



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

Publication 6292

Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States: 2021–2028

Fall 2021



Projections
of Federal Tax Return Filings

www.irs.gov/statistics

Publication 6292 (revised 9-2021) is a product of the IRS Statistics of Income Division within the Research, Applied Analytics, and Statistics organization.

**Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service**

Charles P. Rettig
Commissioner

Jeffrey J. Tribiano
Deputy Commissioner for Operations Support

Barry W. Johnson
Acting Chief Research and Analytics Officer

Barry W. Johnson
Director, Statistics of Income Division

Laura R. Rasmussen
Chief, Statistical Services Branch

Timothy S. Castle
Chief, Servicewide Support Section

Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States: 2021–2028

Publication 6292 Fall 2021

Suggested Citation

Internal Revenue Service
Research, Applied Analytics, and Statistics
Statistics of Income Division
Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States
Publication 6292 (Rev. 9-2021)
Washington, D.C. 20224

Table of Contents

(Fall 2021)

Principal Contacts.....	iii
Online Availability of Forecasts.....	iii
Overview.....	1
Data Sources and Projections Methodology	1
Summary of Significant Trends.....	2
Accuracy of Prior Projections	3
Table 1. <i>Fiscal Year Projections of the Number of Returns To Be Filed with IRS, 2021–2028</i>	4
Table 2. <i>Selected Fiscal Year Return Filing Estimates by Business Operating Division (BOD), 2021–2028</i>	6
Table 3. <i>Accuracy Measures for U.S. Forecasts of Major Return Categories</i>	7
Table Notes.....	8
Projection Publication Series.....	Inside Back Cover

Principal Contacts

Questions or comments regarding these return forecasts, or related matters, can be directed to the corresponding staff member listed below.

Business Returns	Jeff Matsuo Michelle Chu Derrick Dennis Yan K. Liu	(202) 803-9363 (202) 803-9369 (202) 803-9337 (202) 803-9357
Individual Returns (Estimated Tax, Extensions, and Amended)	Yan K. Liu Sisay Saikouba Derrick Dennis Andy J. Roche Michelle Chu	(202) 803-9357 (202) 803-9274 (202) 803-9337 (202) 803-9334 (202) 803-9369
Other Comments or Questions	Michelle Chu Yan K. Liu	(202) 803-9369 (202) 803-9357

Online Availability of Forecasts

Forecasts from the most recent edition of this publication may be found on the IRS Internet pages. 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
Director, Statistics of Income Division

Overview

The Fall 2021 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) 2021 through FY 2028 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 2021 through FY 2028, 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 July 2021 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 Implications from COVID-19 Pandemic

SOI staff performed an extensive research of U.S. laws and the IRS administrative processes that will impact the FY 2021 to FY 2028 tax return volumes. The staff's biggest challenges were determining how to deal with the tax provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (e.g., the effect of Recovery Rebate Credits on filer behavior). Based on their research and the available 2021 filing season data as of July 2021, the staff made appropriate adjustments to some of their modeled forecasts.

In addition, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic led to the temporary closures of the IRS processing centers in 2020. As a result, processing for some of the paper returns that were received in 2020 was delayed. This is evident in most of the 2020 actual paper volumes presented in this publication, which are lower than expected based on the historical trends. Thus, SOI staff adjusted the 2021 paper estimates to account for the carryover returns received in 2020 but processed in 2021.

New Electronic Filing Option for Form 1040-X

On May 28, 2020, the IRS announced that taxpayers could submit an *Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return* (Form 1040-X) electronically using commercial tax-filing software. As e-filing has grown in the past 30 years, the Form 1040-X was one of the last major individual tax forms required to be filed on paper before August 2020.

To develop the initial projections for the new electronic Form 1040-X filing option, SOI staff investigated past scenarios and taxpayer filing behavior patterns following the IRS launch of a new e-file option for other forms. The behavior observed and the number of returns submitted electronically when past e-file options first became available are reflected in the projections of electronic Form 1040-X returns. Actual Free File and MeF data from 2020 and year-to-date 2021 have a more significant role in this year's update of the electronic Form 1040-X forecasts.

