

Court statistics 2011

Official statistics of Sweden

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Introduction

According to the Official Statistics Act (2001:99) official statistics must be made available to the general public and committees of enquiry and for research purposes. The Swedish National Courts Administration has been responsible for official statistics relating to the work of the courts since 2002. During the period 1993-2001 such statistics were produced by the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (BRÅ). In the early years, the provision of this statistical information was the responsibility of Statistics Sweden (SCB).

Court statistics comprise statistics for cases and matters at the general courts and general administrative courts as well as matters dealt with at the rent and tenancy tribunals. Since 2004, certain statistical information has also been published for individual courts.

Contents of this publication

These statistics are divided into three chapters, each of which begins with a summary of the work of each court category. The first chapter presents statistics from the general courts, i.e. the district courts, the courts of appeal and the Supreme Court, whilst statistics from the general administrative courts, i.e., the administrative courts, administrative courts of appeal and the Supreme Administrative Court, are presented in the second chapter. The third chapter contains information about the rent and tenancy tribunals.

Further legal statistics

In addition to the court statistics in this publication, further legal statistics are available from the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, the Prison and Probation Service and Statistics Sweden.

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Explanation of symbols

- Nil
- .. No information available

1. Cases and matters in the general courts

The work of the general courts

The general courts comprise the district court as the court of first instance, the court of appeal as the court of second instance and the Supreme Court as the court of third instance. At the beginning of 2012, there were forty-eight district courts and six courts of appeal.

The District Courts

The principal task of the district courts is to adjudicate in criminal and civil cases.

Crime, in a legal sense, is an action that is punishable and the basic rules that apply to crimes are to be found in the Penal Code, which contains, for example, the rules applicable to crimes of violence and theft. Certain crimes, such as drug offences, tax crimes and traffic offences, are dealt with using special legislation.

The majority of disputes fall under either property law or family law. The former generally involve the inability of the parties to agree on the terms of a contract, e.g. in conjunction with a purchase where there is a dispute regarding the price agreed for a particular item, the lawful ownership of an object or liability for damages. A family law dispute could involve divorce proceedings, custody of children, child maintenance and paternity.

On 2 May 2011, five land and environment courts were established and located at five district courts. Previously, there were special property courts and environmental courts in these same district courts. The land and environment courts handle cases that were previously dealt with by the environmental courts, cases relating to the Planning and Building Act that were dealt with by the administrative courts and the government, and the majority of cases from the property courts. This means that the land and environment courts adjudicate in cases such as leasehold rights, environmentally hazardous activities, permits, compensation for expropriation, environmental damages, water operations etc. A Land and Environment Court of Appeal was also established, located at the Svea Court of Appeal, to handle appealed cases from the land and environment courts.

A number of matters are processed and determined by the district courts, such as distraint cases, which mainly consist of appeals against seizure orders, debt management and bankruptcies.

Determination of cases and matters in the district court

At a main hearing in a crime case, the general rule is that the court should consist of one legally trained judge and three lay judges.

Law clerks also serve in the district courts and after a certain period of service they are usually appointed to adjudicate regularly in less complicated cases such as traffic offences.

At a main hearing in a civil case, the general rule is that the court should consist of three legally trained judges, although there are several exceptions to this. In certain family law cases, the court consists of one legally trained judge and three lay judges. The court could even consist of a single legally trained judge in those instances where the hearing takes the form of a simplified procedure, if the parties have granted their consent or if the case is of a less complicated nature.

Both civil and criminal cases can in certain instances be determined on the basis of documentary evidence, whereby the court acquaints itself with the documents and written evidence presented.

Whilst the majority of criminal cases are determined following a main hearing this applies to less than half the civil cases.

The district court also examines the question of compulsory powers in criminal cases, such as when a public prosecutor asks for a suspect to be remanded in custody. In a custody hearing the court decides whether the suspect will be detained or released.

As a rule, district court judgments can be appealed to a court of appeal.

The courts of appeal

Cases filed at the courts of appeal are classified as civil cases, criminal cases or other cases. Other cases include appeals from the district courts as well as specific decisions taken before or during the hearing at the district court, e.g. remanding a defendant in custody or the replacement of a public defence counsel.

Leave to appeal is required for a court of appeal to examine a judgment or decision of a district court. It is also required for such appeals in civil cases. As regards criminal cases, leave to appeal is required in any appeal where the defendant has only been fined or has been acquitted, when the maximum punishment applicable to the crime is six months' imprisonment or when the appeal relates only to the part of the judgment dealing with compensation.

Leave to appeal may be granted only when the court of appeal is in doubt regarding the correctness of the judgment in the district court, if it is necessary for the court of appeal to determine whether the district court judgment is correct, if an appeal to a higher court constitutes a precedent, or if there are pressing reasons.

Case determination at the courts of appeal

At the main hearing in a civil case, the general rule is that the court must comprise three legally trained judges. If the case to be examined has already been adjudicated by this number at the district court, the court must comprise at least four legally trained judges. In criminal cases the general rule is that the court must comprise three legally trained judges and two lay judges at the main hearing.

The majority of civil cases are determined in a court of appeal without a main hearing. The rules in the Code of Judicial Procedure state that a case can be determined without a main hearing if the matter can be examined satisfactorily and

the parties have requested that it be determined in this way. The court of appeal can also adjudicate in a criminal case without a main hearing, although the majority of criminal cases are determined after a main hearing.

The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court examines cases that come to it on appeal from one of the six courts of appeal. The majority of cases require leave to appeal. The general rule is that leave is only granted if the judgment or decision of the Supreme Court could be an important precedent. Only a few per cent of the cases referred to the Supreme Court are granted leave to appeal. The Parliamentary Ombudsman (JO) and the Chancellor of Justice (JK) have the right to refer a case that is the subject of public prosecution to the Supreme Court, without leave to appeal.

The majority of cases are decided on the basis of documentation following a presentation, although oral hearings with the parties also take place.

