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 comprise both circuit and county courts. The *Statistical Reference Guide* provides statistics pertaining to Florida's trial courts for fiscal year 2012-13 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013). These statistics were verified by the Office of the State Courts Administrator as of November 2013.

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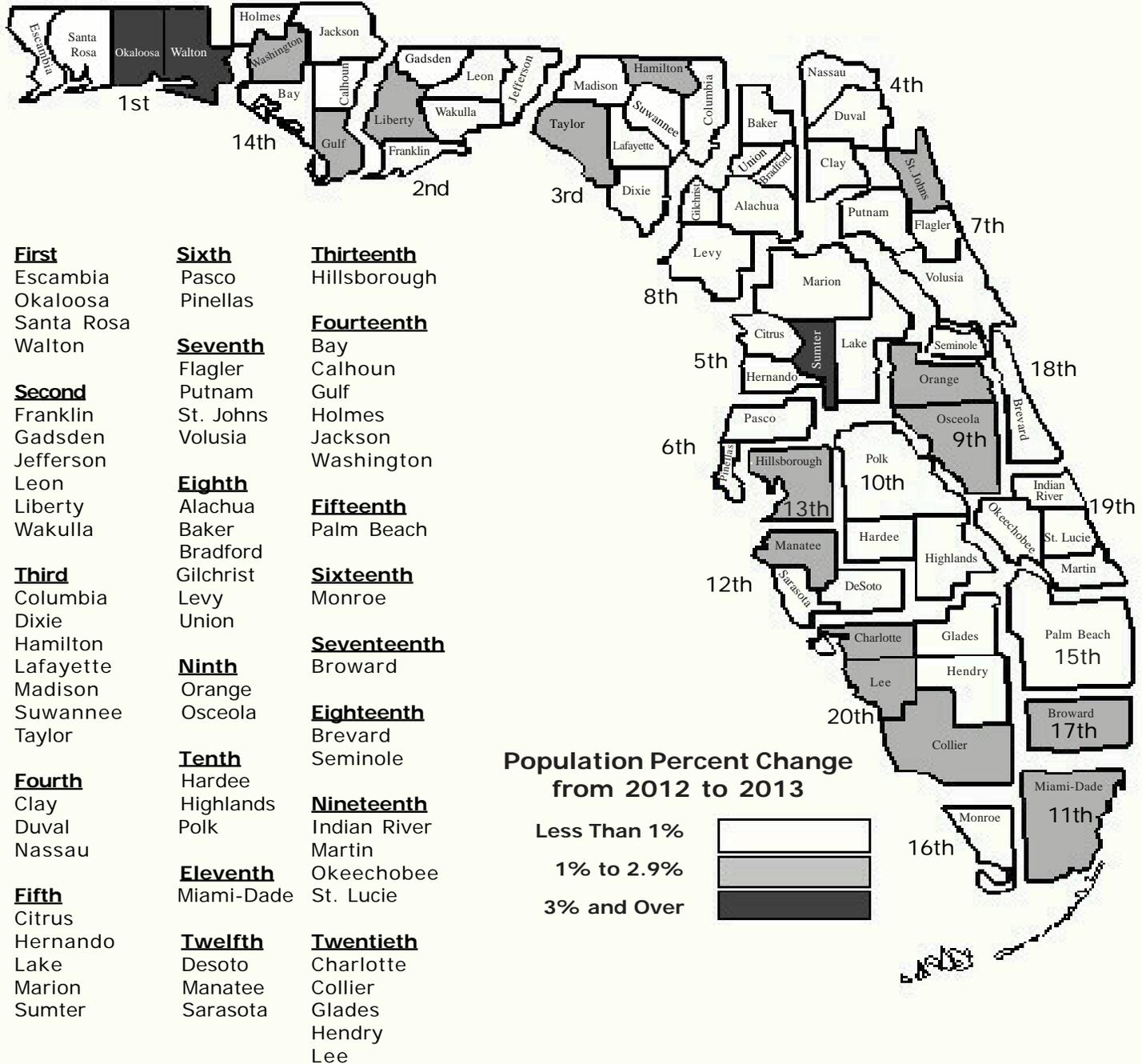
Overall Statistics - The Overall Statistics section provides a breakdown of the number and assignment of circuit and county judgeships for each judicial circuit. Also provided are statewide statistics for total circuit and county court filings and dispositions.

By-Division Statistics - The By-Division section 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 terms specific to each division.

