



# Quick Facts

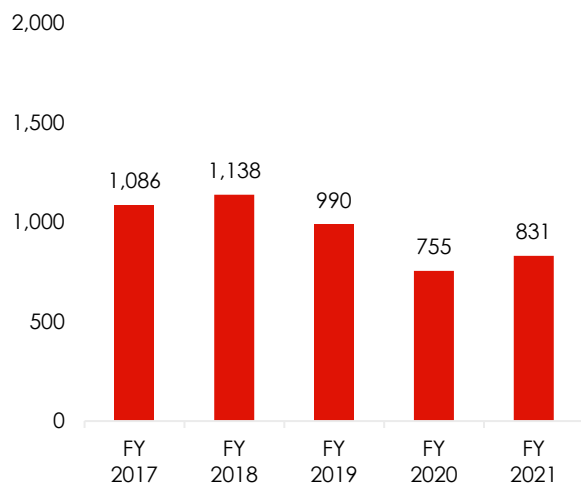


## — Money Laundering Offenses —

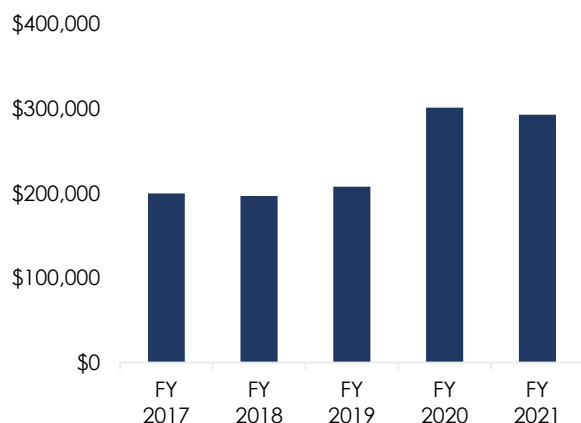
### Fiscal Year 2021

- ▶ IN FY 2021, 57,287 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.
- ▶ 831 INVOLVED MONEY LAUNDERING.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ MONEY LAUNDERING OFFENSES HAVE DECREASED BY 23.5% SINCE FY 2017.

Number of Money Laundering Offenders



Median Loss for Money Laundering Offenses



### Offender and Offense Characteristics<sup>2</sup>

- 79.6% of money laundering offenders were men.
- 36.5% were Hispanic, 31.3% were White, 24.1% were Black, and 8.1% were Other races.
- Their average age was 41 years.
- 71.3% were United States citizens.
- 70.4% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I).
- The median loss for these offenses was \$293,359;<sup>3</sup>
  - ◆ 16.1% involved loss amounts of \$40,000 or less;
  - ◆ 23.5% involved loss amounts greater than \$1.5 million.
- Sentences were increased for:
  - ◆ knowing the laundered funds were proceeds of an offense involving a controlled substance, violence, weapons, national security, or the sexual exploitation of a minor (17.3%);
  - ◆ a conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 1957 (engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity) (9.2%);
  - ◆ a conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 1956 (laundering of monetary instruments) (82.6%);
  - ◆ the defendant was in the business of money laundering with no underlying offense conduct (6.1%);
  - ◆ sophisticated laundering (12.4%);
  - ◆ a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (20.2%);
  - ◆ obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (4.5%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
  - ◆ minor or minimal participation in the offense (9.5%).
- The top five districts for money laundering offenders were:
  - ◆ Southern District of New York (52);
  - ◆ Southern District of Florida (45);
  - ◆ Northern District of Texas (39);
  - ◆ Southern District of California (34);
  - ◆ Southern District of Texas (33).

### Punishment

- The average sentence for money laundering offenders was 69 months.
- 90.5% of were sentenced to prison.
- 30.9% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 59.7% were relieved of that penalty.



