
Message from the State Courts Administrator

February 2006



Dear Friends:

I am pleased to present the *FY 2004-05 Statistical Reference Guide to Florida's Trial Courts*. This is the fifth guide published since its inception. Incorporated in this Guide are statistical data maintained by the Office of the State Courts Administrator from both the circuit and county court systems on filings, dispositions, and special proceedings for fiscal year 2004-2005, as reported by the sixty-seven clerks of court. The clerks of court continue to be instrumental in improving the quality and accuracy of the data provided in this Guide even as duties have increased throughout the court system. The data contained in this publication are essential for the allocation of judicial resources and more importantly the oversight and management of the State Courts System. Thus, the clerks' efforts are a vital component in the process of reporting quality data.

One of the state court's goals for accountability to the people is sharing information about the judicial system. The annual production of this Guide by staff at the Office of the State Courts Administrator assist in fulfilling this goal by providing a vehicle for sharing data from our court system with policymakers, court users and the public. This mechanism for reporting court statistics is a necessary element in maintaining public trust and confidence in the judicial system.

The format of this year's Statistical Reference Guide has been revised to better reflect the organization of the trial courts. The Domestic Relations and Juvenile divisions used in previous guides have been combined and are now referred to as Family Court.

I wish to again extend my appreciation to all judicial personnel who contributed to the collection of these trial court statistics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elisabeth H. Goodner". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Elisabeth H. Goodner
State Courts Administrator

Cover Design by Xiaoyuan Zhu

Front Cover Photograph of the Reflection I: Courthouse © Katerina Pruskova 2003

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REPORT OVERVIEW

Florida's court system is organized in 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 incorporates both circuit and county courts. The *Statistical Reference Guide* provides statistics pertaining to Florida's trial courts for Fiscal Year 2004-05 (July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005). These statistics were received and verified as of November 2005.

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 filing and disposition data and are received from those outside of the OSCA including: state and local government agencies, circuit court administration, private sector businesses and 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:

Trial Court System Description - The first section of the report provides a map of the state of Florida identifying the location of each of Florida's twenty judicial circuits and sixty-seven 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.

