



## Tennessee Judicial Weighted Caseload Study: FY 2016-17 Update

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### Key Points

State law requires the Comptroller of the Treasury to update the judicial weighted caseload study annually to compare the state’s existing judicial resources with an estimate of the judicial resources needed. This update provides estimates based on cases filed in FY 2017.

**The state has an estimated net deficit of 9.76 judges based on FY 2017 data.**

The weighted caseload update for FY 2016 showed a net deficit of 4.22 full-time equivalent (FTE) judges and an estimated net excess of 0.78 judges for FY 2015. Overall, FY 2017 filings increased from FY 2016 by 1,093 cases (0.53 percent).

### Yearly Trend in Number of Judicial Resources (Full-Time Equivalent Judges)

State Net FTE Judges	2007 Model		2013 Model				
	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
Total Judicial Resources	152	152	152	152	152	153	153
Estimated Judicial Resources Needed	148.55	145.35	157.13	154.73	151.22	157.22	162.76
<b>Net excess or deficit in Judicial Resources<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>3.45</b>	<b>6.65</b>	<b>-5.13</b>	<b>-2.73</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>-4.22</b>	<b>-9.76</b>

Note: (a) Workers’ compensation cases are included in judge demand estimates for FY 2017, but were excluded from demand estimates for the following fiscal years: 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Source: Calculations by Office of Research and Education Accountability based on data provided by the AOC.

The FY 2017 update also includes yearly data for examining the trends for each of the state’s judicial districts. (See Exhibit 4 and Appendix C.)

The estimated number of FTE judges that courts need is calculated by multiplying the total number of case filings by case weights (average minutes per case for each type of case) and dividing that number by the judges’ annual availability for case-specific work. The quantitative weighted caseload model can approximate judicial workload and the need for judicial resources, but it has limitations. Other factors, such as trial court clerks’ reporting processes, availability of judicial support staff, and local legal practices, also affect judicial resources.

## Introduction and Background

The 1997 appropriations bill passed by the General Assembly required the Comptroller's Office to conduct a judicial weighted caseload study to provide policymakers an objective means to determine the need for judicial resources.<sup>1</sup> The Comptroller's Office contracted with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in 1998 to conduct a time-series study to determine the case weights that are used to calculate workload and full-time equivalent judges (FTE judges) needed by each judicial district. To account for changing laws and practices, the Comptroller's Office contracted with the NCSC in 2007 and 2013 to develop a revised weighted caseload model for Tennessee's general jurisdiction trial judges based on a new time study and case filings.<sup>2,3</sup> Regular updates are designed to produce a more current and accurate gauge of the need for judicial resources throughout the state.<sup>4</sup>

*Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 16-2-513* requires the Comptroller of the Treasury to update the judicial weighted caseload study annually to assess the workload and need for judicial resources, or FTE judges. This update provides estimates of judicial demand based on cases filed in fiscal year (FY) 2017 using the revised 2013 model.

The estimated number of FTE judges that courts need is calculated by multiplying the total number of case filings by case weights (average minutes per case for each type of case) and dividing that number by the judges' annual availability for case-specific work.<sup>5</sup>

The quantitative weighted caseload model can approximate judicial workload and the need for judicial resources, but it has limitations. Other factors, such as trial court clerks' reporting processes, the availability of judicial support staff, and local legal practices, also affect judicial resources.

## Analysis and Conclusions

An adjustment to the model was made for the FY 2017 update. The Tennessee Judicial Conference (TJC) approved by acclamation in June 2017 the inclusion of workers' compensation cases back into the calculation for estimating total judicial officer demand. Workers' compensation cases were excluded from the estimated judge demand beginning in FY 2013. Workers' compensation cases are included in the FY 2017 update.

### **Case Filings**

In FY 2017, 205,600 cases were filed in Tennessee's state courts. Criminal cases accounted for 45 percent of cases, followed by domestic relations cases at 30 percent, and civil cases at 25 percent. (See Exhibit 1.)

### **An Important Note:**

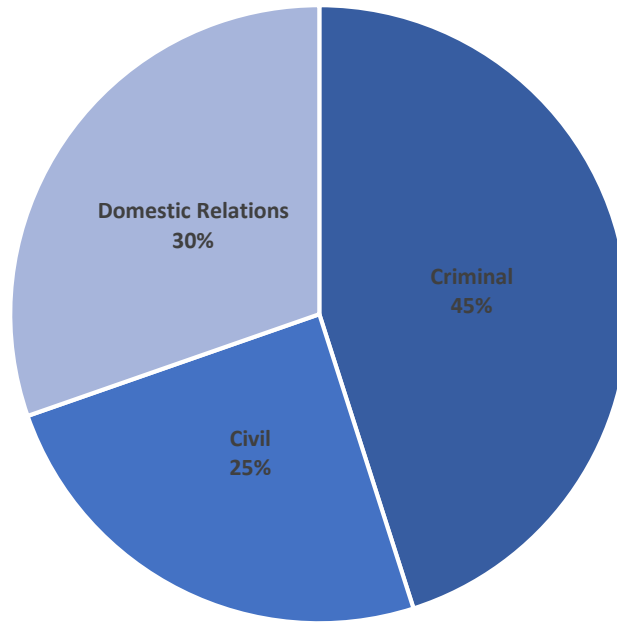
A different calculation method was used for Shelby County for this year's update because of the county's transition to a new case management system.

Shelby County was unable to report data on its criminal cases for the FY 2017 update because of the transition to the new system.

OREA therefore estimated Shelby County's FY 2017 criminal cases by applying the three-year average growth from FY 2012-13 to FY 2015-16 to Shelby County's criminal case data from FY 2016.

Shelby County shows a net deficit of 1.97 FTE judges for FY 2017 based on this method. If the new case management system is fully implemented in time, next year's judicial weighted caseload update should provide a more precise estimate of judicial need in Shelby County.

