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## Cheating

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Forensic economists comb through data to look for patterns of cheating that otherwise go unnoticed. They have uncovered evidence that shipping firms lie about what goods arrive in China and that executives play accounting games to hit their bonus targets. Other forensic research has highlighted corruption in the oil-for-food program during Saddam Hussein's rule in Iraq.

If you have read "Freakonomics," you know about some of this work. One chapter of the book, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, described a study finding that sumo wrestlers sometimes lost on purpose, as a favor to an opponent for whom the match was more important. Another study in the book suggested that school teachers in Chicago had manipulated students' answers on standardized tests to improve their scores.

Below are links to these studies, as well as a few others:

["Missing Imports" in China](#) (pdf)

[Managers manipulating firm performance](#)

[Did Iraq cheat the United Nations?](#) (pdf)

[Corruption in sumo wrestling](#) (pdf)

[Teacher cheating](#) (pdf)

[Late trading in mutual funds](#) (pdf)

[Vote-trading among figure-skating judges](#) (pdf)

[Point shaving in college basketball](#) (pdf)