

## 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 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018). These statistics were verified by the Office of the State Courts Administrator as of February 2019.

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 2017 and January 2018

<b>Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2017)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2018)</b>	<b>Percentage Change from 2017 to 2018</b>
<b>Circuit 1 (14)</b>	<b>740,450</b>	<b>753,802</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
Escambia	311,800	315,819	1.3%
Okaloosa	193,973	197,394	1.8%
Santa Rosa	169,979	173,663	2.2%
Walton	64,698	66,926	3.4%
<b>Circuit 2 (16)</b>	<b>405,970</b>	<b>404,979</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
Franklin	11,974	12,303	2.7%
Gadsden	48,608	48,167	-0.9%
Jefferson	14,512	14,690	1.2%
Leon	290,164	288,912	-0.4%
Liberty	8,792	8,743	-0.6%
Wakulla	31,920	32,164	0.8%
<b>Circuit 3 (19)</b>	<b>195,181</b>	<b>195,795</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Columbia	68,953	69,305	0.5%
Dixie	16,958	16,727	-1.4%
Hamilton	14,693	14,690	0.0%
Lafayette	8,627	8,400	-2.6%
Madison	19,275	19,425	0.8%
Suwannee	44,390	44,989	1.3%
Taylor	22,285	22,259	-0.1%
<b>Circuit 4 (8)</b>	<b>1,223,142</b>	<b>1,241,051</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
Clay	208,551	211,501	1.4%
Duval	935,726	947,350	1.2%
Nassau	78,865	82,200	4.2%

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Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2017)	Total Population (as of January 2018)	Percentage Change from 2017 to 2018
<b>Circuit 5 (9)</b>	<b>1,126,494</b>	<b>1,143,128</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
Citrus	144,213	144,556	0.2%
Hernando	181,631	184,013	1.3%
Lake	329,716	338,246	2.6%
Marion	349,451	352,853	1.0%
Sumter	121,483	123,460	1.6%
<b>Circuit 6 (4)</b>	<b>1,461,524</b>	<b>1,481,525</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
Pasco	502,414	513,682	2.2%
Pinellas	959,110	967,843	0.9%
<b>Circuit 7 (11)</b>	<b>925,502</b>	<b>947,072</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Flagler	104,730	107,106	2.3%
Putnam	73,046	73,341	0.4%
St. Johns	225,584	237,167	5.1%
Volusia	522,142	529,458	1.4%
<b>Circuit 8 (17)</b>	<b>386,490</b>	<b>392,478</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
Alachua	258,369	262,377	1.6%
Baker	26,999	27,381	1.4%
Bradford	27,639	27,890	0.9%
Gilchrist	16,909	17,478	3.4%
Levy	40,705	41,377	1.7%
Union	15,869	15,975	0.7%
<b>Circuit 9 (3)</b>	<b>1,635,572</b>	<b>1,703,214</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
Orange	1,302,533	1,350,872	3.7%
Osceola	333,039	352,342	5.8%

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<b>Circuit 10 (13)</b>	<b>787,201</b>	<b>804,544</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
Hardee	27,656	27,408	-0.9%
Highlands	102,141	102,861	0.7%
Polk	657,404	674,275	2.6%
<b>Circuit 11 (1)</b>	<b>2,733,884</b>	<b>2,777,418</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
Miami-Dade	2,733,884	2,777,418	1.6%
<b>Circuit 12 (12)</b>	<b>803,198</b>	<b>825,146</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Desoto	35,344	35,885	1.5%
Manatee	363,287	376,634	3.7%
Sarasota	404,567	412,627	2.0%
<b>Circuit 13 (6)</b>	<b>1,373,935</b>	<b>1,404,031</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
Hillsborough	1,373,935	1,404,031	2.2%
<b>Circuit 14 (18)</b>	<b>304,568</b>	<b>308,459</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
Bay	177,820	180,980	1.8%
Calhoun	14,624	15,237	4.2%
Gulf	16,860	16,179	-4.0%
Holmes	20,091	20,345	1.3%
Jackson	50,282	50,577	0.6%
Washington	24,891	25,141	1.0%
<b>Circuit 15 (5)</b>	<b>1,402,605</b>	<b>1,432,046</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
Palm Beach	1,402,605	1,432,046	2.1%
<b>Circuit 16 (20)</b>	<b>77,027</b>	<b>76,793</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
Monroe	77,027	76,793	-0.3%