Case determination at the Supreme Court

Cases in the Supreme Court are decided by the Justices of the Supreme Court and when a case is to be examined, five or a maximum of seven justices are present. If the matter to be examined is of a less complicated nature only three justices take part. If the result conflicts with a previous ruling by this court then the matter must be referred to a plenum, which consists of all the justices, or to a 'small plenum', which consists of nine justices. The matter of leave to appeal is decided by one or three justices.

Table 1.1
District courts
Cases filed, determined and pending 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cases filed					
FT cases ¹	15 047	17 504	21 299	22 173	21 222
Joint petitions ²	20 237	21 098	22 729	22 371	21 818
Other family cases	11 811	12 853	14 108	15 772	16 066
Other civil cases	19 044	20 991	24 326	25 485	23 638
Total civil cases	66 139	72 446	82 462	85 801	82 744
Other criminal cases ³	-	-	-	39 712	39 271
Criminal cases involving fines	-	-	-	13 527	11 856
Financial crimes	-	-	-	1 844	1 743
Crimes against persons/crimes committed against persons	-	-	-	22 407	23 163
Crime against property	-	-	-	14 942	14 896
Total criminal cases	75 894	83 037	87 476	92 432	90 929
Environmental cases	1 769	1 846	2 075	2 007	2 204
Property cases	1 033	1 155	1 244	1 082	1 032
Cases relating to the Planning and Building Act					1 414
Total	144 835	158 484	173 257	181 322	178 323
Cases determined					
FT cases ¹	14 976	16 976	20 018	22 127	21 531
Joint petitions ²	20 119	20 940	21 803	22 704	22 062
Other family cases	11 880	12 871	13 507	14 768	16 200
Other civil cases	18 861	20 998	23 350	25 200	24 253
Total civil cases	65 836	71 785	78 678	84 799	84 046
Other criminal cases ³	-	-	-	40 946	40 412
Criminal cases involving fines	-	-	-	13 265	12 311
Financial crimes	-	-	-	1 599	1 813
Crimes against persons/crimes committed against persons	-	-	-	20 659	23 379
Crime against property	-	-	-	14 300	14 777
Total criminal cases	73 720	82 504	85 714	90 769	92 692
Environmental cases	1 717	1 850	1 910	2 109	2 046
Property cases	1 147	1 234	1 373	1 173	1 173
Cases relating to the Planning and Building Act					724
Total	142 420	157 373	167 675	178 850	180 681
Cases pending					
FT cases ¹	4 415	4 863	6 049	5 991	5 679
Joint petitions ²	8 843	8 777	9 511	8 970	8 726
Other family cases	8 820	8 911	9 653	10 805	10 672
Other civil cases	13 667	13 659	14 660	15 078	14 466
Total civil cases	35 745	36 210	39 873	40 844	39 543
Other criminal cases ³	-	-	-	13 573	12 412
Criminal cases involving fines	-	-	-	4 082	3 626
Financial crimes	-	-	-	1 345	1 279
Crimes against persons/crimes committed against persons	-	-	-	9 417	9 199
Crime against property	-	-	-	5 137	5 255
Total criminal cases	30 484	30 697	32 163	33 554	31 771
Environmental cases	1 468	1 459	1 622	1 520	1 678
Property cases	1 350	1 267	1 129	920	779
Cases relating to the Planning and Building Act					690
Total	69 047	69 633	74 787	76 838	74 461

¹Civil cases where the amount claimed does not exceed half a base amount and where the case is always determined by a single judge.

² For divorce and custody of children.

³ The statistics are revised for the period 2010.

Table 1.2
Cases filed, determined and pending in 2011, individual district courts

District court	FT cases	Joint petitions	Other family cases	Other civil cases	Criminal cases	Property cases	Environmental cases	Cases relating to the Planning and Building Act
Alingsås								
Filed	191	281	170	207	933	-	-	-
Determined	167	285	183	210	908	-	-	-
Pending	77	112	120	126	328	-	-	-
Attunda								
Filed	905	1 099	736	1 094	3 184	-	-	-
Determined	925	1 111	772	1 192	3 388	-	-	-
Pending	240	480	540	732	1 142	-	-	-
Blekinge								
Filed	263	318	180	280	1 299	-	-	-
Determined	270	329	188	285	1 335	10	-	-
Pending	88	141	126	164	450	-	-	-
Borås								
Filed	400	388	320	309	1 625	-	-	-
Determined	400	412	277	321	1 546	-	-	-
Pending	81	160	206	155	515	-	-	-
Eksjö								
Filed	201	190	162	178	662	-	-	-
Determined	200	189	179	174	705	-	-	-
Pending	18	84	73	53	168	-	-	-
Eskilstuna								
Filed	301	348	247	295	1 429	-	-	-
Determined	296	342	259	285	1 339	2	-	-
Pending	67	132	153	136	435	-	-	-
Falu								
Filed	338	442	283	325	1 841	4	-	-
Determined	353	438	314	290	1 813	8	-	-
Pending	68	177	217	226	708	-	-	-
Gotlands								
Filed	103	31	127	134	507	-	-	-
Determined	88	33	150	120	517	6	-	-
Pending	34	15	65	81	161	-	-	-
Gällivare								
Filed	104	97	63	64	421	-	-	-
Determined	102	91	69	67	438	-	-	-
Pending	16	39	37	28	111	-	-	-
Gävle								
Filed	249	333	284	283	1 324	2	-	-
Determined	251	344	242	268	1 355	9	-	-
Pending	65	141	167	156	320	-	-	-
Gothenburg								
Filed	1 638	1 750	1 395	1 922	5 701	10	-	-
Determined	1 798	1 764	1 429	2 167	6 326	56	-	-
Pending	631	686	1 018	1 413	2 687	-	-	-
Halmstads								
Filed	280	287	191	284	1 105	2	-	-
Determined	277	284	182	289	1 137	49	-	-
Pending	75	135	149	135	510	-	-	-
Haparanda								
Filed	97	75	51	116	470	-	-	-
Determined	99	71	64	111	495	-	-	-
Pending	24	34	33	60	150	-	-	-
Helsingborgs								
Filed	789	695	469	936	3 148	-	-	-
Determined	815	722	515	939	3 340	-	-	-
Pending	220	280	303	564	1 108	-	-	-
Hudiksvalls								
Filed	339	224	146	186	1 008	-	-	-
Determined	339	226	141	174	1 052	-	-	-
Pending	81	80	87	107	312	-	-	-
Hässleholms								
Filed	138	123	92	153	606	-	-	-
Determined	140	133	87	171	603	-	-	-
Pending	35	57	77	55	160	-	-	-

