



**STATISTICS OF INCOME DIVISION
RESEARCH, APPLIED ANALYTICS, AND STATISTICS**

Publication 6292

Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States: 2020–2027

Spring 2020



Projections
of Federal Tax Return Filings

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Online Availability of Forecasts

Forecasts from the most recent edition of this publication may be found on the IRS Internet site. The World Wide Web address is: www.irs.gov/statistics. From the Website, select “All Topics” in the “Products, Publications & Papers” section.

We thank our customers for their support as we continually seek to improve our products and services wherever possible. We welcome customer feedback at any time. Comments and suggestions regarding this publication can be directed to Timothy Castle, Chief, Servicewide Support Section, at (202) 803-9106.



Barry W. Johnson
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Overview

The Spring 2020 edition of IRS Publication 6292, *Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States*, provides U.S.-level projections of the number of tax returns expected to be filed in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 through FY 2027 by: (1) major return categories; and (2) business operating divisions.

Statistics of Income (SOI) staff within the IRS Research, Applied Analytics, and Statistics (RAAS) organization prepare these projections semiannually to incorporate changes in filing patterns, economic and demographic trends, legislative requirements, and IRS administrative processes.

Data Sources and Projections Methodology

IRS Data Sources

To develop projections for FY 2020 through FY 2027, SOI staff relied on data from the IRS Master File, which reports the historical number of returns processed and recorded each year. In cases where master file return counts were not available, SOI staff relied on data provided by program staff in the IRS operating divisions.

General Projections Methodology

SOI staff computed the projections presented here for the calendar year of filing, and then converted them to the corresponding fiscal year based on the historical quarterly filing experience. For some individual return series, SOI staff computed the projections based on quarterly historical data and then derived the fiscal year projections by adding the relevant four quarters.

The projections are derived from various statistical models that capture and extrapolate historical filing trends by unique form types and filing mediums. Most of the models use time series extrapolation methods, such as trended exponential smoothing. However, the projections for some return types are based on regression models that used the April 2020 economic and demographic variables provided by IHS Markit as key input factors. Additionally, where historical data were limited or nonexistent, such as for new e-file products, the filing pattern for a comparable return type was applied.

Adjustments Related to COVID-19 Pandemic and Economic Uncertainties

SOI staff performed an extensive research of U.S. laws and the IRS administrative processes that will impact the FY 2020 to FY 2027 tax return volumes. The staff's biggest challenges for this publication were determining how to deal with the tax provisions of the CARES Act of 2020 (e.g., the effect of Economic Impact Payments on filer behavior) and how to handle the extension of the April 15, 2020, tax filing and payment deadline due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SOI staff incorporated some off-model adjustments using the information gathered from their research efforts. For example, staff adjusted the modeled individual tax return volumes to account for the additional taxpayers (traditionally, nonfilers) who will file tax returns solely to receive the Economic Impact Payments. This adjustment was guided, in part, by the filer behavior patterns during the 2008 stimulus package (the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008), which was intended to boost the U.S. economy and avert a recession.

Nevertheless, with numerous moving parts and the unknown extent of the economic retraction, the FY 2020 to FY 2027 projections presented in this publication are valid as of early-May 2020. In the fall 2020 edition of Publication 6292, SOI staff will update the projections with the data available at that time. Customers interested in obtaining more details about this publication's projection methodologies are welcome to contact SOI staff. (See "Principal Contacts" on page iii for subject areas and contact information.)

Summary of Significant Trends

A summary of the major trends for this edition of Publication 6292 are noted below:

Trends in the Grand Total Return Filings

As presented in Table 1, grand total return filings were 255.3 million in FY 2019, an increase of 0.5 percent over FY 2018. After FY 2019, grand total return filings are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.1 percent, reaching 277.7 million by FY 2027. The paper grand total return filings were 69.5 million in FY 2019, a decrease of 6.8 percent from the FY 2018 total. The electronic grand total return filings were 185.8 million in FY 2019, an increase of 3.5 percent over FY 2018. After FY 2019, electronic grand total return filings are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 2.5 percent.

Detail by Business Operating Division

Table 2 presents estimates of selected return filings by IRS Business Operating Division (BOD). The selected returns include total individual income tax returns, corporation income tax returns, partnership returns, employment returns, excise returns, and exempt organization returns. As applicable, these volumes are broken out by their operating division components: Wage and Investment (W&I), Small Business/Self-Employed (SB/SE), Large Business and International (LB&I), and Tax Exempt/Government Entities (TE/GE). Also included are the projected total filings of employee plan (EP) returns, including those processed by the Department of Labor, which comprise major return filings by taxpayers served by the TE/GE operating division.

