

# APPENDIX A

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## *Descriptions of Datafiles and Variables*

## Introduction

The Commission's research program is based on data from the Federal courts. The Commission collects data regarding every felony and Class A misdemeanor offense sentenced each year.

To facilitate this data collection, the courts are statutorily required to submit five sentencing documents to the Commission within 30 days of entry of judgment in a criminal case: (1) the charging document (information/ indictment), (2) the plea agreement (if any), (3) the Presentence Report (if any), (4) the Judgment and Commitment Order, and (5) the Statement of Reasons form. The Commission analyzes these documents and collects information of interest and importance to policymakers and the federal criminal justice community.

Tables in this report use the Commission's datafile, USSCFY24, which includes information on the 61,678 individuals sentenced between October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, for whom sentencing documents were received as of February 14, 2025.

This report also provides data on 80 organizations sentenced during that period. Also, this report provides data on 11,040 individuals resentenced by the district court or whose sentence was modified in some other way during that period. Finally, this report provides data on 6,099 appeals cases decided during fiscal year 2024.

Given the nature of the datafile and reporting requirements, the following are not included: cases initiated but for which no convictions were obtained, persons convicted but who have not been sentenced, and persons sentenced but for whom no sentencing documents were submitted to the Commission. Cases in which a sentence of death was imposed

also are not available in this dataset as the sentencing guidelines do not apply to those cases.

*Note that for all tables, total percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding*

## Variables

The following section describes the variables used in this report.

### Age

The Age of the individual on the day of sentencing is calculated using the date of sentencing as reported in the Judgment and Commitment Order and the individual's date of birth as reported either in the Presentence Report or in the case submission information provided by the court when submitting the case to the Commission. Persons under the age of 18 at the time of sentencing were charged as adults for a federal felony or Class A misdemeanor.

### Any Guideline

The Commission collects guideline application information on up to four guidelines in a single computation (more than one guideline can be applied through the cross-reference application in the *Guidelines Manual*). If a guideline is recorded in any of the four collected fields, then it is reported as "any guideline." Note that counts for this category may exceed the total number of defendants sentenced in any fiscal year because multiple guideline computations and/or multiple reference guidelines may have been applied in a single case.

### Appeals

*Appeals* data are derived from analyses of opinions and orders from the courts of appeals. For purposes of

the appeals data, an appeals case is one in which a federal court of appeals has issued an opinion or order. All appeals cases are coded for identifying data, such as parties, date, circuit, and for the type of appeal, the type of sentence appealed, and the disposition in sentence appeals.

### **Attribution Category for Sentences Outside the Range**

All categories replicate the list of checkboxes available on the Statement of Reasons (SOR) form. Not all checkbox categories are available in both the departure section and sentences outside the guideline system section on this form and multiple checkboxes may be indicated in a single case so that totals in a table may exceed the total number of cases. The Commission uses these checkboxes in determining government sponsorship: all cases in which one of the pursuant to a plea agreement boxes is indicated are attributed to the government. Additionally, other types of SOR forms may indicate sponsorship in writing, and these attributions are also included in the appropriate category.

### **Circuit**

Information on judicial *Circuit* is generated using the location of the judicial district in which the person was sentenced.

### **Citizenship Status**

Information on the *Citizenship Status* of sentenced individuals is obtained from the Presentence Report. Persons are categorized as one of the following: “U.S. citizen,” “resident alien,” “illegal alien,” “extradited alien,” or “non-U.S. citizen, alien status unknown.” The latter four categories are collapsed into the category of “non-U.S. citizen.”

### **Conviction Type**

Sentencing classification is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 3559(a). The federal sentencing guidelines apply to felony cases and Class A misdemeanors (see USSG §1B1.9). For this reason, no information about petty offenses is recorded in the Commission’s datafiles.

### **Criminal History Category**

*Criminal History Category* is derived from the Statement of Reasons provided by the sentencing court. *Criminal History Category* is taken from the Presentence Report when the Statement of Reasons is not available. While the court may disagree with Presentence Report information, the *Criminal History Category* is the same in the vast majority of cases for which both documents were received.

### **District**

Information on the judicial *District* in which sentencing occurred is obtained from the Judgment and Commitment Order.

### **Document Submission Rates**

Five documents are represented in the document submission table: Judgment and Commitment Order (J&C), Presentence Report (PSR), Statement of Reasons (SOR), indictment/information (Ind), and plea agreements (Plea). The J&C, SOR, and PSR generally are submitted in a standardized format. PSRs waived by the court are indicated in a separate column. Standardized forms for the SORs are most frequently submitted; however, transcripts or partial SORs and/or transcripts from the sentencing hearing are also included as *Statement of Reasons Received*. Cases in which the Commission was unable to determine definitively whether the guilty plea was entered

pursuant to a written agreement are excluded from the Plea totals. The total documents received column is derived from adding the total number of received documents from the J&C, PSR, SOR, Ind, and Plea columns.

