Fiscal Year 2020

- In FY 2020, 64,565 cases were reported to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.
- 160 involved counterfeiting bearer obligations of the United States.¹
- Counterfeit offenses have decreased by 42.9% since FY 2016.

![Graph showing number of counterfeit offenders by fiscal year]

Offender and Offense Characteristics²

- 76.6% of counterfeit offenders were men.
- 60.1% were White, 27.2% were Black, 8.9% were Hispanic, and 3.8% were Other races.
- Their average age was 36 years.
- 96.2% were United States citizens.
- 18.4% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I); 27.2% were CHC VI.
- The median loss for these offenses was $4,600;³
  - 62.1% involved loss amounts of $6,500 or less;
  - 5.6% involved loss amounts greater than $95,000.
- Sentences were increased for:
  - manufacturing or producing counterfeit obligations or possessing counterfeiting paper, altered currency paper, or a counterfeit deterrent (55.7%);
  - possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapon in connection with the offense (3.2%);
  - committing any part of the offense outside the United States (2.5%);
  - a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (4.4%);
  - obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (3.8%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
  - minor or minimal participation in the offense (3.2%).
- The top five districts for counterfeit offenders were:
  - District of South Carolina (12);
  - Middle District of Florida (10);
  - District of Kansas (9);
  - Eastern District of Texas (8);
  - Western District of Michigan (7).

Punishment

- The average sentence for all counterfeit offenders was 18 months.
- 86.1% of counterfeit offenders were sentenced to prison.
- None were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 71.5% of counterfeit offenders sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
  - 86.7% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 9.7% received a substantial assistance departure. Their average sentence reduction was 54.6%.
  - 1.8% received some other downward departure.\(^4\)
- 28.5% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - 95.6% received a downward variance. Their average sentence reduction was 67.9%.
  - 4.4% received an upward variance.\(^4\)
- The average guideline minimum and the average sentence imposed remained steady over the past five years.
  - The average guideline minimum was 21 months in fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2020.
  - The average sentence imposed was 18 months in fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2020.