

Section 5

Explanation of Terms

The Explanation of Terms section is designed to clarify the statistical content of this report and should not be construed as an interpretation of the Internal Revenue Code, related regulations, procedures, or policies.

Explanation of Terms relates to column or row titles used in one or more tables in this report. It provides the background or limitations necessary to interpret the related statistical tables. For each title, the line number of the tax form on which it is reported appears after the title. Definitions marked with the symbol Δ have been revised for 2015 to reflect changes in the law.

Additional Child Tax Credit

(line 67, Form 1040)

See “Child Tax Credit.”

Additional Medicare Tax

(line 62a, Form 1040)

Starting in 2013, a 0.9 percent Additional Medicare Tax was applied to Medicare wages, railroad retirement compensation, and self-employment income that were more than \$200,000 for single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er) (\$250,000 for married filing jointly, or \$125,000 for married filing separately). Medicare wages and self-employment were combined to determine if a taxpayer exceeded these thresholds; however, a self-employment loss was not considered for purposes of this tax. RRTA compensation was separately compared to this threshold. A taxpayer’s employer was responsible for withholding the 0.9 percent Additional Medicare Tax on Medicare wages or RRTA compensation paid in excess of \$200,000 regardless of a taxpayer’s filing status. If a taxpayer was married filing jointly and either the taxpayer or spouse had wages or RRTA compensation of more than \$200,000, the taxpayer may have been able to get a refund of the tax withheld. Besides the Additional Medicare Tax, withholding reconciliation was calculated on Form 8959 and added to Form 1040, line 64, as part of income tax withheld.

Additional Standard Deduction

(line 39a, and included in line 40, Form 1040)

See “Standard Deduction.”

Additional Taxes

(line 44b, Form 1040)

Taxes calculated on Form 4972, *Tax on Lump-Sum Distributions*, were reported here.

Adjusted Gross Income Less Deficit

(line 37, Form 1040)

Adjusted gross income (AGI) is defined as total income (line 22, Form 1040) minus statutory adjustments (line 36, Form 1040). Total income included:

- Compensation for services, including wages, salaries, fees, commissions, tips, taxable fringe benefits, and similar items;
- Taxable interest received;
- Ordinary dividends and capital gain distributions;
- Taxable refunds of State and local income taxes;
- Alimony and separate maintenance payments;
- Net income derived from a business, profession, or farm;
- Net gain from the sale of capital assets;
- Net gain from the sale of business property;
- Taxable amounts of annuities, pensions, and individual retirement arrangement (IRA) distributions;
- Rents and royalties;
- Distributive share of partnership or S corporation net income;
- Net income from an estate or trust;

- Unemployment compensation;
- Taxable amounts of Social Security and railroad retirement (Tier 1) payments;
- Taxable distributions from a Coverdell education savings account or qualified tuition program;
- Taxable distributions from a health savings account (HSA) or Archer MSA;
- Prizes, awards, and gambling winnings;
- Jury duty pay;
- Amounts received that were claimed as a deduction or credit in a prior year;
- Bartering income;
- Alaska permanent fund dividends;
- Alternative trade adjustment assistance payments;
- Income from the rental of personal property engaged in for profit;
- Income from an activity not engaged in for profit;
- Loss on certain corrective distributions of excess deferrals;
- Dividends on insurance policies if they exceeded the total of all net premiums paid;
- Recapture of a charitable contribution deduction relating to the contribution of a fractional interest in tangible personal property;
- Recapture of a charitable contribution deduction if the charitable organization disposed of the donated property within 3 years of the contribution;
- Cancelled debts; and
- Taxable part of disaster relief payments.

Some reported income was fully or partially excluded from total income for 2015. The following is a list of such items:

- The cost basis of pension, annuity, or IRA payments or distributions;
- Tax-exempt interest;
- Limited exclusion of Social Security benefits and railroad retirement benefits (only required to be reported if there was also a taxable amount);
- Limited exclusion of qualified foreign earned income; and
- Exclusion of part or all of the gain from sale of principal residence up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 on joint returns).

The following statutory adjustments (lines 23 through 36, Form 1040) were subtracted from total income to arrive at adjusted gross income (line 37, Form 1040):

- Educator expenses;
- Certain business expenses of reservists, performing artists, and fee-basis government officials;
- Health savings account deduction;
- Moving expenses;
- Deductible part of self-employment tax;
- Contributions to self-employed retirement plans (Keogh or simplified employee pension) and certain contributions to IRAs;
- Self-employed health insurance deduction;
- Forfeited interest and penalties incurred by persons who made premature withdrawals of funds from time savings accounts;
- Alimony payments;
- IRA deductions;
- Certain student loan interest;
- Tuition and fees deduction;
- Domestic production activities deduction;
- Archer MSA deduction;
- Amount of jury duty pay reported on line 21, Form 1040, that was repaid to employers;
- Deductible expenses related to income on line 21 from the rental of personal property engaged in for profit;
- Forestation or reforestation expenses;
- Foreign housing exclusion;
- Repayments of supplemental unemployment compensation;
- Contributions to section 501(c)(18)(D) pension plans;
- Contributions by certain chaplains to section 403(b) plans;
- Attorney fees and court costs paid for actions involving certain unlawful discrimination claims, but only to the extent of gross income from such actions; and
- Attorney fees and court costs paid in connection with an award from the IRS for information provided that helped the IRS detect tax law violations, but only to the amount of the award includable in gross income.

A deficit occurred if the allowable exclusions and deductions exceeded gross income, i.e., the amount on line 36 was greater than the amount on line 22, or if line 22 was negative due to negative business or other income.

Adjusted Gross Income or Loss

See "Adjusted Gross Income Less Deficit."

Adjustments

See “Statutory Adjustments.”

Adoption Credit Δ

(line 54c, Form 1040)

This credit was available to taxpayers who paid qualified adoption expenses in 2014 for an adoption that was not final at the end of 2014, or for qualified expenses paid in 2015 for an adoption that was final in or before 2015. The credit could have been as much as \$13,400 for each child. The credit began to phase out if a taxpayer had a modified adjusted gross income in excess of \$201,010, and was completely phased out for a modified adjusted gross income of \$241,010 or more. The adoption credit stopped being refundable at the end of 2011.

Advance Payment of Premium Tax Credit

(line 25, Form 8962)

A taxpayer may have been eligible for the premium tax credit if they, their spouse, or a dependent enrolled in health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace. The premium tax credit was used to help pay for this health insurance. The taxpayer may have elected to have all or part of the credit paid in advance, during the year, to the insurer. Advance payments were based on an estimate of the taxpayer’s income and family size for the coverage year. If advance payments of the premium tax credit were made, taxpayers must have filed a 2015 tax return and Form 8962 to reconcile the amount paid in advance with the amount of premium tax credit for which the taxpayer is eligible, based on the taxpayer’s actual income and family size for the year.

Alimony Paid

(line 31a, Form 1040)

Payments made as alimony or separate maintenance counted as a deduction (an adjustment to total income) for the person paying them.

Alimony Received

(line 11, Form 1040)

Payments received as alimony or separate maintenance were income to the person receiving them.

All Other Taxes

(lines 46, 57, 58a, 58b, 59, 60a, 60b, 61, 62a, 62c, Form 1040)

In this report, this amount includes the sum of the excess advance premium tax credit repayment; self-employment tax; Social Security and Medicare taxes on tip income and wages; penalty tax on qualified retirement plans; household employment taxes; repayment of the first-time homebuyer credit; health care individual responsibility payment; Additional Medicare Tax; additional taxes on health savings accounts; additional tax on Archer MSA distributions; additional tax on Medicare Advantage MSA distributions; tax from the recapture of the investment credit, the low-income housing credit,

the Indian employment credit, the new markets credit, credit for employer-provided child care facilities, alternative motor vehicle credit, the alternative fuel vehicle refueling credit, and the qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle credit; recapture of Federal mortgage subsidy; COBRA premium assistance; section 72 penalty taxes; other unspecified taxes, which included uncollected FICA (or Social Security) tax on tips; excess golden parachute payments; excise tax on stock compensation from an expatriated corporation; interest on the tax due from the sale of residential lots and timeshares; interest on the deferred tax on gain from certain installment sales; additional tax on recapture of a charitable deduction relating to a fractional interest in tangible personal property; look-back interest; repayment of ineligible advance payments of the health coverage tax credit; an additional tax on income or compensation from a nonqualified deferred compensation plan; any interest relating to distributions from stock of a section 1291 fund; and tax from recapture of education credits. In this report, the “other taxes” portion differs from Form 1040, which included the taxes listed above (except the excess advance premium tax credit repayment) plus tax from Form 4970, *Tax on Accumulation Distribution of Trusts*, and tax from Form 8960, *Net Investment Tax*. These are instead included in “total income tax.” (See also “Taxable and Nontaxable Returns” and “Total Income Tax.”)

Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property Credit

(line 54c, Form 1040)

Taxpayers could have claimed this credit for any nondepreciable alternative fuel vehicle refueling property placed in service during the tax year. Qualified alternative fuel vehicle refueling property is any property used to store or dispense an alternative fuel at the point where the fuel is delivered into a fuel tank of a motor vehicle propelled by the fuel. This credit was calculated on Form 8911.

Alternative Minimum Tax Δ

(line 45, Form 1040)

The Revenue Act of 1978 established the alternative minimum tax (AMT) to ensure that a minimum amount of income tax was paid by taxpayers who might otherwise be able to legally reduce, or totally eliminate, their tax burdens. The AMT was levied on income, including benefits received in the form of deductions and exclusions, which reduced an individual’s regular effective tax rate. These benefits, known as “alternative minimum tax preferences and adjustments,” resulted from the treatment that the tax law gave to particular income and expense items.

Alternative minimum taxable income (AMTI) (line 28, Form 6251) was defined as taxable income for ordinary income tax purposes adjusted for net operating losses from other tax years, plus adjustments and preferences. AMTI was then reduced by an exemption amount determined by filing status and

AMTI. If the return was filed jointly by a married couple or a surviving spouse, the maximum amount of the exemption was \$83,400. The maximum amount for a single or head of household taxpayer was \$53,600, and for a married couple filing separately, \$41,700. The AMT exclusion was phased out if AMTI exceeded certain levels. For single taxpayers, the phase-out began at \$119,200 and ended at \$333,600. For joint returns, the range was \$158,900 to \$492,500. For married couples filing separately, the range was \$79,450 to \$246,250.

If there was an amount remaining after subtracting the exemption, the first \$185,400 (the first \$92,700 if married filing separately) was taxed at a 26-percent rate; any excess was taxed at a 28-percent rate, except capital gains, which were taxed at the same rates under the AMT as under the regular income tax. This amount was then reduced by the recalculated AMT foreign tax credit and regular income tax before credits (line 47, Form 1040, minus the regular foreign tax credit, line 48, Form 1040) to arrive at the alternative minimum tax.

Personal credits (such as the child tax credit, child care credit, etc.) and certain eligible small business credits could be taken against the AMT.

Alternative Motor Vehicle Credit

(included in line 54c, Form 1040)

Taxpayers could have used Form 8910 to claim a credit for an alternative motor vehicle put into service during the tax year. An alternative motor vehicle is a new qualified fuel-cell vehicle with at least four wheels.

American Opportunity Credit

(line 68, Form 1040)

For these statistics, the American opportunity credit was divided into three parts: the amount used to offset income tax before credits; the amount used to offset all other taxes; and the refundable portion. (See also "Education Credits.")

Archer Medical Savings Account (MSA)

Deduction Δ

(included in line 36, Form 1040)

Certain taxpayers who were covered only by a high-deductible health plan were able to participate in the Archer medical savings account program. The taxpayer was allowed to take a deduction of up to \$2,145 (\$4,987.50 for a family) a year for contributions to a medical savings account. The Archer medical savings accounts were used to pay for medical expenses not reimbursable by medical insurance. Form 8853, *Archer MSAs and Long-Term Care Insurance Contracts*, was used for the medical savings accounts.

Basic Standard Deduction

(included in line 40, Form 1040)

See "Standard Deduction."

Business or Profession Net Income or Loss

(line 12, Form 1040)

This source of income or loss was reported by individuals who were sole proprietors of a nonfarm business, including self-employed members of a profession.

If two or more sole proprietorships were operated by the same taxpayer, the single amount of net income or loss included in the adjusted gross income represented the combined net income and loss from all sole proprietorships. The proprietor was required to exclude investment income from business profits and include it, instead, with the various types of investment income for which separate provisions were made on the individual income tax return.

Total expenses (line 28, Schedule C) were deducted from gross income (line 7, Schedule C) to arrive at a tentative profit or loss. Expenses for business use of the taxpayer's home (line 30, Schedule C) were then deducted to arrive at net income or loss. Starting for 2013, the IRS provided a simplified method to determine a taxpayer's expenses for business use of a home. Under the new method, taxpayers were able to multiply the area (measured in square feet) used by \$5. Proprietor compensation was included in computing net income and not allowed as a business deduction. The deduction of net operating losses from previous years was not considered a business expense, but was offset against "Other Income" (line 21, Form 1040).

Business or Profession Net Income Less Loss

See "Business or Profession Net Income or Loss."

Cancellation of Debt

(included in line 21, Form 1040)

Taxpayers had to report any nonbusiness debt that was cancelled or forgiven as income on Form 1040, line 21. Taxpayers also had to include any forgiven interest on the forgiven debt if the interest would not have been deductible. If the interest would have been deductible, taxpayers did not have to include it as income. Also, a taxpayer did not have to report forgiven debt as income if the forgiven amount was intended as a gift.

Capital Assets

See "Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss."

Capital Construction Fund Reduction

(included in line 43, Form 1040)

The Capital Construction Fund (CCF) is a special investment program administered by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Internal Revenue Service. This program allows fishermen to defer paying income tax on certain income they invest in a CCF account and later use to acquire, build, or rebuild fishing vessels. This amount is subtracted from tax table income to calculate taxable income.