The Impact of Taxpayer First Act

The Taxpayer First Act (TFA), enacted on July 1, 2019, made filing electronically a more widespread practice for business taxpayers. Two of the TFA provisions directly affect the forecasts provided in this publication. First, the TFA lowers the thresholds needed for corporations and partnerships to file electronically starting in CY 2021. Second, the TFA makes electronic filing mandatory for tax-exempt organizations (Form 990 series) and political organizations (Form 8872) starting in CY 2021, with a temporary waiver for small organizations. Both provisions will increase the number of electronic filings for the various forms and will either decrease, or eliminate altogether, the amount of paper filings.

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, the grand total of return filings was 242.1 million in FY 2020, a decrease of 5.2 percent over FY 2019. This is largely due to impact of COVID-19 as discussed above. The paper grand total was 46.4 million in FY 2020, a decrease of 33.9 percent from the FY 2019 total.

The IRS continues to process 2020 paper returns, along with processing the tax returns filed in CY 2021, which will impact the FY 2021 count of overall paper returns (a projected 41.8-percent increase in FY 2021 compared to FY 2020) and may also slightly impact the FY 2022 count of overall paper returns due to the likely larger than usual number of returns that will be processed in the first quarter of FY 2022 (or the last quarter of CY 2021). However, the volume of overall paper returns is expected to return to its normal declining trend in FY 2023, with an expected count of 55.8 million. After FY 2023, the paper grand total is projected to decline by an average annual rate of 3.6 percent. Over the same time period, the grand total is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.1 percent, reaching 280.1 million by FY 2028.

In contrast to paper returns, the electronic grand total was 195.7 million in FY 2020, an increase of 5.7 percent over FY 2019. The electronic grand total in FY 2021 is expected to be approximately 199.2 filings. After FY 2021, the electronic grand total is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 2.3 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 tax 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). Table 2 also includes the projected total filings of employee plan (EP) returns, including those processed by the Department of Labor, as these returns are filed by a major segment of 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 2017 through 2020, 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 2019 made in 2016 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, 2021–2028