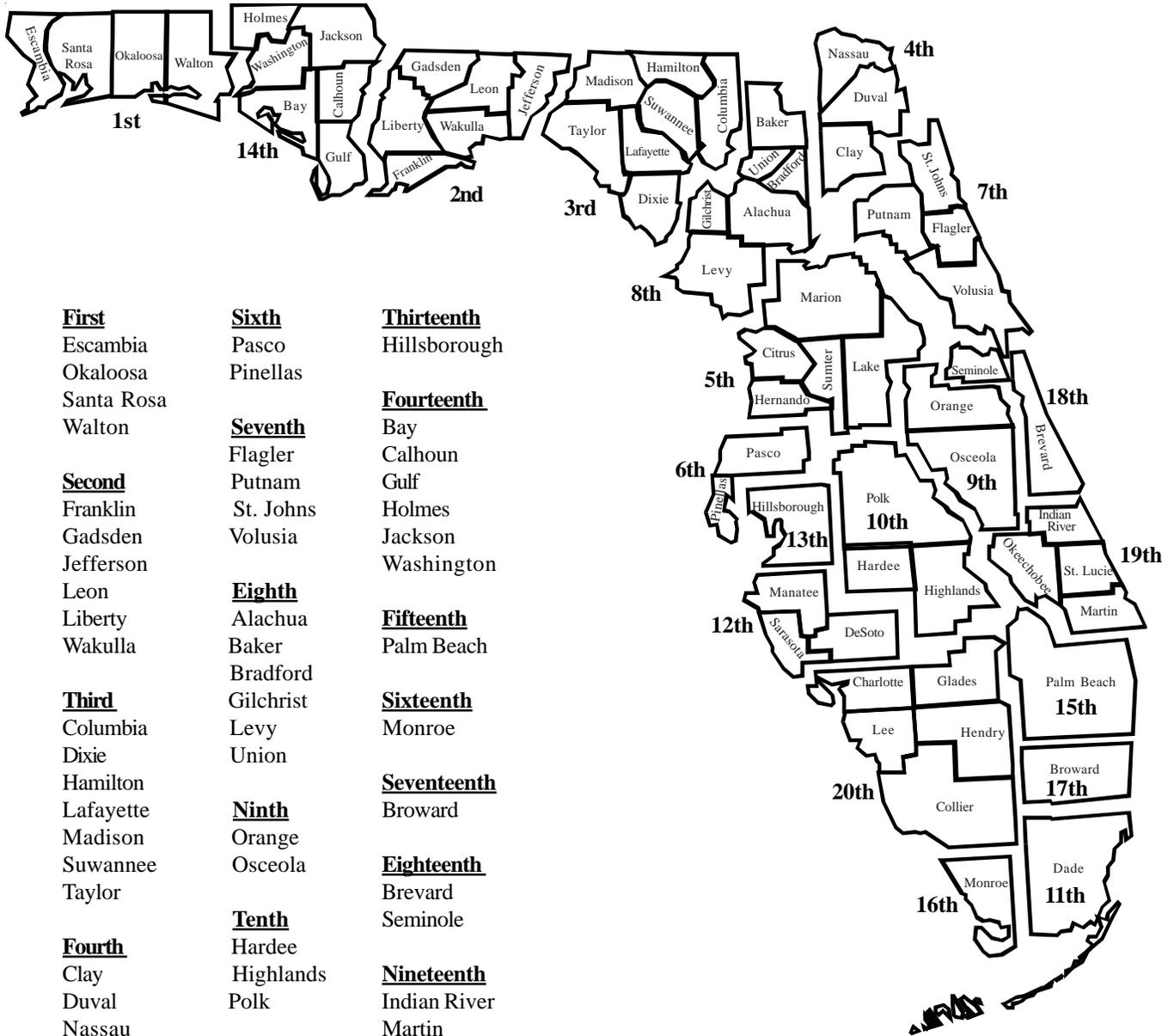
Overall Statistics - The Overall Statistics section provides a breakdown of the number of circuit and county judgeships for each judicial circuit. Also provided are statewide statistics for total circuit and county court filings and dispositions.

By-Division Statistics - The By-Division portion of the report displays filings, dispositions, and special proceedings data 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.

Additional Information - This section provides contact information for gaining access to further statistics. The web address is also provided for accessing the on-line version of the *Statistical Reference Guide* and other on-line court statistics.

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

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MAP OF FLORIDA



First

Escambia
Santa Rosa
Okaloosa
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

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

Trial Court System

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2004 and January 2005

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2004)	Total Population (as of January 2005)	Percentage Change from 2004 to 2005
Circuit 1 (13)	667,118	686,640	2.9%
Escambia	305,111	309,586	1.5%
Okaloosa	182,911	188,415	3.0%
Santa Rosa	131,108	136,610	4.2%
Walton	47,988	52,029	8.4%
Circuit 2 (16)	362,104	372,713	2.9%
Franklin	10,518	10,753	2.2%
Gadsden	46,699	47,196	1.1%
Jefferson	13,698	14,107	3.0%
Leon	258,450	267,122	3.4%
Liberty	7,305	7,391	1.2%
Wakulla	25,434	26,144	2.8%
Circuit 3 (19)	173,160	177,784	2.7%
Columbia	60,071	61,476	2.3%
Dixie	14,977	15,359	2.6%
Hamilton	14,082	14,389	2.2%
Lafayette	7,480	7,586	1.4%
Madison	19,238	19,661	2.2%
Suwannee	36,847	38,264	3.8%
Taylor	20,465	21,049	2.9%
Circuit 4 (7)	1,055,497	1,083,739	2.7%
Clay	158,231	167,154	5.6%
Duval	833,246	850,218	2.0%
Nassau	64,020	66,367	3.7%

FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
as of January 2004 and January 2005

