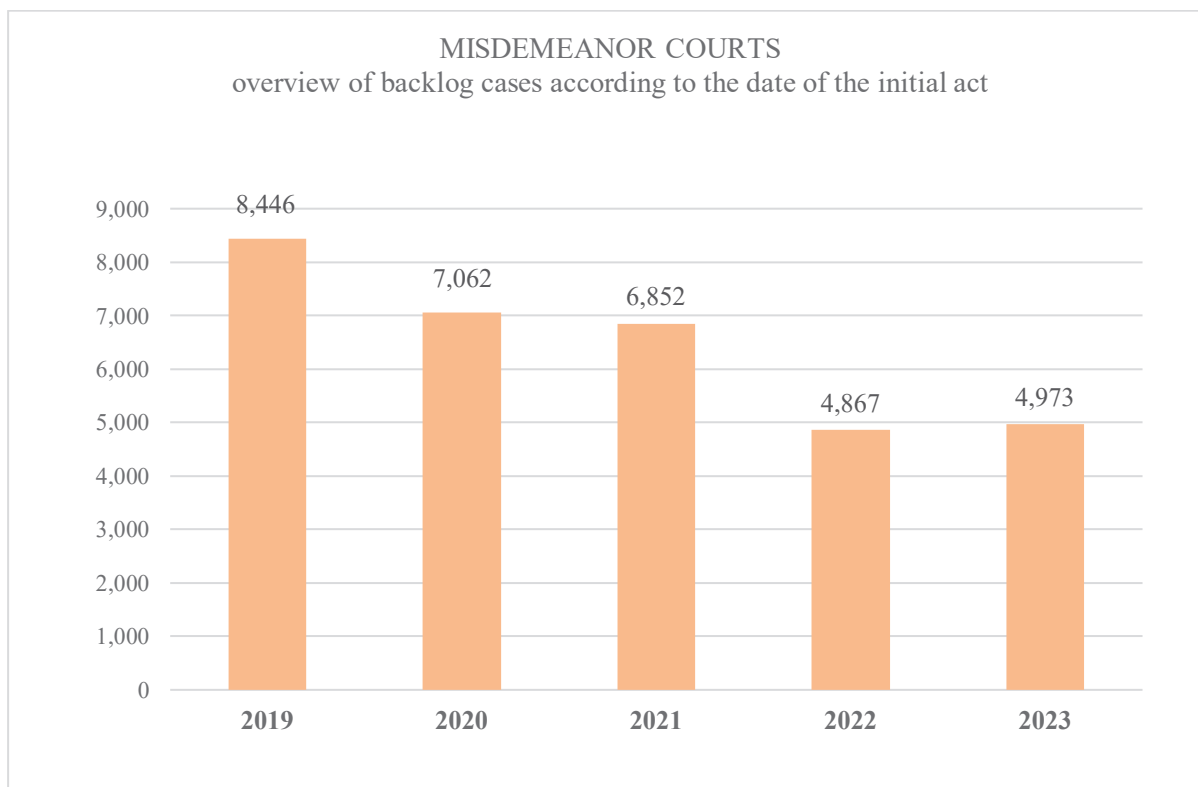


Chart No. 25

While analyzing the chart for the observed period, it was noticed that compared to 2019, the number of pending backlog cases has significantly decreased: **2019** – 8,446, **2020** – 7,062, **2021** – 6,852, **2022** – 4,867, at the end of **2023** – **4,973** which is **slightly more**, by **106** of those cases.

Among the pending backlog cases, the most numerous are finance and customs cases: **2019** – 6,129, **2020** – 5,868, **2021** – 5,838, **2022** – 4,145, while at the end of **2023** the number of these cases **decreased to 4,050**.

III.4. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS (criminal, misdemeanor, commercial matter)

Compared to 2022, the number of cases disposed by suspension of proceedings due to statute of limitations in criminal proceedings, misdemeanor proceedings and proceedings on commercial offenses indicates that the number of such cases before higher, commercial and misdemeanor courts decreased at the end of **2023**, while the number of statute of limitations in basic courts and the Misdemeanor Appellate Court slightly increased.

In misdemeanor courts at the end of 2023, the number of cases disposed by suspension of proceedings due to statute of limitations was **112,230**, which is **13,389** cases **less** compared to 2022, **which has stopped the trend of growing number of backlog cases** since 2019.

In the procedure for commercial offenses **before commercial courts** at the end of **2023**, the number of cases disposed by suspension of the proceedings due to the statute of limitations was **1,634**, which is **619** cases **less** than in 2022.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS IN 2023 (criminal, misdemeanor, commercial matter)

No.	Court	Total number of disposed cases	Decision on suspension due to the statute of limitations	Verdict of abandonment (reversed decision) due to the statute of limitations	Total statute of limitations
1	Appellate Courts	48,244			
2	Higher Courts	114,836	6	22	28
3	Basic Courts	313,228	48	34	82
4	Commercial Appellate Court	16,133			
5	Commercial Courts	85,059	1,632	2	1,634
6	Misdemeanor Appellate Court	29,181	1,549	24	1,573
7	Misdemeanor Courts	552,474	110,820	1,410	112,230
TOTAL		1,159,155	114,055	1,492	115,547

Table No. 19

Although the number of cases disposed due to the statute of limitations has decreased compared to previous years, it is necessary to analyze the causes that led to the disposition of a still large number of cases by suspension due to the statute of limitations in the commercial and misdemeanor courts, because this way of disposing cases cannot be considered as efficient court action, as well as an analysis of the excessive length of proceedings before courts.

III.5. APPLICATION OF THE LAW ON ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY FROM 2016 AND THE LAW ON AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS TO THE LAW ON ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY FROM 2019

Adoption and implementation of the Law on Enforcement and Security (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 106/2015) and Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Enforcement and Security (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 54/2019), that came into force on January 1st, 2020 and the adoption of the Instructions for the implementation of the new Law on Enforcement and Security (2019), prepared through cooperation of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the High Court Council and the Ministry of Justice, **helped the courts to solve the multi-decade problem of a huge number of enforcement cases.**

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

OVERVIEW OF THE NUMBER OF INCOMING, DISPOSED AND PENDING ENFORCEMENT CASES 2019-2023

All enforcement	Pending at the beginning	Total incoming	Total disposed	Pending at the end
2019	712,440	396,233	475,702	632,971
2020	632,974	208,059	515,385	325,648
2021	325,651	255,792	514,833	66,610
2022	66,610	236,004	274,913	27,701
2023	27,701	239,430	237,714	29,417

Table No. 20

Compared to 2019, when 396,233 new enforcement cases were received, 475,702 were disposed, and at the end, 632,971 cases remained pending, looking at the table, it is obvious that at the end of **2023**, courts had far less pending cases – **29,417**.

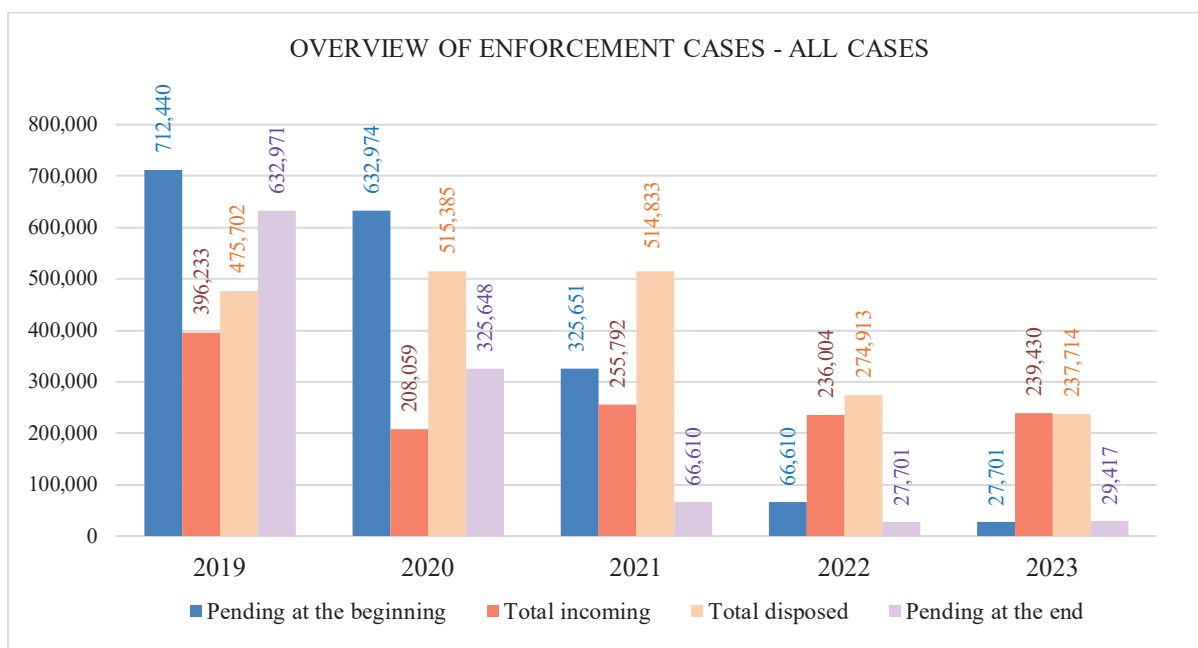


Chart No. 26

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

OVERVIEW OF ENFORCEMENT CASES
TOTAL FOR ALL BASIC AND COMMERCIAL COURTS IN 2023

2023	Matter	Pending at the beginning	Total incoming	Total disposed	Pending at the end
BASIC COURTS	I	9,269	14,499	14,832	8,936
	Iv	832	1,332	1,663	501
	Total (I + Iv)	10,101	15,831	16,495	9,437
COMMERCIAL COURTS	I	357	744	552	549
	Iv	4	4	8	0
	Total (I + Iv)	361	748	560	549
TOTAL (BASIC + COMMERCIAL)	I	9,626	15,243	15,384	9,485
	Iv	836	1,336	1,671	501
	Total	10,462	16,579	17,055	9,986

Table No. 21

Comparative indicators of the structure of enforcement cases (I, Iv) in basic and commercial courts indicate that the total number of these enforcement cases at the end of 2023 decreased to 9,986, which, compared to the end of 2022, is slightly less, by 477 cases.

III.5.1. PENDING BACKLOG ENFORCEMENT CASES

The Supreme Court paid special attention to the problem of pending backlog enforcement cases, since in the previous period they affected the efficiency of the courts.

Exceptional results were achieved through the cooperation of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the High Court Council and the Ministry of Justice, with the additional help of the IPA 2012 Projects “Improving Judicial Efficiency in the Republic of Serbia”, “EU for Serbia – Support to the Supreme Court of Cassation” and “EU for Serbia – Support to the High Court Council”, **in the period from 2016 to the end of 2022 in the reduction of pending backlog court cases, and especially pending backlog IV cases in basic courts.**

The table shows the number and structure of pending backlog enforcement cases in basic and commercial courts (I and Iv):

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

STRUCTURE OF PENDING BACKLOG ENFORCEMENT CASES ACCORDING TO THE DATE OF THE INITIAL ACT ON 31.12.2023:

BASIC COURTS

Year	Matter	Total number of pending backlog cases	AGE OF PENDING BACKLOG CASES		
			3 to 5	5 to 10	more than 10
2019	I	52,851	20,100	28,380	4,371
	Iv	472,084	16,844	209,279	245,961
	TOTAL:	524,935	36,944	237,659	250,332
2020	I	5,600	1,514	3,383	703
	Iv	281,818	1,489	96,029	184,300
	TOTAL:	287,418	3,003	99,412	185,003
2021	I	1,402	351	875	176
	Iv	35,443	35	3,065	32,343
	TOTAL:	36,845	386	3,940	32,519
2022	I	658	255	330	73
	Iv	710	4	45	661
	TOTAL:	1,368	259	375	734
2023	I	504	247	211	46
	Iv	385	1	20	364
	TOTAL:	889	248	231	410

Table No. 22

COMMERCIAL COURTS

Year	Matter	Total number of pending backlog cases	AGE OF PENDING BACKLOG CASES		
			3 to 5	5 to 10	more than 10
2019	I	1,852	807	1,023	22
	Iv	7,513	2,134	5,355	24
	TOTAL:	9,365	2,941	6,378	46
2020	I	26	11	14	1
	Iv	10	0	9	1
	TOTAL:	36	11	23	2
2021	I	18	10	8	
	Iv	4		2	2
	TOTAL:	22	10	10	2
2022	I	19	14	4	1
	Iv				
	TOTAL:	19	14	4	1
2023	I	15	14	1	
	Iv				
	TOTAL:	15	14	1	0

Table No. 23

The data on the number of disposed backlog enforcement cases (Iv) indicate that the implementation of the measures stipulated by the Single Backlog Reduction Program in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021-2025 helped achieve, to the greatest extent, the defined goals before the deadline.

IV. PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL WITHIN REASONABLE TIME

Pursuant to the Law on the Protection of the Right to a Trial within Reasonable Time, in 2023 the parties to the proceedings submitted requests for the protection of this right, i.e. objections for the acceleration of proceedings: **P4-19.092**, of which the **largest number** is in bankruptcy proceedings: **P4 st-9.265**, conducted before commercial courts

REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF SUBMITTED OBJECTIONS IN THE PERIOD FROM 01.01.2023. TO 31.12.2023.

No.	Type of court	Pending at the beginning	Incoming		Total caseload	Total disposed			Pending at the end	
			Total	New		In merits	In other way	Total disposed	Remaining caseload as pending	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act
1	Supreme Court	24	54	54	78	49	23	72	6	
2	Appellate courts	23	124	124	147	48	80	128	19	1
3	Higher courts	186	1,565	1,564	1,751	855	654	1,509	242	1
4	Basic courts	1,529	5,496	5,447	7,025	3,588	1,866	5,454	1,571	135
5	Administrative Court	53	1,256	1,256	1,309	889	97	986	323	
6	Commercial Appellate Court	1	12	12	13	9	3	12	1	
7	Commercial courts	912	9,351	9,349	10,263	10,002	223	10,225	38	
8	Misdemeanor Appellate Court		18	18	18		16	16	2	
9	Misdemeanor courts	128	1,268	1,268	1,396	821	405	1,226	170	
TOTAL		2,856	19,144	19,092	22,000	16,261	3,367	19,628	2,372	137

Table No. 24

REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF SUBMITTED OBJECTIONS IN THE PERIOD FROM 01.01.2023. TO 31.12.2023.

