
Introduction

REPORT OVERVIEW

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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 2010-11 (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011). These statistics were received and verified as of November 2011.

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.

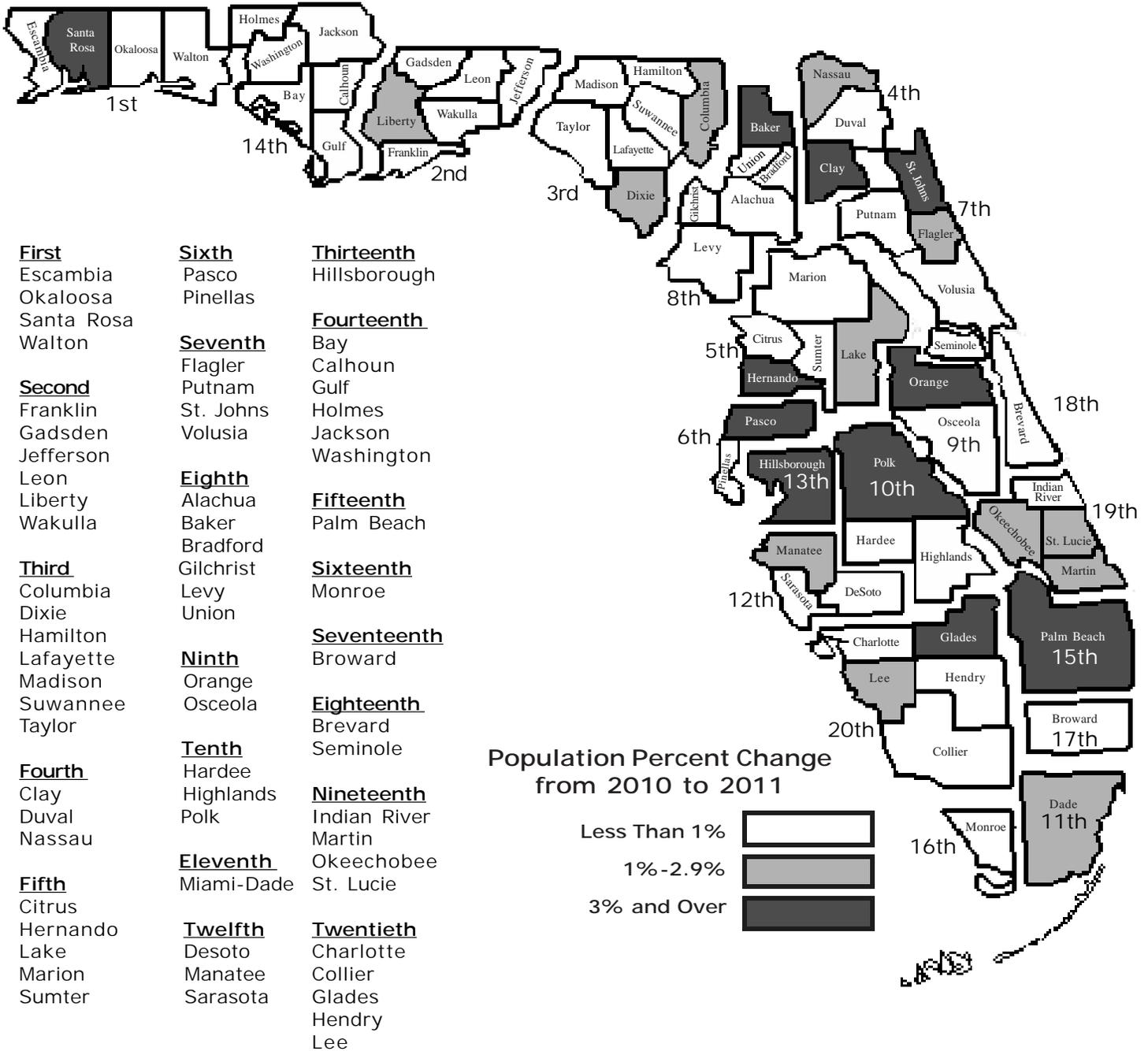
By-Division Statistics - The By-Division portion of the report displays filings, dispositions, clearance rates, reopenings, and other statistics by each division of court (Circuit Criminal, Circuit Civil, Circuit Family Court, Circuit Probate, County Criminal, and County Civil). Statewide, circuit, and 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

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Introduction

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2010 and January 2011

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| Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking) | Total Population (as of January 2010) | Total Population (as of January 2011) | Percentage Change from 2010 to 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Circuit 1 (14) | 711,973 | 685,689 | -3.7% |
| Escambia | 312,571 | 296,683 | -5.1% |
| Okaloosa | 196,509 | 180,555 | -8.1% |
| Santa Rosa | 144,991 | 153,038 | 5.5% |
| Walton | 57,902 | 55,413 | -4.3% |
| Circuit 2 (16) | 391,818 | 388,426 | -0.9% |
| Franklin | 12,386 | 11,523 | -7.0% |
| Gadsden | 49,813 | 46,480 | -6.7% |
| Jefferson | 14,762 | 14,739 | -0.2% |
| Leon | 274,827 | 276,217 | 0.5% |
| Liberty | 8,208 | 8,418 | 2.6% |
| Wakulla | 31,822 | 31,049 | -2.4% |
| Circuit 3 (19) | 192,908 | 192,066 | -0.4% |
| Columbia | 66,907 | 67,803 | 1.3% |
| Dixie | 16,226 | 16,540 | 1.9% |
| Hamilton | 14,761 | 14,751 | -0.1% |
| Lafayette | 9,322 | 9,264 | -0.6% |
| Madison | 20,314 | 19,076 | -6.1% |
| Suwannee | 42,246 | 42,038 | -0.5% |
| Taylor | 23,132 | 22,594 | -2.3% |
| Circuit 4 (8) | 1,157,665 | 1,134,275 | -2.0% |
| Clay | 185,391 | 192,751 | 4.0% |
| Duval | 899,348 | 867,527 | -3.5% |
| Nassau | 72,926 | 73,997 | 1.5% |

FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
 as of January 2010 and January 2011

| Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking) | Total Population (as of January 2010) | Total Population (as of January 2011) | Percentage Change from 2010 to 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Circuit 5 (9) | 1,030,052 | 1,043,271 | 1.3% |
| Citrus | 142,740 | 141,266 | -1.0% |
| Hernando | 165,319 | 173,949 | 5.2% |
| Lake | 293,195 | 299,682 | 2.2% |
| Marion | 330,527 | 332,669 | 0.6% |
| Sumter | 98,271 | 95,705 | -2.6% |
| Circuit 6 (4) | 1,367,992 | 1,382,043 | 1.0% |
| Pasco | 440,049 | 467,981 | 6.3% |
| Pinellas | 927,943 | 914,062 | -1.5% |
| Circuit 7 (11) | 861,293 | 858,290 | -0.3% |
| Flagler | 95,309 | 97,091 | 1.9% |
| Putnam | 74,303 | 74,142 | -0.2% |
| St. Johns | 185,319 | 193,067 | 4.2% |
| Volusia | 506,362 | 493,990 | -2.4% |
| Circuit 8 (17) | 386,277 | 377,127 | -2.4% |
| Alachua | 257,349 | 248,014 | -3.6% |
| Baker | 25,903 | 27,215 | 5.1% |
| Bradford | 29,246 | 28,228 | -3.5% |
| Gilchrist | 17,524 | 17,042 | -2.8% |
| Levy | 40,651 | 40,935 | 0.7% |
| Union | 15,604 | 15,693 | 0.6% |
| Circuit 9 (3) | 1,382,430 | 1,428,357 | 3.3% |
| Orange | 1,109,638 | 1,156,086 | 4.2% |
| Osceola | 272,792 | 272,271 | -0.2% |

Introduction



FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
 as of January 2010 and January 2011

| Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking) | Total Population (as of January 2010) | Total Population (as of January 2011) | Percentage Change from 2010 to 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Circuit 10 (13) | 711,722 | 732,249 | 2.9% |
| Hardee | 28,346 | 27,713 | -2.2% |
| Highlands | 99,665 | 98,649 | -1.0% |
| Polk | 583,711 | 605,887 | 3.8% |
| Circuit 11 (1) | 2,474,671 | 2,506,307 | 1.3% |
| Miami-Dade | 2,474,671 | 2,506,307 | 1.3% |
| Circuit 12 (12) | 742,045 | 740,362 | -0.2% |
| Desoto | 34,660 | 34,927 | 0.8% |
| Manatee | 318,538 | 324,436 | 1.9% |
| Sarasota | 388,847 | 380,999 | -2.0% |
| Circuit 13 (6) | 1,198,221 | 1,239,245 | 3.4% |
| Hillsborough | 1,198,221 | 1,239,245 | 3.4% |
| Circuit 14 (18) | 298,846 | 293,958 | -1.6% |
| Bay | 169,980 | 169,333 | -0.4% |
| Calhoun | 14,609 | 14,557 | -0.4% |
| Gulf | 16,756 | 15,738 | -6.1% |
| Holmes | 19,888 | 19,791 | -0.5% |
| Jackson | 52,700 | 49,508 | -6.1% |
| Washington | 24,913 | 25,031 | 0.5% |
| Circuit 15 (5) | 1,286,373 | 1,325,915 | 3.1% |
| Palm Beach | 1,286,373 | 1,325,915 | 3.1% |
| Circuit 16 (20) | 78,283 | 72,516 | -7.4% |
| Monroe | 78,283 | 72,516 | -7.4% |

FLORIDA POPULATION*, Continued
by Circuit/County
 as of January 2010 and January 2011

| Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking) | Total Population (as of January 2010) | Total Population (as of January 2011) | Percentage Change from 2010 to 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Circuit 17 (2) | 1,742,788 | 1,753,181 | 0.6% |
| Broward | 1,742,788 | 1,753,181 | 0.6% |
| Circuit 18 (10) | 978,475 | 968,318 | -1.0% |
| Brevard | 554,971 | 544,322 | -1.9% |
| Seminole | 423,504 | 423,996 | 0.1% |
| Circuit 19 (15) | 598,803 | 606,665 | 1.3% |
| Indian River | 141,786 | 138,663 | -2.2% |
| Martin | 143,844 | 146,753 | 2.0% |
| Okeechobee | 39,667 | 40,061 | 1.0% |
| St. Lucie | 273,506 | 281,188 | 2.8% |
| Circuit 20 (7) | 1,166,738 | 1,161,760 | -0.4% |
| Charlotte | 165,674 | 160,220 | -3.3% |
| Collier | 333,367 | 324,194 | -2.8% |
| Glades | 11,320 | 12,947 | 14.4% |
| Hendry | 41,087 | 39,172 | -4.7% |
| Lee | 615,290 | 625,227 | 1.6% |
| State Total | 18,759,373 | 18,890,020 | 0.7% |

*January 2010 and January 2011 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in August 2010 and July 2011, respectively.

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 by the sixty-seven clerks of court monthly via electronic or hard-copy submission in a format prescribed by the OSCA. 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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