
Introduction

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 2007-08 (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008). These statistics were received and verified as of November 2008.

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 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.

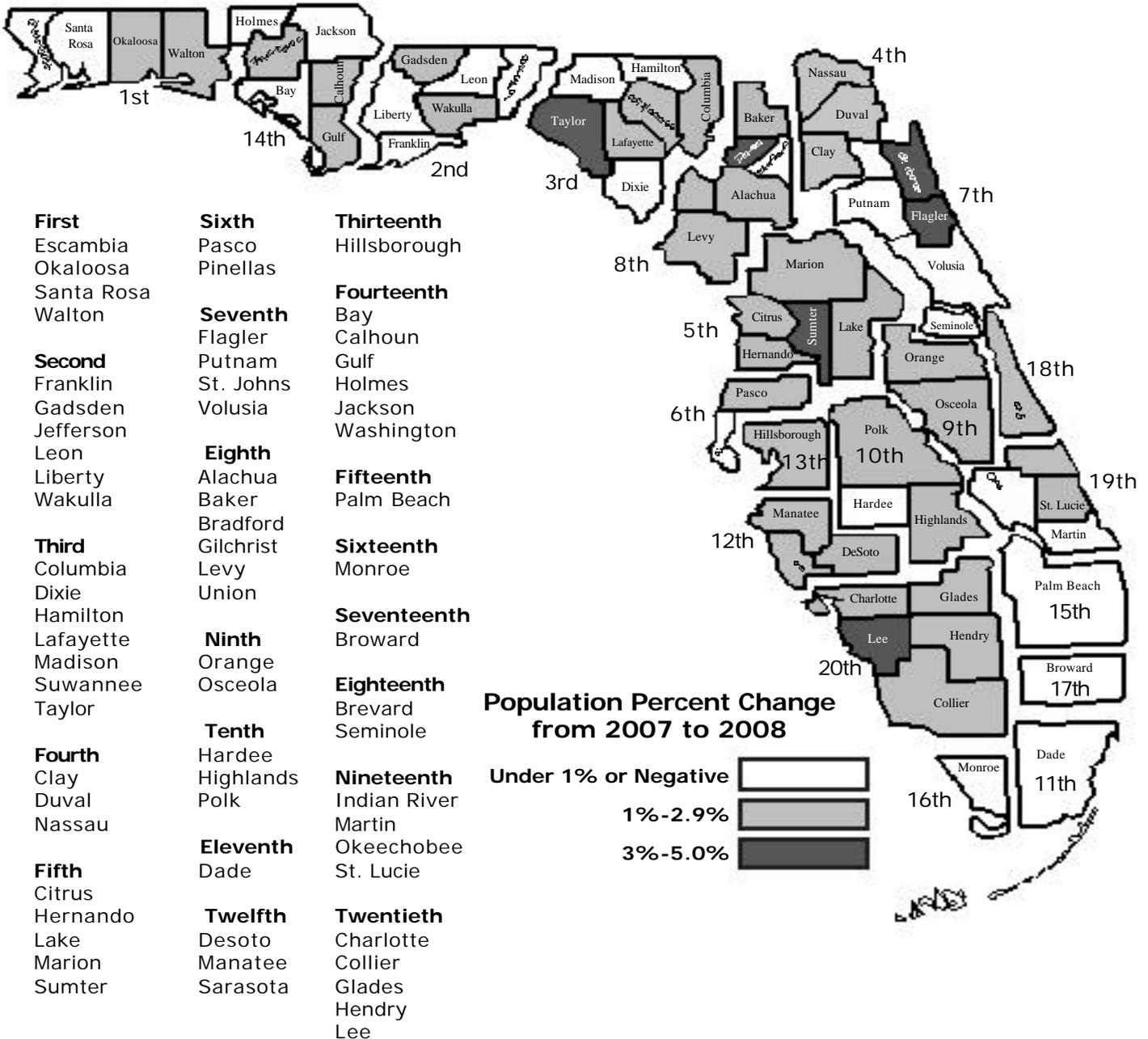
Overall Statistics - The Overall Statistics section provides a breakdown of the number and assignment of circuit and county judgeships for each judicial circuit. Also provided are statewide statistics for total circuit and county court filings and dispositions.

