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at <http://www.flcourts.org>**

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## REPORT OVERVIEW

Florida's court system is organized in four different tiers, with a two-tier appellate court system and a two-tier trial court system. The appellate court system includes the Supreme Court of Florida and the five District Courts of Appeal. Additionally, the trial court system incorporates both circuit and county courts. This *Statistical Reference Guide* provides statistics pertaining to Florida's circuit and county courts for Fiscal Year 2001-02 (July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002) as of December 2002.

The Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) publishes the *Statistical Reference Guide* annually as a resource for the judicial branch and others who often request information on Florida's trial courts. In Fiscal Year 2001-02, the OSCA's Court Services Division received approximately 300 requests for descriptive and analytical statistics. The majority of the requests deal with filing and disposition data and are received from those outside of the OSCA including: state and local government agencies, circuit court administration, private sector businesses and citizens, clerks of court, and the media.

The information and statistics contained in this report are organized as follows:

Trial Court System Description - The first section of the report provides a map of the State of Florida identifying the location of each of Florida's twenty judicial circuits and sixty-seven counties along with a table providing the population for each circuit and county. Additionally, this section provides an explanation for how the data are collected, maintained, and audited for accuracy.

Overall Statistics - The Overall Statistics section provides a breakdown of the number of circuit and county judgeships for each judicial circuit. Also provided are statewide statistics for total circuit and county court filings and dispositions.

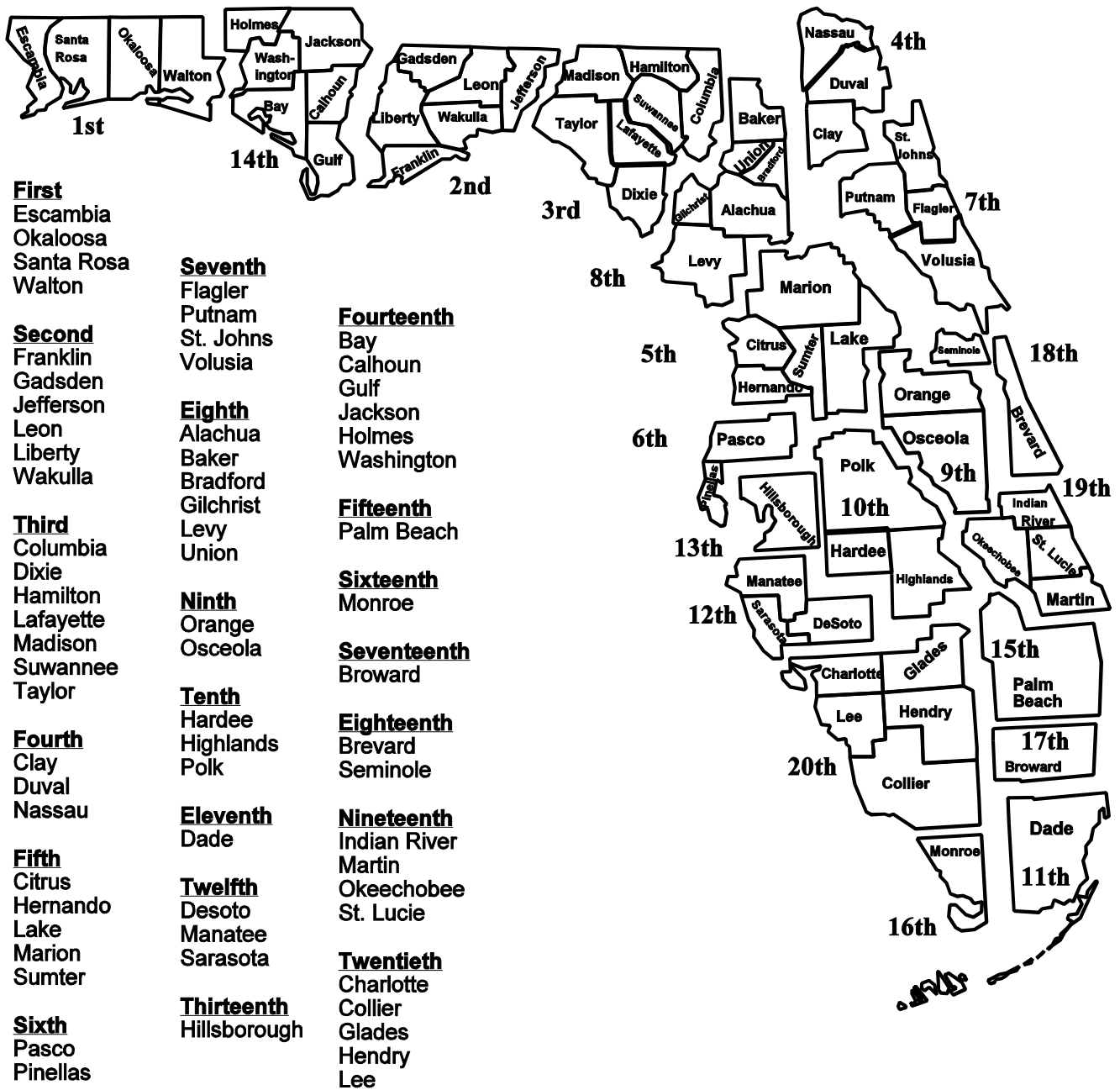
By-Division Statistics - The By-Division portion of the report displays filings, dispositions, and special proceedings data by each division of court (Circuit Criminal, Circuit Civil, Circuit Domestic Relations, Circuit Probate, Circuit Juvenile, County Criminal, and County Civil). Statewide, circuit, and county level data are furnished by various categories and case types that encompass each division.

