

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/pdf/t5312008.pdf>

Table 5.31.2008

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

By primary offense, fiscal year 2008

Primary offense	Total cases	Sentences to imprisonment	
		Average length (in months)	Median length (in months)
Total	76,366	49.6	24.0
Murder	69	221.6	210.0
Manslaughter	54	46.1	37.0
Kidnaping, hostage-taking	56	205.3	180.0
Sexual abuse	485	92.1	63.0
Assault	676	37.7	27.0
Robbery	1,052	80.2	63.0
Arson	60	78.5	60.0
Drug offenses			
Trafficking	24,286	79.9	60.0
Communication facility ^a	354	35.1	36.0
Simple possession	511	6.4	0.0
Firearms	8,246	83.7	56.0
Burglary, breaking and entering	45	19.2	18.0
Motor vehicle theft	60	48.0	24.0
Larceny	1,683	8.3	1.5
Fraud	7,465	21.6	12.0
Embezzlement	495	8.7	6.0
Forgery, counterfeiting	1,015	16.3	12.0
Bribery	219	19.9	12.0
Tax	587	16.2	10.0
Money laundering	893	33.1	18.0
Racketeering, extortion	740	83.1	51.0
Gambling, lottery	127	6.9	6.0
Civil rights	70	39.1	14.5
Immigration	21,417	18.9	12.0
Pornography, prostitution	1,656	119.8	78.0
Prison offenses	371	16.7	14.0
Administration of justice offenses	1,037	16.3	8.0
Environmental, wildlife	204	3.0	0.0
National defense	54	53.2	26.5
Antitrust	24	7.8	6.0
Food and drug	76	4.5	0.0
Other	2,279	5.7	0.0

Note: These data are from the U.S. Sentencing Commission's fiscal year 2008 Offender Dataset, which includes information on 76,478 cases sentenced under the Sentencing Reform Act (guideline cases) during fiscal year 2008 (Oct. 1, 2007 through Sept. 30, 2008) for which data were received by the Commission as of Feb. 10, 2009. 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 76,478 guideline cases, 112 cases were excluded due to one or both of the following conditions: missing primary offense category, 50; or missing or indeterminable sentencing information, 106.

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

Source: U.S. Sentencing Commission, *2008 Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics*, Table 13 [Online]. Available: <http://www.ussc.gov/ANNRPT/2008/table13.pdf> [Apr. 28, 2009].