

**This report can be found in its entirety
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.

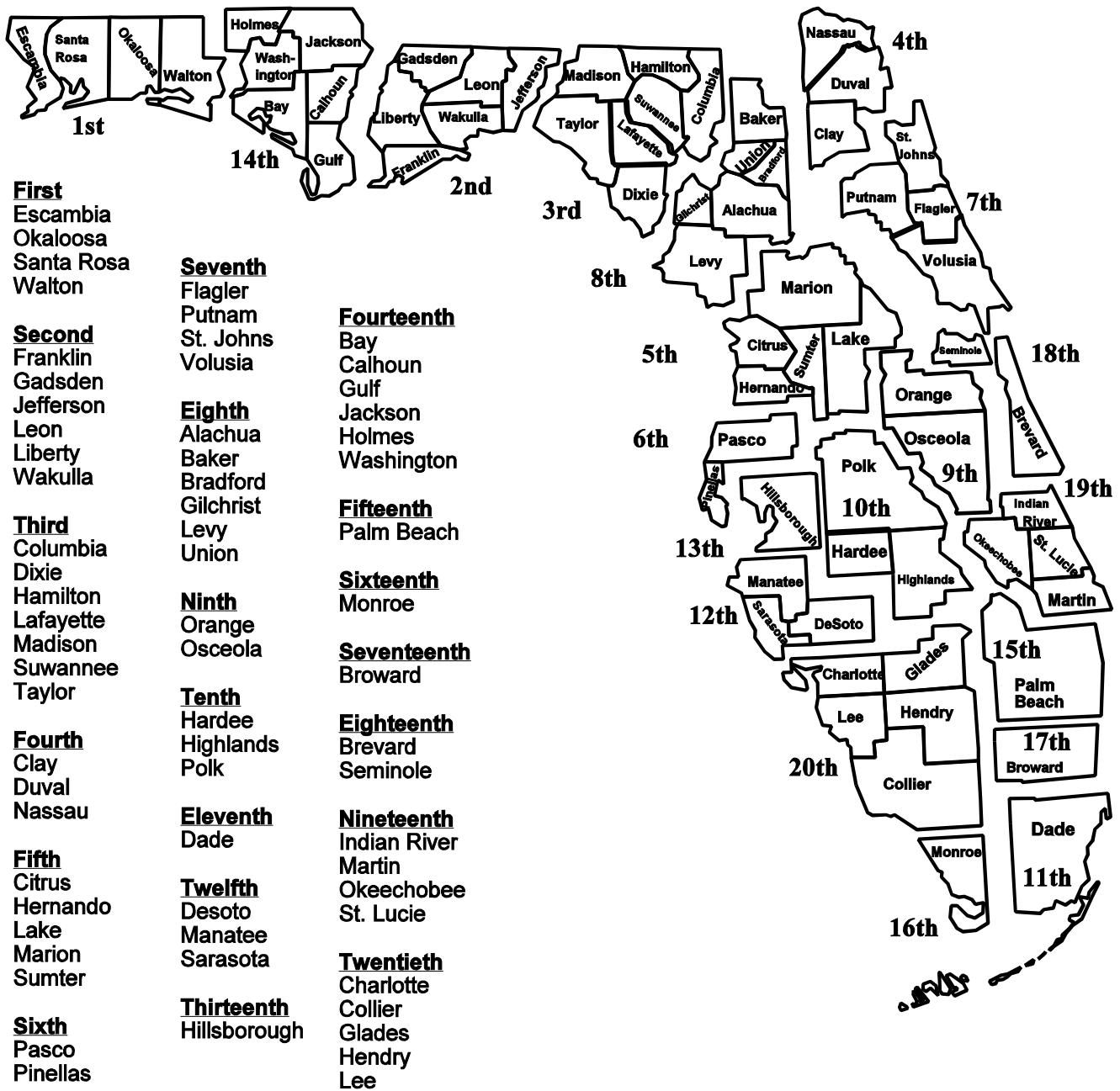
By-Division Statistics - The By-Division portion of the report displays filings, dispositions, and special proceedings data by each division of court (Circuit Criminal, Circuit Civil, Circuit Domestic Relations, Circuit Probate, Circuit Juvenile, County Criminal, and County Civil). Statewide, circuit, 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

FLORIDA POPULATION* by Circuit/County			
Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2001)	Total Population (as of January 2002)	Percentage Change from 2001 to 2002
Circuit 1 (13)	631,364	641,587	1.6%
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%
Circuit 2 (16)	343,041	347,678	1.4%
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%
Circuit 3 (19)	165,452	167,951	1.5%
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%
Circuit 4 (7)	991,902	1,008,658	1.7%
Clay	142,450	144,708	1.6%
Duval	790,431	803,360	1.6%
Nassau	59,021	60,590	2.7%

Trial Court System

FLORIDA POPULATION* by Circuit/County			
Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2001)	Total Population (as of January 2002)	Percentage Change from 2001 to 2002
Circuit 5 (10)	789,346	810,467	2.7%
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%
Circuit 6 (3)	1,277,859	1,292,008	1.1%
Pasco	350,689	357,541	2.0%
Pinellas	927,170	934,467	0.8%
Circuit 7 (11)	700,418	716,323	2.3%
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%
Circuit 8 (17)	333,596	339,060	1.6%
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%
Circuit 9 (5)	1,100,725	1,135,880	3.2%
Orange	922,831	951,481	3.1%
Osceola	177,894	184,399	3.7%

FLORIDA POPULATION* by Circuit/County			
Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2001)	Total Population (as of January 2002)	Percentage Change from 2001 to 2002
Circuit 10 (14)	608,209	619,812	1.9%
Hardee	26,942	27,074	0.5%
Highlands	88,026	89,082	1.2%
Polk	493,241	503,656	2.1%
Circuit 11 (1)	2,278,650	2,309,205	1.3%
Dade	2,278,650	2,309,205	1.3%
Circuit 12 (12)	633,942	647,414	2.1%
Desoto	32,619	33,247	1.9%
Manatee	269,152	275,235	2.3%
Sarasota	332,171	338,932	2.0%
Circuit 13 (6)	1,020,470	1,043,838	2.3%
Hillsborough	1,020,470	1,043,838	2.3%
Circuit 14 (18)	264,717	268,781	1.5%
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%
Circuit 15 (4)	1,149,172	1,172,056	2.0%
Palm Beach	1,149,172	1,172,056	2.0%
Circuit 16 (20)	80,286	81,064	1.0%
Monroe	80,286	81,064	1.0%

Trial Court System

FLORIDA POPULATION* by Circuit/County			
Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2001)	Total Population (as of January 2002)	Percentage Change from 2001 to 2002
Circuit 17 (2)	1,644,002	1,671,413	1.7%
Broward	1,644,002	1,671,413	1.7%
Circuit 18 (9)	857,883	876,937	2.2%
Brevard	483,033	491,171	1.7%
Seminole	374,850	385,766	2.9%
Circuit 19 (15)	476,425	486,461	2.1%
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%
Circuit 20 (8)	903,643	931,217	3.1%
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%
State Total	16,251,102	16,567,810	1.9%

*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).

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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