### **Downward Departure**

*Downward Departure* consists of cases in which the sentence imposed was below the applicable guideline range and for which the court cited a reason on Part V of the Statement of Reasons form (Departures Pursuant to the Guidelines Manual). In these cases, the court may also have cited 18 U.S.C. § 3553 or factors or reasons specifically prohibited in the provisions, policy statements, or commentary of the sentencing guidelines as additional reasons. This category includes departures that result from government motions as well as from motions by the parties.

### **Downward Variance**

*Downward Variance* consists of cases in which the sentence imposed was below the applicable guideline range and for which the court cited a reason on Part VI of the Statement of Reasons form (Court Determination for a Variance). This category includes variances which result from government motions as well as from motions by the defendant.

### **Drug Trafficking Guidelines**

*Drug Trafficking Guidelines* information is obtained from the Presentence Report and is based on the guidelines in USSG Chapter Two, Part D. The seven guidelines (USSG §§2D1.1, 2D1.2, 2D1.5, 2D1.6, 2D1.8, 2D1.10, and 2D1.14) represent the guidelines in Chapter Two, Part D that utilize the drug

quantity table in USSG §2D1.1 (Drug Trafficking) to determine the base offense level.

### **Education**

Information on *Education* is obtained from the Presentence Report and is collapsed into general categories. Technical, military, and vocational training as well as course work at community colleges is included in the *Some College* category. A general equivalency degree (GED) is included in the *High School Graduate* category.

### **Extent of Decrease**

*Extent of Decrease* is calculated based on the difference between the sentence length (including any months of alternative confinement as defined in USSG §5C1.1) and the guideline minimum (including any statutory trumps) for below range cases. Life imprisonment sentences and cases where the guideline minimum is zero months or life are excluded from all extent of decrease calculations due to the logical difficulty in calculating a decrease from these values. High values of the guideline minimum are capped at 470 months for analytical purposes.

### **Extent of Increase**

*Extent of Increase* is calculated based on the difference between the guideline maximum (including any statutory trumps) and the sentence length (including any months of alternative confinement as defined in USSG §5C1.1) for above range cases. Life sentences and cases where the guideline minimum is life are excluded from all extent of increase calculations due to the logical difficulty in calculating an increase from these values.

High values of the guideline minimum are capped at 470 months for analytical purposes.

## **Fines and Restitution**

*Fines and Restitution* information is obtained from the Judgment and Commitment Order (J&C). Fine information may also include cost of supervision. Cases that receive no fine or restitution are not included in the calculation of the means. The number of cases upon which the mean is based may not equal the number of persons ordered to pay fines and/or restitution; this is due to the failure of some J&Cs to specify the dollar amount ordered. The median of payments ordered reflects the amount located at the fiftieth percentile of all amounts ordered, excluding cases in which the amount was indeterminable or zero.

## **Gender**

*Gender* is obtained from the Presentence Report.

## **Government Motion (Variance)**

*Government Motion (Variance)* consists of cases in which the sentence imposed was below the applicable guideline range pursuant to a government motion and for which the court cited a reason on Part VI of the Statement of Reasons (SOR) form (Court Determination for a Variance). These cases are determined by a yearly case review by Commission staff of both the reasons for the below range sentence and the coding by Commission staff of any indication of government sponsorship as indicated on the SOR form for below range cases. The SOR form has specific checkboxes to indicate the origins of the variance,

but cases that do not use this form may also indicate in writing the origins of the variance. Additionally, all cases with one or more of the following reasons were classified as being sponsored by the government regardless of whether the SOR indicated sponsorship: pursuant to a plea agreement (binding, non-binding, or unknown), fast track, savings to the government, early plea, waiver of indictment and/or appeal, other government motion, global disposition, due to stipulations, facilitated early release of a material witness, joint recommendation, and a large number of immigration cases. This category does not include cases with USSG §5K1.1 Substantial Assistance departures or USSG §5K3.1 Early Disposition Program (EDP) departures.

## **Guideline Sentencing Range**

The *Guideline Sentencing Range* is taken from the Statement of Reasons provided by the sentencing court.

Alternatively, if the Statement of Reasons is missing, then the information is taken from the Presentence Report.

For tables in this report, unless otherwise indicated, the guideline sentencing range does not take into account applicable statutory restrictions on either the maximum or the minimum of the range; therefore, it may differ from the available range, which does take into account the statutory restrictions.

## **Length of Imprisonment**

For cases in which a term of imprisonment was imposed, *Length of Imprisonment* reports the mean and median terms of imprisonment imposed in months. Length of imprisonment also includes any time served amounts



and imprisonment under USSG §5G1.3. This information is obtained from the Judgment and Commitment Order (J&C). Mean and median imprisonment lengths are rounded to the nearest month.

Any portion of a sentence that is an alternative confinement as described in USSG §5C1.1 is excluded. Cases in which a term of imprisonment is ordered, but where the length is indeterminable, also are excluded. When sentences are expressed as “time served” on the J&C, Commission staff uses the dates in federal custody to determine the length of time served provided the individual has been in custody the entire time. If the person has been in and out of custody, or the start date is unclear or missing, then the Commission assigns a value of one day as a minimal time served amount for these cases.

