

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 2006-07 (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007). These statistics were received and verified as of November 2007.

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:

Introduction - 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.

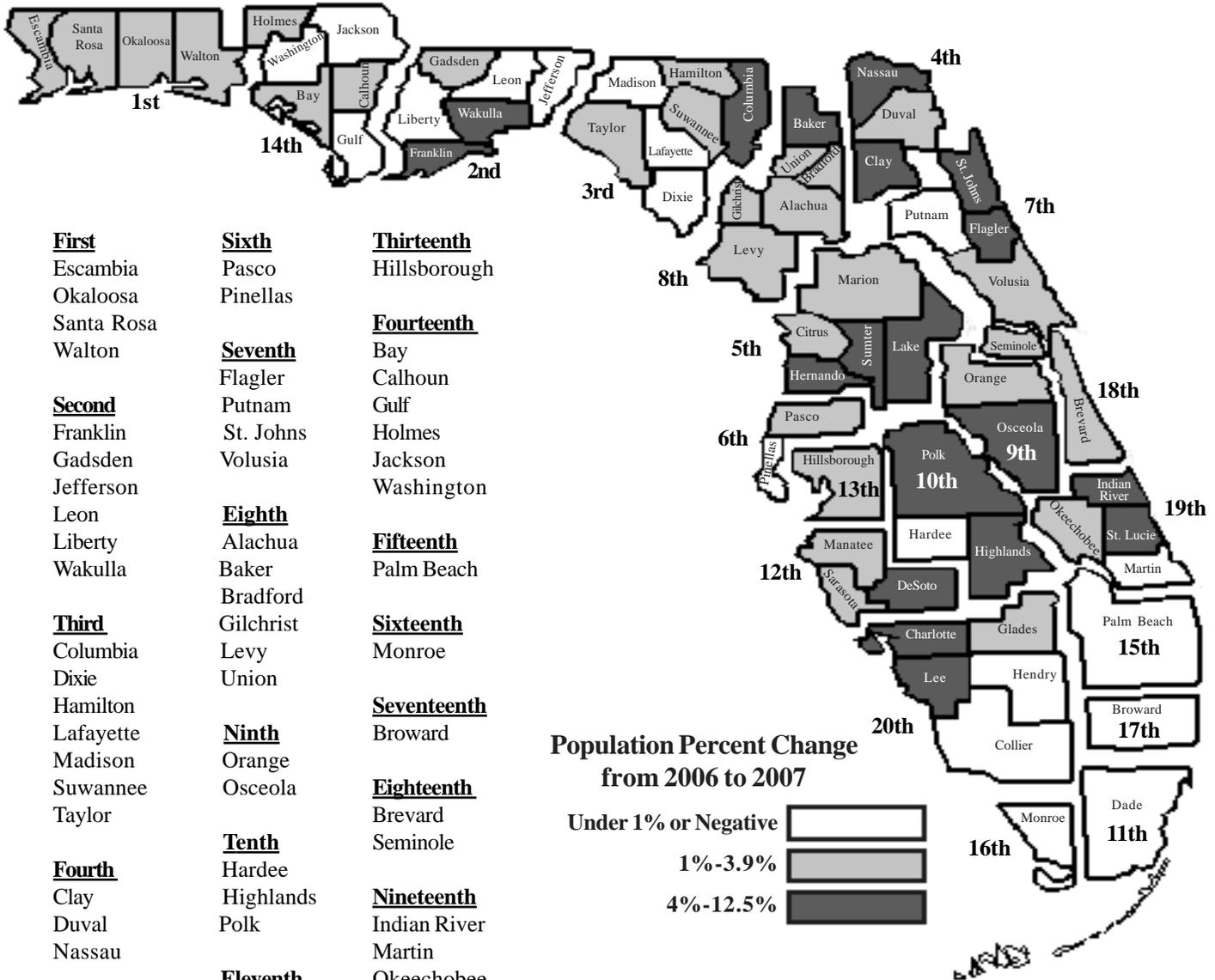
Overall Statistics - The Overall Statistics section provides a breakdown of the number and assignment of circuit and county judgeships for each judicial circuit. Also provided are statewide statistics for total circuit and county court filings and dispositions.

