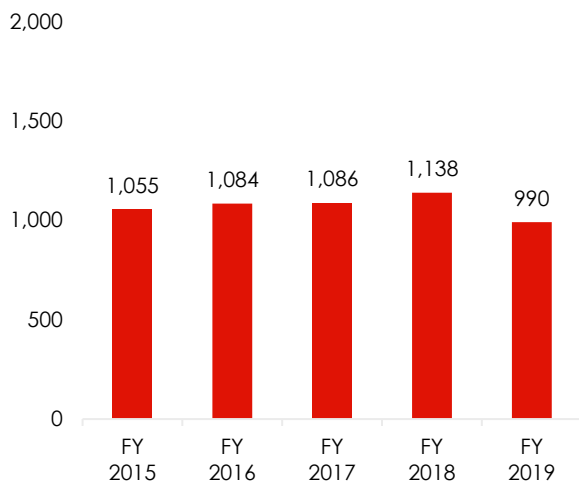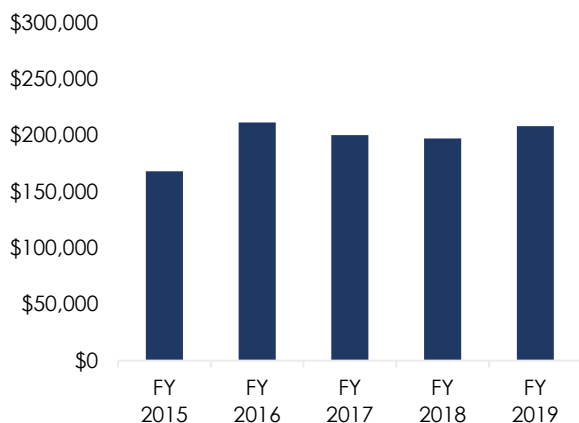# Quick Facts 📊 ⚖️

— *Money Laundering Offenses* —

Fiscal Year 2019

▶ IN FY 2019, 76,538 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.

▶ 990 INVOLVED MONEY LAUNDERING.[1]

▶ MONEY LAUNDERING OFFENSES HAVE DECREASED BY 13.0% SINCE FY 2018.

Number of Money Laundering Offenders[2]

Median Loss for Money Laundering Offenses

Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 79.1% of money laundering offenders were men.

- 39.5% were Hispanic, 33.4% were White, 19.6% were Black, and 7.5% were Other races.

- Their average age was 41 years.

- 72.4% were United States citizens.

- 69.9% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I).

- The median loss for these offenses was $208,000.
    - 42.1% involved loss amounts of $150,000 or less.[3]
    - 83.1% involved loss amounts of $1.5 million or less.

- Sentences were increased 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 (19.7%);
    - Sophisticated laundering (7.4%);
    - A conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 1957 (engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity) (11.0%);
    - A conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 1956 (laundering of monetary instruments) (84.2%);
    - The defendant was in the business of money laundering with no underlying offense conduct (3.1%);
    - Leadership or supervisory role in the offense (20.0%); and
    - Obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (4.9%).

- Sentences were decreased for:
    - Minor or minimal participation in the offense (11.5%).

- The top five districts for money laundering offenders were:
    - Southern District of Florida (71);
    - Southern District of Texas (49);
    - District of Arizona (41);
    - Southern District of New York (41); and
    - Central District of California (32).

Punishment

- The average sentence for money laundering offenders was 70 months.

- 91.1% of were sentenced to prison.

