

Publication 6292

Fall 2016

Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States
2016 - 2023



Office of Research
Research, Applied Analytics and Statistics

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Forecasts Available Electronically

Forecasts from the most recent edition of this publication are available from the Forms and Pubs link (<https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs>). IRS employees can access this publication on the IRWeb intranet site by selecting the “Research” link, followed by “Research, Analysis & Statistics (RAS)” and then “Projections and Forecasting Publications.”

**Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States:
2016 – 2023**

Publication 6292
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Overview

The following Fall 2016 edition of IRS Publication 6292 provides the most recent revisions to the U.S. level projections of tax returns to be filed for fiscal years (FY) 2015 through 2023 by the major return categories, including selected detail by IRS business operating divisions. Office of Research staff, within the IRS Research, Applied Analytics and Statistics organization prepare these projections semi-annually to incorporate changes in filing patterns, economic and demographic trends, legislative requirements, and IRS administrative processes. The projections are based on the information available as of early August 2016, including enacted tax law changes and confirmed administrative plans. Legislative or administrative initiatives under consideration are generally not used for projections due to the uncertain nature of their eventual outcome.

Data Sources and Projection Methodology

The reported actual values of returns filed in FY 2015 are based on returns processed and recorded on the IRS master files. In cases where master file return counts were not available, tallies of actual filings were supplied by program staff in the IRS operating divisions.

Depending on the properties of each filing category, the forecasting methods were selected to capture and extrapolate historical filing trends. In general, the projections are computed for the calendar year of filing and converted to the corresponding fiscal year based on the historical quarterly filing experience. These results are based on statistical models such as regression models incorporating key economic and demographic input variables provided by IHS Global Inc, time series techniques, growth rates and historical ratio methods. The projection method used depends on the form type, availability of historical data, and applicability of relevant economic and demographic forecasts. Customers interested in obtaining more detail on forecasting methodologies are welcome to contact the respective staff member listed on the inside front cover.

Summary of Significant Trends and Revisions

A summary of the major trends and other significant factors embedded in the return forecasts for this edition of Publication 6292 are noted below.

Trend in Grand Total Return Filings

As presented in Table 1, grand total return filings were 245.8 million in fiscal year 2015, an increase of 1.4 percent over FY 2014. After FY 2015, grand total return filings are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.1 percent, reaching 268.5 million by FY 2023. Within the steady increase in the grand total projection is a rather pronounced increase among selected e-file return volumes. In particular, electronic filings of forms 1065/B and 1120 series are expected to grow 6.5% and 4.6% annually in FY 2016 and at an average annual rate of 3.4% and 2.0% by FY 2023, respectively.

Detail by Business Operating Division

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

Track Record of Projection Accuracy

In an effort to measure the quality of our products and services, this section, along with Table 3, provides a brief analysis of the accuracy of prior projections. Using four years of actual data from 2012 through 2015, Table 3 presents the accuracy of our national level projections by major return categories. This analysis covers only the major return categories projected on a calendar year basis and serves as a general measure for gauging the overall reliability of our U.S. level return projections.

The table presents two measures of projection accuracy; the mean absolute percent error (MAPE) and the number of over-projections. The MAPE is computed as the average percent projection error regardless of whether they were over- or under-projections over the four projection cycles. The number of over-projections can show whether projections are consistently over- or under- projected. A value of two indicates balanced forecasts over the four cycles. The table groups these two measures by time horizon. The time horizon is determined by when the forecast was made and for what future year. For example, a forecast for 2015 made in 2012 would be part of the “3-years-ahead” time horizon.