Capital Gain Distributions Reported on Form 1040

(included in line 13, Form 1040)

Taxpayers who had capital gains strictly from capital gain distributions could enter the amount directly on line 13, Form 1040. These were treated as long-term capital gains and, therefore, were eligible for the reduced capital gains rates including the higher 20-percent capital gains tax rate if the taxpayer's taxable income exceeded certain levels. (See also "Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss.")

Capital Gain Distributions Reported on Schedule D

(line 13, Schedule D)

See "Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss."

Capital Gains and Losses

See "Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss."

Cash Contributions

(line 16, Schedule A)

See "Contributions Deduction."

Casualty or Theft Loss Deduction, Nonbusiness

(line 20, Schedule A)

Nonbusiness casualty and theft losses were deductible, as an itemized deduction, from adjusted gross income to the extent that the nonreimbursable net loss for each such casualty or theft exceeded \$100, and the combined amount for all net losses during the year exceeded 10 percent of adjusted gross income (claimed on Form 4684). (See also "Total Itemized Deductions.")

Casualty or Theft Loss of Income-Producing Property

(included in line 28, Schedule A)

These losses were calculated using Form 4684, *Casualty and Thefts*, or Form 4797, *Sales of Business Property*, and then brought to Schedule A. (See "Miscellaneous Itemized Deductions.")

Certain Business Expenses of Reservists, Performing Artists, and Fee-basis Government Officials

(line 24, Form 1040)

Qualified business expenses were deductible as an adjustment to income for reservists, performing artists, and fee-basis State or local government officials, whether or not the taxpayer itemized deductions (claimed on Form 2106 or Form 2106-EZ).

Child Care Credit

(line 49, Form 1040)

This credit could be claimed by taxpayers who, while employed or looking for work, incurred expenses for the care of dependent children under age 13, or disabled dependents of any age (claimed on Form 2441). Qualified expenses included those for services performed within the home by nondependent baby-sitters, maids, or cooks. Expenditures to care for children under the age of 13 or any other qualified individuals for out-of-home, noninstitutional care qualified for the child care credit. If the taxpayer omitted or used an invalid Social Security number or employer identification number (EIN) for the child care provider, the IRS used mathematical error procedures to change the child care credit.

The maximum amount of care-related expenses on which the credit could be based with one qualifying child or dependent, was the smaller of earned income or \$3,000; with more than one dependent, the credit was based on the smaller of earned income or \$6,000. For returns of married couples filing jointly, earned income refers to the earnings of the spouse with the lesser earned income. Exceptions were allowed if the spouse was disabled or a full-time student.

The credit was equal to 35 percent of eligible expenses for taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of \$15,000 or less. The credit was reduced by 1 percentage point for each \$2,000, or fraction thereof, of adjusted gross income in excess of \$15,000, up to \$43,000. The credit remained at 20 percent of expenses for individuals with an adjusted gross income over \$43,000.

The amount of the credit which could be claimed was limited to income tax before credits, and any excess was not refundable.

Child Tax Credit

(line 52, Form 1040)

A credit was allowed for each qualifying child under age 17. To be a qualifying child, the person had to be a son, daughter, stepchild, adopted child, qualifying foster child, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them (for example, grandchild, nephew, niece) for whom the taxpayer claimed a dependent exemption. The taxpayer could claim up to \$1,000 for each child meeting the AGI phase-out guidelines. The credit was phased out by \$50 for each \$1,000, or fraction thereof, that AGI exceeded: \$110,000 for taxpayers filing jointly; \$55,000 for married filing separately; and \$75,000 for single filers, heads of households, or widows(ers).

An additional child tax credit was refundable if the taxpayer met both the general requirements and some additional requirements (claimed on Schedule 8812). The additional child tax credit was not included in credits but as a payment instead (line 67, Form 1040). The credit limit based on earned income

was 15 percent of the taxpayer's earned income that exceeded \$3,000. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in a combat zone had their nontaxable combat pay count as earned income in figuring this credit. For the statistics, this amount was broken down into the additional child tax credit to offset other taxes and the refundable amount.

Contributions Deduction

(lines 16-19, Schedule A)

Taxpayers could deduct contributions to certain organizations that were religious, charitable, educational, scientific, or literary in purpose. Contributions could be in cash, property, or out-of-pocket expenses that a taxpayer paid in doing volunteer work for a qualified organization. Contributions were allowed as an itemized deduction on Schedule A. Cash contributions were generally limited to one-half of the taxpayer's AGI, while contributions of capital gain property were generally limited to 30 percent (20 percent in certain cases) of the taxpayer's AGI. Contributions which could not be deducted due to the AGI limitation could be carried over to future years (and brought over from previous years). For all charitable contributions of \$250 or more, a written acknowledgment from the qualified recipient organization was required. If other than cash contributions (i.e., clothing, cars, stock, etc.) was \$500 or more, Form 8283, *Noncash Charitable Contributions*, had to be filed in order to itemize these.

Taxpayers were able to make a tax-free distribution from an Individual Retirement Account to certain charitable organizations if they were at least 70½ years old. However, the taxpayer could not take a charitable deduction on Schedule A for the same contribution.

Contributions Carryover from Prior Year

(line 18, Schedule A)

See "Contributions Deduction."

Credit for Federal Tax on Gasoline and Special Fuels

(line 72, Form 1040)

This refundable credit (claimed on Form 4136) was allowed for Federal excise taxes paid on gasoline and special fuels, such as gasohol and diesel fuel, provided the fuel was used for certain purposes (such as farm or nonhighway use in a trade or business), bought at a price that included the tax, and a refund of the tax was not requested or received. The credit could reduce unpaid total tax liability or be refunded.

Credit for the Elderly or Disabled

(line 54c, Form 1040)

A credit (claimed on Schedule R) for the elderly or permanently and totally disabled was available to taxpayers age 65 or older (within certain income limitations), and to those taxpayers under age 65 who had retired with a permanent and total disability and received taxable income from a public or private

employer because of that disability. The income to which the credit could be applied was reduced by nontaxable amounts of Social Security and railroad retirement benefits, veterans' pensions, and any other pension, annuity, or disability benefits excluded from income under any other provisions of the law.

An individual was considered permanently and totally disabled when he or she could not engage in any substantial gainful activity because of a physical or mental condition which had lasted, or was expected to last, at least 12 months, or was determined to be terminal.

The maximum credit available (\$1,125) was limited to total income tax with any excess not refundable, and was reduced if the taxpayer's income exceeded certain levels. Generally, if a taxpayer's income was high enough to require reporting Social Security benefits as taxable income, the taxpayer could not take the credit.

Credit from Regulated Investment Companies

(line 73a, Form 1040)

Taxpayers were required to include in total income any amounts which were allocated to them as undistributed long-term capital gains of regulated investment companies. If investment companies paid tax on the capital gain, taxpayers were entitled to claim a refundable credit (claimed on Form 2439) for their proportionate share of the tax paid. For these statistics, the credit from regulated investment companies was divided into three parts: the amount used to offset income tax before credits; the amount used to offset all other taxes; and the refundable portion.

Credit to 2016 Estimated Tax

(line 77, Form 1040)

This amount was the part of the overpayment of 2015 tax that taxpayers specifically requested to be credited to their estimated tax for 2016. (See also "Overpayment" and "Estimated Tax Payments.")

Deductible Points

(line 12, Schedule A)

See "Interest Paid Deduction."

Deductible Part of Self-Employment Tax

(line 27, Form 1040)

If a taxpayer had income from self-employment and owed self-employment tax, part of that tax was deductible for income tax purposes. The amount was subtracted as an adjustment to total income in the calculation of AGI. In 2011, the Social Security tax was reduced from 12.4 percent to 10.4 percent, and the calculation of this part of the self-employment adjustment increased from 50.0 percent to 59.6 percent. Starting in 2013, the Social Security tax increased back to 12.4 percent, and the self-employment adjustment reverted back to 50.0 percent. (See also "Self-Employment Tax.")

Dividends

(lines 9a and 9b, Form 1040)

Ordinary dividend income consisted of distributions of money, stock, or other property received by taxpayers from domestic and foreign corporations, either directly or passed through estates, trusts, partnerships, or regulated investment companies. Ordinary dividends also included distributions from money market mutual funds. If ordinary dividends exceeded \$1,500, or the taxpayer received, as a nominee, ordinary dividends that actually belonged to someone else, the taxpayer had to fill out Schedule B to supply the details.

Ordinary dividends did not include nontaxable distributions of stock or stock rights, returns of capital, capital gains, or liquidation distributions. Taxpayers were also instructed to exclude amounts paid on deposits or withdrawable accounts in banks, mutual savings banks, cooperative banks, savings and loan associations, and credit unions, which were treated as interest income.

Qualified dividends are the ordinary dividends received in tax years beginning after 2002 that met certain conditions. These included: the dividend must have been paid by a U.S. corporation or a “qualified” foreign corporation; the stock ownership must have met certain holding period requirements; the dividends were not from certain institutions, such as mutual savings banks, cooperative banks, credit unions, tax-exempt organizations, or farmer cooperatives; and the dividends were not for any share of stock that was part of an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP). The maximum tax rate for qualified dividends increased 5 percent to 20 percent in 2013. Beginning in 2008, the 5-percent tax rate for qualified dividends (generally taxpayers whose other income was taxed at the 10-percent or 15-percent rate) was reduced to zero. Also beginning in 2013, ordinary dividends may have also been subject to the Net Investment Income Tax of 3.8 percent.

Domestic Production Activities Deduction

(line 35, Form 1040)

A taxpayer could have deducted the lesser of 9 percent of qualified production activities or 50 percent of wages paid with some limitations (claimed on Form 8903). Activities included construction performed in the United States; engineering or architectural services performed in the United States; and any lease, rental license, sale, or exchange. Other deductible items included tangible personal property, qualified films and electricity, natural gas, or potable water that the taxpayer produced in the United States. However, if the business activity was oil-related, this deduction was limited to 6 percent.

Earned Income Credit Δ

(line 66a, Form 1040)

The earned income credit (EIC) for 2015 was a maximum of \$503 for taxpayers with no qualifying children, \$3,359 for one qualifying child, \$5,548 for two qualifying children, and \$6,242 for taxpayers with three or more qualifying children.

To be eligible for the credit with children, the taxpayers, other than married taxpayers filing jointly, must have had a qualifying child living with them for more than half the year, and have had earned income and adjusted gross income each less than \$39,131 (\$44,454 if two qualifying children, and \$47,747 if three or more qualifying children). For married filing jointly, earned income and adjusted gross income had to be less than \$44,651 for one child, \$49,974 for two children, and \$53,267 for three children or more. To be eligible for the credit without children, the taxpayer must have had earned income and adjusted gross income less than \$14,820 (\$20,330 for married filing jointly), and the taxpayer (or their spouse) must have been at least 25 years of age and less than 65 years old. The credit was generally based on earned income, consisting of wages, salaries, and other employee compensation, plus net earnings from self-employment. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in a combat zone had certain pay excluded from their income. These taxpayers could have elected to include this pay in earned income when figuring the EIC. Taxpayers with investment income totaling more than \$3,400 were not eligible to receive the EIC. Investment income included interest income (taxable and tax-exempt), dividend income, plus interest and dividend income from Form 8814, and capital gain net income. As in previous years, taxpayers could not take the credit if their filing status was married filing separately, or if they claimed the foreign-earned income exclusion.

For this report, the earned income credit is divided into three parts: the amount used to offset income tax before credits (limited to the amount needed to reduce income tax after credits to zero); the amount used to offset all other taxes (limited to the amount needed to reduce total tax liability to zero); and the refundable portion.

Earned Income Credit, Refundable Portion

See “Earned Income Credit.”

Earned Income Credit Used To Offset Income Tax Before Credits

See “Earned Income Credit.”

Earned Income Credit Used To Offset Other Taxes

See “Earned Income Credit.”

Education Credits Δ

(lines 50, 68, Form 1040)

There were two credits available, the Lifetime Learning credit and the American Opportunity credit. A taxpayer was only able to claim one of the credits per student. The Lifetime Learning credits were phased out for AGI between \$55,000 and \$65,000 (\$110,000 and \$130,000 for married filing jointly). The American Opportunity credit was phased out for AGI between \$80,000 and \$90,000 (\$160,000 and \$180,000 if married filing jointly). A taxpayer could not take any of the credits if

they were claimed as a dependent on another return, married filing separately, or claimed a deduction for tuition and fees for the same student.

The Lifetime Learning credit could have been used for tuition and expenses for undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree courses. The credit could have been taken for an unlimited amount of time, as long as the taxpayer or dependents were enrolled in postsecondary education. The Lifetime Learning credit was a maximum of 20 percent of the first \$10,000 of eligible expenses, or \$2,000 per return.

The American Opportunity credit could have been used for tuition and expenses for an undergraduate or other recognized education credential. The credit could only have been used for the first 4 years of postsecondary education, as long as the taxpayer or dependents were enrolled at least half time. The maximum credit per student was \$2,500 (100 percent of the first \$2,000 and 25 percent of the next \$2,000 of qualified education expenses). The credit was available for the first 4 years of postsecondary education and 40 percent of the credit (up to \$1,000) was refundable. (See also “American Opportunity Credit.”) Both of these credits were calculated using Form 8863, *Education Credits*.

Education IRA (Coverdell Education Savings Accounts)

Taxpayers could have made nondeductible contributions up to \$2,000 annually to an educational IRA for a child under age 18. The earnings and withdrawals were tax-free to the extent that withdrawals did not exceed the beneficiary’s qualified higher education expenses for the year. The educational IRA contribution was phased out for modified AGI between \$95,000 and \$110,000 (between \$190,000 and \$220,000 for taxpayers married filing jointly). (See also “Individual Retirement Arrangement Deductible Payments.”)

