

IRS News Release

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In 2006, More People Are Choosing IRS e-File

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WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service announced today that taxpayers are continuing to e-file in greater numbers than ever before. As of March 24, 2006, the IRS had received more than 50 million tax returns through e-file, an increase of almost 3 percent compared to the same period last year.

“The increase in e-filing is really being driven by people using their home computers,” said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. “E-file is the safe, accurate way for taxpayers to quickly finish their taxes and get a refund.”

So far this tax filing season, 68 percent of all returns have been e-filed, compared to 66 percent for the same period last year.

More than 14 million returns have been filed this tax season by people e-filing from the comfort of their own homes, up from just over 12 million for the same period last year. As of last Friday, 28 percent of e-filed returns were filed by people using their home computers, up from 25 percent of e-filed returns for the same period last year.

More people are choosing to have their tax refunds directly deposited than ever before. So far this year, the IRS has directly deposited more than 42 million refunds, or 69 percent of all refunds issued this tax filing season, up from 65 percent of the total for the same period last year.

People are also visiting the IRS Web site – IRS.gov – in record numbers. The IRS has recorded almost 90 million visits to IRS.gov this year, up from 84 million for the same period last year, an increase of 7.1 percent.

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[Note, the filing season statistics for the week ending March 24, 2006, are on the following page.]

2006 FILING SEASON STATISTICS

Cumulative through the weeks ending 3/25/05 and 3/24/06

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Individual Income Tax Returns			
Total Receipts	73,762,000	73,438,000	-0.4
Total Processed	69,605,000	69,196,000	-0.6
E-filing Receipts:			
TOTAL	49,021,000	50,296,000	2.6
Tax Professionals	34,369,000	36,269,000	5.5
Self-prepared	12,011,000	14,027,000	16.8
Telefile	2,641,000	NA	NA
Web Usage:			
Visits to IRS.gov	83,898,013	89,864,558	7.1
Total Refunds:			
Number	61,290,000	61,660,000	0.6
Amount	\$138.587 billion	\$144.513 billion	4.3
Average refund	\$2,261	\$2,344	3.6
Direct Deposit Refunds:			
Number	40,118,000	42,252,000	5.3
Amount	\$104.243 billion	\$113.414 billion	8.8
Average refund	\$2,598	\$2,684	3.3