

IRS News Release

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Early Returns Reflect More E-filing

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WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service said today that electronic filing has shown a sharp increase for this year's early filers.

Through February 20, overall e-filing reached 29 million returns, an increase of more than 2 million, or 8 percent, over the same period last year. More than 6.6 million taxpayers have e-filed from their personal computers, a 23 percent increase

"E-filing is off to another good start," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "More and more taxpayers are discovering the benefits of e-file."

E-filing is fast, safe and accurate. By choosing to have their refunds deposited directly to a bank account, e-filers can have the money in two weeks or less.

The early refund statistics show that:

- The IRS has certified 31.8 million refunds, an increase of 4.1 percent over the same time last year.
- The refunds total \$72.8 billion, up from \$66.9 billion.
- The average refund is up \$97, to \$2,292 — a 4.5 percent increase.
- Three out of four taxpayers receiving refunds had them deposited directly to their bank accounts. Direct deposit — the fastest, safest and most convenient way to get a refund — is available to all filers.

2004 FILING SEASON STATISTICS

Cumulative through the week ending 2/21/03 and 2/20/04

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Individual Income Tax Returns			
Total Receipts	39,078,000	40,110,000	2.6
Total Processed	32,936,000	34,328,000	4.2
E-filing Receipts:			
TOTAL	27,019,000	29,145,000	7.9
TeleFile (phone)	2,509,000	2,330,000	- 7.1
Computer	24,510,000	26,815,000	9.4
Tax Professionals	19,121,000	20,184,000	5.6
Self-prepared	5,389,000	6,631,000	23.0
Tax Year 2003 Refunds Certified:			
Number	30,507,000	31,753,000	4.1
Amount of principal	\$ 66.948 billion	\$ 72.792 billion	8.7
Average refund	\$2,195	\$2,292	4.5
Direct Deposit Refunds:			
Number	22,470,000	24,195,000	7.7
Amount	\$ 55.816 billion	\$ 61.892 billion	10.9
Average	\$2,484	\$2,558	3.0