Educator Expenses Deduction

(line 23, Form 1040)

If a taxpayer was an eligible educator in kindergarten through grade 12 in 2015, a deduction of \$250 (\$500 for two educators filing jointly) of qualified expenses could have been taken, even if the taxpayer did not itemize deductions. Taxpayers may have been able to deduct expenses more than the \$250 limit on Schedule A, line 21.

Employee Business Expense

See “Unreimbursed Employee Business Expenses.”

Estate and Trust Net Income or Loss

(line 37, Schedule E, Part III)

This was the beneficiary’s share of fiduciary income (with the exception of the items described below, which were reported separately) from any estate or trust. Income from estates or trusts included amounts required to be distributed, amounts

credited to beneficiaries’ accounts from current-year fiduciary income (whether or not actually distributed), and any other amounts which were properly paid, credited, or required to be distributed for that year.

Taxpayers excluded their share of dividends and gains or losses from sales of capital assets or other property from estate or trust income. Such income (which usually makes up the largest portion of income from estates or trusts) was included on the tax return on the separate lines provided for these income types and was not separately identified for the statistics. A loss from an estate or trust was allocated to the beneficiary only upon settlement or termination of an estate or trust, and was limited by the “passive loss” rules.

The columns labeled “net income” and “net loss” represent the sum of all income and losses reported from all estates or trusts, i.e., the net amount computed on a return-by-return basis.

Estate and Trust Net Income Less Loss

See “Estate and Trust Net Income or Loss.”

Estimated Tax Payments

(line 65, Form 1040)

This figure represents the total tax payments made for 2015 using Form 1040-ES, and any overpayment from the taxpayer’s 2014 return that was applied to the 2015 estimated tax. Generally, individuals were required to make estimated tax payments if they expected to owe, after subtracting withholding and credits, at least \$1,000 in tax for 2015, and they expected withholding and credits to be less than the smaller of: (a) 90 percent of the tax shown on Form 1040 for 2015, or (b) 100 percent of the tax shown on Form 1040 for 2014 (110 percent of the tax shown on Form 1040 for 2014 for taxpayers with adjusted gross income greater than \$150,000 (\$75,000 for married filing separately)).

Excess Advance Premium Tax Credit Repayment

(line 46, Form 1040)

Beginning in 2014, a taxpayer may have been eligible for the premium tax credit if they, their spouse, or a dependent enrolled in health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace. The premium tax credit was used to help pay for this health insurance. The taxpayer may have elected to have all or part of the credit paid in advance, during the year, to the insurer. Advance payments were based on an estimate of the taxpayer’s income and family size for the coverage year. If advance payments of this credit were more than the premium tax credit a taxpayer could claim, the excess amount, subject to certain limitations based on household income and filing status, was reported here. This was calculated using Form 8962, *Premium Tax Credit*. For these statistics, this amount was excluded from “total income tax” and included instead in “all other taxes.”

(See also “Advance Payment of Premium Tax Credit,” “Net Premium Tax Credit,” “Total Premium Tax Credit,” “Total Income Tax,” and “All Other Taxes.”)

Excess Social Security Taxes Withheld Δ

(line 71, Form 1040)

If a taxpayer earned more than \$118,500 in total wages from two or more employers in 2015, too much Social Security (FICA) or Railroad Retirement Tax Act (RRTA) tax may have been withheld from his or her wages. (There was no wage base limitation for Medicare tax; therefore, all covered wages were subject to Medicare tax.) Filers claimed credit for such overpayment on their income tax returns. Excess Social Security or RRTA taxes withheld could be taken as a credit toward payment of the taxpayer’s income tax, or be refunded. In the case of a joint return, the credit was computed separately for each taxpayer.

Exemptions Δ

(lines 6, 42, Form 1040)

In the computation of taxable income, a \$4,000 deduction was allowed for each exemption claimed. In general, an exemption was allowed for each taxpayer and dependent shown on a return. If an individual who could be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer also filed his or her own return, that individual could not claim his or her own exemption or any exemptions for dependents.

With few exceptions, an individual had to meet several requirements to qualify as a dependent for 2015:

- 1) The individual was related to the taxpayer (such as a son, daughter, or parent);
- 2) The individual was under age 19, or a full-time student under age 24, or any age and permanently and totally disabled;
- 3) The individual did not provide half of his or her support for 2015;
- 4) The individual lived with the taxpayer for more than half of 2015;
- 5) The individual met certain citizenship requirements; and
- 6) The individual did not file a joint return with his or her spouse.

If a taxpayer had an AGI above certain levels, then his or her personal exemption deduction may have been reduced or eliminated. For single taxpayers the phase-out began at \$258,250 and was completed at \$380,750; for married persons filing jointly and surviving spouses, the phase-out began at \$309,900 and was completed at \$432,400; for heads of households, the phase-out began at \$284,050 and was completed at \$406,550; and for married persons filing separately, the

phase-out began at \$154,950 and was completed at \$216,200. These statistics classify exemptions as children at home, children away from home, parents, and other.

Farm Net Income or Loss

(line 18, Form 1040)

This source of income or loss was reported by individuals who were sole proprietors of farms. When there were two or more farms operated by the same taxpayer, the single amount of profit or loss included in the adjusted gross income represented the combined profit and loss from all farming activities. Farm business total expenses (line 33, Schedule F) were deducted from farm gross income (line 9, Schedule F) to arrive at farm net profit or loss.

Gains from certain sales of livestock and crops that qualified for capital gains treatment were excluded from farm net profit or loss and included in capital gains. Farm rental income was included in total rent net income or loss. (See also “Farm Rental Net Income or Loss.”)

Farm Rental Net Income or Loss

(line 40, Schedule E)

Taxpayers were required to report farm rental income and expenses separately from other farm profit or loss if they: a) received income based on crops or livestock produced by the tenant, and b) did not manage or operate the farm to any great extent. These income and expenses were reported on Form 4835, with net income less loss then reported on Schedule E. (See also “Total Rent and Royalty Income or Loss.”)

Farm Rental Net Income Less Loss

See “Farm Rental Net Income or Loss.”

Filing Status

See “Marital Filing Status.”

First-time Homebuyer Credit Repayment

(line 60b, Form 1040)

Taxpayers claiming the first-time homebuyer credit for a home bought in 2008 generally had to begin repaying it on their 2010 return. In addition, taxpayers generally must repay any credit claimed for a home bought after 2008 if the taxpayer disposed of the home, or it ceased to be their main home during the 36-month period that began on the purchase date.

Foreign-Earned Income Exclusion Δ

(included in line 21, Form 1040)

Qualified taxpayers could exclude from total income a certain amount of foreign-earned income and employer-provided foreign housing expenses if their home, for tax purposes, was in a foreign country (claimed on Forms 2555 or 2555-EZ). Taxpayers had to refigure their tax using the foreign-earned income worksheet. The refigured tax was based on

nonexcluded income using the tax tables that would have applied had they not claimed the exclusion.

Qualifying individuals were limited to the lesser of a \$100,800 exclusion or their total foreign-earned income. Also, they could elect to exclude a portion of employer-provided foreign housing expenses. If the taxpayer elected to take both the foreign-earned income and foreign housing exclusions, the total amount of both exclusions was limited to the taxpayer's total foreign earned income. The foreign-earned income exclusion was entered as a negative amount on this line by the taxpayer, but edited into a separate field during service center processing. The employer-provided foreign housing exclusion was left as part of other income. (See also "Other Net Income or Net Loss.")

Foreign Housing Deduction Δ

(included in line 36, Form 1040)

Qualified taxpayers who had foreign housing expenses that were not provided by their employer, were eligible to deduct these expenses from total income (claimed on Form 2555). This deduction was limited to \$30,240, with exceptions based on the location of the foreign housing. This deduction, together with the foreign-earned income exclusion, was limited to the total amount of foreign-earned income for 2015.

Foreign Tax Credit

(line 48, Form 1040)

Individuals who paid income or excess profit taxes to a foreign country or U.S. possession could claim either this credit against Federal income tax liability, or take an itemized deduction for the amount of the foreign tax payment. Depending on the taxpayer's income and taxes, the foreign tax credit could be less than the amount of foreign tax paid. Qualifying foreign taxes paid in excess of the allowable amount for Tax Year 2015 could be carried back 1 year and then forward 10 years. If this credit was more than \$300 (\$600 for married filing a joint return), the taxpayer had to file Form 1116 to get this credit.

Forms 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ

The individual income tax system utilizes three major forms to collect income and tax information: Forms 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ. A variation of the basic forms is an electronically filed form. Returns of all types were included in the population of returns subjected to sampling and classified by the guidelines for filing a standard form (i.e., Forms 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ) discussed below. For example, if a return was filed electronically that could have been a Form 1040EZ had it been filed on paper, it would have been considered a Form 1040EZ in the statistics. However, a paper return that could have been filed on a simpler form was classified by the form on which it was actually filed.

The forms represent different levels of complexity with regard to the information reported. The Form 1040EZ, for instance, could only be used if taxable income was less than

\$100,000, nonwage income came from only a limited number of sources, and the taxpayer did not itemize deductions, have any dependents to claim, and had no adjustments to income. Form 1040A could only be used if taxable income was less than \$100,000, nonwage income came from only a limited number of sources, and the taxpayer did not itemize deductions. Form 1040 had to be used if taxable income was greater than \$100,000. In addition, the taxpayer had to file Form 1040 if he or she itemized deductions or had income (or losses) from a source not provided for on Form 1040A or 1040EZ, used certain tax provisions, or had certain tax credits not on Form 1040A or 1040EZ. (These forms can be found in Section 5, 2015 Forms.)

Form 8814

See "Parents' Election To Report Child's Interest and Dividends."

Gambling Earnings

(included in line 21, Form 1040)

Gambling earnings include proceeds from lotteries, raffles, etc., and are included in line 21, Form 1040. These gambling earnings were edited into a separate field during service center processing. Gambling losses were not allowed to offset winnings on line 21. Instead, gambling losses were an itemized deduction reported on Schedule A. (See also "Gambling Loss Deduction" and "Other Net Income or Net Loss.")

Gambling Loss Deduction

(included in line 28, Schedule A)

Gambling losses (to the extent of gambling winnings) were fully deductible for taxpayers who itemized deductions. (See also "Gambling Earnings," "Total Itemized Deductions," and "Miscellaneous Itemized Deductions.")

General Business Credit

(line 54a, Form 1040)

The general business credit consisted of the:

- investment credit;
- research credit;
- low-income housing credit;
- disabled access credit;
- renewable electricity production credit;
- Indian employment credit;
- orphan drug credit;
- new markets credit;
- small employer pension plan startup credit;
- employer-provided child care facilities and services credit;

- biodiesel fuels credit;
- low sulfur diesel fuel production credit;
- distilled spirits credit;
- nonconventional source fuel credit;
- energy-efficient home credit;
- energy-efficient appliance credit;
- alternative motor vehicle credit;
- alternative fuel vehicle refueling property credit;
- mine rescue team training credit;
- agricultural chemicals security credit (carryforward only);
- credit for employer differential wage payments;
- carbon dioxide sequestration credit;
- qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle credit;
- qualified plug-in electric vehicle credit (carryforward only);
- new hire retention credit (carryforward only); and
- credit from electing large partnerships.

Taxpayers claiming more than one of these credits were required to summarize them on Form 3800, *General Business Credit*. The general business credit was limited to 100 percent of the first \$25,000 (\$12,500 for a married couple filing separately) of tax liability, and 25 percent of the excess over \$25,000. If the current-year general business credit exceeded the tax liability limitation, the excess amount could be carried back to the preceding tax year, then forward 20 years.

Starting in 2008, the general business credit was expanded to accommodate certain general business credits allowed against the alternative minimum tax. These credits consisted of the:

- investment credit;
- work opportunity credit;
- alcohol and cellulosic biofuel fuels credit;
- low-income housing credit;
- renewable electricity, refined coal, and Indian coal production credit;
- credit for employer Social Security and Medicare taxes paid on certain employee tips;
- qualified railroad track maintenance credit; and
- credit for small employer health insurance premiums.

Starting in 2010, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 allowed general business credits for eligible small businesses to

offset both the regular and alternative minimum tax (AMT). Such eligible small business credits determined for the first tax year in 2010 are carried back 5 years. For purposes of the statistics in this publication, an eligible small business is a sole proprietorship with average gross receipts (reduced by returns and allowances) of less than \$50 million for the 3-tax-year period preceding the tax year of the credits. For 2013 and forward, taxpayers could only take carryforwards of these eligible small business credits.

General Sales Tax Deduction

See “Sales Tax Deduction.”

Health Care: Individual Responsibility

(line 61, Form 1040)

Beginning in 2014, taxpayers must have had health care coverage, qualified for a health coverage exemption, or made a shared responsibility payment with their tax return. If a taxpayer had health care coverage for every month of 2015 for themselves, their spouse (if filing jointly), and anyone they could claim as a dependent, they checked the box on line 61, Form 1040, and left the entry space blank. Otherwise, taxpayers had to use Form 8965, *Health Coverage Exemptions*, to claim a coverage exemption on their tax returns, including exemptions granted by the Marketplace. If any member of the tax household had neither health care coverage nor coverage exemption for any month, taxpayers reported their shared responsibility payment on line 61, Form 1040. For 2015, the shared responsibility payment increased to \$325 per adult and \$162.50 per child (under 18) up to \$975 for a family, or 2 percent of the taxpayer’s household income above the tax return filing threshold for the taxpayer’s filing status, whichever was greater. In 2014, it was \$95 per adult and \$47.50 per child up to \$285 for a family, or 1 percent of the taxpayer’s household income above the tax return filing threshold for the taxpayers filing status, whichever was greater.