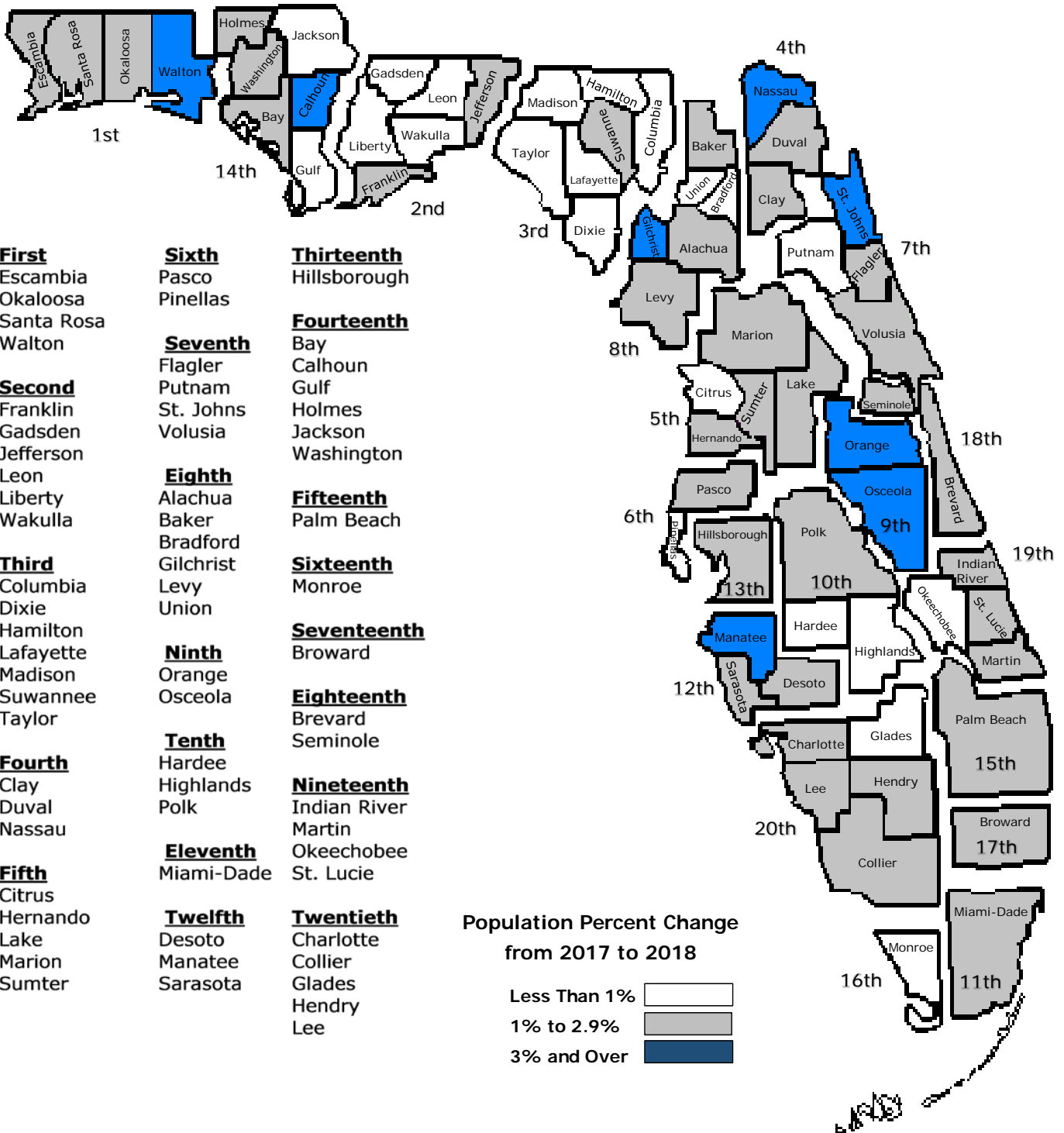
**FLORIDA POPULATION\***  
**by Circuit/County**  
**as of January 2017 and January 2018**

<b>Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2017)</b>	<b>Total Population (as of January 2018)</b>	<b>Percentage Change from 2017 to 2018</b>
<b>Circuit 17 (2)</b>	<b>1,873,129</b>	<b>1,891,578</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
Broward	1,873,129	1,891,578	1.0%
<b>Circuit 18 (10)</b>	<b>1,027,543</b>	<b>1,040,801</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
Brevard	573,688	580,554	1.2%
Seminole	453,855	460,247	1.4%
<b>Circuit 19 (15)</b>	<b>638,427</b>	<b>648,784</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
Indian River	148,588	150,818	1.5%
Martin	151,629	154,751	2.1%
Okeechobee	41,265	41,347	0.2%
St. Lucie	296,945	301,868	1.7%
<b>Circuit 20 (7)</b>	<b>1,271,949</b>	<b>1,302,965</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
Charlotte	172,644	174,307	1.0%
Collier	355,042	363,660	2.4%
Glades	13,191	13,136	-0.4%
Hendry	38,560	39,494	2.4%
Lee	692,512	712,368	2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,393,791</b>	<b>20,775,609</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

\*January 2017 and January 2018 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in August 2017 and August 2018, respectively.

\*\*Circuit ranking is based on total population as of January 2018.

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MAP OF FLORIDA



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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%.**