No.	Type of court	Pending at the beginning	Incoming		Total caseload	Total disposed			Pending at the end	
			Total	New		In merits	In other way	Total disposed	Remaining caseload as pending	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act
1	Commercial courts	901	9,265	9,265	10,166	9,907	223	10,130	36	

Table No. 25

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF FILED LAWSUITS FOR MATERIAL AND NON-MATERIAL HARM (Prr, Prr1) IN THE PERIOD FROM 01.01.2023. TO 31.12.2023.

No.	Type of court	Pending at the beginning	Incoming		Total caseload	Total disposed			Pending at the end	
			Total	New		In merits	In other way	Total disposed	Remaining caseload as pending	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act
1	Higher courts	43	31	19	74	67	3	70	4	
2	Basic Courts	10,646	8,165	6,850	18,811	10,485	6,911	17,396	1,415	29
TOTAL		10,689	8,196	6,869	18,885	10,522	6,914	17,466	1,419	20

Table No. 26

Based on the decisions of the court presidents who accepted objections for speeding up the proceedings and found a violation of the right to a trial within reasonable time before the basic and higher courts in the Republic of Serbia, out of the total number of cases received (**6,869**), the number of filed lawsuits for material harm was: Prr1-**3,380**, and for non-material harm: Prr-**4.816**.

The largest number of these cases refer to the enforcement of legally binding court decisions, in which the enforcement of forced collection of claims from the employment relations was interrupted by the imperative norms of the Law on Privatization, which were not affected by the legal decision of the courts, and in which due to the insolvency of the debtor in the restructuring for the sake of privatization, the obligation falls on the state (*Kačapor v. Serbia, Vlahović v. Serbia...*). Amounts paid to parties instead of these insolvent debtors, that are socially or state owned and whose privatization is controlled by the state, significantly burden the budget.

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

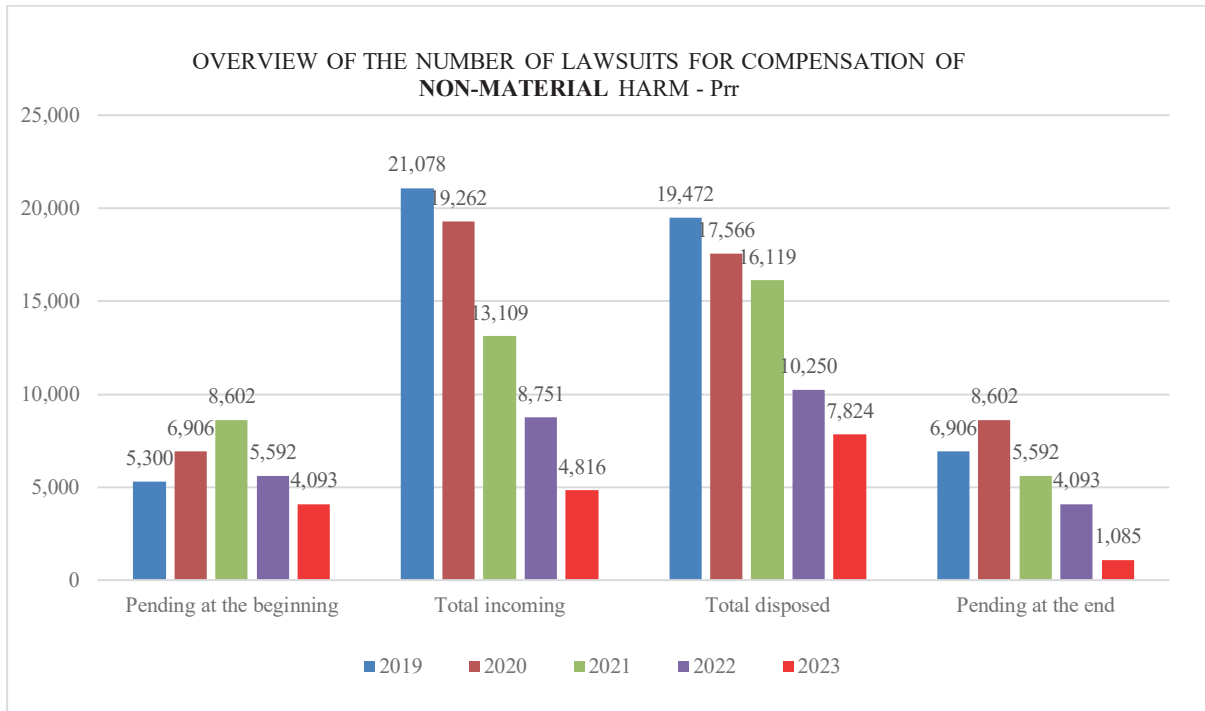


Chart No. 27

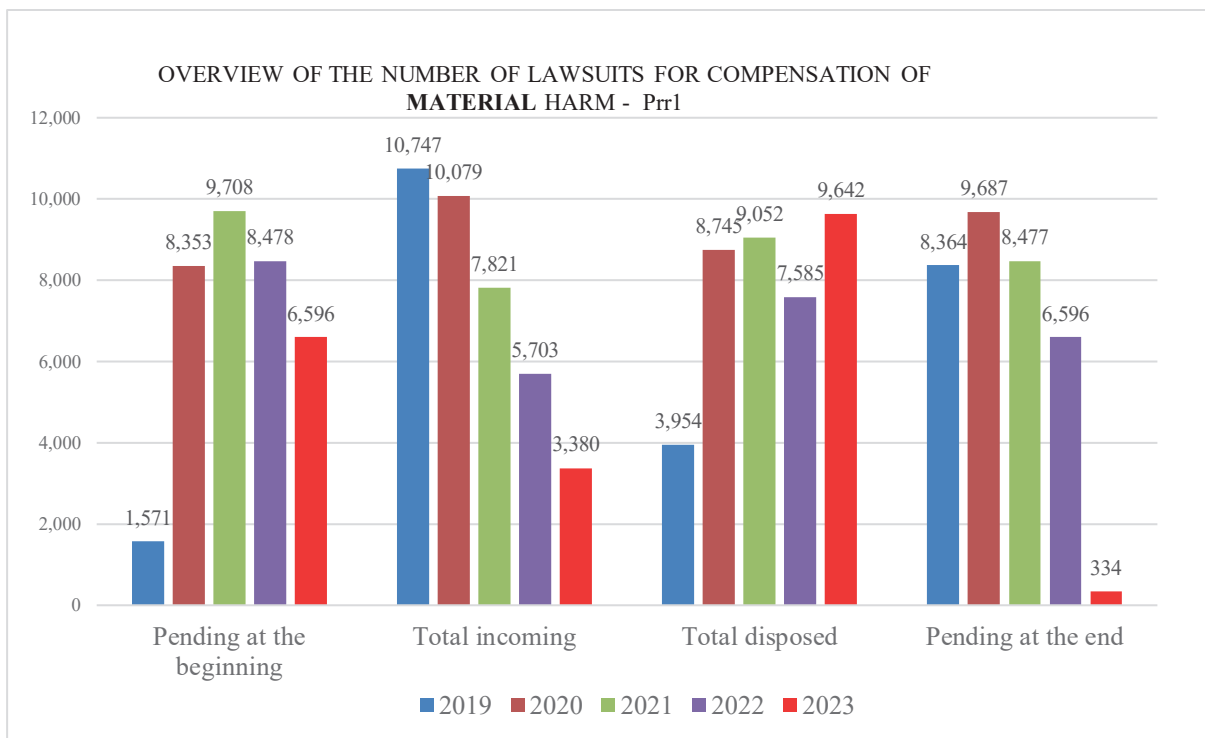


Chart No. 28

The largest **number of incoming cases for claims** for compensation of material and non-material harm was in 2019 (31,825). The trend of such a high number of claims has been stopped, since in 2020 there were 29,341 of these cases, **2021** – 20,930, **2022** – 13,060, while in **2023** this number **decreased** to **8,196** cases.

The number of pending cases of this type on **December 31, 2023** was **1,419** cases, which is **far less** than in **2022**, with **9,270** cases.

IV.1. PAYMENT OF DAMAGES PURSUANT TO DOMESTIC COURT DECISIONS IN 2023

1. Compensation for damages based on the violation of the right to a trial within reasonable time according to the decisions of domestic courts, voluntarily paid by the courts, was in the amount of RSD 166,263,292.52, which is 3.85% of the total damages paid.

2. Compensation for damages based on the violation of the right to a trial within a reasonable time according to the decisions of the domestic courts, collected through forced collection at the expense of the courts, was about RSD **4,090,654,824.02**, which is **94.69%** of the total damages paid.

3. Compensation for damages based on the violation of the right to a trial within reasonable time according to the decisions of domestic courts, paid voluntarily based on an agreement with the State Attorney's Office amounted to RSD **63,007,938.00**, or **1.46%** of the total damages paid.

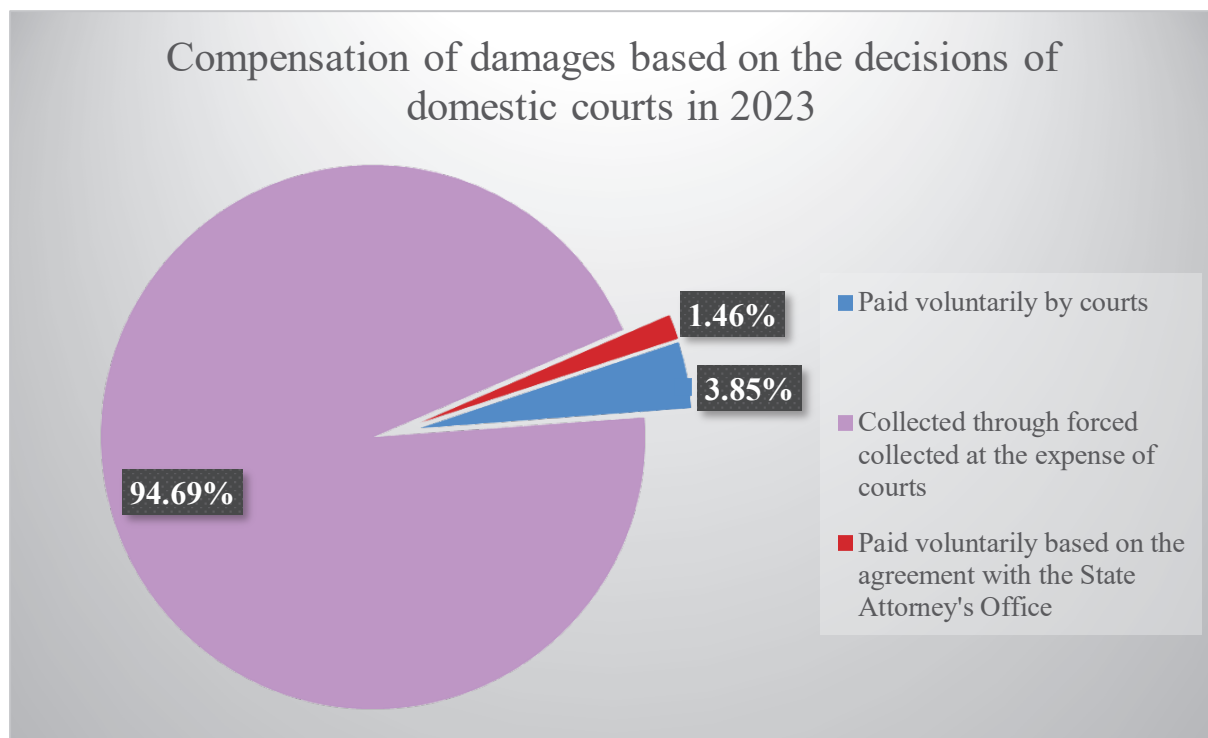


Chart No. 29

V. ACTIONS OF COURTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION, HUMAN TRAFFICKING (Article 388 of the CC), VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR AT A SPORTS EVENT OR PUBLIC GATHERING (Article 344-a of the CC), PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE SO-CALLED MISSING BABIES

The upcoming analysis of statistical data includes reports on which the Supreme Court periodically reports to the competent institutions.

V.1. CORRUPTION

The Amendments and Supplements to the Criminal Code (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 94/2016) revised the section on criminal offenses against the economy and the section on criminal offenses against official duty. Also, the Law on the Organization and Competence of State Authorities in Suppression of Organized Crime, Terrorism and Corruption (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 94/16, 87/18 and 10/23) was adopted, which establishes four special departments for actions related to criminal acts of this type of crime before the higher courts in Belgrade, Kraljevo, Niš and Novi Sad, which act in the first instance. In previously initiated cases, the proceedings are completed by the courts before which the proceedings were initiated.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE COURT FOR PROCEEDINGS IN CASES OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES OF CORRUPTION

No.	Court name	Pending at the beginning			Incoming		Total caseload		Total disposed				Pending at the end	
		Total	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act	Number of accused persons	Total	Number of accused persons	Number of cases	Number of accused persons	In merits	In other way	Total disposed	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act	Remaining caseload as pending	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act
1.	Appellate courts	66	23	104	290	555	356	659	267		267	116	89	33
2.	Higher courts	780	321	2,351	674	958	1,454	3,309	502	213	715	232	739	314
3.	Basic courts	144	82	233	69	101	213	334	94	32	126	45	87	63
TOTAL:		990	426	2,688	1,033	1,614	2,023	4,302	863	245	1,108	393	915	410

Table No. 27

In the fight against corruption, in addition to courts of general jurisdiction, courts of special jurisdiction (misdemeanor courts) act in the first instance according to the Law on the Anti-Corruption Agency.