Comments and Questions

We thank our customers for their support as we continually seek to improve our products and services wherever possible. We welcome customer feedback at any time. Comments and suggestions regarding this publication can be directed to Michael Sebastiani, Chief, Forecasting and Data Analysis Group at (202) 803-9155.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary-Helen Risler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary-Helen Risler
Acting Director, Office of Research

Table 1. Fiscal Year Projections of the Number of Returns to be Filed with IRS

Type of Return	Actual - FY					Projected				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Grand Total	245,821,318	248,898,800	251,955,000	254,822,200	257,608,000	260,441,500	263,154,700	265,824,300	268,525,700	
Paper Grand Total	82,715,706	81,133,600	79,285,900	77,200,100	75,266,800	73,491,600	71,865,900	70,327,700	68,945,700	
Electronic Grand Total	163,105,612	167,765,200	172,669,100	177,622,100	182,341,200	186,949,900	191,288,800	195,496,600	199,580,000	
Total Primary Returns	221,482,501	224,098,400	226,696,800	229,113,000	231,448,300	233,830,400	236,090,500	238,305,300	240,550,200	
Individual Income Tax, Total	148,840,842	151,027,600	153,030,600	154,817,400	156,606,500	158,484,400	160,229,300	161,948,600	163,639,700	
Forms 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ, Total	147,982,739	150,151,400	152,145,500	153,922,500	155,701,400	157,569,100	159,303,700	161,013,800	162,693,600	
Paper Forms 1040/1040-A/1040-EZ	20,249,264	19,403,000	18,065,800	16,628,700	15,318,700	14,128,600	13,010,300	11,968,500	10,987,600	
Electronic Forms 1040/1040-A/1040-EZ	127,733,475	130,748,400	134,073,700	137,289,800	140,382,600	143,440,600	146,293,400	149,045,300	151,706,000	
Forms 1040-NR/NR-EZ/C	688,698	696,100	712,800	729,500	746,100	762,800	779,500	796,100	812,800	
Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	189,205	172,800	174,200	175,800	176,500	177,500	178,500	179,500	180,500	
Electronic Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	40,394	34,300	30,300	27,600	25,700	24,500	23,700	23,200	22,800	
Individual Estimated Tax, Form 1040-ES, Total	24,121,596	24,378,800	24,631,900	24,953,200	25,224,200	25,475,200	25,757,300	26,021,700	26,355,000	
Paper Form 1040-ES	23,966,848	24,214,100	24,456,700	24,767,100	25,027,400	25,268,100	25,540,000	25,794,100	26,117,300	
Electronic (Credit Card) Form 1040-ES	154,748	164,700	175,200	186,100	196,800	207,100	217,300	227,600	237,700	
Fiduciary Form 1041, Total	3,202,760	3,207,400	3,247,400	3,279,600	3,301,000	3,313,900	3,319,900	3,323,600	3,326,600	
Paper Form 1041	732,307	636,900	692,600	637,800	468,100	461,700	428,100	397,000	368,200	
Electronic Form 1041	2,470,453	2,570,500	2,664,700	2,741,800	2,802,900	2,851,600	2,891,800	2,926,600	2,958,400	
Fiduciary Estimated Tax, Form 1041-ES	747,766	807,200	868,100	923,200	973,000	1,018,100	1,058,900	1,095,800	1,129,200	
Partnership, Forms 1065/1065-B, Total	3,882,560	3,969,100	4,060,100	4,133,900	4,196,000	4,250,100	4,299,200	4,345,000	4,389,200	
Paper Forms 1065/1065-B	787,898	674,500	604,200	542,900	489,500	443,100	402,700	367,500	336,900	
Electronic Forms 1065/1065-B	3,094,662	3,294,600	3,455,900	3,591,000	3,706,400	3,807,000	3,896,500	3,977,500	4,052,200	
Corporation Income Tax, Total	6,893,412	6,869,200	6,908,800	6,941,800	6,969,000	6,990,900	7,008,300	7,021,700	7,031,400	
Paper Corporation Returns, Total	1,893,568	1,640,400	1,506,800	1,409,800	1,339,800	1,289,800	1,254,500	1,197,900	1,139,500	
Electronic Corporation Returns, Total	4,999,844	5,228,800	5,402,000	5,532,000	5,629,100	5,701,200	5,753,900	5,797,500	5,833,500	