## Exhibit 1: Filings by Case Type, FY 2017



Note: Workers' compensation cases are included in judge demand estimates for FY 2017, but were excluded from demand estimates for the following fiscal years: 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Source: Chart produced by the Office of Research and Education Accountability with data provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

Overall, filings increased from FY 2016 by 1,093 cases (0.53 percent). Criminal cases increased about 2.5 percent, civil cases decreased by about 2 percent, and domestic relations cases stayed roughly the same. The largest changes across all case types (a total change of over 1,000 cases from FY 2016) included:

- Felony (A and B) cases saw an increase from FY 2016 (1,057)
- Probation violation saw an increase from FY 2016 (1,113)
- Workers' compensation cases saw a decrease from FY 2016 (1,903)

Other noticeable increases in filings by case type include:

- Damages and torts (over 700 total filings from FY 2016)
- Orders of child protection (over 800 cases each FY 2016)
- Misdemeanors (over 400 cases from FY 2016)

Noticeable decreases in filings by case type include:

- DUI (a 450 case decrease from FY 2016)
- Divorce with children (a 451 case decrease from FY 2016)

**Exhibit 2: Changes in Trial Court Case Filings by Case Type, FY 2013 to FY 2017**

Case Type	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	Change from FY16	Percent Change from FY16
<b>Criminal</b>	<b>89,677</b>	<b>90,096</b>	<b>85,847</b>	<b>90,121</b>	<b>92,369</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>2.49%</b>
First Degree Murder	540	606	675	662	731	69	10.50%
Post Conviction Relief	561	482	486	481	509	28	5.83%
Felony A&B	6,931	7,058	6,913	7,470	8,527	1,057	14.14%
Felony (C,D,E)	33,680	32,432	31,063	32,509	31,929	-580	-1.78%
DUI	3,661	3,301	3,321	3,483	3,033	-450	-12.92%
Recovery (Drug) Court (a)	1,012	1,012	1,103	1,275	1,318	43	3.37%
Criminal Appeals (including juvenile delinquency)	376	404	297	392	306	-86	-21.82%
Misdemeanor	9,252	10,062	9,367	9,939	10,372	433	4.36%
Other Petitions, Motions, Writs	1,998	2,076	1,806	2,236	2,554	318	14.22%
Other Petitions, Motions, Writs-Prison Districts	3,065	2,963	2,804	2,771	3,073	302	10.88%
Probation Violation	28,601	29,700	28,012	28,903	30,016	1,113	3.85%
<b>Civil</b>	<b>54,474</b>	<b>54,806</b>	<b>53,271</b>	<b>51,641</b>	<b>50,687</b>	<b>-954</b>	<b>-1.85%</b>
Administrative Hearings (b)	404	382	420	373	470	97	26.01%
Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	5,917	6,084	5,413	5,527	5,190	-337	-6.10%
Damages/Tort	9,876	9,856	9,777	10,342	11,071	729	7.05%
Guardianship/Conservatorship	2,225	2,239	2,263	2,500	2,845	345	13.80%
Judicial Hospitalization	641	643	659	717	816	99	13.81%
Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	193	223	195	239	233	-6	-2.51%
Medical Malpractice	385	376	356	391	432	41	10.49%
Probate/Trust	13,168	13,426	13,820	14,250	14,337	87	0.61%
Other General Civil	12,396	12,228	12,307	12,556	12,214	-342	-2.72%
Real Estate	1,662	1,479	1,487	1,634	1,870	236	14.44%
Workers Compensation (c)	7,607	7,870	6,574	3,112	1,209	-1903	-61.15%
<b>Domestic Relations</b>	<b>67,510</b>	<b>65,508</b>	<b>62,940</b>	<b>62,745</b>	<b>62,544</b>	<b>-201</b>	<b>-0.32%</b>
Child Support	12,704	12,758	11,409	11,070	11,002	-68	-0.61%
Divorce with Children	12,871	12,014	11,997	12,160	11,709	-451	-3.71%
Divorce without Children	16,905	16,172	16,118	16,285	16,016	-269	-1.65%
Residential Parenting	2,228	2,276	2,046	2,123	2,058	-65	-3.06%
Protection of Children	3,900	4,010	3,923	4,020	4,247	227	5.65%
Orders of Protection	8,042	8,128	8,105	8,356	9,201	845	10.11%
Contempt	8,483	8,141	7,786	7,409	7,259	-150	-2.02%
Other Domestic Relations	2,377	2,009	1,556	1,322	1,052	-270	-20.42%
<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>211,661</b>	<b>210,410</b>	<b>202,058</b>	<b>204,507</b>	<b>205,600</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>0.53%</b>

Notes: (a) Workload is based on the FY 2017 capacity or average daily population of the Recovery (Drug) Courts. For the FY 2017 update, Judicial District 14 did not respond to the survey. The FY 2017 update uses JD 14's FY 2016 average daily population. (b) A separate weight for Administrative Appeals was developed for District 20 (Davidson County) in the 2013 time study to reflect additional time required for complex appeals from administrative hearings handled in District 20. Administrative Appeals in other counties are based on the total time reported for those cases in the 2013 time study. (c) Workers' compensation cases are included in judge demand estimates for FY 2017, but were excluded from demand estimates for the following fiscal years: 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Source: Calculations by the Office of Research and Education Accountability based on data provided by the AOC.

### Full Time Equivalent Judges

**Based on FY 2017 case filing and workload data, the state has an estimated net deficit of 9.76 FTE judges.** (See Exhibit 3.) The weighted caseload update for FY 2016 showed an estimated net deficit of 4.22 FTE judges and a net excess of 0.78 FTE judges in FY 2015.