Table 1.2 (Cont'd.)
Cases filed, determined and pending in 2011, individual district courts

District court	FT cases	Joint petitions	Other family cases	Other civil cases	Criminal cases	Property cases	Environmental cases	Cases relating to the Planning and Building Act
Jönköpings								
Filed	343	443	313	347	1 714	-	-	-
Determined	354	431	319	357	1 789	7	-	-
Pending	63	182	178	138	437	-	-	-
Kalmar								
Filed	483	389	268	367	1 759	2	-	-
Determined	472	404	238	364	1 849	16	-	-
Pending	142	166	189	249	639	-	-	-
Kristianstads								
Filed	228	207	175	214	1 175	-	-	-
Determined	215	202	187	215	1 138	-	-	-
Pending	60	83	117	130	333	-	-	-
Linköpings								
Filed	365	486	353	385	2 081	4	-	-
Determined	387	503	315	345	2 063	15	-	-
Pending	94	193	207	197	605	-	-	-
Luleå								
Filed	296	291	203	188	1 366	5	-	-
Determined	288	283	219	213	1 489	34	-	-
Pending	87	149	115	107	377	-	-	-
Lunds								
Filed	641	683	423	717	2 582	-	-	-
Determined	650	654	482	664	2 763	-	-	-
Pending	136	285	290	380	802	-	-	-
Lycksele								
Filed	109	40	65	52	238	-	-	-
Determined	106	51	68	55	255	-	-	-
Pending	12	11	22	9	38	-	-	-
Malmö								
Filed	1 101	1 002	874	1 313	4 907	11	-	-
Determined	1 079	941	839	1 371	4 768	70	-	-
Pending	284	440	674	703	2 021	-	-	-
Mora								
Filed	175	128	77	167	610	-	-	-
Determined	149	148	79	136	538	-	-	-
Pending	59	42	60	155	320	-	-	-
Nacka								
Filed	391	434	265	548	1 392	397	634	541
Determined	360	433	273	599	1 407	386	576	283
Pending	125	190	177	249	446	263	470	258
Norrköpings								
Filed	313	391	238	357	1 489	-	-	-
Determined	302	388	215	312	1 570	-	-	-
Pending	88	183	147	166	444	-	-	-
Norrälje								
Filed	170	115	87	165	515	-	-	-
Determined	191	131	94	175	587	-	-	-
Pending	28	39	43	72	127	-	-	-
Nyköpings								
Filed	285	369	234	306	1 632	1	-	-
Determined	288	387	246	308	1 635	11	-	-
Pending	50	144	110	90	349	-	-	-
Skaraborgs								
Filed	524	470	315	381	1 941	4	-	-
Determined	517	478	338	369	1 998	12	-	-
Pending	129	190	206	229	620	-	-	-
Skellefteå								
Filed	132	146	124	71	591	-	-	-
Determined	111	155	112	69	599	-	-	-
Pending	47	50	81	42	165	-	-	-
Solna								
Filed	914	1 141	1 189	1 299	4 058	-	-	-
Determined	985	1 154	1 216	1 309	4 153	-	-	-
Pending	272	426	798	850	1 530	-	-	-

Table 1.2 (Cont'd.)
Cases filed, determined and pending in 2011, individual district courts

District court	FT cases	Joint petitions	Other family cases	Other civil cases	Criminal cases	Property cases	Environmental cases	Cases relating to the Planning and Building Act
Stockholms								
Filed	1 428	1 009	631	3 156	6 606	-	-	-
Determined	1 446	1 009	636	3 402	6 620	-	-	-
Pending	373	242	350	2 866	2 351	-	-	-
Sundsvalls								
Filed	287	281	176	209	1 368	-	-	-
Determined	285	275	180	213	1 434	-	-	-
Pending	108	127	109	127	477	-	-	-
Södertälje								
Filed	319	290	231	328	1 435	-	-	-
Determined	282	329	186	337	1 386	-	-	-
Pending	97	96	168	159	529	-	-	-
Södertörns								
Filed	1 501	1 815	1 544	1 854	6 956	-	-	-
Determined	1 495	1 807	1 545	1 809	7 045	-	-	-
Pending	303	653	934	749	2 136	-	-	-
Uddevalla								
Filed	380	344	212	378	1 277	-	-	-
Determined	409	361	223	385	1 228	-	-	-
Pending	85	143	136	182	436	-	-	-
Umeå								
Filed	243	234	212	186	1 276	94	159	61
Determined	220	249	166	186	1 268	73	169	38
Pending	99	92	147	102	521	58	147	23
Uppsala								
Filed	627	749	472	661	3 590	5	-	-
Determined	663	771	507	664	3 608	15	-	-
Pending	118	329	307	316	1 307	-	-	-
Varbergs								
Filed	348	337	172	342	1 092	-	-	-
Determined	327	304	187	362	1 117	-	-	-
Pending	100	162	128	228	534	-	-	-
Vänersborgs								
Filed	270	351	261	256	1 193	176	580	356
Determined	290	351	234	272	1 124	159	550	174
Pending	101	151	164	131	431	234	363	182
Värmlands								
Filed	531	581	321	444	2 301	2	-	-
Determined	602	637	328	444	2 407	6	-	-
Pending	107	203	224	248	757	-	-	-
Västmanlands								
Filed	521	653	469	583	2 571	2	-	-
Determined	530	648	500	636	2 595	7	-	-
Pending	209	291	356	337	848	-	-	-
Växjö								
Filed	355	373	297	288	1 327	178	677	385
Determined	405	352	260	271	1 313	88	585	214
Pending	81	160	244	255	517	142	583	171
Ystads								
Filed	494	357	217	395	1 267	-	-	-
Determined	497	354	208	433	1 344	-	-	-
Pending	105	133	144	227	418	-	-	-
Ångermanlands								
Filed	251	193	145	178	1 060	8	-	-
Determined	263	202	142	187	1 005	22	-	-
Pending	72	74	103	131	368	-	-	-
Örebro								
Filed	570	616	434	524	3 018	-	-	-
Determined	552	675	439	485	3 008	15	-	-
Pending	160	257	292	328	1 244	-	-	-
Östersunds								
Filed	291	219	153	213	1 279	124	154	71
Determined	291	221	168	243	1 292	95	166	15
Pending	65	87	81	123	379	82	115	56