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE COURT FOR PROCEEDINGS IN MISDEMEANOR CASES OF
CORRUPTION, FOR THE PERIOD 01.01 - 31.12.2023.

No.	Court name	Pending at the beginning			Incoming		Total caseload		Total disposed				Pending at the end	
		Total	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act	Number of accused persons	Total	Number of accused persons	Number of cases	Number of accused persons	In merits	In other way	Total disposed	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act	Remaining caseload as pending	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act
1.	Misdemeanor Appellate Court	19		19	128	128	147	147	132	2	134		13	
2.	Misdemeanor courts	131		131	180	177	311	308	131	20	151		160	
TOTAL:		150		150	308	305	458	455	263	22	285		173	

Table No. 28

V.2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS

The real effects of the fight against corruption are expressed through the implementation of the Law on the Protection of Whistleblowers.

REPORT ON THE CASES REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS
FOR THE PERIOD 01.01 - 31.12.2023.

No.	Court name	Matter	Number of judges in matter	Pending at the beginning	Total incoming	Total caseload	Total disposed	Pending at the end	
								Remaining caseload as pending	Length of proceedings from the initial act more than 36 months
1.	Supreme Court	Rev-uz	6	4	7	11	5	6	5
		Rev2-uz	3	1	3	4		4	3
TOTAL				5	10	15	5	10	8
1.	Appellate courts	Gž-uz	8	1	9	10	8	2	
		Gž1-uz	13	1	16	17	16	1	1
2.	Higher courts	P-uz	11	25	13	38	15	23	4
		Ppr-uz	1	2	9	11	11		
3.	Basic courts	P1-uz	6	4	5	9	6	3	2
4.	Administrative Court	U-uz	1		1	1	1		
5.	Misdemeanor Appellate Court	Prž-uz							
6.	Misdemeanor courts	Pr-uz							
TOTAL FOR ALL COURTS WITHOUT THE SUPREME COURT				33	53	86	57	29	7
TOTAL FOR ALL COURTS:				38	63	101	62	39	15

Table No. 29

In the courts in the Republic of Serbia, at the end of 2023, there was a total of **39 pending** cases regarding the protection of whistleblowers from retaliation for disclosure of information in accordance with the Law on the Protection of Whistleblowers. In 2022, **69** of such cases were received, while in 2023, the total number of incoming cases of this type was **63**. At the end of 2023, of the total number of disposed cases, **62** of these cases were disposed. Although these cases are not numerous, their importance is significant, given the fact that the protection of whistleblowing right, as a human right for protection of freedom of speech, is important for the rule of law and the development of any democratic society. These cases are considered urgent, however, at the end of 2023 there were **15** of these cases that were still pending, where the proceedings were not completed **even after three years**, counting from the date of the filing of the initial act.

V.3. CRIMINAL ACT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING (Article 388 of the CC)

Article 388 of the Criminal Code stipulates the criminal act of human trafficking. In order to combat human trafficking as efficiently as possible, the provisions of Article 388 of the Criminal Code were amended in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention, and criminal sanctions were tightened as of 2013.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE COURT FOR PROCEEDINGS IN CASES OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES FROM ARTICLE 388 OF THE CC, FOR THE PERIOD 01.01 - 31.12.2023.

No.	Court name	Pending at the beginning			Incoming		Total caseload		Total disposed				Pending at the end	
		Total	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act	Number of accused persons	Total	Number of accused persons	Number of cases	Number of accused persons	In merits	In other way	Total disposed	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act	Remaining caseload as pending	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act
1.	Appellate Courts				15	23	15	23	13		13	2	2	
2.	Higher Courts	39	5	56	67	75	106	131	58	4	62	3	44	4
3.	Basic Courts													
TOTAL:		39	5	56	82	98	121	154	71	4	75	5	46	4

Table No. 30

V.4. CRIMINAL ACT OF VIOLENT BEHAVIOR AT SPORTS EVENT OR AT PUBLIC GATHERING (Article 344-a of the CC)

Violent behavior at sports event or public gathering is regulated by Article 344-a of the Criminal Code.

In addition to the criminal act provided for in the Criminal Code, violent behavior at sports event is also regulated by the Law on Prevention of Violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events, as a misdemeanor (Article 21).

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REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE COURT FOR PROCEEDINGS IN CASES OF CRIMINAL ACST FROM ARTICLE 344-a OF THE CC, FOR THE PERIOD 01.01 - 31.12.2023.

No.	Court name	Pending at the beginning			Incoming		Total caseload		Total disposed				Pending at the end	
		Total	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act	Number of accused persons	Total	Number of accused persons	Number of cases	Number of accused persons	In merits	In other way	Total disposed	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act	Remaining caseload as pending	Backlog cases according to the date of the initial act
1.	Appellate Courts	2		2	21	25	23	27	19		19	1	4	
2.	Higher Courts	5	2	14	18	46	23	60	17		17	2	6	1
3.	Basic Courts	2		2	3	4	5	6	3		3		2	
TOTAL:		9	2	18	42	75	51	93	39		39	3	12	1

Table No. 31

V.5. CASES UNDER THE LAW ON DETERMINATION OF THE STATUS OF NEWBORN INFANTS

The Law on Determination of the Status of Newborn Infants¹ suspected to have disappeared from maternity wards in the Republic of Serbia was adopted after the European Court of Human Rights handed down its verdict in the case of *Zorica Jovanović v. Serbia* (petition number 21794/08, judgment of March 26th, 2013, final judgment on September 9th, 2013).

LAW ON DETERMINATION OF THE STATUS OF NEWBORN INFANTS SUSPECTED TO HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM MATERNITY WARDS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 01.01- 31.12.2023.

	Type of court	Registry	Number of judges	Pending at the beginning	Incoming	Total disposed	Pending at the end
1.	Higher Courts	R5	26	248	42	181	109
2.	Appellate Courts	Gž5	26	8	81	85	4

Table No. 32

V.6. CASES OF PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

According to positive regulations, and especially after the adoption of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, these cases are processed by courts of general jurisdiction, of which basic and higher courts proceed in the first instance, in criminal and civil matters, as well as the courts of special jurisdiction (misdemeanor courts).

¹ "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" 18/2020, the Law was voted in the National Assembly on February 29, 2020. On March 3, 2020, the President of the Republic issued a Decree on the Promulgation of the Law, and the Law was published on the same day. It entered into force on March 11th, 2020.

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES 01.01 - 31.12.2023.

No.	Court	Pending at the beginning	Incoming	Total caseload	Disposed	Pending at the end
1.	Supreme Court	28	139	167	123	44
2.	Appellate courts	39	692	731	686	45
3.	Higher courts	102	4,303	4,405	4,256	149
4.	Basic courts	2,751	26,524	29,275	26,431	2,844
5.	Misdemeanor Appellate Court	5	332	337	332	5
6.	Misdemeanor courts	222	2,110	2,332	2,103	229
TOTAL		3,147	34,100	37,247	33,931	3,316

Table No. 33

In 2023, the total number of incoming cases with elements of domestic violence (P2, K and NP) in basic courts was 26,524 cases, 26,431 cases were disposed, with 2,844 pending cases at the end of the reporting period.

In 2023, the total number of incoming cases with elements of domestic violence (P2, K) in higher courts in the first instance was 8, with the total of 5 disposed cases and 10 pending cases until the end of the reporting period.

Ruling on appeals, in higher courts, a total of (Kž1, Kž2, NPž, Gž2) 4,295 cases were received, a total of 4,251 cases were disposed, with 139 pending cases at the end of the reporting period.

A total of 692 incoming cases were received in appellate courts (Kž1, Kž2, Gž2), 686 cases were disposed, and 45 cases were pending at the end of the reporting period.

In the Supreme Court, based on the extraordinary legal remedies, 139 cases were received, a total of 123 cases were disposed, and 44 of those cases remained pending at the end of the reporting period.

In the courts of special jurisdiction, in the first instance, in the misdemeanor courts, 2,110 cases were received, a total of 2,103 were disposed, and 229 cases remained pending at the end of the reporting period.

Ruling on appeals against the decisions of misdemeanor courts, the Misdemeanor Appellate Court received 332 of these cases, and disposed 332 cases, with 5 pending cases at the end of the reporting period.

VI. QUALITY

The ratio between the total number of disposed cases, the number of appealed cases in relation to the number of revoked decisions, expressed in total and through the decisions in the merits indicates the number of cases that were, based on the legal remedy, returned to a lower instance court for retrial.

The overall quality of the work of courts, according to the Court Rules of Procedure, is a total number of disposed cases reduced by the sum of revoked and reversed decisions, divided with the total number of disposed cases and multiplied by 100 (the result is expressed in percentages).

OVERALL QUALITY OF THE WORK OF COURTS IN 2023

No.	Court name	Total number of disposed cases	Total number of revoked decisions	Total number of reversed decisions	Overall quality
1.	Appellate Courts	55,170	341	1,382	96.88
2.	Higher Courts	202,657	1,271	1,477	98.64
3.	Basic Courts	849,112	16,591	11,010	96.75
4.	Administrative Court	27,683	25	2	99.90
5.	Commercial Appellate Court	16,133	56	158	98.67
6.	Commercial Courts	85,059	906	1,700	96.94
7.	Misdemeanor Appellate Court	29,181	8	7	99.95
8.	Misdemeanor Courts	552,474	5,198	3,546	98.42
TOTAL:		1,817,469	24,396	19,282	97.60

Table No. 34

QUALITY OF COURT DECISIONS IN 2023

No.	Court name	Number of judges	Total disposed	Disposed in merits	Number of reviewed appeals	Total number of revoked	% of revoked decisions compared to the total number of disposed	% of revoked decisions compared to the total number of decisions on the merits	% of reviewed appeals compared to the total number of disposed	% of reviewed appeals compared to the total number of decisions on the merits	% of revoked decisions compared to the number of reviewed appeals
1.	Appellate Courts	169	55,170	52,018	5,149	341	0.62	0.66	9.33	9.90	6.62
2.	Higher Courts	351	202,657	156,030	23,308	1,271	0.63	0.81	11.50	14.94	5.45
3.	Basic Courts	1,186	849,112	573,730	134,614	16,591	1.95	2.89	15.85	23.46	12.32
4.	Administrative Court	50	27,683	25,951	424	25	0.09	0.10	1.53	1.63	5.90
5.	Commercial Appellate Court	32	16,133	14,970	2,121	56	0.35	0.37	13.15	14.17	2.64
6.	Commercial Courts	170	85,059	64,563	13,559	906	1.07	1.40	15.94	21.00	6.68
7.	Misdemeanor Appellate Court	46	29,181	23,094	19	8	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.08	42.11
8.	Misdemeanor Courts	440	552,474	363,639	26,326	5,198	0.94	1.43	4.77	7.24	19.74
TOTAL:		2,444	1,817,469	1,273,995	205,520	24,396	1.34	1.91	11.31	16.13	11.87

Table No. 35

PERCENTAGE OF REVOKED DECISIONS IN 2023

No.	Court name	Number of judges	Number of reviewed appeals	Total number of revoked	% of revoked decisions compared to the number of reviewed appeals
1.	Appellate Courts	169	5,149	341	6.62
2.	Higher Courts	351	23,308	1,271	5.45
3.	Basic Courts	1,186	134,614	16,591	12.32
4.	Administrative Court	50	424	25	5.90
5.	Commercial Appellate Court	32	2,121	56	2.64
6.	Commercial Courts	170	13,559	906	6.68
7.	Misdemeanor Appellate Court	46	19	8	42.11
8.	Misdemeanor Courts	440	26,326	5,198	19.74
TOTAL:		2,444	205,520	24,396	11.87

Table No. 36

Analyzing the percentage of revoked decisions in the observed period 2019-2023, it is obviously necessary to monitor trends in the number of revoked decisions, since they burden the work of courts. Professional training and consideration of disputed issues should influence the reduction of the number of revoked decisions in cases, so that cases would not be decided again. Reducing the number of revoked decisions will allow judges to devote more time to newly received cases. In addition, the reduction in the number of revoked decisions affects the increase in legal certainty and citizens' confidence in the judiciary.

VII. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS ACCORDING TO THE CEPEJ

According to the methodology of statistical reporting to the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice – CEPEJ (Commission Européen pour l'Efficacité de la Justice), which is unique for all member states and all parts of the justice system (courts, prosecution, prisons), a set of indicators was defined in order to evaluate the performance of the system, i.e. parts of the system. Main performance indicators of this methodology have been accepted in the domestic regulatory framework and practice, and they were previously presented in this report: number of pending cases at the beginning of the reporting period, number of incoming cases during the reporting period, number of disposed cases during the reporting period and number of pending cases at the end of the reporting period.

In addition to these, important performance indicators based on which judicial systems of the member states of the Council of Europe are compared every two years are the time to disposition (in days) and clearance rate. The following reporting to the CEPEJ for 2023 and 2024 will be submitted in 2025.

The average length of proceedings is calculated on the **annual basis**, and it is determined based on the following formula:

$$\text{Average duration} = \frac{\text{number of pending cases at the end}}{\text{number of disposed cases during the year}} \times 365$$

Another important performance indicator, clearance rate, is also calculated on the **annual basis**, according to the following formula:

$$\text{Clearance rate} = \frac{\text{number of disposed cases in a year}}{\text{number of incoming cases in a year}} \times 100$$

This indicator is an integral part of the statistical reports of courts in the Republic of Serbia.

The average duration of court proceedings in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2019-2023 is shown in the following table.

TIME TO DISPOSITION IN DAYS					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of pending cases at the end	1,656,645	1,510,472	1,498,237	1,174,642	1,095,479
Number of disposed cases	2,268,769	2,013,829	2,415,672	2,132,305	1,844,337
Time to disposition	267	274	226	201	217

Table No. 37

The following table provides comparative indicators (every two years as the reporting for CEPEJ) for clearance rate and time to disposition for all types of courts in the Republic of Serbia.

