Partnership Returns, 2018

The IRS Statistics of Income (SOI) Division produces a collection of aggregate statistics from a sample of returns partnerships file each calendar year. SOI based the 2018 study on Forms 1065 filed during Calendar Year 2019. These data reflect partnerships, by industry, total assets, net income (loss), tax credits, and other financial data.

Highlights of the Data

- Partnerships filed more than 4 million returns for Tax Year 2018, a 2.7-percent increase over the number filed for 2017. These returns represented more than 27 million partners, down 0.2 percent from the previous year.

- Limited liability companies (LLCs) made up the majority of partnerships (70.4 percent), surpassing all other entity types for the 17th consecutive year.

- Limited partnerships represented only 11.1 percent of all partnerships but reported 30.0 percent of all profits and had the largest share of partners (38.9 percent).

- Real estate and rental and leasing accounted for about half (50.4 percent) of all partnerships and nearly a third (31.4 percent) of all partners. The Finance and insurance sector reported the largest shares of total net income (loss) (48.1 percent), total assets (55.2 percent), and total receipts (23.3 percent) for 2018.

- Total assets increased 6.0 percent between 2017 and 2018, from $32.4 trillion to $34.3 trillion. Fifteen of the twenty industrial sectors reported an increase.

- Receipts totaled $8.7 trillion for 2018, up 7.7 percent from the amount reported for 2017. Total net income (loss) or profits increased 9.2 percent to $884.7 billion for 2018 (up from $810.1 billion the previous year).

- Between 2017 and 2018, total income (loss) minus total deductions available for allocation decreased from $1,729.5 billion to $1,710.3 billion. Partners classified as partnerships received the largest share of income (loss) allocated to partners, $554.1 billion.