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 2014-15 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015). These statistics were verified by the Office of the State Courts Administrator as of October 2015.

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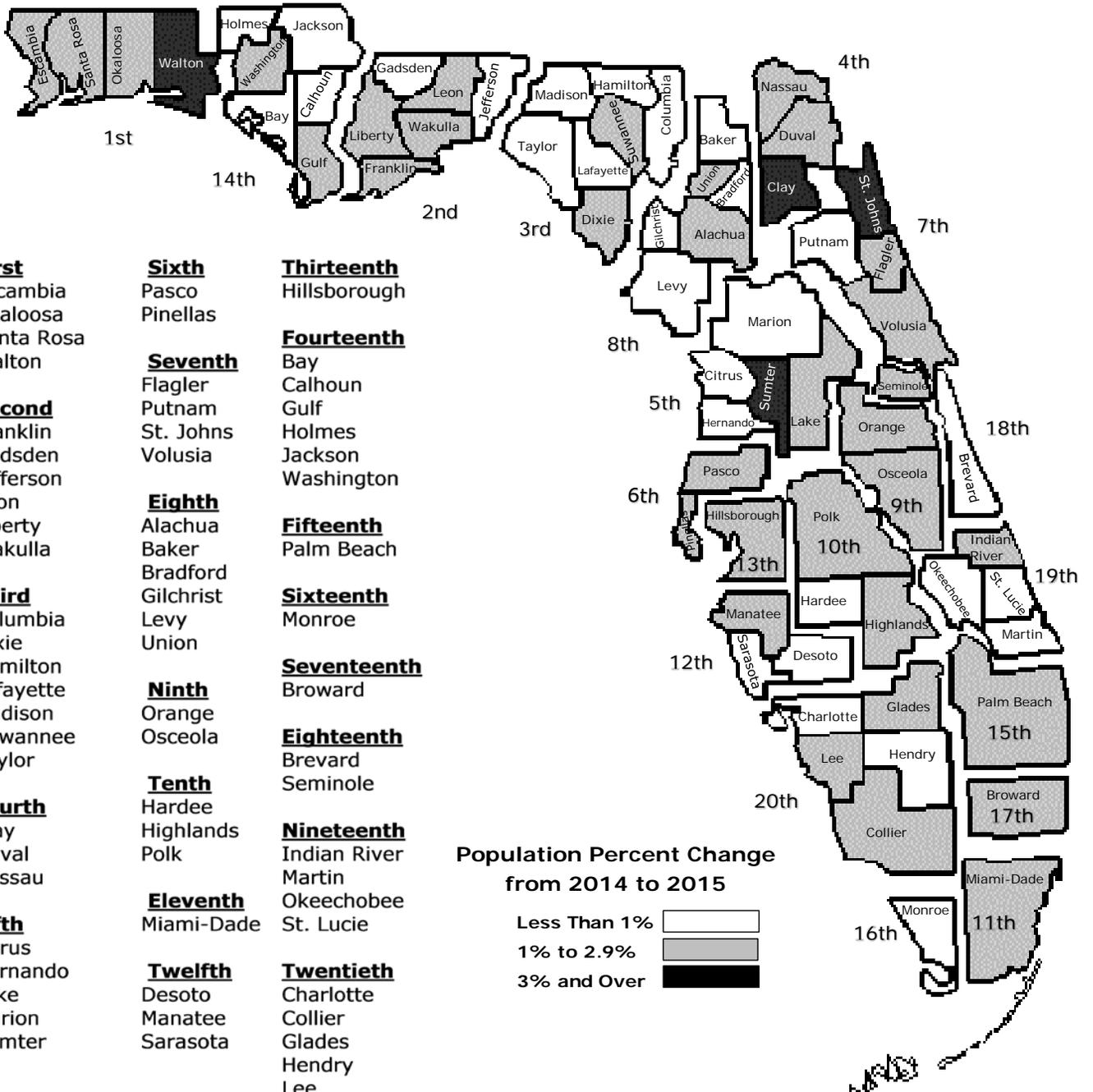
Overall Statistics - The Overall Statistics section provides a breakdown of the number and assignment of circuit and county judgeships for each judicial circuit. Also provided are statewide statistics for total circuit and county court filings and dispositions.