In cases where the court imposes a sentence of life imprisonment, a numeric value is necessary to include these cases in any analysis. Accordingly, life sentences are reported as 470 months, a length consistent with the average life expectancy of individuals sentenced for federal offenses given the average age of those persons. Sentences of greater than 470 months are also reported as 470 months. The footnote in the relevant tables and figures indicates when this occurs.

### **Length of Supervised Release**

For cases in which a term of supervised release was imposed, *Length of Supervised Release* reports the mean and median terms of supervised release imposed in months. This information is obtained from the Judgment and Commitment Order. Cases in which a term of supervised release is ordered, but where the length is indeterminable, are excluded. In cases where the court

imposes a supervised release term of lifetime supervision, a numeric value is necessary to include these cases in any supervised release length analysis. Accordingly, life terms of supervised release are reported as 470 months, a length consistent with the Commission’s assignment of 470 months for life imprisonment sentences.

### **Mandatory Minimum Penalties**

Information on *Mandatory Minimum Penalties* is obtained from the Presentence Report and represents the assessment of the probation officer. The sentencing court may alter this mandatory minimum penalty information; occasionally, such changes are not reflected in the documents received by the Commission.

### **Mode of Conviction**

Information on *Mode of Conviction* is obtained from the Judgment and Commitment Order. Persons sentenced subsequent to a plea of guilty or *nolo contendere* are included in the *Plea* category. Persons sentenced subsequent to a trial by judge or jury are included in the *Trial* category. Rare cases involving both a plea and a trial are included in the *Trial* category.

### **Non-Government Departure**

*Non-Government Departure* consists of cases in which the sentence imposed was outside the applicable guideline range and for which the court cited a reason on Part V of the Statement of Reasons form (Departures Pursuant to the Guidelines Manual) other than USSG §5K1.1 or USSG §5K3.1, and where the government did not initiate, propose, or stipulate to the sentence.

## Non-Government Variance

*Non-Government Variance* consists of cases in which the sentence imposed was outside the applicable guideline range and for which the court cited a reason on Part VI of the Statement of Reasons form (Court Determination for a Variance), and where the government did not initiate, propose, or stipulate to the sentence.

## Non-Prison Sentence

*Non-Prison Sentence* includes sentences including probation and/or any alternative confinement, as described in USSG §5C1.1 (*i.e.*, the entire sentence was not incarceration in jail/prison only).

## Number of Employees

The *Number of Employees* identifies the number of persons employed by a sentenced organization. This information is obtained from the Presentence Report.

The number includes full-time workers, part-time workers, hourly workers, seasonal workers, and contractors. If the organization has undergone a significant down-sizing since the offense was detected by the authorities, the number of employees at the time of the offense is used for this variable.

## Offense Level

The final *Offense Level* used in these tables is taken from the Statement of Reasons provided by the sentencing court. Alternatively, if the Statement of Reasons is missing, the offense level is taken from the Presentence Report.

## Organizations

*Organization* is a “person other than an individual.” See 18 U.S.C. § 18. The term includes corporations, partnerships, associations, joint-stock companies, unions, trusts, pension funds, unincorporated organizations, governments and political subdivisions thereof, and non-profit organizations.

## Other Government Motion (Downward Departure)

*Other Government Motion* is determined by a yearly case review by Commission staff of both the reasons for the below range sentence and the coding by Commission staff of any indication of government sponsorship as indicated on the Statement of Reasons (SOR) for below range cases. The SOR form has specific checkboxes to indicate the origins of the departure, but cases that do not use this form may also indicate in writing the origins of the departure. Additionally, all cases with one or more of the following reasons were classified as being sponsored by the government regardless of whether the SOR indicated sponsorship: pursuant to a plea agreement (binding, non-binding, or unknown), fast track, savings to the government, early plea, waiver of indictment and/or appeal, other government motion, global disposition, due to stipulations, facilitated early release of a material witness, joint recommendation, and a large number of immigration cases. This category does not include cases with USSG §5K3.1 Early Disposition Program (EDP) departures or USSG §5K1.1 Substantial Assistance departures.

## Ownership Structure

The *Ownership Structure* identifies the legal status of a sentenced organization. This information is obtained from the Presentence Report. If an organization is incorporated but is not openly traded, it is classified as “Closely-held or Private.” If the financial statements in the presentence investigation report are termed “unaudited,” then the company is also classified as “Closely-held or Private.”

## Position of Sentence

The *Position of Sentence* describes within-range guideline sentences in terms of their relative positions within their applicable guideline ranges. Guideline range information is taken from the Statement of Reasons form and sentence information is taken from the Judgement and Commitment Order.

The *Position of Sentence* is determined by dividing the available range in half. This allows a sentence to fall into one of five distinct categories: the guideline minimum; the lower-half of the range (when not at the guideline minimum); the exact midpoint of the range; the upper-half of the range (when not at the guideline maximum) and the guideline maximum. The “available range” is the guideline range with applicable statutory restrictions on either the maximum or the minimum of the range taken into account. For cases in which USSG §5C1.2 was applied, in accordance with the provisions of the guideline, the statutory restrictions on the minimum of the range are removed according to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(f).

