Quick Facts — Theft, Property Destruction, and Fraud Offenses

Fiscal Year 2019

> In FY 2019, 76,538 cases were reported to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

> 5,707 involved theft, property destruction, and fraud.\(^1\)\(^2\)

> Theft, property destruction, and fraud offenses have decreased by 27.4% since FY 2015.

Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 69.1% of theft, property destruction, and fraud offenders were men.
- 43.1% were White, 29.0% were Black, 21.3% were Hispanic, and 6.7% were Other races.
- Their average age was 43 years.
- 84.4% were United States citizens.
- 69.6% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I).
- The median loss for these offenses was $137,500.
  - 52.0% involved loss amounts of $150,000 or less.\(^3\)
  - 85.3% involved loss amounts of $1.5 million or less.
- Sentences were increased for:
  - The number of victims or the extent of harm to them (32.9%);
  - Sophisticated means used to execute or conceal the offense (17.8%);\(^4\)
  - Using an unauthorized means of identification (15.8%);
  - Abusing a public position of trust or using a special skill (17.8%);
  - Leadership or supervisory role in the offense (10.7%); and
  - Obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (4.5%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
  - Minor or minimal participation in the offense (4.5%).
- The top five districts for theft, property destruction, and fraud offenders were:
  - Southern District of Florida (375);
  - Southern District of New York (287);
  - Central District of California (272);
  - Middle District of Florida (197); and
  - District of South Carolina (152).

Punishment

- The average sentence for theft, property destruction, and fraud offenders was 23 months.
- 74.6% of were sentenced to prison.
- 12.7% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 21.0% were relieved of that penalty.
Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 62.2% of theft, property destruction, and fraud offenders sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
  - 70.5% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 23.1% received a substantial assistance departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 63.3%.
  - 5.6% received some other downward departure.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 55.5%.

- 37.8% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - 95.2% received a downward variance.
    - Their average sentence reduction was 54.1%.
  - 4.8% received an upward variance.
    - Their average sentence increase was 81.2%.

- The average guideline minimum and average sentence imposed have decreased slightly over the past five years.
  - The average guideline minimum decreased from 34 months in fiscal year 2015 to 31 months in fiscal year 2019.
  - The average sentence imposed decreased from 24 months in fiscal year 2015 to 23 months in fiscal year 2019.

Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2019

- Within Range 43.9%
- Substantial Assistance 14.4%
- Other Downward 3.5%
- Upward Departure 0.3%
- Under Guidelines Manual 62.2%
- Variances 37.8%