Form 1120	1,832,286	1,734,600	1,734,600	1,671,900	1,671,900	1,641,400	1,611,400	1,582,000	1,553,100	
Paper Form 1120	562,588	477,000	415,400	365,000	323,500	288,800	259,600	234,700	213,400	
Electronic Form 1120	1,249,698	1,269,800	1,319,200	1,337,900	1,348,400	1,352,500	1,351,800	1,347,200	1,339,700	
Form 1120-C	9,763	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	
Form 1120-F	45,237	45,400	46,400	47,500	48,500	49,600	50,700	51,700	52,700	
Paper Form 1120-F	26,162	23,600	22,300	21,300	20,500	19,900	19,400	19,000	18,800	
Electronic Form 1120-F	19,075	21,800	24,100	26,200	28,100	29,700	31,300	32,700	33,900	
Form 1120-H	248,943	249,900	252,400	254,700	256,900	258,900	260,800	262,600	264,200	
Forms 1120-FSCL/NDP/REIT/RIC/SF	40,022	40,100	41,300	42,500	43,700	44,900	46,100	47,300	48,500	
Form 1120-S	4,717,161	4,757,900	4,825,000	4,885,100	4,938,900	4,987,700	5,030,300	5,069,000	5,103,700	
Paper Form 1120-S	986,090	840,600	766,300	717,100	666,200	628,200	593,500	561,500	531,800	
Electronic Form 1120-S	3,731,071	3,917,200	4,058,600	4,167,900	4,252,700	4,318,900	4,370,800	4,417,600	4,459,900	
Small Corporation Election, Form 2553	488,662	446,000	449,600	451,900	453,300	454,200	454,800	455,200	455,400	
"REMIC" Income Tax Form 1066	35,350	39,800	40,700	41,600	42,600	43,500	44,400	45,200	46,300	
Estate, Forms 706, 706NA/GS(D)/GS(T), Total	36,343	36,800	37,700	38,900	40,100	41,500	42,800	44,200	45,700	
Gift, Form 709	237,706	229,600	224,000	224,300	226,100	228,600	231,700	235,200	239,200	
Employment Tax, Total	30,152,202	30,194,200	30,233,200	30,273,700	30,316,500	30,361,300	30,407,900	30,456,100	30,505,600	
Paper Employment Returns, Total	19,607,562	19,200,100	18,810,200	18,350,200	17,895,100	17,445,600	17,002,200	16,565,600	16,136,200	
Electronic Employment Returns, Total	10,544,640	10,994,200	11,423,000	11,923,400	12,421,300	12,915,700	13,405,700	13,890,500	14,369,400	
Forms 940, 940-EZ and 940-PR, Total	5,750,512	5,807,600	5,822,700	5,836,800	5,851,000	5,865,100	5,879,200	5,893,300	5,907,500	
Paper Forms 940, 940-EZ and 940-PR	3,738,271	3,598,600	3,499,300	3,399,300	3,300,100	3,201,900	3,105,000	3,008,500	2,915,800	
Form 940 E-File/On-line/XML	2,012,241	2,209,000	2,323,400	2,437,500	2,550,800	2,663,200	2,774,300	2,883,800	2,991,600	
Forms 941, 941-PR and 941-SS, Total	24,010,276	24,018,400	24,065,400	24,112,400	24,159,400	24,206,500	24,253,500	24,300,500	24,347,500	
Paper Form 941, 941-PR/SS, Total	15,494,699	15,252,600	14,986,200	14,647,700	14,311,000	13,976,700	13,645,500	13,317,900	12,994,400	
Form 941 E-File/On-line/XML	8,515,577	8,765,800	9,079,200	9,464,700	9,848,400	10,229,700	10,608,000	10,982,600	11,353,100	
Forms 943, 943-PR and 943-SS, Total	197,279	194,500	189,600	184,600	179,900	175,200	170,700	166,200	161,900	
Paper Forms 943, 943-PR and 943-SS	195,462	189,700	184,000	178,300	172,900	167,300	162,600	157,600	152,900	
Electronic Forms 943, 943-PR and 943-SS	1,817	4,800	5,600	6,300	6,900	7,500	8,100	8,600	9,100	
Forms 944, 944-PR and 944-SS, Total	119,887	101,500	86,900	74,500	64,000	55,200	47,700	41,400	36,000	
Paper Forms 944, 944-PR and 944-SS	106,243	88,400	73,000	61,400	50,900	42,100	34,600	28,300	23,900	
Electronic Form 944	13,644	13,100	13,900	13,100	13,100	13,100	13,100	13,100	13,100	
Form 945	72,472	70,500	66,900	63,500	60,500	57,700	55,200	52,900	50,900	
Paper Form 945	71,111	68,900	65,100	61,600	58,400	55,500	52,900	50,500	48,400	
Electronic Form 945	1,361	1,600	1,800	1,900	2,100	2,200	2,400	2,500	2,500	
Form CT-1	1,776	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	