The inclusion of workers' compensation cases in the FY 2017 update is responsible for an estimated increase in judicial resources needed by 0.62 FTE judges across the state. This means that the estimated FTE net deficit of judicial resources is higher than it would have been without the inclusion of the workers' compensation cases. If workers' compensation cases were excluded from the FY 2017 calculation, the net deficit of judicial resources would have been lower – a net deficit of 9.14 FTE judges versus the 9.76 net deficit of FTE judges when workers' compensation cases are included.

### Exhibit 3: Yearly Trend in Number of Judicial Resources (FTE Judges)

State Net FTE Judges	2007 Model		2013 Model				
	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
Total Judicial Resources	152	152	152	152	152	153	153
Estimated Judicial Resources Needed	148.55	145.35	157.13	154.73	151.22	157.22	162.76
<b>Net excess or deficit in Judicial Resources<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>3.45</b>	<b>6.65</b>	<b>-5.13</b>	<b>-2.73</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>-4.22</b>	<b>-9.76</b>

Note: (a) Workers' compensation cases are included in judge demand estimates for FY 2017, but were excluded from demand estimates for the following fiscal years: 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016. (b) See Appendix A for changes in design and assumptions between the 2007 and 2013 Tennessee Trial Courts Judicial Weighted Caseload Models.

Source: Calculations by the Office of Research and Education Accountability based on data provided by the AOC.

Exhibit 4 shows the estimated deficit or excess of FTE judges by district over time.<sup>6,7</sup>

Based on the weighted caseload model for FY 2017, no district showed a net excess greater than 1.00 FTE judge compared to FY 2016, which showed one judicial district with a net excess of 1.00 FTE judge or greater. In contrast, in FY 2017 there were four judicial districts that showed a net deficit of 1.00 FTE judge or greater compared to four judicial districts that also showed a net deficit of 1.00 FTE judge or greater in FY 2016.

According to the weighted caseload model, four districts show an estimated need of one or more FTE judge(s) in FY 2017:

- District 16 (Cannon and Rutherford counties) shows a need for 1.53 judges in FY 2017, an increase of 0.11 FTE judges from FY 2016. District 16 showed an increase of 315 filings (from 8,284 in FY 2016 to 8,599 in FY 2017) with noticeable increases in its probation

violation cases (from 995 in FY 2016 to 1,199 in FY 2017) and recovery/drug court cases (from 60 in FY 2016 to 132 in FY 2017). Historically, District 16 has shown a judicial need of over one FTE judge since the model was adjusted in FY 2013.

- District 19 (Montgomery and Robertson counties) shows a need for 2.32 judges in FY 2017. In FY 2016, the district showed a need for 1.89 FTE judges and in FY 2015 showed a need for 2.77 FTE judges. In FY 2015, the General Assembly created a new circuit court judgeship for Judicial District 19.<sup>8</sup> The judge was sworn in October 30, 2015, and seemed to influence the judicial demand for the district in FY 2016.<sup>9</sup> Since FY 2016, the district has shown a total increase of 244 cases, with increases in felony A and B cases (99), felony C, D, and E cases (37), and child support cases (99). District 19 has shown the need for two FTE judges every year since the implementation of the 2013 model aside from FY 2016, when the district showed a deficit of 1.89 FTE judges.
- District 21 (Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson Counties) shows a net deficit of 1.00 FTE judge for FY 2017. This is an increase from its judicial deficit of 0.58 in FY 2016. The district saw an increase in total cases by 169, from 6,046 in FY 2016 to 6,215 in FY 2017. The district saw increases from FY 2016 in first degree murder cases (15), felony A and B cases (26), and damages/torts (78). FY 2017 is the first year the district has shown a judicial need of no less than 1.00 FTE since implementation of the 2013 model.
- District 30 (Shelby County) shows a net deficit of 1.97 FTE judges for FY 2017. A different calculation method was used for Shelby County for this year's update because of the county's transition to a new case management system. Shelby County was unable to report data on its criminal cases for the FY 2017 update because of the transition to the new system. To compensate for this missing data, OREA estimated its judicial need using the three-year average growth rate of criminal cases from FY 2012-13 to FY 2015-16. FY 2017 shows an increase in total cases of 742, from 22,410 in FY 2016 to 23,152 in FY 2017. Estimating the criminal cases for FY 2017 using the three-year average growth rate of Shelby County's criminal cases from FY 2012-13 to FY 2015-16 results in an increase in criminal cases (688), from 14,361 in FY 2016 to 15,049 in FY 2017.

Other notable changes in judge demand in FY 2017:

- District 6 (Knox) shows an increase in its judicial net deficit in FY 2017 to 0.36 FTE judges, despite a decrease in its total number of cases filed from FY 2016 by 340.
- District 20 (Davidson) shows its judicial demand has flipped from a judicial excess of 1.11 FTE judges in FY 2016 to showing a judicial deficit of 0.15 in FY 2017, despite showing a decrease in the total number of cases filed in FY 2016 by 1,201.

Typically, judicial districts that show an increase in judicial demand despite decreases in total filings also show increases in cases that have heavier case weights, which measure the amount of work time involved for a particular type of case. For example, Knox County showed a decrease in the number of total cases filed from FY 2016 but saw an increase in the number of first degree murder cases by 11 total cases, which have the second highest case weight of all case filings in the 2013 model.