Accuracy of Prior Projections

To measure the quality of our products and services, this section, along with Table 3, provides a brief analysis of the accuracy of prior projections. Using 4 years of actual data, from 2016 through 2019, Table 3 presents the accuracy of our national-level projections by major return categories. This analysis covers only the major return categories projected on a calendar-year basis and serves as a general measure for approximating the overall reliability of our U.S.-level return projections.

The table presents two measures of projection accuracy: (1) the mean absolute percent error (MAPE); and (2) the number of overprojections. The MAPE is computed as the average percentage projection error for the 4-year period, regardless of whether the projections were over or under the actual filings in each of the four projection cycles. In addition, the number of overprojections can show whether projections are consistently over- or underprojected. A value of "2" indicates balanced forecasts over the four cycles.

The table groups these two measures by time horizon. The time horizon is determined based on the year a forecast was made and the year projected. For example, a forecast for 2018 made in 2015 would be part of the "3-years-ahead" time horizon.

Table 1. Fiscal Year Projections of the Number of Returns To Be Filed with IRS, 2020–2027

Type of Return	Actual— FY 2019	Projected								
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
Grand Total	255,263,863	264,115,400	260,156,200	265,384,400	268,657,600	271,780,300	273,406,100	275,357,200	277,731,100	
Paper Grand Total	69,460,422	67,080,000	62,542,300	61,497,400	58,924,400	57,343,300	55,013,800	53,136,600	51,095,500	
Electronic Grand Total	185,803,441	197,035,400	197,613,900	203,886,900	209,733,200	214,436,900	218,392,300	222,220,600	226,635,600	
Total Primary Returns	226,654,366	234,662,300	229,837,400	234,326,800	236,870,500	239,012,700	240,270,500	241,715,300	243,121,400	
Individual Income Tax, Total	154,094,555	161,892,000	159,684,800	162,476,000	164,908,900	166,597,400	167,856,100	169,065,700	170,362,300	
Form 1040, Total*	153,130,682	160,911,400	158,689,100	161,464,600	163,880,900	165,551,900	166,792,300	167,982,700	169,259,300	
Paper Form 1040*	15,927,227	15,248,100	14,595,700	13,873,800	13,196,500	12,560,300	11,962,200	11,399,500	10,869,400	
Electronic Form 1040*	137,203,455	145,663,200	144,093,500	147,590,800	150,684,400	152,991,600	154,830,100	156,583,300	158,389,800	
Forms 1040-NR/NR-EZ/C	802,006	823,400	844,800	866,800	889,400	912,500	936,300	960,700	985,800	
Electronic Form 1040-NR	274,110	289,900	329,400	375,900	424,600	475,600	528,900	584,600	642,900	
Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	161,867	157,300	150,800	144,600	138,700	133,000	127,500	122,200	117,200	
Electronic Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	38,564	38,700	38,700	38,700	38,700	38,700	38,700	38,700	38,700	
Individual Estimated Tax, Form 1040-ES, Total	22,225,590	21,403,800	18,729,500	20,093,300	19,832,200	19,827,000	19,351,300	19,064,900	18,655,800	
Paper Form 1040-ES	21,450,671	20,681,300	17,813,400	19,193,200	18,864,300	18,749,200	18,212,300	17,850,500	17,354,000	
Electronic (Credit Card) Form 1040-ES	774,919	722,500	916,100	900,100	967,900	1,077,800	1,138,900	1,214,400	1,301,800	
Fiduciary, Form 1041, Total	3,116,479	3,169,500	3,180,500	3,191,000	3,201,500	3,211,900	3,222,400	3,232,800	3,243,300	
Paper Form 1041	483,792	407,100	364,100	333,100	307,900	287,300	270,400	261,000	254,700	
Electronic Form 1041	2,632,687	2,762,300	2,816,400	2,857,900	2,893,600	2,924,700	2,952,000	2,971,800	2,988,600	
Fiduciary Estimated Tax, Form 1041-ES	754,655	893,000	907,800	912,400	916,900	921,500	926,000	930,500	935,100	
Partnership, Forms 1065/1065-B, Total	3,946,342	4,349,300	4,431,000	4,522,400	4,598,000	4,669,400	4,745,000	4,858,000	4,976,300	
Paper Forms 1065/1065-B	471,509	530,100	494,600	457,600	424,600	395,800	370,900	349,000	330,700	
Electronic Forms 1065/1065-B	3,474,833	3,819,200	3,936,500	4,064,800	4,173,400	4,273,600	4,374,100	4,509,000	4,645,700	