Notes: Internal Revenue Service

Table does not contain Non-Master File counts.
 See Table Notes page for definitions of "Type of Return."
 Detail may not add to subtotal total due to rounding.
 Table continues on the next page.

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Table 1 (continued). Fiscal Year Projections of the Number of Returns to be Filed with IRS

Type of Return	Projected									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Withholding on Foreign Persons, Form 1042	43,679	46,800	47,200	48,600	50,000	51,400	52,900	54,300	55,700	
Exempt Organizations, Total	1,576,802	1,609,200	1,670,200	1,727,000	1,783,300	1,839,800	1,896,300	1,959,500	2,024,400	
Paper Exempt Organizations, Total	627,729	581,700	568,800	558,900	552,700	549,400	548,900	547,000	546,700	
Electronic Exempt Organizations, Total	949,073	1,027,500	1,101,400	1,168,100	1,230,600	1,290,400	1,347,400	1,412,400	1,477,700	
Form 990, Total	323,106	315,000	316,300	316,300	316,300	316,300	316,300	316,300	316,300	
Paper Form 990	114,784	90,600	77,600	66,400	57,800	51,300	46,800	40,900	36,100	
Electronic Form 990	208,322	224,400	238,800	250,000	258,500	265,000	269,600	275,400	280,300	
Form 990-EZ	269,607	254,600	261,500	269,400	277,500	285,700	293,800	301,900	310,100	
Paper Form 990-EZ	157,120	132,700	130,600	133,000	131,500	133,000	135,000	136,600	138,500	
Electronic Form 990-EZ	112,487	121,900	130,900	136,800	146,000	152,700	158,800	165,300	171,600	
Form 990-N, Total	577,311	625,500	672,600	717,100	761,200	806,500	849,700	900,300	952,600	
Form 990-PF, Total	111,218	111,300	112,800	114,100	115,400	116,700	118,000	119,300	120,600	
Paper Form 990-PF	60,265	55,600	53,700	51,900	50,600	49,500	48,700	48,000	47,400	
Electronic Form 990-PF	50,953	55,700	59,200	62,200	64,800	67,200	69,300	71,300	73,200	
Form 990-T	185,161	195,300	201,000	205,000	208,600	211,700	214,800	217,700	220,700	
Form 4720	2,380	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,800	2,800	
Form 5227	108,019	105,000	103,500	102,400	101,700	101,200	101,000	101,000	101,300	
Form 1041-A	8,860	8,900	8,900	8,900	8,900	8,900	8,900	8,900	8,900	
Government Entity/Bonds	49,812	49,900	49,500	49,200	48,900	48,700	48,500	48,300	48,100	
Form 8038	3,075	2,800	2,600	2,400	2,300	2,200	2,100	2,000	1,900	
Form 8038-CP	10,619	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600	
Form 8038-G	26,824	25,400	25,300	25,300	25,300	25,300	25,300	25,300	25,300	
Form 8038-GC	8,482	8,400	8,300	8,300	8,100	8,100	8,000	8,000	8,000	
Form 8038-T	433	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	
Form 8038-TC	136	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Form 8328	243	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	
Political Organizations, Total	9,937	10,400	9,900	10,100	8,700	9,900	8,600	9,700	8,200	
Form 1120-POL, Total	4,662	4,500	4,300	4,200	4,100	4,000	3,900	3,800	3,600	
Paper Form 1120-POL	4,626	4,400	4,300	4,200	4,100	4,000	3,900	3,700	3,600	
