

# QuickFacts

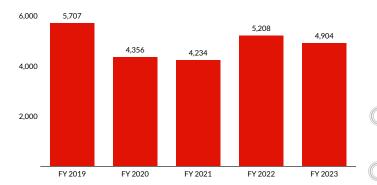
Theft, Property Destruction, and Fraud

# **Population Snapshot**

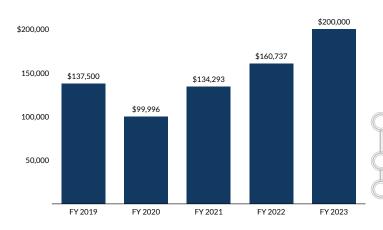
**64,124 cases** were reported in FY23; **4,904** involved Theft, Property Destruction, and Fraud.<sup>1</sup>

These cases have decreased 14% since FY19.

# Number of Theft, Property Destruction, and Fraud Offenses



## **Median Loss Amounts**



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#### Individual and Offense Characteristics<sup>2</sup>

69.0% of individuals sentenced for theft, property destruction, and fraud offenses were men.

38.7% were White, 37.3% were Black, 17.3% were Hispanic, and 6.7% were Other races.

Their average age was 43 years.

86.7% were United States citizens.

70.6% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I).

The median loss for these offenses was \$200,000;3

- 9.9% involved loss amounts of \$6,500 or less;
- 18.5% involved loss amounts greater than \$1.5 million.

Sentences were increased for:

- the number of victims or extent of harm to victims (30.2%);<sup>4</sup>
- using sophisticated means to execute or conceal the offense (16.3%);
- using an unauthorized means of identification (14.0%);
- a leadership or supervisory role in the offense (10.2%);
- abusing a public position of trust or using a special skill (14.5%);
- obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (4.2%).

Sentences were decreased for:

minor or minimal participation in the offense (4.4%).

The top five districts for individuals sentenced for theft, property destruction, and fraud offenses were:

- Southern District of Florida (284);
- Southern District of New York (253);
- Central District of California (198);
- Eastern District of New York (154);
- Northern District of Texas (148).

#### **Punishment**

The average sentence length for individuals sentenced for theft, property destruction, and fraud offenses was 23 months.

75.1% were sentenced to prison.

9.8% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those individuals, 20.9% were relieved of that penalty.



# **Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range**

Of the 55.9% of individuals sentenced for theft, property destruction, and fraud offenses under the *Guidelines Manual*:

- 66.4% were sentenced within the guideline range.
- 0.8% received an upward departure.
  - Their average sentence increase was 76.4%.
- 27.5% received a substantial assistance departure.
  - Their average sentence reduction was 68.7%.
- 0.1% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) Departure.<sup>5,6</sup>
- 5.2% received some other downward departure.
  - Their average sentence reduction was 62.5%.

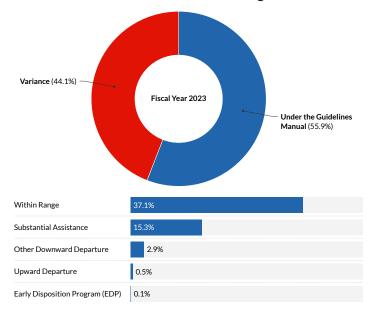
44.1% received a variance; of those individuals:

- 95.5% received a downward variance.
  - Their average sentence reduction was 57.2%.
- 4.5% received an upward variance.
  - Their average sentence increase was 83.7%.

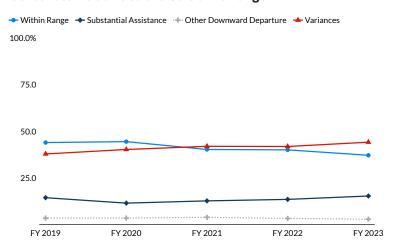
The average guideline minimum and average sentence imposed remained steady over the past five years.

- The average guideline minimum increased from 31 months in fiscal year 2019 to 33 months in fiscal year 2023.
- The average sentence imposed was 23 months in fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2023.
- <sup>1</sup> Theft, Property Destruction, and Fraud offenses include cases in which the individual was sentenced under §2B1.1 (Larceny, Embezzlement, and Other Forms of Theft; Offenses Involving Stolen Property; Property Damage or Destruction; Fraud and Deceit; Forgery; Offenses Involving Altered or Counterfeit Instruments Other than Counterfeit Bearer Obligations of the United States).
- <sup>2</sup> Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.
- $^{\rm 3}$  The Loss Table was amended effective November 1, 2001 and November 1, 2015.
- <sup>4</sup> The Victims Table and Sophisticated Means adjustment were amended effective November 1, 2015.
- <sup>5</sup> "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.
- <sup>6</sup> The Commission does not report the average for categories with three or fewer cases.

### **Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range**



## **Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range**



# Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)