Corporation Income Tax, Total	7,288,019	7,419,200	7,378,600	7,387,100	7,436,700	7,496,400	7,556,600	7,618,200	7,679,600	
Paper Corporation Returns, Total	1,325,429	1,259,600	1,152,600	1,053,100	1,007,900	980,700	957,400	937,800	920,800	
Electronic Corporation Returns, Total	5,962,590	6,159,600	6,226,000	6,334,000	6,428,800	6,515,700	6,599,200	6,680,400	6,758,800	
Form 1120, Total	1,734,396	1,765,800	1,704,700	1,653,700	1,638,700	1,632,300	1,625,700	1,619,100	1,612,400	
Paper Form 1120	367,248	343,600	270,500	202,600	180,100	170,800	162,400	154,500	147,000	
Electronic Form 1120	1,367,148	1,422,200	1,434,200	1,451,100	1,458,700	1,461,400	1,463,300	1,464,600	1,465,400	
Form 1120-C	8,857	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	
Form 1120-F	49,693	52,400	53,000	53,500	54,100	54,700	55,200	55,800	56,400	
Paper Form 1120-F	20,007	19,800	19,500	19,400	19,200	19,100	19,000	18,900	18,800	
Electronic Form 1120-F	29,686	32,600	33,400	34,200	34,900	35,600	36,300	36,900	37,600	
Form 1120-H	262,592	268,700	269,300	272,500	276,000	279,500	282,800	286,100	289,300	
Forms 1120-FSC/LND/PC/REIT/RIC/SF	45,924	46,800	47,800	48,800	49,800	50,800	51,900	53,000	54,000	
Form 1120-S, Total	5,186,557	5,276,400	5,294,700	5,349,500	5,409,000	5,470,000	5,531,900	5,595,100	5,658,400	
Paper Form 1120-S	620,801	571,600	536,300	500,900	473,900	451,300	432,300	416,200	402,600	
Electronic Form 1120-S	4,565,756	4,704,800	4,758,400	4,848,700	4,935,200	5,018,700	5,099,600	5,178,900	5,255,800	
Small Corporation Election, Form 2553	494,412	472,100	472,100	472,100	472,100	472,100	472,100	472,100	472,100	
"REMIC" Income Tax, Form 1066	41,323	43,000	42,700	42,800	42,900	43,000	43,100	43,100	43,200	
Estate, Forms 706, 706NA/GS(D)/GS(T), Total	34,340	34,100	25,700	18,900	16,100	14,400	13,200	12,200	11,100	
Gift, Form 709	244,900	245,600	239,600	251,100	252,500	253,900	255,300	256,800	258,200	
Employment Tax, Total	31,513,501	31,695,100	31,635,400	31,795,200	31,985,300	32,246,500	32,527,000	32,807,800	33,089,100	
Paper Employment Returns, Total	16,796,117	15,945,200	15,055,500	14,351,400	13,611,400	12,975,100	12,386,100	11,808,200	11,239,100	
Electronic Employment Returns, Total	14,717,384	15,749,900	16,579,900	17,443,800	18,373,900	19,271,400	20,140,800	20,999,600	21,849,900	
Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR, Total	6,071,206	6,108,100	6,030,400	6,055,600	6,090,900	6,152,400	6,214,100	6,275,800	6,337,500	
Paper Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR	3,247,976	3,068,800	2,892,500	2,710,700	2,565,400	2,451,700	2,335,000	2,219,100	2,104,600	
Form 940 E-File/Online/XML	2,823,230	3,039,300	3,137,900	3,344,900	3,525,500	3,700,700	3,879,100	4,056,700	4,233,000	
Forms 941, 941-PR, and 941-SS, Total	25,133,391	25,286,300	25,317,500	25,463,100	25,627,900	25,838,800	26,068,500	26,298,200	26,528,000	
Paper 941, 941-PR/SS, Total	13,261,014	12,600,700	11,903,600	11,394,900	10,813,100	10,304,300	9,845,700	9,396,900	8,955,200	
Form 941 E-File/Online/XML	11,872,377	12,685,500	13,413,900	14,068,200	14,814,800	15,534,500	16,222,800	16,901,300	17,572,800	
Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS, Total	181,252	177,200	173,200	167,700	163,000	156,800	150,700	144,900	139,300	
Paper Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS	170,756	165,000	159,000	152,000	145,700	138,100	130,600	123,400	116,400	
Electronic Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS	10,496	12,200	14,200	15,700	17,200	18,700	20,100	21,500	22,900	
Forms 944, 944-PR, and 944-SS, Total	65,706	64,200	61,900	59,600	57,400	55,100	52,800	50,600	48,300	
Paper Forms 944, 944-PR, and 944-SS	57,881	55,900	52,900	50,000	47,000	44,000	41,100	38,100	35,100	
Electronic Form 944	7,825	8,300	9,000	9,700	10,400	11,100	11,800	12,500	13,200	
Form 945, Total	60,141	57,500	50,500	47,300	44,400	41,600	39,000	36,500	34,100	
Paper Form 945	56,685	53,000	45,600	42,000	38,500	35,100	31,900	28,900	26,000	
Electronic Form 945	3,456	4,500	4,900	5,300	5,900	6,500	7,100	7,600	8,100	
Form CT-1	1,805	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	