Electronic Form 1120-POL	36	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	100	
Form 8871**	2,306	2,600	2,400	2,600	2,400	2,600	2,400	2,600	2,400	
Form 8872, Total	2,969	3,300	2,200	3,300	2,200	3,300	2,200	3,300	2,200	
Paper Form 8872	693	900	500	900	500	900	500	900	500	
Electronic Form 8872	2,276	2,400	1,700	2,400	1,700	2,400	1,700	2,400	1,700	
Excise, Total	1,014,211	1,001,000	1,012,300	1,022,500	1,033,600	1,044,200	1,055,100	1,065,800	1,076,700	
Form 11-C	4,105	3,900	3,800	3,700	3,500	3,400	3,300	3,100	3,000	
Form 720	205,329	202,200	201,900	201,900	201,900	201,900	201,900	201,900	201,900	
Paper Form 720	204,485	201,300	200,900	200,700	200,600	200,500	200,400	200,300	200,200	
Electronic Form 720	844	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,700	
Form 730	25,688	23,600	22,100	20,700	19,200	17,700	16,300	14,800	13,300	
Form 2290	770,117	762,500	776,000	788,100	801,000	813,400	826,200	838,700	851,400	
Paper Form 2290	446,761	397,900	378,500	365,100	356,500	349,800	345,300	341,300	337,700	
Electronic Form 2290	323,356	364,700	397,400	423,000	444,600	463,600	480,900	497,400	513,800	
Form 8649	8,972	8,700	8,500	8,200	8,000	7,700	7,500	7,300	7,000	
Paper Form 8649	6,650	6,200	5,700	5,200	4,700	4,200	3,700	3,200	2,700	
Electronic Form 8649	2,122	2,500	2,700	3,000	3,300	3,600	3,800	4,100	4,400	
Excise Taxes re Employee Plans, Form 5330	19,677	19,700	19,700	19,700	19,700	19,700	19,700	19,700	19,700	
Form 5500-EZ, One-Participant Retirement Plans	121,239	119,800	120,800	121,100	121,500	121,800	122,200	122,500	122,900	
Payment or Refund under Sec. 7519, Form 8752	29,285	28,200	27,300	26,400	25,600	24,700	24,000	23,200	22,400	
Supplemental Documents, Total	24,338,817	24,800,400	25,258,100	25,709,100	26,159,100	26,611,100	27,064,200	27,519,000	27,975,500	
Form 1040-X	3,652,753	3,587,400	3,524,500	3,464,100	3,405,800	3,349,600	3,295,300	3,242,800	3,191,900	
Form 4868, Total	13,060,530	13,379,700	13,699,200	14,018,900	14,338,900	14,659,100	14,979,500	15,300,100	15,620,800	
Paper Form 4868	5,245,868	5,401,000	5,440,500	5,248,300	5,056,400	4,864,700	4,673,200	4,481,900	4,290,800	
Electronic Form 4868	7,814,662	7,978,700	8,258,700	8,770,600	9,282,500	9,794,400	10,306,300	10,818,200	11,330,100	
Form 1120-X	9,667	10,600	11,400	12,000	12,800	13,600	14,400	15,200	16,000	
Form 5559	468,780	475,300	483,400	491,400	499,400	507,300	515,200	522,900	530,600	
Form 7004, Total	6,506,228	6,694,000	6,867,700	7,032,600	7,195,000	7,356,200	7,517,000	7,677,600	7,838,200	
Paper Form 7004	1,862,771	1,707,700	1,596,700	1,517,200	1,462,800	1,427,900	1,407,900	1,399,200	1,399,200	
Electronic Form 7004	4,643,457	4,986,300	5,271,000	5,515,700	5,732,200	5,928,200	6,109,000	6,278,400	6,439,000	
Form 8868, Total	640,959	653,400	672,000	689,900	708,000	726,100	744,200	762,300	780,400	
Paper Form 8868	311,695	289,500	270,100	250,100	230,400	210,600	190,800	171,000	151,200	
Electronic Form 8868	329,264	364,000	401,900	439,800	477,700	515,500	553,400	591,300	629,200	