By-Division Statistics - The By-Division portion of the report displays filings, dispositions, 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

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



Introduction

FLORIDA POPULATION* by Circuit/County as of January 2007 and January 2008

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2007)	Total Population (as of January 2008)	Percentage Change from 2007 to 2008
Circuit 1 (14)	706,264	709,678	0.5%
Escambia	311,505	311,572	0.0%
Okaloosa	195,658	198,070	1.2%
Santa Rosa	142,248	142,280	0.0%
Walton	56,853	57,756	1.6%
Circuit 2 (16)	385,361	387,671	0.6%
Franklin	12,233	12,266	0.3%
Gadsden	48,832	49,942	2.3%
Jefferson	14,466	14,535	0.5%
Leon	272,789	273,094	0.1%
Liberty	7,776	7,754	-0.3%
Wakulla	29,265	30,080	2.8%
Circuit 3 (19)	185,258	188,304	1.6%
Columbia	64,986	66,080	1.7%
Dixie	15,772	15,864	0.6%
Hamilton	14,667	14,745	0.5%
Lafayette	8,179	8,408	2.8%
Madison	19,917	19,981	0.3%
Suwannee	39,444	40,259	2.1%
Taylor	22,293	22,967	3.0%
Circuit 4 (8)	1,145,628	1,162,984	1.5%
Clay	182,937	188,083	2.8%
Duval	893,355	904,837	1.3%
Nassau	69,336	70,064	1.0%

FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
as of January 2007 and January 2008

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2007)	Total Population (as of January 2008)	Percentage Change from 2007 to 2008
Circuit 5 (9)	996,197	1,018,832	2.3%
Citrus	139,404	141,443	1.5%
Hernando	161,074	164,298	2.0%
Lake	284,290	290,725	2.3%
Marion	322,994	329,528	2.0%
Sumter	88,435	92,838	5.0%
Circuit 6 (4)	1,377,475	1,379,277	0.1%
Pasco	432,595	438,466	1.4%
Pinellas	944,880	940,811	-0.4%
Circuit 7 (11)	846,833	857,663	1.3%
Flagler	92,684	95,479	3.0%
Putnam	74,754	74,820	0.1%
St. Johns	172,039	177,968	3.4%
Volusia	507,356	509,396	0.4%
Circuit 8 (17)	373,483	377,838	1.2%
Alachua	246,603	249,026	1.0%
Baker	25,514	25,798	1.1%
Bradford	28,955	29,227	0.9%
Gilchrist	17,011	17,275	1.6%
Levy	39,844	40,472	1.6%
Union	15,556	16,040	3.1%
Circuit 9 (3)	1,364,540	1,386,738	1.6%
Orange	1,100,256	1,116,510	1.5%
Osceola	264,284	270,228	2.2%

Introduction

FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued by Circuit/County as of January 2007 and January 2008

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2007)	Total Population (as of January 2008)	Percentage Change from 2007 to 2008
Circuit 10 (13)	703,963	713,735	1.4%
Hardee	27,427	27,625	0.7%
Highlands	98,362	99,375	1.0%
Polk	578,174	586,735	1.5%
Circuit 11 (1)	2,455,446	2,472,434	0.7%
Miami-Dade	2,455,446	2,472,434	0.7%
Circuit 12 (12)	733,620	744,259	1.5%
Desoto	33,655	34,209	1.6%
Manatee	314,037	319,585	1.8%
Sarasota	385,928	390,465	1.2%
Circuit 13 (6)	1,184,256	1,204,007	1.7%
Hillsborough	1,184,256	1,204,007	1.7%
Circuit 14 (18)	291,642	294,087	0.8%
Bay	167,142	168,281	0.7%
Calhoun	14,390	14,633	1.7%
Gulf	16,735	16,951	1.3%
Holmes	19,494	19,392	-0.5%
Jackson	50,340	50,712	0.7%
Washington	23,541	24,118	2.5%
Circuit 15 (5)	1,293,333	1,297,450	0.3%
Palm Beach	1,293,333	1,297,450	0.3%
Circuit 16 (20)	79,423	78,323	-1.4%
Monroe	79,423	78,323	-1.4%

FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
as of January 2007 and January 2008

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking)	Total Population (as of January 2007)	Total Population (as of January 2008)	Percentage Change from 2007 to 2008
Circuit 17 (2)	1,760,435	1,770,440	0.6%
Broward	1,760,435	1,770,440	0.6%
Circuit 18 (10)	974,730	983,134	0.9%
Brevard	549,966	555,570	1.0%
Seminole	424,764	427,564	0.7%
Circuit 19 (15)	590,836	601,741	1.8%
Indian River	138,848	141,550	1.9%
Martin	143,321	144,237	0.6%
Okeechobee	38,986	39,050	0.2%
St. Lucie	269,681	276,904	2.7%
Circuit 20 (7)	1,154,022	1,183,443	2.5%
Charlotte	163,800	165,779	1.2%
Collier	330,178	337,783	2.3%
Glades	10,989	11,211	2.0%
Hendry	39,402	40,112	1.8%
Lee	609,653	628,558	3.1%
State Total	18,602,745	18,812,038	1.1%

*January 2007 and January 2008 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in August 2007 and August 2008, respectively.

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 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.

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* (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 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 *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%.

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