Footnotes are at end of table.

Table 1. Fiscal Year Projections of the Number of Returns To Be Filed with IRS, 2020–2027—Continued

Type of Return	Actual— FY 2019	Projected								
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
Withholding on Foreign Persons, Form 1042	52,672	53,000	53,900	55,000	56,300	58,100	60,300	62,100	63,700	
Exempt Organizations, Total	1,587,359	1,685,800	1,735,000	1,778,400	1,812,400	1,851,800	1,885,200	1,923,900	1,956,700	
Paper Exempt Organizations, Total	471,772	509,300	448,000	123,800	91,400	89,900	88,300	86,800	85,300	
Electronic Exempt Organizations, Total	1,115,587	1,176,500	1,287,000	1,654,700	1,721,000	1,761,900	1,796,900	1,837,100	1,871,400	
Form 990, Total	321,095	327,700	326,700	331,300	330,300	335,000	334,000	338,700	337,700	
Paper Form 990	67,433	64,000	25,400	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Electronic Form 990	253,662	263,700	301,300	331,300	330,300	335,000	334,000	338,700	337,700	
Form 990-EZ, Total	241,899	238,400	237,900	237,200	235,200	233,100	231,100	229,100	227,100	
Paper Form 990-EZ	103,091	94,800	72,000	21,200	0	0	0	0	0	
Electronic Form 990-EZ	138,808	143,600	165,900	216,000	235,200	233,100	231,100	229,100	227,100	
Form 990-N**	651,691	689,900	732,900	765,200	794,400	823,700	852,900	882,100	911,400	
Form 990-PF, Total	115,316	117,300	118,400	119,700	121,100	122,500	123,800	125,200	126,600	
Paper Form 990-PF	43,890	38,000	31,500	9,500	0	0	0	0	0	
Electronic Form 990-PF	71,426	79,300	86,900	110,200	121,100	122,500	123,800	125,200	126,600	
Form 990-T***	161,001	216,200	224,400	232,000	240,000	247,700	255,000	262,000	268,600	
Form 4720	2,294	2,700	2,800	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,100	3,200	3,300	
Form 5227	94,063	93,600	91,800	90,100	88,500	86,800	85,200	83,600	82,100	
Form 1041-A	6,831	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	
Government Entity/Bonds	36,926	42,600	45,800	45,100	44,700	44,300	43,900	43,500	43,200	
Form 8038	2,383	2,700	2,700	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,300	
Form 8038-CP	10,350	10,400	13,900	13,500	13,600	13,600	13,600	13,600	13,600	
Form 8038-G	17,518	21,900	21,800	21,500	21,300	21,100	20,900	20,600	20,400	
Form 8038-GC	6,249	7,100	7,100	6,900	6,800	6,700	6,600	6,500	6,400	
Form 8038-T	212	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	
Form 8038-TC	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Form 8328	209	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	
Political Organizations, Total	10,436	11,000	9,800	11,200	9,900	11,100	10,000	11,100	10,000	
Form 1120-POL, Total	4,119	4,200	4,100	4,000	3,900	3,800	3,700	3,600	3,500	
Paper Form 1120-POL	4,080	4,100	4,000	3,900	3,800	3,700	3,600	3,600	3,500	
Electronic Form 1120-POL	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Form 8871****	3,255	3,200	3,400	3,500	3,700	3,900	4,100	4,200	4,400	
Form 8872, Total	3,062	3,600	2,400	3,700	2,400	3,500	2,200	3,300	2,100	