Notes:
 * Form 990-N is all electronic.
 ** Form 8871 is all electronic.
 Table does not contain Non-Master File counts.
 See Table Notes page for definitions of "Type of Return."
 Detail may not add to subtotal/total due to rounding.

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

Type of Return/BOD	Actual - FY 2015	Projected									
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
Individual Income Tax, Total	147,982,739	150,151,400	152,145,500	153,922,500	155,701,400	157,569,100	159,303,700	161,013,800	162,693,600		
Small Business/Self Employed	46,238,294	46,849,700	47,450,500	48,041,600	48,624,100	49,198,700	49,766,200	50,327,100	50,882,000		
Wage and Investment	101,744,445	103,301,700	104,695,000	105,880,800	107,077,200	108,370,400	109,537,500	110,686,700	111,811,600		
Corporation Income Tax, Total	6,893,412	6,869,200	6,908,800	6,941,800	6,969,000	6,990,900	7,008,300	7,021,700	7,031,400		
Small Business/Self Employed	6,705,411	6,679,300	6,714,300	6,743,000	6,766,100	6,784,200	6,797,800	6,807,600	6,813,900		
Large and Mid-Sized Business	175,097	176,300	180,900	185,200	189,400	193,300	197,200	200,800	204,300		
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	12,904	13,600	13,600	13,600	13,500	13,400	13,300	13,300	13,200		
Partnership Returns	3,882,560	3,969,100	4,060,100	4,133,900	4,196,000	4,250,100	4,299,200	4,345,000	4,389,200		
Small Business/Self Employed	3,704,484	3,787,100	3,873,900	3,944,300	4,003,500	4,055,200	4,102,000	4,145,700	4,187,900		
Large and Mid-Sized Business	177,617	181,600	185,700	189,100	192,000	194,400	196,700	198,800	200,800		
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	459	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500		
Employment Tax, Total	30,152,202	30,194,200	30,233,200	30,273,700	30,316,500	30,361,300	30,407,900	30,456,100	30,505,600		
Small Business/Self Employed	27,397,359	27,399,100	27,427,900	27,459,500	27,494,300	27,531,900	27,571,800	27,613,900	27,657,900		
Large and Mid-Sized Business	723,937	761,900	772,200	781,100	789,100	796,200	802,500	808,100	813,100		
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	2,030,906	2,033,200	2,033,100	2,033,000	2,033,100	2,033,300	2,033,600	2,034,100	2,034,600		
Excise, Total	1,014,211	1,001,000	1,012,300	1,022,500	1,033,600	1,044,200	1,055,100	1,065,800	1,076,700		
Small Business/Self Employed	880,564	870,400	882,300	893,000	904,600	915,700	927,100	938,300	949,700		
Large and Mid-Sized Business	89,228	88,000	88,400	88,800	89,300	89,800	90,200	90,700	91,200		
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	44,419	42,600	41,600	40,700	39,700	38,700	37,800	36,800	35,800		
Exempt Organization, Total	1,576,802	1,609,200	1,670,200	1,727,000	1,783,300	1,839,800	1,896,300	1,959,500	2,024,400		
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	1,576,802	1,609,200	1,670,200	1,727,000	1,783,300	1,839,800	1,896,300	1,959,500	2,024,400		
Employee Plans, Forms 5500, 5500EZ, and 5500SF	915,557	933,700	954,200	957,000	959,900	962,700	965,500	968,300	971,100		
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	915,557	933,700	954,200	957,000	959,900	962,700	965,500	968,300	971,100		

Note:
Detail may not add to total due to rounding.

