

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 comprises both circuit and county courts. The Statistical Reference Guide provides statistics pertaining to Florida's trial courts for fiscal year 2013-14 (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014). These statistics were verified by the Office of the State Courts Administrator as of November 2014.

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.

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.

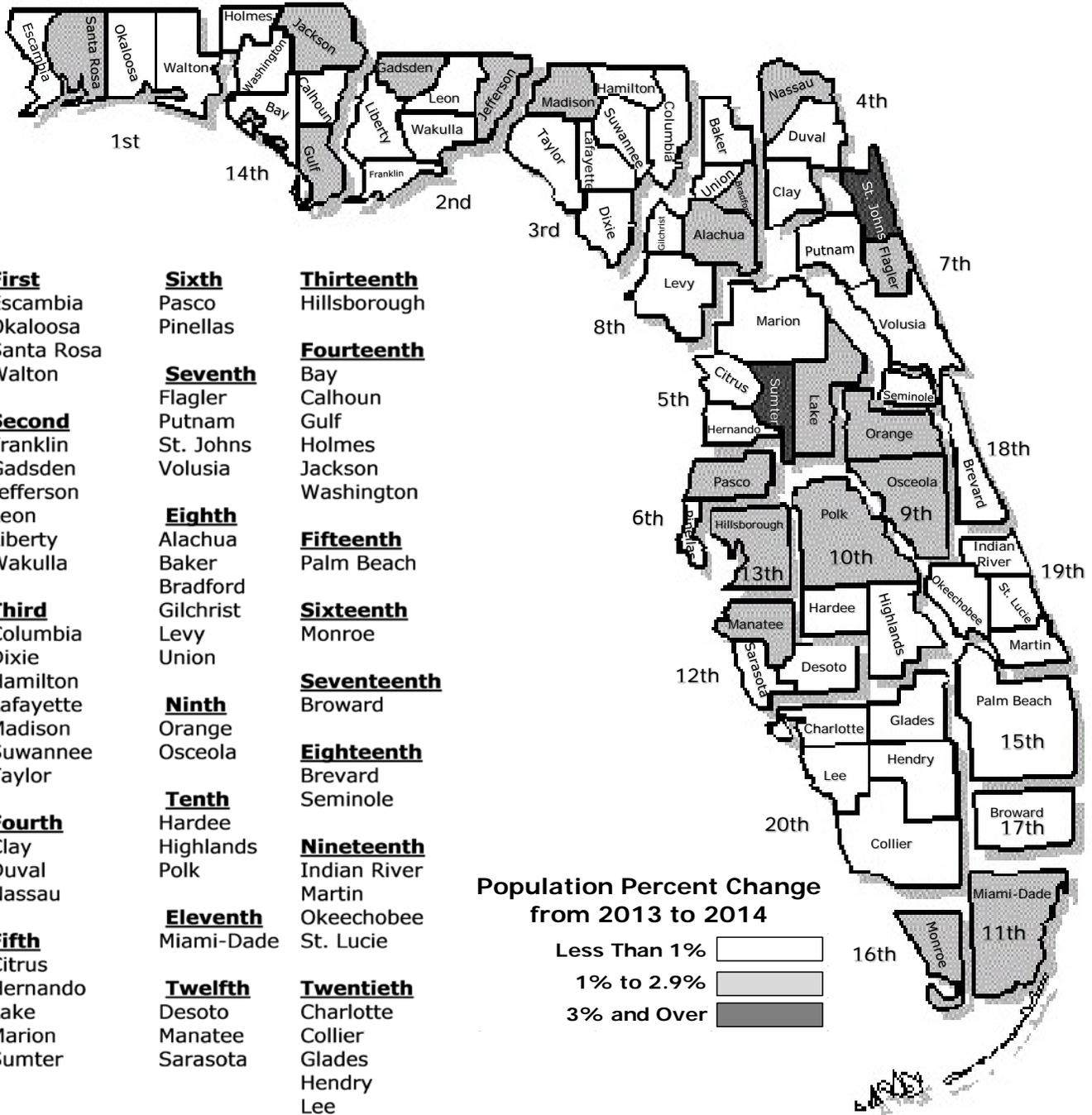
Overall Statistics - The Overall Statistics section provides a breakdown of the number and assignment of circuit and county judgeships for each judicial circuit. Also provided are statewide statistics for total circuit and county court filings and dispositions.