By-Division Statistics - The By-Division 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.

Acknowledgements

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
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

Dade

Twelfth

Desoto
Manatee
Sarasota

Thirteenth

Hillsborough

Fourteenth

Bay
Calhoun
Gulf
Holmes
Jackson
Washington

Fifteenth

Palm Beach

Sixteenth

Monroe

Seventeenth

Broward

Eighteenth

Brevard
Seminole

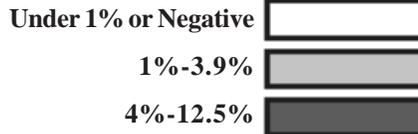
Nineteenth

Indian River
Martin
Okeechobee
St. Lucie

Twentieth

Charlotte
Collier
Glades
Hendry
Lee

Population Percent Change from 2006 to 2007



Introduction

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2006 and January 2007

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| Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking) | Total Population (as of January 2006) | Total Population (as of January 2007) | Percentage Change from 2006 to 2007 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Circuit 1 (13) | 689,194 | 706,264 | 2.5% |
| Escambia | 303,063 | 311,505 | 2.8% |
| Okaloosa | 191,502 | 195,658 | 2.2% |
| Santa Rosa | 139,037 | 142,248 | 2.3% |
| Walton | 55,592 | 56,853 | 2.3% |
| Circuit 2 (16) | 385,142 | 385,361 | 0.1% |
| Franklin | 11,075 | 12,233 | 10.5% |
| Gadsden | 48,248 | 48,832 | 1.2% |
| Jefferson | 14,351 | 14,466 | 0.8% |
| Leon | 275,876 | 272,789 | -1.1% |
| Liberty | 7,705 | 7,776 | 0.9% |
| Wakulla | 27,887 | 29,265 | 4.9% |
| Circuit 3 (19) | 180,624 | 185,258 | 2.6% |
| Columbia | 62,361 | 64,986 | 4.2% |
| Dixie | 15,676 | 15,772 | 0.6% |
| Hamilton | 14,355 | 14,667 | 2.2% |
| Lafayette | 8,202 | 8,179 | -0.3% |
| Madison | 19,836 | 19,917 | 0.4% |
| Suwannee | 38,626 | 39,444 | 2.1% |
| Taylor | 21,568 | 22,293 | 3.4% |
| Circuit 4 (8) | 1,115,973 | 1,145,628 | 2.7% |
| Clay | 174,096 | 182,937 | 5.1% |
| Duval | 875,224 | 893,355 | 2.1% |
| Nassau | 66,653 | 69,336 | 4.0% |

FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
as of January 2006 and January 2007

| Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking) | Total Population (as of January 2006) | Total Population (as of January 2007) | Percentage Change from 2006 to 2007 |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Circuit 5 (9) | 952,166 | 996,197 | 4.6% |
| Citrus | 135,121 | 139,404 | 3.2% |
| Hernando | 154,458 | 161,074 | 4.3% |
| Lake | 271,063 | 284,290 | 4.9% |
| Marion | 312,941 | 322,994 | 3.2% |
| Sumter | 78,583 | 88,435 | 12.5% |
| Circuit 6 (3) | 1,369,482 | 1,377,475 | 0.6% |
| Pasco | 418,024 | 432,595 | 3.5% |
| Pinellas | 951,458 | 944,880 | -0.7% |
| Circuit 7 (11) | 823,629 | 846,833 | 2.8% |
| Flagler | 84,160 | 92,684 | 10.1% |
| Putnam | 74,201 | 74,754 | 0.7% |
| St. Johns | 162,878 | 172,039 | 5.6% |
| Volusia | 502,390 | 507,356 | 1.0% |
| Circuit 8 (17) | 366,788 | 373,483 | 1.8% |
| Alachua | 244,031 | 246,603 | 1.1% |
| Baker | 24,067 | 25,514 | 6.0% |
| Bradford | 28,387 | 28,955 | 2.0% |
| Gilchrist | 16,507 | 17,011 | 3.1% |
| Levy | 38,482 | 39,844 | 3.5% |
| Union | 15,314 | 15,556 | 1.6% |
| Circuit 9 (4) | 1,308,949 | 1,364,540 | 4.2% |
| Orange | 1,066,085 | 1,100,256 | 3.2% |
| Osceola | 242,864 | 264,284 | 8.8% |

