

Table 5.58

Average sentence length and estimated time to be served in State and Federal prison

By offense, United States, 1994

Most serious conviction offense	Average prison sentences imposed in 1994 ^a (in months)			Percent of sentence expected to be served ^{a,b}			Estimated time to be served in prison ^c (in months)		
	Total	State	Federal	Total	State	Federal	Total	State	Federal
All offenses	72	71	80	44%	41%	85%	31	29	68
Violent offenses	118	118	100	47	46	85	55	54	85
Murder/manslaughter ^d	267	269	153	48	47	85	126	126	130
Rape	157	158	79	55	55	85	87	87	67
Robbery	115	116	102	48	46	85	55	53	87
Aggravated assault	79	79	59	49	49	85	39	39	50
Other violent ^e	70	70	110	53	53	85	38	37	94
Property offenses	56	57	37	42	41	85	24	23	31
Burglary	69	69	60	39	39	85	27	27	51
Larceny ^f	45	45	43	42	41	85	19	18	37
Motor vehicle theft	50	50	43	46	45	85	23	23	37
Other theft	44	44	43	41	40	85	18	18	37
Fraud/forgery ^g	50	51	35	40	35	85	19	18	29
Fraud ^g	50	53	35	44	35 ^h	85	21	19	30
Forgery	50	50	32	36	35 ^h	85	18	18	27
Drug offenses	64	61	92	41	36	85	28	22	78
Possession	50	50	66	32	32	85	16	16	56
Trafficking	70	66	92	45	38	85	33	25	78
Weapons offenses	54	47	91	57	51	85	33	24	77
Other offenses ⁱ	41	41	45	53	51	85	22	21	38

Note: See Notes, tables 5.50 and 5.55. For methodology used to collect the Federal data, see Appendix 13. For methodology used to collect the State data and definitions of offenses used for these tables, see Appendix 14.

^aDoes not include life or death sentences.

^bState estimates are derived from National Corrections Reporting Program data on first releases (sentences greater than 1 year) from State prisons in 1994. In calculating State estimates, allowance was made for jail time credited by the judge for time served prior to sentencing but no allowance could be made for post-sentencing time served in jail awaiting transfer to State prison.

^cCalculated by multiplying sentence length imposed by percent of time expected to be served.

^dDoes not include negligent manslaughter.

^eIncludes offenses such as negligent manslaughter, sexual assault, and kidnaping.

^fIncludes motor vehicle theft.

^gIncludes embezzlement.

^hThe 35% for the combined category "forgery/fraud/embezzlement" was the basis for this estimate.

ⁱComposed of nonviolent offenses such as receiving stolen property and immigration offenses.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Felony Sentences in the United States, 1994*, Bulletin NCJ-165149 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, July 1997), p. 9.