

Introduction

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. The *Statistical Reference Guide* provides statistics pertaining to Florida's trial courts for fiscal year 2011-12 (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012). These statistics were received and verified as of December 2012.

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 20 judicial circuits and 67 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.

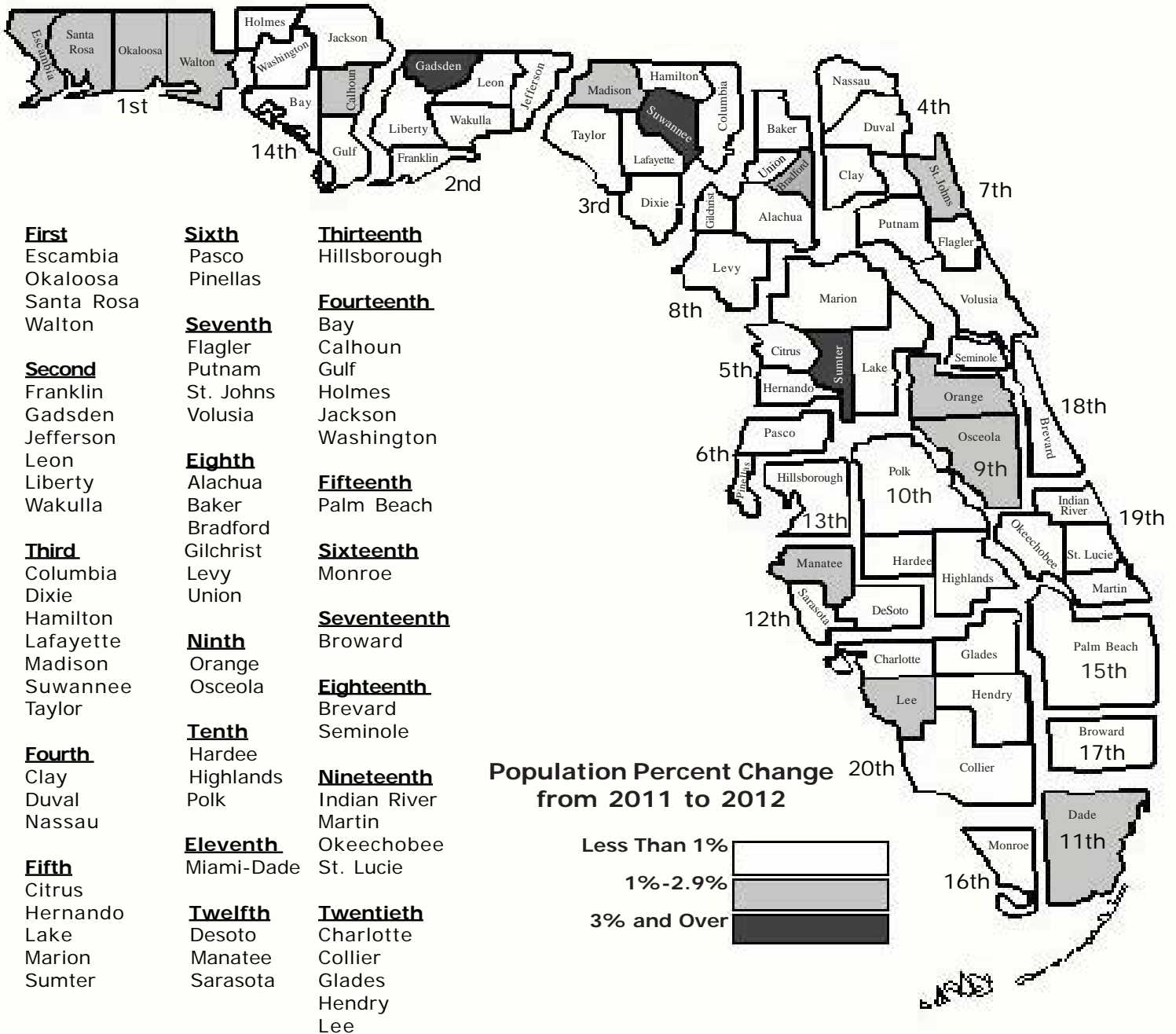
Overall Statistics - The Overall Statistics section provides a breakdown of the number and assignment of circuit and county judgeships for each judicial circuit. Also provided are statewide statistics for total circuit and county court filings and dispositions.