**Exhibit 4: Difference between Actual Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Judges and Need for FTE Judges by District, FY 2012 – FY 2016**

Judicial District (Counties)	2007 Model	2013 Model				
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
District 1 (Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington)	0.54	0.27	-0.32	0.23	0.19	-0.16
District 2 (Sullivan)	0.64	0.10	0.37	0.31	0.16	0.26
District 3 (Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins)	0.86	0.44	0.28	0.25	-0.06	0.43
District 4 (Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier)	-0.26	-1.01	-0.89	-0.54	-0.83	-0.93
District 5 (Blount)	0.04	-0.26	0.01	0.06	-0.10	0.02
District 6 (Knox)	0.36	-0.42	0.11	0.43	-0.27	-0.36
District 7 (Anderson)	-0.04	-0.11	-0.18	0.23	0.22	0.29
District 8 (Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union)	-0.26	-0.34	-0.08	-0.11	-0.44	-0.32
District 9 (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane)	0.80	0.64	0.80	0.85	0.80	0.41
District 10 (Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk)	-0.28	-0.29	-0.42	-0.13	-0.12	-0.31
District 11 (Hamilton)	1.07	-0.47	0.32	0.08	0.23	-0.28
District 12 (Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie)	-0.39	-0.96	-0.73	-0.47	-0.44	-0.67
District 13 (Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White)	-0.09	-0.61	-0.58	-0.55	-1.63	-0.98
District 14 (Coffee)	0.60	0.61	0.82	0.77	0.43	0.39
District 15 (Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson)	0.27	0.18	0.10	0.37	0.04	-0.27
District 16 (Cannon and Rutherford)	-0.45	-1.28	-1.17	-1.17	-1.42	-1.53
District 17 (Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore)	1.06	0.52	0.52	0.43	0.22	0.40
District 18 (Sumner)	-0.29	-0.59	-0.46	-0.63	-0.45	-0.35
District 19 (Montgomery and Robertson)	-2.04	-2.75	-2.89	-2.77	-1.89	-2.32
District 20 (Davidson)	-0.94	0.06	0.79	1.07	1.11	-0.15
District 21 (Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson)	-0.62	-0.54	-0.41	-0.24	-0.58	-1.00
District 22 (Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne)	-0.53	-1.26	-1.05	-0.76	-0.42	-0.92
District 23 (Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart)	-0.28	-1.01	-0.71	-0.64	-1.18	-0.73
District 24 (Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry)	0.85	0.81	0.92	0.95	0.87	0.75
District 25 (Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, and Tipton)	0.34	-0.19	-0.08	0.18	0.38	0.03
District 26 (Chester, Henderson, and Madison)	0.40	-0.08	-0.01	0.14	0.52	0.33

<b>District 27 (Obion and Weakley)</b>	0.36	0.26	0.45	0.59	0.42	0.32
<b>District 28 (Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood)</b>	0.54	0.37	0.44	0.57	0.58	0.24
<b>District 29 (Dyer and Lake)</b>	0.59	0.31	0.36	0.24	0.18	0.12
<b>District 30 (Shelby)</b>	4.03	2.76	1.25	1.37	-0.21	-1.97
<b>District 31 (Van Buren and Warren)</b>	-0.24	-0.31	-0.27	-0.32	-0.52	-0.51
<b>Statewide Excess or Deficit FTE Judges</b>	6.65	-5.13	-2.73	0.78	-4.22	-9.76

Note: Workers' compensation cases are included in judge demand estimates for FY 2017, but were excluded from demand estimates for the following fiscal years: 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Source: Calculations by Office of Research and Accountability staff based on data provided by AOC.



## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Public Chapter 552 (1997), Section 12, Item 35.
- <sup>2</sup> National Center for State Courts, Tennessee Trial Courts, Judicial Weighted Caseload Study, 2007, <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/Repository/RE/judicial07.pdf>. See study for a complete explanation of methodology and qualitative issues to consider.
- <sup>3</sup> National Center for State Courts, Tennessee Trial Courts, Judicial Weighted Caseload Study, 2013, <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/Repository/RE/NCSC%20Judicial%202013.pdf>. See study for a complete explanation of methodology and qualitative issues to consider
- <sup>4</sup> See Appendix A for a description of changes in design and assumptions from the 2007 to the 2013 Tennessee Trial Courts Judicial Weighted Caseload Model.
- <sup>5</sup> National Center for State Courts, Tennessee Trial Courts, Judicial Weighted Caseload Study, 2013: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/Repository/RE/NCSC%20Judicial%202013.pdf>. See the Preliminary Case Weights section on page 5-6 of the study for a complete explanation for creating the measure.
- <sup>6</sup> See Appendix B for a map of Tennessee Judicial Districts.
- <sup>7</sup> See Appendix C for the detailed calculations of judicial resource need statewide and by judicial district.
- <sup>8</sup> Public Acts 2015, P.C. 437
- <sup>9</sup> <https://www.tn.gov/governor/news/18765>

## Appendix A: Changes in Design and Assumptions between the 2007 and 2013 Tennessee Trial Courts Judicial Weighted Caseload Models

In 2013, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) worked with selected Tennessee trial court judges and staff with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Comptroller's Office to develop a revised model to estimate the total judicial officer demand based on cases filed. Tennessee judges reported their time for six weeks out of an 11-week period in the summer of 2013, which was used to determine the average time spent on case-related and non-case-related activities statewide. Based on the 2013 time study, new case weights were assigned to each case type in order to more accurately estimate judicial need throughout the state.<sup>A</sup>

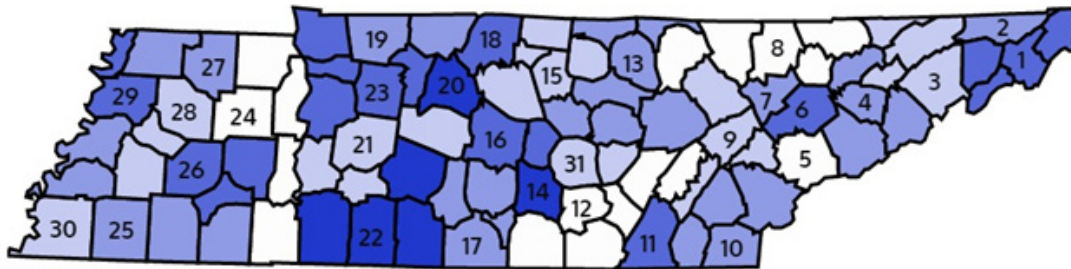
Changes made to the model in 2013 include:

