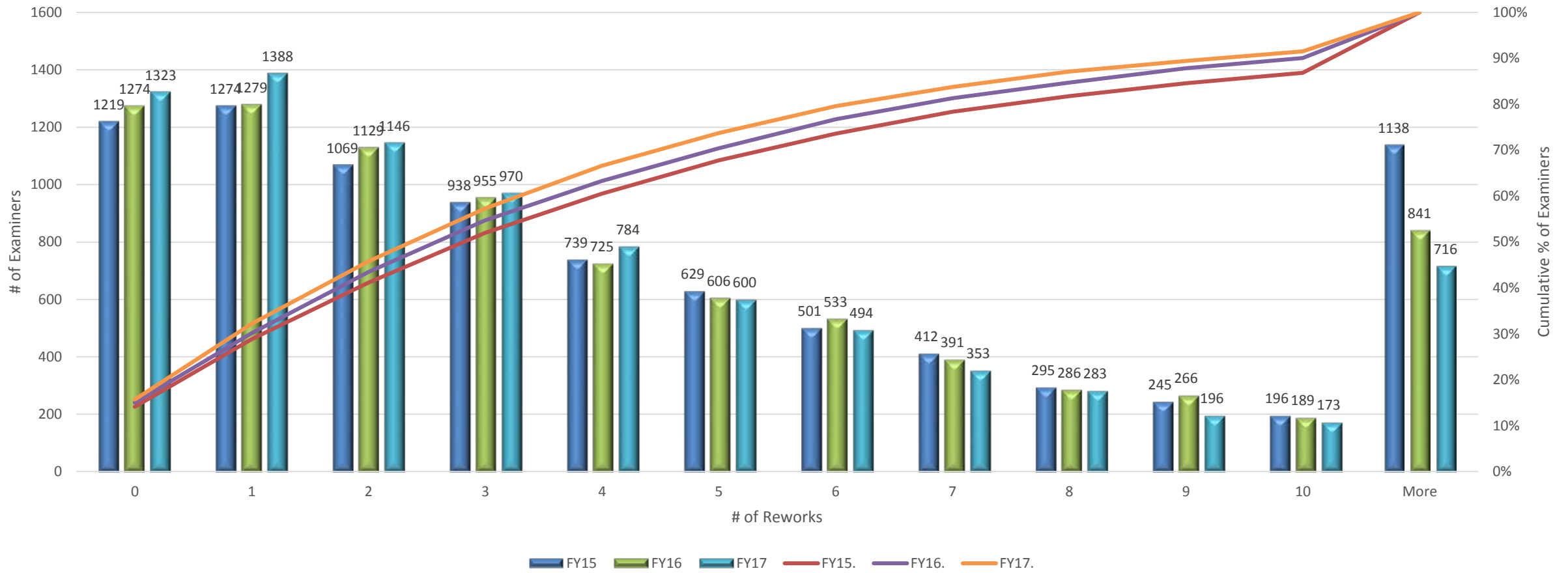


Distribution of Instances of Rework

Number of Examiners having a particular number of instances of rework



Rework: This chart shows the number of examiners having a particular number of instances of rework (e.g., 2nd+ non-finals, consecutive finals, consecutive restrictions). In other words, in FY17, 970 examiners had 3 pieces of rework. Also, the cumulative x-axis on the right shows, for example, that about 66% of examiners had 3 or fewer pieces of rework in FY17, as depicted by the orange line.

USPTO uses this type of information to identify areas to investigate further through a root-cause analysis. Such an analysis will assess whether the instances of rework are warranted (such as due to a change in the law resulting from a new court decision) or whether the examiner needs additional training or resources to be more efficient.