

Estate Tax Returns Filed for Wealthy Decedents, 2006–2015

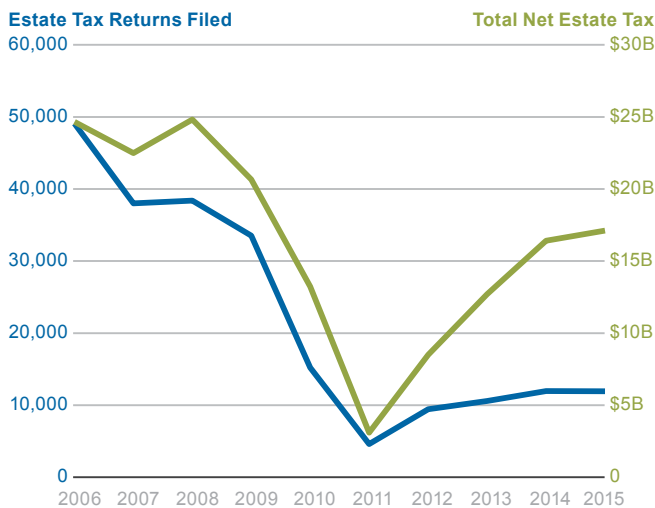


The Federal estate tax is a tax on the transfer of property at death. It is applied to estates for which at-death gross assets, the “gross estate,” exceed the filing threshold. Estate tax returns are due 9 months from the date of death. Most estate tax returns are filed during the Calendar year after the year of the decedent’s death. The filing threshold for 2015 was \$5.34 million. Charitable bequests and marital transfers can be taken as deductions when calculating estate tax liability.

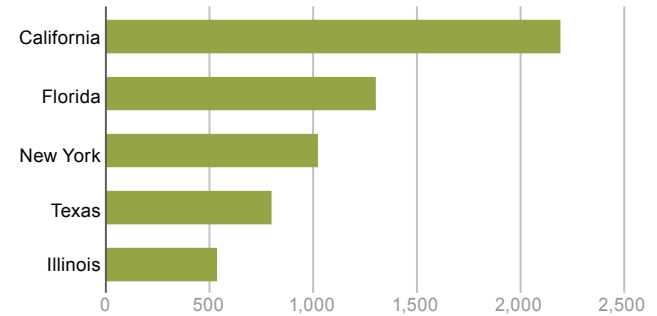
Highlights of the Data

- The number of estate tax returns declined nearly 76 percent from 49,050 in 2006 to 11,917 in 2015 primarily due to the gradual increase in the filing threshold.
- The gross estate filing threshold was \$5.43 million in 2015, up from \$2.0 million in 2006.
- In 2015, the total net estate tax reported on all estate tax returns filed during the year was nearly \$17.1 billion.
- California had the highest number of estate tax returns filed in 2015, followed by Florida, New York, Texas, and Illinois.
- Looking at the number of estate tax returns filed during 2015 as a percentage of the adult population (ages 18 and over), the top five States were South Dakota, the District of Columbia, Florida, Connecticut, and North Dakota.
- Stock and real estate made up over half of all estate tax decedents’ asset holdings for 2015.
- Estate tax decedents with total assets of \$20 million or more held a greater share of their portfolio in stocks (over 38 percent) and lesser shares in real estate and retirement assets than decedents in other total asset categories, for returns filed during 2015.

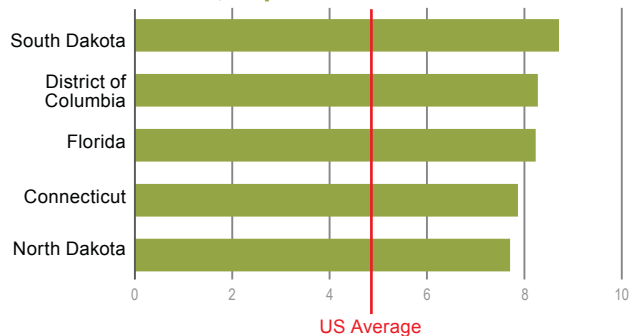
Estate Tax Returns Filed and Total Net Estate Tax, 2006–2015



Number of Estate Tax Returns Filed in 2015, Top 5 U.S. States



Estate Tax Returns Filed in 2015 Per 100,000 Adult Residents, Top 5 U.S. States



Portfolio Composition of Estates, by Size of Total Assets, Filing Year 2015

