

IRS News Release

Media Relations Office

Washington, D.C.

Media Contact: 202.622.4000

www.irs.gov/newsroom

Public Contact: 800.829.1040

Filing Tax Returns from Home Computers Up 20 Percent in 2009

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WASHINGTON – Taxpayers are e-filing their Federal income tax returns from their home computers in record numbers this year the IRS announced today. As of March 6, more than 18 million income tax returns were filed from home computers, up 20 percent compared to the same time last year.

So far this year, almost 52 million tax returns have been e-filed, up 6 percent compared to the same time last year. However, the number of people using IRS Free File has fallen from almost 3 million last year to just under 2 million for the same time this year, a reduction of about 30 percent. A number of factors could be causing the decrease in Free File volumes, including national advertising of other free online tax preparation offers and the elimination of electronic filing fees by some software providers.

As of March 6, about 91 percent of tax returns resulted in a refund. This percentage however is usually at its highest at the start of the filing season because taxpayers expecting refunds usually file earlier than taxpayer who must make a payment.

The IRS cautioned that year-to-year analysis of total returns file will be an anomaly this year because last year's results include those returns filed for the economic stimulus payment. As the year progresses, the IRS expects to receive and process more individual income tax returns during 2009 than in 2007 but fewer than in 2008.

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[Note: The filing season statistics for the week ending Mar. 6 are on the following page.]

2009 FILING SEASON STATISTICS

Cumulative through the weeks ending Mar. 7, 2008 and Mar. 6, 2009

Individual Income Tax Returns	2008	2009	% Change
Total Receipts	63,383,000	63,851,000	0.7%
Total Processed	59,270,000	59,763,000	0.8%
E-filing Receipts:			
TOTAL	48,795,000	51,793,000	6.1%
Tax Professionals	33,419,000	33,349,000	-0.2%
Self-prepared	15,377,000	18,444,000	19.9%
Web Usage:			
Visits to IRS.gov	90,729,850	116,774,933	28.7%
Total Refunds:			
Number	53,176,000	54,638,000	2.7%
Amount	\$136.976 Billion	\$153.579 Billion	12.1%
Average refund	\$2,576	\$2,811	9.1%
Direct Deposit Refunds:			
Number	41,665,000	44,744,000	7.4%
Amount	\$117.808 Billion	\$135.613 Billion	15.1%
Average refund	\$2,827	\$3,031	7.2%