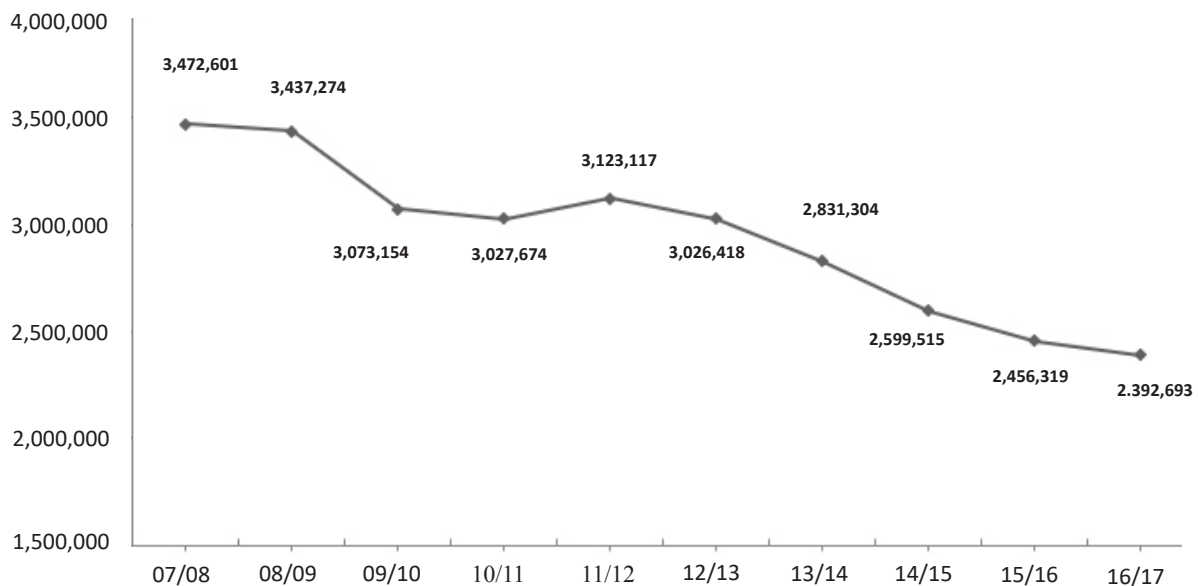


FILINGS: FLORIDA'S TRIAL COURTS

Filings, Florida County Courts FY 2007 - 2008 to FY 2016 - 2017*

[\(For an accessible version of these filings, follow this link\)](#)

Florida's county courts comprise two different divisions. The county criminal division includes three categories of criminal offenses: misdemeanors and ordinance violations, non-DUI criminal traffic, and driving under the influence. The county civil division includes five categories of civil cases: small claims (up to \$5,000**), county civil (\$5,001 to \$15,000), other county civil, evictions, and civil traffic infractions.



Filings Overview

In keeping with national trends, Florida's county courts experienced pronounced declines in misdemeanor filings from 2007 to 2015; the declines are largely due to fewer arrests and increased diversionary methods.

The number of county civil filings has remained stable from 2009 to the present. Civil traffic infractions average 78% of this total, thus driving the overall trend.

Recent Trends

From FY 2015-16 to FY 2016-17, the county courts experienced a decrease of 2.6% in case filings. However, the county courts saw increases of 16.2% in small claims filings, 14.9% in county civil filings, and 12.8% in county ordinances filings.

* All data provided above have undergone an extensive, six-month review process including audit, examination, and verification. [From this link, access additional statistical information about Florida's courts.](#)