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2004)	Total Population (as of January 2005)	Percentage Change from 2004 to 2005
Circuit 5 (10)	864,192	905,149	4.7%
Citrus	127,299	131,092	3.0%
Hernando	142,473	147,670	3.6%
Lake	244,563	258,412	5.7%
Marion	285,406	299,332	4.9%
Sumter	64,451	68,643	6.5%
Circuit 6 (3)	1,323,880	1,345,108	1.6%
Pasco	379,745	396,959	4.5%
Pinellas	944,135	948,149	0.4%
Circuit 7 (11)	753,760	791,371	5.0%
Flagler	63,176	72,727	15.1%
Putnam	72,236	73,700	2.0%
St. Johns	142,750	153,808	7.7%
Volusia	475,598	491,136	3.3%
Circuit 8 (17)	351,292	361,063	2.8%
Alachua	233,441	239,577	2.6%
Baker	23,599	24,227	2.7%
Bradford	27,208	28,027	3.0%
Gilchrist	15,853	16,273	2.6%
Levy	37,185	38,094	2.4%
Union	14,006	14,865	6.1%
Circuit 9 (4)	1,212,977	1,268,840	4.6%
Orange	998,286	1,035,143	3.7%
Osceola	214,691	233,697	8.9%

Trial Court System

FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
as of January 2004 and January 2005

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2004)	Total Population (as of January 2005)	Percentage Change from 2004 to 2005
Circuit 10 (14)	636,135	657,466	3.4%
Hardee	27,610	28,105	1.8%
Highlands	91,464	93,223	1.9%
Polk	517,061	536,138	3.7%
Circuit 11 (1)	2,367,123	2,404,621	1.6%
Dade	2,367,123	2,404,621	1.6%
Circuit 12 (12)	675,385	698,373	3.4%
Desoto	34,284	34,520	0.7%
Manatee	288,934	300,375	4.0%
Sarasota	352,167	363,478	3.2%
Circuit 13 (6)	1,090,676	1,126,151	3.3%
Hillsborough	1,090,676	1,126,151	3.3%
Circuit 14 (18)	276,070	280,949	1.8%
Bay	156,115	160,141	2.6%
Calhoun	13,549	13,677	0.9%
Gulf	15,708	16,282	3.7%
Holmes	19,082	19,071	-0.1%
Jackson	49,478	49,076	-0.8%
Washington	22,138	22,702	2.5%
Circuit 15 (5)	1,228,202	1,263,670	2.9%
Palm Beach	1,228,202	1,263,670	2.9%
Circuit 16 (20)	80,650	81,387	0.9%
Monroe	80,650	81,387	0.9%

FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
as of January 2004 and January 2005

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2004)	Total Population (as of January 2005)	Percentage Change from 2004 to 2005
Circuit 17 (2)	1,712,461	1,747,258	2.0%
Broward	1,712,461	1,747,258	2.0%
Circuit 18 (9)	913,234	938,509	2.8%
Brevard	512,902	528,518	3.0%
Seminole	400,332	409,991	2.4%
Circuit 19 (15)	511,382	538,603	5.3%
Indian River	122,696	129,259	5.3%
Martin	136,288	139,643	2.5%
Okeechobee	37,542	38,395	2.3%
St. Lucie	214,856	231,306	7.7%
Circuit 20 (8)	1,005,601	1,058,629	5.3%
Charlotte	153,956	159,707	3.7%
Collier	298,846	315,541	5.6%
Glades	10,877	10,855	-0.2%
Hendry	37,327	38,755	3.8%
Lee	504,595	533,771	5.8%
State Total	17,260,899	17,788,023	3.1%

*January 2004 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in February 2004. January 2005 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in March 2005.

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 to the OSCA by the sixty-seven clerks of court monthly via electronic or hard-copy submission. Exceptions to this are county criminal traffic, driving under the influence, and civil traffic infractions data which are obtained from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles on an annual basis.

Upon receipt of the SRS reports from the clerks of court, the OSCA staff review the data for accuracy either manually or through the utilization 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 updated on a continual basis. 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* (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 may be 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, long-range program planning, and performance-based budgeting. The information in the permanent database are 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. 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 portion of this report.

Note: All percentages provided in the report have been rounded. Therefore, totals may not equal 100%.