Partnership Returns, 2017

The IRS Statistics of Income (SOI) Division produces a collection of aggregate statistics from a sample of information returns partnerships file each calendar year. SOI based the 2017 study on Forms 1065 and 1065-B filed during Calendar Year 2018. 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 3.9 million returns for 2017, a 3.8-percent increase over the number filed for 2016. These returns represented more than 27 million partners, down 2.4 percent from the previous year.
- Limited liability companies (LLCs) made up the majority of partnerships (69 percent), surpassing all other entity types for the 16th consecutive year.
- Limited partnerships represented only 12.0 percent of all partnerships, but reported the most profits (34.4 percent), and had the largest share of partners (38.4 percent).
- Real estate and rental and leasing accounted for about half (49.5 percent) of all partnerships and nearly a third (31.1 percent) of all partners. The Finance and insurance sector reported the largest shares of total net income (loss) (52.1 percent), total assets (54.7 percent), and total receipts (24.6 percent) for 2017.
- Total assets increased 11.9 percent between 2016 and 2017, from $29 trillion to $32.4 trillion. Nineteen of the twenty industrial sectors reported an increase.
- Receipts totaled $8.1 trillion for 2017, up 16.1 percent from the amount reported for 2016. Total net income (loss) or profits increased 2.3 percent for 2017 (up from $791.7 billion the previous year to $810.1 billion).
- Between 2016 and 2017, total income (loss) minus total deductions available for allocation increased from $1,379.8 billion to $1,729.5 billion. Partners classified as partnerships received the largest share of income (loss) allocated to partners, $557.4 billion.