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

CLEARANCE RATE AND AVERAGE TIME TO DISPOSITION IN DAYS

Court type	Clearance rate	Time to disposition	Clearance rate	Time to disposition
	2020		2022	
	%	In days	%	In days
Supreme Court	88.89	282	55.35	468
Administrative Court	72.00	738	39.63	1,496
Appellate Courts	101.71	87	101.45	67
Higher Courts	97.80	147	93.88	289
Basic Courts	120.25	256	130.58	152
Commercial Appellate Court	99.04	185	113.04	138
Commercial Courts	108.71	107	110.94	62
Misdemeanor Appellate Court	97.62	44	99.97	44
Misdemeanor Courts	94.89	429	126.89	234
TOTAL	107.81	274	117.88	201

Table No. 38

CLEARANCE RATE AND AVERAGE TIME TO DISPOSITION IN DAYS IN 2023

Court type	Clearance rate (%)	Time to disposition (in days)
Misdemeanor Courts	109.65	252
Misdemeanor Appellate court	99.72	46
Commercial Courts	105.57	59
Commercial Appellate Court	124.85	120
Basic Courts	113.07	137
Higher Courts	96.28	299
Appellate Courts	97.83	79
Administrative Court	35.48	2,024
Supreme Court	62.48	551
TOTAL	104.47	217

Table No. 39

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

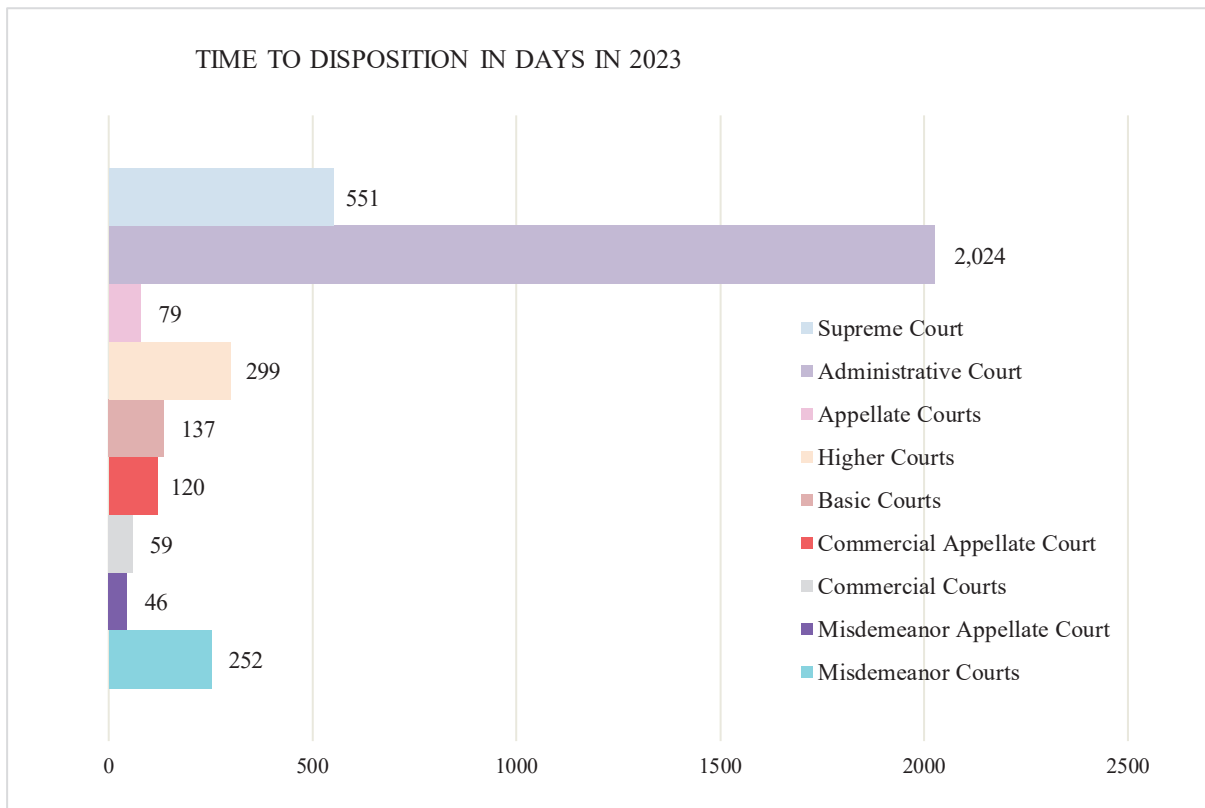


Chart No. 26

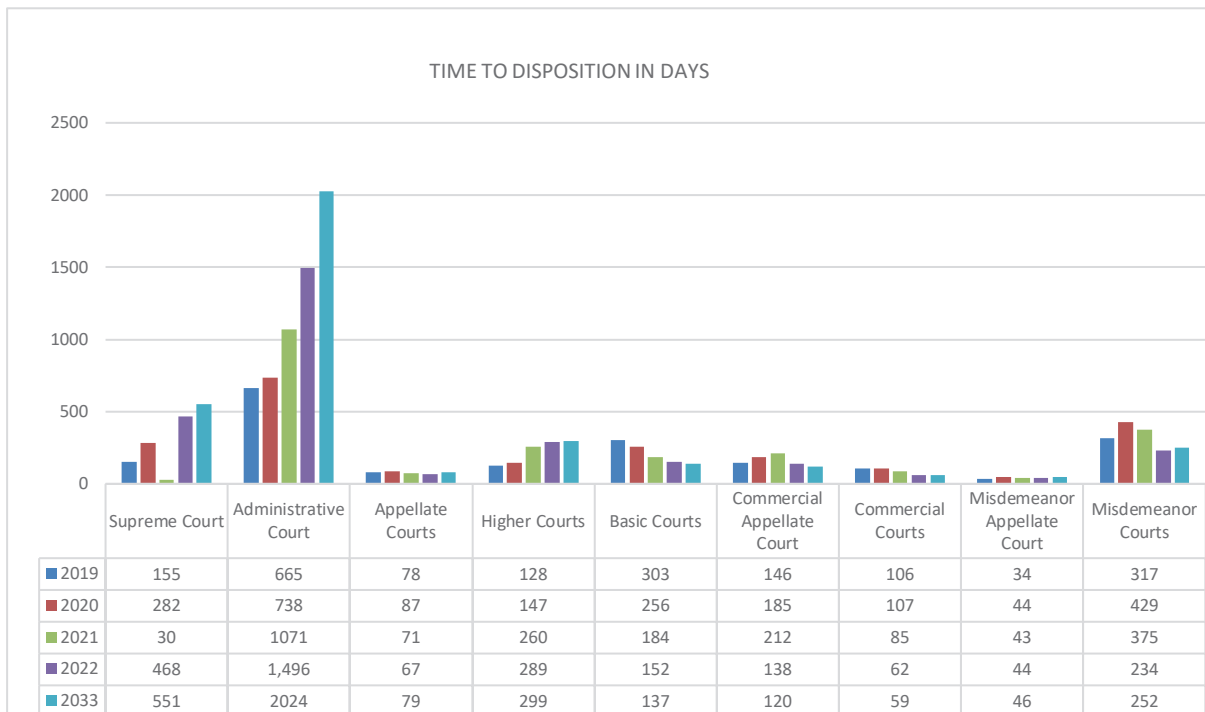


Chart No. 27

VIII. REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SUPREME COURT

VIII.1. GENERAL INFORMATION

As of May 11, 2023, the Supreme Court of Cassation, pursuant to Article 53 para. 1 – 3 in relation with Articles 15 and 32 of the Law on the Organization of Courts, changed its name to the Supreme Court.

All general and individual acts passed by the Supreme Court of Cassation that were in force on May 10, 2023, remained in force and will be applied until the adoption of new acts.

The competence of the Supreme Court, prescribed by the new Law on the Organization of Courts, has not been changed in relation to the competence of the Supreme Court of Cassation.

The Supreme Court consists of judges and court staff. Judges are assigned to court departments and court chambers on an annual schedule, and court staff are assigned to court departments, the Office of the President, the Secretariat and the Court Registry Office.

On December 31, 2023, 39 judges held office of judge in the Supreme Court. 31 judges acted effectively during the reporting period. The number of court staff on the same day was 233, of which 59 were judicial assistants.

According to the Law on Budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2023 (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 138/22), financial resources allocated from the budget of the Republic of Serbia for the Supreme Court of Cassation, were RSD 779,204,000.00, and with the amendment to the Law – supplementary budget, the allocated financial resources for the Supreme Court were in the total amount of RSD 824,370,000.00 (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 75/23).

VIII.2. JURISDICTION OF THE SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the Republic of Serbia.

The Law on the Organization of Courts, in its Article 32 prescribes the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court:

- The Supreme Court shall decide on extraordinary legal remedies filed against decisions of courts in the Republic of Serbia and in other matters set forth by law;
- The Supreme Court shall decide on conflicts of jurisdiction between courts, if this doesn't fall under the jurisdiction of any other court, as well as on the transfer of jurisdiction of courts to facilitate proceedings or for other important reasons;
- The Supreme Court ensures unique judicial application of the law, and the equality of parties in court proceedings; reviews the application of laws and other regulations and the work of courts; appoints judges to the Constitutional Court; provides opinions about the candidate for the president and judge of the Supreme Court in cases prescribed by law; adopts the Rules of

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

Procedure of the Supreme Court, and performs other jurisdictions and activities prescribed by law.

The Supreme Court received the total of 43,000 cases in 2023, almost 9,000 cases more than in 2022, and the caseload of the court was 67,400 cases. Although 26,868 cases were disposed, which is 7,839 cases more than in the previous year, the clearance rate was not positive.

A two-fold increase in the inflow of cases compared to 2021, that is, a three-fold increase in the inflow of cases compared to 2020, indicates that an increase in the number of judges in the Supreme Court is necessary.