Paper Form 8872	643	800	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Electronic Form 8872	2,419	2,800	2,300	3,700	2,400	3,500	2,200	3,300	2,100	
Excise, Total	1,074,480	1,102,500	1,115,400	1,125,900	1,135,900	1,146,300	1,156,400	1,166,500	1,176,700	
Form 11-C	4,193	4,400	4,200	3,900	3,700	3,500	3,300	3,100	2,900	
Form 720, Total	187,734	186,300	184,000	181,400	178,700	176,000	173,300	170,500	167,800	
Paper Form 720	185,671	183,900	181,300	178,500	175,500	172,500	169,500	166,600	163,600	
Electronic Form 720	2,063	2,400	2,700	3,000	3,200	3,500	3,700	4,000	4,200	
Form 730	21,859	22,100	21,400	20,700	20,000	19,400	18,700	18,000	17,400	
Form 2290, Total	838,701	865,000	881,100	895,200	908,800	922,700	936,400	950,200	963,900	
Paper Form 2290	209,698	195,300	189,200	186,700	186,400	187,600	189,400	191,600	194,100	
Electronic Form 2290	629,003	669,700	691,900	708,500	722,300	735,100	747,000	758,500	769,800	
Form 8849, Total	21,993	24,700	24,700	24,700	24,700	24,700	24,700	24,700	24,700	
Paper Form 8849	17,460	19,700	19,500	19,200	18,900	18,700	18,400	18,100	17,800	
Electronic Form 8849	4,533	5,000	5,300	5,500	5,800	6,100	6,400	6,600	6,900	
Excise Taxes re Employee Plans, Form 5330	20,696	21,500	21,300	21,300	21,300	21,300	21,300	21,300	21,300	
Form 5500-EZ, One-Participant Retirement Plans	86,392	98,700	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800	
Payment or Refund Under Sec. 7519, Form 8752	24,458	23,600	22,700	21,900	21,100	20,400	19,600	18,800	18,100	
Supplemental Documents, Total	28,609,497	29,453,200	30,318,600	31,057,500	31,787,200	32,767,400	33,135,600	33,641,800	34,609,600	
Form 1040-X, Total	3,123,786	3,369,800	3,580,400	3,328,500	3,004,200	2,948,400	2,979,900	2,969,000	2,986,600	
Form 4868, Total	15,707,071	15,968,600	16,394,700	17,152,600	17,978,400	18,787,200	18,897,300	19,187,800	19,911,300	
Paper Form 4868	3,900,490	3,759,200	3,797,600	3,629,600	3,342,400	3,350,200	2,839,600	2,582,400	2,212,700	
Electronic Form 4868	11,806,581	12,209,400	12,597,100	13,523,000	14,636,000	15,437,000	16,057,700	16,605,500	17,698,700	
Form 1120-X	12,357	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800	
Form 5558	520,654	540,500	557,500	574,500	591,400	608,400	625,400	642,400	659,400	
Form 7004, Total	8,332,678	8,795,300	9,011,000	9,209,500	9,403,500	9,596,300	9,788,700	9,980,900	10,173,200	
Paper Form 7004	1,566,146	1,469,000	1,388,100	1,321,500	1,266,900	1,222,300	1,185,700	1,155,700	1,131,200	
Electronic Form 7004	6,766,532	7,326,300	7,622,900	7,888,000	8,136,600	8,374,000	8,603,000	8,825,200	9,042,000	
Form 8868, Total	912,951	766,200	762,200	779,600	796,900	814,300	831,600	848,900	866,300	
Paper Form 8868	518,064	331,500	297,300	288,600	280,000	271,500	263,000	254,700	246,500	
Electronic Form 8868	394,887	434,700	464,900	491,000	516,900	542,800	568,600	594,200	619,800	

* A new, streamlined Form 1040 replaced Forms 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ as of January 2019.