In cases in which the sentence imposed is outside the available sentencing range, departure and/or

variance information is provided as reported by the sentencing court. Differences in the number and percentage of cases in each category may differ from other tables presented in this report; this is due to the exclusion of any case missing both complete information from the Statement of Reasons and information on statutory minima and maxima.

## Primary Drug Type

Information on *Primary Drug Type* is obtained from the Presentence Report, Judgment and Commitment Order, or plea agreement. It is recorded only if at least one of the statutes of conviction recorded by the Commission is an offense under title 21 of the United States Code or an offense under another title when the underlying conduct involves a controlled substance. In most drug trafficking cases, the primary drug type is the drug type that produces the highest converted drug weight under USSG §2D1.1(c). In cases where the court applied USSG 2D1.1(a) (1)-(4), the primary drug type is the drug type causing a death or serious bodily injury.

Information about type of drug in the text and tables is derived from the primary drug type.

The category *Fentanyl* includes cases in which the drug involved is Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide) and cases in which the court determined the substance involved to be a Fentanyl analogue, as defined in the *Guidelines Manual*. The category *Marijuana* includes Hashish and Hashish oil. The category *Methamphetamine* includes pure (actual) methamphetamine, “Ice,” methamphetamine mixture, and methamphetamine precursors sentenced under any drug trafficking guideline



other than USSG §2D1.11 (e.g., ephedrine and pseudoephedrine). All drug types not listed separately in this report are collapsed into the “Other” drug category.

## Primary Guideline

When more than one sentencing guideline is applied in a case, the *Primary Guideline* is the guideline that has the highest adjusted offense level (this includes the Base Offense Level, all applicable Specific Offense Characteristics, and Chapter Three Adjustments prior to the application of Multiple Count Units).

## Race

Information on *Race* is obtained from the Presentence Report in separate categories of race and ethnicity (*White, Black, Native American or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Multiracial, and “Other”*). Ethnicity data indicates whether a sentenced individual is of Hispanic origin. For purposes of this report, individuals whose ethnic background is designated as Hispanic are represented as Hispanic in all tables regardless of racial background. The *Other* race category includes individuals of Native American or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Multiracial, and “Other” origin.

## Reasons for Sentences Outside the Guideline Range

*Reasons for Sentences Outside the Guideline Range* are obtained from the Statement of Reasons when available.

Because courts often provide more than one reason for sentencing outside the guideline range, the frequencies on these tables may add up to more than the number of cases.

## Resentencings and Other Modification of Sentence

Using information submitted by the district courts, *Resentencings and Other Modifications of Sentence* are classified into nine different categories:

*Correction of Sentence on Remand (18 U.S.C. § 3742(f)(1) and (2))*: Cases in which the original sentence is remanded to the district court by a court of appeals. The possible grounds for this include: (1) the sentence violated the law, (2) the guidelines were incorrectly applied, (3) the sentence is outside the applicable guideline range and the court failed to adequately explain why, (4) the sentence is outside the applicable guideline range and the court relied upon an impermissible reason, (5) the sentence is outside the applicable guideline range and the court departed to an unreasonable degree, or (6) there was no applicable guideline and the sentence is plainly unreasonable;

*Direct Motion to District Court Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3559(c)(7)*: Cases in which the court imposed an aggravated penalty under 18 U.S.C. § 3559(c)(7) at the time of original sentence and where a prior conviction for a serious violent felony or serious drug offense that triggered the aggravated penalty was overturned because it was (1) unconstitutional, (2) the sentenced individual was actually innocent, or (3) the individual was pardoned because of innocence;

*Direct Motion to District Court Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255*: Cases in which a district court determines that (1) the original sentence was imposed in violation of the Constitution or the law, (2) the court lacked jurisdiction to impose the sentence, (3) the sentence was greater than the maximum sentence allowed by the law, or (4) the sentence is otherwise subject to collateral attack;

*First Step Act (Sec. 404):* Cases in which individuals convicted of drug trafficking offenses received a reduced sentence through retroactive application of the statutory reductions for crack cocaine offenses that were enacted in the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010. These sentence reductions were authorized in section 404 of the First Step Act of 2018.

*Modification of Imposed Term of Imprisonment for Extraordinary and Compelling Reasons (18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A)):* Cases in which the district court reduces an original sentence for extraordinary and compelling reasons, or because the defendant is at least 70 years old, has served at least 30 years for the offense for which the defendant is currently imprisoned, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) has determined that the defendant is not a danger to the safety of any person or the community. This reduction can occur through a motion filed by the Director of the BOP or by the defendant;

*Modification of Imposed Term of Imprisonment for Retroactive Amendments to the Sentencing Guidelines (18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2)):* Cases in which a district court reduces the sentence for a defendant who was sentenced based on a sentencing range that later was lowered by the United States Sentencing Commission and where the Commission voted to apply the lowered penalty retroactively. This reduction can occur through a motion filed by the defendant, the Director of the BOP, or upon the court's own motion;

*Modification of Restitution Order (18 U.S.C. § 3664):* Cases in which the court modifies any part of a judgment ordering restitution be paid to victims;

*Reduction of Sentence for Changed Circumstances (Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 35(b)):* Cases in which the

government files a motion after the original sentence is imposed requesting the court to reduce that sentence because the defendant provided substantial assistance to the government; and

*Unknown Type of Resentencing:* Cases in which a resentencing has occurred but where the type of resentencing cannot be determined.