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

Glossary - The glossary provides definitions for common terms used across every division of the trial courts and 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

Miami-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

Introduction

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2013 and January 2014

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2013)	Total Population (as of January 2014)	Percentage Change from 2013 to 2014
Circuit 1 (14)	703,702	708,680	0.7%
Escambia	299,532	302,051	0.8%
Okaloosa	190,035	188,843	-0.6%
Santa Rosa	156,100	159,224	2.0%
Walton	58,035	58,562	0.9%
Circuit 2 (16)	391,543	393,477	0.5%
Franklin	11,593	11,598	0.0%
Gadsden	46,964	47,901	2.0%
Jefferson	14,423	14,624	1.4%
Leon	279,004	279,687	0.2%
Liberty	8,689	8,542	-1.7%
Wakulla	30,870	31,125	0.8%
Circuit 3 (19)	194,325	193,868	-0.2%
Columbia	68,060	67,745	-0.5%
Dixie	16,386	16,346	-0.2%
Hamilton	14,900	14,452	-3.0%
Lafayette	8,670	8,643	-0.3%
Madison	19,179	19,490	1.6%
Suwannee	44,017	44,117	0.2%
Taylor	23,113	23,075	-0.2%
Circuit 4 (8)	1,142,299	1,151,738	0.8%
Clay	193,855	194,948	0.6%
Duval	874,248	881,161	0.8%
Nassau	74,196	75,629	1.9%

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2013 and January 2014

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2013)	Total Population (as of January 2014)	Percentage Change from 2013 to 2014
Circuit 5 (9)	1,056,250	1,071,681	1.5%
Citrus	141,232	141,268	0.0%
Hernando	174,192	175,620	0.8%
Lake	302,486	307,716	1.7%
Marion	335,495	338,512	0.9%
Sumter	102,845	108,565	5.6%
Circuit 6 (4)	1,393,055	1,408,452	1.1%
Pasco	472,491	479,735	1.5%
Pinellas	920,564	928,717	0.9%
Circuit 7 (11)	869,825	879,743	1.1%
Flagler	98,779	99,769	1.0%
Putnam	72,791	72,541	-0.3%
St. Johns	199,393	206,191	3.4%
Volusia	498,862	501,242	0.5%
Circuit 8 (17)	373,874	377,122	0.9%
Alachua	247,188	249,546	1.0%
Baker	27,137	27,043	-0.3%
Bradford	26,672	27,404	2.7%
Gilchrist	16,988	16,938	-0.3%
Levy	40,313	40,564	0.6%
Union	15,576	15,627	0.3%
Circuit 9 (3)	1,477,256	1,516,833	2.7%
Orange	1,190,636	1,222,028	2.6%
Osceola	286,620	294,805	2.9%

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FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2013 and January 2014

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2013)	Total Population (as of January 2014)	Percentage Change from 2013 to 2014
Circuit 10 (13)	738,159	748,302	1.4%
Hardee	27,826	27,659	-0.6%
Highlands	99,335	99,553	0.2%
Polk	610,998	621,090	1.7%
Circuit 11 (1)	2,572,163	2,602,503	1.2%
Miami-Dade	2,572,163	2,602,503	1.2%
Circuit 12 (12)	753,785	759,430	0.7%
Desoto	34,334	34,405	0.2%
Manatee	333,588	337,322	1.1%
Sarasota	385,863	387,703	0.5%
Circuit 13 (6)	1,269,703	1,292,134	1.8%
Hillsborough	1,269,703	1,292,134	1.8%
Circuit 14 (18)	295,435	296,893	0.5%
Bay	169,911	170,858	0.6%
Calhoun	14,639	14,671	0.2%
Gulf	15,961	16,184	1.4%
Holmes	20,030	20,053	0.1%
Jackson	49,751	50,316	1.1%
Washington	25,143	24,811	-1.3%
Circuit 15 (5)	1,343,866	1,355,120	0.8%
Palm Beach	1,343,866	1,355,120	0.8%
Circuit 16 (20)	72,921	73,680	1.0%
Monroe	72,921	73,680	1.0%

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2013 and January 2014

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2013)	Total Population (as of January 2014)	Percentage Change from 2013 to 2014
Circuit 17 (2)	1,781,404	1,791,917	0.6%
Broward	1,781,404	1,791,917	0.6%
Circuit 18 (10)	977,896	985,567	0.8%
Brevard	547,113	551,734	0.8%
Seminole	430,783	433,833	0.7%
Circuit 19 (15)	610,977	614,126	0.5%
Indian River	140,401	140,612	0.2%
Martin	147,944	149,145	0.8%
Okeechobee	39,862	39,867	0.0%
St. Lucie	282,770	284,502	0.6%
Circuit 20 (7)	1,198,340	1,203,621	0.4%
Charlotte	165,032	164,189	-0.5%
Collier	334,339	337,195	0.9%
Glades	12,659	12,723	0.5%
Hendry	37,827	37,842	0.0%
Lee	648,483	651,672	0.5%
Total	19,216,778	19,424,887	1.1%

*January 2013 and January 2014 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature in August 2013 and August 2014, respectively.

**Circuit ranking is based on total population (as of January 2014).

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 by the 67 clerks of court offices monthly 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 are now 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 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 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 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 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, 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 section of this report.

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