In 1985, the Internal Revenue Service introduced Form 8283 for reporting noncash charitable contributions. Initially, only donations of more than $5,000 were reported on the form, which served as an appraisal summary for each donation. The second draft of the form, introduced in 1986, contained two sections: Section A for donations of $5,000 or less and Section B for donations greater than $5,000.

Corporate stock accounted for the largest amount and percentage ($28.9 billion, 45.1 percent) of taxpayers’ total noncash charitable contributions for 2015, followed by clothing ($11.3 billion, 17.6 percent) and household items ($5.5 billion, 8.6 percent).

Only about 163,000 returns included stock donations, compared to 6.4 million returns with clothing donations and 3.4 million with donations of household items. The average corporate stock donation, however, was $177,082 per return, while the average donations for clothing ($1,755 per return) and household items ($1,627 per return) were much smaller.

Corporate stock donations decreased 1.2 percent from $29.2 billion for 2014 to $28.9 billion for 2015, while arts and collectibles increased almost 41 percent to $1.6 billion.

Of the $64.0 billion in noncash donations reported, slightly more than half went to foundations ($18.4 billion or 28.8 percent of the total) and large charitable organizations ($13.9 billion or 21.8 percent of the total).