## Safety Valve

*Safety Valve* cases are identified based upon the application of the criteria set forth in subdivisions (1)-(5) of subsection (a) of USSG §5C1.2 as described in the Statement of Reasons or Presentence Report. These criteria are considered as a specific offense characteristic in cases where USSG §2D1.1 or USSG §2D1.11 is the sentencing guideline.

The application of this specific offense characteristic requires that the sentenced individual meet the criteria set forth in subdivisions (1)-(5) of subsection (a) of USSG §5C1.2, which are the same criteria as in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(f). Section 3553(f) requires courts to sentence a defendant without regard to any otherwise applicable mandatory minimum penalty when the criteria are met. Additionally, individuals meeting this criteria receive a reduction of two offense levels pursuant to USSG §2D1.1(b)(18) or USSG §2D1.11(b)(6).

This two-level reduction can occur even if no mandatory minimum penalty might otherwise apply in the case. Both types of *Safety Valve* application are accounted for in the *Sourcebook* tables. In a small number of cases the court may not give the two-level reduction but does sentence the individual without regard to an otherwise applicable mandatory minimum penalty.

Because of the continuing refinement of the guidelines, the position of this specific offense characteristic notation within USSG §2D1.1 may vary from year to year.

## **Sentence Appeals Disposition**

Data is derived from analysis of opinions and orders from the courts of appeals. The appeals disposition code indicates the disposition of the case.

*Affirmed* cases are cases in which an appellate court holds that the judgment of the court below is correct and should stand. *Reversed* cases are those in which an appellate court sets aside, annuls, vacates, or changes to the contrary the decision of a lower court. *Affirmed and Reversed* cases are cases in which an appellate court affirmed one or more issues and reversed one or more of the issues that were appealed. *Remanded* cases are those in which the appellate court sent the case back to the lower court to address the issue under appeal. *Dismissed* cases are those an appellate court terminates without a complete trial and without issuing a holding. A dismissal of an appeal places the parties in the same condition as if no appeal had been taken or allowed, and thus acts as a confirmation of the judgment of the court below.

## **Sentenced Individual**

Each *Sentenced Individual* or case, as recorded by the Commission, involves a single sentencing event for a single person. Multiple counts of conviction, including counts of conviction charged on multiple indictments, are considered a single sentencing event if a single sentence was imposed for the counts on the same day at the same time by the same judge. An individual may account for more than one case if the person was involved in more than one sentencing

event during the fiscal year. Data on co-defendants in the same sentencing will appear as separate cases.

## **Sentence Imposed or Sentence Length**

*Sentence Imposed or Sentence Length* reports the mean and median terms of the sentence imposed in months. It also includes any time served amounts and imprisonment under USSG §5G1.3. This information is obtained from the Judgment and Commitment Order (J&C). Mean and median sentence lengths are rounded to the nearest month.

Probation sentences are included as zero months. Any portion of a sentence that is an alternative confinement as described in USSG §5C1.1 is included.

Cases in which a sentence is imposed, but where the length is indeterminable, are excluded. When sentences are expressed as “time served” on the J&C, Commission staff uses the dates in federal custody to determine the length of time served when an individual has been in custody the entire time. If the individual has been in and out of custody, or the start date is unclear/ missing, then the Commission assigns a value of one day as a minimal time served amount for these cases.

In cases where the court imposes a sentence of life imprisonment, a numeric value is necessary to include these cases in any sentence length analysis. Accordingly, life sentences are reported as 470 months, a length consistent with the average life expectancy of individuals sentenced for federal offenses given the average age of those persons. Sentences of greater than 470 months are also reported as 470 months. The footnote in the relevant tables and figures indicates when this occurs.

## Sentences Under the Guidelines Manual

This category includes individuals whose sentences are determined to be either within the guideline range or outside the guideline range and for which the court cited a reason on Part V of the Statement of Reasons form (Departures Pursuant to the Guidelines Manual). In these cases, the court may also have cited 18 U.S.C. § 3553 or factors or reasons specifically prohibited in the provisions, policy statements, or commentary of the sentencing guidelines as additional reasons. This category includes departures which result from government motions as well as from motions by the sentenced individual.

### Type of Appeal

Data are derived from analyses of opinions and orders from the courts of appeals. The type of appeal indicates the type of issue that is raised in the case. The types of appeals are: (1) sentence only, (2) sentence and conviction, (3) conviction only, and (4) unknown. For coding purposes, a sentence only appeal occurs when the appellant either argues that the district court erred during the sentencing phase or raises issues concerning the applicability of the guidelines to the case at hand. In some cases, the appellant is challenging some part of the plea agreement involving sentencing.

Sentence only appeals also include appeals from decisions denying a motion for resentencing or other modification of sentence. Additionally, sentence only appeals include appeals from a decision to revoke a term of probation or a term of supervised release.

A conviction only appeal occurs when the appellant claims some sort of error occurred during the investigation,

trial, or jury deliberations that did not involve sentencing issues or the application of the sentencing guidelines.

