

IRS News Release

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More Taxpayers Filing from Home Computers in 2014, Many Taxpayers Eligible to Use Free File

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WASHINGTON — More than 27 million taxpayers have filed their tax returns from home computers so far this year, an increase of almost 6 percent compared to last year.

These 27 million taxpayers used a variety of software products to prepare and e-file their own returns. However, the IRS reminds people that they can prepare and e-file their federal tax returns online for free through Free File at IRS.gov. Free File has an option for almost everyone, either through brand-name software or online fillable forms.

The Free File program is a public-private partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, LLC. The Alliance is a consortium of 14 leading tax software providers who make their products available exclusively at www.irs.gov/freefile. All Free File members meet security requirements and use the latest in encryption technology to protect taxpayer information.

Seventy percent of taxpayers are eligible for easy-to-use Free File software because their income was \$58,000 or less in 2013. People who made more than \$58,000 and who are comfortable preparing their own returns can use Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic version of IRS paper forms.

Each Free File software provider sets its own criteria for eligibility, generally based on income, age, state residency or military service. However, taxpayers can quickly find a match by using the “help me find Free File software” tool. Or, taxpayers can review all providers and their offers. Some software providers also offer state tax software and display on their landing pages whether it is free or if there is a fee.

Free File Fillable Forms is more basic, similar to completing a paper Form 1040. The program performs some math calculations and provides links to some IRS publications. It also can be filed electronically for free. However, it does not support any state tax returns.

The total number of individual income tax returns e-filed so far this year is 62.2 million. E-file includes both returns filed from home computers and returns e-filed by professional tax return preparers. [The filing season statistics table follows.]

2014 FILING SEASON STATISTICS

Cumulative statistics comparing 3/08/13 and 3/07/14

Individual Income Tax Returns:	2013	2014	% Change
Total Receipts	67,143,000	67,183,000	0.1
Total Processed	60,944,000	65,662,000	7.7
E-filing Receipts:			
TOTAL	61,488,000	62,213,000	1.2
Tax Professionals	35,585,000	34,816,000	-2.2
Self-prepared	25,903,000	27,397,000	5.8
Web Usage:			
Visits to IRS.gov	197,651,780	181,196,235	-8.3
Total Refunds:			
Number	53,447,000	55,434,000	3.7
Amount	\$154.696 Billion	\$164.586 Billion	6.4
Average refund	\$2,894	\$2,969	2.6
Direct Deposit Refunds:			
Number	47,177,000	47,976,000	1.7
Amount	\$142.861 Billion	\$146.305 Billion	2.4
Average refund	\$3,028	\$3,050	0.7