Additional Information - This section provides contact information for gaining access to further statistics. The web site address is also provided for accessing the on-line version of the *Statistical Reference Guide* and other on-line court statistics.

Glossary - The glossary provides definitions for common terms utilized across every division of the trial courts and those terms specific to each division.

# Trial Court System

## JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MAP OF FLORIDA



**First**

Escambia  
Okaloosa  
Santa Rosa  
Walton

**Second**

Franklin  
Jefferson  
Leon  
Liberty  
Wakulla

**Third**

Columbia  
Dixie  
Hamilton  
Lafayette  
Madison  
Suwannee  
Taylor

**Fourth**

Clay  
Duval  
Nassau

**Fifth**

Citrus  
Hernando  
Lake  
Marion  
Sumter

**Sixth**

Pasco  
Pinellas

**Seventh**

Flagler  
Putnam  
St. Johns  
Volusia

**Eighth**

Alachua  
Baker  
Bradford  
Gilchrist  
Levy  
Union

**Ninth**

Orange  
Osceola

**Tenth**

Hardee  
Highlands  
Polk

**Eleventh**

Dade

**Twelfth**

Desoto  
Manatee  
Sarasota

**Thirteenth**

Hillsborough

**Fourteenth**

Bay  
Calhoun  
Gulf  
Jackson  
Holmes  
Washington

**Fifteenth**

Palm Beach

**Sixteenth**

Monroe

**Seventeenth**

Broward

**Eighteenth**

Brevard  
Seminole

**Nineteenth**

Indian River  
Martin  
Okeechobee  
St. Lucie

**Twentieth**

Charlotte  
Collier  
Glades  
Hendry  
Lee

## *Trial Court System*

<b>FLORIDA POPULATION*</b> <b>by Circuit/County</b>			
Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2001)	Total Population (as of January 2002)	Percentage Change from 2001 to 2002
<b>Circuit 1 (13)</b>	<b>631,364</b>	<b>641,587</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
Escambia	296,075	298,400	0.8%
Okaloosa	172,767	175,494	1.6%
Santa Rosa	120,452	123,940	2.9%
Walton	42,070	43,753	4.0%
<b>Circuit 2 (16)</b>	<b>343,041</b>	<b>347,678</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
Franklin	11,171	10,003	-10.5%
Gadsden	45,197	45,435	0.5%
Jefferson	12,955	13,157	1.6%
Leon	243,018	247,408	1.8%
Liberty	7,103	7,213	1.5%
Wakulla	23,597	24,462	3.7%
<b>Circuit 3 (19)</b>	<b>165,452</b>	<b>167,951</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
Columbia	56,955	57,592	1.1%
Dixie	14,008	14,280	1.9%
Hamilton	13,659	13,932	2.0%
Lafayette	7,076	7,124	0.7%
Madison	18,831	18,964	0.7%
Suwannee	35,490	36,279	2.2%
Taylor	19,433	19,780	1.8%
<b>Circuit 4 (7)</b>	<b>991,902</b>	<b>1,008,658</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
Clay	142,450	144,708	1.6%
Duval	790,431	803,360	1.6%
Nassau	59,021	60,590	2.7%

# Trial Court System

<b>FLORIDA POPULATION*</b> <b>by Circuit/County</b>			