- The case type *First Degree Murder* was separated from the Major Felony case type to account for the greater average judge time required for First Degree Murder cases.
- Separate case types and average times required were added for *Post-Conviction Relief*, *Residential Parenting*, and *Domestic Relations Contempt* cases to better reflect the judge time required for these cases.
- A separate case weight was added for *Other Petitions, Motions, and Writs* cases for districts with a state prison to reflect the additional time required for post-conviction relief cases including habeas corpus petitions from state prisoners.
- A separate weight for *Administrative Appeals* was developed for District 20 (Davidson County) to reflect the additional time required for complex appeals from administrative hearings handled in District 20. Administrative Appeals in other counties are based on the total time reported for those cases.
- Judge availability is based on an eight-hour day; earlier models were based on a 7.5-hour day.
- Due to changes in state law, workers' compensation cases will no longer be filed in state courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014. However, and per the Tennessee Judicial Conference's decision on June 23, 2017, workers' compensation cases are to be included in the count of cases filed used to estimate judicial need beginning in FY 2017. Per the AOC, the reason the Judicial Conference decided to again include workers' compensation cases is because the number of cases have not decreased at the rate that was predicted and the judges wished to receive credit for the time spent hearing the cases. Although workers' compensation cases are no longer being filed in state courts as of July 1, 2014, judges are still hearing backlogged cases, and the Judicial Conference's decision allows them to receive credit for the time spent on such cases.

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<sup>A</sup> A complete report describing the process and the 2013 revised model is available at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/Repository/RE/NCSC%20Judicial%202013.pdf>.

## Appendix B: Tennessee Judicial Districts



- District 1 – Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington Counties
- District 2 – Sullivan County
- District 3 – Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins Counties
- District 4 – Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier Counties
- District 5 – Blount County
- District 6 – Knox County
- District 7 – Anderson County
- District 8 – Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union Counties
- District 9 – Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane Counties
- District 10 – Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk Counties
- District 11 – Hamilton County
- District 12 – Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie Counties
- District 13 – Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White Counties
- District 14 – Coffee County
- District 15 – Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson Counties
- District 16 – Cannon and Rutherford Counties
- District 17 – Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore Counties
- District 18 – Sumner County
- District 19 – Montgomery and Robertson Counties
- District 20 – Davidson County
- District 21 – Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson Counties
- District 22 – Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne Counties
- District 23 – Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart Counties
- District 24 – Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry Counties
- District 25 – Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, and Tipton Counties
- District 26 – Chester, Henderson, and Madison Counties
- District 27 – Obion and Weakley Counties
- District 28 – Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood Counties
- District 29 – Dyer and Lake Counties
- District 30 – Shelby County
- District 31 – Van Buren and Warren Counties

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts, 2006.

# Appendix C: Tennessee Judicial Weighted Caseload Update, FY 2017, Case Filings by Judicial District

		Case Filings per Judicial District										
	Case Type	Case Weight	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Criminal	First Degree Murder	776	5	4	3	12	1	37	3	1	4	5
	Post Conviction Relief	381	3	20	14	15	5	24	3	0	3	20
	Felony A&B	157	194	128	97	309	41	322	53	106	157	241
	Felony (C, D, E)	45	1,122	985	498	1,412	506	1,530	253	787	517	938
	DUI	89	72	65	27	166	22	158	40	81	61	63
	Recovery (Drug) Court ***	167		25		50	86		30	40		65
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	11	13	9	1	16	2	0	0	7	9	3
	Misdemeanor	29	327	192	116	595	118	208	84	126	185	107
	Other Petitions, Motions, Writs	28		187	78	178	51	223	6	75		132
	Other Petitions, Motions, Writs-Prison Districts	57	24								140	
Probation Violation	18	1,511	1,379	759	1,736	842	1,261	476	1,005	539	1,118	
General Civil/Other	Administrative Hearings	204	7	4	15	5	1	4	13	26	2	16
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	104	672	137	186	263	51	395	34	143	76	121
	Damages/Tort	135	219	182	161	355	150	917	120	161	178	320
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	70	86	91	74	37	16	488	29	55	37	58
	Judicial Hospitalization	19	2	17	1	0	9	0	2	0	0	0
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	287	3	7	13	4	11	42	2	2	4	1
	Medical Malpractice	1,320	8	12	11	1	0	37	2	3	2	9
	Probate/Trust	24	679	625	788	182	1	1,352	287	366	278	510
	Other General Civil	58	304	352	379	457	199	714	152	95	129	423
	Real Estate	259	44	32	70	76	23	104	28	65	87	43
Workers Compensation	41	6	1	6	4	2	145	46	19	5	12	
Domestic Relations	Child Support	20	335	171	1,326	831	371	485	372	252	293	469
	Divorce with Children	106	454	283	396	448	197	828	137	280	68	533
	Divorce without Children	40	631	437	696	652	215	1,118	197	294	90	727
	Residential Parenting	108	101	61	66	26	25	173	30	10	8	88
	Protection of Children (paternity, adoption, legitimation, surrender, TPR)	65	183	82	192	147	145	389	77	111	82	237
	Orders of Protection	32	101	230	512	687	0	2,530	89	1	62	635
	Contempt	14	393	248	253	264	79	284	539	15	199	424
	Other Domestic Relations	73	68	8	23	7	10	69	3	22	22	7
<b>Total Filings</b>			<b>7,567</b>	<b>5,974</b>	<b>6,761</b>	<b>8,935</b>	<b>3,179</b>	<b>13,837</b>	<b>3,107</b>	<b>4,148</b>	<b>3,237</b>	<b>7,325</b>
<b>Workload (Weights x Filings)</b>			<b>411,066</b>	<b>302,983</b>	<b>331,333</b>	<b>464,686</b>	<b>166,910</b>	<b>849,912</b>	<b>144,131</b>	<b>229,469</b>	<b>185,586</b>	<b>405,277</b>
Judge Year (210 days per year, 8 hrs per day)			100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800
Average District Travel per year			4,830	3,465	11,907	6,111	42	2,373	0	15,393	12,789	8,148
Non-case related Time (78 minutes/day)			16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380
<b>Availability for Case-Specific Work</b>			<b>79,590</b>	<b>80,955</b>	<b>72,513</b>	<b>78,309</b>	<b>84,378</b>	<b>82,047</b>	<b>84,420</b>	<b>69,027</b>	<b>71,631</b>	<b>76,272</b>
# Judges			5	4	5	5	2	10	2	3	3	5
Total Judicial Officer Demand			5.16	3.74	4.57	5.93	1.98	10.36	1.71	3.32	2.59	5.31
<b>FTE Deficit or Excess</b>			<b>-0.16</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>-0.93</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>-0.36</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>0.41</b>	<b>-0.31</b>
Criminal Judges Needed			1.64	1.49	0.92	2.60	0.81	2.51	0.51	1.31	1.13	1.77
Civil Judges Needed			2.06	1.33	1.75	1.69	0.57	4.48	0.62	1.19	1.06	1.62
Domestic Relations Judges Needed			1.46	0.92	1.90	1.64	0.60	3.37	0.58	0.82	0.41	1.92
Child Support Referee			No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Source: National Center for State Courts, 2013. Data on Filings provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts.