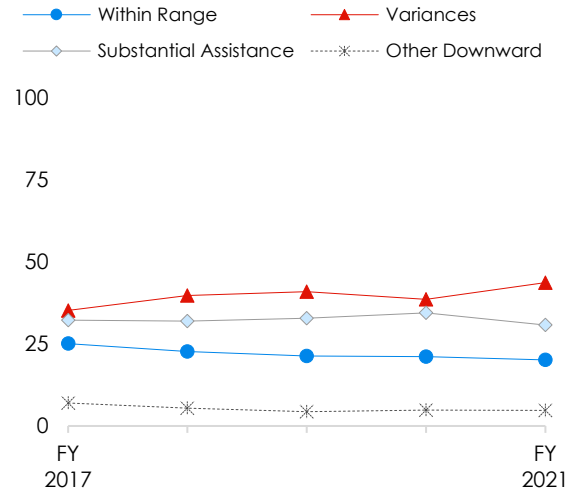
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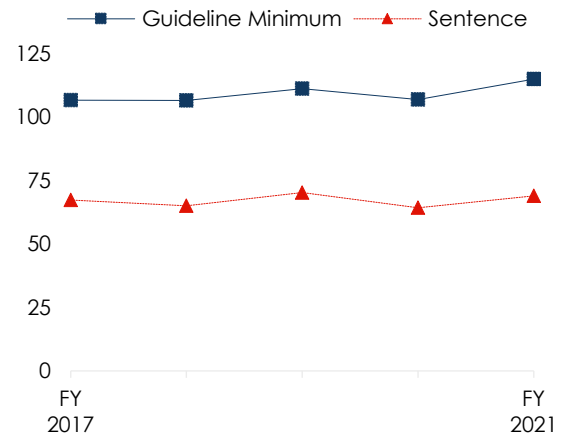
**Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range**

- Of the 56.3% of money laundering offenders sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:
  - ◆ 35.7% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - ◆ 54.6% received a substantial assistance departure.
    - ◇ Their average sentence reduction was 60.5%.
  - ◆ 8.4% received some other downward departure.
    - ◇ Their average sentence reduction was 46.6%.
- 43.7% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - ◆ 98.3% received a downward variance.
    - ◇ Their average sentence reduction was 47.3%.
  - ◆ 1.7% received an upward variance.
    - ◇ Their average sentence increase was 45.3%.
- The average guideline minimum and average sentence imposed fluctuated over the past five years.
  - ◆ The average guideline minimum increased and decreased throughout the fiscal years. The average guideline minimum was 107 months in fiscal year 2017 and 115 months in fiscal year 2021.
  - ◆ The average sentence imposed increased and decreased throughout the fiscal years. The average sentence imposed was 67 months in fiscal year 2017 and 69 months in fiscal year 2021.

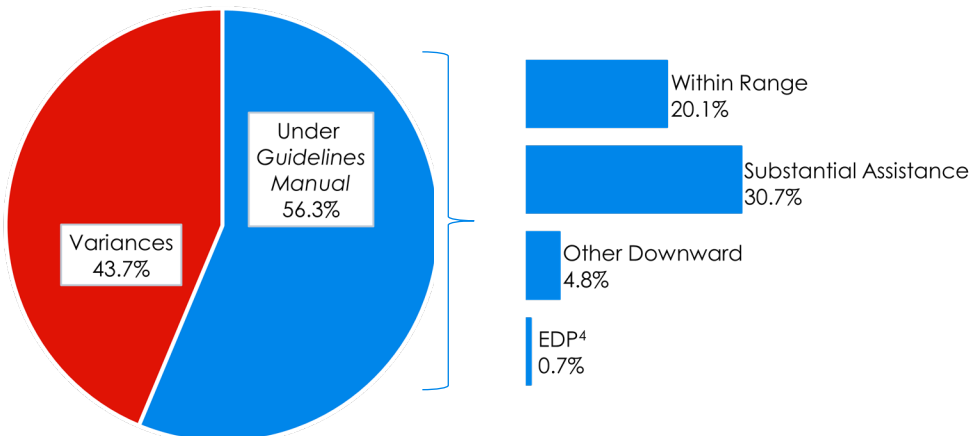
**Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range (%)**



**Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)**



**Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2021**



<sup>1</sup> Money Laundering offenses include cases in which the offender was sentenced under §2S1.1 (Laundering of Monetary Instruments; Engaging in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Unlawful Activity).

<sup>2</sup> Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

<sup>3</sup> The Loss Table was amended effective November 1, 2001 and November 1, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> "Early Disposition Program (or EDP) departures" are departures where the government sought a sentence below the guideline range because the defendant participated in the government's Early Disposition Program, through which cases are resolved in an expedited manner. See USSG §5K3.1.