Fiscal Year 2018

- In FY 2018, 69,425 cases were reported to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.
- 228 of these involved counterfeiting bearer obligations of the United States.¹ ²
- Counterfeit offenses have decreased by 53.1% since FY 2014.

### Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 75.3% of counterfeit offenders were men.
- 44.3% were White, 35.8% were Black, 15.9% were Hispanic, and 4.0% were Other races.
- Their average age was 34 years.
- 94.7% were United States citizens.
- 28.2% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 18.1% were CHC VI.
- The median loss for these offenses was $3,755.
  - 80.0% involved loss amounts of $15,000 or less.³
  - 1.9% involved loss amounts greater than $150,000.
- Sentences were increased for:
  - manufacturing or producing counterfeit obligations or possessing counterfeiting paper, altered currency paper, or a counterfeit deterrent (54.6%);
  - possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapon in connection with the offense (2.6%);
  - committing any part of the offense outside the United States (3.1%);
  - leadership or supervisory role in the offense (3.1%); and
  - obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (2.2%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
  - minor or minimal participation in the offense (2.2%).
- The top six districts for counterfeit offenders were:
  - District of South Carolina (17);
  - Southern District of Florida (13);
  - Central District of California (11);
  - Northern District of Illinois (8);
  - Middle District of Pennsylvania (7);
  - Eastern District of Washington (7).

### Punishment

- The average sentence for counterfeit offenders was 15 months.
- 79.7% of counterfeit offenders were sentenced to prison.
- 2.2% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; none were relieved of the penalty.

For more Quick Facts, visit https://www.ussc.gov/research/quick-facts.
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 70.5% of counterfeit offenders sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
  - 84.4% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 13.1% received a substantial assistance departure.
    • Their average sentence reduction was 48.0%.
  - 2.5% received some other downward departure.
    • Their average sentence reduction was 41.8%.
- 29.5% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - 98.5% received a downward variance.
    • Their average sentence reduction was 52.5%.
  - 1.5% received an upward variance.
- The average guideline minimum and average sentence imposed has remained relatively steady over the past five years.
  - The average guideline minimum increased from 17 months in fiscal year 2014 to 18 months in fiscal year 2018.
  - The average sentence imposed decreased from 16 months in fiscal year 2014 to 15 months in fiscal year 2018.

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

- Under Guidelines Manual: 70.5%
- Within Range: 59.5%
- Substantial Assistance: 9.3%
- Other Downward: 1.8%
- Variances: 29.5%

1. Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.
2. Counterfeit offenses include cases in which the offender was sentenced under §2B5.1 (Offenses Involving Counterfeit Bearer Obligations of the United States).
3. The Loss Table was amended effective November 1, 2001 and November 1, 2015.