Quick Facts — Bribery Offenses —

Fiscal Year 2022

- In FY 2022, 64,142 cases were reported to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.
- 228 involved bribery.1
- Bribery offenses have increased by 6.5% since FY 2018.

Number of Bribery Offenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Offenders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2018</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2020</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2021</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2022</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median Loss for Bribery Offenses2

- The median loss for these offenses was $37,000;3
  - 36.3% involved loss amounts of $15,000 or less;
  - 11.1% involved loss amounts of greater than $1.5 million.

- Sentences were increased for:
  - being a public official (50.7%);
  - involving multiple bribes (75.6%);
  - involving a high-level elected official (44.4%);
  - a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (13.8%);
  - abusing a public position of trust or using a special skill (1.3%);
  - obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (8.4%).

- Sentences were decreased for:
  - minor or minimal participation in the offense (3.1%).

- The top five districts for bribery offenders were:
  - Southern District of New York (26);
  - Eastern District of New York (17);
  - Eastern District of Virginia (13);
  - Southern District of Texas (12);
  - District of New Jersey (10).

Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 77.3% of bribery offenders were men.
- 36.4% were White, 32.9% were Black, 24.0% were Hispanic, and 6.7% were Other races.
- Their average age was 48 years.
- 92.0% were United States citizens.
- 88.4% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I).

Punishment

- The average sentence for bribery offenders was 23 months.
- 80.9% were sentenced to prison.
- 1.3% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 66.7% were relieved of that penalty.

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Bribery Offenses

**Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range**

- Of the 46.2% of bribery offenders sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
  - 41.4% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 47.1% received a substantial assistance departure. Their average sentence reduction was 67.2%.
  - 11.5% received some other downward departure. Their average sentence reduction was 75.0%.
- 53.8% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - 98.3% received a downward variance. Their average sentence reduction was 60.2%.
  - 1.7% received an upward variance.\(^4\)

- The average guideline minimum slightly increased and the average sentence imposed fluctuated over the past five years.
  - The average guideline minimum increased from 43 months in fiscal year 2018 to 45 months in fiscal year 2022.
  - The average sentence imposed increased and decreased throughout the fiscal years. The average sentence imposed was 27 months in fiscal year 2018 and 23 months in fiscal year 2022.

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\(^1\) 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).

\(^2\) Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

\(^3\) The Loss Table was amended effective November 1, 2001 and November 1, 2015.

\(^4\) The Commission does not report the average for categories with fewer than three cases.

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**Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2022**

- Under Guidelines Manual: 46.2%
- Variances: 53.8%
- Within Range: 19.1%
- Substantial Assistance: 21.8%
- Other Downward: 5.3%

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

- Within Range
- Variances
- Substantial Assistance
- Other Downward

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

- Guideline Minimum
- Sentence