Type of Return	Actual— FY 2020	Projected							
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Grand Total	242,093,670	264,976,600	261,983,000	265,342,800	268,703,400	271,421,800	274,244,700	277,162,900	280,193,600
Paper Grand Total	46,356,300	65,736,800	61,388,400	55,809,500	54,196,400	52,041,500	50,064,100	48,227,000	46,513,500
Electronic Grand Total	195,737,370	199,239,800	200,594,600	209,533,300	214,507,100	219,380,300	224,180,600	228,935,900	233,680,100
Total Primary Returns	220,529,048	235,706,100	232,098,200	234,878,900	237,323,000	239,281,400	241,291,000	243,377,300	245,558,900
Individual Income Tax, Total	157,195,302	164,344,500	160,508,800	163,578,000	165,221,500	166,854,100	168,608,800	170,420,900	172,274,300
Forms 1040, 1040-SR, and 1040-SP, Total	156,580,123	163,419,500	159,556,900	162,594,700	164,216,400	165,828,200	167,562,100	169,353,400	171,185,900
Paper Forms 1040, 1040-SR, and 1040-SP	8,468,113	18,108,400	15,677,900	12,400,100	11,603,100	10,857,300	10,159,400	9,506,400	8,895,400
Electronic Forms 1040, 1040-SR, and 1040-SP	148,112,010	145,311,100	143,879,000	150,194,600	152,613,300	154,970,900	157,402,700	159,847,000	162,290,600
Forms 1040-NR/NR-EZ/C	546,572	788,100	825,000	862,000	889,300	915,600	941,800	968,100	994,400
Electronic Form 1040-NR	288,438	431,100	473,400	515,600	557,900	600,100	642,400	684,600	726,900
Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	68,607	136,900	126,900	121,400	115,900	110,400	104,900	99,400	93,900
Electronic Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	45,296	44,400	43,600	42,800	42,100	41,300	40,500	39,800	39,000
Individual Estimated Tax, Form 1040-ES, Total	17,579,898	18,432,400	18,944,500	19,200,500	19,520,600	19,415,100	19,309,700	19,204,300	19,132,100
Paper Form 1040-ES	17,392,950	18,214,300	18,663,600	18,888,100	19,193,400	19,073,200	18,953,100	18,833,000	18,746,000
Electronic (Credit Card) Form 1040-ES	186,948	218,100	280,900	312,400	327,200	341,900	356,600	371,400	386,100
Fiduciary, Form 1041, Total	2,820,317	3,038,200	3,034,700	3,002,700	2,973,300	2,946,400	2,921,900	2,899,500	2,879,200
Paper Form 1041	185,826	358,600	351,800	317,100	285,800	257,400	231,700	208,500	187,500
Electronic Form 1041	2,634,491	2,679,600	2,682,900	2,685,500	2,687,500	2,689,000	2,690,100	2,691,000	2,691,700
Fiduciary Estimated Tax, Form 1041-ES	633,707	652,600	653,500	653,500	653,500	653,500	653,500	653,500	653,500
Partnership, Forms 1065/1065-B, Total	4,470,095	4,578,200	4,806,100	5,002,900	5,211,700	5,429,000	5,551,400	5,662,800	5,776,800
Paper Forms 1065/1065-B	184,687	344,700	318,600	264,100	223,700	193,700	173,200	156,800	144,600
Electronic Forms 1065/1065-B	4,285,408	4,233,500	4,487,400	4,738,900	4,988,100	5,235,300	5,378,200	5,506,000	5,632,200
Corporation Income Tax, Total	6,841,771	7,296,300	7,453,700	7,510,000	7,562,100	7,612,500	7,660,900	7,707,200	7,751,200
Paper Corporation Returns, Total	697,421	944,400	951,000	877,200	815,000	762,500	718,100	680,400	648,500
Electronic Corporation Returns, Total	6,144,350	6,352,000	6,502,600	6,632,800	6,747,100	6,850,000	6,942,800	7,026,800	7,102,700
Form 1120, Total	1,595,515	1,688,800	1,725,900	1,712,500	1,696,600	1,681,400	1,667,100	1,653,800	1,641,600
Paper Form 1120	193,948	250,600	271,800	250,500	231,200	213,800	198,000	183,700	170,800
Electronic Form 1120	1,401,567	1,438,200	1,454,100	1,462,000	1,465,300	1,467,600	1,469,100	1,470,100	1,470,800