Table 1.3
District courts
Bankruptcies and court matters 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bankruptcy applications					
Filed	10 655	9 675	11 609	11 451	12 795
Bankruptcies					
Concluded ¹	6 995	6 558	6 544	7 241	7 820
Court matters					
Filed	58 872	59 909	68 976	71 885	63 968
Determined	58 227	59 822	67 994	71 631	66 482
Pending	13 758	13 555	14 358	14 327	11 618

¹Bankruptcies concluded due to dismissal or rescission of a bankruptcy judgment or a decision that results in a composition arrangement.

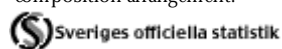


Table 1.4
District courts
Civil cases determined according to family law 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Joint petitions for divorce of which dismissed	19 766 1 981	20 641 1 979	21 508 1 955	22 348 2 044	21 753 2 155
Divorce petitions of which dismissed	6 487 1 395	6 985 1 426	7 415 1 433	8 209 1 698	8 816 1 746
Paternity cases of which dismissed	548 85	621 98	655 80	786 74	1 045 106
Petitions for custody of children of which dismissed	3 157 695	3 660 766	3 839 736	4 126 798	4 586 870

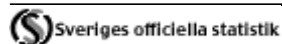


Table 1.5
District courts
Civil cases¹ 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Percentage of cases determined following a hearing (%)	36	36	34	34	35
Percentage of cases determined on a collegial basis (%)	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Percentage of cases determined by judges and lay judges (%)	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.5
Percentage of cases where the hearing time exceeds six hours (%)	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.8
Percentage of cases where the hearing time exceeds twelve hours (%)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Average hearing time in cases determined after a hearing (hours per case)	2.08	2.17	2.15	2.19	2.18
Average hearing time for all cases (hours per case)	0.75	0.78	0.73	0.74	0.75
Percentage of cases determined through a judgment (%)	41.0	40.5	40.2	40.4	42
Percentage of cases determined by default (%)	13.9	15.9	17.8	19.6	19.5
Percentage of cases determined through dismissal (%)	37.2	34.8	32.8	32.4	31.1
Percentage of cases determined in a different manner (%)	7.9	8.8	9.2	7.6	7.4

¹ Excluding joint petitions for divorce and child custody.

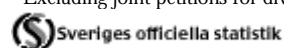


Table 1.6
District courts
Criminal cases 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Percentage of cases determined by judges and lay judges (%)	..	77.0	62.9	58.9	58.7
Percentage of cases with more than one defendant that were determined through a judgment (%)	..	8.8	8.4	8.5	8.4
Average number of defendants in cases determined through a judgment	..	1.14	1.13	1.13	1.13
Percentage of cases with a remand hearing (%)	..	10.2	9.4	8.9	8.8
Percentage of cases where the hearing time exceeds six hours (%)	..	5.3	6.0	6.4	6.3
Percentage of cases where the hearing time exceeds twelve hours (%)	..	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8
Average time in cases decided following a hearing (hours per case)	..	1.59	1.82	1.92	1.93
Average hearing time for all cases (hours per case)	..	1.32	1.21	1.20	1.19
Percentage of cases determined through a judgment (%)	..	79.5	79.2	78.4	76.5
Percentage of cases determined through dismissal (%)	..	11.4	12.3	13.4	15.0
Percentage of cases determined in a different manner (%)	..	9.1	8.5	8.2	8.5

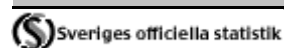


Table 1.7
Courts of appeal
Cases filed, determined and pending 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cases filed¹					
Criminal cases	8 387	9 028	9 079	9 374	9 527
Civil cases	2 504	2 734	2 796	2 951	2 863
Other cases	10 818	11 200	10 659	11 147	11 033
Environmental cases	513	597	631	662	654
Property cases	70	95	100	95	172
Cases relating to the Planning and Building Act	-	-	-	-	243
Total	22 292	23 654	23 265	24 229	24 492
Cases determined¹					
Criminal cases	8 395	9 298	9 226	9 451	9 404
Civil cases	2 495	2 801	3 287	2 950	2 833
Other cases	10 706	11 423	10 839	11 024	11 256
Environmental cases	520	553	606	782	680
Property cases	73	81	102	99	131
Cases relating to the Planning and Building Act	-	-	-	-	161
Total	22 189	24 156	24 060	24 306	24 465
Cases pending¹					
Criminal cases	3 586	3 316	3 169	3 092	3 215
Civil cases	1 458	1 391	900	901	931
Other cases	1 660	1 437	1 257	1 380	1 156
Environmental cases	245	289	314	194	168
Property cases	30	44	42	38	79
Cases relating to the Planning and Building Act	-	-	-	-	82
Total	6 979	6 477	5 682	5 605	5 631

¹The statistics are revised for the period 2007-2010.