THE FOLLOWING GRAPHS SHOW THE NUMBER OF INCOMING, DISPOSED AND PENDING CASES IN THE SUPREME COURT IN 2023

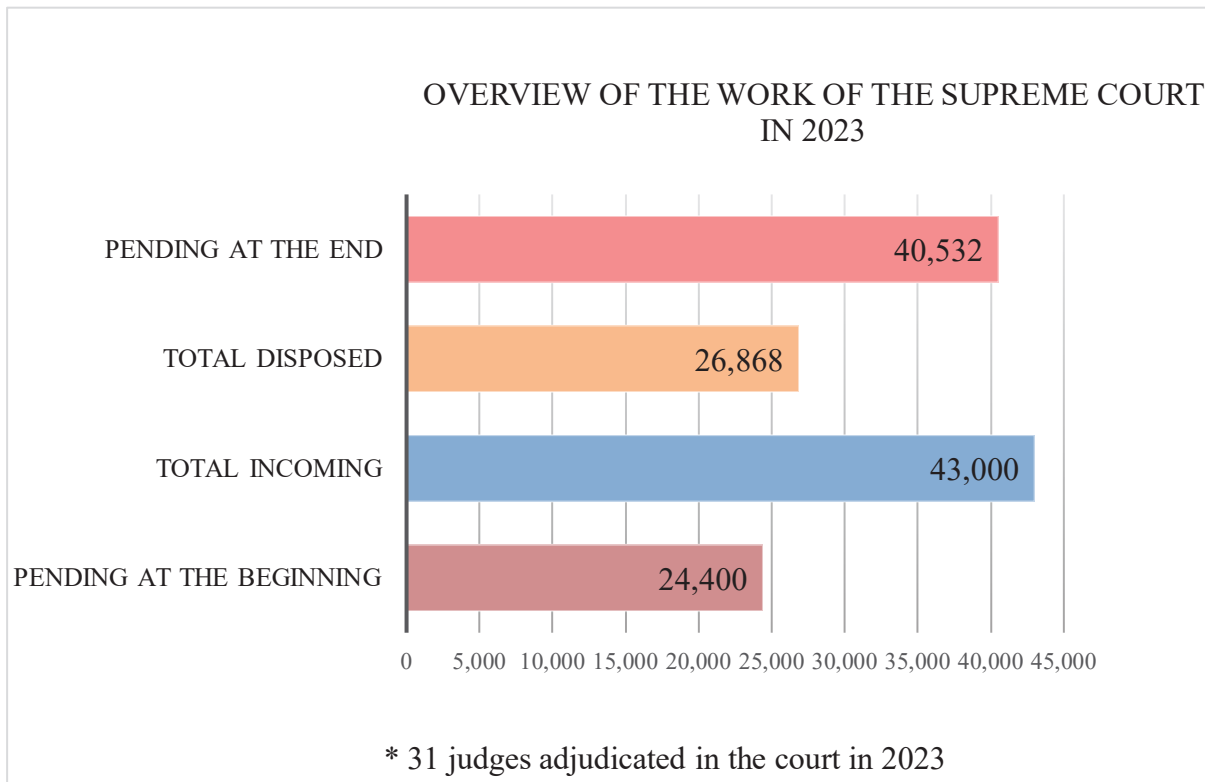


Chart No.31

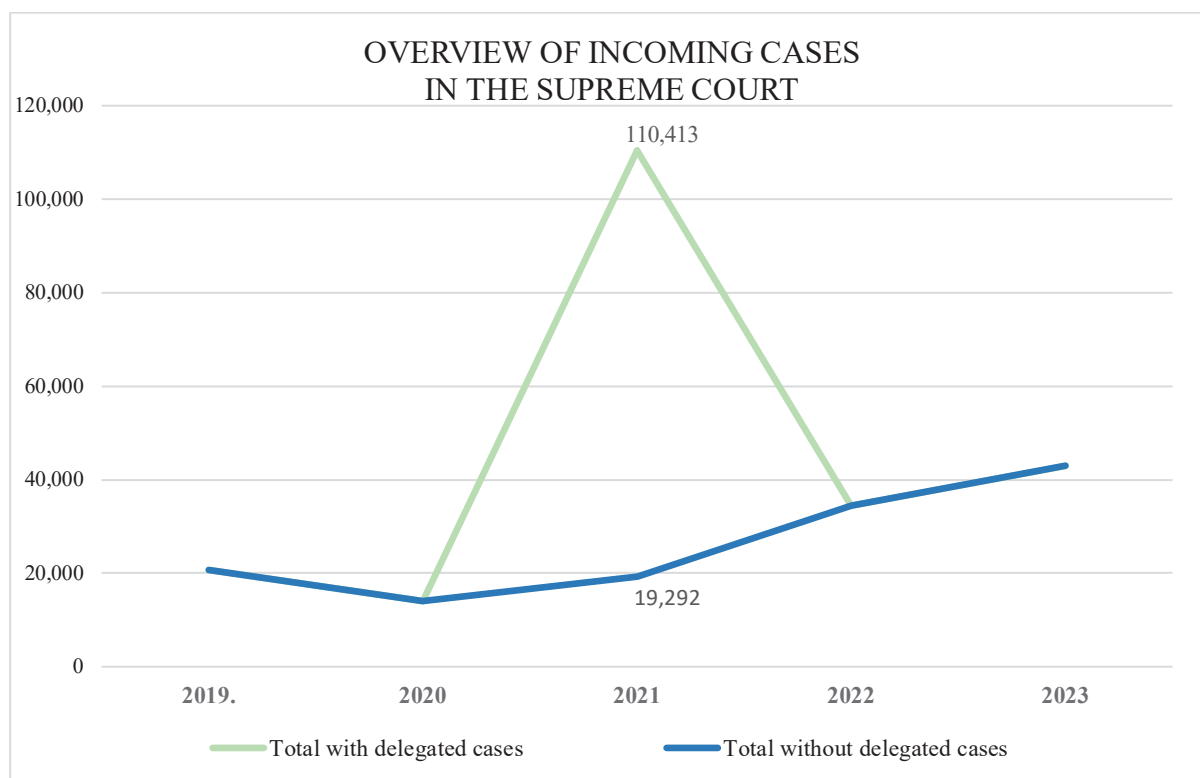


Chart No. 32

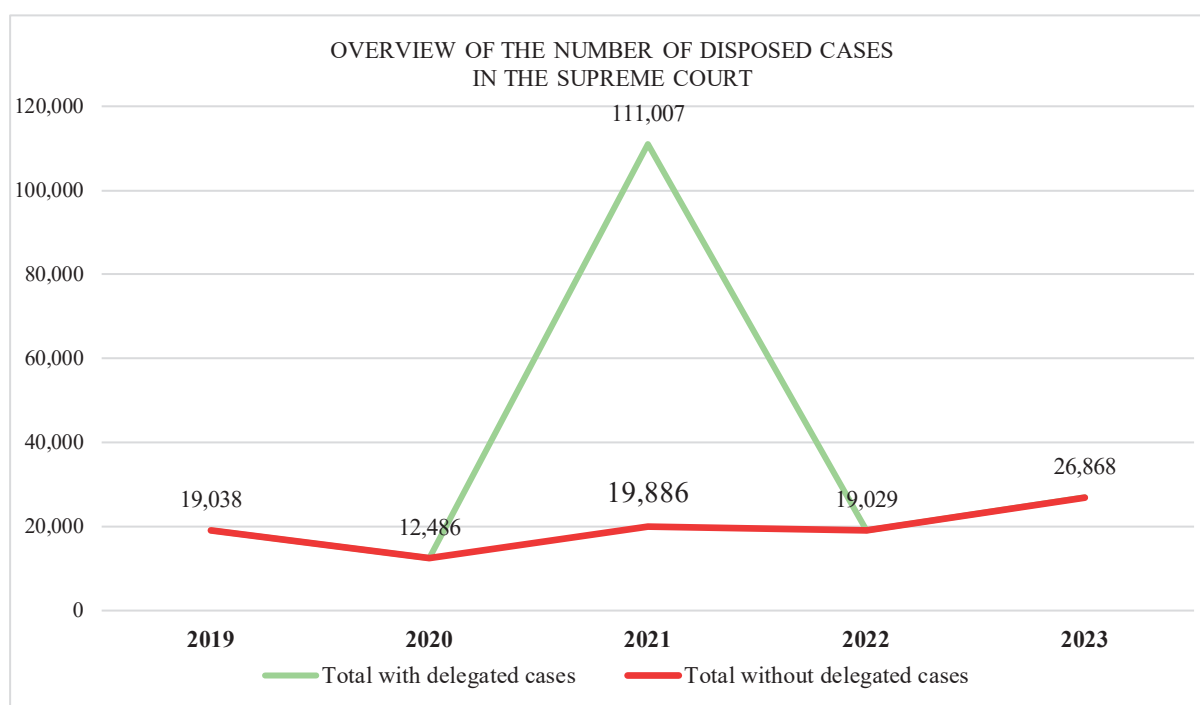


Chart No. 33

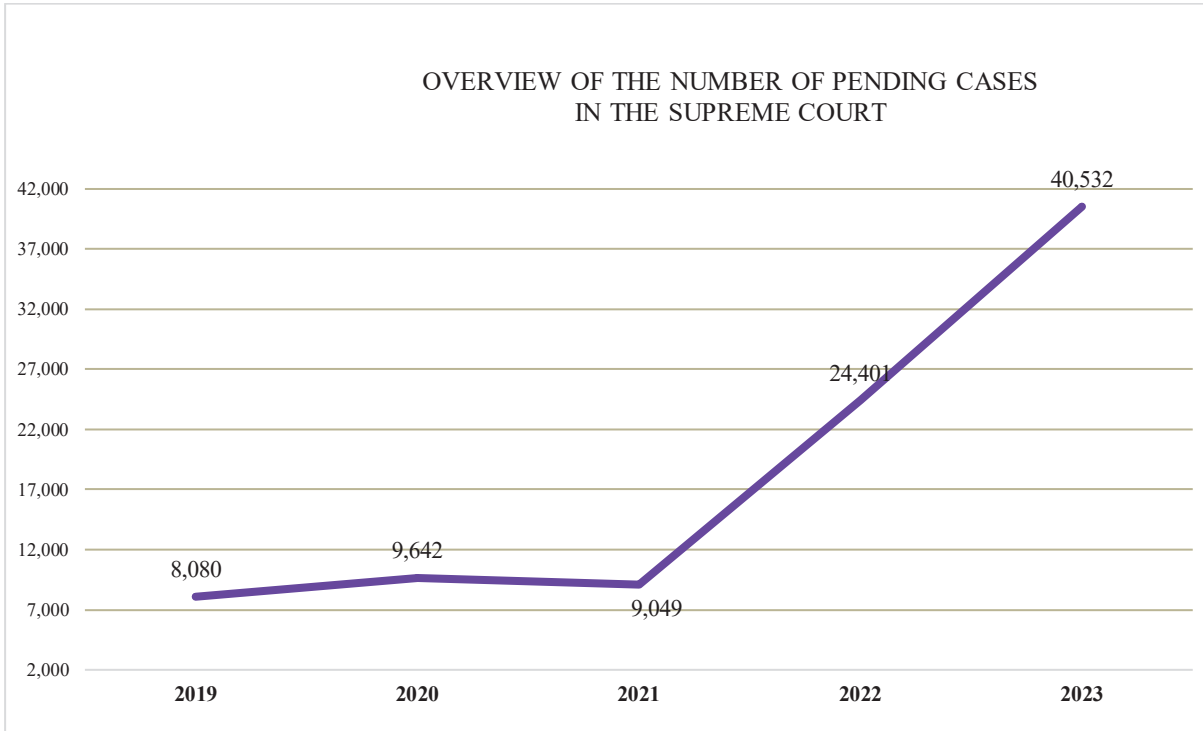


Chart No. 34

THE FOLLOWING CHART SHOWS THE NUMBER OF INCOMING, DISPOSED AND PENDING CASES IN THE SUPREME COURT IN THE PERIOD FROM 2019 TO 2023

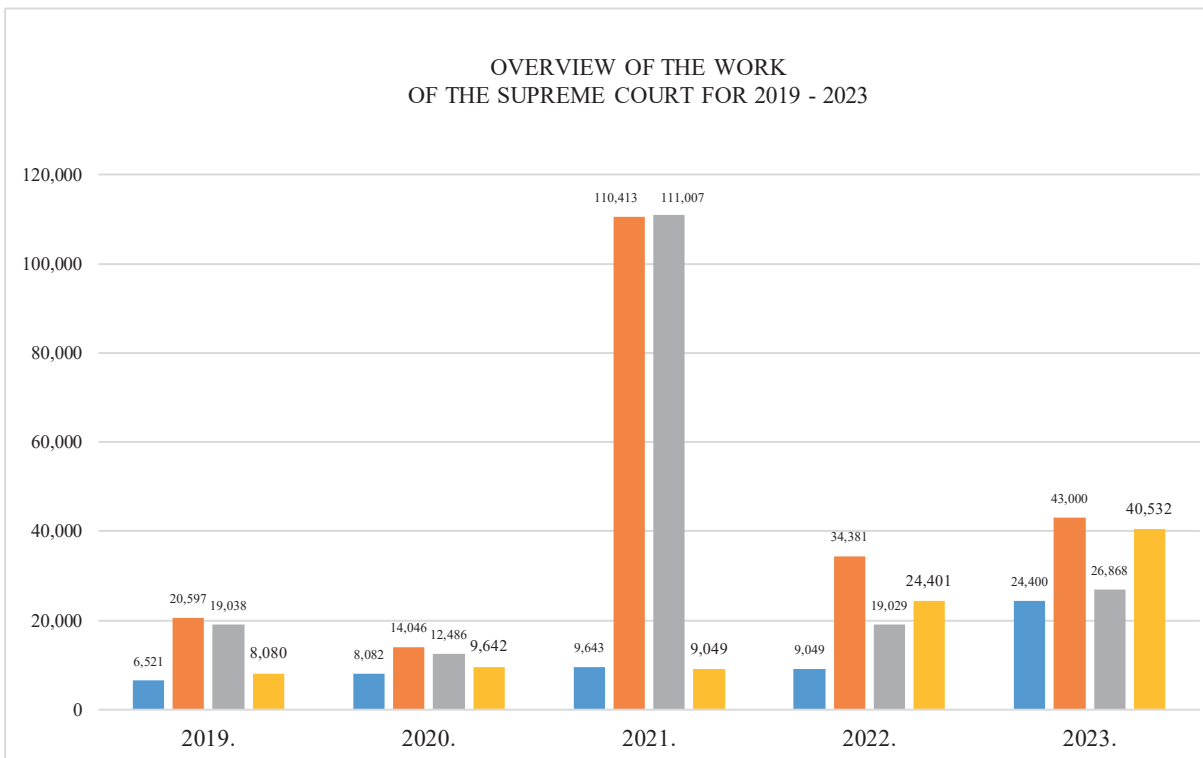


Chart No. 35

VIII.3. WORK OF COURT DEPARTMENTS

According to the Rules of Procedure on the organization and operation of the Supreme Court (of Cassation), the following departments were established in the Supreme Court: Civil Department with a specialized panel for administrative matters, Criminal Department, Department for the Protection of the Right to a Trial within Reasonable Time and the Case Law Department.

The work of the **Civil Department** of the Supreme Court in 2023 is characterized by the great engagement of judges of this Department in overcoming the enormous inflow of cases. A total of **40,284** cases were received, which is **10,000 cases more** than in the previous year. Judges disposed an average of 95 cases per month, but even so, the clearance rate was not positive. The increase in the number of cases in civil matters to 64,127 cases and the number of disposed cases in this matter to 24,136 cases, required the investment of additional effort not only by judges, but also by judicial assistants on the drafting of court decisions, judicial assistants working in the Preparatory Department and the Case Law Department, as well as the staff working in the Registry Office, typewriters and proofreading office.

The largest number of cases in the work of the Civil Department relate to the collection of loan processing costs, reimbursement of food costs during work, annual leave allowance and travel expenses, as well as the payment of increased wages for overtime and shift work. Apart from banks, the defendants in most of these civil cases are the Republic of Serbia, public institutions and public companies.

In 2023, **five sessions of the Civil Department** were held, where reports of judges in proceedings to resolve a disputed legal issue were discussed. The most significant disputed legal issue were economic matters and matter related to bankruptcy proceedings. Through the established legal positions and conclusions, the judges of the Civil Department expressed their opinions on the following issues: the enforcement of criminal court judgement ordering the confiscation of material gain in monetary amount from the bankruptcy debtor; the impact of the measure of temporary confiscation of property resulting from a criminal offense on bankruptcy proceedings; monetization of the assets of social enterprises organized according to the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Serbia on the organization of parts of enterprises whose headquarters are in the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia, for the purpose of settling bankruptcy creditors; transfer to the temporary management of the Republic of Serbia property of socially-owned enterprises and banks located in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the sessions of Civil Department, 15 decision wordings from the decisions of the Supreme Court in general civil, labor, economic and administrative matters were determined.

The huge increase in the number of cases in civil matters in the last two years, which hinders the normal functioning of the Supreme Court, indicates **the need to speed up the adoption of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Civil Procedure Code**, which would, *inter alia*, regulate the matter of extraordinary legal remedies in civil cases in a new manner.

The inflow of cases in administrative matters was reduced to 365 compared to 558 in 2022. In the course of 2023, 295 requests for reconsideration of court decisions were submitted to the specialized panel for solving cases from administrative matters, which means that only 1.2% of the decisions of the Administrative Court made in that year were contested before the Supreme Court with this extraordinary legal remedy. This data indicates that the restrictive conditions for filing a request for review of a court decision prescribed by the Law on Administrative Disputes (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 111/09) make it impossible for the Supreme Court in administrative matters to ensure uniform judicial application of law, as one of its basic competences. At the Annual Conference of Judges in Vrnjačka Banja, held in 2019, it was pointed out that the full capacity of the Supreme Court’s jurisdiction in administrative disputes can only be established by appropriate amendments to the provisions of the Law on Administrative Disputes that regulate extraordinary remedies.