In some cases, the appellant raises challenges to both the conviction and the sentence imposed. Finally, in some cases the type of appeal cannot be determined from the court documents. In many of the unknown appeal type cases, the appeal court dismissed the appeal for lack of jurisdiction or because the appeal did not assert a basis for relief.

### Type of Business

The *Type of Business* identifies the primary industry in which an organization conducted business. This information is obtained from the Presentence Report.

### Type of Crime

Information on *Type of Crime* is obtained from the primary guideline detailed in the Presentence Report. If the primary guideline is an “attempt/conspiracy” guideline, such as USSG §2X1.1, then the underlying guideline is used to determine the type of crime category.

If there is no primary guideline provided, then information about the type of crime category is obtained from the statutes of conviction listed on the Judgment and Commitment Order.

When the “type of crime” for the case is determined from the statutes of conviction, the offense applicable to the count of conviction with the highest statutory maximum becomes the “type of crime.” If two or more counts are found to have the same statutory maximum, the “type of crime” is selected according to which count of conviction has the highest statutory minimum. Finally, in the event



of a small number of cases still tied, the “type of crime” that best represented the nature of the criminal behavior is chosen.

For convenience in analysis, a summary variable describing “type of crime” is derived. This is generated by grouping similar primary offenses into a smaller set of categories. Note that the crime categories differ between the individual and organizational datafiles. Listed below are the offense types that are grouped into each of the crime categories used in the individual datafile tables for this report:

*Administration of Justice* includes obstructing or impeding officers, contempt, obstruction of justice, perjury or subornation of perjury, bribery of a witness, impersonation, failure to appear by defendant, failure to appear by material witness, commission of offense while on release, payment of witness, and misprision of a felony. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2A2.4, 2J1.1, 2J1.2, 2J1.3, 2J1.4, 2J1.6, 2J1.9, and 2X4.1.

*Antitrust* includes bid-rigging, price-fixing, and market allocation agreement. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §2R1.1.

*Arson* includes property damage by explosives and use of fire or explosives to commit a federal felony. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2K1.4 and 2K1.7 (deleted).

*Assault* includes attempt to commit murder, assault with intent to murder, threatening communication, aggravated assault, minor assault, and conspiracy that includes assault with attempt to murder.

This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2A2.1, 2A2.2, and 2A2.3.

*Bribery/Corruption* includes offenses involving public officials and violations of federal election campaign laws, bribe involving officials, bribery—bank loan/ commercial, loan or gratuity to bank examiner, *etc.*, gratuity involving officials, bribe or gratuity affecting employee plan, conflict of interest, payment or receipt of unauthorized compensation, and making, receiving, or failing to report a contribution, donation, or expenditure in violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2B4.1, 2C1.1, 2C1.2, 2C1.3, 2C1.4 (deleted), 2C1.5, 2C1.6 (deleted), 2C1.7 (deleted), and 2C1.8.

*Burglary/Trespass* includes burglary of a residence and burglary of a structure other than a residence, post office burglary, burglary of DEA premises (pharmacy), bank burglary, and trespass. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2B2.1, 2B2.2 (deleted), and 2B2.3.

*Child Pornography* includes the receipt or possession of materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2G2.2 and 2G2.4 (deleted).

*Commercialized Vice* includes gambling, animal fighting, and prostitution offenses. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §2G1.1 where the court did not apply a Base Offense Level of 34, and all persons sentenced under USSG §§2E3.1, 2E3.2 (deleted), and 2E3.3 (deleted).

*Drug Possession* includes simple possession of all drug types. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §2D2.1.



*Drug Trafficking* includes drug distribution/manufacture—conspiracy, continuing criminal enterprise, drug distribution—employee under 21, drug distribution near school, drug import/export, drug distribution to person under 21, establish/rent drug operation, endangering human life while manufacturing, and narco-terrorism. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2D1.1, 2D1.2, 2D1.5, 2D1.6, 2D1.8, 2D1.10, and 2D1.14.

*Environmental* includes waste discharge; specially protected fish, wildlife, and plants; recordkeeping, tampering, and falsification; tampering with a public water system; mishandling of environmental pollutants; and hazardous devices on federal lands. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2K3.1 (deleted), 2Q1.1, 2Q1.2, 2Q1.3, 2Q1.4, 2Q1.5 (deleted), 2Q1.6, 2Q2.1, and 2Q2.2 (deleted).

*Extortion/Racketeering* includes extortion by force, or threat of injury or serious damage, extortionate extension of credit, blackmail, Hobbs Act extortion, travel in aid of racketeering, crime relating to racketeering, and violent crimes in aid of racketeering, unlawful conduct relating to contraband cigarettes, and labor racketeering. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2B3.2, 2B3.3, 2E1.1, 2E1.2, 2E1.3, 2E1.4, 2E1.5 (deleted), 2E2.1, 2E4.1, 2E5.1, 2E5.2 (deleted), 2E5.3, 2E5.4 (deleted), 2E5.5 (deleted), and 2E5.6 (deleted).