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 2014 to 2015

Less Than 1%
1% to 2.9%
3% and Over

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2014 and January 2015

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2014)	Total Population (as of January 2015)	Percentage Change from 2014 to 2015
Circuit 1 (14)	**708,680**	**720,850**	**1.7%**
Escambia	302,051	305,474	1.1%
Okaloosa	188,843	192,002	1.7%
Santa Rosa	159,224	162,384	2.0%
Walton	58,562	60,990	4.1%
Circuit 2 (16)	**393,477**	**398,404**	**1.3%**
Franklin	11,598	11,845	2.1%
Gadsden	47,901	48,312	0.9%
Jefferson	14,624	14,642	0.1%
Leon	279,687	283,440	1.3%
Liberty	8,542	8,714	2.0%
Wakulla	31,125	31,451	1.0%
Circuit 3 (19)	**193,868**	**194,894**	**0.5%**
Columbia	67,745	68,236	0.7%
Dixie	16,346	16,555	1.3%
Hamilton	14,452	14,540	0.6%
Lafayette	8,643	8,717	0.9%
Madison	19,490	19,302	-1.0%
Suwannee	44,117	44,588	1.1%
Taylor	23,075	22,956	-0.5%
Circuit 4 (8)	**1,151,738**	**1,174,555**	**2.0%**
Clay	194,948	200,784	3.0%
Duval	881,161	897,392	1.8%
Nassau	75,629	76,379	1.0%

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2014 and January 2015

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2014)	Total Population (as of January 2015)	Percentage Change from 2014 to 2015
Circuit 5 (9)	**1,071,681**	**1,090,090**	**1.7%**
Citrus	141,268	141,982	0.5%
Hernando	175,620	176,635	0.6%
Lake	307,716	315,404	2.5%
Marion	338,512	340,420	0.6%
Sumter	108,565	115,649	6.5%
Circuit 6 (4)	**1,408,452**	**1,426,184**	**1.3%**
Pasco	479,735	486,858	1.5%
Pinellas	928,717	939,326	1.1%
Circuit 7 (11)	**879,743**	**893,490**	**1.6%**
Flagler	99,769	101,106	1.3%
Putnam	72,541	72,587	0.1%
St. Johns	206,191	212,841	3.2%
Volusia	501,242	506,956	1.1%
Circuit 8 (17)	**377,122**	**380,782**	**1.0%**
Alachua	249,546	252,602	1.2%
Baker	27,043	27,269	0.8%
Bradford	27,404	27,542	0.5%
Gilchrist	16,938	16,873	-0.4%
Levy	40,564	40,682	0.3%
Union	15,627	15,814	1.2%
Circuit 9 (3)	**1,516,833**	**1,552,938**	**2.4%**
Orange	1,222,028	1,249,756	2.3%
Osceola	294,805	303,182	2.8%

Introduction

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2014 and January 2015

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2014)	Total Population (as of January 2015)	Percentage Change from 2014 to 2015
Circuit 10 (13)	**748,302**	**759,874**	**1.5%**
Hardee	27,659	27,708	0.2%
Highlands	99,553	100,552	1.0%
Polk	621,090	631,614	1.7%
Circuit 11 (1)	**2,602,503**	**2,636,468**	**1.3%**
Miami-Dade	2,602,503	2,636,468	1.3%
Circuit 12 (12)	**759,430**	**768,187**	**1.2%**
Desoto	34,405	34,427	0.1%
Manatee	337,322	344,201	2.0%
Sarasota	387,703	389,559	0.5%
Circuit 13 (6)	**1,292,134**	**1,321,687**	**2.3%**
Hillsborough	1,292,134	1,321,687	2.3%
Circuit 14 (18)	**296,893**	**298,690**	**0.6%**
Bay	170,858	172,041	0.7%
Calhoun	14,671	14,586	-0.6%
Gulf	16,184	16,553	2.3%
Holmes	20,053	20,059	0.0%
Jackson	50,316	50,287	-0.1%
Washington	24,811	25,164	1.4%
Circuit 15 (5)	**1,355,120**	**1,373,019**	**1.3%**
Palm Beach	1,355,120	1,373,019	1.3%
Circuit 16 (20)	**73,680**	**74,110**	**0.6%**
Monroe	73,680	74,110	0.6%

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2014 and January 2015

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2014)	Total Population (as of January 2015)	Percentage Change from 2014 to 2015
Circuit 17 (2)	**1,791,917**	**1,815,408**	**1.3%**
Broward	1,791,917	1,815,408	1.3%
Circuit 18 (10)	**985,567**	**997,738**	**1.2%**
Brevard	551,734	556,309	0.8%
Seminole	433,833	441,429	1.8%
Circuit 19 (15)	**614,126**	**617,208**	**0.5%**
Indian River	140,612	142,592	1.4%
Martin	149,145	149,452	0.2%
Okeechobee	39,867	39,973	0.3%
St. Lucie	284,502	285,191	0.2%
Circuit 20 (7)	**1,203,621**	**1,223,974**	**1.7%**
Charlotte	164,189	165,657	0.9%
Collier	337,195	341,447	1.3%
Glades	12,723	12,945	1.7%
Hendry	37,842	38,003	0.4%
Lee	651,672	665,922	2.2%
Total	**19,424,887**	**19,718,550**	**1.5%**

*January 2014 and January 2015 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in August 2014 and August 2015, respectively.

**Circuit ranking is based on total population as of January 2015.

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 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 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, violent crimes, crimes against persons, crimes against property, and drug crimes.

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%.