Table 1.8
Cases filed, determined and pending in 2011, individual courts of appeal

Court of appeal	Criminal cases	Civil cases	Other cases	Environmental cases	Property cases	Cases relating to the Planning and Building Act	Total
Svea Court of Appeal							
Cases filed	3 694	1 149	4 957	654	172	243	10 869
Cases determined	3 756	1 162	5 201	680	131	161	11 091
Cases pending	1 314	374	457	168	79	82	2 474
Göta Court of Appeal							
Cases filed	1 492	403	1 547	-	-	-	3 442
Cases determined	1 464	381	1 521	-	-	-	3 366
Cases pending	371	123	139	-	-	-	633
Court of Appeal for Skåne and Blekinge							
Cases filed	1 498	458	1 705	-	-	-	3 661
Cases determined	1 477	491	1 703	-	-	-	3 671
Cases pending	555	147	207	-	-	-	909
Court of Appeal for Western Sweden							
Cases filed	1 798	573	1 773	-	-	-	4 144
Cases determined	1 726	532	1 799	-	-	-	4 057
Cases pending	635	187	175	-	-	-	997
Court of Appeal for Lower Norrland							
Cases filed	582	145	581	-	-	-	1 308
Cases determined	529	142	569	-	-	-	1 240
Cases pending	179	42	94	-	-	-	315
Court of Appeal for Upper Norrland							
Cases filed	463	135	470	-	-	-	1 068
Cases determined	452	125	463	-	-	-	1 040
Cases pending	161	58	84	-	-	-	303


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Table 1.9
Courts of appeal
Cases determined 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Criminal cases					
Percentage of cases determined by judges and lay judges (%)	65.1	63.0	62.6	64.9	66.1
Percentage of cases determined following a main hearing (%)	64.0	62.2	62.0	64.3	65.5
Average hearing time in cases determined following a hearing (hours per case)	3.53	3.60	3.80	3.75	3.77
Civil cases					
Percentage of cases determined by judges and lay judges (%)	12.7	12.3	5.9	3.2	3.9
Percentage of cases determined following a main hearing (%)	31.6	31.5	18.6	11.8	11.0
Average hearing time in cases determined following a hearing (hours per case)	4.54	4.39	5.24	6.21	6.48
Environmental cases					
Percentage of cases decided following a main hearing (%)	6.9	6.5	5.6	3.6	2.2
Property cases					
Percentage of cases determined following a main hearing (%)	-	-	2.9	2	0.8


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Table 1.10
Courts of appeal
Frequency of amendment in civil and criminal cases 2011

	Number of determined cases	of which amended	
		number	percentage
Criminal cases	9 415	3 483	37.0%
Civil cases	2 833	556	19.6%
Judgment in criminal cases appealed to the court of appeal by the			
Defendant	6 716	2 020	30.1%
Public prosecutor	724	453	62.6%
Public prosecutor and defendant	1 104	584	52.9%
Other	871	426	49.3%
Total	9 415	3 483	37.0%


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Table 1.11
The Supreme Court
Cases filed, determined and pending 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Filed	5 010	5 420	6 024	6 010	6 004
Determined	5 041	5 221	5 923	6 107	5 706
Cases in which leave to appeal is granted	172	138	142	133	128
Cases in which leave to appeal is not granted	4 105	4 276	4 757	5 221	4 680
Cases not requiring leave to appeal	764	807	1 024	753	898
Pending at the end of the year	1 120	1 318	1 418	1 318	1 614



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Table 1.12
The Supreme Court
Cases determined 2011

	Criminal cases	Civil Cases	Other cases	Total
Cases in which leave to appeal is granted	24	21	84	129
Cases in which leave to appeal is not granted	1 521	208	2 950	4 679
Cases not requiring leave to appeal	132	21	745	898
Total	1 677	250	3 779	5 706

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2. Cases at the general administrative courts

The work of the general administrative courts

The administrative courts handle cases relating to disputes between individuals and public authorities and are arranged under a three-tier system. The first court tier is the administrative court, the second is the administrative court of appeal, and the third and highest is the Supreme Administrative Court. There are twelve administrative courts and four administrative courts of appeal. On 15 February 2010, the former 23 County Administrative Courts were reorganized to 12 Administrative Courts. At the administrative courts in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö, there are migration courts that hear alien and citizenship cases as the court of first instance, whilst the Migration Court of Appeal is attached to the Administrative Court of Appeal in Stockholm and is the highest instance for such cases.

The administrative courts

The administrative courts hear appeals against decisions by an administrative authority or decisions submitted to it by such an authority. They are staffed by judges, law clerks, officials who present the cases and administrative staff. At these courts, lay judges often take part in the judicial process.

Tax cases are among the case categories handled by administrative courts following referral when a decision by the tax authorities is appealed. The decisions in question could refer to income assessment or value-added tax.

Certain decisions by a municipal social welfare committee, such as decisions regarding income support, can be appealed to an administrative court. These are shown under the heading 'Cases involving the Social Services Act'.

Social insurance cases involve appeals against decisions by the Social Insurance Agency on matters such as the right to compensation for occupational injuries, sickness benefit, parental payments or car subsidies for the disabled.

In cases that fall under the Care of Young Persons Act (LVU), the court examines whether children or young persons up to eighteen years of age, in certain cases twenty, can be made subject to a compulsory care and protection order outside their parental home.

In cases covered by Compulsory Care for Substance Abusers Act (LVM), the court must decide, following an application from the social welfare committee, whether such individuals should receive medical treatment for their abuse even if they withhold consent.

The administrative courts also examine issues relating to compulsory psychiatric care and in other psychiatric care cases. The court must decide whether a person is in need of such care, whether a term of compulsory psychiatric care should be extended or whether forensic psychiatric care should be terminated. In such cases the senior consultant involved makes an application to the administrative court, which can also examine various issues following an appeal by the patient.

This could, for example, involve deciding whether compulsory care should be stopped or whether a patient should be allowed a period of leave outside the treatment unit.

Administrative courts also handle cases relating to public procurement (LOU).

Migration cases involve appeals against decisions mainly made by the Migration Board and could relate to asylum, e.g. a residence permit for a refugee, or Swedish citizenship.

Other cases at the administrative court may relate to the Animal Welfare Act, licences to serve alcoholic beverages and testing the legality of the Local Government Act. Since Sweden joined the EU, cases involving EU legislation also arise. Mention can be made, for example, of cases relating to certain agricultural subsidies.

Case determination at the administrative courts

In accordance with the general rule at an administrative court, a legally trained judge and three lay judges adjudicate. In certain matters falling under the Local Government Act two special members participate, whilst in property assessment cases a member who has valuation skills may take part. A large number of cases are also determined by a single judge.

As a rule, proceedings are in writing although they may include an oral hearing if it can be assumed to be of benefit to the enquiry or could expedite a decision in the case. If an individual party who is presenting the case requests an oral hearing, this should be granted unless it is deemed unnecessary. In certain cases, e.g., the provision of care for young people or substance abusers, an oral hearing takes place unless it is clearly unnecessary. If, in such cases, an individual party requests such a hearing it should always be granted.