Health Coverage Tax Credit (formerly Health Insurance Credit) Δ

(line 73c, Form 1040)

The health coverage tax credit, which had expired at the end of 2013, was reinstated retroactive to January 1, 2014. A taxpayer who was an eligible trade adjustment assistance (TAA), alternate TAA, or Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation pension recipient was able to take this credit (claimed on Form 8885). A taxpayer could not take the credit if he or she was covered under any employer-sponsored health plan. The credit was equal to 72.5 percent of the amount the taxpayer paid for qualified health insurance for 2015, minus any Archer medical savings account and health savings account (HSA) distributions used to pay the amount. For these statistics, the health coverage credit was divided into three parts: the amount used to offset income tax before credits; the amount used to offset all other taxes; and the refundable portion.

Health Savings Account Deduction Δ

(line 25, Form 1040)

A deduction for contributions to a health savings account (HSA) was limited to \$3,350; \$6,650 for family coverage (claimed on Form 8889). These limits were \$1,000 higher if the taxpayer was age 55 or older. A taxpayer could not contribute to an HSA starting the first month that he or she was enrolled in Medicare. A taxpayer was able to exclude from income a qualified funding distribution made from an IRA to an HSA. This was a one-time distribution made directly by the trustee of the taxpayer's IRA to the HSA. In addition, an employer was able to make a rollover contribution to an employee's HSA from a qualified health flexible spending arrangement or a qualified health reimbursable arrangement.

Home Mortgage Interest Deduction

(lines 10+11, Schedule A)

The total home mortgage interest deduction consists of interest paid to financial institutions on Schedule A, line 10, and interest paid to individuals on Schedule A, line 11. (See also "Interest Paid Deduction.")

Home Mortgage Interest Paid to Financial Institutions

(line 10, Schedule A)

See "Home Mortgage Interest Deduction."

Home Mortgage Interest Paid to Individuals

(line 11, Schedule A)

See "Home Mortgage Interest Deduction."

Household Employment Tax

(line 60a, Form 1040)

Taxpayers paying domestic employees more than \$1,900 annually generally had to pay Social Security, Medicare, and Federal unemployment taxes for these employees by filing Schedule H, *Household Employment Taxes*, with their income tax return. For 2015, the Federal Unemployment Tax (FUTA) tax rate was 6.0 percent, but the taxpayer could subtract up to 5.4 percent of this if they paid State unemployment taxes. The rate for the employee and employer portion of Social Security tax was 6.2 percent each, or 12.4 percent in total. Beginning in 2013, taxpayers had to withhold a 0.9 percent Additional Medicare Tax from wages they paid to an employee in excess of \$200,000 in a calendar year. The Additional Medicare Tax was only imposed on the employee.

Income Subject to Tax

See "Modified Taxable Income."

Income Tax After Credits Δ

(line 56 minus part or all of lines 46, 66a, 68, 69, 73a, and 73c, Form 1040)

To arrive at income tax after credits, taxpayers deducted total credits (line 55, Form 1040) from income tax before

credits (line 47, Form 1040). For these statistics, tax was further reduced by the excess advance premium tax credit repayment (line 46) and the portion of the earned income credit (line 66a), American opportunity credit (line 68), net premium tax credit (line 69), the regulated investment company credit (line 73), and health coverage credit (line 73) which did not result in a negative tax. These portions of the earned income credit, American opportunity credit, net premium tax credit, the regulated investment company credit, and health coverage credit were included in the total refundable credits used to offset income tax before credits. Any tax remaining after subtraction of all credits, including the credits mentioned above, was tabulated as "income tax after credits."

Income Tax Before Credits

(line 47, Form 1040)

In this report, this amount consisted of the tax liability on taxable income, computed by using the tax tables, tax rate schedules, Schedule D Tax worksheet, foreign-earned income worksheet, Schedule J, *Income Averaging for Farmers and Fishermen*, or Form 8615, plus Form(s) 8814 (line 44a), any additional taxes from Form 4972 (line 44b), 962 election (line 44c), and the alternative minimum tax (line 45). This amount differed from Form 1040, which included the taxes listed above plus excess advance premium tax credit repayment from Form 8962 (line 46). Excess advance premium tax credit repayment was instead included in "all other taxes."

Income Tax Withheld

(line 64, Form 1040)

"Income tax withheld" included amounts deducted from salaries, wages, and tips, as reported on Form W-2; amounts deducted from pensions, annuities, and certain gambling winnings as reported on Forms 1099-R and W-2G; and amounts withheld from distributions of profit-sharing, retirement plans, and individual retirement accounts, as reported on Form 1099-R.

In some cases, a backup withholding rate of 28 percent was required for interest, dividend, and royalty payments which, generally, were not subject to withholding.

Individual Retirement Arrangement (Deductible) Payments Δ

(line 32, Form 1040)

An individual retirement arrangement (IRA) is a savings program that generally allows a taxpayer to set aside money for retirement. In addition to the traditional IRA, there were two other plans available: the education IRA and the Roth IRA. Information on these two IRAs can be found under their separate headings.

Taxpayers not covered by an employment retirement plan may have been able to deduct all contributions to a traditional IRA. For taxpayers covered by a retirement plan at work, the traditional IRA deduction phased out between \$98,000 and

\$118,000 of modified AGI for married persons filing jointly and surviving spouses; between \$61,000 and \$71,000 for single filers, heads of households, or married filing separately taxpayers living apart; and between \$0 and \$10,000 for married filing separately taxpayers living together. If one spouse was an active participant in an employer plan but the other was not, the deduction for the IRA contribution of the spouse not covered by an employer plan phased out between modified AGI of \$183,000 and \$193,000. Deductible contributions could be subtracted from the employee's total income in arriving at adjusted gross income.

Contributions to an IRA (whether or not it was deductible) were limited to the lesser of: (a) the individual's taxable compensation for the year, or (b) \$5,500 (\$6,500, if age 50 or older). Married couples filing a joint return could contribute up to \$5,500 (\$6,500, if age 50 or older) to each spouse's IRA, even if one spouse had minimal or no compensation. Therefore, the total combined IRA contributions could be up to \$11,000 (\$13,000, if age 50 or older) for a year.

Unless they were disabled, taxpayers could not start withdrawing funds from the traditional IRA account until they reached age 59½. After age 70½, taxpayers were required to begin withdrawals. Penalty taxes were assessed if the taxpayer failed to comply with these limitations. The additional tax on early withdrawals from a traditional IRA was eliminated if the distributions were used for qualified higher education expenses. This additional tax was also eliminated on distributions up to \$10,000 from traditional or Roth IRAs if the distributions were used to buy, build, or rebuild a qualified first home. A taxpayer was able to exclude from income a qualified funding distribution made from an IRA to an HSA. Payments to an IRA for a particular taxable year had to be made no later than the due date of the individual's return for that year. (See also "Roth IRA" and "Education IRA.")

Individual Retirement Arrangement Taxable Distributions

(line 15b, Form 1040)

Any money or property received from a taxpayer's IRA account was considered a distribution and, generally, had to be included in the taxpayer's total income in the year received. Exempted from this rule were tax-free roll-over distributions from one retirement account to another, distributions where the payout represented previously taxed nondeductible IRA contributions, distributions from a Roth IRA, distribution made to the taxpayers HSA account, and distributions from an IRA made directly by the trustee to a qualified charitable organization if the taxpayer was at least 70½ when the distribution was made. If a taxpayer converted from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, the taxpayer was required to include in gross income the amount that would have been reported in income if a withdrawal from this IRA had been made. The taxpayer did not include in gross income any part of the conversion that was a nondeductible contribution in a traditional IRA.

Starting in 2010, the \$100,000 modified AGI limit on roll-overs and conversions from eligible retirement plans to Roth IRAs was eliminated. Also, married taxpayers filing separately were allowed to roll over or convert amounts to a Roth IRA.

Interest Paid Deduction

(line 15, Schedule A, includes all lines 10-14)

The rules for deducting home mortgage interest for 2015 were: (1) if a taxpayer took out a mortgage before October 13, 1987, secured by the taxpayer's main or second home, all the interest was deductible; (2) if the taxpayer's mortgage was after October 13, 1987, and the funds were used to buy, build, or improve that home, all interest could be deducted if the total of all mortgages on the property was \$1 million or less (\$500,000 if married filing separately); and (3) taxpayers could deduct all of the interest on an additional \$100,000 (\$50,000 if married filing separately) of mortgages on their main or second home other than to buy, build, or improve that home.

Generally, investment interest (interest paid on money borrowed that is allocable to property held for investment) was fully deductible up to the amount of net investment income. Beginning in 1993, the net investment income that was to be compared to investment interest could not include any net capital gains or qualified dividends that were taxed on the capital gains tax rates. Interest relating to business, royalty, and rental income was deducted directly from these items and was not reflected in the interest paid statistics.

Taxpayers could deduct mortgage insurance premiums for mortgage insurance contracts issued after December 31, 2006. They also could include in interest deductible points, which were points not reported on Form 1098.

Interest Received

See "Taxable Interest Received."

Interest, Tax-Exempt

See "Tax-Exempt Interest."

Investment Interest Expense Deduction

(line 14, Schedule A)

See "Interest Paid Deduction" and "Total Itemized Deductions."

Itemized Deduction Limitation

See "Total Itemized Deductions."

Itemized Deductions

See "Total Itemized Deductions" and specific itemized deductions.

Limited Miscellaneous Deductions

(lines 21-27, Schedule A)

Certain taxpayer expenses could be deducted on Schedule A, but were limited to the amount exceeding 2 percent of adjusted gross income. These included: unreimbursed employee business expenses (including qualifying educational expenses), tax preparation fees, expenses paid to produce or collect taxable income, and expenses paid to manage or protect property held for earning income (including safe deposit boxes).

Long-Term Loss Carryover

(line 14, Schedule D)

Long-term capital losses from the prior-year Schedule D that are not included in taxable income are carried over to the current year. (See “Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss.”)

Marginal Tax Rates

“Marginal tax rate” as cited in this publication is the highest statutory rate on taxable income. It includes ordinary tax rates and capital gains tax rates. This concept does not include the effects of AMT, Net Investment Income Tax, or tax credits. Also, for some taxpayers, the statutory marginal tax rate may differ from the effective marginal tax rate. For example, extra income received by certain taxpayers resulted in the phase-out of deductions, exemptions, and credits (i.e., tuition and fees deduction, education credit, etc.). Therefore, an extra \$1 of income could have added more than \$1 of taxable income. While this taxpayer could face a statutory marginal tax rate of 39.6 percent, the effective marginal rate faced by the taxpayer would be somewhat higher. (See also “Tax Generated.”)

Marital Filing Status

(lines 1-5, Form 1040)

The five marital filing status classifications were:

- (1) single person (not head of household or surviving spouses);
- (2) married person filing jointly;
- (3) married person filing separately;
- (4) head of household; and
- (5) surviving spouse.

Marital filing status was usually determined as of the last day of the tax year. The exception was, if a spouse died during the tax year, the surviving spouse was considered married for the entire year. If a taxpayer was divorced during the tax year and did not remarry, the taxpayer was considered to be unmarried for the entire year. Surviving spouse status could only be used by those taxpayers with a qualifying dependent whose spouse died in 2013 or 2014. Starting in 2013, if a taxpayer had a same-sex spouse and had been legally married in a State (or foreign country), the taxpayer and his or her spouse generally had to use the married filing jointly or married filing separately filing status.

Medical and Dental Expenses

(line 1, Schedule A)

See “Medical and Dental Expenses Deduction.”

Medical and Dental Expenses Deduction

(lines 1-4, Schedule A)

Qualified medical expenses included nonreimbursed payments made for the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of disease, or for medical or dental insurance. However, taxpayers who took the self-employed health insurance adjustment had to reduce their total premium deduction by the amount of the adjustment (see “Self-Employed Health Insurance”). In general, medical and dental expenses could be claimed as an itemized deduction to the extent that they exceeded 10.0 percent of adjusted gross income. However, if at least one of the taxpayers were age 65 or over, the threshold was 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income. Amounts paid for medicine and drugs were deductible only if they were available by prescription only, or they were for insulin. Taxpayers could deduct costs for transportation to obtain medical care, and also a maximum of \$50 per day for certain lodging expenses incurred while traveling to obtain medical care. Capture of data for these lines was limited to those taxpayers that had a value on line 4, medical and dental expenses deduction. (See also “Total Itemized Deductions.”)

Medical and Dental Expenses Limitation

(line 3, Schedule A)

See “Medical and Dental Expenses Deduction” and “Total Itemized Deductions.”

Medical Savings Account Deduction

See “Archer Medical Savings Account Deduction.”

Minimum Tax Credit

(line 54b, Form 1040)

See “Prior-Year Minimum Tax Credit.”

Miscellaneous Deductions Other Than Gambling

(included in line 28, Schedule A)

Other fully deductible expenses included such items as impairment-related work expenses for disabled persons, and amortizable bonds. (See also “Miscellaneous Itemized Deductions” and “Total Itemized Deductions.”)

Miscellaneous Deductions Subject to 2 Percent AGI Limitation

(lines 21-27, Schedule A)

See “Limited Miscellaneous Deductions” and “Miscellaneous Itemized Deductions.”

Miscellaneous Itemized Deductions

(lines 21-28, Schedule A)

Miscellaneous itemized deductions were divided into two types. The first, such as employee business expenses, included those items that were limited to the amount exceeding 2 percent of adjusted gross income, while other deductions, such as gambling losses not in excess of gambling winnings, and casualty and theft losses of income-producing property, were fully deductible. (See also “Gambling Loss Deduction,” “Limited Miscellaneous Deductions,” and “Miscellaneous Deductions Other Than Gambling.”)

Modified Taxable Income

“Modified taxable income” is the term used to describe “income subject to tax,” the actual base on which tax is computed for the statistics in Tables 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6. For most taxpayers filing current-year returns, modified taxable income is identical to “taxable income.” For those returns with a Form 8814, *Parents’ Election To Report Child’s Interest and Dividends*, attached, modified taxable income includes the sum of all children’s interest and dividend income taxed at a 10-percent rate, as well as the parent’s taxable income.

