
Introduction

REPORT OVERVIEW

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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. The *Statistical Reference Guide* provides statistics pertaining to Florida's trial courts for fiscal year 2009-10 (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010). These statistics were received and verified as of November 2010.

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. The majority of the requests deal with filings and dispositions 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. In addition, all data can be accessed on the web at www.flcourts.org.

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

Introduction - 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 verified for accuracy.

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

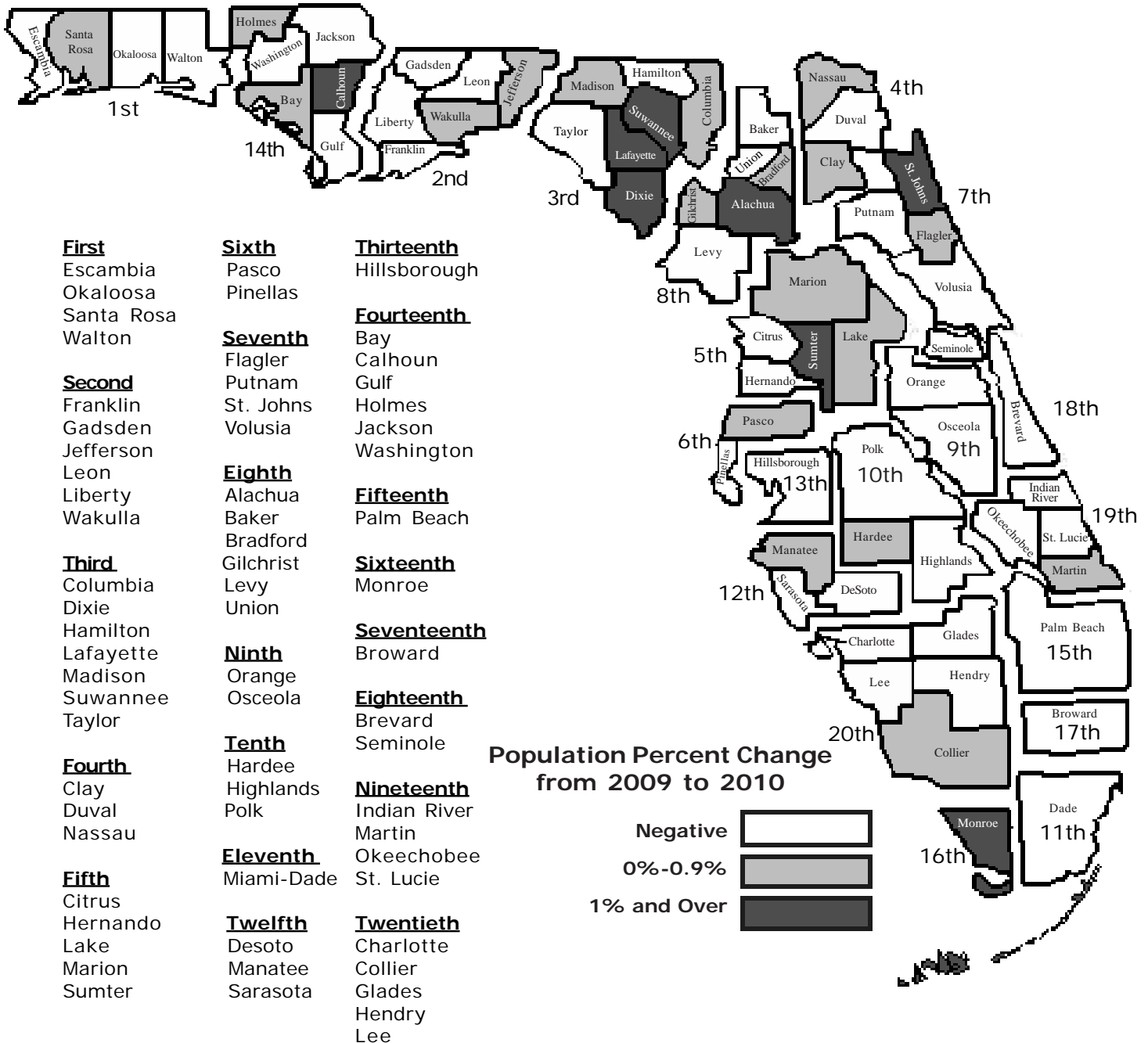
By-Division Statistics - The By-Division portion of the report displays filings, dispositions, clearance rates, reopenings, and other statistics by each division of court (Circuit Criminal, Circuit Civil, Circuit Family Court, Circuit Probate, County Criminal, and County Civil). Statewide, circuit, and county level data are furnished by various categories and case types that comprise each division.

Acknowledgements

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

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MAP OF FLORIDA

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- First**
Escambia
Okaloosa
Santa Rosa
Walton
- Second**
Franklin
Gadsden
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**
Miami-Dade
- Twelfth**
Desoto
Manatee
Sarasota
- Thirteenth**
Hillsborough
- Fourteenth**
Bay
Calhoun
Gulf
Holmes
Jackson
Washington
- Fifteenth**
Palm Beach
- Sixteenth**
Monroe
- Seventeenth**
Broward
- Eighteenth**
Brevard
Seminole
- Nineteenth**
Indian River
Martin
Okeechobee
St. Lucie
- Twentieth**
Charlotte
Collier
Glades
Hendry
Lee

Introduction

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
 as of January 2009 and January 2010