If the plaintiffs are dissatisfied they can lodge an appeal with an administrative court of appeal.

The administrative courts of appeal

The administrative courts of appeal examine cases appealed from the administrative courts.

Many cases require the administrative court of appeal to grant leave to appeal for the appeal to be heard. It may be granted only if it is of importance in guiding the application of the law (precedent) or if there are pressing reasons to hear an appeal (extraordinary leave). Regarding alien and citizenship cases certain rules are applied.

The administrative court of appeal is the first instance in what are termed secrecy cases, which relate to the right to view the contents of a public document.

Case determination at the administrative courts of appeal

In accordance with the general rule three legally trained judges adjudicate at the administrative court of appeal. In certain cases they are joined by two lay judges

or special members. The question of leave to appeal is decided by two legally trained judges if their decision is unanimous, or by three if it is not.

As a rule, proceedings are in writing. An oral hearing may be included in the proceedings if it can be assumed to be of benefit to the inquiry or if it could expedite the hearing of the case. If an individual party to the case requests an oral hearing, this should be granted unless it is deemed unnecessary. In certain cases, e.g. the provision of care for young people or substance abusers, an oral hearing is held unless it is clearly unnecessary. If, in such cases, an individual party requests such a hearing it should always be granted.

The Supreme Administrative Court

This is the highest general administrative court and examines cases appealed from one of the four administrative courts of appeal. It also examines appeals from the Council for Advance Tax Rulings and the Patent Appeals Board. The majority of appeals at this level require leave to appeal, which is granted only if it could be of importance as a precedent, i.e. provides guidance on how other similar cases are to be determined, or if there are pressing reasons to do so. Only a small percentage of the cases referred to the Supreme Administrative Court of Appeal are granted leave to appeal. The Chancellor of Justice (JK) and the Parliamentary Ombudsman (JO) do not require this in cases of a disciplinary offence or revocation or restriction of the right to work as a doctor or other medical professional within the healthcare system. Nor does the Chancellor of Justice in cases concerning permits for CCTV cameras, etc.

The members of this court are called justices and when the facts of a case are to be examined five justices usually take part. The case may also be determined by the court in a full plenary session. Questions regarding leave to appeal may be decided by one justice although no more than three may take part in deciding such issues.

Proceedings are as a rule in writing and an oral hearing may be included if it can be assumed to be of benefit to the inquiry or if it could expedite the hearing of the case.

Table 2.1
Administrative courts
Cases filed, determined and pending 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cases filed²					
Tax cases	15 549	16 389	13 998	13 082	12 709
Congestion charge cases	70	129	653	555	296
Social insurance cases	22 791	14 462	16 532	22 378	20 012
Cases relating to the Social Services Act	21 467	21 633	23 963	24 137	23 272
Psychiatric care cases	13 475	13 635	13 597	13 332	13 296
LVU cases	3 005	3 216	3 180	3 347	3 593
LVM cases	1 215	1 186	1 185	1 274	1 151
LOU cases	1 129	1 428	2 082	3 571	2 719
Quantitative cases ¹	9 860	9 446	10 822	7 366	8 656
Migration cases	15 924	22 729	22 495	23 573	25 353
Other cases	14 803	15 370	16 949	18 497	17 629
Total	119 288	119 623	125 456	131 112	128 686
Cases determined²					
Tax cases	17 030	18 455	15 095	13 928	12 305
Congestion charge cases	68	153	592	407	409
Social insurance cases	23 455	21 888	14 040	14 612	24 094
Cases relating to the Social Services Act	21 216	22 109	22 245	22 970	24 309
Psychiatric care cases	13 440	13 649	13 551	13 309	13 267
LVU cases	2 983	3 258	3 109	3 305	3 590
LVM cases	1 214	1 196	1 166	1 280	1 164
LOU cases	1 123	1 360	1 990	3 154	2 959
Quantitative cases ¹	11 037	9 925	10 040	6 850	9 201
Migration cases	13 756	19 276	22 870	23 824	26 658
Other cases	14 849	16 038	15 186	15 358	19 001
Total	120 171	127 307	119 884	118 997	136 957
Cases pending²					
Tax cases	11 654	9 588	8 491	7 642	8 082
Congestion charge cases	38	14	75	223	109
Social insurance cases	16 019	8 593	11 085	18 857	14 772
Cases relating to the Social Services Act	5 628	5 152	6 870	8 010	6 960
Psychiatric care cases	286	272	318	306	321
LVU cases	443	401	472	513	511
LVM cases	53	43	62	53	39
LOU cases	144	212	304	722	480
Quantitative cases ¹	1 820	1 341	2 123	2 623	2 078
Migration cases	5 994	9 478	9 202	9 022	7 819
Other cases	6 304	5 636	7 399	10 557	9 218
Total	48 383	40 730	46 401	58 528	50 389

¹ Quantitative cases: real estate assessment, national registration, correctional treatment, driving licence and study allowances.

² The statistics are revised for the period 2007-2008.

