Quick Facts — Theft, Property Destruction, and Fraud Offenses —

Fiscal Year 2020

- In FY 2020, 64,565 cases were reported to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.
- 4,356 of these involved theft, property destruction, and fraud.¹
- Theft, property destruction, and fraud offenses have decreased by 38.7% since FY 2016.

Offender and Offense Characteristics²

- 68.2% of theft, property destruction, and fraud offenders were men.
- 43.4% were White, 26.8% were Black, 22.9% were Hispanic, and 6.9% were Other races.
- Their average age was 43 years.
- 80.6% were United States citizens.
- 71.8% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I).
- The median loss for these offenses was $99,996;³
  - 19.7% involved loss amounts of $6,500 or less;
  - 13.5% involved loss amounts greater than $1.5 million.
- Sentences were increased for:
  - the number of victims or the extent of harm to them (31.8%);⁴
  - sophisticated means used to execute or conceal the offense (14.8%);
  - using an unauthorized means of identification (14.9%);
  - a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (8.8%);
  - abusing a public position of trust or using a special skill (17.3%);
  - obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (4.1%).
- Sentences were decreased for:
  - minor or minimal participation in the offense (3.7%).
- The top five districts for theft, property destruction, and fraud offenders were:
  - Southern District of Florida (267);
  - Western District of Texas (254);
  - Central District of California (219);
  - Southern District of New York (182);
  - Middle District of Florida (141).

Punishment

- The average sentence length was 21 months.
- 72.4% of theft, property destruction, and fraud offenders were sentenced to prison.
- 11.5% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those offenders, 19.1% were relieved of that penalty.
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Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 59.8% of theft, property destruction, and fraud offenders sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
  - 74.2% were sentenced within the guideline range.
  - 19.3% received a substantial assistance departure. Their average sentence reduction was 64.1%.
  - 5.8% received some other downward departure. Their average sentence reduction was 64.7%.
- 40.2% received a variance; of those offenders:
  - 94.0% received a downward variance. Their average sentence reduction was 58.0%.
  - 6.0% received an upward variance. Their average sentence increase was 63.4%.
- The average guideline minimum and the average sentence imposed remained steady over the past five years.
  - The average guideline minimum decreased from 30 months in fiscal year 2016 to 28 months in fiscal year 2020.
  - The average sentence imposed decreased from 22 months in fiscal year 2016 to 21 months fiscal year 2020.