

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/pdf/t5312009.pdf>

Table 5.31.2009

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

By primary offense, fiscal year 2009

Primary offense	Total cases	Sentences to imprisonment	
		Average length (in months)	Median length (in months)
Total	81,347	46.8	24.0
Murder	93	274.5	270.0
Manslaughter	59	66.6	42.0
Kidnaping, hostage-taking	41	212.8	168.0
Sexual abuse	478	92.6	57.0
Assault	658	37.3	24.0
Robbery	1,011	80.0	60.0
Arson	60	58.2	60.0
Drug offenses			
Trafficking	23,931	77.9	60.0
Communication facility ^a	508	33.1	30.0
Simple possession	757	4.2	0.1
Firearms	8,239	85.4	57.0
Burglary, breaking and entering	36	23.5	24.0
Motor vehicle theft	77	53.0	27.0
Larceny	1,591	7.3	1.0
Fraud	7,617	21.8	10.0
Embezzlement	471	8.8	4.0
Forgery, counterfeiting	887	15.6	12.0
Bribery	171	21.1	12.0
Tax	633	15.7	12.0
Money laundering	812	32.9	18.0
Racketeering, extortion	635	94.2	51.0
Gambling, lottery	62	7.2	6.0
Civil rights	63	26.3	8.0
Immigration	25,924	17.4	12.0
Pornography, prostitution	1,969	117.8	78.0
Prison offenses	445	15.5	12.0
Administration of justice offenses	998	15.2	8.0
Environmental, wildlife	231	4.2	0.0
National defense	67	47.3	27.0
Antitrust	21	13.2	9.0
Food and drug	80	4.1	0.0
Other	2,722	6.2	0.0

Note: These data are from the U.S. Sentencing Commission's fiscal year 2009 Offender Dataset, which includes information on 81,372 cases sentenced under the Sentencing Reform Act (guideline cases) during fiscal year 2009 (Oct. 1, 2008 through Sept. 30, 2009) for which data were received by the Commission as of Feb. 3, 2010. 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 81,372 guideline cases, 25 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, *2009 Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics*, Table 13 [Online]. Available: <http://www.ussc.gov/ANNRPT/2009/table13.pdf> [May 28, 2010].