<b>Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2001)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2002)</b>	<b>Percentage Change from 2001 to 2002</b>
<b>Circuit 5 (10)</b>	<b>789,346</b>	<b>810,467</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Citrus	119,886	122,196	1.9%
Hernando	132,286	134,440	1.6%
Lake	217,997	226,314	3.8%
Marion	263,041	268,415	2.0%
Sumter	56,136	59,102	5.3%
<b>Circuit 6 (3)</b>	<b>1,277,859</b>	<b>1,292,008</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
Pasco	350,689	357,541	2.0%
Pinellas	927,170	934,467	0.8%
<b>Circuit 7 (11)</b>	<b>700,418</b>	<b>716,323</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Flagler	52,295	55,107	5.4%
Putnam	70,722	71,134	0.6%
St. Johns	127,388	132,179	3.8%
Volusia	450,013	457,903	1.8%
<b>Circuit 8 (17)</b>	<b>333,596</b>	<b>339,060</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
Alachua	221,867	225,796	1.8%
Baker	22,525	22,794	1.2%
Bradford	26,095	26,211	0.4%
Gilchrist	14,652	14,963	2.1%
Levy	34,964	35,640	1.9%
Union	13,493	13,656	1.2%
<b>Circuit 9 (5)</b>	<b>1,100,725</b>	<b>1,135,880</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
Orange	922,831	951,481	3.1%
Osceola	177,894	184,399	3.7%

<b>FLORIDA POPULATION*</b> <b>by Circuit/County</b>			
<b>Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2001)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2002)</b>	<b>Percentage Change from 2001 to 2002</b>
<b>Circuit 10 (14)</b>	<b>608,209</b>	<b>619,812</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
Hardee	26,942	27,074	0.5%
Highlands	88,026	89,082	1.2%
Polk	493,241	503,656	2.1%
<b>Circuit 11 (1)</b>	<b>2,278,650</b>	<b>2,309,205</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
Dade	2,278,650	2,309,205	1.3%
<b>Circuit 12 (12)</b>	<b>633,942</b>	<b>647,414</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
Desoto	32,619	33,247	1.9%
Manatee	269,152	275,235	2.3%
Sarasota	332,171	338,932	2.0%
<b>Circuit 13 (6)</b>	<b>1,020,470</b>	<b>1,043,838</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Hillsborough	1,020,470	1,043,838	2.3%
<b>Circuit 14 (18)</b>	<b>264,717</b>	<b>268,781</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
Bay	149,740	151,770	1.4%
Calhoun	13,065	13,153	0.7%
Gulf	14,577	15,320	5.1%
Holmes	18,682	18,840	0.8%
Jackson	47,344	47,977	1.3%
Washington	21,309	21,721	1.9%
<b>Circuit 15 (4)</b>	<b>1,149,172</b>	<b>1,172,056</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
Palm Beach	1,149,172	1,172,056	2.0%
<b>Circuit 16 (20)</b>	<b>80,286</b>	<b>81,064</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
Monroe	80,286	81,064	1.0%



