

Recent Research on Tax Administration and Compliance

Proceedings of the 2005 IRS Research Conference

Sponsored by IRS' s Office of Research, Analysis, and Statistics

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Foreword

This edition of the *IRS Research Bulletin* (Publication 1500) features highlights from the latest IRS Research Conference held at The Hotel Washington in Washington, DC, on June 7-8, 2005. After opening remarks by Research, Analysis, and Statistics Director Mark J. Mazur, Commissioner Mark Everson delivered the keynote address to a gathering of nearly 300 attendees, including employees of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Census Bureau, the Congressional Budget Office, the Department of the Treasury, the Government Accountability Office, the Internal Revenue Service, the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Social Security Administration, tax professionals, academics, consultants, and tax administrators from the District of Columbia, State governments, Canada, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand.

Commissioner Everson stressed the need for robust research programs that provide timely, credible, and relevant information to tax administrators and policymakers. He confirmed IRS's commitment to undertaking reporting compliance studies under the auspices of the National Research Program. He also voiced support for other important research initiatives. Finally, Commissioner Everson encouraged conference participants in their efforts to deepen our collective understanding of how service to taxpayers and enforcement of tax laws affect taxpayer compliance. The main subject areas covered by the conference included: individual income tax compliance, indirect measures of compliance, taxpayer compliance burden, tax administration resources, voluntary compliance behavior, and barriers to compliance.

We hope that this volume will enable IRS executives, managers, employees, and stakeholders to keep ahead of the latest trends and research findings affecting Federal tax administration. As with our last update of the *Bulletin*, the type of research and analysis featured here is intended to provide a valuable starting place from which to conduct further analysis and begin new research.

This update of the *IRS Research Bulletin* presents selected papers from each of the conference sessions. The contents of the papers included here are the responsibility of the authors. Views expressed in these papers are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service.

Acknowledgments

This volume was edited by James Dalton and Beth Kilss of the IRS Statistics of Income Division. The editors would like to thank Lisa Smith and Dorothy Wallace for their invaluable help in laying out all the papers in this volume, and Bobbie Vaira for her assistance in the publishing process.

The Conference itself was the result of substantial effort and preparation over a number of months by many people. Melissa Kovalick (Research, Analysis, and Statistics) played a major role in making arrangements and ensuring that the conference ran smoothly. Members of the program committee were Conference Co-Chairpersons Janet McCubbin (Statistics of Income Division) and Alan Plumley (Office of Research), Mark Mazur (Director, Research, Analysis, and Statistics), Bill Trautman (Large and Mid-Size Business Division), Jorlie Cruz (Office of Program Evaluation and Risk Analysis), Javier Framinan (Wage and Investment Division), Kay Wolman (Office of Research), Mark Hutchins (Taxpayer Advocate Service), Anne Steuer (Small Business/Self Employed Division), and Susan Nelson (U. S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Tax Analysis). We appreciate the contributions of all those who helped make this Conference a success.

Mark Mazur
Director
Office of Research, Analysis, and Statistics
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Editors' Note: The papers included in this volume may also be found on the IRS Web site at (<http://www.irs.gov/taxstats/productsandpubs/article/0,,id=130103,00.html>). The papers are listed by title of session and title of paper.

Proceedings of the 2005 IRS Research Conference

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