

HOME COMPUTER FILINGS TOP LAST YEAR'S TOTAL

WASHINGTON -- Taxpayers have already filed more tax returns from their home computers this year than they did during all of 1998, according to the Internal Revenue Service. Both e-filing and the average tax refund continue their upward trends.

More than 1.1 million taxpayers have e-filed returns from their own computers, topping last year's total of 942,000. These taxpayers either bought tax preparation software or filed through companies offering online tax services.

Taxpayers looking for information about electronic options should check the IRS Web site at *www.irs.ustreas.gov*. Its Electronic Services page has links to various question-and-answer sections on filing or paying electronically. It also has links to private sector partners offering e-filing services.

As of Feb. 26, the IRS had accepted nearly 18.5 million e-filed returns, up 13.5 percent from this time last year. This total includes telephone and computer filings, both those done through tax professionals and those done by the taxpayers themselves.

The IRS has processed more than \$43.5 billion in refunds, compared to \$36.8 billion at this time last year. More than half of these taxpayers asked to have their refunds deposited directly to their bank accounts. The average tax refund -- \$1729 -- is up 15.5 percent.

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1999 FILING SEASON STATISTICS

Cumulative through the week ending 2/27/98 and 2/26/99

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Individual Income Tax Returns			
Total Receipts	38,761,000	39,058,000	0.8
Total Processed	26,950,000	27,360,000	1.5
E-filing Receipts:			
TOTAL	16,286,000	18,487,000	13.5
TeleFile (phone)	4,102,000	3,869,000	- 5.7
Computer	12,184,000	14,618,000	20.0
Tax Professionals	11,765,000	13,509,000	14.8
Self-prepared	419,000	1,109,000	164.8
Refunds Certified by the Martinsburg Computing Center:			
Number	24,614,000	25,171,000	2.3
Amount of principal	\$36.836 billion	\$43.513 billion	18.1
Average refund	\$1497	\$1729	15.5
Direct Deposit Refunds:			
Number	11,218,000	13,497,000	20.3
Amount	\$21.834 billion	\$29.290 billion	34.1