For prior-year returns included in the 2015 statistics, a modified taxable income was calculated by using the tax rate schedule for 2015 to impute a hypothetical taxable income amount necessary to yield the given amount of tax reported.

In most cases, a person who has no tax will have no modified taxable income. Since the tax rate schedule is used to generate the modified taxable income, it is possible for a person to have up to \$4 of taxable income but have no modified taxable income, because the tax reported would be zero. The exception is for certain taxpayers who only have income taxed at the long-term capital gains rates, and that income is less than the cutoff for the beginning of the 25-percent tax bracket. In this case, the taxpayer would have no tax and would have modified taxable income that was taxed at 0 percent.

Mortgage Interest Credit

(line 54c, Form 1040)

Taxpayers could claim this credit only if they were issued a qualified Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) by a State or local governmental unit. This credit was calculated by using Form 8396, *Mortgage Interest Credit*.

Moving Expenses Adjustment

(line 26, Form 1040)

Taxpayers deducted current-year qualified moving expenses in the calculation of adjusted gross income as a statutory adjustment. To qualify for this deduction, the new workplace had to be at least 50 miles farther from the former residence than the former workplace. Deductible expenses included those incurred to move household and personal goods, and travel including lodging en route to the new residence. Expenses no longer deductible included: meals while moving from the old residence to the new residence; travel expenses

for pre-move house-hunting trips; expenses while occupying temporary quarters in the area of the new job; and qualified residence sale, purchase, and lease expenses. This adjustment was calculated using Form 3903, *Moving Expenses*.

Net Investment Income Tax

(lines 62b, Form 1040)

Beginning in 2013, taxpayers may have been subject to a Net Investment Income Tax (NIIT). The NIIT is 3.8 percent of the smaller of a taxpayer’s net investment income or the excess of a taxpayer’s modified adjusted gross income over \$200,000 if single or head of household (\$250,000 if married filing jointly or qualifying widow(er), or \$125,000 if married filing separately). For these statistics, the NIIT was excluded from “All Other Taxes” and instead included in “Total Income Tax.” The NIIT was calculated on Form 8960, *Net Investment Income Tax—Individuals, Estates, and Trusts*.

Net Long-Term Adjustment

(lines 8g-10g, Schedule D)

See “Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss”; also “Net Long-Term Capital Gain or Loss from Sales of Capital Assets.”

Net Long-Term Capital Gain or Loss

(line 15, Schedule D)

This includes gain or loss from sales of capital assets, gain or loss from other forms, and gain or loss from a partnership/S corporation held more than 1 year, less any long-term loss carryover. (See also “Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss.”)

Net Long-Term Cost or Basis

(lines 8e-10e, Schedule D)

See “Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss”; also “Net Long-Term Capital Gain or Loss from Sales of Capital Assets.”

Net Long-Term Gain or Loss from Other Forms

(line 11, Schedule D)

The other forms include:

- Long-term gains from Forms 4797, 2439, and 6252;
- Long-term gain or loss from Forms 4684, 6781, and 8824.

See “Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss.”

Net Long-Term Gain or Loss from Partnership/S Corporation

(line 12, Schedule D)

See “Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss”; also “Net Long-Term Capital Gain or Loss.”

Net Long-Term Gain or Loss from Sales of Capital Assets

(lines 8a-10, Schedule D)

These include gains or losses from sales of capital assets, such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc., held more than 1 year. Starting in 2013, taxpayers could combine certain transactions on line 8a of Schedule D without completing Form 8949. Taxpayers must have received a Form 1099-B that shows basis was reported to the IRS and does not show a nondeductible wash sale loss in box 5, and the taxpayers did not need to make any adjustments to the basis or type of gain or loss reported on Form 1099-B or to their gain or loss. For all other transactions not summarized on line 8a, taxpayers had to report these on Form 8949, *Sales and Other Dispositions of Capital Assets*, into three categories: Transactions reported on Form 1099-B with basis reported to the IRS; transactions reported on Form 1099-B but basis not reported to the IRS; or transactions without a Form 1099-B. In addition to these three categories, taxpayers had to report the transactions' net long-term sales price, cost or basis and adjustments to gain or loss on lines on lines 8b through 10 of the Schedule D. (See "Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss"; also "Net Long-Term Capital Gain or Loss.")

Net Long-Term Sales Price

(lines 8d-10d, Schedule D)

See "Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss"; also "Net Long-Term Capital Gain or Loss from Sales of Capital Assets."

Net Operating Loss

(included in line 21, Form 1040)

"Net operating loss" was the excess loss of a business when taxable income for a prior year was less than zero. The loss could be applied to the AGI for the current year and carried forward up to 20 years. (See also "Other Net Income or Net Loss.")

Net Premium Tax Credit

(line 69, Form 1040)

Beginning in 2014, a taxpayer may have been eligible for the premium tax credit if they, their spouse, or a dependent enrolled in health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace. The premium tax credit was used to help pay for this health insurance. If the total premium tax credit that a taxpayer was eligible for was greater than the advance payments of the premium tax credit that the taxpayer had already received, then the taxpayer claimed the difference as a net premium tax credit. If advance payments of the premium tax credit were more than the premium tax credit the taxpayer could claim, the taxpayer had to pay an excess advance premium tax credit repayment. These calculations were made using Form 8962, *Premium Tax Credit*. (See also "Advance Payment of Premium Tax Credit," "Excess Advance Premium Tax Credit Repayment," and "Total Premium Tax Credit.")

Net Short-Term Adjustment

(lines 1g-3g, Schedule D)

See "Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss"; also "Net Short-Term Capital Gain or Loss from Sales of Capital Assets."

Net Short-Term Capital Gain or Loss

(line 7, Schedule D)

This included gain or loss from sales of capital assets, gain or loss from other forms, and gain or loss from a partnership/S corporation held 1 year or less, minus any short-term loss carryover. (See also "Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss.")

Net Short-Term Cost or Basis

(lines 1e-3e, Schedule D)

See "Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss"; also "Net Short-Term Capital Gain or Loss from Sales of Capital Assets."

Net Short-Term Gain or Loss from Other Forms

(line 4, Schedule D)

The other forms include:

- Short-term gains from Form 6252;
- Short-term gain or loss from Forms 4684, 6781, and 8824.

(See "Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss.")

Net Short-Term Gain or Loss from Partnership/S Corporation

(line 5, Schedule D)

See "Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss"; also "Net Short-Term Capital Gain or Loss."

Net Short-Term Gain or Loss from Sales of Capital Assets

(lines 1a-3, Schedule D)

These include gains or losses from sales of capital assets, such as stock, bonds, mutual funds, etc., held 1 year or less. Starting in 2013, taxpayers could combine certain transactions on line 1a of Schedule D without completing Form 8949. A taxpayer must have received a Form 1099-B that shows basis was reported to the IRS and does not show a nondeductible wash sale loss in box 5, and the taxpayer did not need to make any adjustments to the basis or type of gain or loss reported on Form 1099-B or to their gain or loss. For all other transactions not summarized on 1a, taxpayers had to report these on Form 8949, *Sales and Other Dispositions of Capital Assets*, into three categories: Transactions reported on Form 1099-B with basis reported to the IRS; transactions reported on Form 1099-B but basis not reported to the IRS; or transactions without a Form 1099-B. In addition to these three categories, taxpayers had to report the transactions' net short-term sales price, cost or basis, and adjustments to gain or loss on lines 1b through 3 of

Schedule D. (See “Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss”; also “Net Short-Term Capital Gain or Loss.”)

Net Short-Term Sales Price

(lines 1d–3d, Schedule D)

See “Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss”; also “Net Short-Term Capital Gain or Loss from Sales of Capital Assets.”

Nondeductible Passive Losses

(calculated on Form 8582)

Nondeductible passive losses were calculated by subtracting deductible passive losses reported on Form 8582 (line 16) from total current-year passive losses (lines 1b+2a+3b) and were limited to zero.

Nontaxable Combat Pay Election

(line 66b, Form 1040; line 4b, Schedule 8812)

Members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in a combat zone could have excluded certain pay from their income. The qualified taxpayer’s entitlement to the pay must have been fully accrued in a month during which they served in a combat zone or were hospitalized because of wounds, disease, or injury incurred while serving in the combat zone. However, this nontaxable pay was used to gain benefits for both the EIC and additional child tax credit purposes.

Nontaxable Returns

See “Taxable and Nontaxable Returns.”

Nonrefundable Education Credits

(line 50, Form 1040)

See “Education Credits.”

One-Half of Self-Employment Tax

See “Deductible Part of Self-Employment Tax.”

Ordinary Dividends

(line 9a, Form 1040)

See “Dividends.”

Other Adjustments

(included in line 36, Form 1040)

See “Statutory Adjustments.”

Other Income Less Loss

See “Other Net Income or Net Loss.”

Other Net Income or Net Loss

(line 21, Form 1040)

Included in “other income” were items such as taxable distributions from a Coverdell education savings account, distributions from qualified tuition programs (though some may be excluded if not more than the taxpayer’s qualified higher education expenses), taxable distributions from Archer MSAs,

prizes, awards, jury duty fees, Alaska permanent fund dividends, alternative trade adjustment assistance payments, reimbursements for medical expenses, real estate taxes, or home mortgage interest taken as a deduction in a previous year, children’s interest and nonqualified dividends (including Alaska permanent fund dividends) from Form 8814, and any other income subject to tax for which no specific line was provided on the return form. Any foreign-earned income exclusions or “net operating loss” in an earlier year (that was carried forward and deducted for 2015) were entered as a negative amount on this line by the taxpayer but edited into separate fields during service center processing. However, any employer-provided foreign housing exclusions were included in other income (as a negative amount). Gambling earnings and cancellation of debt, which were entered on this line by the taxpayer, were also edited into a separate field during service center processing.

Other Limited Miscellaneous Deductions

(line 23, Schedule A)

See “Limited Miscellaneous Deductions.”

Other Payments

(line 73, Form 1040)

“Other payments” is a residual category included in the total of “tax payments,” but not shown separately. (See also “Tax Payments,” “Credit from Regulated Investment Companies,” and “Health Coverage Credit” (formally known as “Health Insurance Credit”).)

Other Tax Credits

(included in lines 54c, 55, Form 1040)

“Other tax credits” is a residual category in the statistics. It includes other miscellaneous credits that did not belong in any other category and were used to offset income tax before credits.

Other Taxes

(line 62, Form 1040)

See “All Other Taxes,” “Additional Medicare Taxes,” and “Net Investment Income Tax.”

Other Taxes Deduction

(line 8, Schedule A)

“Other taxes” consisted of any deductible tax other than State and local income taxes, real estate taxes, and personal property taxes. One example is taxes paid to a foreign country or U.S. possession. (See also “Taxes Paid Deduction.”)

Other Than Cash Contributions

(line 17, Schedule A)

See “Contributions Deduction.”

Overpayment

(line 75, Form 1040)

An overpayment of tax occurred when “total tax payments” exceeded “total tax.” Overpayments included the amount of any “refundable portion” of the refundable credits. An overpayment could be refunded or credited toward the estimated tax for the following year. (See also “Credit to 2015 Estimated Tax” and “Refund.”)

Overpayment Refunded

(line 76a, Form 1040)

See “Overpayment” and “Refund.”

Parents’ Election To Report Child’s Interest and Dividends

(calculated on Form 8814)

A parent could elect to report on his or her return income received by his or her child. If the election were made, the child was not required to file a return. A parent could make this election if the child:

- was under age 19 (or under 24 if full-time student) at the end of 2015;
- had income only from interest and dividends, including Alaska permanent fund dividends and capital gain distributions;
- had gross income for 2015 that was more than \$1,050 but less than \$10,500;
- did not file a joint return;
- had no estimated tax payments for 2015;
- did not have any overpayment of tax shown on his or her 2014 return applied to the 2015 return; and
- had no Federal income tax withheld from his or her income (backup withholding).

If the parents were not filing a joint return, special rules applied to determine which parent could make the election. (See also “Modified Taxable Income” and “Other Net Income or Net Loss.”)

Partnership and S Corporation Net Income or Loss

(line 32, Schedule E)

Partnerships and S Corporations (formerly Subchapter S Corporations) are not taxable entities; therefore, tax on their net profit or loss was levied, in general, directly on the members of the partnership or shareholders of the S Corporation. The profit or loss shown in the statistics was the taxpayer’s share of the ordinary gain or loss of the enterprise, and certain payments made to the taxpayer for the use of capital or, for partnerships, as salary. Net long-term capital gains received from partnerships and S Corporations were reported on Schedule D.

If a return showed net income from one partnership or S Corporation and a net loss from another, the two were added

together, and the return was tabulated by the net amount of income or loss in the appropriate column. Beginning in 1987, net income and net loss were reported separately for passive and non-passive partnership and S Corporation activities. Passive losses were limited to the amount that could offset passive income.

Partnership and S Corporation Net Income Less Loss

See “Partnership and S Corporation Net Income or Loss.”

Passive-Activity Losses

Losses generated by any “flow-through” business activity (such as partnerships or S Corporations for which profits and certain other amounts were passed directly through to the owners), in which the taxpayer did not “materially participate” (i.e., was not involved regularly and substantially in the operations of the activity), qualified as passive-activity losses. (See also “Nondeductible Passive Losses.”)

Payments to a Keogh Plan

(line 28, Form 1040)

Self-employed individuals were allowed to contribute to a Keogh retirement plan or a simplified employment pension plan and to deduct all or part of such contributions in computing adjusted gross income. The deductible amount was based on net earnings from self-employment.

Payment with Request for Extension of Filing Time

(line 70, Form 1040)

This payment was made when the taxpayer filed Form 4868, *Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return*. The extension granted the taxpayer additional time to file a tax return, but did not extend the time for paying the expected tax. Full payment of any tax due had to be made with the application for extension.