Table 2.2
Cases filed, determined and pending in 2011, administrative courts

Administrative courts	Tax cases	Congesti on charge cases	Social insurance cases	Cases relating to the Social Services Act	Psychiatric care cases	LVU cases	LVM cases	LOU cases	Quantitative cases ¹	Migration cases	Other cases
Falun											
Filed	858	-	1 010	1 044	857	230	81	298	432	-	808
Determined	788	-	823	1 058	855	236	86	358	491	-	833
Pending	859	-	1 423	259	17	32	3	26	115	-	602
Gothenburg											
Filed	1 810	-	5 830	3 422	1 777	585	247	331	1 094	8 381	1 819
Determined	2 280	-	6 754	3 494	1 792	583	250	301	1 307	8 679	2 105
Pending	924	-	1 791	583	36	72	10	92	206	1 756	624
Härnösand											
Filed	307	-	564	694	809	124	53	88	515	-	909
Determined	299	-	657	752	797	136	53	81	500	-	887
Pending	202	-	473	337	19	12	2	17	144	-	523
Jönköping											
Filed	532	1	1 127	1 355	837	275	65	120	590	-	1 657
Determined	631	-	1 400	1 321	844	276	65	119	627	-	1 828
Pending	337	1	772	368	19	40	1	27	97	-	649
Karlstad											
Filed	482	-	837	1 293	563	290	44	118	549	-	1 952
Determined	525	1	1 750	2 206	547	286	44	123	661	-	1 665
Pending	354	-	642	338	24	58	2	16	128	-	1 296
Linköping											
Filed	1 150	-	1 050	1 889	1 750	278	100	210	765	77	1 167
Determined	938	-	961	1 785	1 764	270	106	196	643	77	1 049
Pending	641	-	982	414	22	42	1	32	219	-	795
Luleå											
Filed	381	-	522	340	479	103	25	65	252	-	554
Determined	416	-	636	333	482	102	24	66	216	-	449
Pending	166	-	315	52	5	13	1	6	63	-	204
Malmö											
Filed	1 714	-	2 202	3 435	1 442	451	142	298	1 082	5 388	1 615
Determined	1 498	-	2 261	3 371	1 428	442	138	296	1 088	4 829	1 792
Pending	949	-	2 020	809	51	79	9	46	163	1 767	583
Stockholm											
Filed	3 868	295	4 559	6 789	2 113	638	191	700	1 960	11 584	5 045
Determined	3 851	408	5 966	7 345	2 091	631	194	954	2 239	13 150	6 417
Pending	2 355	108	4 480	2 333	66	75	6	110	441	4 296	2 706
Umeå											
Filed	139	-	581	301	487	128	58	55	256	-	475
Determined	147	-	740	293	490	126	59	57	254	-	337
Pending	95	-	346	184	7	12	0	15	90	-	338
Uppsala											
Filed	1 149	-	951	1 781	1 384	263	95	170	795	-	826
Determined	523	-	905	1 374	1 378	273	97	173	780	-	683
Pending	1 067	-	1 176	1 079	30	36	2	26	360	-	734
Växjö											
Filed	319	-	779	929	798	228	50	266	366	-	725
Determined	409	-	1 241	977	799	229	48	235	395	-	879
Pending	133	-	352	204	25	40	2	67	52	-	164

¹ Quantitative cases: real estate assessment, national registration, correctional treatment, driving licence and study allowances.

Table 2.3
Administrative courts
Cases determined 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Percentage of cases determined following an oral hearing (%)	14.7	15.7	17.3	16.0	13.9
Percentage of cases determined by a single judge (%)	47.7	46.6	49.5	53.4	54.1
Percentage of cases determined by a judge and lay judges (%)	51.9	52.7	49.9	45.9	45.4
Percentage of cases determined with a different composition (%)	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5
Percentage of cases determined through a judgment (%)	89.7	89.6	88.5	87.7	88.1
Percentage of cases determined following a decision (%)	10.3	10.4	11.5	12.4	11.9


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Table 2.4
Administrative courts of appeal
Cases filed, determined and pending in 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cases filed²					
Tax cases	6 169	6 978	6 512	5 441	4 819
Congestion charge cases	29	18	107	55	45
Social insurance cases	6 388	6 487	4 702	3 978	7 414
Cases relating to the Social Services Act	2 196	2 340	2 139	1 935	2 136
Psychiatric care cases	1 113	1 058	1 064	1 166	1 169
LVU cases	758	884	901	956	1 152
LVM cases	222	185	192	220	207
LOU cases	334	371	410	586	755
Quantitative cases ¹	1 795	1 743	1 696	1 030	1 360
Migration cases	4 824	8 590	11 058	10 786	11 142
Other cases	5 603	6 130	5 738	5 655	6 584
Total	29 431	34 784	34 519	31 808	36 783
Cases determined²					
Tax cases	6 953	7 170	6 756	6 812	5 367
Congestion charge cases	67	23	69	80	55
Social insurance cases	6 231	6 800	5 631	4 243	5 086
Cases relating to the Social Services Act	2 107	2 275	2 264	2 072	2 046
Psychiatric care cases	1 104	1 055	1 047	1 190	1 157
LVU cases	775	843	893	943	1 136
LVM cases	225	191	182	222	214
LOU cases	330	360	409	544	717
Quantitative cases ¹	1 834	1 819	1 663	1 175	1 277
Migration cases	4 396	8 258	10 841	10 911	11 023
Other cases	5 473	6 254	5 835	6 101	6 427
Total	29 495	35 048	35 590	34 293	34 505
Cases pending²					
Tax cases	5 877	5 685	5 441	4 075	3 560
Congestion charge cases	7	2	40	15	5
Social insurance cases	3 185	2 872	1 943	1 677	4 008
Cases relating to the Social Services Act	580	645	520	379	470
Psychiatric care cases	118	121	138	113	125
LVU cases	120	161	169	182	198
LVM cases	30	24	34	32	25
LOU cases	34	45	46	88	127
Quantitative cases ¹	400	324	357	212	296
Migration cases	968	1 304	1 553	1 437	1 558
Other cases	2 343	2 219	2 122	1 700	1 939
Total	13 662	13 402	12 363	9 910	12 311

¹ Quantitative cases: real estate assessment, national registration, correctional treatment, driving licence and study allowances.

² The statistics are revised for the period 2007-2008.

Table 2.5
Cases filed, determined and pending in 2011, individual administrative courts of appeal

Administrative court of appeal	Tax cases	Congestion charge cases	Social insurance cases	Cases relating to the Social Services Act	Psychiatric care cases	LVU cases	LVM cases	LOU cases	Quantitative cases ¹	Migration cases	Other cases
Stockholm											
Filed	1 736	45	1 671	733	392	308	56	273	429	11 142	2 127
Determined	2 636	55	1 356	717	387	311	58	292	389	11 023	2 060
Pending	1 448	5	668	149	32	48	8	22	92	1 558	577
Gothenburg											
Filed	1 860	-	3 784	757	310	396	80	183	414	36	2 291
Determined	1 749	-	1 893	699	299	392	83	182	409	36	2 319
Pending	1 326	-	2 591	190	53	76	9	36	96	-	650
Sundsvall											
Filed	576	-	873	246	232	211	39	139	211	-	885
Determined	379	-	822	229	234	198	35	95	197	-	819
Pending	497	-	377	53	18	39	5	46	51	-	347
Jönköping											
Filed	647	-	1 086	400	235	237	32	160	306	-	1 245
Determined	603	-	1 015	401	237	235	38	148	282	-	1 193
Pending	289	-	372	78	22	35	3	23	57	-	365

¹ Quantitative cases: real estate assessment, national registration, correctional treatment, driving licence and study allowances.

