Quick Facts
— Bribery Offenses —

Fiscal Year 2020

- In FY 2020, 64,565 cases were reported to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.
- 147 involved bribery.\(^1\)
- Bribery offenses have decreased by 48.2% since FY 2016.

Offender and Offense Characteristics\(^2\)

- 85.5% of bribery offenders were men.
- 39.6% were Black, 34.7% were White, 18.1% were Hispanic, and 7.6% were Other races.
- Their average age was 50 years.
- 89.7% were United States citizens.
- 85.5% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I).
- The median loss for these offenses was $30,690;\(^3\)
  - 40.8% involved loss amounts of $15,000 or less;
  - 15.3% involved loss amounts of greater than $1.5 million.
- Sentences were increased for:
  - being a public official (47.6%);
  - involving multiple bribes (75.2%);
  - involving a high-level elected official (33.8%);
  - a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (4.8%);
  - abusing a public position of trust or using a special skill (2.1%);
  - obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (7.6%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
  - minor or minimal participation in the offense (8.3%).
- The top five districts for bribery offenders were:
  - Southern District of Florida (12);
  - District of New Jersey (9);
  - Northern District of Illinois (8);
  - Southern District of New York (8);
  - District of South Carolina (8).

Punishment

- The average sentence for all bribery offenders was 15 months.
- 64.8% were sentenced to prison.
- 2.8% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; none were relieved of the penalty.

---

This document was produced and published at U.S. taxpayer expense. For more Quick Facts, visit https://www.ussc.gov/research/quick-facts.
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 47.6% of bribery offenders sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
  - 18.8% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 66.7% received a substantial assistance departure. Their average sentence reduction was 76.6%.
  - 14.5% received some other downward departure. Their average sentence reduction was 59.8%.
- 52.4% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - 100% received a downward variance. Their average sentence reduction was 69.3%.
- The average guideline minimum remained steady and the average sentence imposed fluctuated over the past five years.
  - The average guideline minimum decreased from 43 months in fiscal year 2016 to 40 months in fiscal year 2020.
  - The average sentence imposed increased and decreased throughout the fiscal years. The average sentence was 24 months in fiscal year 2016 and 15 months in fiscal year 2020.