

## Introduction

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### ***REPORT OVERVIEW***

Florida's court system is organized into 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 comprises both circuit and county courts. The Statistical Reference Guide provides statistics pertaining to Florida's trial courts for fiscal year 2016-17 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017). These statistics were verified by the Office of the State Courts Administrator as of November 2017.

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](http://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 - This section of the report acknowledges those associated with the preparation, compilation, analysis, and submission of trial court data.

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

**Introduction**

**FLORIDA POPULATION\*  
by Circuit/County  
as of January 2016 and January 2017**

<b>Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2016)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2017)</b>	<b>Percentage Change from 2016 to 2017</b>
<b>Circuit 1 (14)</b>	<b>728,312</b>	<b>740,450</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
Escambia	308,770	311,800	1.0%
Okaloosa	192,769	193,973	0.6%
Santa Rosa	165,376	169,979	2.8%
Walton	61,397	64,698	5.4%
<b>Circuit 2 (16)</b>	<b>401,632</b>	<b>405,970</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
Franklin	11,840	11,974	1.1%
Gadsden	48,427	48,608	0.4%
Jefferson	14,487	14,512	0.2%
Leon	286,823	290,164	1.2%
Liberty	8,712	8,792	0.9%
Wakulla	31,343	31,920	1.8%
<b>Circuit 3 (19)</b>	<b>195,228</b>	<b>195,181</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Columbia	68,487	68,953	0.7%
Dixie	16,570	16,958	2.3%
Hamilton	14,831	14,693	-0.9%
Lafayette	8,656	8,627	-0.3%
Madison	19,166	19,275	0.6%
Suwannee	44,717	44,390	-0.7%
Taylor	22,801	22,285	-2.3%
<b>Circuit 4 (8)</b>	<b>1,197,645</b>	<b>1,223,142</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
Clay	204,191	208,551	2.1%
Duval	915,818	935,726	2.2%
Nassau	77,636	78,865	1.6%

**FLORIDA POPULATION\***  
**by Circuit/County**  
as of January 2016 and January 2017

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2016)	Total Population (as of January 2017)	Percentage Change from 2016 to 2017
<b>Circuit 5 (9)</b>	<b>1,106,803</b>	<b>1,126,494</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
Citrus	142,296	144,213	1.3%
Hernando	178,709	181,631	1.6%
Lake	321,967	329,716	2.4%
Marion	344,845	349,451	1.3%
Sumter	118,986	121,483	2.1%
<b>Circuit 6 (4)</b>	<b>1,446,443</b>	<b>1,461,524</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
Pasco	494,713	502,414	1.6%
Pinellas	951,730	959,110	0.8%
<b>Circuit 7 (11)</b>	<b>910,315</b>	<b>925,502</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
Flagler	103,537	104,730	1.2%
Putnam	72,916	73,046	0.2%
St. Johns	218,708	225,584	3.1%
Volusia	515,154	522,142	1.4%
<b>Circuit 8 (17)</b>	<b>385,668</b>	<b>386,490</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
Alachua	257,710	258,369	0.3%
Baker	27,128	26,999	-0.5%
Bradford	27,338	27,639	1.1%
Gilchrist	16,881	16,909	0.2%
Levy	40,522	40,705	0.5%
Union	16,089	15,869	-1.4%
<b>Circuit 9 (3)</b>	<b>1,590,948</b>	<b>1,635,572</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
Orange	1,272,580	1,302,533	2.4%
Osceola	318,368	333,039	4.6%

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<b>Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2016)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2017)</b>	<b>Percentage Change from 2016 to 2017</b>
<b>Circuit 10 (13)</b>	<b>770,170</b>	<b>787,201</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
Hardee	27,608	27,656	0.2%
Highlands	101,470	102,141	0.7%
Polk	641,092	657,404	2.5%
<b>Circuit 11 (1)</b>	<b>2,683,848</b>	<b>2,733,884</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
Miami-Dade	2,683,848	2,733,884	1.9%
<b>Circuit 12 (12)</b>	<b>787,568</b>	<b>803,198</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
Desoto	35,021	35,344	0.9%
Manatee	356,419	363,287	1.9%
Sarasota	396,128	404,567	2.1%
<b>Circuit 13 (6)</b>	<b>1,344,162</b>	<b>1,373,935</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
Hillsborough	1,344,162	1,373,935	2.2%
<b>Circuit 14 (18)</b>	<b>301,457</b>	<b>304,568</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
Bay	175,240	177,820	1.5%
Calhoun	14,552	14,624	0.5%
Gulf	16,185	16,860	4.2%
Holmes	19,848	20,091	1.2%
Jackson	50,631	50,282	-0.7%
Washington	25,001	24,891	-0.4%
<b>Circuit 15 (5)</b>	<b>1,392,532</b>	<b>1,402,605</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
Palm Beach	1,392,532	1,402,605	0.7%
<b>Circuit 16 (20)</b>	<b>74,256</b>	<b>77,027</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
Monroe	74,256	77,027	3.7%

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Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2016)	Total Population (as of January 2017)	Percentage Change from 2016 to 2017
<b>Circuit 17 (2)</b>	<b>1,843,524</b>	<b>1,873,129</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
Broward	1,843,524	1,873,129	1.6%
<b>Circuit 18 (10)</b>	<b>1,015,776</b>	<b>1,027,543</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
Brevard	568,510	573,688	0.9%
Seminole	447,266	453,855	1.5%
<b>Circuit 19 (15)</b>	<b>629,241</b>	<b>638,427</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
Indian River	145,187	148,588	2.3%
Martin	151,381	151,629	0.2%
Okeechobee	40,256	41,265	2.5%
St. Lucie	292,417	296,945	1.5%
<b>Circuit 20 (7)</b>	<b>1,246,505</b>	<b>1,271,949</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
Charlotte	169,214	172,644	2.0%
Collier	349,548	355,042	1.6%
Glades	12,850	13,191	2.7%
Hendry	38,252	38,560	0.8%
Lee	676,641	692,512	2.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,052,033</b>	<b>20,393,791</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

\*January 2016 and January 2017 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in August 2016 and August 2017, respectively.

\*\*Circuit ranking is based on total population as of January 2017.



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## 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 monthly by the 67 clerks of court offices 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 beginning in fiscal year 2012-13 are 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 use 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 continually updated. All counties are required to maintain audit trail 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 remote and field audits of the trial courts data submitted by the clerks of court. 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](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 is 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, serious crimes against persons, less serious crimes against persons, crimes against property, and drug offenses.

Furthermore, 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%.**