

Introduction

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 2015-16 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016). These statistics were verified by the Office of the State Courts Administrator as of December 2016.

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.

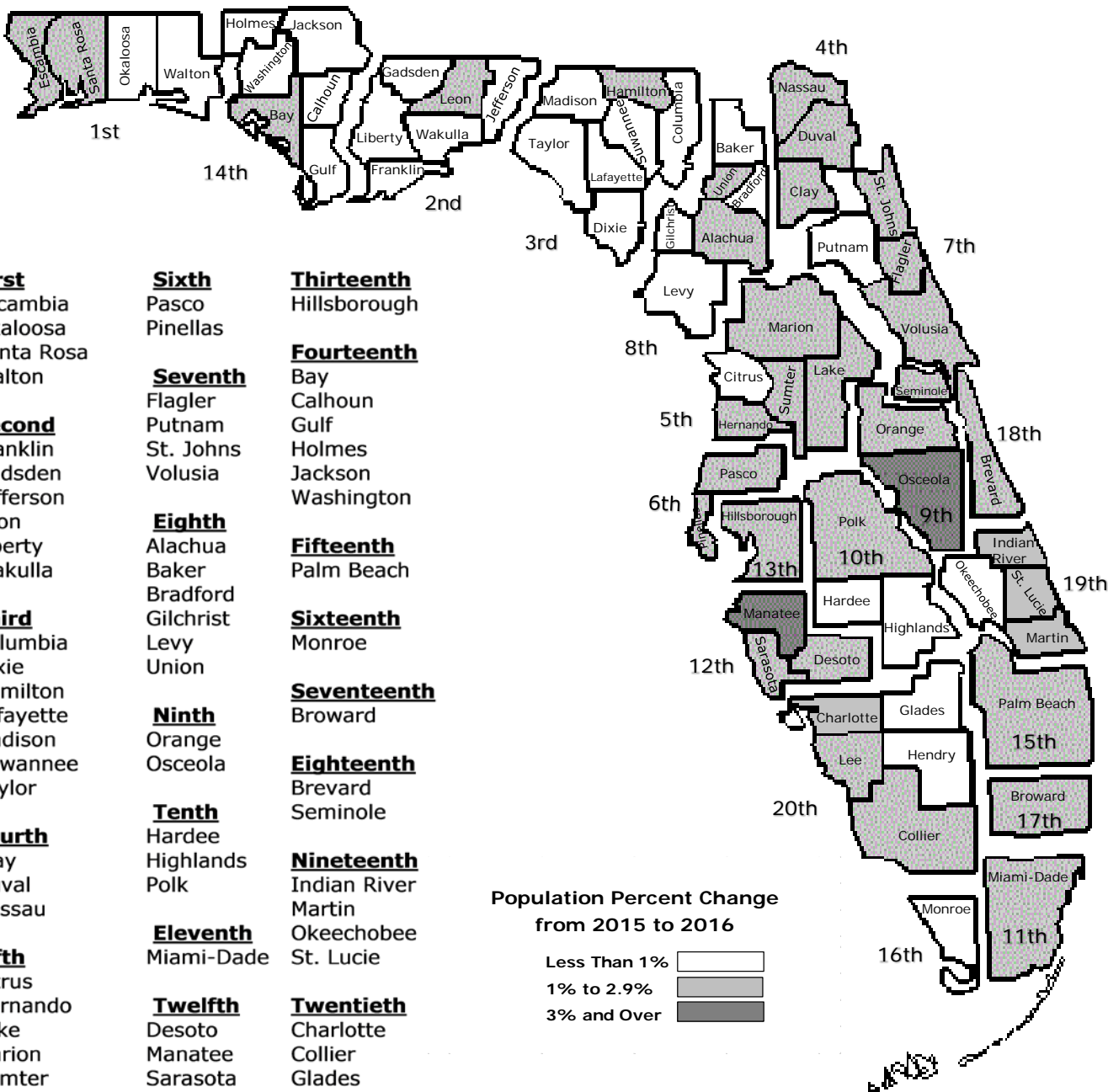
Overall Statistics - The Overall Statistics section provides a breakdown of the number and assignment of circuit and county judgeships for each judicial circuit. Also provided are statewide statistics for total circuit and county court filings and dispositions.

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 - 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.