*Firearms* includes unlawful receipt/possession/transportation of firearms, ammunition, or explosive material; prohibited transactions involving firearms or ammunition; possession of guns/ explosives on aircraft; unlawful trafficking, *etc.*, in explosives; possession of guns/ explosives in federal facility/schools; use of fire or explosives to commit

felony; use of firearms or ammunition during crime; improper storage of explosive materials; and failure to report theft of explosive materials. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2K1.1, 2K1.2, 2K1.3, 2K1.5, 2K1.6, 2K2.1, 2K2.2, 2K2.3, 2K2.4, 2K2.5, 2K2.6, and 2K3.2.

*Food and Drug* includes tampering with risk of death or injury, providing false information or tampering with products, tampering to injure business, odometer laws and regulations, and violation of regulations involving food, drugs, *etc.* This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2N1.1, 2N1.2, 2N1.3, 2N2.1, and 2N3.1.

*Forgery/Counterfeiting/Copyright* includes counterfeit bearer obligations and forgery/counterfeit (non-bearer obligations) as well as criminal infringement of copyright or trademark. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2B5.1, 2B5.2 (deleted), 2B5.3, and 2B5.4 (deleted).

*Fraud/Theft/Embezzlement* includes fraud and deceit, embezzlement— property, embezzlement from labor unions, embezzlement—mail/post office, embezzlement from benefit plans, bank embezzlement, bank larceny, theft from benefit plans, other theft—mail/post office, receipt/possession of stolen property, theft from labor union, theft or damage to cultural heritage resources, insider trading, and aggravated identity theft.

This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2B1.1, 2B1.2 (deleted), 2B1.3 (deleted), 2B1.4, 2B1.5, 2B1.6, 2F1.1 (deleted), and 2F1.2 (deleted).

*Immigration* includes trafficking in U.S. passports, trafficking in entry documents, failure to surrender naturalization certificate, fraudulently acquiring U.S. passports, smuggling, transporting, or harboring an unlawful alien, fraudulently acquiring entry documents, and unlawfully entering or remaining in the U.S. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2L1.1, 2L1.2, 2L1.3 (deleted), 2L2.1, 2L2.2, 2L2.3 (deleted), 2L2.4 (deleted), and 2L2.5.

*Individual Rights* includes interference with rights under color of law; force or threats to deny benefits or rights; obstructing an election or registration; manufacture, *etc.*—eavesdropping device; other deprivations/discrimination; obstructing correspondence; peonage, servitude, and slave trade; intercept communication or eavesdropping; and conspiracy to deprive a person of civil rights. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2H1.1, 2H1.2 (deleted), 2H1.3 (deleted), 2H1.4 (deleted), 2H1.5 (deleted), 2H2.1, 2H3.1, 2H3.2, 2H3.3, 2H4.1, and 2H4.2.

*Kidnapping* includes hostage and ransom taking, abduction, unlawful restraint, and aircraft piracy. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2A4.1, 2A4.2, and 2A5.1.

*Manslaughter* includes both involuntary and voluntary manslaughter. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2A1.3 and 2A1.4.

*Money Laundering* includes laundering of monetary instruments, monetary transaction from unlawful activity, failure to file currency report, and failure to report monetary transactions.

This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2S1.1, 2S1.2 (deleted), 2S1.3, and 2S1.4 (deleted).

*Murder* includes first degree murder, second degree murder, and conspiracy or solicitation to commit murder. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2A1.1, 2A1.2, and 2A1.5.

*National Defense* includes treason, sabotage, espionage, evasion of military service, prohibited financial transactions and exports, providing material support to designated foreign terrorist organizations, nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, and weapons of mass destruction. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2M1.1, 2M2.1, 2M2.2 (deleted), 2M2.3, 2M2.4 (deleted), 2M3.1, 2M3.2, 2M3.3, 2M3.4, 2M3.5, 2M3.6 (deleted), 2M3.7 (deleted), 2M3.8 (deleted), 2M3.9, 2M4.1, 2M5.1, 2M5.2, 2M5.3, 2M6.1, and 2M6.2.

*Obscenity/Other Sex Offenses* includes failure to register as a sex offender, recordkeeping offenses involving production of sexually explicit material, and importing, mailing, transporting, or broadcasting obscene material. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2A3.5, 2A3.6, 2G2.5, 2G3.1, and 2G3.2.

*Prison Offenses* includes contraband in prisons, riots in federal facilities, and escape. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2P1.1, 2P1.2, 2P1.3, and 2P1.4 (deleted).

*Robbery* includes bank robbery, Hobbs Act robbery, post office robbery, other robbery, and carjacking. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §2B3.1.

*Sexual Abuse* includes criminal sexual abuse, sexual abuse of a minor, sexual abuse of a ward, abusive sexual contact, transportation of minor for sex, sex trafficking of children, sex trafficking of adults by force, fraud or coercion, child pornography production, and child exploitation enterprises. This category

includes persons sentenced under USSG §2G1.1 who received a Base Offense Level of 34, and all persons sentenced under USSG §§2A3.1, 2A3.2, 2A3.3, 2A3.4, 2G1.2 (deleted), 2G1.3, 2G2.1, 2G2.3, and 2G2.6.