\* Current Shelby County (District 30) criminal data unavailable due to change in case management systems. Data shown is based on the 3-year average growth rate from FY 2012-13 to FY 2015-16 **12**

\*\* The 20th Judicial district is statutorily mandated jurisdiction in UPA Administrative Hearing cases. A case weight of 496 minutes is used in this district.

\*\*\*Workload is based on the FY 2017 Capacity of the Drug Courts. Workload is based on the FY 2017 capacity or average daily population of the Recovery (Drug) Courts. For the FY 2017 update, Judicial District 14 did not respond to the survey. The FY 2017 update uses JD 14's FY 2016 average daily population.

		Case Filings per Judicial District										
	Case Type	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20**	21
Criminal	First Degree Murder	35	11	4	2	14	24	4	0	50	114	21
	Post Conviction Relief	17	7	7	4	0	11	29	10	28	46	14
	Felony A&B	455	197	265	134	205	329	106	134	385	995	187
	Felony (C, D, E)	1,599	905	1,045	472	958	1,187	303	633	1,150	2,578	814
	DUI	261	67	257	31	117	114	2	49	143	202	72
	Recovery (Drug) Court ***	71	80	65	46	25	132		50		200	55
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	38	11	9	0	6	12	1	11	28	53	10
	Misdemeanor	759	261	953	145	888	464	27	91	667	834	277
	Other Petitions, Motions, Writs	53		87	95	87	23	393	45	177		
	Other Petitions, Motions, Writs-Prison Districts		33								431	148
	Probation Violation	1,533	943	1,548	343	857	1,199	167	702	903	2,716	756
General Civil/Other	Administrative Hearings	11	7	7	0	2	3	7	1	7	200	27
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	266	58	106	32	87	159	42	128	106	709	196
	Damages/Tort	747	180	297	108	248	479	108	262	415	1,925	354
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	566	45	94	20	67	58	44	102	90	252	150
	Judicial Hospitalization	291	10	21	0	2	110	2	2	0	273	2
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	3	16	7	0	12	4	6	3	14	9	9
	Medical Malpractice	39	1	6	0	7	21	1	5	3	83	3
	Probate/Trust	895	410	472	187	601	55	393	730	582	1,846	635
	Other General Civil	715	251	295	129	238	760	243	279	534	1,245	429
	Real Estate	129	80	132	6	99	39	22	20	77	242	94
	Workers Compensation	95	10	8	3	5	16	5	4	6	428	4
Domestic Relations	Child Support	239	634	276	116	154	417	491	359	978	475	329
	Divorce with Children	596	283	371	126	233	677	248	409	830	747	497
	Divorce without Children	914	414	437	179	426	756	304	427	1,039	1,290	448
	Residential Parenting	107	33	58	41	44	163	120	120	144	141	90
	Protection of Children (paternity, adoption, legitimation, surrender, TPR)	273	105	225	46	132	257	79	120	200	133	147
	Orders of Protection	1,164	181	1	1	51	749	32	86	10	1,276	14
	Contempt	515	387	94	101	52	313	293	157	274	205	413
	Other Domestic Relations	169	160	19	14	30	68	16	34	24	133	20
<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>12,555</b>	<b>5,780</b>	<b>7,166</b>	<b>2,381</b>	<b>5,647</b>	<b>8,599</b>	<b>3,488</b>	<b>4,973</b>	<b>8,864</b>	<b>19,781</b>	<b>6,215</b>	
<b>Workload (Weights x Filings)</b>	<b>782,731</b>	<b>307,782</b>	<b>404,524</b>	<b>134,511</b>	<b>321,549</b>	<b>546,840</b>	<b>188,034</b>	<b>281,077</b>	<b>546,695</b>	<b>1,509,904</b>	<b>392,941</b>	
Judge Year (210 days per year, 8 hrs per day)	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	
Average District Travel per year	42	18,564	16,758	987	9,030	630	11,991	462	9,744	1,218	5,817	
Non-case related Time (78 minutes/day)	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	
<b>Availability for Case-Specific Work</b>	<b>84,378</b>	<b>65,856</b>	<b>67,662</b>	<b>83,433</b>	<b>75,390</b>	<b>83,790</b>	<b>72,429</b>	<b>83,958</b>	<b>74,676</b>	<b>83,202</b>	<b>78,603</b>	
# Judges	9	4	5	2	4	5	3	3	5	18	4	
Total Judicial Officer Demand	9.28	4.67	5.98	1.61	4.27	6.53	2.60	3.35	7.32	18.15	5.00	
<b>FTE Deficit or Excess</b>	<b>-0.28</b>	<b>-0.67</b>	<b>-0.98</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>-0.27</b>	<b>-1.53</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>-0.35</b>	<b>-2.32</b>	<b>-0.15</b>	<b>-1.00</b>	
Criminal Judges Needed	3.12	1.95	2.75	0.83	1.92	2.34	0.82	0.99	2.88	6.34	1.70	
Civil Judges Needed	3.89	1.31	1.96	0.39	1.52	2.06	0.77	1.22	1.98	9.19	1.98	
Domestic Relations Judges Needed	2.26	1.40	1.27	0.39	0.83	2.12	1.00	1.14	2.46	2.61	1.32	
Child Support Referee	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	

Source: National Center for State Courts, 2013. Data on Filings provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts.