** Form 990-N is all electronic.

*** Form 990-T can only be filed by paper. However, starting with Tax Year 2021, Form 990-T must be filed electronically, as mandated by the Taxpayer First Act of 2019.

**** Form 8871 is all electronic.

NOTES: Table does not contain non-master file counts. Each of the forms listed under "Type of Return" is defined in the "Table Notes" of Publication 6292.

Detail may not add to subtotal/total due to rounding. In addition, actual volumes that are less than 10 have been rounded to the nearest 10.

SOURCE: Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Division, Spring 2020 Publication 6292.

Table 2. Selected Fiscal Year Return Filing Estimates by Business Operating Division (BOD), 2020-2027

Type of Return/BOD	Actual— FY 2019	Projected							
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Individual Income Tax, Total	153,130,682	160,911,400	158,689,100	161,464,600	163,880,900	165,551,900	166,792,300	167,982,700	169,259,300
Small Business/Self-Employed	43,238,735	46,339,300	45,716,400	46,551,500	47,283,500	47,800,800	48,193,800	48,572,200	48,975,600
Wage and Investment	109,891,947	114,572,100	112,972,700	114,913,100	116,597,400	117,751,200	118,598,600	119,410,500	120,283,700
Corporation Income Tax, Total	7,288,019	7,419,200	7,378,600	7,387,200	7,436,800	7,496,400	7,556,700	7,618,100	7,679,600
Small Business/Self-Employed	7,085,040	7,210,800	7,171,600	7,180,700	7,229,400	7,287,700	7,346,700	7,406,900	7,467,100
Large Business and International	192,514	197,700	196,600	196,300	197,200	198,500	199,700	201,000	202,300
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	10,465	10,700	10,400	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200
Partnership Returns, Total	3,946,342	4,349,300	4,431,000	4,522,400	4,598,000	4,669,400	4,745,000	4,858,000	4,976,300
Small Business/Self-Employed	3,754,067	4,137,400	4,215,200	4,302,100	4,373,900	4,441,900	4,513,800	4,621,300	4,733,900
Large Business and International	191,875	211,500	215,400	219,900	223,600	227,000	230,700	236,200	242,000
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	400	400	400	500	500	500	500	500	500
Employment Tax, Total	31,513,501	31,695,100	31,635,400	31,795,200	31,985,300	32,246,500	32,527,000	32,807,800	33,089,100
Small Business/Self-Employed	28,671,583	28,837,400	28,780,800	28,926,400	29,099,900	29,338,600	29,594,600	29,851,000	30,107,700
Large Business and International	788,123	792,300	789,700	793,200	797,600	803,900	810,600	817,300	824,100
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	2,053,795	2,065,400	2,065,000	2,075,500	2,087,800	2,104,000	2,121,700	2,139,500	2,157,200
Excise, Total	1,074,480	1,102,500	1,115,400	1,126,000	1,136,000	1,146,300	1,156,400	1,166,600	1,176,700
Small Business/Self-Employed	938,103	964,100	977,600	989,000	999,900	1,011,100	1,022,000	1,033,100	1,044,100
Large Business and International	94,059	95,800	95,900	95,900	95,700	95,600	95,500	95,400	95,300
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	42,318	42,600	41,900	41,100	40,400	39,600	38,900	38,100	37,300
Exempt Organization, Total	1,587,359	1,685,800	1,735,000	1,778,400	1,812,400	1,851,800	1,885,200	1,923,900	1,956,700
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	1,587,359	1,685,800	1,735,000	1,778,400	1,812,400	1,851,800	1,885,200	1,923,900	1,956,700
Employee Plans, Forms 5500, 5500EZ, and 5500SF	904,167	908,900	919,300	929,000	937,900	946,200	953,900	961,000	967,500
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	904,167	908,900	919,300	929,000	937,900	946,200	953,900	961,000	967,500

NOTES: Detail may not add to total due to rounding. See Table Notes page for definitions of "Type of Return/BOD."
SOURCE: Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Division, Spring 2020 Publication 6292.