*Stalking/Harassing* includes threatening or harassing communications, hoaxes, false liens, stalking, and domestic violence. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2A6.1 and 2A6.2.

*Tax* includes non-payment of taxes, conspiracy to avoid taxes, offenses relating to withholding statements, aiding or advising tax fraud, failing to collect or truthfully account for and pay over taxes, failing to deposit collected taxes in required accounts after notice, alcohol and tobacco tax offenses, and customs taxes. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2T1.1, 2T1.2 (deleted), 2T1.3 (deleted), 2T1.4, 2T1.5 (deleted), 2T1.6, 2T1.7, 2T1.8, 2T1.9, 2T2.1, 2T2.2, 2T3.1, and 2T3.2 (deleted).

*Other Miscellaneous Offenses* includes interference with a flight crew, unlawful sale, transportation, possession, manufacturing, or importation of drug paraphernalia, distributing, importing, or exporting listed chemicals, evading reporting or recordkeeping requirements involving chemicals, acquiring a controlled substance by fraud or forgery, border tunnels and subterranean passages, and all other felony and miscellaneous offenses not previously listed in any of the other categories or covered by specific guidelines. This category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2A5.2, 2D1.7, 2D1.11, 2D1.12, 2D1.13, 2D2.2, 2D2.3, 2D3.1, 2X5.1, 2X5.2, and 2X7.1. In addition, this category includes persons sentenced under USSG §§2X1.1, 2X2.1, 2X3.1, 2X6.1, and 2X7.2 if no underlying guideline was provided.

## Sentence Type

Using sentencing information obtained from the Judgment and Commitment Order, the *Total Receiving Imprisonment* category includes the number of individuals sentenced (and percent of *Total Cases*) who received a commitment to the Bureau of Prisons. This category is the sum of cases in *Prison Only* and the *Prison and Alternatives* categories.

The *Total Receiving Probation* category includes the number of individuals sentenced (and the percent of *Total Cases*) who received a term of probation with or without a condition of community confinement, intermittent confinement, or home detention. This category is the sum of *Probation Only* and *Probation and Alternatives* categories.

The *Prison Only* category includes individuals sentenced to a term of imprisonment only, with no additional conditions of community confinement, home detention or intermittent confinement.

The *Prison and Alternatives* category includes all cases in which individuals received prison and conditions of alternative confinement as defined in USSG §5C1.1. This category includes, but is not limited to, Zone A, Zone B, or Zone C cases receiving prison with additional conditions of a term of community confinement, home detention, or intermittent confinement.

The *Probation Only* category includes the number of individuals who received a term of probation without a condition of community confinement, intermittent confinement, or home detention.

*Probation and Alternatives* category includes the number of individuals who received a term of probation with a condition of community confinement, intermittent confinement, or home detention.

The *Fine Only* category includes the number of individuals who received no prison, no probation, and no time of alternative confinement as defined in USSG §5C1.1. Most of these individuals received a fine and/or a special assessment.

### **Upward Departure**

*Upward Departure* consists of cases in which the sentence imposed was above the applicable guideline range and for which the court cited a reason on Part V of the Statement of Reasons form (Departures Pursuant to the Guidelines Manual). In these cases, the court may also have cited 18 U.S.C. § 3553 or factors or reasons specifically prohibited in the provisions, policy statements, or commentary of the sentencing guidelines as additional reasons. This category includes departures which result from government motions as well as from motions by the parties.

### **Upward Variance**

*Upward Variance* consists of cases in which the sentence imposed was above the applicable guideline range and for which the court cited a reason on Part VI of the Statement of Reasons form (Court Determination for a Variance). This category includes variances which result from government motions as well as from motions by the defendant.

### **Year**

Information on *Year* is obtained from the Judgment and Commitment Order. Unless otherwise indicated, the sentencing year is defined as the fiscal year in which the individual was sentenced.

### **Weapon Involvement**

*Weapon Involvement* in a case is identified either by the application of a guideline enhancement for weapon involvement or a conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c), or both. This variable does not identify cases in which a weapon is present in the offense, but the individual was not convicted of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) or did not receive a weapon-related sentencing enhancement. It does not identify cases in which the specific enhancement can be applied for multiple reasons; for example, the specific enhancement can be applied if the offense involved either physical contact or if a dangerous weapon was possessed.

Finally, this variable does not identify cases sentenced as weapon offenses under USSG Chapter Two, Part K, unless they were convicted of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c).

### **Within Guideline Range**

Cases are classified in this category when the sentence imposed is within both the guideline range and the statutory minimum and maximum. The sentence must meet minimum zone requirements as well. In rare instances, when a very small departure or variance is granted but the sentence is still within the original guideline range, the sentence is reported as within range.

## **Zone**

The Sentencing Table is categorized into sentencing Zones. Courts may impose various types of punishment as alternatives to imprisonment. Alternative types of punishment include probation, home detention, community confinement, and intermittent confinement. Imposition of alternative types of punishment is restricted to individuals within specific sentencing zones. See Chapter 5 of the Guidelines Manual for a description of alternatives to imprisonment and the conditions under which they apply.