\* Current Shelby County (District 30) criminal data unavailable due to change in case management systems. Data shown is based on the 3-year average growth rate from FY 2012-13 to FY 2015-16

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		Case Filings per Judicial District										
	Case Type	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30*	31	Totals
Criminal	First Degree Murder	18	12	9	21	29	1	24	10	252	1	731
	Post Conviction Relief	22	6	9	6	23	4	3	3	150	3	509
	Felony A&B	342	170	218	219	135	150	112	98	1,949	94	8,527
	Felony (C, D, E)	983	853	418	797	519	222	295	421	6,915	314	31,929
	DUI	247	85	13	58	54	3	21	3	428	51	3,033
	Recovery (Drug) Court ***		50		30	35	38		15		130	1,318
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	23	6	10	3	6	1	2	2	13	1	306
	Misdemeanor	635	310	71	161	133	46	83	62	1,216	231	10,372
	Other Petitions, Motions, Writs		190	31		147	12	266			18	2,554
	Other Petitions, Motions, Writs-Prison Districts	97			43				44	2,113		3,073
	Probation Violation	1,287	898	621	1,192	591	305	123	246	2,012	448	30,016
General Civil/Other	Administrative Hearings	7	8	0	23	14	3	6	2	41	1	470
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	70	49	52	78	56	31	53	10	807	17	5,190
	Damages/Tort	213	65	103	162	282	52	62	63	2,127	56	11,071
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	51	30	44	83	14	22	31	90	0	21	2,845
	Judicial Hospitalization	0	0	0	69	1	0	2	0	0	0	816
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	21	6	1	5	3	0	0	1	23	1	233
	Medical Malpractice	4	2	2	3	16	1	2	3	145	0	432
	Probate/Trust	615	198	375	383	126	209	252	121	2	182	14,337
	Other General Civil	276	304	135	270	245	102	155	679	1,582	144	12,214
	Real Estate	59	29	26	36	29	14	17	13	127	8	1,870
	Workers Compensation	19	3	3	1	15	280	4	2	47	5	1,209
Domestic Relations	Child Support	377	278	68	129	129	178	238	36	101	95	11,002
	Divorce with Children	365	274	168	251	430	106	127	86	1,187	74	11,709
	Divorce without Children	467	358	187	694	715	141	144	144	1,412	63	16,016
	Residential Parenting	57	38	47	29	108	19	28	21	60	2	2,058
	Protection of Children (paternity,adoption, legitimation,surrender,TPR)	143	127	56	66	90	47	24	22	255	55	4,247
	Orders of Protection	218	84	0	35	15	0	1	76	9	351	9,201
	Contempt	130	617	134	245	142	238	59	8	139	45	7,259
	Other Domestic Relations	39	9	8	8	5	9	5	3	39	1	1,052
<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>6,785</b>	<b>5,059</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>4,107</b>	<b>2,234</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>2,284</b>	<b>23,152</b>	<b>2,412</b>	<b>205,600</b>	
<b>Workload (Weights x Filings)</b>	<b>380,797</b>	<b>248,377</b>	<b>165,652</b>	<b>278,520</b>	<b>297,342</b>	<b>118,910</b>	<b>133,934</b>	<b>143,054</b>	<b>2,016,879</b>	<b>126,610</b>	<b>12,818,016</b>	
Judge Year (210 days per year, 8 hrs per day)	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	
Average District Travel per year	6,993	17,766	10,731	14,217	3,339	13,545	8,526	8,358	294	672	5,376	
Non-case related Time (78 minutes/day)	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	
<b>Availability for Case-Specific Work</b>	<b>77,427</b>	<b>66,654</b>	<b>73,689</b>	<b>70,203</b>	<b>81,081</b>	<b>70,875</b>	<b>75,894</b>	<b>76,062</b>	<b>84,126</b>	<b>83,748</b>	<b>79,044</b>	
# Judges	4	3	3	4	4	2	2	2	22	1	153	
Total Judicial Officer Demand	4.92	3.73	2.25	3.97	3.67	1.68	1.76	1.88	23.97	1.51	162.76	
<b>FTE Deficit or Excess</b>	<b>-0.92</b>	<b>-0.73</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>-1.97</b>	<b>-0.51</b>	<b>-9.76</b>	
Criminal Judges Needed	2.45	1.85	1.07	1.82	1.30	0.70	0.85	0.72	13.08	0.86	65.03	
Civil Judges Needed	1.28	0.78	0.67	1.16	1.17	0.56	0.52	0.87	8.37	0.31	58.34	
Domestic Relations Judges Needed	1.19	1.10	0.51	0.99	1.20	0.42	0.39	0.29	2.53	0.33	39.39	
Child Support Referee	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		

Source: National Center for State Courts, 2013. Data on Filings provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts.