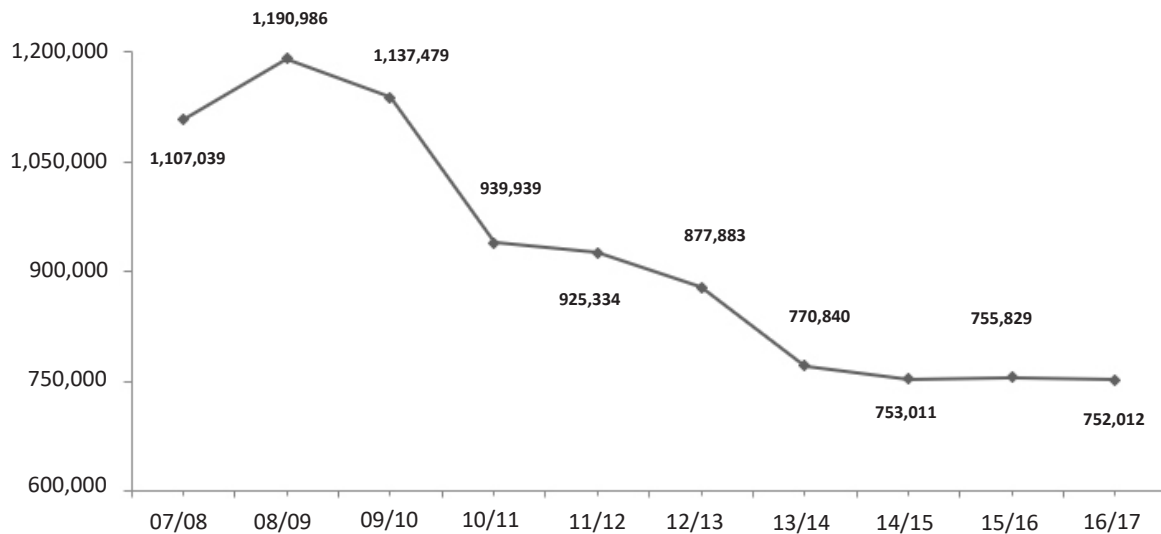
** The supreme court recently approved increasing the small claims jurisdictional amount to \$8000; plans for implementation are underway.

FILINGS: FLORIDA'S TRIAL COURTS

Filings, Florida Circuit Courts FY 2007 - 2008 to FY 2016 - 2017*

[\(For an accessible version of these filings, follow this link\)](#)

Florida's circuit courts comprise four different divisions. The circuit criminal division includes five categories of felony offenses: capital murder, serious crimes against persons, less serious crimes against persons, crimes against property, and drug offenses. The circuit civil division includes six categories of civil cases: professional malpractice and products liability, auto and other negligence, contract and indebtedness, real property, business disputes, and other circuit civil. The family court comprises eight categories of family court cases: simplified dissolution, dissolution, child support, orders for protection against violence, paternity, other domestic relations, juvenile delinquency, and juvenile dependency. And the probate division includes four categories of probate cases: probate, trusts, commitment acts, and guardianship.



Filings Overview

In 2007, recession-related case types, including contracts and foreclosures, began to increase. The 2010 foreclosure moratorium decreased these filings by 117%.

Nine years after the Great Recession, foreclosure filings returned to the normal filing trends that existed in 2006.

Recent Trends

From FY 2015-16 to FY 2016-17, the circuit courts experienced a decrease of 0.5% in case filings. But the circuit courts saw increases of 19.0% in worthless checks filings, 15.0% in termination of parental rights filings, and 9.8% in auto negligence filings.

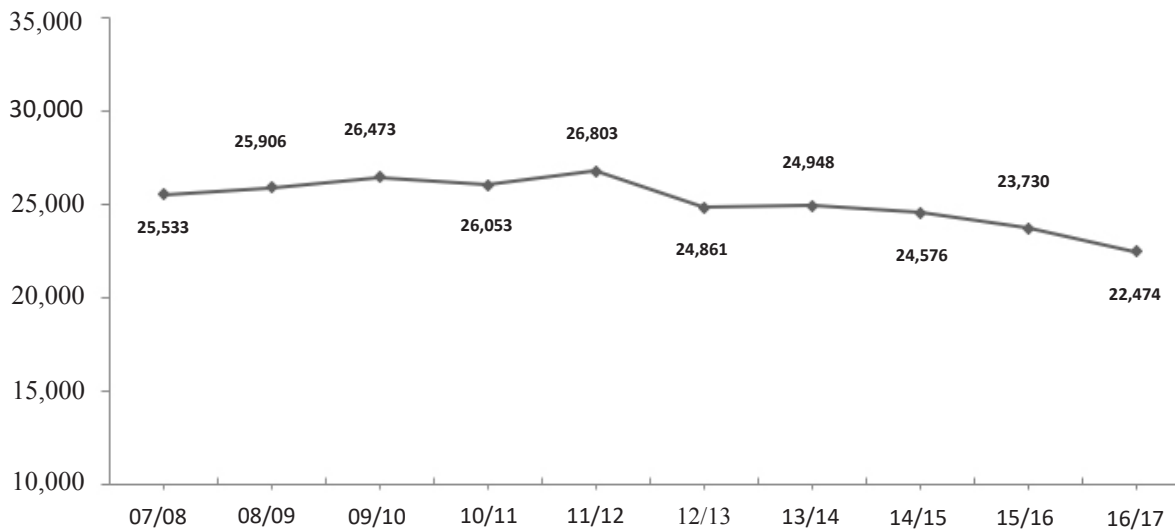
* All data provided above have undergone an extensive, six-month review process including audit, examination, and verification.

