# Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data, 2016 

## by Michael Parisi

This article presents selected income and tax items from individual income tax returns using preliminary data for Tax Year 2016 and comparable data for Tax Year 2015. ${ }^{1}$ For Tax Year 2016, taxpayers filed 150.3 million U.S. individual income tax returns, which were filed primarily in 2017 (see Data Sources and Limitations), a decrease of 0.2 percent from the 150.6 million returns filed for Tax Year 2015. For 2016, adjusted gross income (AGI) only increased 0.1 percent to $\$ 10.2$ trillion. This small increase in AGI reflected minor increases in salaries and wages ( 1.5 percent) and taxable pensions and annuities ( 0.4 percent) along with declines in partnership and $S$ corporation net income less loss (1.1 percent) and net capital gains (11.7 percent). Taxable income decreased by 0.1 percent to $\$ 7.3$ trillion in 2016. Moreover, total income tax decreased by 0.5 percent to $\$ 1.4$ trillion, and total tax liability also decreased by 0.5 percent to $\$ 1.5$ trillion. However, the alternative minimum tax rose by 0.7 percent to $\$ 26.6$ billion.

## Adjusted Gross Income

Several key components contributed to the minimal growth in total adjusted gross income in 2016 (Table 1). The largest component of AGI, salaries and wages, only increased 1.5 percent to $\$ 7,388.4$ billion. The second largest component, taxable pensions and annuities, increased 0.4 percent to $\$ 703.6$ billion. Other items related to retirement also increased, including taxable Social Security benefits, which rose 2.8 percent to $\$ 285.5$ billion, and taxable IRA distributions, which increased 1.5 percent to $\$ 254.5$ billion. Alternatively, some investment components of AGI showed decreases. Net capital gains, for instance, decreased 11.7 percent to $\$ 536.6$ billion, and ordinary dividends decreased 4.7 percent to $\$ 218.9$ billion. Business income items that decreased included partnership and S corporation net income less loss (1.1 percent) and sole proprietorship net income ( 2.0 percent). Unemployment compensation showed a decrease, dropping 6.5 percent to $\$ 25.4$ billion as the number of tax returns reporting taxable unemployment compensation fell 10.5 percent to 5.6 million returns.

## Adjustments

Statutory adjustments to total income increased 2.2 percent to $\$ 145.2$ billion for Tax Year 2016. The largest statutory adjustment was the deduction for the self-employment tax, which decreased 1.5 percent from $\$ 27.9$ billion to $\$ 27.5$ billion. The selfemployment health insurance deduction grew to $\$ 26.9$ billion,
a 4.5-percent increase. Payments to self-employed retirement (Keogh) plans decreased 0.1 percent to $\$ 22.1$ billion, while payments to IRAs increased 2.8 percent to $\$ 13.6$ billion. Other adjustments that grew from 2015 levels were health savings account deduction ( 16.4 percent), certain business expenses of reservists, performing artists, and fee-basis government officials (5.7 percent), alimony paid (4.4 percent), educator expenses (3.0 percent), and domestic production activities deduction (2.0 percent).

## Deductions

Total deductions, the sum of standard deductions (comprised of the basic and additional standard deductions) and total itemized deductions, increased 0.5 percent to $\$ 2,118.6$ billion in Tax Year 2016. Most tax returns ( 68.7 percent) claimed a standard deduction, but standard deductions accounted for 42.4 percent of total deductions. The total amount of the standard deduction claimed for TY 2016 fell 0.8 percent, while the average standard deduction claimed only increased from $\$ 8,691$ for 2015 to $\$ 8,694$ for 2016. Itemized deductions were claimed on only 30.0 percent of all returns for 2016 but they accounted for more than half (57.6 percent) of total deductions. ${ }^{2}$ The amount of itemized deductions claimed increased 1.5 percent to $\$ 1,220.9$ billion, while the average amount increased 0.2 percent to $\$ 27,108$.

Total taxes paid, which includes State and local income and sales taxes and is the largest itemized deduction, increased 1.3 percent to $\$ 546.6$ billion. Interest paid, the second largest itemized deduction, decreased 0.2 percent from the previous year to $\$ 293.8$ billion. Mortgage interest accounted for 94.8 percent ( $\$ 278.6$ billion) of the total interest paid deduction. Other itemized deductions included the charitable contributions deduction, up 1.1 percent to $\$ 203.5$ billion, and the medical and dental expenses deduction, up 4.0 percent to $\$ 87.5$ billion.

