

Table 5.24

Average length of prison sentences imposed for offenders convicted in U.S. District Courts

By offense, 1982, 1988-94

(In months)

Most serious conviction offense	Average sentence length imposed for convicted offenders sentenced to prison							Preliminary 1994
	1982	1988	1989	1990	1991 <sup>a</sup>	1992 <sup>b</sup>	1993	
All offenses <sup>c</sup>	47.8	55.1	54.5	57.2	61.9	62.6	60.6	60.9
Violent offenses	133.3	110.7	90.6	89.2	90.7	94.8	88.8	88.2
Murder	161.9	162.7	180.1	134.7	172.3	143.8	118.9	117.0
Negligent manslaughter	B	29.2	23.3	19.9	21.8	22.6	15.0	14.4
Assault	43.1	39.7	34.4	34.8	37.8	43.9	34.5	41.0
Robbery	153.1	131.4	101.0	100.7	98.6	101.5	96.4	94.6
Rape	113.2	95.8	90.1	78.9	72.3	82.4	73.8	68.4
Other sex offenses	73.5	75.1	44.7	33.1	31.7	48.9	40.2	56.9
Kidnaping	147.1	190.5	147.9	178.5	189.9	146.8	142.0	152.7
Threats against the President	42.4	44.1	35.9	B	B	B	18.6	24.1
Property offenses	31.1	31.5	26.0	22.0	21.2	21.8	23.7	25.1
Fraudulent offenses	28.3	31.0	26.1	21.9	20.1	20.3	19.2	20.7
Embezzlement	20.2	19.6	16.5	17.5	15.5	16.3	12.3	14.3
Fraud <sup>d</sup>	27.9	32.9	29.8	23.4	21.6	21.1	20.6	22.1
Forgery	33.0	32.1	18.3	16.9	16.6	18.7	14.9	16.8
Counterfeiting	31.6	29.1	20.1	19.4	18.5	20.0	18.7	17.0
Other offenses	36.5	32.7	25.7	22.4	24.6	27.6	38.8	39.9
Burglary	74.5	55.6	41.7	34.4	59.5	52.9	79.1	59.7
Larceny	32.0	27.5	22.7	18.8	17.5	18.6	22.2	25.0
Motor vehicle theft	42.3	38.0	28.6	27.6	29.8	21.8	68.8	86.1
Arson	(e)	19.0	45.3	B	B	B	B	B
Transportation of stolen property	40.0	51.1	33.3	31.8	38.6	21.9	32.8	24.2
Other	10.7	17.7	12.2	11.5	8.8	12.1	66.9	11.9
Drug offenses	54.6	71.3	74.9	80.9	85.7	82.9	79.7	80.1
Trafficking	59.3	73.6	77.3	83.1	87.4	84.3	82.2	82.5
Possession and other	26.2	13.6	8.1	14.9	21.7	22.1	18.0	22.0
Public-order offenses	25.6	30.7	27.6	28.3	37.8	40.5	42.1	46.0
Regulatory offenses	25.7	30.4	24.0	26.7	26.5	28.8	26.8	31.7
Agriculture	12.0	7.4	7.9	9.1	6.9	8.6	8.0	10.3
Antitrust	6.9	8.3	13.5	12.9	17.2	B	B	B
Fair labor standards	B	8.7	5.0	B	B	B	16.3	B
Food and drug	B	12.6	11.3	B	B	B	12.3	25.4
Motor carrier	B	23.6	13.0	B	11.8	28.0	19.6	B
Other regulatory offenses	29.5	35.6	26.2	29.1	28.6	33.3	29.1	33.1
Other offenses	25.6	30.7	28.1	28.5	39.3	40.9	44.1	47.8
Weapons offenses	34.3	52.3	47.1	47.3	63.0	64.6	66.6	81.2
Immigration offenses	16.4	11.7	9.3	10.5	12.5	15.0	18.8	19.9
Tax law violations including tax fraud	15.1	22.8	25.2	24.3	24.9	22.2	21.1	15.7
Bribery	26.7	27.0	21.0	24.8	23.9	28.5	24.5	24.3
Perjury, contempt, and intimidation	22.5	18.9	17.2	22.5	32.2	32.2	25.2	24.8
National defense	19.0	14.3	13.8	15.9	16.1	29.7	13.9	39.4
Escape	21.6	23.9	23.6	22.2	21.8	21.3	19.7	21.2
Racketeering and extortion	70.7	72.3	57.4	61.4	63.0	81.7	78.3	62.0
Gambling offenses	25.1	12.6	12.0	13.6	20.1	24.7	35.3	19.7
Liquor offenses	B	4.7	3.7	B	(e)	B	B	(e)
Mail or transport of obscene material	B	44.3	22.2	B	B	B	B	B
Traffic offenses	2.5	3.9	3.2	4.5	5.3	5.2	8.5	7.5
Migratory birds	(e)	5.1	11.3	B	B	(e)	B	B
Other	14.8	9.0	3.4	B	B	9.2	19.0	21.3

Note: See Note, table 5.15. Data for 1990 through 1994 reflect a change in the Administrative Office of the United States Courts' file closeout procedures and are not exactly comparable to data for earlier years (Source, p. 19). For methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 13.

<sup>a</sup>1,688 offenders were excluded from the 1991 data because of unclear sentencing information.

<sup>b</sup>Data have been revised by the Source.

<sup>c</sup>Totals may include offenders for which offense category could not be determined.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes tax fraud.

<sup>e</sup>No cases of this type occurred in the data.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1982-93, With Preliminary Data for 1994*, NCJ-160088 (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1996), p. 17. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.