Form 1120-C	5,778	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300
Form 1120-F	44,592	50,400	54,900	55,800	56,700	57,600	58,400	59,300	60,100
Paper Form 1120-F	12,423	14,600	16,900	15,900	15,000	14,300	13,800	13,300	12,900
Electronic Form 1120-F	32,169	35,800	38,000	39,900	41,700	43,200	44,700	46,000	47,200
Form 1120-H	123,896	247,900	269,700	271,900	274,200	276,400	278,600	280,800	283,100
Forms 1120-FSC/LND/PC/REIT/RIC/SF	27,687	34,600	48,200	48,500	48,900	49,200	49,600	49,900	50,200
Form 1120-S, Total	5,044,303	5,271,300	5,351,700	5,418,000	5,482,500	5,544,700	5,603,900	5,660,100	5,712,900
Paper Form 1120-S	333,689	393,300	341,100	287,000	242,400	205,500	174,800	149,400	128,100
Electronic Form 1120-S	4,710,614	4,878,000	5,010,600	5,131,000	5,240,100	5,339,200	5,429,100	5,510,700	5,584,800
Small Corporation Election, Form 2553	391,234	489,500	462,100	462,100	462,100	462,100	462,100	462,100	462,100
"REMIC" Income Tax, Form 1066	19,062	45,400	46,100	46,800	47,400	48,100	48,700	49,400	50,000
Estate, Forms 706, 706NA/GS(D)/GS(T), Total	15,023	24,300	14,900	14,000	13,200	12,500	11,800	11,100	10,500
Gift, Form 709	158,095	245,200	234,900	234,900	234,900	234,900	234,900	234,900	234,900
Employment Tax, Total	28,002,543	33,515,000	32,807,800	32,070,300	32,272,800	32,419,700	32,583,100	32,780,200	32,988,200
Paper Employment Returns, Total	12,327,250	16,727,200	15,182,100	13,571,200	12,929,500	12,254,400	11,612,700	11,017,800	10,444,300
Electronic Employment Returns, Total	15,675,293	16,787,800	17,625,600	18,499,200	19,343,300	20,165,300	20,970,400	21,762,400	22,543,900
Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR, Total	5,964,394	5,814,600	5,903,000	5,993,700	6,051,500	6,059,800	6,087,300	6,149,600	6,219,200
Paper Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR	2,946,308	2,527,200	2,502,800	2,410,100	2,289,100	2,122,900	1,980,200	1,876,500	1,784,200
Form 940 E-File/Online/XML	3,018,086	3,287,400	3,400,200	3,583,500	3,762,400	3,936,900	4,107,100	4,273,100	4,435,000
Forms 941, 941-PR, and 941-SS, Total	21,761,825	27,453,300	26,647,900	25,813,200	25,967,400	26,116,000	26,261,900	26,406,600	26,554,800
Paper 941, 941-PR/SS, Total	9,129,683	13,981,600	12,453,900	10,932,100	10,424,100	9,928,200	9,442,300	8,964,000	8,495,700
Form 941 E-File/Online/XML	12,632,142	13,471,700	14,194,000	14,881,100	15,543,300	16,187,800	16,819,600	17,442,500	18,059,100
Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS, Total	170,678	158,800	160,000	162,900	158,400	153,900	149,400	144,900	140,500
Paper Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS	158,500	144,100	143,900	145,000	138,800	132,600	126,400	120,200	114,100
Electronic Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS	12,178	14,700	16,100	17,800	19,600	21,300	23,000	24,700	26,400
Forms 944, 944-PR, and 944-SS, Total	51,593	45,100	50,200	53,800	52,500	51,000	49,500	48,000	46,400
Paper Forms 944, 944-PR, and 944-SS	43,203	36,400	40,800	43,700	41,700	39,500	37,300	35,100	32,900
Electronic Form 944	8,390	8,700	9,400	10,100	10,800	11,500	12,200	12,900	13,600
Form 945, Total	52,549	41,300	44,900	45,000	41,200	37,200	33,300	29,400	25,400
Paper Form 945	48,052	36,000	38,900	38,400	33,900	29,300	24,700	20,200	15,600
Electronic Form 945	4,497	5,300	5,900	6,600	7,200	7,900	8,500	9,200	9,800
Form CT-1	1,504	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, 2021–2028—Continued

