

IRS News Release

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More Taxpayers are Choosing e-file and Direct Deposit in 2006

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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 31, 2006, the IRS had received almost 54 million tax returns through e-file, up from 52 million returns for the same period last year, an increase of more than 3 percent.

“E-filing is up, driven by home computer usage,” said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. “Paper returns continue to decline, with the number down by 6.2 percent this year. E-file is the safe, accurate way for more and more taxpayers to quickly finish their taxes and get a refund.”

So far this tax filing season, 67 percent of all returns have been e-filed, compared to 65 percent for the same period last year.

Almost 15 million returns have been filed this tax season by people e-filing from home, up from 12.7 million for the same period last year. As of last Friday, 27.6 percent of e-filed returns were filed by people using their home computers, up from 24.4 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 44.6 million refunds, or 67 percent of all refunds issued this tax filing season, up from 63 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 96 million visits to IRS.gov this year, up from 90 million for the same period last year, an increase of 7.3 percent.

—30—

[Note, the filing season statistics for the week ending March 31, 2006, are on the following page.]

2006 FILING SEASON STATISTICS

Cumulative through the weeks ending 4/01/05 and 3/31/06

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Individual Income Tax Returns			
Total Receipts	80,014,000	79,979,000	0.0
Total Processed	75,743,000	75,697,000	-0.1
E-filing Receipts:			
TOTAL	52,098,000	53,797,000	3.3
Tax Professionals	36,663,000	38,951,000	6.2
Self-prepared	12,695,000	14,846,000	16.9
Telefile	2,740,000	NA	NA
Web Usage:			
Visits to IRS.gov	89,529,966	96,037,539	7.3
Total Refunds:			
Number	67,063,000	66,710,000	-0.5
Amount	\$148.203 billion	\$154.388 billion	4.2
Average refund	\$2,210	\$2,314	4.7
Direct Deposit Refunds:			
Number	42,116,000	44,572,000	5.8
Amount	\$108.855 billion	\$118.873 billion	9.2
Average refund	\$2,585	\$2,667	3.2