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OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY

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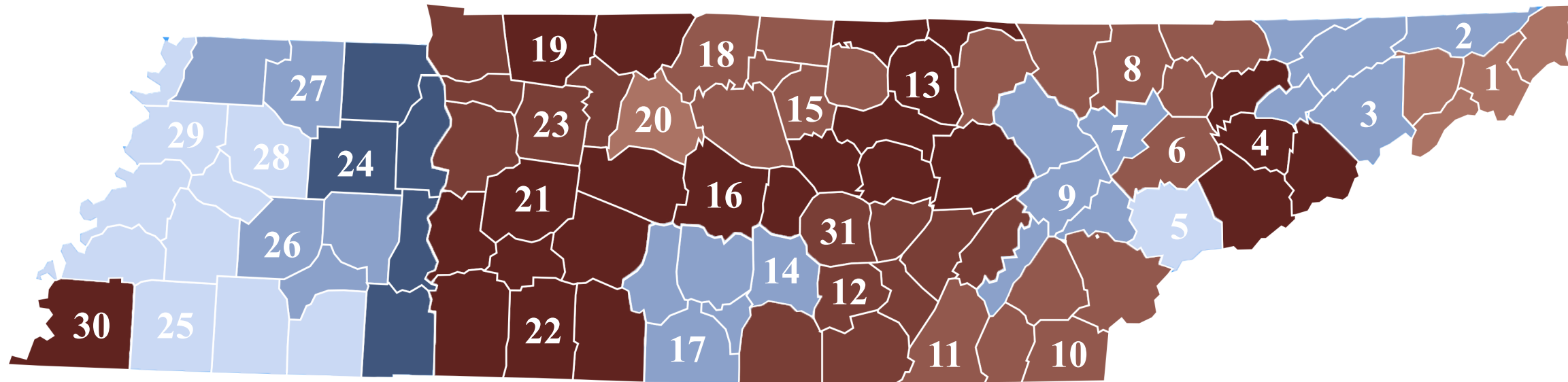
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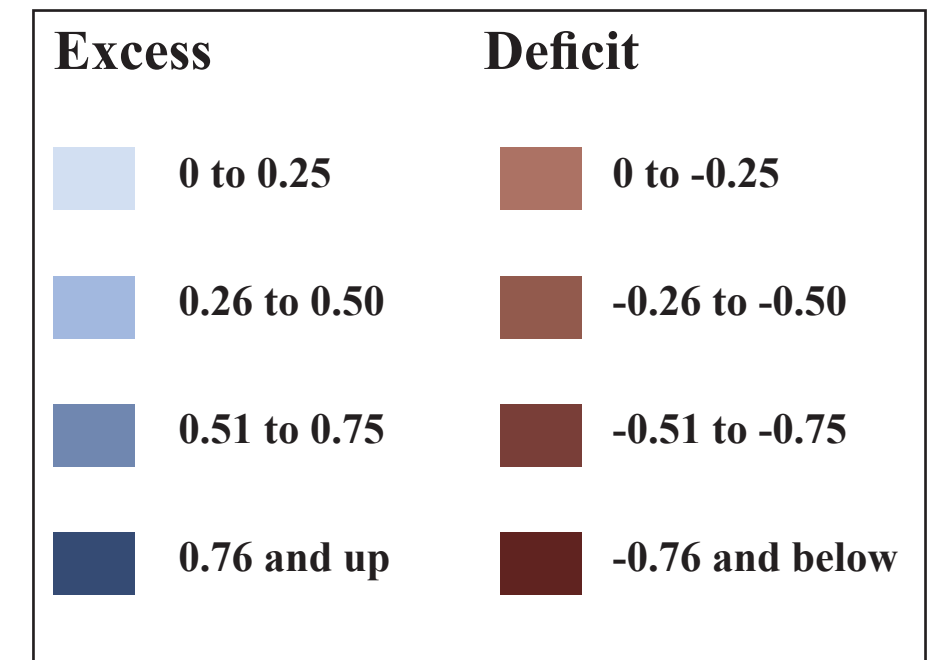


# Difference between Actual Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Judges and Estimated Need for FTE Judges by District, FY17



Judicial District (Counties) for Fiscal Year 2017

District 1 (Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington)	-0.16	District 17 (Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore)	0.40
District 2 (Sullivan)	0.26	District 18 (Sumner)	-0.35
District 3 (Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins)	0.43	District 19 (Montgomery and Robertson)	-2.32
District 4 (Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier)	-0.93	District 20 (Davidson)	-0.15
District 5 (Blount)	0.02	District 21 (Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson)	-1.00
District 6 (Knox)	-0.36	District 22 (Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne)	-0.92
District 7 (Anderson)	0.29	District 23 (Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart)	-0.73
District 8 (Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union)	-0.32	District 24 (Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry)	0.75
District 9 (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane)	0.41	District 25 (Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, and Tipton)	0.03
District 10 (Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk)	-0.31	District 26 (Chester, Henderson, and Madison)	0.33
District 11 (Hamilton)	-0.28	District 27 (Obion and Weakley)	0.32
District 12 (Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie)	-0.67	District 28 (Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood)	0.24
District 13 (Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White)	-0.98	District 29 (Dyer and Lake)	0.12
District 14 (Coffee)	0.39	District 30 (Shelby)	-1.97
District 15 (Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson)	-0.27	District 31 (Van Buren and Warren)	-0.51
District 16 (Cannon and Rutherford)	-1.53	Statewide Excess or Deficit FTE Judges	-9.76



**An important note:** A different calculation method was used for Shelby County for this year's update because of the county's transition to a new case management system. Shelby County was unable to report data on its criminal cases for the FY 2017 update because of the transition to the new system. OREA therefore estimated Shelby County's FY 2017 criminal cases by applying the three-year average growth from FY 2012-13 to FY 2015-16 to Shelby County's criminal case data from FY 2016. Shelby County shows a net deficit of 1.97 FTE judges for FY 2017 based on this method. If the new case management system is fully implemented in time, next year's judicial weighted caseload update should provide a more precise estimate of judicial need in Shelby County.