## Taxable Income and Total Income Tax

Taxable income, which is the result of AGI less exemptions and deductions, decreased 0.1 percent to $\$ 7.3$ trillion for 2016. With the decrease in taxable income, total income tax fell 0.5 percent to $\$ 1.4$ trillion. The alternative minimum tax (AMT) rose by 0.7 percent to $\$ 26.6$ billion. The number of returns with AMT liability also increased, rising 3.7 percent from 4.4 million in 2015 to 4.6 million in 2016.

Average AGI reported on all 2016 individual income tax returns was $\$ 67,755$, an increase from the 2015 amount of

[^0]$\$ 67,565$ ( 0.3 percent), and average taxable income (for those returns with taxable income) was $\$ 63,278$. The average taxable income amount represented a decrease from the 2015 amount of $\$ 63,691$ ( 0.6 percent). Average income tax for taxable returns fell 1.5 percent to $\$ 14,441$.

## Tax Credits

Tax credits offset tax liabilities, and when the amount of the credit is greater than the tax liability, the excess, depending on the credit, is often refundable. Examples of credits where the excess is refundable include the earned income tax credit (EIC) and the additional child tax credit. For 2016, the total amount of EIC claimed decreased 2.7 percent to $\$ 67.9$ billion. The portion of the EIC used to offset income tax before credits fell 5.4 percent to $\$ 1.4$ billion, and the portion of the EIC used to offset other taxes (such as the self-employment tax) fell 0.1 percent to $\$ 8.4$ billion. The largest part of the EIC, the excess or refundable portion, decreased 3.0 percent to $\$ 58.1$ billion for 2016 .

For 2016, total child tax credits claimed (the sum of the child tax credit and additional child tax credit) declined 2.8 percent to $\$ 52.8$ billion. The parameters for the child tax credits are not automatically indexed for inflation, and thus, the income thresholds beyond which the credits are phased down and the amount of the credit per child were unchanged from 2015. The amount of the child tax credit used to offset income taxes decreased 1.0 percent to $\$ 27.1$ billion, while the additional child tax credit (most of which was refundable) decreased 4.6 percent to $\$ 25.7$ billion.

In all, the refundable portion of refundable tax credits totaled $\$ 87.7$ billion for 2016, representing a 3.8-percent decrease from Tax Year 2015. This, however, exceeded the $\$ 73.0$ billion in total tax credits used against income tax. Notable percentage increases in these credits included the general business credit ( 15.2 percent) and the residential energy credit ( 13.2 percent). The foreign tax credit had the largest decline ( 13.2 percent) of all the credits.

## Affordable Care Act

A major tax law change that started in 2014 was the implementation of certain provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) (Public Law 111-148). The ACA contained comprehensive health insurance reforms and included tax provisions that affected individuals. The ACA established the premium tax credit (PTC) for taxpayers who enroll in a qualified health plan (QHP) offered through a Marketplace. The PTC provided financial assistance to help pay QHP premiums by reducing the amount of tax owed or providing a refund. The PTC was claimed at the time the taxpayer filed his or her return. The Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) was a payment during the year to the taxpayer's insurance provider that paid for part of or all the premiums. A taxpayer's APTC eligibility was based on the Marketplace's estimate of the PTC that the taxpayer would be able to claim on his or her tax return. Differences between the APTC that was paid during the year and final value of the PTC are reconciled on Form 8962, Premium Tax Credit, filed with the taxpayer's return. If the APTC was more than the PTC, the taxpayer had to
repay this excess, subject to a limit. If PTC was more than the APTC, the excess was used to reduce the taxpayer's tax payment or increased the taxpayer's refund.

The PTC was taken on 5.4 million returns on the Form 8962 for 2016 (an increase of 7.6 percent from 2015), for a total of $\$ 21.8$ billion (up 21.4 percent). Also for 2016, some 6.1 million returns (up 6.9 percent) reported an APTC on Form 8962 totaling $\$ 24.2$ billion (up 20.9 percent). When the PTC and APTC were reconciled, 2.6 million returns (an 11.5-percent increase) received a net PTC totaling $\$ 1.8$ billion (up 22.3 percent), and 3.4 million returns (up 4.8 percent) had to repay excess APTCs of $\$ 3.0$ billion (up 14.7 percent). These data do not reflect amended returns or errors that were corrected after initial processing.

The ACA required that individuals have health care coverage for 2016 , qualify for a health coverage exemption, or make a shared responsibility payment with a tax return. A health care individual responsibility payment was made on 4.9 million returns, down from the 6.6 million returns in 2015 ( 26.6 percent). The health care individual responsibility payments totaled $\$ 3.5$ billion, an average of $\$ 716$ per tax return paying this penalty. In 2015, the health care individual responsibility payments totaled $\$ 3.0$ billion for an average of $\$ 457$ per tax return paying the penalty. (See Changes in Law and Inflationary Adjustments.)

