



Quick Facts

▶ THERE WERE 66,873 CASES REPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION IN FISCAL YEAR 2017.¹

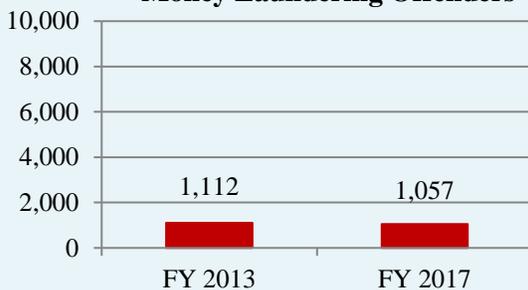
▶ OF THESE CASES, 1,057 INVOLVED MONEY LAUNDERING.²

▶ THESE OFFENDERS WERE SENTENCED UNDER SECTION 2S1.1 OF THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION'S *GUIDELINES MANUAL*.

Money Laundering Offenses¹

In fiscal year 2017, there were 1,057 money laundering offenders, who accounted for 1.7% of all offenders sentenced under the guidelines. The number of money laundering offenders has decreased slightly during the last five years.

Number of Money Laundering Offenders



Top Five Districts Money Laundering Offenders FY 2017

Southern District of Texas (N=79)
Eastern District of Tennessee (N=60)
Western District of Texas (N=53)
Southern District of New York (N=42)
District of Arizona (N=34)

Median Value of Laundered Funds for Money Laundering Offenders



Offender and Offense Characteristics

- In fiscal year 2017, more than three-quarters of money laundering offenders were men (76.1%).
- More than one-third each were Hispanic (39.9%) or White (35.6%) followed by Black (18.5%), and Other Races (6.0%).
- The average age of these offenders at sentencing was 42 years.
- The majority of money laundering offenders were United States citizens (74.0%).
- The majority of money laundering offenders had little or no prior criminal history (71.0% of these offenders were assigned to Criminal History Category I).
- The Guideline Base Offense Level for:
 - ◆ 68.7% of money laundering offenders was based on the underlying offense from which the laundered funds were derived. Nearly two-thirds of the underlying offenses were Drug Trafficking (61.0%, §2D1.1), followed by Theft, Property Destruction, and Fraud (31.0%, §2B1.1), and all other offenses (8.0%).
 - ◆ 31.3% of money laundering offenders was based on the value of the laundered funds. The median value of laundered funds was \$200,000.
- Sentences for money laundering offenders were increased for:
 - ◆ 21.1% of offenders for knowing the laundered funds were proceeds of an offense involving a controlled substance, violence, weapons, national security, or the sexual exploitation of a minor;
 - ◆ 14.1% of offenders for a conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 1957 (Engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity);
 - ◆ 81.0% of offenders for a conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 1956 (Laundering of monetary instruments);
 - ◆ 7.5% of offenders for sophisticated laundering;
 - ◆ 21.7% of offenders for having a leadership or supervisory role in the offense; and
 - ◆ 4.2% of offenders for obstructing or impeding the administration of justice.
- Sentences for money laundering offenders were decreased for:
 - ◆ 10.0% of offenders because they were a minor or minimal participant in the offense.

¹ Of the 66,873 offenders sentenced in fiscal year 2017, 4,956 were excluded from this analysis due to incomplete guideline application information.

² Money Laundering cases include those with complete guideline application information in which the offender was sentenced under §2S1.1 (Laundering of Monetary Instruments; Engaging in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Unlawful Activity) using a *Guidelines Manual* in effect on November 1, 2001 or later.

Quick Facts

Money Laundering Offenses

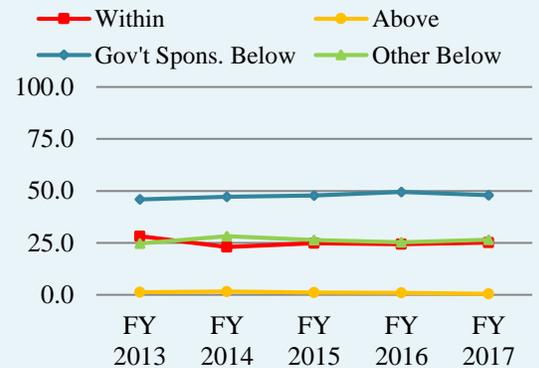
Punishment

- The majority of money laundering offenders were sentenced to imprisonment only (84.7%).
- The average sentence length for money laundering offenders was 67 months.

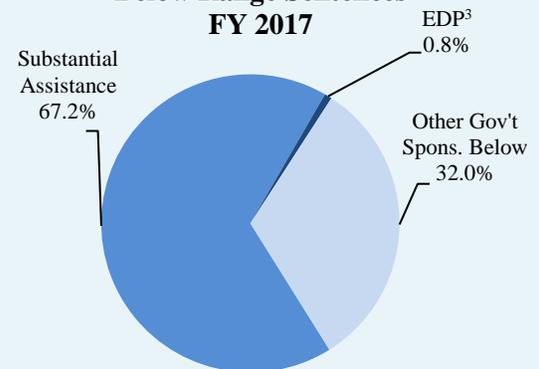
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- During the past five years, the rate of within range sentences for money laundering offenders has decreased (from 28.2% in fiscal year 2013 to 25.1% in fiscal year 2017).
- In each of the past five years, slightly less than half of money laundering offenders received a sentence below the guideline range because the government sponsored the below range sentence.
 - ◆ Substantial assistance departures were granted in approximately one-third of money laundering cases in each of the past five years.
 - ◇ These offenders received an average reduction of 57.5% in their sentence during the five-year time period (which corresponds to an average reduction of 58 months).
 - ◆ Other government sponsored departures were granted in approximately ten to 17 percent of money laundering cases in each of the past five years.
 - ◇ These offenders received an average reduction of 50.4% in their sentence during the five-year time period (which corresponds to an average reduction of 51 months).
- In each of the past five years, approximately one-fourth of money laundering offenders received a non-government sponsored below range sentence.
 - ◆ Reductions for non-government sponsored below range sentences were smaller than in cases in which the government sponsored a below range sentence, with an average reduction of 43.1% during the five-year time period (which corresponds to an average reduction of 31 months).
- Both the average guideline minimum and the average sentence for money laundering offenders varied slightly during the past five years.
 - ◆ The average guideline minimum ranged from 100 months to 108 months during that time period;
 - ◆ The average sentence imposed ranged from 67 months to 70 months during that time period.

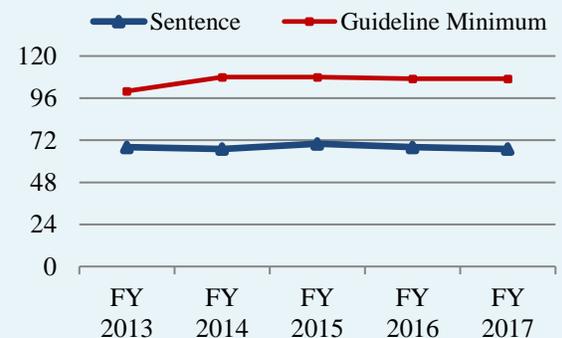
Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range



Government Sponsored Below Range Sentences FY 2017



Average Sentence and Average Guideline Minimum (in months)



³ "Early Disposition Program (or EDP) departures" are departures where the government sought a sentence below the guideline range because the defendant participated in the government's Early Disposition Program, through which cases are resolved in an expedited manner. See USSG §5K3.1.

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