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



Introduction

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2011 and January 2012

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2011)	Total Population (as of January 2012)	Percentage Change from 2011 to 2012
Circuit 1 (14)	685,689	696,046	1.5%
Escambia	296,683	300,174	1.2%
Okaloosa	180,555	182,407	1.0%
Santa Rosa	153,038	157,404	2.9%
Walton	55,413	56,061	1.2%
Circuit 2 (16)	388,426	390,895	0.6%
Franklin	11,523	11,574	0.4%
Gadsden	46,480	47,970	3.2%
Jefferson	14,739	14,664	-0.5%
Leon	276,217	277,185	0.4%
Liberty	8,418	8,442	0.3%
Wakulla	31,049	31,060	0.0%
Circuit 3 (19)	192,066	193,934	1.0%
Columbia	67,803	67,831	0.0%
Dixie	16,540	16,470	-0.4%
Hamilton	14,751	14,752	0.0%
Lafayette	9,264	8,798	-5.0%
Madison	19,076	19,313	1.2%
Suwannee	42,038	44,277	5.3%
Taylor	22,594	22,493	-0.4%
Circuit 4 (8)	1,134,275	1,133,452	-0.1%
Clay	192,751	192,681	0.0%
Duval	867,527	866,477	-0.1%
Nassau	73,997	74,294	0.4%

FLORIDA POPULATION, Continued*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2011 and January 2012

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2011)	Total Population (as of January 2012)	Percentage Change from 2011 to 2012
Circuit 5 (9)	1,043,271	1,050,627	0.7%
Citrus	141,266	141,579	0.2%
Hernando	173,949	174,454	0.3%
Lake	299,682	301,275	0.5%
Marion	332,669	334,271	0.5%
Sumter	95,705	99,048	3.5%
Circuit 6 (4)	1,382,043	1,389,585	0.5%
Pasco	467,981	470,772	0.6%
Pinellas	914,062	918,813	0.5%
Circuit 7 (11)	858,290	865,034	0.8%
Flagler	97,091	97,883	0.8%
Putnam	74,142	74,015	-0.2%
St. Johns	193,067	196,030	1.5%
Volusia	493,990	497,106	0.6%
Circuit 8 (17)	377,127	377,397	0.1%
Alachua	248,014	247,994	0.0%
Baker	27,215	27,036	-0.7%
Bradford	28,228	28,898	2.4%
Gilchrist	17,042	17,082	0.2%
Levy	40,935	40,943	0.0%
Union	15,693	15,444	-1.6%
Circuit 9 (3)	1,428,357	1,447,611	1.3%
Orange	1,156,086	1,168,646	1.1%
Osceola	272,271	278,965	2.5%

Introduction

FLORIDA POPULATION, Continued*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2011 and January 2012

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2011)	Total Population (as of January 2012)	Percentage Change from 2011 to 2012
Circuit 10 (13)	732,249	736,090	0.5%
Hardee	27,713	27,620	-0.3%
Highlands	98,649	99,060	0.4%
Polk	605,887	609,410	0.6%
Circuit 11 (1)	2,506,307	2,531,229	1.0%
Miami-Dade	2,506,307	2,531,229	1.0%
Circuit 12 (12)	740,362	746,746	0.9%
Desoto	34,927	34,711	-0.6%
Manatee	324,436	328,746	1.3%
Sarasota	380,999	383,289	0.6%
Circuit 13 (6)	1,239,245	1,248,510	0.7%
Hillsborough	1,239,245	1,248,510	0.7%
Circuit 14 (18)	293,958	295,043	0.4%
Bay	169,333	170,015	0.4%
Calhoun	14,557	14,763	1.4%
Gulf	15,738	15,774	0.2%
Holmes	19,791	19,947	0.8%
Jackson	49,508	49,931	0.9%
Washington	25,031	24,613	-1.7%
Circuit 15 (5)	1,325,915	1,332,348	0.5%
Palm Beach	1,325,915	1,332,348	0.5%
Circuit 16 (20)	72,516	72,462	-0.1%
Monroe	72,516	72,462	-0.1%

FLORIDA POPULATION, Continued*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2011 and January 2012

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2011)	Total Population (as of January 2012)	Percentage Change from 2011 to 2012
Circuit 17 (2)	1,753,181	1,755,991	0.2%
Broward	1,753,181	1,755,991	0.2%
Circuit 18 (10)	968,318	974,266	0.6%
Brevard	544,322	547,514	0.6%
Seminole	423,996	426,752	0.7%
Circuit 19 (15)	606,665	609,955	0.5%
Indian River	138,663	139,716	0.8%
Martin	146,753	147,313	0.4%
Okeechobee	40,061	39,947	-0.3%
St. Lucie	281,188	282,979	0.6%
Circuit 20 (7)	1,161,760	1,172,461	0.9%
Charlotte	160,220	161,143	0.6%
Collier	324,194	326,484	0.7%
Glades	12,947	12,828	-0.9%
Hendry	39,172	38,859	-0.8%
Lee	625,227	633,147	1.3%
Total	18,890,020	19,019,682	0.7%

*January 2011 and January 2012 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in July 2011 and July 2012, respectively.

Introduction

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 by the 67 clerks of court monthly via electronic or hard-copy submission in a format prescribed by the OSCA. 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 years. 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 is 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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