



QuickFacts

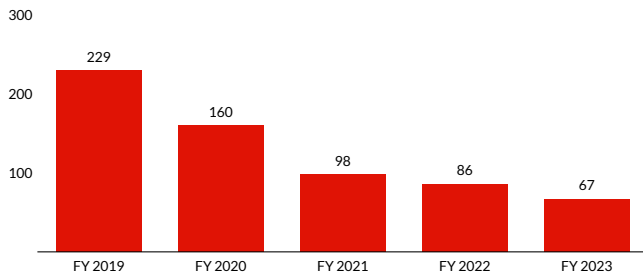
Counterfeiting Offenses

Population Snapshot

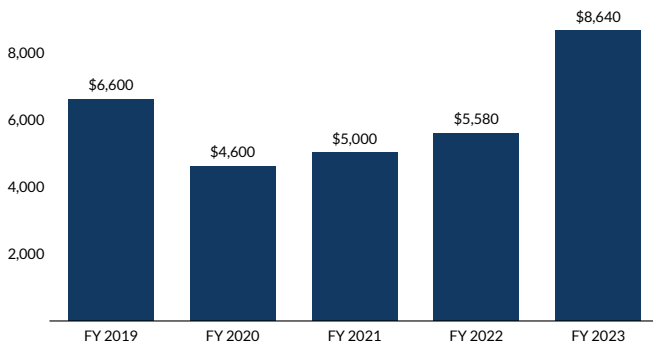
64,124 cases were reported in FY23;
67 involved counterfeiting.¹

Counterfeiting offenses have
decreased 71%
since FY2019.

Number of Counterfeiting Offenses



Median Loss for Counterfeiting Offenses



Individual and Offense Characteristics²

83.1% of individuals sentenced for counterfeiting offenses were men.

43.1% were White, 43.1% were Black, 16.7% were Hispanic, and 10.6% were Other races.

Their average age was 36 years.

100.0% were United States citizens.

15.4% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I).

The median loss for these offenses was \$8,640;³

- 42.9% involved loss amounts of \$6,500 or less;
- 9.6% involved loss amounts greater than \$40,000.

Sentences were increased for:

- manufacturing or producing counterfeit obligations or possessing counterfeit paper, altered currency paper, or a counterfeit deterrent (60.0%);
- a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (4.6%);
- obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (1.5%).

Sentences were decreased for:

- minor or minimal participation in the offense (1.5%).

The top five districts for individuals sentenced for counterfeiting offenses were:

- Western District of Louisiana (6);
- District of Minnesota (5);
- Eastern District of Washington (4);
- District of Kansas (4);
- Western District of Texas (3).

Punishment

The average sentence for individuals sentenced for counterfeiting offenses was 17 months.

81.5% were sentenced to prison.

4.6% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those individuals, 33.3% of them were relieved of that penalty.



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Counterfeiting Offenses

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

Of the 58.5% of individuals sentenced for counterfeiting offenses under the *Guidelines Manual*:

- 78.9% were sentenced within the guideline range.
- 13.2% received a substantial assistance departure.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 73.5%.
- 7.9% received some other downward departure.⁴

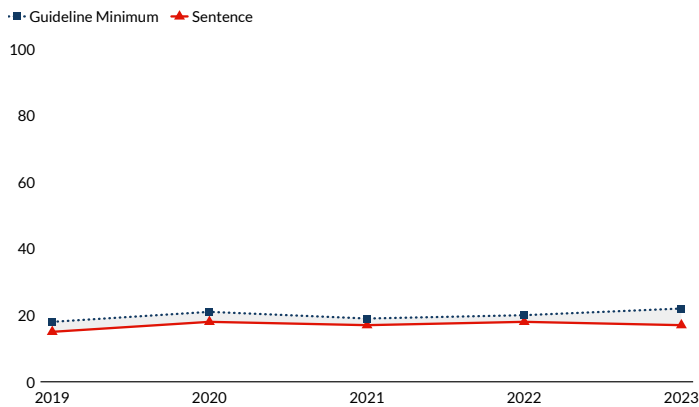
41.5% received a variance; of those individuals:

- 96.3% received a downward variance.
 - Their average sentence reduction was 59.1%.
- 3.7% received an upward variance.⁴

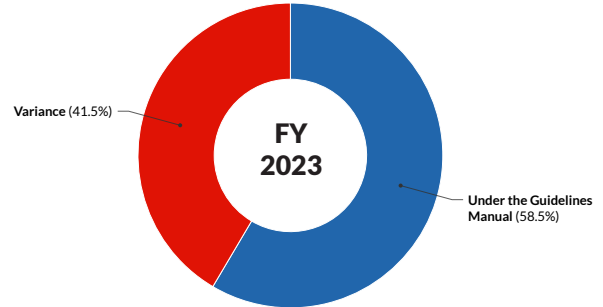
The average guideline minimum and average sentence imposed remained steady over the past five years.

- The average guideline minimum increased from 18 months in fiscal year 2019 to 22 months in fiscal year 2023.
- The average sentence imposed increased from 15 months in fiscal year 2019 and to 17 months fiscal year 2023.

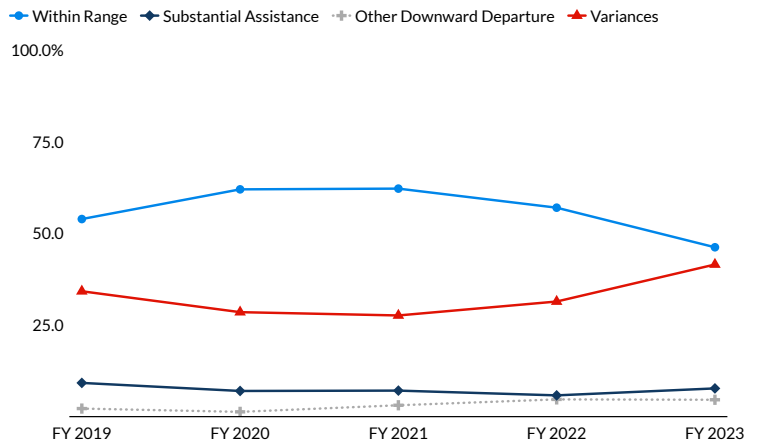
Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



¹ Counterfeit offenses include cases in which the individual was sentenced under §2B5.1 (Offenses Involving Counterfeit Bearer Obligations of the United States).

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 three or fewer cases.