



QuickFacts

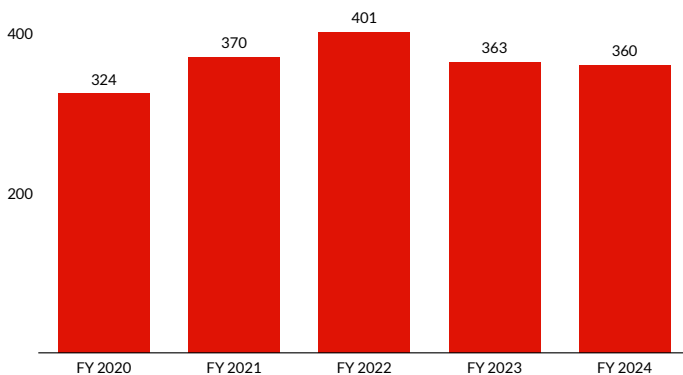
Tax Fraud

Population Snapshot

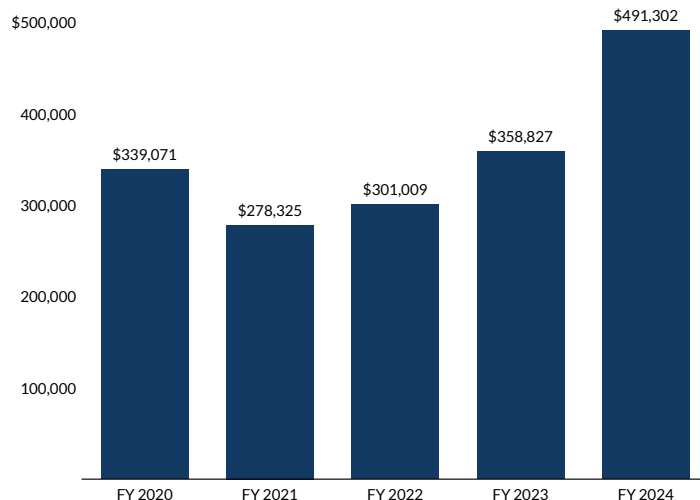
61,678 cases were reported in FY24;
360 involved tax fraud.¹

Tax fraud offenses have
increased 11.0% since FY20.

Number of Tax Fraud Offenses



Median Loss for Tax Fraud Offenses²



Individual and Offense Characteristics

76.4% of individuals sentenced for tax fraud were men.

51.5% were White, 25.9% were Black, 11.3% were Hispanic, and 11.3% were Other races.

Their average age was 54 years.

93.8% were United States citizens.

86.8% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I).

The median loss for these offenses was \$491,302;³

- 9.0% involved loss amounts of less than \$100,000;
- 20.5% involved loss amounts greater than \$1.5 million.

Sentences were increased for:

- using sophisticated means to execute or conceal the offense (16.9%);
- a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (6.5%);
- abusing a public position of trust or using a special skill (3.7%);
- obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (6.5%).

Sentences were decreased for:

- minor or minimal participation in the offense (1.1%).

The top five districts for tax fraud offenses were:

- District of Massachusetts (20);
- Northern District of Ohio (17);
- Eastern District of New York (16);
- Middle District of Florida (16);
- Central District of California (15).

Punishment

The average sentence length for individuals sentenced for tax fraud was 15 months.

66.0% were sentenced to prison.

No individuals were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty.



QuickFacts

Tax Fraud

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

45.2% of sentences for tax fraud were under the *Guidelines Manual*.

- 28.9% were within the guideline range.
- 12.4% were substantial assistance departures.
 - *The average sentence reduction was 79.9%.*
- 3.7% were some other downward departure.
 - *The average sentence reduction was 69.5%.*

