

## Update on National Insolvency Statistics from Croatia

**Jelenko Lehki (LEHKI LAW OFFICE and INSOL Europe Country Coordinator) has summarised recent statistics in Croatia with a look back to 2024.**



The year 2024 could be described as a year of consolidation and efficiency for Croatia's insolvency system. Following several years of fluctuation influenced by pandemic measures and a judicial strike in 2023, the courts have now achieved a higher pace in handling bankruptcy proceedings.

Commercial courts opened 6,948 new insolvency cases in 2024, compared to 6,592 in 2023, representing a 5.4% increase. Even more notably, 7,586 cases were resolved, compared to 7,061 the previous year. This improvement raised the clearance rate to 109.18%, meaning that for every 100 new cases filed, more than 109 were closed. It is a clear indicator that the courts are continuing to reduce backlogs in respect to these cases.

Number of pending bankruptcy cases fell from 5,141 at the end of 2023 to 4,504 by the end of 2024 which is a 12% reduction. The average case duration improved significantly, dropping from 266 days to 217 days on average. These figures demonstrate not only the efficiency gains achieved within the judiciary give more confidence for creditors and debtors alike.

This trend unfolded alongside a relatively stable economic environment in Croatia. The country experienced moderate GDP growth, a gradual easing of inflation, and steady employment levels. All of this contributed to financial stability among businesses and households. The modest rise in insolvency filings could be considered a normal business dynamics rather than systemic distress. After years of government support and extraordinary economic measures, the data suggest that insolvency activity is once again tracking the real economy—signaling healthier turnover and more timely restructuring of non-viable enterprises rather than an increase in economic hardship.

A brief look back at 2023 helps frame these results. That year saw a temporary slowdown due to the court strike between March and July, which limited procedural progress and likely discouraged new filings. With the full resumption of regular operations in 2024, the system responded strongly, clearing accumulated backlogs and shortening timelines.

In conclusion, 2024 confirmed that Croatia's insolvency framework has regained operational stability. With rising resolution rates, shorter case durations, and reduced pending inventories, the courts are now delivering faster, more predictable outcomes—an encouraging signal for all participants in the insolvency process.

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