Penalty on Early Withdrawal of Savings

(line 30, Form 1040)

Taxpayers who paid penalties for the premature withdrawal of funds from time savings accounts or deposits could deduct those penalties as an adjustment to total income.

Penalty Tax on Qualified Retirement Plans

(line 59, Form 1040)

If taxpayers withdrew any funds from an Individual Retirement Arrangement or qualified retirement plan before they were either age 59½ or disabled, they were subject to a penalty tax equal to 10 percent of the premature distribution. Any taxpayer who failed to withdraw the minimum required distribution after reaching age 70½ had to pay a 50-percent excise tax on the excess accumulation. Contributions to an IRA in excess of the legal limitation for the year (the lesser

of \$5,500, \$11,000 if married filing jointly, or the taxpayer's compensation for the year) were subject to an excise tax equal to 6 percent of the excess contribution. If the taxpayer(s) were over 50, these limits were \$1,000 higher per taxpayer.

Pensions and Annuities

(lines 16a, 16b, Form 1040)

Generally, pensions are periodic income received after retirement for past services with an employer, while annuities are income payable at stated intervals after payment of a specific premium. A taxpayer could acquire a pension or annuity either by purchase from a commercial organization (usually life insurance, endowment, or annuity contracts) or under a plan or contract connected with the taxpayer's employment. Those pensions or annuities obtained in connection with employment could be purchased entirely by the taxpayer, or financed in part (a contributory plan) or in whole (a noncontributory plan) through employer contributions.

Since a noncontributory plan was paid for entirely by an employer, the amount received by the employee was fully taxable. This fully taxable pension was reported on lines 16a and 16b. For the taxpayer who participated in a contributory retirement plan while employed, the amount received was only partially taxable. In general, the amount excludable from gross income, the nontaxable portion, represented the taxpayer's contributions under the plan, while the taxable portion represented the employer's contribution and earnings on the entire investment. The nontaxable contribution had to be amortized over the expected lifetime of the taxpayer.

The entire amount of pensions and annuities received for the year was reported on line 16a of Form 1040. The taxable portion was computed on a separate worksheet and entered on line 16b.

Personal Property Taxes Deduction

(line 7, Schedule A)

Personal property tax could be included as a deduction if the tax was an annual tax based on value alone. (See also "Taxes Paid Deduction.")

Predetermined Estimated Tax Penalty

(line 79, Form 1040)

If a return showed taxes of \$1,000 or more owed on line 78 (tax due at time of filing) and this amount was more than 10 percent of the total tax, the taxpayer could owe a penalty, unless tax payments in the current year equaled or exceeded prior-year tax liability. Also, taxpayers could owe a penalty if they underpaid their 2014 estimated tax liability for any payment period. Form 2210, *Underpayment of Estimated Tax by Individuals, Estates, and Trusts*, was used to determine the amount of a penalty, if any.

For this report, the predetermined estimated tax penalty includes only the amount calculated by the taxpayer when the return was initially filed.

Prior-Year Minimum Tax Credit

(line 54b, Form 1040)

A minimum tax credit could be taken for 2015 by certain taxpayers who paid alternative minimum tax for 2014 or prior years. If all of the minimum tax credit (claimed on Form 8801) could not be used for 2015, the excess could be carried forward to later years. Beginning in 2013, a refundable credit was no longer available to taxpayers with a credit carryforward from earlier years.

Qualified Dividends

(line 9b, Form 1040)

See "Dividends."

Qualified Electric Vehicle Credit

(line 54c, Form 1040)

Taxpayers could have only claimed this credit if they had any qualified electric vehicle passive activity credits from prior years that were allowed for the current tax year. This credit was calculated first on Form 8582-CR and then on Form 8834.

Qualified Mortgage Insurance Premiums

(line 13, Schedule A)

Taxpayers may have been able to treat mortgage insurance premiums paid in connection with home acquisition debt as home mortgage interest. Taxpayers could deduct mortgage insurance premiums for mortgage insurance contracts issued after December 31, 2006. The deduction was phased out for taxpayers with AGI between \$100,000 and \$109,000 (\$50,000 and \$54,500 for married filing separately). This amount was reported on Schedule A, line 13.

Qualified Plug-In Electric Vehicle Credit

(line 54c, Form 1040)

Taxpayers could have claimed this credit for any nondepreciable qualified plug-in electric vehicle placed in service during the tax year. A qualified plug-in electric vehicle is generally any vehicle that is propelled to a significant extent by an electric motor that draws electricity from a battery that can be recharged from an external source. This credit was calculated by using Form 8936 and brought to Form 1040, line 54c, for personal use of a vehicle. Any credit for business use of a vehicle was brought to Form 3800, *General Business Credit*.

Real Estate Taxes

(line 6, Schedule A)

This amount included taxes paid on real estate that was owned and not used for business by the taxpayer. The real

estate taxes could only be used as a deduction if the taxes were based on the assessed value of the property. Also, the assessment had to be made uniformly on property throughout the community, and the proceeds had to be used for general community or governmental purposes. (See also “Taxes Paid Deductions.”)

Recapture Taxes

(included in line 62c, Form 1040)

The investment tax credit provisions of the law included a recapture rule which required taxpayers to pay back some or all of any investment credit previously taken on property disposed of before the end of the useful life claimed in computing the credit. The law specified that if property qualifying for the credit was disposed of before the end of its useful life, the tax for the year of disposal was increased by the difference between the credit originally claimed and the credit that would have been allowed based on the shorter actual life. Tax credits could not be applied against this additional tax. Also, tax from recapture of an education credit, the low-income housing credit, the Indian employment credit, the new markets credit, credit for employer-provided child care facilities, alternative motor vehicle credit, the alternative fuel vehicle refueling credit and the qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle credit, recapture of Federal mortgage subsidy, and COBRA premium assistance were reported here.

Refund

(line 76a, Form 1040)

A tax refund included all overpayment of income taxes not applied by the taxpayer as a credit to the next year’s estimated tax. (See also “Overpayment.”)

Refundable Credits

See “Total Refundable Credits.”

Refund Credited to Next Year

(line 77, Form 1040)

See “Credit to 2016 Estimated Tax.”

Regular Tax Computation

Typically, the taxpayer, in determining the amount of “tax generated,” first computed taxable income. Depending on marital status and size of taxable income, the taxpayer then used the tax table or applied the rates from one of four tax rate schedules to determine tax. Also, returns of taxpayers who had taxes computed by the Internal Revenue Service were classified under the regular tax computation method. If a taxpayer filed a Form 8615 or had any long-term capital gains, or qualified dividends taxed at a rate less than the tax tables, then the returns were not considered as having regular tax computations.

Rent Net Income or Net Loss

(line 21, Schedule E, columns A, B, C)

Rent net income or net loss was determined by deducting from gross rent the amounts for depreciation, repairs, improvements, interest, taxes, commissions, advertising, utilities, insurance, janitorial services, and any other allowable expenses related to the rented property. In these statistics, total rental net loss includes passive losses that were not deductible in figuring AGI. (See also “Passive Activity Losses” and “Total Rent and Royalty Income or Loss in AGI.”)

Rent Net Income Less Loss

See “Rent Net Income or Net Loss.”

Residential Energy Credits

(line 53, Form 1040)

The residential energy credit consisted of the nonbusiness energy property credit and the residential energy-efficient property credit. For the nonbusiness energy property credit, taxpayers were able to take a credit of 10 percent of the costs paid or incurred in 2015 for qualified energy-efficient improvements and residential energy property. Starting in 2011, the nonbusiness credit was limited to a lifetime total of \$500. For the residential energy-efficient property credit, taxpayers could have taken a credit of 30 percent of their costs of qualified solar electric property, solar water heating property, small wind energy property, geothermal heat pump property, and fuel cell property. Both of these are calculated using Form 5695, *Residential Energy Credits*.

Retirement Savings Contribution Credit (Saver’s Credit) Δ

(line 51, Form 1040)

A taxpayer could take a credit of up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 if married filing jointly) for qualified retirement savings contributions, if their adjusted gross income was less than or equal to \$30,500 (\$45,750 if head of household, \$61,000 if married filing jointly). This credit was calculated by using Form 8880.

Roth IRA Δ

(lines 16-25, Form 8606)

Similar to traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs were generally used for retirement. Unlike traditional IRAs, contributions to a Roth IRA were not deductible. However, qualified distributions from a Roth IRA were tax exempt. The contribution limit for Roth IRAs was the lesser of \$5,500 (\$6,500 if age 50 or older), \$11,000, \$12,000, or \$13,000, (depending whether none, one, or two of the taxpayers were age 50 or older and married filing jointly) or the individual’s taxable compensation, unless the taxpayer contributed to both Roth and traditional IRAs. In that case, the contribution limit for Roth IRAs was reduced by all contributions (other than employer contributions) to traditional IRAs for the taxable year. The eligibility for Roth IRAs was phased out for joint filers with modified AGI between \$183,000 and \$193,000, married taxpayers filing separately and living with their spouses with modified AGI

between \$0 and \$10,000, and all other filers (single, head of household, and married filing separately and not living with their spouse at any time during the year) with modified AGI between \$116,000 and \$131,000. Roth IRA contributions could be made after the taxpayer reached the age of 70½. Also, the minimum distribution rules did not apply to living taxpayers as they did for traditional IRAs.

Starting in 2010, all taxpayers (including married taxpayers filing separately) were eligible to make taxable rollovers of traditional IRAs to Roth IRAs without paying the 10-percent tax on early withdrawals. When a taxpayer converted an amount from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, they were required to include in gross income the amount that they would have reported in income if they had made a withdrawal from this IRA. The taxpayer did not include in gross income any part of the conversion that was a nondeductible contribution in a traditional IRA. (See also “Individual Retirement Arrangement Taxable Distributions.”)

Royalty Net Income or Net Loss

(line 21, Schedule E, columns A, B, C)

Net royalties consisted of gross royalties less deductions for depletion, depreciation, office rent, legal fees, clerical help, interest, taxes, and similar items. Gross royalties included revenues from oil, gas, and other mineral rights; revenue from patents; and revenue from literary, musical, or artistic works. Certain royalties received under a lease agreement on timber, coal, and domestic iron ore were eligible for capital gains or ordinary loss treatment under Internal Revenue Code section 1231. As a result of the separate computation, those royalties are reflected in the statistics for “sales of capital assets” and “sales of property other than capital assets.” (See also “Total Rent and Royalty Net Income or Loss.”)

Royalty Net Income Less Loss

See “Royalty Net Income or Net Loss.”

S Corporations

See “Partnership and S Corporation Net Income or Loss.”

Salaries and Wages

(line 7, Form 1040)

Salaries and wages, as reported on the tax return, were amounts of compensation primarily for personal services. The following items were included:

- salaries;
- wages;
- commissions;
- bonuses;
- tips;
- fees;

- excess reimbursement of employee business expenses;
- moving expenses allowances;
- the difference between the fair market value of certain property and the discount price for which it was purchased by a taxpayer from his or her employer;
- severance pay;
- sick pay;
- the value of exercising a stock appreciation right;
- directors’ fees;
- vacation allowances;
- most disability payments;
- strike and lockout benefits;
- the value of certain nonmonetary payments for services (e.g., merchandise, accommodations, certain meals or lodging, certain stock purchase plans, or property);
- dependent care benefits;
- employer-provided adoption benefits; and
- scholarship and fellowship grants.

Identifiable amounts for any of these categories, which may have been reported by taxpayers as “other income,” are treated as salaries and wages for these statistics.

Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss

(line 13, Form 1040)

In general, capital assets for tax purposes included all property held for personal use or investment. Examples include homes, furniture, automobiles, and stocks and bonds. Most assets used for business activities were specifically excluded from treatment as capital assets. (See also “Sales of Property Other Than Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss.”)

The following concepts are used in the computation of net capital gain or loss for this report:

Long term or short term: If the holding period was 1 year or less, the asset was considered short term; otherwise, it was considered long term. All capital gain distributions (distributions from mutual funds on the profit of sale of stock or bonds to the taxpayer) were considered long term. Short-term capital gains were taxed at ordinary rates.

Net capital gain: If the combination of net short-term gain or loss and net long-term gain or loss resulted in a positive amount, the taxpayer had a net capital gain. The full amount of this gain, whether short term or long term, was included in adjusted gross income.

Net capital loss: If the combination of net short-term gain or loss and net long-term gain or loss resulted in a negative amount, the taxpayer showed a net capital loss. The amount of

net capital loss included in adjusted gross income was limited to the smaller of the actual net capital loss or \$3,000 (\$1,500 for married persons filing separately). Any excess capital losses over the \$3,000 limit could be carried over to subsequent tax years. (See “Long-Term Loss Carryover” and “Short-Term Loss Carryover.”)

The maximum rate for most long-term net capital gains was 20 percent for taxpayers in the top ordinary income bracket. For taxpayers between the 15-percent ordinary income bracket and the top ordinary income bracket of 39.6 percent, the capital gain rate was 15 percent, and for taxpayers in the 15-percent ordinary income bracket or lower, the capital gain rate was 0 percent. Collectible gains and up to 50 percent of eligible gains on qualified small business stock were taxed at the 28-percent rate. Gains from the sale of certain depreciable real property were taxed at a 25-percent rate. Therefore, the long-term capital gain tax rate could be 0 percent, 15 percent, 20 percent, 25 percent, or 28 percent. Taxpayers were generally able to exclude from income up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 for married couples filing a joint tax return) of the gain on the sale of their homes.

Sales of Capital Assets Reported on Schedule D

See “Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss.”

Sales of Property Other Than Capital Assets, Net Gain Less Loss

(line 14, Form 1040)

Property other than capital assets generally included property of a business nature, in contrast to personal or investment property, which were capital assets. Some types of property specifically included in this group were:

- (1) certain depreciable, depletable, and real business property;
- (2) accounts and notes receivable in the ordinary course of business generated from the sale of goods and services ordinarily held for sale by the business or includable in the inventory of the business;
- (3) certain copyrights, literary, musical, or artistic compositions, or similar properties; and
- (4) amounts resulting from certain “involuntary conversions,” including net losses from casualty and theft.

