

IRS Data Book Table 24

Criminal Investigation Program, by Status or Disposition, Fiscal Year 2022

| Status or disposition [1] | Total | Legal source tax crimes [2] | Illegal source financial crimes [3] | Narcotics-related financial crimes [4] |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| Investigations initiated | 2,558 | 1,017 | 949 | 592 |
| Investigations completed [5] | 2,552 | 1,003 | 1,005 | 544 |
| Referrals for prosecution | 1,837 | 557 | 785 | 495 |
| Investigations completed without prosecution | 715 | 446 | 220 | 49 |
| Indictments and informations [6] | 1,670 | 487 | 708 | 475 |
| Convictions [7] | 1,564 | 519 | 621 | 424 |
| Sentenced | 1,491 | 510 | 628 | 353 |
| Incarcerated [8] | 1,151 | 358 | 506 | 287 |
| Percentage of those sentenced who were incarcerated [8] | 77.2 | 70.2 | 80.6 | 81.3 |

[1] Investigations may cross fiscal years. An investigation initiated in one fiscal year may not be indicted, convicted, or sentenced until a subsequent fiscal year. Therefore, the disposition (completions, indictments/informations, convictions, sentences) of investigations shown in this table may be related to investigations initiated, completed, indicted, or convicted in prior fiscal years.

[2] Under the Legal Source Tax Crimes Program, IRS Criminal Investigation (CI) identifies, investigates, and assists in the prosecution of crimes involving legal industries, legal occupations, and, more specifically, legally earned income associated with the violation of Title 26 (tax violations) and Title 18 (tax-related violations) of the U.S. Code. The Legal Source Tax Crimes Program also includes employment tax cases and those cases that threaten the tax system, such as Questionable Refund Program cases, unscrupulous return preparers, and frivolous filers/nonfilers who challenge the legality of the filing requirements.

[3] Under the Illegal Source Financial Crimes Program, CI identifies, investigates, and assists in the prosecution of crimes involving proceeds derived from illegal sources other than narcotics. These encompass all tax and tax-related violations, as well as money laundering and currency violations under the following statutes: Title 26 (tax violations); Title 18 (tax-related and money laundering violations); and Title 31 (currency violations) of the U.S. Code. The utilization of forfeiture statutes to deprive individuals and organizations of illegally obtained assets is also linked to the investigation of criminal charges within this program.

[4] Under the Narcotics-Related Financial Crimes Program, CI seeks to identify, investigate, and assist in the prosecution of the most significant narcotics-related tax and money laundering offenders. The IRS derives authority for this program from the statutes for which it has jurisdiction: Title 26 (tax violations); Title 18 (tax-related and money laundering violations); and Title 31 (currency violations) of the U.S. Code. IRS Criminal Investigation also devotes resources to high-level multiagency narcotics investigations warranting Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) designation in accordance with OCDETF Program reimbursable funding.

[5] During Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on operations, travel, meetings, and training continued to affect day-to-day investigative activities, thereby contributing to a higher cycle time for investigations completed. Additional factors, including years of steady decrease in the number of journeyman-level special agents (due to attrition and limited backfill hiring prior to FY 2020), and an ongoing focus on traditional tax case programs (which tend to have longer cycle times), continued to impact the number of cases completed. Nevertheless, CI continues to utilize proven case development strategies, expand case development efforts, and leverage interagency partnerships to identify, initiate, and complete significant criminal investigations in all program areas.

[6] Both "indictments" and "informations" are accusations of criminal charges. An "indictment" is an accusation made by a federal prosecutor and issued by a federal grand jury. An "information" is an accusation brought by a federal prosecutor without the requirement of a grand jury.

[7] During FY 2022, more U.S. courts resumed activity in many parts of the country (previously closed or limited by COVID-19 restrictions), thereby accepting more cases from CI. Nevertheless, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to limit court availability and impact day-to-day investigative activities in support of the judicial system, which contributed to the adjudication of fewer cases than normal. Additionally, years of steady decrease in the number of journeyman-level special agents (due to attrition and limited backfill hiring prior to FY 2020) has led to a decline in the total number of cases initiated and consequently recommended for prosecution. Despite this, quality investigations initiated and completed in previous years continue to be recommended for prosecution and processed by the Department of Justice (DOJ). CI management continues to ensure appropriate and consistent contact with DOJ Tax Division and U.S. Attorney Offices regarding prosecutorial priorities and appropriate movement of pipeline investigations.

[8] The term "incarcerated" may include prison time, home confinement, electronic monitoring, or a combination thereof.

SOURCE: Criminal Investigation, Communications and Education Division.

For more information about Criminal Investigation, visit:

[IRS Criminal Investigation Annual Report FY 2022](#)