

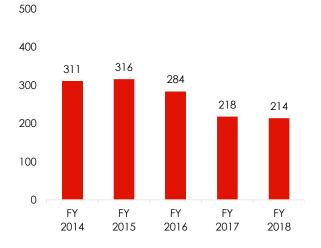
# 

Bribery Offenses

## Fiscal Year 2018

- IN FY 2018, 69,425 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.
  - ▶ 214 OF THESE INVOLVED BRIBERY. 1,2
    - BRIBERY OFFENSES HAVE DECREASED BY 31.2% SINCE FY 2014.

# **Number of Bribery Offenders**



# **Median Loss for Bribery Offenses**



#### Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 87.1% of bribery offenders were men.
- 35.2% were White, 35.2% were Black, 20.0% were Hispanic, and 9.5% were Other races.
- Their average age was 48 years.
- 95.7% were United States citizens.
- 87.1% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I).
- The median loss for these offenses was \$23,500.
  - ♦ 46.5% involved loss amounts of \$15,000 or less.<sup>3</sup>
  - ♦ 26.4% involved loss amounts greater than \$150,000.
- Sentences were increased for:
  - involving multiple bribes (72.9%);
  - involving a high-level elected official (50.5%);
  - the offender was a public official and facilitated entry into the United States, or the obtainment of immigration or identification documents (1.9%);
  - leadership or supervisory role in the offense (8.1%);
  - obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (7.1%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
  - minor or minimal participation in the offense (4.3%).
- The top six districts for bribery offenders were:
  - Eastern District of Michigan (17);
  - Southern District of Texas (16);
  - District of Maryland (13);
  - Southern District of Florida (12);
  - ♦ Northern District of Georgia (11);
  - Eastern District of New York (11).

## **Punishment**

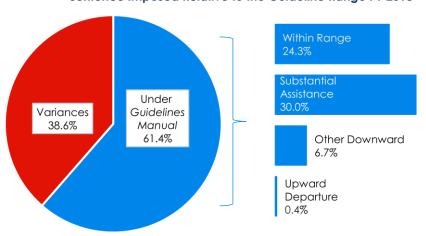
- The average sentence for bribery offenders was 27 months.
- 83.8% were sentenced to prison.
- 1.0% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; none were relieved of the penalty.



# Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 61.4% of bribery offenders sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
  - ♦ 39.5% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - ♦ 48.8% received a substantial assistance departure.
    - ♦ Their average sentence reduction was 62.9%.
  - 10.9% received some other downward departure.
    - ♦ Their average sentence reduction was 51.1%.
- 38.6% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - 96.3% received a downward variance.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 49.8%.
  - 3.7% received an upward variance.
    - Their average sentence increase was 35.7%.
- The average guideline minimum has decreased while the average sentence imposed has remained relatively steady over the past five years.
  - The average guideline minimum decreased from 46 months in fiscal year 2014 to 43 months in fiscal year 2018.
  - The average sentence imposed decreased from 28 months in fiscal year 2014 to 27 months in fiscal year 2018.

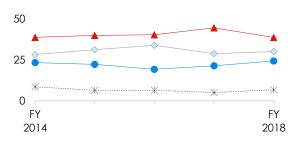
### Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2018



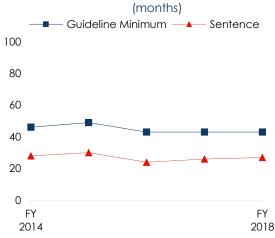
# Bribery Offenses

# Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range (%)





# Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence



- <sup>1</sup> Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.
- <sup>2</sup> Bribery offenses include cases in which the offender was sentenced under §2C1.1 or §2C1.2 (Offering, Giving, or Receiving a Bribe; Extortion Under Color of Official Right; Fraud Involving the Deprivation of the Intangible Right to Honest Services of Public Officials; Conspiracy to Defraud by Interference with Governmental Functions or Offering, Giving, Soliciting, or Receiving a Gratuity).
- <sup>3</sup> The Loss Table was amended effective November 1, 2001 and November 1, 2015.