Taxpayers reported all gains and losses not treated as capital gains on Form 4797, *Sales of Business Property*.

Sales Tax Deduction

(line 5b, Schedule A)

Taxpayers could have elected to deduct State and local general sales taxes instead of State and local income taxes as an itemized deduction on Schedule A. The taxpayer could

have used either actual expenses or the optional State sales tax tables.

Saver's Credit

See “Retirement Savings Contribution Credit.”

Schedule D Capital Gain Distributions

(line 13, Schedule D)

See “Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss.”

Self-Employed Health Insurance Deduction

(line 29, Form 1040)

Self-employed persons, or owners of more than 2 percent of outstanding stock of an S Corporation, if they were not eligible for health coverage under an employer-provided plan, were allowed to deduct, in the calculation of AGI, up to 100 percent of the amount paid for health insurance for themselves and their families.

Self-Employed SEP, SIMPLE, and Qualified Plans

See “Payments to a Keogh Plan.”

Self-Employment Tax Δ

(line 57, Form 1040)

All net earnings greater than \$400 (\$108.28 for church employees) were subject to the self-employment tax. The ceiling for the Social Security tax on taxable self-employment income for 2015 was \$118,500. The limit did not apply for purposes of the Medicare tax. This tax was calculated on Schedule SE.

Beginning in 2013, the self-employment tax rate reverted back to 15.3 percent from 13.3 percent. The Medicare portion of the self-employment tax remained at 2.9 percent, while the Social Security portion was increased to 12.4 percent from 10.4 percent. Also beginning in 2013, a 0.9-percent Additional Medicare Tax applied to self-employment income above \$200,000 for single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er) (\$250,000 if married filing jointly or if married filing separately). (See also “Total Tax Liability.”)

Short-Term Loss Carryover

(line 6, Schedule D)

These are short-term capital losses from the prior-year Schedule D that were carried over to the current year. (See “Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss.”)

Size of Adjusted Gross Income

(line 37, Form 1040)

The amount of adjusted gross income reported by the taxpayer on the return was the basis for classifying data by size of adjusted gross income. Returns without positive adjusted gross income, such as deficit returns or returns on which income and loss were equal, were classified as having “no adjusted gross

income” and appear as a separate class in most basic tables. The absence of a class labeled “no adjusted gross income” indicates that any deficit or break-even returns in a table were included in the lowest income-size class. (See “Adjusted Gross Income Less Deficit.”)

Social Security and Medicare Taxes Δ

For 2015, the maximum wages subject to Social Security tax was \$118,500. All wages were subject to Medicare tax. Beginning in 2013, the Social Security tax reverted back to 6.2 percent from 4.2 percent. The Medicare tax portion remained at 1.45 percent. Also beginning in 2013, a 0.9-percent Additional Medicare Tax applied to self-employment income above \$200,000 for single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er) (\$250,000 if married filing jointly or if married filing separately).

Social Security and Medicare Tax on Unreported Tip Income

(line 58a, Form 1040)

Cash tips amounting to \$20 or more received by the taxpayer in a month while working for any one employer were subject to withholding of income tax, Social Security tax (or the equivalent railroad retirement tax), and Medicare tax. If the employer was unable to withhold the Social Security and Medicare tax, the amount of uncollected Social Security tax on tips was indicated on the employee’s Form W-2, and the employee was required to report the uncollected tax and pay it with the Form 1040. If the employee did not report the tips to the employer, the employee was required to compute the Social Security and Medicare tax on unreported tips on Form 4137 and attach it to Form 1040.

Social Security Benefits

(lines 20a, 20b, Form 1040)

“Social Security benefits” included any monthly benefit under Title II of the Social Security Act or the part of a “tier 1 railroad retirement benefit” that was equivalent to a Social Security benefit. Social Security benefits were not taxable unless the taxpayer’s total income (including tax-exempt interest) plus one-half of total Social Security benefits exceeded certain levels. The maximum taxable amount was up to 85 percent of the net Social Security benefits received. Social Security benefits received were reported on Form 1040, line 20a, and the taxable portion was reported on line 20b. Taxpayers were required to report gross Social Security benefits on line 20a even if the taxpayer had no taxable Social Security benefits.

Standard Deduction Δ

(included in line 40, Form 1040)

For 2015, the basic standard deduction was increased. Taxpayers who were age 65 or over or blind could claim an additional standard deduction amount of \$1,250 or \$1,550, based on filing status. Both the basic and additional standard

deductions were determined by marital filing status, as shown below.

Single

Basic deduction of \$6,300;

Each taxpayer 65 or over or blind was allowed an additional \$1,550 deduction each for age and blindness.

Married filing jointly or surviving spouses

Basic deduction of \$12,600;

Each taxpayer 65 or over or blind was allowed an additional \$1,250 deduction each for age and blindness.

Married, filing separately

Basic deduction of \$6,300;

Each taxpayer 65 or over or blind was allowed an additional \$1,250 deduction each for age and blindness.

Head of Household

Basic deduction of \$9,250;

Each taxpayer 65 or over or blind was allowed an additional \$1,550 deduction each for age and blindness.

The basic standard deduction claimed by filers who were dependents of other taxpayers was the greater of \$1,050 or the dependent’s earned income plus \$350 (but not more than the regular standard deduction amount).

In these statistics, the basic standard deduction is tabulated for all taxpayers who claimed it, including those who were 65 or over and/or blind. The “additional standard deduction” total includes only the additional amount that was taken by those taxpayers who were 65 or over and/or blind.

State and Local Income Taxes

(line 5a, Schedule A)

State and local income taxes paid could be used as an itemized deduction if a taxpayer had State and local income taxes withheld from their salary during 2015; had paid State and local income taxes directly during 2015 for a prior year; or had made mandatory contributions to specific State disability funds. (See also “Taxes Paid Deduction.”)

State and Local Taxes

(line 5, Schedule A)

This is the total of “State and local income taxes” or “sales tax deduction.” The taxpayer could elect to use either, but not both.

State Income Tax Refund

(line 10, Form 1040)

If a taxpayer received a refund, credit, or offset of State or local income taxes in 2015 that was paid or deducted before 2015, all or part of that amount had to be reported as income to

the extent that an itemized deduction for State and local income taxes had previously resulted in a tax benefit.

Statutory Adjustments

(lines 23–36, Form 1040)

Certain adjustments to total income were allowed as deductions in the calculation of adjusted gross income. For 2015, statutory adjustments included educator expenses; certain business expenses of reservists, performing artists, and fee-basis government officials; health savings account deductions; moving expenses; the deductible part of self-employment tax, payments to a self-employed Keogh retirement plan or a simplified employee pension (SEP), and the self-employed health insurance deduction; penalty on early withdrawal of savings; alimony paid; payments to an IRA; student loan interest deductions; tuition and fees deductions; deduction for certain domestic production activities; Archer MSA deductions; and the foreign housing deduction. Each of the above items is described separately in this section. In addition, statutory adjustments included: jury duty pay, deductible expenses related to income of personal property, the reforestation/reforestation amortization deduction, the repayment of supplemental unemployment benefits under the Trade Act of 1974, contributions to section 501(c)(18)(D) pension plans, contributions by certain chaplains to section 403(b) plans, attorney fees and court costs paid for actions involving certain unlawful discrimination claims, and attorney fees and court costs paid in connection with an award from the IRS for information provided that helped the IRS detect tax law violations. If not listed separately, these amounts are included in the “other adjustments” category in the statistics.

Student Loan Interest Deduction

(line 33, Form 1040)

For 2015, eligible taxpayers were allowed to deduct up to \$2,500 for interest paid on qualified higher-education loans. The deduction was phased out for taxpayers with modified AGI between \$65,000 to \$80,000 (\$130,000 to \$160,000 for taxpayers filing a joint return).

Tax Credits

See “Total Tax Credits.”

Tax Due at Time of Filing

(line 78, Form 1040)

“Tax due” was reported on returns on which total tax liability exceeded total tax payments.

Tax from Recomputing Prior-Year Investment Credit

(included in line 62c, Form 1040)

See “Recapture Taxes.”

Tax Generated Δ

This amount was the tax computed on “modified taxable income.” The tax rates for 2015 were 10, 15, 25, 28, 33, 35, and 39.6 percent. The 10-percent bracket applied to taxable

income equal to or below \$9,225 for single filers and married persons filing separately; \$18,450 for joint filers or surviving spouses; and \$13,150 for heads of household. The 15-percent bracket applied to taxable income in excess of the 10-percent bracket ceiling and equal to or below \$37,450 for single filers and married persons filing separately; \$74,900 for joint filers or surviving spouses; and \$50,200 for heads of household. The 25-percent tax bracket applied to taxable income in excess of the 15-percent bracket ceiling and equal to or below \$90,750 for single filers; \$151,200 for joint filers or surviving spouses; \$75,600 for married persons filing separately; and \$129,600 for heads of household. The 28-percent tax rate applied to taxable income in excess of the 25-percent tax bracket ceiling and equal to or below \$189,300 for single filers; \$230,450 for joint filers or surviving spouses; \$115,225 for married persons filing separately; and \$209,850 for heads of households. The 33-percent tax rate applied to taxable income in excess of the 28-percent tax bracket ceiling and equal to or below \$411,500 for single filers, joint filers, or surviving spouses and heads of households, and \$205,750 for married persons filing separately. The 35-percent tax rate applied to taxable income in excess of the upper boundary for the 33-percent tax bracket ceiling equal to or below \$413,200 for single filers; \$464,850 for joint filers or surviving spouses; \$232,425 for married persons filing separately; and \$439,000 for heads of household. The 39.6-percent tax rate applied to taxable income in excess of the upper boundary for the 35-percent tax bracket. The tax generated at each of these tax rates is shown in Tables 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6.

If children under age 19, or under 24 if they were a full-time student, had investment (unearned) income that exceeded \$2,100, there were two methods of reporting this income. If the child filed his or her own return, the investment income that exceeded \$2,100 was taxed at the parents’ rate on Form 8615 (the remaining investment income was taxed at the child’s rate) and tabulated separately in Tables 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6. If the parents elected to report the child’s investment income on their return, they attached a Form 8814. The investment income in excess of \$2,100 was included on either Form 1040, line 21, or in the case of capital gains distributions on either Form 1040, line 13, or Schedule D, line 13, or qualified dividends on Form 1040, line 9b. The remaining investment income in excess of the \$1,050 standard deduction was taxed at the child’s rate, added to the parents’ tax on Form 1040, line 44, and is also tabulated separately in Tables 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6.

On most returns, except those with additional taxes from special computations, “tax generated” equaled “income tax before credits.” (See also “Modified Taxable Income.”)

Tax Payments Δ

(lines 64, 65, 70, 71, 72, 73, and 74, Form 1040)

These payments were generally made before the return was filed and were applied against tax liability to determine any amount payable or refundable at the time of filing. They consisted of the following:

- (1) income tax withheld, including backup withholding;
- (2) estimated tax payments (including those from overpayment on 2014 return);
- (3) payment with request for extension of filing time;
- (4) excess Social Security, Medicare, or railroad retirement tax withheld;
- (5) credit for tax on certain gasoline, fuel, and oil; and
- (6) other payments.

Each of the above is described under a separate heading in this section.

Although the earned income credit, American opportunity credit, net premium tax credit, regulated investment company credit, and health coverage credit were included with tax payments on the tax return itself (lines 66a, 68, 69, 73a, and 73c, Form 1040), for the statistics they are treated partly as a credit against income tax liability and partly as a refundable amount. (See also “Earned Income Credit,” “Education Credits,” “Net Premium Tax Credit,” “Credit from Regulated Investment Companies,” and “Health Coverage Credit.”) Also, the additional child credit (line 67) was included on the tax return as a payment but not treated that way for the statistics.

Tax Penalty

(line 79, Form 1040)

See “Predetermined Estimated Tax Penalty.”

Tax Preparation Fees

(line 22, Schedule A)

Tax preparation fees were included on Schedule A as a miscellaneous deduction, the total of which was subject to a 2-percent-of-AGI floor. The amounts reported in the statistics are prior to this floor. (See also “Limited Miscellaneous Deductions.”)

Tax Rates, Tax Rate Classes

See “Tax Generated.”

Tax Withheld

(line 64, Form 1040)

See “Income Tax Withheld.”

Taxable and Nontaxable Returns Δ

The taxable and nontaxable classification of a return for this report is determined by the presence of “total income tax.” Some returns classified as “nontaxable” may have had a liability for other taxes, such as excess advance premium tax credit repayment, self-employment tax, uncollected employee Social Security and Medicare tax on tips, tax from recomputing prior-year investment credit, penalty taxes on individual retirement accounts, Section 72 penalty taxes, household

employment taxes, health care individual responsibility payment, Additional Medicare Taxes, or golden parachute payments. These taxes, however, were disregarded for the purposes of this classification, since four of the above taxes were considered Social Security (rather than income) taxes, and the remaining ones were either based on prior year’s income or were penalty taxes. The advance premium tax credit repayment was not an income tax but a repayment of money previously advanced to taxpayers for paying for health insurance purchased on a health care exchange. Net Investment Income Tax from Form 8960 was added to income tax after credits to create income tax.

For this report, the earned income credit, American opportunity credit, premium tax credit, regulated investment company, and health coverage credit are treated first as an amount used to offset income tax before credits. Since they were refundable, they were subtracted from income tax (for the statistics) after reduction by all other statutory credits. As a result, some returns became nontaxable strictly because of the refundable credits when the refundable credits equaled or exceeded income tax before credits reduced by any other credits.

It should be noted that classification as taxable or nontaxable was based on each return as it was filed and does not reflect any changes resulting from audit or other enforcement activities. (See also “Total Income Tax.”)