FILINGS: FLORIDA'S APPELLATE COURTS

Filings, Florida District Courts of Appeal FY 2007 - 2008 to FY 2016 - 2017*

[\(For an accessible version of these filings, follow this link\)](#)

Florida's district courts of appeal decide all matters not directly appealable to the supreme court as well as final actions of state agencies. They hear seven categories of cases: administrative, civil, criminal, criminal post-conviction, family, juvenile, and probate/guardianship. In addition, the First District Court of Appeal hears all workers' compensation appeals.



Filings Overview

Decreasing appeals mirrored decreased filing trends in the trial courts.

Recent Trends

From FY 2015-16 to FY 2016-17, the district courts saw a decrease of 5.3% in case filings. Yet the district courts experienced increases of 13.8% in workers' compensation filings, 3.2% in juvenile filings, and 2.3% in administrative filings.

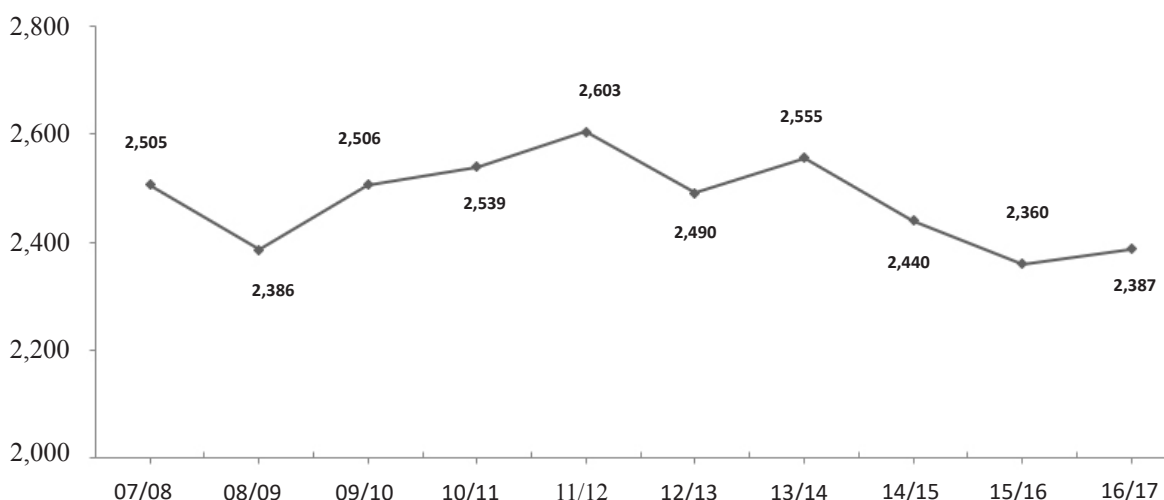
* All data provided above have undergone an extensive, six-month review process including audit, examination, and verification.

FILINGS: FLORIDA'S APPELLATE COURTS

Filings, Florida Supreme Court FY 2007 - 2008 to FY 2016 - 2017*

[\(For an accessible version of these filings, follow this link\)](#)

The jurisdiction of the Florida Supreme Court is set out in the constitution. Mandatory jurisdiction includes death penalty cases, district court decisions declaring a state statute or provision of the state constitution invalid, bond validations, rules of court procedure, and statewide agency actions relating to public utilities. The court also has exclusive authority to regulate the admission and discipline of lawyers in Florida as well as the authority to discipline and remove judges. In addition, at its discretion, the court may review certain other categories of cases if discretionary review is sought by a party.



Filings Overview

In 2012, the Florida Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of section 893.13, F.S., part of the Florida Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act (in *State v. Adkins*, 96 So. 3d 412 (Fla. 2012)), reducing petitions to have affected drug convictions overturned.

The recent filing increase is related to a law change requiring a unanimous jury for capital sentence, prompting filings challenging death sentences imposed prior to the law change.

Recent Trends

From FY 2015-16 to FY 2016-17, the supreme court experienced an increase of 1.1% in case filings. In addition, the supreme court saw an increase of 57.3% in post-conviction death penalty filings, 6.5% in other original jurisdiction filings, and 2.9% in Florida Bar case filings.

* All data provided above have undergone an extensive, six-month review process including audit, examination, and verification. Please follow this link for caseload statistics for the [Florida Supreme Court's annual filings and dispositions for 2000 - 2017](#).