

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

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Table 5.30.2010

Length of sentences to imprisonment imposed in U.S. District Courts for U.S. Sentencing Commission guideline cases

By type of offense, fiscal years 1997-2010

(In months)

	Immigration offenses ^a		Drug offenses ^b		Economic offenses ^c	
	Average length	Median length	Average length	Median length	Average length	Median length
1997	NA	NA	80.7	56	20.2	13
1998	24.4	22	78.0	56	19.2	12
1999	28.0	24	75.0	48	20.4	12
2000	27.7	24	74.3	51	20.5	12
2001	27.7	24	71.6	48	20.8	15
2002	25.3	24	73.6	51	21.5	15
2003	24.1	21	77.8	57	22.4	15
2004	24.9	21	81.3	60	23.6	15
2005	23.5	18	82.3	60	25.0	16
2006	23.5	18	83.1	60	26.9	18
2007	22.7	18	84.4	60	26.2	18
2008	20.2	14	82.2	60	28.6	18
2009	18.9	12	79.5	60	28.3	18
2010	18.3	12	75.8	60	29.6	18

Note: These data are from the U.S. Sentencing Commission's fiscal year 2010 Offender Dataset, which includes information on 83,946 cases sentenced under the Sentencing Reform Act (guideline cases) during fiscal year 2010 (Oct. 1, 2009 through Sept. 30, 2010) for which data were received by the Commission as of Feb. 14, 2011. Given the nature of the data file and reporting requirements, the following types of cases are not included in the data presented here: cases initiated but for which no convictions were obtained, defendants convicted for whom no sentences were yet issued, defendants sentenced but for whom no data were submitted to the Commission, and cases not sentenced under the Sentencing Reform Act (non-guideline cases).

A case or defendant is defined as a single sentencing event for an individual defendant (even if multiple indictments or multiple convictions are consolidated for sentencing). Multiple defendants in a single sentencing event are treated as separate cases. If an individual defendant is sentenced more than once during the fiscal year, each sentencing event is identified as a separate case. (Source: **2010**, Appendix A.)

These data include prison sentences only and exclude any imposition of home detention, community confinement, or intermittent confinement (Source: **2010**, Appendix A). Some data have been revised by the Source and may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

^a Includes trafficking in or fraudulently acquiring U.S. passports or entry documents, unlawful entry into the U.S., smuggling, unlawful alien, and failure to surrender naturalization certificate.

^b Includes drug trafficking, use of drug communication facilities, and simple possession.

^c Includes fraud, embezzlement, forgery, counterfeiting, bribery, tax offenses, and money laundering.

Source: U.S. Sentencing Commission, **2001 Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics**, p. 32; **2002**, p. 32 (Washington, DC: U.S. Sentencing Commission); **2008**, Figure E [Online]. Available: http://www.ussc.gov/Data_and_Statistics/Annual_Reports_and_Sourcebooks/2008/fige.pdf [Apr. 28, 2009]; **2010**, Figure E [Online]. Available: http://www.ussc.gov/Data_and_Statistics/Annual_Reports_and_Sourcebooks/2010/fige.pdf [May 26, 2011]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.