The largest number of disposed cases in administrative matters in the reporting period refers to unpaid foreign currency savings deposits in branches of banks in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina that had their headquarters on the territory of the Republic of Serbia. At the same time, these are the most important decisions since they refer to the execution of the judgement of the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights from July 16, 2014, brought in the case of Ališić and Others v. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and the “former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”.

In the **Criminal Department** of the Supreme Court, compared to previous years, the inflow of cases has been uniform, and the structure of the cases has not changed. In 2023, 1,960 cases were received in this Department and 1,958 cases were disposed, meaning that the clearance rate was 99.90%.

The subject of discussion and decision on requests for the protection of legality in criminal matters mainly related to illegally obtained evidence in criminal proceedings and the costs of criminal proceedings.

During 2023, **six sessions of the Criminal Department** were held, where disputed legal issues observed during the resolution of cases based on requests for the protection of legality were considered. The legal position related to the calculation of half of the range of the prescribed sentence from Article 55a of the Criminal Code was established and a conclusion was reached regarding the obligation to pay the costs of the *ex officio* lawyers who undertook actions in different stages of the criminal proceedings.

At the sessions of the Criminal Department, five decision wordings from the decisions of the Supreme Court were established.

A total of 391 cases were received in the **Department for the Protection of the Right to a Trial within Reasonable Time** in the reporting period, and 363 cases were disposed. The inflow was not completely resolved due to the fact that the largest number of cases were received in the months of November and December. Compared to 2022, there was a noticeable decrease in the number of cases on objections to speed up the procedure and appeals against decisions on objections in civil proceedings, but the number of appeals against decisions of the Administrative Court increased from 193 to 286 cases. These data indicate the obvious shortening of the duration of civil proceedings before the appellate courts and the extension of

the duration of the proceedings before the Administrative Court due to the long-term continuous increase in the number of cases before that court.

Judges in the Department for the Protection of the Right to a Trial within Reasonable Time make decisions on legal remedies within the deadlines prescribed by law, so there was no need to hold department meetings in order to implement measures to improve the organization of work in the department. Apart from that, there were no disputed legal issues, because there is uniform judicial practice in the matter of protecting the right to a trial within reasonable time.

Disputed legal issues related to compensation for damages due to the violation of the right to a trial within reasonable time were considered at the sessions of the Civil Department of the Supreme Court.

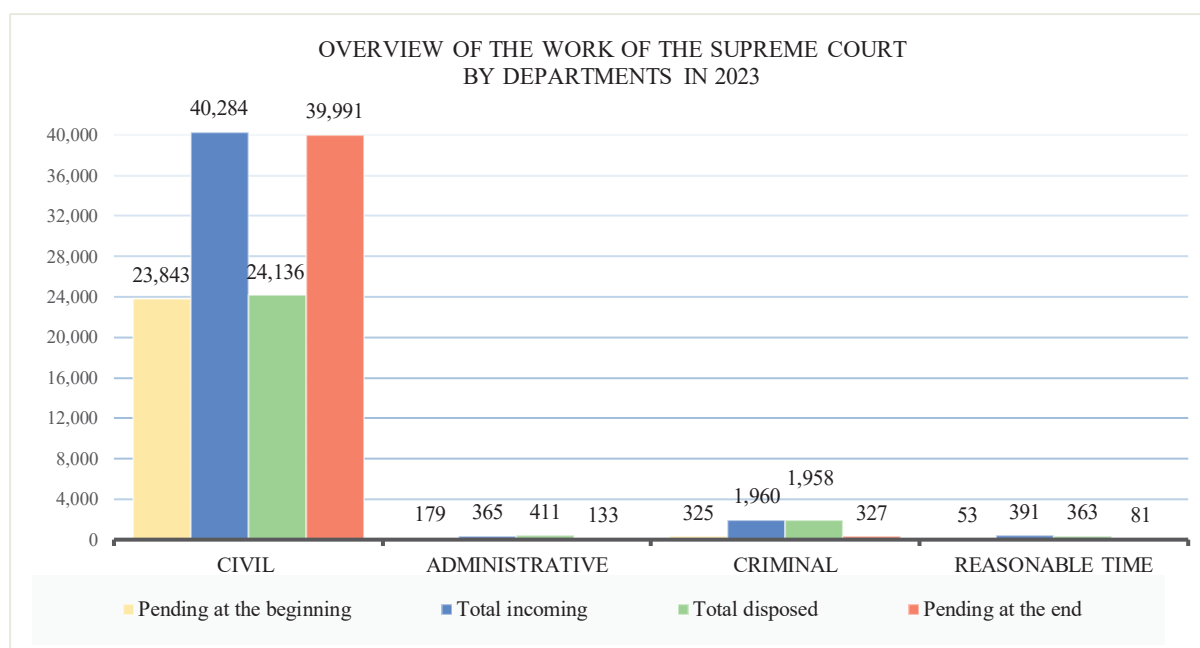


Chart No. 36

The Court Practice Department monitors and studies judicial practice, initiates a review of the adopted legal understanding, informs judges and court advisors about the legal understanding of judicial departments and determines which data and documentation needs to be monitored in order to improve judicial practice, as well as the way of recording, processing and entering them in publications, in order to ensure uniform judicial application of the law.

In 2023, three meetings of the Court Practice Department were held.

VIII.4. WORK OF THE GENERAL SESSION

In addition to judicial panels and judicial departments, judges perform their judicial function in the General Session.

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In 2023, **seven General Sessions** were held (28.02.2023, 10.05.2023, 05.06.2023, 16.06.2023, 23.08.2023, 31.10.2023. and 28.12.2023.), where numerous issues were discussed and decisions were made from the jurisdiction of the General Session, including the following:

- consideration and adoption of the Annual Report on the work of courts in Serbia for 2022;
- presenting the judges with the revised concept of the Annual Conference of Judges of Serbia in Vrnjačka Banja, which was prepared and held at the end of May 2023;
- entry into office of five judges in the Supreme Court of Cassation (28.02.2023) and two judges in the Supreme Court (16.06.2023.), and regarding that, determination of changes and additions to the Annual work schedule of judges in 2023 (subject to termination of judicial function to judges whose employment relation has ended due to the completion of their years of service and entry into office of the newly elected judges);
- determining the Annual work schedule of judicial assistants in the Supreme Court (of Cassation) for 2023;
- providing opinion on candidates, judges, in the election process for judges in the Supreme Court, and providing opinions on candidates, judicial assistants of the Supreme Court, in the process of election for a judge of a court of general or special jurisdiction;
- decision of the General Session regarding the disagreement of the panel of the Criminal Department (regarding the costs of the procedure) and
- decision of the General Session on requests for the exemption of the president of the court in 7 requests.

VIII.5. WORK OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATION

The court administration of the Supreme Court carries out tasks that ensure the conditions for legal, regular and timely work and operations of the court.

VIII.5.1. ADOPTED GENERAL NORMATIVE ACTS

In 2023, the President of the Court passed:

- Annual work schedule of judges in the Supreme Court of Cassation for 2023 and two amendments to the Annual work schedule of judges in the Supreme Court in 2023;
- Annual schedule of work of judicial assistants in the Supreme Court for 2023, which includes the Annual schedule of tasks entrusted to advisers in the Supreme Court;
- Rulebook on amendments and supplements to the Rulebook on Internal Organization and Systematization of Workplaces in the Supreme Court of Cassation (with accompanying competences) Su I-9 1/22-2 dated 27.02.2023;

- The Decision of the president of the court by which all normative acts of the Supreme Court of Cassation with the change of the name of the court to the Supreme Court remain in force until their amendment Su I-1 127/23 dated 11.05.2023;
- Instructions on how to keep records of attendance at work for judges and court staff in the Supreme Court Su I-1 144/23 dated 06.06.2023;
- Rulebook on budget accounting and accounting policies Su I-1 101/23 dated 17.03.2023;
- Rulebook on house rules in the court building in 9, Nemanjina Street in Belgrade Su I-1 50/22-1 dated 01.11.2023; and
- Rulebook on the detailed regulation of planning, conducting the procedure and monitoring the execution of public procurement contracts and procurements exempt from the application of the Law Su I-1 220/23 dated 15.12.2023.

VIII.5.2. ACTING UPON REQUESTS FOR FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

By the decision of the president of the court, the secretaries of the Criminal and Civil Departments are authorized to act upon requests for free access to information of public importance.

In 2023, the Supreme Court received 56 requests for free access to information of public importance, 39 requests were submitted by citizens, 3 requests were submitted by the media, 4 requests were submitted by non-governmental organizations and other citizen associations, and others (lawyers, institutions) submitted 10 requests.

The response to 56 requests was provided by December 31, 2023. The requests of all information seekers were responded to within the legal deadline.

55 requests were granted, and in one case the request was not granted.

VIII.5.3. ACTIONS BASED UPON APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

In 2023, the Court received 206 complaints, of which 34 were related to the work of the Supreme Court (of Cassation). 11 complaints were transferred from 2022. 212 complaints were acted upon, 5 complaints remained pending, and a total of 97.70% of these cases were resolved.

Out of the total number of reviewed complaints about the work of the Supreme Court (of Cassation), 5 complaints were well-founded, and 28 were assessed as unfounded, of which the well-founded ones refer to the duration of the proceedings.

VIII.5.4. SUBMITTING RESPONSES TO THE DEFENDANT BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

During 2023, the Supreme Court (of Cassation) submitted response to the State Attorney's Office – the representative of the Republic of Serbia before the European Court of Human Rights, in 8 cases, including relevant examples from the practice of the Supreme Court (of Cassation) relevant for current cases before the ECtHR or for the enforcement of already reached decisions of the ECtHR against the Republic of Serbia.

VIII.6. HARMONIZATION OF CASE LAW

As the highest court in the system of judicial power, **the Supreme Court ensures the uniform judicial application of rights and equality of parties in court proceedings**, considers the application of laws and other regulations, as well as the work of the courts, thus exercising its jurisdiction determined by law.

The agreement between the presidents of the appellate courts on the organization, place and time of joint sessions of the appellate courts in the period from 2021 to 2025 was signed between the Supreme Court of Cassation and the appellate courts on February 24, 2021.

In 2023, three meetings of judges acting in civil matter and one in criminal matters were held.

Adopted legal opinions and conclusions of the Supreme Court are published on the court's website.

During 2023, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) was regularly monitored and reviews of decisions made in relation to the Republic of Serbia, as well as cases that may be relevant for deciding cases before the Supreme Court, were prepared.

Reports on cases of the European Court of Human Rights in relation to the Republic of Serbia were published in the Bulletin of the Supreme Court, No. 3/23.

VIII.6.1. CASE LAW DATABASE

During 2023, progress was made in connection with the entry of the decisions of the Supreme Court, the Commercial Appellate Court, the Misdemeanor Appellate Court, the Administrative Court and appellate courts into the unified Case Law Database (<https://sudskapraksa.sud.rs>).

In total, by the end of 2023, **integral versions** of **416,387** decisions were entered (353,670 integral decisions were entered by December 31, 2022), **54,183 anonymized decisions** (47,033 were entered by December 31, 2022), as well as 139 legal opinions, 65 judicial practice bulletins and 55 decision wordings. In addition, **7,121 decisions** of the Supreme Court were marked with missing descriptors, which enabled the entry of those decisions into the Case Law Database.

On the website of the court – Case Law of the Supreme Court (of Cassation), **4,118 anonymized court decisions** were published, of which 774 were from criminal matters, 3,137 from civil matters, 76 from administrative matters and 131 in cases of protection of the right to a trial within reasonable time.

The Supreme court published three issues of the Case Law Bulletin, in which, in addition to the reports presented at the Annual Conference of Judges in Vrnjačka Banja in May 2023, the reports of the judges of the appellate and higher courts were also published, which the Editorial Board assessed as significant for the development of judicial practice in criminal and civil matters. In addition to the reports, legal positions, decision wordings and conclusions of the Criminal and Civil Departments of the Supreme Court were also published.

VIII.7. ACTIVITIES OF THE SUPREME COURT IN THE PROCESS OF ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

During 2023, the Supreme Court participated in activities related to the process of the European Union accession in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of European Integration and other authorities.

In this regard, quarterly attachments were prepared regarding the implementation of activities from the Action Plan for Chapter 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights).²

Also, the Supreme Court participated in the work of the Coordination Body for Chapter 23, participated in the preparation of reports on the implementation of the National Program for the Adoption of the European Union Acquis within Cluster: 1, Chapter: 23, and prepared reports on the implementation of transitional measures (criteria that need to be met for Chapters 23 ad 24, before defining the criteria for closing the chapters), within the scope of the competence of the Supreme Court and the courts, and through the preparation and submission of appropriate statistical data, contributed to the preparation of the results report for Chapters 7, 23 and 24).

In cooperation with the competent courts, the Court prepared a special statistical report on cases of corruption and organized crime, according to the criteria of the European Commission (track record tables).

In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court participated in updating information in the context of the evaluation of judicial systems in Europe³ and prepared a report for the evaluation cycle 2022-2024. Additionally, in the context of the CEPEJ project, the

² *In accordance with the Stabilization and Association Agreement and the Negotiating Position of the Republic of Serbia within the Intergovernmental Conference on the Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union for Chapter 23. „Judiciary and Fundamental Rights“*

³ *The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, CEPEJ, is a body of the Council of Europe established on September 18, 2002 by a resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in order to work on improving the efficiency and functioning of the judicial system in the member states of the Council of Europe with the aim of ensuring the effective realization of rights and increasing citizens' trust in the judicial system (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cepej/>)*

Supreme Court participated in updating the necessary information for the “Dashboard Western Balkans”.