## Trial Court System

<b>FLORIDA POPULATION*</b> <b>by Circuit/County</b>			
<b>Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2001)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2002)</b>	<b>Percentage Change from 2001 to 2002</b>
<b>Circuit 17 (2)</b>	<b>1,644,002</b>	<b>1,671,413</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
Broward	1,644,002	1,671,413	1.7%
<b>Circuit 18 (9)</b>	<b>857,883</b>	<b>876,937</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
Brevard	483,033	491,171	1.7%
Seminole	374,850	385,766	2.9%
<b>Circuit 19 (15)</b>	<b>476,425</b>	<b>486,461</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
Indian River	115,112	117,577	2.1%
Martin	128,338	130,590	1.8%
Okeechobee	36,102	36,406	0.8%
St. Lucie	196,873	201,888	2.5%
<b>Circuit 20 (8)</b>	<b>903,643</b>	<b>931,217</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
Charlotte	143,865	146,716	2.0%
Collier	261,314	273,024	4.5%
Glades	10,604	10,709	1.0%
Hendry	36,279	36,673	1.1%
Lee	451,581	464,095	2.8%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>16,251,102</b>	<b>16,567,810</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

\*Source: Office of Economic and Demographic Research, The Florida Legislature.

## TRIAL COURT DATA

Pursuant to section 25.075, Florida Statutes, the *Summary Reporting System* (SRS) was developed to provide the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) with data to assist the Supreme Court of Florida in its management and oversight role of the court system. The data are utilized as a workload measure for judges, although, these data are not intended to measure efficiency of the judiciary, state attorneys or public defenders. Data for the SRS is submitted to the OSCA by the sixty-seven clerks of court monthly via electronic or hard-copy submission. Exceptions to this are county criminal traffic, driving under the influence, and civil traffic infractions data which are obtained from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles on an annual basis.

Upon receipt of the SRS reports from the clerks of court, the OSCA staff review the data for accuracy manually and through the utilization of an automated program designed to detect anomalies with the data. If errors are detected, the county is contacted to assist in correcting the errors. SRS data are then maintained in a dynamic database that is updated on a continual basis. Amendments to previously reported data may be submitted by the clerks up to three years after the original submission deadline. The OSCA also conducts field audits in local clerk of court offices. These audits are conducted to ensure compliance to the SRS reporting guidelines, pertaining to filings and dispositions, as laid out in the *Florida Summary Reporting System Manual* ([www.flcourts.org](http://www.flcourts.org)).

Each fall, a permanent database is created for the previous fiscal year. Data amendments submitted by the clerks of court after the creation of the database are not incorporated into the permanent database (although amendments are still incorporated into the dynamic database). If any data have not been submitted at the time the fiscal year database is generated, an automated program designed to estimate missing data may be utilized. The permanent database is utilized for reporting statistics in the certification of new judgeships and in standardized judicial branch reports regarding performance and accountability, long range program planning, and performance-based budgeting. The data in the permanent file are also utilized in the production of this *Statistical Reference Guide*.

As previously mentioned, the trial courts are comprised of two levels and seven different divisions. The circuit level is comprised of criminal, civil, domestic relations, probate, and juvenile divisions and the county level is comprised of criminal and civil divisions. Within each division are several *categories* of cases. Moreover, within each of the *categories* exist various *case types*. For instance, the Circuit Criminal division includes the *categories*: capital murder, violent crimes, crimes against persons, crimes against property, and drug crimes. The crimes against property category includes the following *case types*: burglary, theft, forgery, fraud, worthless checks, other crimes against property, and other felony offenses. The detailed *categories* and *case types* pertaining to each division are provided in the By-Division portion of this report.

All percentages provided in this report have been rounded. Therefore, totals may not equal 100%.

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