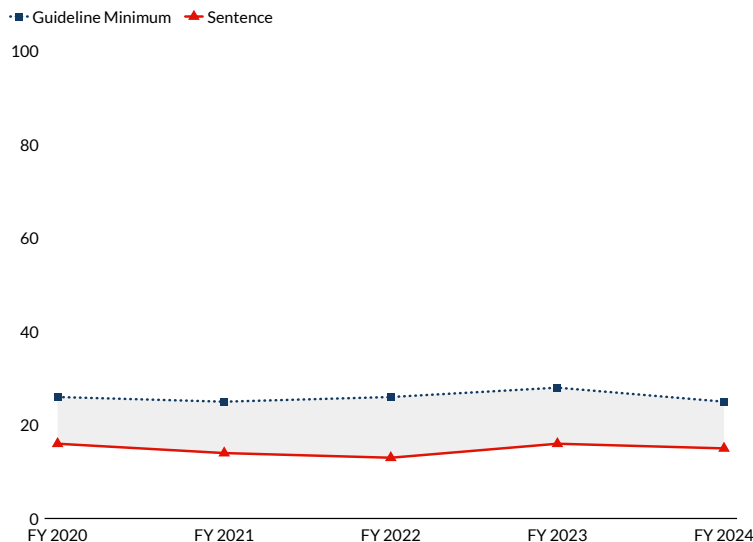
54.8% of sentences for tax fraud were variances.

- 54.5% were downward variances.
 - *The average sentence reduction was 64.4%.*
- 0.3% were upward variances.⁴

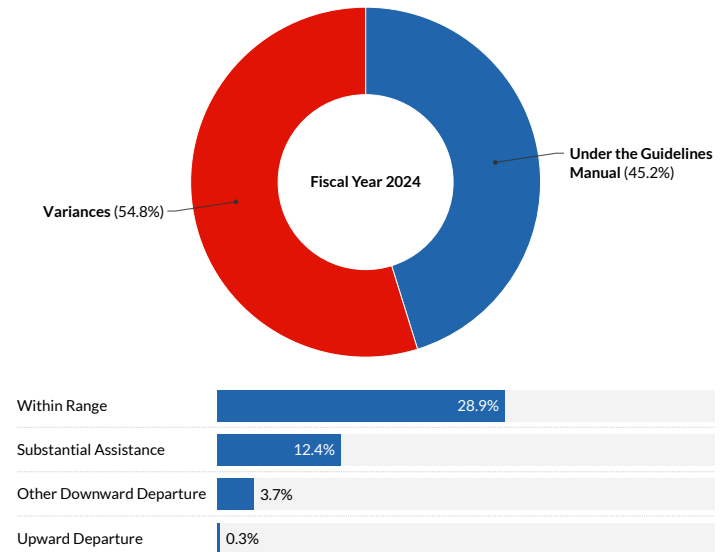
The average guideline minimum and average sentence imposed have remained steady over the past five years.

- The average guideline minimum was 26 months in fiscal year 2020 and 25 months in fiscal year 2024.
- The average sentence imposed was 16 months in fiscal year 2020 and 15 months in fiscal year 2024.

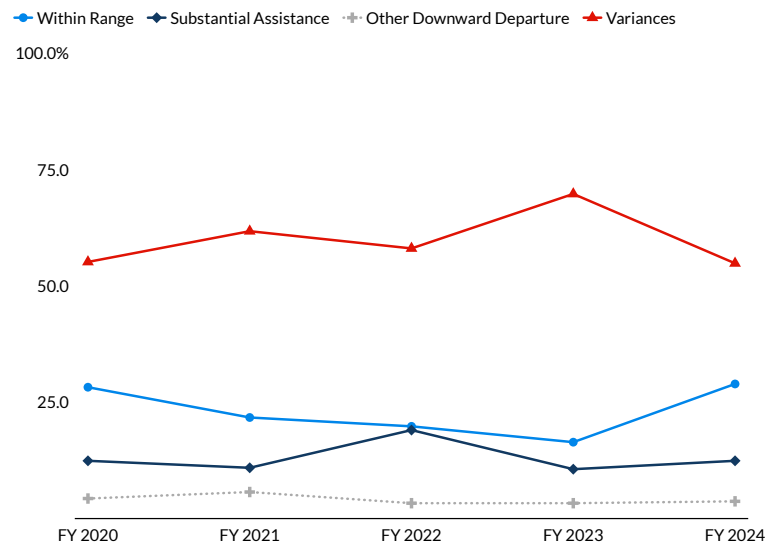
Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range



Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range by Fiscal Year



¹ Tax fraud offenses include cases in which the individual was sentenced under §2T1.1 or §2T1.4 (Tax Evasion; Willful Failure to File Return, Supply Information, or Pay Tax; Fraudulent or False Returns, Statements, or Other Documents or Aiding, Assisting, Procuring, Counseling, or Advising Tax Fraud).

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.

SOURCE: United States Sentencing Commission, FY 2020 through FY 2024 Datafiles, USSCFY20-USSCFY24.