Also, the Supreme Court made comments and reports related to the implementation of various United Nations conventions: Report of the Republic of Serbia for the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), attachment at the request of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on crimes that affect environment, participation in the meeting regarding the UN Convention against Corruption, at the request of the UNODC, certain information was collected in order to prepare the Overview of cases of international cooperation in criminal matters.

VIII.8. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2023, the Court continued its cooperation with regional, European and other international organizations and institutions, including the implementation of projects.

The Supreme Court was admitted to the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union, in the capacity of observer, at the colloquium of the Network and a joint meeting with the Court of the European Union and the European Court of Human Rights, held from November 9-11, 2023 in Vienna.

The Supreme Court participated in the work of the Superior Courts Network in cooperation with the European Court of Human Rights. The representative of the Supreme Court participated in the work of the forum of the Network of Supreme Courts, from June 8-9, 2023.

The President and judges of the Supreme Court paid a study visit to the judicial institutions of Austria “Improving legal security through the uniform application of the law”, from June 19-21, 2023, in the organization of the project “Support for the Implementation of Judicial Reform” financed by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.

With the aim of improving the work of the courts, in 2023, the Supreme Court cooperated with various projects: projects of the Delegation of the European Union in Belgrade, projects of the Council of Europe in Belgrade, the OSCE Mission in Serbia, the US Embassy (OPDAT) and the Multidonor Trust Fund.

During 2023, the Supreme Court participated in activities of several projects supported by the European Union, the Council of Europe, the OSCE Mission in Serbia and the US Department of Justice (USDOJ).

As part of the *Support for Chapter 23* (EU) regarding the work of the courts, it is important to point out the support for the Special Departments for Suppression of Corruption. Also, the Supreme Court participated in the implementation of activities within the framework of *Support for Chapter 23* in the part related to the judiciary, whereby a large part of the activity was dedicated to familiarizing judges and prosecutors with international practice related to the application of circumstantial evidence in criminal proceedings. During 2023, the Supreme Court also participated in the activities of preparation and implementation of the new project of the European Commission, which related to reporting on cases of high corruption, money laundering and organized crime (electronic platform).

Also, cooperation was achieved with the Council of Europe within the project: Improving the protection of human rights in Serbia and Support to the implementation of judicial reform in Serbia, Preventing money laundering and financing of terrorism in Serbia.

Cooperation was achieved with the OSCE Mission and the US Ministry of Justice (USDOJ) in the field of improving relations between courts and the media. In 2023, a round table was held, and work began on the preparation of a Guide for journalists.

VIII.9. ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT AND JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT (OF CASSATION)

The Supreme Court organized the Annual Conference of Judges in Vrnjačka Banja in the period from May 24-27, 2023, attended by judges from all courts of the Republic of Serbia, representatives of the Supreme Courts of the states in the region, judges of the European Court of Human Rights and representatives of the BA of Serbia. Selected reports of judges were presented on established topics from criminal, civil, administrative matters, media, ethics, disciplinary proceedings, and the views from the reports were then opened for discussion by all participants.

On the occasion of celebrating the founding day of the Supreme Court (September 9, 1846), the President of the Supreme Court Jasmina Vasović, held a formal meeting of all judges of the Supreme Court, where the President of the High Court Council, Zorana Delibašić, and the Minister of Justice, Maja Popović, attended as guests.

The President of the Supreme Court, Jasmina Vasović, participated in the solemn academy of the Faculty of Law in Belgrade, on the occasion of the celebration of Saint Sava's Day, which was held on January 27, 2023.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion, Irene Khan, visited the Supreme Court of Cassation on March 30, 2023.

The President of the Supreme Court, Jasmina Vasović, met with the co-rapporteur of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Axel Schefer, on October 3, 2023 in the Supreme Court.

At the international conference "The role of constitutional courts in the application of the European Convention on Human Rights and the practice of the European Court of Human Rights at the national level", on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Constitutional Court, a ceremony was held on November 16, 2023 in Belgrade, where the introductory presentation was presented by the Deputy President of the Supreme Court, Judge Zvezdana Lutovac.

VIII.9.1. CONFERENCES, ROUND TABLES AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED BY THE PRESIDENT AND JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT

Conferences:

Conference on intellectual property law, organized by ZMP Law office for intellectual property, in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade, held in Belgrade, on April 6, 2023;

Conference “Evaluation of the work of judges” was held on October 6, 2023 in Belgrade, organized by the Judges’ Association of Serbia and the European Association of Judges and Prosecutors for Democracy and Freedom (MEDEL), with the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the Open Society Foundation;

Conference on judicial reform “Constitutional amendments – new laws towards effective implementation”.

Public hearing:

Public hearing on the topic: “Presentation of bills that are adopted with the aim of harmonizing with the Act on Amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia”, organized by the Committed for Constitutional Affairs and Legislation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, held in Belgrade, on January 26, 2023.

Roundtables:

Roundtable on the Convention of 2 July 1919 on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgements in Civil or Commercial matters (Convention on Judgements HCCH 1919), organized by the “Balkans Enforcement Strengthening Project (BESP)”, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and implemented by the Center for International Legal Cooperation (CILC), held in Belgrade, on January 31, 2023;

Roundtable as part of the public debate on the text of the Draft Action Plan 2023-2025 for the implementation of the National Strategy for the realization of rights of victims and witnesses of criminal acts in the Republic of Serbia for 2020-2025, organized by the Ministry of Justice, held in Belgrade, on February 28, 2023;

Roundtable “Enforcement of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights – judgement of Zorica Jovanović v. Serbia“, organized by the Directorate General for Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe and the Judicial Academy, held in Belgrade, on May 9, 2023;

Roundtable on gender equality for the Western Balkans, organized by the AIRE Center, held in Belgrade, on June 2-3, 2023;

Roundtable for the development of guidelines for the use of circumstantial evidence, organized by the EU-funded project “Supporting Serbia in achieving the objectives of Chapter 24: Justice, Freedom and Security”, held in Belgrade, on June 13, 2023;

XXII Symposium with international participation: “Expertise on traffic accidents and insurance fraude”, organized by the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering, University of Belgrade and the Judicial Academy, with the patronage of the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia, held in Ivanjica, from November 2-4, 2023;

Roundtable on challenges and potential solutions for the proper functioning of the system of access to public information in Serbia, jointly organized by the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Protection of Personal Data and SIGMA, held in Belgrade, on November 8, 2023;

Roundtable “Amendments to the Law on the Organization of Competence of State Bodies in the Suppression of Organized Crime, Terrorism and Corruption and Next Steps”, organized by the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the project “Support to Strengthening the Rule of Law in the Republic of Serbia”, jointly financed by the European Union and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ), implemented by GIZ Serbia, held in Belgrade, on November 15-16, 2023;

Meeting of the courts of North Macedonia and Albania on the harmonization of judicial practice, organized by the “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye - Phase III”, held in Pogradec, Albania, from October 15 to 16, 2023.

Seminars:

Seminar on “Strengthening the module and operational approach to the processing of money laundering cases as an independent criminal act in Serbia”, organized by the Judicial Academy, held in Vršac, on September 28 and 29, 2023.

Workshops and education sessions:

Regional multidisciplinary workshop on “Preventing impunity for human traffickers and supporting victims of human trafficking in Southeast Europe”, organized by UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) in cooperation with the National Commission for Combating Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia with the support of the Office of the State Department to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, held from January 31 to February 2, 2023 in Skopje;

Regional workshop on the International Convention for the Prevention of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in Southeast Europe, organized by UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), held in Vienna, from March 21-22, 2023;

Education for judges, prosecutors and members of the police on the topic of high-tech crime, digital evidence and cryptocurrencies, organized by the US Embassy in Serbia, held in Belgrade, on May 11, 2023;

National multidisciplinary workshop on “Prevention and suppression of human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation and forced labor – multisectoral approach”, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), held in Vrdnik, from July 4 to 6, 2023;

Regional training and trial simulation on the criminality of human trafficking and support for victims of human trafficking in Southeast Europe, organized by UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), held in Chisinau, Moldova, from October 3 to 5, 2023;

TAIEX workshop on “Follow-up to the 2022 round of case-based peer review missions on countering organised crime and corruption in the Western Balkans”, organized by the Ministry of European Integration and the Ministry of Justice, held in Tirana, from October 4 to 6, 2023.

Working meetings:

The joint meeting of the president of the Supreme Court with the presidents of all courts of general and special jurisdiction was held on May 26, 2023, at the Annual Conference of Judges in Vrnjačka Banja;

Two meetings of the Working Group for backlog resolution, in order to consider the achieved goals set by the Single Backlog Reduction Program in the courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2021-2025, organized by the Supreme Court (of Cassation);

Meeting of the Working Group for the Safety of Children on the Internet, organized by the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications, held in Belgrade, on May 18, 2023;

Preparatory meeting of the delegation of the Republic of Serbia within the sixth monitoring cycle of the European Convention against Racism and Intolerance, organized by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, held in Belgrade, on March 14, 2023;

The third meeting of the Steering Committee of the European Union project “Support to Serbia in achieving the goals of Chapter 24: Justice, Freedom and Security”, organized by “EU projects in Serbia”, held in Belgrade, on March 22, 2023;

Meeting of the Working Group for the Safety of Children on the Internet, organized by the Ministry of Information and Telecommunication, held in Belgrade, on May 18, 2023;

Celebration of the Personal Data Protection Day, organized by the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, held in Belgrade, on January 30, 2023.

VIII.9.2. EDUCATION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE SUPREME COURT

In **2023**, employees of the Supreme Court (of Cassation) attended 22 professional development trainings, organized by the National Academy for Public Administration.

VIII.10. COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES AND INSTITUTIONS

According to the concluded Agreement on Business Cooperation with the Faculty of Law in Belgrade, 4 visits of students to the Supreme Court were organized.

On September 7, 2023, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Justice, the Chamber of Public Enforcement Agents, the Chamber of Public Notaries of Serbia and the Bar Association of Serbia signed the Protocol on the exchange of data in the procedure for appointing a temporary representative, in civil, non-litigious and enforcement proceedings.

VIII.11. PUBLIC WORK

Public nature of the work of the Supreme Court is ensured by the publication of information about the work of the court on the Internet, including court decisions (<http://www.vrh.sud.rs>), communication with the media, the publication of information on the work of the court, acting on requests for free access to information of public importance, by issuing Bulletins and other publications.

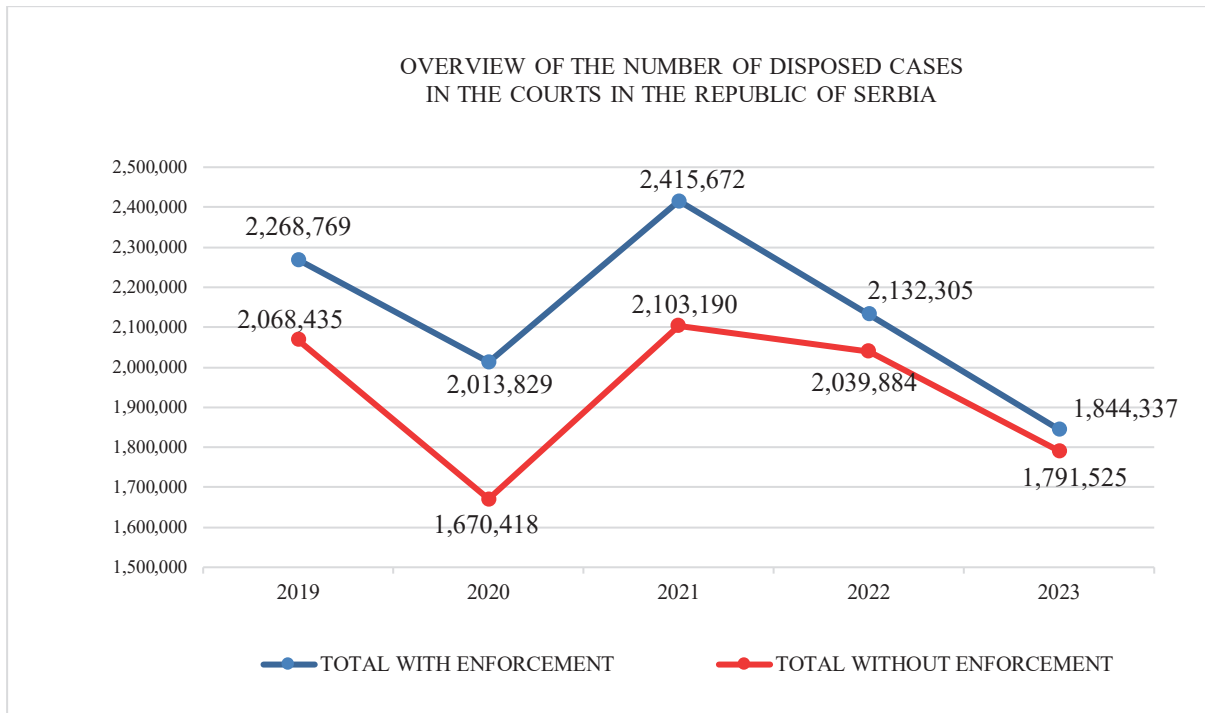
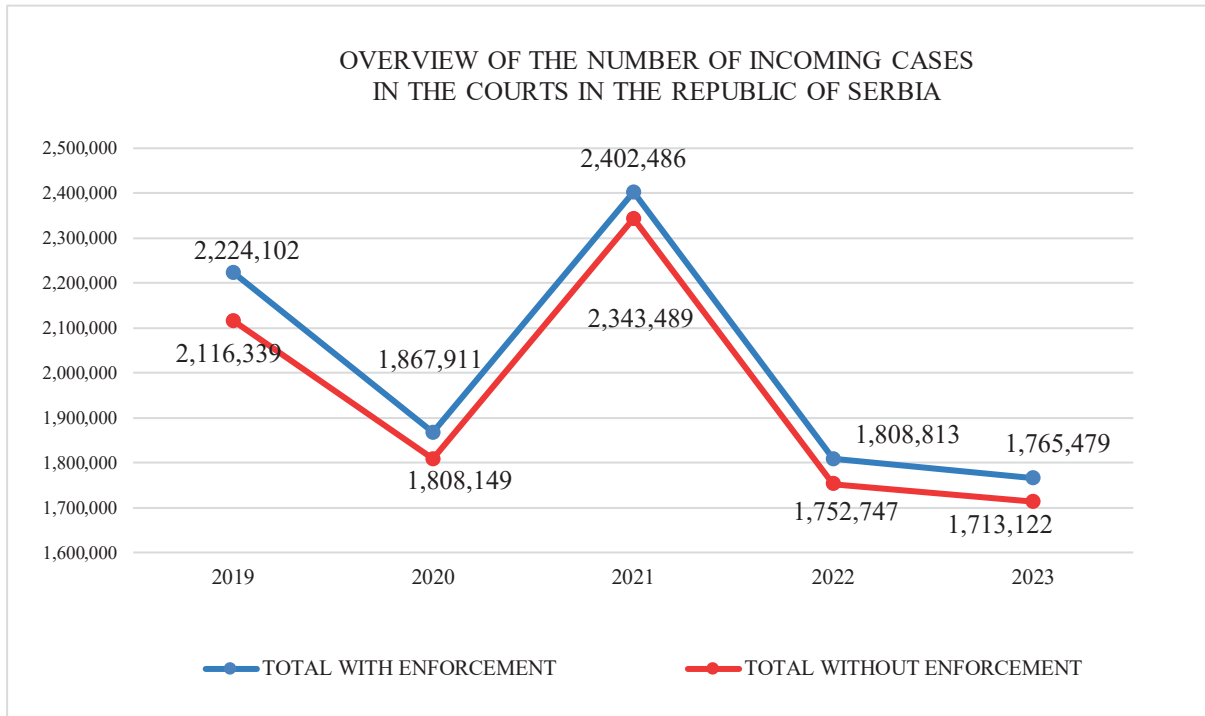
During 2023, information on the way the court works and the activities of the president and judges was published regularly on the website. 16 announcements were published.