Introduction

FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
as of January 2006 and January 2007

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| Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking) | Total Population (as of January 2006) | Total Population (as of January 2007) | Percentage Change from 2006 to 2007 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Circuit 10 (14) | 673,167 | 703,963 | 4.6% |
| Hardee | 27,240 | 27,427 | 0.7% |
| Highlands | 94,567 | 98,362 | 4.0% |
| Polk | 551,360 | 578,174 | 4.9% |
| Circuit 11 (1) | 2,452,290 | 2,455,446 | 0.1% |
| Dade | 2,452,290 | 2,455,446 | 0.1% |
| Circuit 12 (12) | 717,530 | 733,620 | 2.2% |
| Desoto | 32,140 | 33,655 | 4.7% |
| Manatee | 310,861 | 314,037 | 1.0% |
| Sarasota | 374,529 | 385,928 | 3.0% |
| Circuit 13 (6) | 1,149,939 | 1,184,256 | 3.0% |
| Hillsborough | 1,149,939 | 1,184,256 | 3.0% |
| Circuit 14 (18) | 288,021 | 291,642 | 1.3% |
| Bay | 164,036 | 167,142 | 1.9% |
| Calhoun | 14,139 | 14,390 | 1.8% |
| Gulf | 16,671 | 16,735 | 0.4% |
| Holmes | 19,265 | 19,494 | 1.2% |
| Jackson | 50,290 | 50,340 | 0.1% |
| Washington | 23,620 | 23,541 | -0.3% |
| Circuit 15 (5) | 1,285,774 | 1,293,333 | 0.6% |
| Palm Beach | 1,285,774 | 1,293,333 | 0.6% |
| Circuit 16 (20) | 83,039 | 79,423 | -4.4% |
| Monroe | 83,039 | 79,423 | -4.4% |

FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
as of January 2006 and January 2007

| Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking) | Total Population (as of January 2006) | Total Population (as of January 2007) | Percentage Change from 2006 to 2007 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Circuit 17 (2) | 1,759,040 | 1,760,435 | 0.1% |
| Broward | 1,759,040 | 1,760,435 | 0.1% |
| Circuit 18 (10) | 958,315 | 974,730 | 1.7% |
| Brevard | 539,863 | 549,966 | 1.9% |
| Seminole | 418,452 | 424,764 | 1.5% |
| Circuit 19 (15) | 562,515 | 590,836 | 5.0% |
| Indian River | 132,526 | 138,848 | 4.8% |
| Martin | 143,520 | 143,321 | -0.1% |
| Okeechobee | 37,770 | 38,986 | 3.2% |
| St. Lucie | 248,699 | 269,681 | 8.4% |
| Circuit 20 (7) | 1,098,995 | 1,154,022 | 5.0% |
| Charlotte | 153,831 | 163,800 | 6.5% |
| Collier | 327,197 | 330,178 | 0.9% |
| Glades | 10,783 | 10,989 | 1.9% |
| Hendry | 39,088 | 39,402 | 0.8% |
| Lee | 568,096 | 609,653 | 7.3% |
| State Total | 18,220,572 | 18,602,745 | 2.1% |

*January 2006 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in July 2006. January 2007 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in August 2007.

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, and long-range program planning. 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

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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%.