Table 3. Accuracy Measures for U.S. Forecasts of Major Return Categories—Mean Absolute Percent Error (MAPE) and Number of Overprojections for the Four Most Recent Projection Cycles

Item	Projection Error on Forecasts for:					
	Calendar Year 2019 Actual* (thousands)	1 Year Ahead N=4	2 Years Ahead N=4	3 Years Ahead N=4	4 Years Ahead N=4	5 Years Ahead N=4
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Grand Total—Selected Returns*	256,216					
MAPE		0.70%	1.30%	1.41%	1.64%	1.68%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	3	4	4
Grand Total—Paper	72,766					
MAPE		3.66%	5.05%	5.24%	6.19%	9.68%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Grand Total—E-file	183,450					
MAPE		0.98%	1.37%	1.49%	0.79%	1.87%
Number of Overprojections		1	2	1	1	1
Total Primary—Selected Returns*	227,622					
MAPE		0.54%	1.08%	1.43%	1.95%	2.03%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Primary Total—Paper	60,312					
MAPE		1.50%	2.74%	4.73%	7.54%	11.07%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	4	4	4
Primary Total—E-file	167,309					
MAPE		0.51%	0.61%	0.65%	0.57%	1.63%
Number of Overprojections		1	2	3	1	1
Individual Total	153,463					
MAPE		0.64%	0.73%	1.33%	1.93%	2.48%
Number of Overprojections		3	3	4	4	4
Individual Total—Paper	15,964					
MAPE		2.11%	3.11%	5.01%	9.19%	15.19%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	2	2	4
Individual Total—E-file	137,499					
MAPE		0.44%	1.10%	1.50%	1.65%	1.71%
Number of Overprojections		1	3	3	3	3
Individual Estimated Tax	22,280					
MAPE		3.03%	5.25%	7.43%	9.74%	8.70%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Fiduciary Total	3,158					
MAPE		1.39%	2.72%	3.72%	4.05%	4.62%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	3	3
Partnership Total	4,315					
MAPE		0.81%	1.38%	2.47%	5.21%	5.81%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	0	0	0
Corporation Total	7,340					
MAPE		1.41%	0.64%	2.55%	4.10%	6.86%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	1	0	1
Employment Total	31,584					
MAPE		0.65%	1.17%	1.73%	1.49%	2.45%
Number of Overprojections		1	1	1	2	1
Exempt Organization Total	1,650					
MAPE		3.13%	3.98%	3.92%	6.71%	5.23%
Number of Overprojections		3	3	3	4	3
Excise Total	1,075					
MAPE		0.51%	1.41%	2.32%	1.94%	8.03%
Number of Overprojections		2	2	1	0	0

* Some actuals shown in this table may differ from official counts reported elsewhere because they exclude certain return series only recently projected and whose accuracy cannot yet be evaluated.
SOURCE: Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Division, Spring 2020 Publication 6292.

Table Notes

- Detail may not add to total due to rounding.
- Projected return counts are rounded to the nearest hundred; therefore, counts of 49 or fewer are rounded to 0. However, some forms may report zero filings because they are associated with only selected areas, or because their filing options were recently established or eliminated.
- Actual and projected return counts for the major categories are based on IRS Master File processing, as recorded in the electronic versions of the *Report of Returns Posted to the IRS Master Files*.

Table 1:

- “Grand Total” is the sum of “Total Primary Returns” and “Supplemental Documents.” The “Total Primary Returns” category is the sum of all forms shown in the table, excluding “Supplemental Documents.”
- “Individual Income Tax, Total” is the sum of paper and electronic Forms 1040, 1040-A, 1040-EZ, 1040-SR, 1040-NR, 1040-NR-EZ, 1040-PR, 1040-SS, and 1040-C. Forms 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ were replaced with a new, streamlined Form 1040 beginning with Filing Year 2019. Additionally, Form 1040-SR is a new tax return form for seniors that became available in Filing Year 2020. Refer to Publication 6187, *Calendar Year Projections of Individual Returns by Major Processing Categories*, for projections and more information on Form 1040-SR.
- “Individual Estimated Tax, Form 1040-ES” includes both paper and electronic Form 1040-ES. Various return categories, such as Form 1040-ES and other business and individual returns, include line items to account for alternative tax-filing methods. The “paper-only” components can be derived by subtracting the electronic counts from their respective return totals.
- “Fiduciary, Form 1041, Total” includes both paper and electronic Form 1041.
- “Fiduciary Estimated Tax, Form 1041-ES” is the *Estimated Income Tax for Estates and Trusts*.
- “Partnership, Forms 1065/1065-B, Total” includes both paper and electronic Forms 1065 and 1065-B.
- “Corporation Income Tax, Total” includes Forms 1120 (paper and electronic), 1120-C, 1120-F (paper and electronic), 1120-H, 1120-FSC, 1120-L, 1120-ND, 1120-PC, 1120-REIT, 1120-RIC, 1120-SF, and 1120-S (paper and electronic). Form 1120-POL volumes are reported separately under the forms for “Political Organizations.” Form 1120-IC-DISC is not included in these corporation projections.
- “Form 2553” is the *Election by a Small Business Corporation* (to file Form 1120-S).
- “Form 1066” is the *U.S. Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduit (REMIC) Income Tax Return*.
- “Estate” includes Forms 706, 706-NA, 706-GS(D), and 706-GS(T).
- “Gift, Form 709” is the *United States Gift (and Generation-Skipping Transfer) Tax Return*.
- “Employment Tax, Total” includes paper and electronic Forms 940, 940-EZ, 940-PR, 941, 941-PR, 941-SS, 943, 943-PR, 943-SS, 944, 945, and CT-1. CT-2 is excluded since the return counts were only available on the non-master file.