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

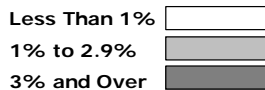
Nineteenth

Indian River
Martin
Okeechobee
St. Lucie

Twentieth

Charlotte
Collier
Glades
Hendry
Lee

Population Percent Change from 2015 to 2016



Introduction

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2015 and January 2016

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2015)	Total Population (as of January 2016)	Percentage Change from 2015 to 2016
Circuit 1 (14)	720,850	728,312	1.0%
Escambia	305,474	308,770	1.1%
Okaloosa	192,002	192,769	0.4%
Santa Rosa	162,384	165,376	1.8%
Walton	60,990	61,397	0.7%
Circuit 2 (16)	398,404	401,632	0.8%
Franklin	11,845	11,840	0.0%
Gadsden	48,312	48,427	0.2%
Jefferson	14,642	14,487	-1.1%
Leon	283,440	286,823	1.2%
Liberty	8,714	8,712	0.0%
Wakulla	31,451	31,343	-0.3%
Circuit 3 (19)	194,894	195,228	0.2%
Columbia	68,236	68,487	0.4%
Dixie	16,555	16,570	0.1%
Hamilton	14,540	14,831	2.0%
Lafayette	8,717	8,656	-0.7%
Madison	19,302	19,166	-0.7%
Suwannee	44,588	44,717	0.3%
Taylor	22,956	22,801	-0.7%
Circuit 4 (8)	1,174,555	1,197,645	2.0%
Clay	200,784	204,191	1.7%
Duval	897,392	915,818	2.1%
Nassau	76,379	77,636	1.6%

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
 as of January 2015 and January 2016

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2015)	Total Population (as of January 2016)	Percentage Change from 2015 to 2016
Circuit 5 (9)	1,090,090	1,106,803	1.5%
Citrus	141,982	142,296	0.2%
Hernando	176,635	178,709	1.2%
Lake	315,404	321,967	2.1%
Marion	340,420	344,845	1.3%
Sumter	115,649	118,986	2.9%
Circuit 6 (4)	1,426,184	1,446,443	1.4%
Pasco	486,858	494,713	1.6%
Pinellas	939,326	951,730	1.3%
Circuit 7 (11)	893,490	910,315	1.9%
Flagler	101,106	103,537	2.4%
Putnam	72,587	72,916	0.5%
St. Johns	212,841	218,708	2.8%
Volusia	506,956	515,154	1.6%
Circuit 8 (17)	380,782	385,668	1.3%
Alachua	252,602	257,710	2.0%
Baker	27,269	27,128	-0.5%
Bradford	27,542	27,338	-0.7%
Gilchrist	16,873	16,881	0.0%
Levy	40,682	40,522	-0.4%
Union	15,814	16,089	1.7%
Circuit 9 (3)	1,552,938	1,590,948	2.4%
Orange	1,249,756	1,272,580	1.8%
Osceola	303,182	318,368	5.0%

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FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2015 and January 2016

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2015)	Total Population (as of January 2016)	Percentage Change from 2015 to 2016
Circuit 10 (13)	759,874	770,170	1.4%
Hardee	27,708	27,608	-0.4%
Highlands	100,552	101,470	0.9%
Polk	631,614	641,092	1.5%
Circuit 11 (1)	2,636,468	2,683,848	1.8%
Miami-Dade	2,636,468	2,683,848	1.8%
Circuit 12 (12)	768,187	787,568	2.5%
Desoto	34,427	35,021	1.7%
Manatee	344,201	356,419	3.5%
Sarasota	389,559	396,128	1.7%
Circuit 13 (6)	1,321,687	1,344,162	1.7%
Hillsborough	1,321,687	1,344,162	1.7%
Circuit 14 (18)	298,690	301,457	0.9%
Bay	172,041	175,240	1.9%
Calhoun	14,586	14,552	-0.2%
Gulf	16,553	16,185	-2.2%
Holmes	20,059	19,848	-1.1%
Jackson	50,287	50,631	0.7%
Washington	25,164	25,001	-0.6%
Circuit 15 (5)	1,373,019	1,392,532	1.4%
Palm Beach	1,373,019	1,392,532	1.4%
Circuit 16 (20)	74,110	74,256	0.2%
Monroe	74,110	74,256	0.2%

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2015 and January 2016

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2015)	Total Population (as of January 2016)	Percentage Change from 2015 to 2016
Circuit 17 (2)	1,815,408	1,843,524	1.5%
Broward	1,815,408	1,843,524	1.5%
Circuit 18 (10)	997,738	1,015,776	1.8%
Brevard	556,309	568,510	2.2%
Seminole	441,429	447,266	1.3%
Circuit 19 (15)	617,208	629,241	1.9%
Indian River	142,592	145,187	1.8%
Martin	149,452	151,381	1.3%
Okeechobee	39,973	40,256	0.7%
St. Lucie	285,191	292,417	2.5%
Circuit 20 (7)	1,223,974	1,246,505	1.8%
Charlotte	165,657	169,214	2.1%
Collier	341,447	349,548	2.4%
Glades	12,945	12,850	-0.7%
Hendry	38,003	38,252	0.7%
Lee	665,922	676,641	1.6%
Total	19,718,550	20,052,033	1.7%

*January 2015 and January 2016 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in August 2015 and August 2016, respectively.

**Circuit ranking is based on total population as of January 2016.

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 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).

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%.