Type of Return	Actual— FY 2020	Projected							
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Withholding on Foreign Persons, Form 1042	25,459	62,300	51,400	49,700	52,100	54,500	57,100	59,800	62,500
Exempt Organizations, Total	1,358,305	1,685,600	1,778,300	1,750,700	1,787,700	1,824,900	1,863,800	1,904,500	1,947,100
Paper Exempt Organizations, Total	221,556	336,900	211,300	93,500	84,500	82,300	80,200	78,100	76,000
Electronic Exempt Organizations, Total	1,136,749	1,348,700	1,567,000	1,657,200	1,703,200	1,742,600	1,783,600	1,826,400	1,871,100
Form 990, Total	288,062	326,900	328,600	329,100	329,100	329,100	329,100	329,100	329,100
Paper Form 990	25,828	39,600	12,100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 990	262,234	287,200	316,500	329,100	329,100	329,100	329,100	329,100	329,100
Form 990-EZ, Total	184,737	253,200	260,200	254,500	256,100	256,100	256,100	256,100	256,100
Paper Form 990-EZ	44,321	91,000	47,700	5,800	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 990-EZ	140,416	162,100	212,500	248,700	256,100	256,100	256,100	256,100	256,100
Form 990-N*	658,983	699,800	739,100	773,500	809,600	847,300	886,700	928,000	971,100
Form 990-PF, Total	94,894	123,100	120,500	115,000	116,400	117,800	119,200	120,700	122,200
Paper Form 990-PF	19,778	22,200	10,100	1,000	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 990-PF	75,116	100,900	110,400	113,900	116,400	117,800	119,200	120,700	122,200
Form 990-T**	116,975	171,500	236,100	190,900	190,900	190,900	190,900	190,900	190,900
Paper Form 990-T	116,975	73,300	48,300	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 990-T	0	98,200	187,700	190,900	190,900	190,900	190,900	190,900	190,900
Form 4720***	1,659	1,800	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,400
Paper Form 4720	1,659	1,500	1,400	1,300	1,100	900	800	700	600
Electronic Form 4720	N/A	400	800	1,000	1,200	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,700
Form 5227	12,995	109,300	91,600	85,400	83,400	81,400	79,400	77,400	75,400
Form 1041-A	2,859	7,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100
Government Entity/Bonds	30,383	29,400	37,800	37,700	37,100	36,500	35,900	35,200	34,600
Form 8038	1,849	1,600	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,700	1,600	1,500	1,300
Form 8038-CP	7,747	7,900	8,400	8,500	8,700	8,900	9,100	9,300	9,500
Form 8038-G	16,001	15,100	21,300	20,900	20,600	20,400	20,100	19,800	19,500
Form 8038-GC	4,459	4,200	5,600	5,600	5,300	5,000	4,600	4,300	4,000
Form 8038-T	118	300	400	400	300	300	200	200	200
Form 8038-TC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Form 8328	209	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Political Organizations, Total	8,115	8,600	9,100	6,700	9,100	6,500	9,100	6,300	9,000
Form 1120-POL, Total	2,771	2,700	2,500	2,400	2,200	2,100	2,000	1,900	1,700
Paper Form 1120-POL	2,724	2,600	2,400	2,300	2,200	2,100	1,900	1,800	1,700
Electronic Form 1120-POL	47	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Form 8871****	2,930	2,900	3,300	2,200	3,400	2,200	3,500	2,200	3,600
Form 8872, Total	2,414	2,900	3,300	2,200	3,400	2,200	3,500	2,200	3,600
Paper Form 8872	232	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 8872	2,182	2,900	3,300	2,200	3,400	2,200	3,500	2,200	3,600
Excise, Total	905,722	1,109,400	1,109,400	1,117,700	1,126,100	1,134,600	1,143,000	1,151,500	1,159,900
Form 11-C	2,141	4,000	3,800	3,600	3,400	3,200	3,000	2,900	2,700
Form 720, Total	144,485	186,700	182,000	179,500	176,900	174,400	171,900	169,300	166,800
Paper Form 720	141,835	183,500	178,400	175,600	172,800	169,800	167,000	164,300	161,500
Electronic Form 720	2,650	3,200	3,600	3,900	4,200	4,600	4,800	5,000	5,300
Form 730	13,012	23,100	20,600	20,000	19,400	18,900	18,300	17,800	17,400
Form 2290, Total	731,551	869,400	878,900	890,700	902,500	914,200	926,000	937,800	949,600
Paper Form 2290	76,617	181,400	178,700	176,500	174,300	171,900	169,700	167,500	165,400
Electronic Form 2290	654,934	688,000	700,200	714,200	728,200	742,400	756,300	770,300	784,200
Form 8849, Total	14,533	24,100	24,000	24,000	23,900	23,800	23,700	23,600	23,600
Paper Form 8849	8,952	18,100	17,800	17,600	17,300	17,000	16,800	16,500	16,200
Electronic Form 8849	5,581	6,100	6,200	6,400	6,600	6,800	7,000	7,100	7,300
Excise Taxes re Employee Plans, Form 5330	11,153	18,800	25,100	21,500	19,800	19,800	19,700	19,700	19,600
Form 5500-EZ, One-Participant Retirement Plans	53,134	101,300	91,700	91,700	91,700	91,700	91,700	91,700	91,700
Payment or Refund Under Sec. 7519, Form 8752	6,871	23,900	22,400	21,300	20,100	19,000	17,900	16,700	15,600
Supplemental Documents, Total	21,564,622	29,270,500	29,884,800	30,463,900	31,380,500	32,140,500	32,953,700	33,785,600	34,634,700
Form 1040-X, Total	2,630,645	5,211,500	4,228,000	3,748,100	3,527,200	3,388,200	3,306,400	3,242,900	3,189,900
Paper Form 1040-X	2,567,798	3,544,300	2,524,200	2,007,800	1,750,200	1,574,500	1,456,100	1,356,100	1,266,300
Electronic Form 1040-X*****	62,847	1,667,200	1,703,800	1,740,400	1,777,100	1,813,600	1,850,200	1,886,800	1,923,500
Form 4868, Total	10,644,513	13,278,900	14,902,700	15,690,000	16,477,300	16,935,200	17,390,600	17,844,600	18,298,000
Paper Form 4868	1,399,230	2,037,900	2,819,200	2,814,200	2,809,200	2,521,500	2,262,600	2,018,700	1,773,700
Electronic Form 4868	9,245,283	11,241,000	12,083,500	12,875,800	13,668,200	14,413,700	15,128,000	15,825,900	16,524,300
Form 1120-X	14,174	23,700	19,300	17,800	17,000	16,400	17,000	17,000	17,000
Form 5558	48,639	863,300	574,600	551,000	549,400	583,200	586,600	592,400	603,200
Form 7004, Total	7,728,992	9,013,600	9,293,100	9,628,300	9,963,600	10,353,700	10,743,700	11,133,800	11,523,800
Paper Form 7004	931,655	1,371,600	1,331,900	1,293,200	1,254,500	1,215,800	1,177,000	1,138,300	1,099,600
Electronic Form 7004	6,797,337	7,642,000	7,961,200	8,335,200	8,709,100	9,137,900	9,566,700	9,995,400	10,424,200
Form 8868, Total	497,659	879,500	867,200	828,600	845,900	863,700	909,400	954,900	1,002,700
Paper Form 8868	43,063	299,400	280,200	254,600	248,600	243,100	256,300	269,400	283,100
Electronic Form 8868	454,596	580,100	587,000	574,000	597,300	620,600	653,100	685,500	719,600