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Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2009)	Total Population (as of January 2010)	Percentage Change from 2009 to 2010
Circuit 1 (13)	714,027	711,973	-0.3%
Escambia	314,271	312,571	-0.5%
Okaloosa	196,900	196,509	-0.2%
Santa Rosa	144,897	144,991	0.1%
Walton	57,959	57,902	-0.1%
Circuit 2 (16)	393,437	391,818	-0.4%
Franklin	12,406	12,386	-0.2%
Gadsden	51,115	49,813	-2.5%
Jefferson	14,649	14,762	0.8%
Leon	275,261	274,827	-0.2%
Liberty	8,381	8,208	-2.1%
Wakulla	31,625	31,822	0.6%
Circuit 3 (19)	190,774	192,908	1.1%
Columbia	66,729	66,907	0.3%
Dixie	16,040	16,226	1.2%
Hamilton	14,779	14,761	-0.1%
Lafayette	8,521	9,322	9.4%
Madison	20,230	20,314	0.4%
Suwannee	40,990	42,246	3.1%
Taylor	23,485	23,132	-1.5%
Circuit 4 (8)	1,163,271	1,157,665	-0.5%
Clay	185,177	185,391	0.1%
Duval	905,377	899,348	-0.7%
Nassau	72,717	72,926	0.3%

FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
 as of January 2009 and January 2010

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2009)	Total Population (as of January 2010)	Percentage Change from 2009 to 2010
Circuit 5 (9)	1,025,181	1,030,052	0.5%
Citrus	143,310	142,740	-0.4%
Hernando	165,507	165,319	-0.1%
Lake	291,276	293,195	0.7%
Marion	330,345	330,527	0.1%
Sumter	94,743	98,271	3.7%
Circuit 6 (4)	1,373,709	1,367,992	-0.4%
Pasco	438,523	440,049	0.3%
Pinellas	935,186	927,943	-0.8%
Circuit 7 (11)	862,568	861,293	-0.1%
Flagler	95,170	95,309	0.1%
Putnam	74,827	74,303	-0.7%
St. Johns	183,367	185,319	1.1%
Volusia	509,204	506,362	-0.6%
Circuit 8 (17)	383,314	386,277	0.8%
Alachua	253,936	257,349	1.3%
Baker	25,956	25,903	-0.2%
Bradford	29,090	29,246	0.5%
Gilchrist	17,400	17,524	0.7%
Levy	40,856	40,651	-0.5%
Union	16,076	15,604	-2.9%
Circuit 9 (3)	1,391,052	1,382,430	-0.6%
Orange	1,114,606	1,109,638	-0.4%
Osceola	276,446	272,792	-1.3%

Introduction



FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
 as of January 2009 and January 2010

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2009)	Total Population (as of January 2010)	Percentage Change from 2009 to 2010
Circuit 10 (14)	713,836	711,722	-0.3%
Hardee	28,248	28,346	0.3%
Highlands	100,440	99,665	-0.8%
Polk	585,148	583,711	-0.2%
Circuit 11 (1)	2,477,157	2,474,671	-0.1%
Miami-Dade	2,477,157	2,474,671	-0.1%
Circuit 12 (12)	744,808	742,045	-0.4%
Desoto	34,747	34,660	-0.3%
Manatee	318,352	318,538	0.1%
Sarasota	391,709	388,847	-0.7%
Circuit 13 (6)	1,201,403	1,198,221	-0.3%
Hillsborough	1,201,403	1,198,221	-0.3%
Circuit 14 (18)	298,969	298,846	0.0%
Bay	169,527	169,980	0.3%
Calhoun	14,297	14,609	2.2%
Gulf	16,911	16,756	-0.9%
Holmes	19,878	19,888	0.1%
Jackson	53,087	52,700	-0.7%
Washington	25,269	24,913	-1.4%
Circuit 15 (5)	1,291,868	1,286,373	-0.4%
Palm Beach	1,291,868	1,286,373	-0.4%
Circuit 16 (20)	75,452	78,283	3.8%
Monroe	75,452	78,283	3.8%

FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
 as of January 2009 and January 2010

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2009)	Total Population (as of January 2010)	Percentage Change from 2009 to 2010
Circuit 17 (2)	1,751,436	1,742,788	-0.5%
Broward	1,751,436	1,742,788	-0.5%
Circuit 18 (10)	980,589	978,475	-0.2%
Brevard	556,048	554,971	-0.2%
Seminole	424,541	423,504	-0.2%
Circuit 19 (15)	600,341	598,803	-0.3%
Indian River	141,862	141,786	-0.1%
Martin	143,666	143,844	0.1%
Okeechobee	40,059	39,667	-1.0%
St. Lucie	274,754	273,506	-0.5%
Circuit 20 (7)	1,173,121	1,166,738	-0.5%
Charlotte	165,856	165,674	-0.1%
Collier	332,477	333,367	0.3%
Glades	11,445	11,320	-1.1%
Hendry	41,674	41,087	-1.4%
Lee	621,669	615,290	-1.0%
State Total	18,806,313	18,759,373	-0.2%

*January 2009 and January 2010 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in August 2009 and August 2010, respectively.

Introduction

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DESCRIPTION OF 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 measure of trial court activity in Florida. These data are not intended to measure the work of state attorneys or public defenders. Data for the SRS are 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.

Upon receipt of the SRS reports from the clerks of court, the OSCA staff review the data for accuracy either manually or through the utilization of an automated program designed to detect anomalies. If anomalies are detected, the county is contacted to verify or correct the data. SRS data are 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 clerk of court offices. These audits are conducted to ensure compliance to the SRS reporting guidelines as specified in the *Florida Summary Reporting System Manual* (available at 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, and long-range program planning. The information in the permanent database are also utilized in the production of this *Statistical Reference Guide*.

As previously mentioned, the trial courts are composed of two levels and six different divisions. The circuit level includes criminal, civil, family court, and probate divisions and the county level consists of criminal and civil divisions. Within each division are several *categories* of cases. Moreover, within each of the *categories* are various *case types*. For instance, the Circuit Criminal division includes the following *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.

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

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