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**Table 3. Accuracy Measures for U.S. Forecasts of Major Return Categories
Mean Absolute Percent Error (MAPE) and Number of Overprojections
for the Four (4) Most Recent Projection Cycles**

Item	Calendar Year 2015 Actual * (thousands)	Projection Error on Forecasts for:				
		1 Year Ahead N=4	2 Years Ahead N=4	3 Years Ahead N=4	4 Years Ahead N=4	5 Years Ahead N=4
Grand Total - Selected Returns *	243,163					
MAPE		1.18%	1.35%	1.68%	2.78%	3.75%
Number of Overprojections		4	4	4	4	4
Grand Total - Paper	81,768					
MAPE		4.65%	11.42%	20.26%	29.38%	37.81%
Number of Overprojections		4	4	4	4	4
Grand Total - E-file	161,395					
MAPE		2.96%	5.17%	9.16%	12.45%	15.56%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	0	0	0
Total Primary - Selected Returns *	220,769					
MAPE		0.68%	0.73%	1.26%	2.36%	4.08%
Number of Overprojections		3	4	4	4	4
Primary Total - Paper	72,702					
MAPE		3.65%	7.99%	16.48%	24.62%	33.57%
Number of Overprojections		2	4	4	4	4
Primary Total - E-file	148,067					
MAPE		2.59%	4.12%	7.18%	9.80%	11.87%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	0	0	0
Individual Total	148,650					
MAPE		1.12%	1.48%	1.39%	1.38%	0.97%
Number of Overprojections		4	4	3	3	3
Individual Total - Paper	20,037					
MAPE		6.94%	14.88%	23.76%	31.97%	45.78%
Number of Overprojections		4	4	4	4	4
Individual Total - E-file	127,740					
MAPE		1.28%	2.99%	5.82%	7.86%	10.63%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	0	0	0
Individual Estimated Tax	23,983					
MAPE		0.53%	2.51%	7.43%	14.26%	26.99%
Number of Overprojections		1	2	2	3	4
Fiduciary Total	3,175					
MAPE		2.87%	3.12%	4.14%	4.59%	8.50%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	1	1	2
Partnership Total	3,863					
MAPE		1.78%	4.65%	7.59%	12.20%	15.25%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	3	3	4
Corporation Total	6,823					
MAPE		2.48%	4.66%	7.60%	9.80%	12.35%
Number of Overprojections		3	3	4	4	4
Employment Total	30,088					
MAPE		1.62%	1.70%	2.67%	3.10%	3.83%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	1	2	3
Exempt Organization Total	1,541					
MAPE		3.36%	4.42%	5.71%	9.75%	10.01%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	1	1	1
Excise Total	994					
MAPE		9.17%	12.72%	13.11%	8.71%	6.61%
Number of Overprojections		1	0	0	1	2

* Some actuals shown in this table may differ from official counts reported elsewhere because they exclude certain return series only recently projected and whose accuracy can not yet be evaluated.

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Table Notes

- Projected volumes are rounded to the nearest hundredth, therefore counts of 49 or fewer are rounded to zero. However, some forms can report zero filings because they are associated with only selected areas, or because their filing options were just established or recently eliminated.
- Actual and forecasted return counts for the major categories are based on IRS master file processing, as recorded in the electronic versions of the “Report of Returns Posted to the IRS Master Files.”

Notes below are grouped by applicable table.

Table 1:

- “Grand Total” is the sum of “Total Primary Returns” and “Supplemental Documents.” The “Total Primary Returns” category is the sum of all forms shown on the tables, excluding “Supplemental Documents.”
- “Individual Income Tax, Total” is the sum of paper and electronic Forms 1040, 1040-A, 1040-EZ, 1040-NR, 1040-NR-EZ, 1040-PR 1040-SS and 1040-C.
- Various return categories, such as Form 1040-ES (Individual Estimated Tax) and other business and individual returns, include line items to account for alternative methods of tax filing. The “paper only” components can be derived by subtracting the electronic counts from their respective return totals.
- “Fiduciary, Form 1041” includes both paper and electronic Form 1041.
- “Fiduciary Estimated Tax, Form 1041-ES” is the Estimated Income Tax for Estate and Trust.
- “Partnership, Forms 1065/1065-B” includes both paper and electronic Forms 1065 and 1065-B.
- “Corporation Income Tax, Total” includes Forms 1120 (paper and electronic), 1120-F (paper and electronic), 1120-H, 1120-L, 1120-ND, 1120-PC, 1120-SF, 1120-FSC, 1120-REIT, 1120-RIC, and 1120-S (paper and electronic). Form 1120-POL volumes are reported separately under the forms for “Political Organizations.” Form 1120-IC-DISC is not included in these corporation projections.
- “Form 1120-C” is the U.S. Income Tax Return for Cooperative Associations.
- “Form 2553” is the Election (to file Form 1120-S) by a Small Business Corporation.

- “Form 1066” is the U.S. Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduit (REMIC) Income Tax Return.
- “Estate” includes Forms 706, 706-NA, 706-GS(D), and 706-GS(T).
- “Gift, Form 709” is the United States Gift (and Generation-Skipping Transfer) Tax Return.
- “Employment Tax, Total” includes paper, and electronic Forms 940, 940- EZ, 940-PR, 941, 941-PR, 941-SS, 943, 943-PR, 943-SS, 944, 945 and CT-1. CT-2 is excluded since the return counts were only available on the Non-Master File.
- “Form 1042” is the Annual Withholding Tax Return for U.S. Source Income of Foreign Persons. This form is assigned to the International area. It is sometimes considered an employment tax return, but listed separately here.
- “Exempt Organization, Total” includes Forms 990 (paper and electronic), 990-EZ (paper and electronic), 990-N (only available electronically), 990-PF (paper and electronic), 990-T, 4720, and 5227.
- “Form 1041-A” is the U.S. Information Return Trust Accumulation of Charitable Amounts Return.
- “Government Entities/Bonds” includes Forms 8038, 8038CP, 8038G, 8038GC, 8038T, 8038TC, and 8328.
- “Political Organizations” includes both paper and electronic Forms 1120-POL, 8871 and 8872.
- “Excise, Total” includes Forms 11-C, 730, paper and electronic Forms 720, and 2290.
- “Form 5330” is the Return of Excise Taxes Related to Employee Benefit Plans.
- “Form 5500-EZ” is the Annual Return for One-Participant (Owners and Their Spouses) Retirement Plans.
- “Form 8752” is the Required Payment or Refund Under Section 7519.
- “Supplemental Documents” consist mainly of applications for extensions of time to file and amended tax returns, which include Forms 1040X, 4868 (both paper and electronic), 1120X, 5558, 7004 (both paper and electronic), and 8868 (both paper and electronic).

Table 2:

Individual filers classified as “Small Business/Self Employed” reflect those taxpayers filing a Form 1040 return with a Schedule C, Schedule F, Schedule E and/or Form 2106 attached, or with mailing addresses or forms considered “International.” All other individual filers are classified as “Wage and Investment.”

In general, corporation filers (Form 1120 series returns including Form 1120S) and partnership filers are classified as “Large Business and International” if their reported total assets are \$10 million or more. Corporation and partnership returns with assets below \$10 million are generally classified as “Small Business/Self Employed.” However, there are also some partnership and corporation returns classified as part of the “Tax Exempt/Government Entities” operating division.

Non-profit organizations, pension plan filers, tribal authorities, and governmental units comprise the “Tax Exempt/Government Entities” classification.

“Employee Plans” returns include paper and electronic Forms 5500, 5500EZ and 5500SF. Counts by operating division in this table are based primarily upon the IRS master file “BOD indicator.” This indicator is a single, point-in-time, taxpayer level identifier (in contrast to a return-by-return identifier).

Other Projection Publications

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

These publications are available electronically as noted inside the front cover.
These publications may also be requested
(1) by phone at (202) 803-9155,
(2) by fax at (202) 803-9154, or
(3) by writing to the following address

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