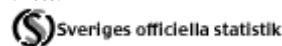


Table 2.6
Cases determined in the Administrative¹ Courts of Appeal 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Determined	25 093	26 794	24 749	23 382	23 448
Cases where leave to appeal is granted	3 003	3 013	3 095	2 995	2 756
Cases where leave to appeal is not granted	11 354	12 581	11 121	9 310	10 486
Cases not requiring leave to appeal	10 736	11 200	10 533	11 076	10 206

¹ Excluding migration cases

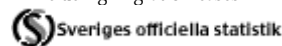


Table 2.7
The Supreme Administrative Court
Cases filed, determined and pending 2007-2011


	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cases filed²					
Tax cases	2 059	2 267	2 447	2 185	2 265
Congestion charge cases	19	7	14	26	23
Social insurance cases	2 053	2 261	1 925	1 482	1 671
Cases relating to the Social Services Act	483	586	490	464	543
Psychiatric care cases	123	125	136	195	161
LVU cases	146	169	180	217	269
LVM cases	17	11	15	17	7
LOU cases	100	123	124	108	257
Quantitative cases ¹	480	460	434	331	377
Other cases	2 394	2 680	2 498	2 694	2 497
Total	7 874	8 689	8 263	7 719	8 070
Cases determined²					
Tax cases	2 807	2 874	2 610	2 361	2 466
Congestion charge cases	29	7	15	24	20
Social insurance cases	2 305	2 693	2 694	1 603	1 498
Cases relating to the Social Services Act	621	561	744	429	498
Psychiatric care cases	122	125	144	195	153
LVU cases	149	152	209	206	243
LVM cases	18	10	16	15	9
LOU cases	98	128	129	107	234
Quantitative cases ¹	585	532	473	389	324
Other cases	2 467	3 272	3 076	2 984	2 613
Total	9 201	10 354	10 110	8 313	8 058
Cases pending²					
Tax cases	1 828	1 221	1 058	861	657
Congestion charge cases	2	2	1	3	6
Social insurance cases	1 870	1 438	669	542	712
Cases relating to the Social Services Act	280	305	51	86	130
Psychiatric care cases	22	22	14	14	22
LVU cases	30	47	18	29	55
LVM cases	-	1	-	2	-
LOU cases	19	14	9	10	33
Quantitative cases ¹	204	132	93	36	89
Other cases	2 300	1 708	1 130	859	736
Total	6 555	4 890	3 043	2 442	2 440

¹ Quantitative cases: real estate assessment, national registration, correctional treatment, driving licence and study allowances.

² The statistics are revised for the period 2007-2008.

Table 2.8
The Supreme Administrative Court
Cases determined in the Supreme Administrative Court 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Determined	9 188	10 313	10 110	8 313	8 058
Cases where leave to appeal is granted	181	162	206	196	139
Cases where leave to appeal is not granted	8 325	9 250	9 154	7 381	7 204
Cases not requiring leave to appeal	682	901	750	736	715

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3. Matters dealt with at the Rent and Tenancy Tribunals

The work of the Rent and Tenancy Tribunals

Rent Tribunals can mediate in disputes between landlords and tenants or between tenant associations and tenants if the parties themselves cannot reach agreement. Rent tribunals also examine certain rent and tenant issues and pronounce a decision that is binding on the parties. Rent tribunals also deal with matters that involve special administration of residential properties. The purchaser of a rental property may in certain cases require the consent of the tribunal to validate the purchase.

A rent tribunal normally consists of three members during a procedure. The tribunal is chaired by a rent tribunal judge whilst the other members represent different interest groups, of whom one is well versed in property management and the other in the situation of the tenants.

A tenancy tribunal has similar duties to a rent tribunal when it comes to applying legislation relating to leases. Its composition is also similar to that of the rent tribunal except that the members represent the interests of landowners and tenants.

Most of the decisions of a rent tribunal can be appealed to Svea Court of Appeal whilst certain leasehold matters can be appealed to the court of appeal within whose jurisdiction the leased property is located.

There are eight rent and tenancy tribunals.

Table 3.1
Rent tribunals and tenancy tribunals
Matters filed, determined and pending 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Rent tribunals					
Filed	25 696	27 470	27 616	27 191	27 117
Determined	24 787	27 585	27 849	26 938	26 623
Pending at the year-end	6 769	6 431	6 111	6 259	6 626
Tenancy tribunals					
Filed	1 899	2 464	1 896	2 302	2 055
Determined	1 415	2 472	1 945	2 178	1 898
Pending at the year-end	1392	1 378	1 326	1 446	1 598



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Table 3.2
Rent tribunals and tenancy tribunals
Matters determined according to category 2007-2011

	Year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Rent tribunals					
Mediation or arbitration in tenancy disputes	649	754	704	754	749
Unprotected tenancies	13 442	13 928	14 909	13 982	13 969
Extension of tenancy agreements	2 284	2 453	2 288	2 374	2 343
Court order to perform work, extension of time for work	404	421	479	559	507
Amendment of tenancy terms	601	695	608	530	536
Mediation regarding security of tenure in non-residential property	3 237	3 626	3 727	3 571	3 815
Matters governed by the Rent Negotiation Act	431	522	438	438	381
Other matters	2 370	2 733	2 768	2 565	2 444
Total	23 418	25 132	25 921	24 773	24 744
Tenancy tribunals					
Agricultural leases	194	220	211	158	163
Residential leases	701	1361	1 016	1 194	1 018
Other matters	520	891	718	826	717
Total	1 415	2 472	1 945	2 178	1 898

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