- 32.1% were convicted of an offense carrying a mandatory minimum penalty; of those, 56.5% were relieved of that penalty.
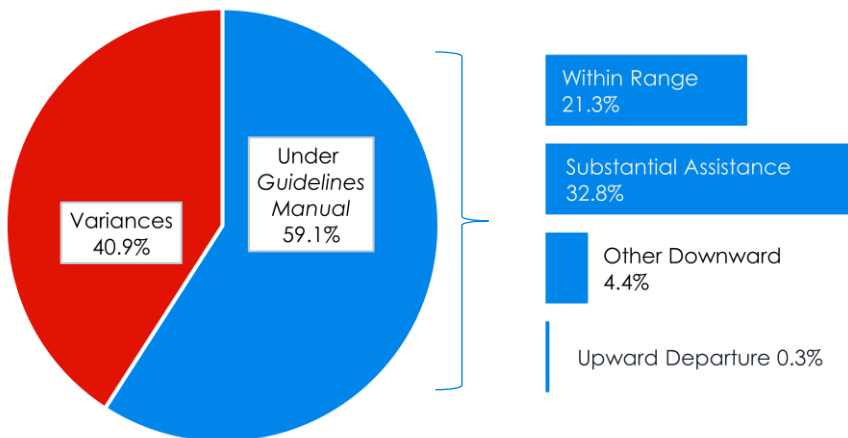
www.ussc.gov
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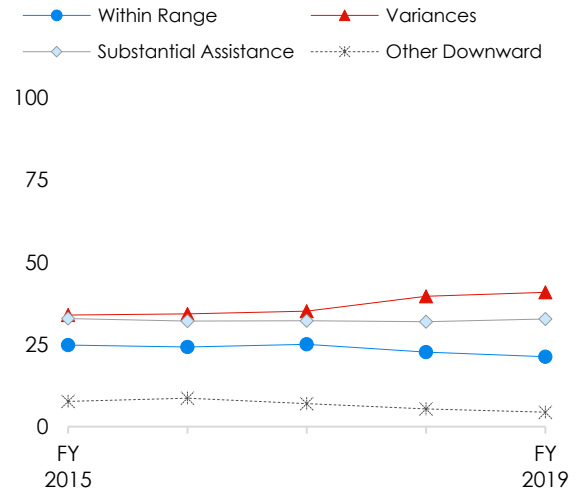*— Money Laundering Offenses —*

Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of the 59.1% of money laundering offenders sentenced under the *Guidelines Manual*:

  - 36.1% were sentenced within the guideline range.

  - 55.5% received a substantial assistance departure.
    - ◊ Their average sentence reduction was 56.0%.

  - 7.4% received some other downward departure.
    - ◊ Their average sentence reduction was 62.7%.

- 40.9% received a variance; of those offenders:

  - 98.2% received a downward variance.
    - ◊ Their average sentence reduction was 45.2%.

  - 1.8% received an upward variance.
    - ◊ Their average sentence increase was 41.7%.

- The average guideline minimum has increased slightly over the past five years while the average sentence imposed has remained relatively steady.

  - The average guideline minimum increased from 108 months in fiscal year 2015 to 111 months in fiscal year 2019.

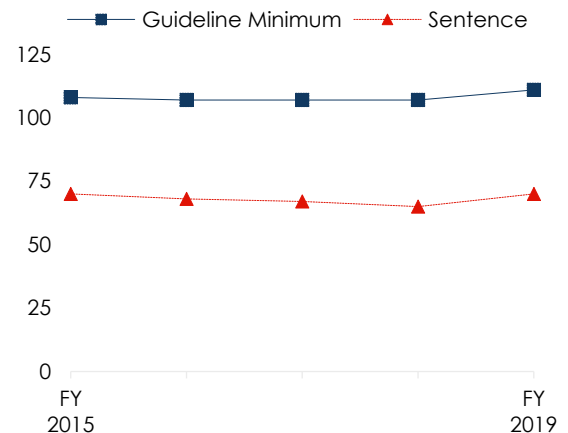 - The average sentence imposed was 70 months in fiscal year 2015 and in fiscal year 2019.

Sentence Relative to the Guideline Range (%)

Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)

Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2019

Variances 40.9%

Under *Guidelines Manual* 59.1%

Within Range 21.3%

Substantial Assistance 32.8%

Other Downward 4.4%

Upward Departure 0.3%

[1] Money Laundering offenses include cases in which the offender was sentenced under §2S1.1 (Laundering of Monetary Instruments; Engaging in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Unlawful Activity).

[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.

SOURCE: United States Sentencing Commission Datafiles, FY 2015 through FY 2019, USSCFY15-USSCFY19.