Taxable Income

(line 43, Form 1040)

Taxable income was derived by subtracting from adjusted gross income any exemption amount and either total itemized deductions or the standard deduction. (See “Modified Taxable Income.”)

Taxable Interest (Received)

(line 8a, Form 1040)

This amount was the taxable portion of interest received from bonds, debentures, notes, mortgages, certain insurance policy proceeds, personal loans, bank deposits, savings deposits, tax refunds, and U.S. savings bonds. Also included as interest were “dividends” on deposits or withdrawable accounts in mutual savings banks, savings and loan associations, and credit unions. Interest on State or local government obligations remained tax exempt, but the total tax-exempt interest had to be reported on line 8b of Form 1040. It was not included in the taxpayer’s income for tax purposes. If taxable interest exceeded \$1,500, the taxpayer had to fill out Schedule B to supply the details for taxable interest. (See also “Tax-Exempt Interest.”)

Taxable IRA Distributions

(line 15b, Form 1040)

See “Individual Retirement Arrangement Taxable Distributions.”

Taxable Net Capital Gain

(line 16, Schedule D, included in line 13, Form 1040)
See “Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss.”

Taxable Net Capital Loss

(line 21, Schedule D, included in line 13, Form 1040)
See “Sales of Capital Assets, Net Gain or Loss.”

Taxable Pensions and Annuities

(line 16b, Form 1040)
See “Pensions and Annuities.”

Taxable Social Security Benefits

(line 20b, Form 1040)
See “Social Security Benefits.”

Taxes from Special Computation

(line 44, Form 1040)
Taxes from special computation are the additional taxes from lump-sum distributions on Form 4972, *Tax on Lump-Sum Distributions*.

Taxes Paid Deduction

(lines 5-9, Schedule A)
Taxes allowed as an itemized deduction from adjusted gross income included: personal property taxes, State and local income taxes or general sales taxes, taxes paid to foreign countries or U.S. possessions (unless a foreign tax credit was claimed), and real estate taxes except those levied for improvements that tended to increase the value of the property. Mandatory employee contributions to a State disability fund and employee contributions to a State unemployment fund were also included. Federal taxes were not deductible. Taxes paid on business property were deducted separately on the schedules for business, rent, royalty, and farm income and are excluded from the “taxes paid” statistics in this report.

Tax-Exempt Interest

(line 8b, Form 1040)
Tax-exempt interest included interest on certain State and municipal bonds, as well as any tax-exempt interest dividends from a mutual fund or other regulated investment company. This was an information reporting requirement and did not convert tax-exempt interest into taxable interest. It is included as income for certain programs, for example for the earned income credit or taxability of Social Security benefits.

Total Income

(line 22, Form 1040)
“Total income” was the sum of the individual income items (lines 7 through 21) before adjustments.

Total Income Tax

(line 56—any excess advance premium tax credit repayment on line 46 + any Net Investment Income Tax on line 62b + any

Form 4970 tax on line 62c - line 66a - line 68 - line 73a - line 73c, limited to zero, on Form 1040)

“Total income tax” was the sum of income tax after credits (including the subtraction of the excess advance premium tax credit repayment, earned income credit, American opportunity credit, regulated investment company credit, and health coverage credit) plus the Net Investment Income Tax from Form 8960 and the tax from Form 4970. It did not include any of the other taxes that made up total tax liability. Total income tax was the basis for classifying returns as taxable or nontaxable.

Total Itemized Deductions Δ

(included in line 40, Form 1040)
Itemized deductions from adjusted gross income could be claimed for medical and dental expenses, certain taxes paid, interest paid, charitable contributions, casualty and theft losses, and miscellaneous deductions. Taxpayers could deduct mortgage insurance premiums for mortgage contracts issued after December 31, 2006. Itemized deductions were claimed only if they exceeded the total standard deduction, with three exceptions. First, if a taxpayer was married and filing separately, and his or her spouse itemized deductions, the spouse was required to itemize as well. Second, taxpayers in several States were required to itemize deductions on their Federal tax returns if they wished to itemize on their State returns. Third, if a taxpayer benefitted for alternative minimum tax purposes, they might itemize even though the standard deduction was larger. The total amount of itemized deductions was tabulated only from returns showing positive adjusted gross income.

For 2015, if a taxpayer had AGI in excess of \$258,250 if filing single, \$284,050 if head of household or \$309,900 if married filing jointly (\$154,950 if married filing separately), his or her itemized deductions may have been limited. The limitation did not apply to the deductions for medical and dental expenses, investment interest expenses, casualty or theft losses, and gambling losses. To arrive at allowable itemized deductions, total itemized deductions were reduced by the smaller of: a) 3 percent of the amount of AGI in excess of the filing thresholds or b) 80 percent of the non-exempt deductions. Therefore, “total itemized deductions” is the sum of the separate deductions cited above, less the itemized deduction limitation.

Total Miscellaneous Deductions

See “Miscellaneous Itemized Deductions.”

Total Pensions and Annuities

(line 16a, Form 1040)
See “Pensions and Annuities.”

Total Premium Tax Credit

(line 24, Form 8962)
For 2015, a taxpayer may have been eligible for the premium tax credit if they, their spouse, or a dependent enrolled in health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

The premium tax credit was used to help pay for this health insurance. The total premium tax credit was the amount that a taxpayer was eligible to receive. The eligible amount was calculated by using taxpayers' modified AGI, family size, and the amount of the premiums paid. If the total premium tax credit that a taxpayer was eligible for was greater than the advance payments of the premium tax credit that the taxpayer had already received, then the taxpayer claimed the difference as a refundable credit in the form of the net premium tax credit. If advance payments of the premium tax credit were more than the premium tax credit the taxpayer could claim, the taxpayer had to pay an excess advance premium tax credit repayment. (See also "Advance Payment of Premium Tax Credit," "Excess Advance Premium Tax Credit Repayment," and "Net Premium Tax Credit.")

Total Refundable Credits Δ

Refundable credits were separated into three categories for their treatment on income tax for the statistics. The first category was the portion of the credit used to offset income tax before credits. If there was any unused credit amount after offsetting income tax, the next portion offset all other taxes. Any remaining amount, after offsetting all other taxes, was put into the last category, called the refundable portion. A taxpayer claiming these credits could potentially have those credits broken down into one, two, or all three of these categories. For 2015, credits broken down this way included the EIC, American opportunity credit, net premium tax credit, regulated investment company credit, and health coverage credit.

Total Refundable Credits, Refundable Portion

See "Total Refundable Credits."

Total Refundable Credits Used To Offset All Other Taxes

See "Total Refundable Credits."

Total Refundable Credits Used To Offset Income Tax Before Credits

See "Total Refundable Credits."

Total Rental and Royalty Net Income or Loss

(line 26 plus lines 39 and 40, Schedule E)

This income concept consisted of all rent and royalty income and loss that were used in computing adjusted gross income, including farm rental income and suspended rental loss carry-over from prior years. It excluded the portion of rental losses that was not deductible in computing adjusted gross income due to the passive loss rules. Income or loss from real estate mortgage investment conduits was also included in this concept.

Total Social Security Benefits

(line 20a, Form 1040)

See "Social Security Benefits."

Total Statutory Adjustments

(line 36, Form 1040)

"Total statutory adjustments" was the sum of the individual adjustments to income (lines 23-36). (Note: foreign housing, Archer MSA, and other adjustments were reported on line 36.)

Total Tax Credits Δ

(lines 55, 66a, 68, 69, 73a, and 73c, Form 1040)

For this report, total tax credits consist of the following:

- (1) foreign tax credit;
- (2) child care credit;
- (3) education credits;
- (4) retirement savings contributions credit;
- (5) child tax credit;
- (6) mortgage interest credit;
- (7) residential energy credits;
- (8) general business credit;
- (9) minimum tax credit;
- (10) credit for the elderly and disabled;
- (11) adoption credit;
- (12) qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle credit;
- (13) qualified electric vehicle credit;
- (14) alternative motor vehicle credit;
- (15) alternative fuel vehicle refueling property credit;
- (16) other tax credits;
- (17) earned income credit (EIC) used to offset income tax before credits;
- (18) American opportunity credit used to offset income tax before credits;
- (19) net premium tax credit used to offset income tax before credits;
- (20) regulated investment company credit used to offset income tax before credits; and
- (21) health coverage credit used to offset income tax before credits.

These amounts were deducted from income tax before credits to arrive at income tax after credits. For the statistics,

the portion of the EIC, American opportunity credit, net premium tax credit, regulated investment company credit, and health coverage credit that did not result in a negative amount is tabulated as “earned income credit used to offset income tax before credits,” “American opportunity credit used to offset income tax before credits,” “net premium tax credit used to offset income tax before credits,” “regulated investment company credit used to offset income tax before credits,” and “health coverage credit used to offset income tax before credits.” Any remaining EIC, American opportunity credit, net premium tax credit, regulated investment company credit, and health coverage credit amount could be refunded or applied to other taxes, and is classified separately as “earned income credit refundable portion,” “American opportunity credit refundable portion,” “net premium tax credit refundable portion,” “regulated investment company credit refundable portion,” and “health coverage credit refundable portion,” or “earned income credit used to offset other taxes,” “American opportunity credit used to offset other taxes,” “net premium tax credit used to offset other taxes,” “regulated investment company credit used to offset other taxes,” and “health coverage credit used to offset other taxes.” All other credits were limited to the amount needed to offset income tax before credits and were not refundable (except the child tax credit) or used to offset any other taxes. (See “Child Tax Credit.”)

Total Tax Liability Δ

(line 63 modified by the earned income credit, additional child tax credit, American opportunity credit, net premium tax credit, regulated investment company credit, and health coverage credit, Form 1040)

“Total tax liability” was the sum of income tax after credits, self-employment tax, Social Security and Medicare tax on tip income and wages, penalty tax on qualified retirement plans, household employment taxes, repayment of the first-time homebuyer credit, health care individual responsibility payment, Additional Medicare Taxes, Net Investment Income Tax, additional tax on HSA and MSA distributions, additional tax on Medicare Advantage MSA distributions, tax from recapturing prior-year investment credits, low-income housing credit, Indian employment credit, new markets credit, employer-provided child care facilities credit, alternative motor vehicle credit, alternative fuel vehicle refueling property credit, and the qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle credit, tax from recapture of Federal mortgage subsidy COBRA premium assistance, Section 72 penalty taxes, other unspecified taxes which included uncollected FICA (or Social Security) tax on tips, tax on golden parachute payments, Form 4970 tax, excise tax on insider stock compensation from an expatriated corporation, additional tax on income from a nonqualified deferred compensation plan, interest on tax due on installment income from sale of residential lots and timeshares, interest on the deferred tax gain from certain installment sales, additional tax on recapture of a charitable deduction relating to a fractional interest in tangible personal property, look-back interest, repayment of

ineligible advance payments of the health coverage tax credit, and the statistics included tax from recapture of education credits. These taxes were then reduced by the earned income credit used to offset all other taxes, additional child tax credit used to offset all other taxes, American opportunity credit used to offset all other taxes, net premium tax credit used to offset all other taxes, regulated investment company credit used to offset all other taxes, and health coverage credit used to offset all other taxes, limited to zero.

Total Tax Payments

See “Tax Payments.”

Total Taxable IRA Distributions

See “Individual Retirement Arrangement Taxable Distributions.”

Total Unlimited Miscellaneous Deductions

(line 28, Schedule A)

See “Miscellaneous Itemized Deductions,” “Gambling Loss Deduction,” and “Miscellaneous Deductions Other Than Gambling.”

Tuition and Fees Deduction

(line 34, Form 1040)

A taxpayer was able to deduct up to \$4,000 of the qualified tuition and fees paid for themselves, a spouse, or dependents if the taxpayer’s modified AGI was under \$65,000 (\$130,000 if married filing jointly). A taxpayer was able to deduct up to \$2,000 if their AGI was higher than the limit but not more than \$80,000 (\$160,000 if married filing jointly). This deduction (calculated on Form 8917) could not be taken if the person could be claimed as a dependent on another taxpayer’s return, or if they claimed the education credit for the same student.

Type of Tax Computation

(line 44, Form 1040)

Tabulations in Table 3.1 include three methods of computing the tax on income subject to tax. These methods were:

- (1) Regular tax, as computed from the tax tables or tax rate schedules accompanying the Forms 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ. Schedule J, *Income Averaging for Farmers and Fishermen*, foreign-earned income exclusion, and 962 election returns are included with regular tax. (See also “Regular Tax Computation.”);
- (2) Form 8615, used to compute the tax on investment income of children under 19, or under 24 if they were a student (see also Table 3.1A); and
- (3) Schedule D, Form 1040, used to compute the tax on long-term capital gains (in excess of short-term capital losses). These include returns with capital gain distributions reported on Form 1040 or qualified

dividends, also. This tax could be at various rates: 0, 15, 20, 25, or 28 percent.

Unemployment Compensation

(line 19, Form 1040)

All unemployment compensation received was taxable. It did not include any supplemental unemployment benefits received from a company-financed supplemental unemployment benefit fund, which were included in salaries and wages.

Unreimbursed Employee Business Expenses

(line 21, Schedule A)

This item, added together with most other miscellaneous itemized deductions, was subject to a floor of 2 percent of AGI.

Unreimbursed employee business expenses included travel, transportation, meal, and entertainment costs incurred while based at or away from home in the performance of job duties. In most cases, 50 percent of meal and entertainment expenses were deductible, and were calculated on Form 2106, *Employee Business Expenses*. Many other expenses such as union dues, safety equipment, uniforms, protective clothing, and physical examinations were also deductible. Travel expenses away from home, which were paid or incurred, were not deductible if the period of temporary employment was more than 1 year. The amounts reported in the statistics were prior to the 2-percent floor. (See also "Limited Miscellaneous Itemized Deductions.")