The Database of the decisions of the Supreme Court of Cassation and the Supreme Court contains 4,118 court decisions, of which 774 are from criminal matters, 3,137 from civil matters, 76 from administrative matters and 131 in cases protecting the right to a trial within reasonable time.

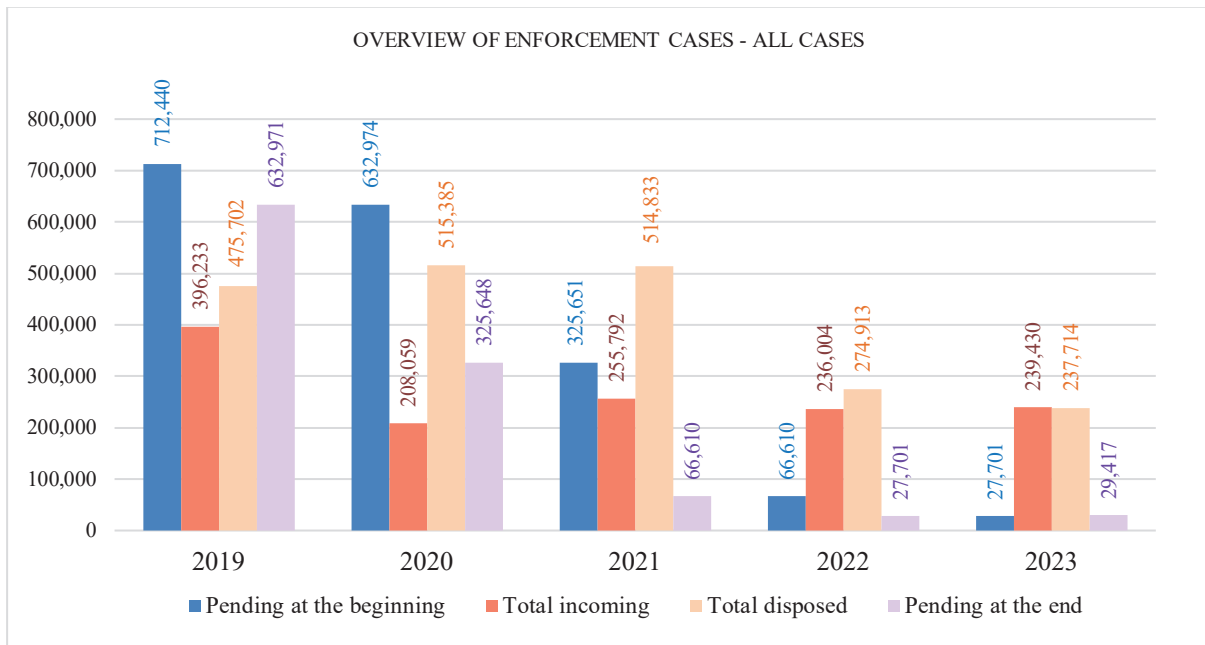
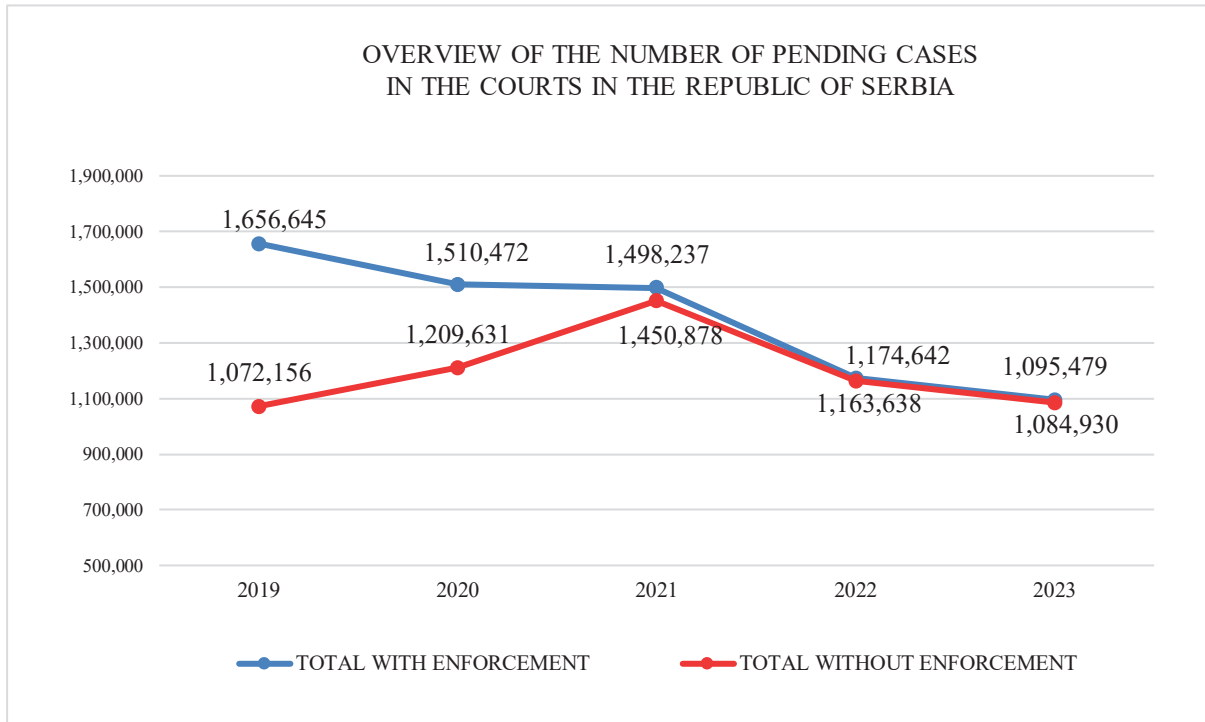
Information Booklet

The data published in the Information Booklet was updated 10 times during 2023, through the Single Information System of the Information Booklet, which was posted on the website of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection: on January 25, February 8, March 24, May 9, June 9, July 24, September 25, October 31, November 10 and December 28.

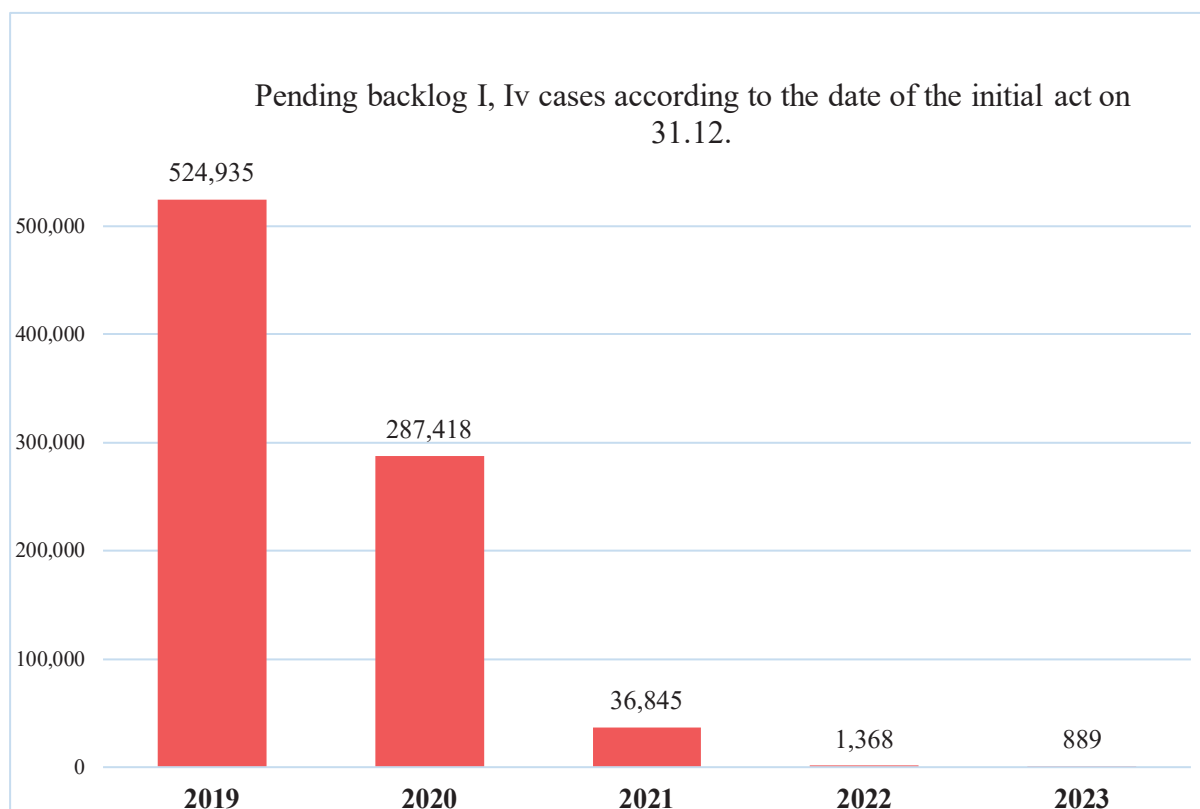
IX. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF COURTS IN 2023



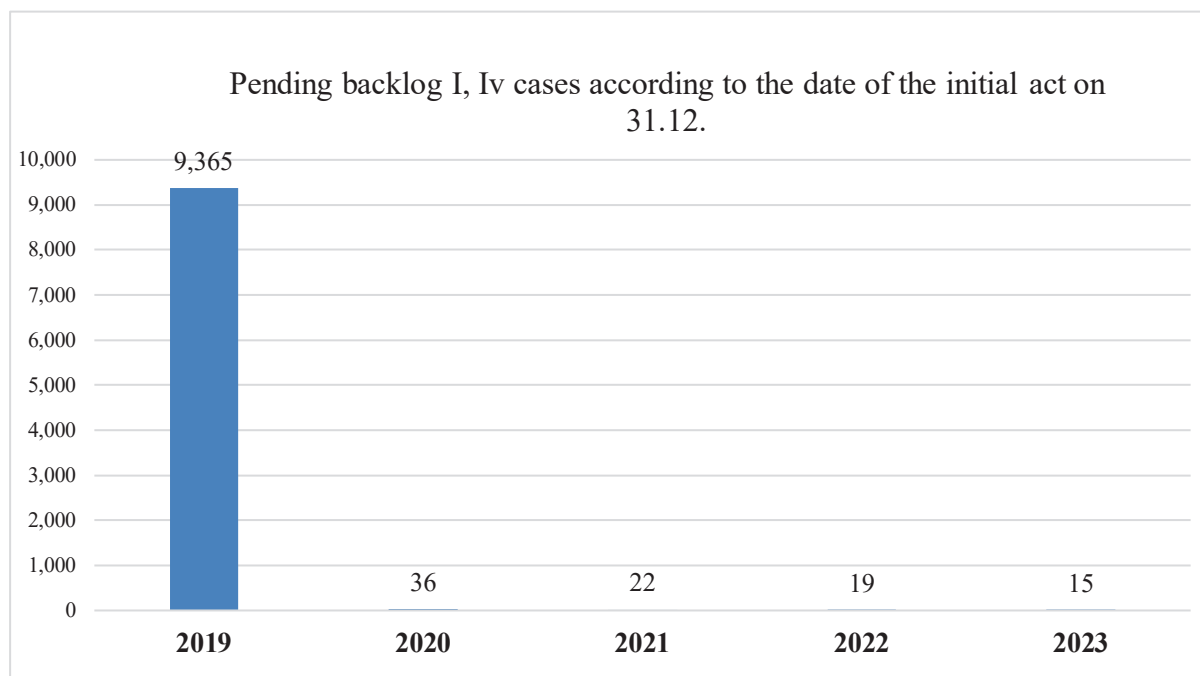
Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023



BASIC COURTS



COMMERCIAL COURTS



It took 217 days for all courts in the Republic of Serbia to issue court decisions.

Annual Report on the Work of the Courts in the Republic of Serbia for 2023

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SUPREME COURT

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