

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/pdf/t5312010.pdf>

Table 5.31.2010

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

By primary offense, fiscal year 2010

Primary offense	Total cases	Sentences to imprisonment	
		Average length (in months)	Median length (in months)
Total	83,919	44.3	21.0
Murder	66	276.1	251.0
Manslaughter	64	72.6	44.0
Kidnaping, hostage-taking	39	162.7	144.0
Sexual abuse	384	108.6	96.0
Assault	631	37.6	24.0
Robbery	1,081	76.8	62.0
Arson	75	78.6	60.0
Drug offenses			
Trafficking	23,503	74.9	60.0
Communication facility ^a	512	34.3	32.0
Simple possession	1,024	3.4	3.0
Firearms	7,984	85.0	57.0
Burglary, breaking and entering	36	16.7	13.5
Motor vehicle theft	91	51.0	24.0
Larceny	1,617	7.6	0.0
Fraud	8,065	23.2	10.0
Embezzlement	434	7.8	3.0
Forgery, counterfeiting	880	14.4	12.0
Bribery	224	19.7	12.0
Tax	665	16.3	12.0
Money laundering	806	30.6	15.0
Racketeering, extortion	675	76.7	44.0
Gambling, lottery	76	6.0	5.0
Civil rights	61	22.5	12.0
Immigration	28,496	16.8	10.0
Child pornography	1,886	118.0	80.0
Prison offenses	424	15.4	12.0
Administration of justice offenses	1,157	18.1	12.0
Environmental, wildlife	188	3.0	0.0
National defense	69	53.5	34.0
Antitrust	16	7.4	8.0
Food and drug	84	10.3	0.0
Other	2,606	10.4	0.0

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, Appendix A.)

These data include prison sentences only and exclude any imposition of home detention, community confinement, or intermittent confinement (Source, Appendix A). Sentences of probation only are included in this table as zero months of imprisonment. Of the 83,946 guideline cases, 27 cases were excluded due to missing or indeterminable sentencing information.

^aRefers to the use of a device, such as a telephone, in a drug trafficking offense.

Source: U.S. Sentencing Commission, *2010 Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics*, Table 13 [Online]. Available: http://www.ussc.gov/Data_and_Statistics/Annual_Reports_and_Sourcebooks/2010/Table13.pdf [May 26, 2011].