N/A—Not applicable.

* Form 990-N is all electronic.

** Mandatory electronic filing of the 2020 Form 990-T started in February 2021.

*** Electronic filing of Form 4720 available as of March 2021 for Tax Year 2020 returns.

**** Form 8871 is all electronic.

***** The IRS began offering an electronic option for Form 1040-X in August 2020.

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, Fall 2021 Publication 6292.

Table 2. Selected Fiscal Year Return Filing Estimates by Business Operating Division (BOD), 2021–2028

Type of Return/BOD	Actual— FY 2020	Projected							
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Forms 1040, 1040-SR, and 1040-SP, Total	156,580,123	163,419,500	159,556,900	162,594,700	164,216,400	165,828,200	167,562,100	169,353,400	171,185,900
Small Business/Self-Employed	40,990,333	46,143,900	45,053,300	45,911,000	46,368,900	46,824,100	47,313,700	47,819,500	48,336,900
Wage and Investment	115,589,790	117,275,600	114,503,600	116,683,600	117,847,400	119,004,100	120,248,500	121,534,000	122,849,000
Corporation Income Tax, Total	6,841,771	7,296,300	7,453,700	7,510,000	7,562,100	7,612,500	7,660,900	7,707,200	7,751,200
Small Business/Self-Employed	6,652,769	7,095,800	7,239,300	7,294,600	7,345,700	7,395,200	7,442,700	7,488,100	7,531,200
Large Business and International	180,207	190,500	203,900	205,000	206,000	207,000	207,900	208,900	209,800
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	8,795	10,000	10,400	10,400	10,400	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,200
Partnership Returns, Total	4,470,095	4,578,200	4,806,100	5,002,900	5,211,700	5,429,000	5,551,400	5,662,800	5,776,800
Small Business/Self-Employed	4,184,860	4,286,000	4,499,400	4,683,700	4,879,200	5,082,600	5,197,100	5,301,400	5,408,200
Large Business and International	284,858	291,700	306,300	318,800	332,100	346,000	353,800	360,900	368,100
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	377	400	400	400	400	500	500	500	500
Employment Tax, Total	28,002,543	33,515,000	32,807,800	32,070,300	32,272,800	32,419,700	32,583,100	32,780,200	32,988,200
Small Business/Self-Employed	25,503,882	30,455,900	29,824,100	29,166,500	29,352,500	29,485,700	29,634,900	29,816,400	30,008,200
Large Business and International	738,416	854,300	837,400	819,200	823,900	827,100	830,800	835,300	840,200
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	1,760,245	2,204,800	2,146,300	2,084,600	2,096,300	2,106,800	2,117,400	2,128,400	2,139,800
Excise, Total	905,722	1,107,400	1,109,400	1,117,700	1,126,100	1,134,600	1,143,000	1,151,500	1,159,900
Small Business/Self-Employed	803,914	966,800	968,600	975,900	983,200	990,600	997,900	1,005,300	1,012,700
Large Business and International	72,616	96,900	97,100	97,800	98,600	99,300	100,100	100,800	101,500
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	29,192	43,600	43,700	44,000	44,400	44,700	45,000	45,300	45,700
Exempt Organization, Total	1,358,305	1,685,600	1,778,300	1,750,700	1,787,700	1,824,900	1,863,800	1,904,500	1,947,100
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	1,358,305	1,685,600	1,778,300	1,750,700	1,787,700	1,824,900	1,863,800	1,904,500	1,947,100
Employee Plans, Forms 5500, 5500EZ, and 5500SF	881,396	936,500	938,800	941,200	961,100	964,200	985,400	980,700	989,300
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	881,396	936,500	938,800	941,200	961,100	964,200	985,400	980,700	989,300