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MAP OF FLORIDA

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

Population Percent Change from 2012 to 2013

Less Than 1%

1% to 2.9%

3% and Over

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2012 and January 2013

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2012)	Total Population (as of January 2013)	Percentage Change from 2012 to 2013
Circuit 1 (14)	**696,046**	**703,702**	**1.1%**
Escambia	300,174	299,532	-0.2%
Okaloosa	182,407	190,035	4.2%
Santa Rosa	157,404	156,100	-0.8%
Walton	56,061	58,035	3.5%
Circuit 2 (16)	**390,895**	**391,543**	**0.2%**
Franklin	11,574	11,593	0.2%
Gadsden	47,970	46,964	-2.1%
Jefferson	14,664	14,423	-1.6%
Leon	277,185	279,004	0.7%
Liberty	8,442	8,689	2.9%
Wakulla	31,060	30,870	-0.6%
Circuit 3 (19)	**193,934**	**194,325**	**0.2%**
Columbia	67,831	68,060	0.3%
Dixie	16,470	16,386	-0.5%
Hamilton	14,752	14,900	1.0%
Lafayette	8,798	8,670	-1.5%
Madison	19,313	19,179	-0.7%
Suwannee	44,277	44,017	-0.6%
Taylor	22,493	23,113	2.8%
Circuit 4 (8)	**1,133,452**	**1,142,299**	**0.8%**
Clay	192,681	193,855	0.6%
Duval	866,477	874,248	0.9%
Nassau	74,294	74,196	-0.1%

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2012 and January 2013

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2012)	Total Population (as of January 2013)	Percentage Change from 2012 to 2013
Circuit 5 (9)	**1,050,627**	**1,056,250**	**0.5%**
Citrus	141,579	141,232	-0.2%
Hernando	174,454	174,192	-0.2%
Lake	301,275	302,486	0.4%
Marion	334,271	335,495	0.4%
Sumter	99,048	102,845	3.8%
Circuit 6 (4)	**1,389,585**	**1,393,055**	**0.2%**
Pasco	470,772	472,491	0.4%
Pinellas	918,813	920,564	0.2%
Circuit 7 (11)	**865,034**	**869,825**	**0.6%**
Flagler	97,883	98,779	0.9%
Putnam	74,015	72,791	-1.7%
St. Johns	196,030	199,393	1.7%
Volusia	497,106	498,862	0.4%
Circuit 8 (17)	**377,397**	**373,874**	**-0.9%**
Alachua	247,994	247,188	-0.3%
Baker	27,036	27,137	0.4%
Bradford	28,898	26,672	-7.7%
Gilchrist	17,082	16,988	-0.6%
Levy	40,943	40,313	-1.5%
Union	15,444	15,576	0.9%
Circuit 9 (3)	**1,447,611**	**1,477,256**	**2.0%**
Orange	1,168,646	1,190,636	1.9%
Osceola	278,965	286,620	2.7%

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2012 and January 2013

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2012)	Total Population (as of January 2013)	Percentage Change from 2012 to 2013
Circuit 10 (13)	**736,090**	**738,159**	**0.3%**
Hardee	27,620	27,826	0.7%
Highlands	99,060	99,335	0.3%
Polk	609,410	610,998	0.3%
Circuit 11 (1)	**2,531,229**	**2,572,163**	**1.6%**
Miami-Dade	2,531,229	2,572,163	1.6%
Circuit 12 (12)	**746,746**	**753,785**	**0.9%**
Desoto	34,711	34,334	-1.1%
Manatee	328,746	333,588	1.5%
Sarasota	383,289	385,863	0.7%
Circuit 13 (6)	**1,248,510**	**1,269,703**	**1.7%**
Hillsborough	1,248,510	1,269,703	1.7%
Circuit 14 (18)	**295,043**	**295,435**	**0.1%**
Bay	170,015	169,911	-0.1%
Calhoun	14,763	14,639	-0.8%
Gulf	15,774	15,961	1.2%
Holmes	19,947	20,030	0.4%
Jackson	49,931	49,751	-0.4%
Washington	24,613	25,143	2.2%
Circuit 15 (5)	**1,332,348**	**1,343,866**	**0.9%**
Palm Beach	1,332,348	1,343,866	0.9%
Circuit 16 (20)	**72,462**	**72,921**	**0.6%**
Monroe	72,462	72,921	0.6%

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2012 and January 2013

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2012)	Total Population (as of January 2013)	Percentage Change from 2012 to 2013
Circuit 17 (2)	1,755,991	1,781,404	1.4%
Broward	1,755,991	1,781,404	1.4%
Circuit 18 (10)	974,266	977,896	0.4%
Brevard	547,514	547,113	-0.1%
Seminole	426,752	430,783	0.9%
Circuit 19 (15)	609,955	610,977	0.2%
Indian River	139,716	140,401	0.5%
Martin	147,313	147,944	0.4%
Okeechobee	39,947	39,862	-0.2%
St. Lucie	282,979	282,770	-0.1%
Circuit 20 (7)	1,172,461	1,198,340	2.2%
Charlotte	161,143	165,032	2.4%
Collier	326,484	334,339	2.4%
Glades	12,828	12,659	-1.3%
Hendry	38,859	37,827	-2.7%
Lee	633,147	648,483	2.4%
Total	19,019,682	19,216,778	1.0%

*January 2012 and January 2013 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in July 2012 and August 2013, respectively.

**Circuit ranking is based on total population (as of January 2013).

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 offices monthly via electronic or hard-copy submission in a format prescribed by the OSCA. Exceptions to this are traffic data (county criminal traffic, driving under the influence, and civil traffic infractions), which were obtained from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles through fiscal year 2011-12. Traffic data are now obtained from the Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers.

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 continual basis. All counties are required to maintain audit trial information for three years following the submission of the SRS data to the OSCA. 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 section of this report.

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