- “Form 1042” is the *Annual Withholding Tax Return for U.S. Source Income of Foreign Persons*. This form is assigned to the International area. It is sometimes considered an employment tax return but is listed separately here.
- “Exempt Organizations, Total” includes Forms 990 (paper and electronic), 990-EZ (paper and electronic), 990-N (only available electronically), 990-PF (paper and electronic), 990-T, 4720, and 5227. Beginning in Tax Year 2021, the Form 990 series must be filed electronically. Temporary waivers will be available for small business filers.
- “Form 1041-A” is the *U.S. Information Return, Trust Accumulation of Charitable Amounts*.
- “Government Entities/Bonds” includes Forms 8038, 8038-CP, 8038-G, 8038-GC, 8038-T, 8038-TC, and 8328.
- “Political Organizations, Total” includes Forms 1120-POL (paper and electronic), 8871 (only available electronically), and 8872 (paper and electronic). Beginning in Tax Year 2021, Form 8872 must be filed electronically. Temporary waivers will be available for small business filers.
- “Excise, Total” includes Forms 11-C, 720 (paper and electronic) 730, 2290 (paper and electronic), and 8849 (paper and electronic).
- “Form 5330” is the *Return of Excise Taxes Related to Employee Benefit Plans*.
- “Form 5500-EZ” is the *Annual Return for One-Participant (Owners and Their Spouses) Retirement Plan*.
- “Form 8752” is the *Required Payment or Refund Under Section 7519*.
- “Supplemental Documents” consists mainly of applications for extensions of time to file and amended tax returns, which include Forms 1040-X, 4868 (both paper and electronic), 1120-X, 5558, 7004 (both paper and electronic), and 8868 (both paper and electronic).

Table 2:

- Individual filers classified as “Small Business/Self-Employed” reflect those taxpayers filing a Form 1040 return with a Schedule C, Schedule F, Schedule E, and/or Form 2106 attached, or with mailing addresses or forms considered “International.” All other individual filers are classified as “Wage and Investment.”
- In general, corporation filers (Form 1120 series returns including Form 1120-S) and partnership filers are classified as “Large Business and International” if their reported total assets are \$10 million or more. Corporation and partnership returns with assets below \$10 million are generally classified as “Small Business/Self-Employed.” However, there are also some partnership and corporation returns classified as part of the “Tax Exempt/Government Entities” operating division.
- Nonprofit organizations, pension plan filers, tribal authorities, and governmental units comprise the “Tax Exempt/Government Entities” classification.
- “Employee Plans” returns include paper and electronic Forms 5500, 5500-EZ, and 5500-SF. Counts by operating division in this table are based primarily upon the IRS Master File “BOD indicator.” This indicator is a single, point-in-time, taxpayer-level identifier (in contrast to a return-by-return identifier).

Other Projection Publications

Title	IRS Publication Number	Typical Updates
Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States	6292	Spring & Fall
Calendar Year Projections of Information and Withholding Documents for the United States and IRS Campuses	6961	Summer
Calendar Year Return Projections for the United States and IRS Campuses	6186	Fall
Calendar Year Projections of Individual Returns by Major Processing Categories	6187	Fall
Calendar Year Return Projections by State	6149	Winter

These publications are available electronically as noted inside the front cover, or they may also be requested by phone at (202) 803-9106, or by writing to the following address:

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