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, Fall 2021 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 2020 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 *	246,507					
MAPE		1.76%	2.22%	1.86%	2.37%	2.74%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	3	4	4
Grand Total—Paper	51,890					
MAPE		8.21%	11.69%	10.70%	14.84%	15.85%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Grand Total—E-file	194,618					
MAPE		0.94%	1.84%	2.13%	1.85%	1.54%
Number of Overprojections		2	2	1	1	1
Total Primary—Selected Returns *	223,206					
MAPE		1.18%	1.43%	1.50%	2.50%	2.84%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Primary Total—Paper	45,144					
MAPE		5.83%	8.62%	10.04%	13.78%	17.07%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	4	4	4
Primary Total—E-file	178,062					
MAPE		0.69%	1.52%	1.67%	1.20%	1.56%
Number of Overprojections		1	2	3	1	1
Individual Total	145,211					
MAPE		2.84%	2.46%	2.57%	3.44%	3.94%
Number of Overprojections		3	3	4	4	4
Individual Total—Paper	9,095					
MAPE		12.90%	19.60%	21.41%	20.40%	19.34%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	2	2	4
Individual Total—E-file	136,116					
MAPE		2.03%	1.67%	1.83%	2.66%	2.58%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Individual Estimated Tax	17,565					
MAPE		6.98%	9.07%	10.12%	16.11%	18.86%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Fiduciary Total	2,831					
MAPE		3.66%	4.60%	5.32%	7.38%	7.19%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Partnership Total	4,115					
MAPE		1.73%	2.73%	2.58%	4.63%	6.62%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	1	1	1
Corporation Total	6,721					
MAPE		2.38%	3.73%	3.80%	5.05%	5.11%
Number of Overprojections		3	1	2	1	1
Employment Total	27,541					
MAPE		3.44%	4.66%	4.72%	4.58%	3.70%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	2	2	2
Exempt Organization Total	1,245					
MAPE		9.00%	13.01%	12.46%	12.99%	16.97%
Number of Overprojections		3	3	3	4	4
Excise Total	1,020					
MAPE		1.17%	3.12%	2.63%	2.09%	2.45%
Number of Overprojections		2	2	2	1	1

*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, 2021 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-SP, 1040-SR, 1040-NR, 1040-NR-EZ, 1040-PR, 1040-SS, and 1040-C. Forms 1040-SP (*Declaración de Impuestos de los Estados Unidos Sobre los Ingresos Personales*) and Form 1040-SR (*U.S. Tax Return for Seniors*) are new individual form types. More information about these new forms can be found in Publication 6187, *Calendar Year Projections of Individual Returns by Major Processing Categories*.
- “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 (paper and electronic), 4720 (paper and electronic), and 5227. Beginning in Calendar Year 2021, the Form 990 series must be filed electronically. Temporary waivers are 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 CY 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 filings of amended tax returns, which include Forms 1040-X (paper and electronic), 4868 (paper and electronic), 1120-X, 5558, 7004 (paper and electronic), and 8868 (paper and electronic). In August 2020, the IRS began allowing taxpayers to file Form 1040-X electronically.

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).

Projection Publication Series

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 on page iii of this report at www.irs.gov/statistics.