## Changes in Law and Inflationary Adjustments

In general, the definitions used in this article are the same as those in Publication 1304, Individual Income Tax Returns Complete Report, 2015. The following is a partial list of tax law changes and inflationary adjustments that had an impact on the data presented in this article.

Alternative minimum tax (AMT)—For Tax Year 2016, the maximum AMT exemption increased from $\$ 83,400$ to $\$ 83,800$ for a married couple filing a joint return, from $\$ 53,600$ to $\$ 53,900$ for single filers and heads of household, and from $\$ 41,700$ to $\$ 41,900$ for a married person filing separately. Also for 2016, the 26-percent tax rate applied to the first $\$ 186,300$ ( $\$ 93,150$ if married filing separately) of alternative minimum taxable income. Previously it applied to the first $\$ 185,400(\$ 92,700)$ of such income.

Earned income credit-The maximum amount of the earned income credit increased, as did the amounts of earned income and investment income an individual could have received and still claim the credit. The maximum credit for taxpayers with no qualifying children rose to $\$ 506$ from $\$ 503$. For these taxpayers, earned income and AGI had to be less than \$14,880 (\$20,430 if married filing jointly) to be eligible for the EIC. For taxpayers with one qualifying child, the maximum credit increased from $\$ 3,359$ to $\$ 3,373$, and, for taxpayers with two qualifying children, the maximum credit increased from $\$ 5,548$ to $\$ 5,572$. To be eligible for the credit, a taxpayer's earned income and AGI had to be less than $\$ 39,296$ ( $\$ 44,846$ for married filing jointly) for one qualifying child, or less than $\$ 44,648$ ( $\$ 50,198$ for married filing jointly) for two qualifying children. The maximum credit for taxpayers with three or more qualifying children increased from $\$ 6,242$ to $\$ 6,269$. For these taxpayers, earned income and AGI had to be less than $\$ 47,955$ ( $\$ 53,505$ if married
filing jointly) to be eligible for the EIC. The maximum amount of investment income (interest, dividends, and capital gain income) a taxpayer could have and still claim the credit was $\$ 3,400$ for the year.

Exemption amount-For Tax Year 2016, the personal exemption amount increased $\$ 50$ to $\$ 4,050$. For 2016, the amount was reduced if the taxpayer's AGI was more than $\$ 155,650$ ( $\$ 154,950$ in 2015) for married filing separately, $\$ 259,400$ ( $\$ 258,250$ in 2015) for single, $\$ 285,350(\$ 284,050$ in 2015) for head of household, and $\$ 311,300$ ( $\$ 309,900$ in 2015) for married filing jointly.

Health care: Individual responsibility-For 2016, taxpayers must have had health care coverage, qualified for a health coverage exemption, or made a shared responsibility payment with their tax return. The shared responsibility payment increased to $\$ 695$ per adult and $\$ 347.50$ per child (under 18) up to $\$ 2,085$ for a family or $2.5 \%$ of the taxpayer's household income above the tax return filing threshold for the taxpayers filing status, whichever was greater. For 2015, it was $\$ 325$ per adult and $\$ 162.50$ per child up to $\$ 975$ for a family or $2 \%$ of the taxpayer's household income above the tax return filing threshold for the taxpayers filing status, whichever was greater.

Itemized deductions-For 2016, a taxpayer could have had their itemized deductions limited if adjusted gross income was more than $\$ 155,650$ for married filing separately, $\$ 259,400$ for single, $\$ 285,350$ for head of household, and $\$ 311,300$ for married filing jointly. The corresponding amounts for 2015 were $\$ 154,950$ for married filing separately, $\$ 258,250$ for single, $\$ 284,050$ for head of household, and $\$ 309,900$ for married filing jointly.

Standard deduction amount-The standard deduction for people who did not itemize deductions on Schedule A of Form 1040 was the same for 2016 as it was for 2015 for all filers except taxpayers filing as heads of household. The amount depended on filing status, being 65 or older or blind, and whether an exemption could be claimed for a taxpayer by another person. For 2016, the standard deduction remained at $\$ 12,600$ for joint filers, the same as in 2015. For single filers and married filing separate filers, the deduction also remained the same as 2015 at $\$ 6,300$. For heads of households, the deduction increased to $\$ 9,300$, up from $\$ 9,250$ in 2015.

## Data Sources and Limitations

The preliminary statistics in this data release are based on a sample of individual income tax returns (Forms 1040, 1040A, and 1040 EZ , including electronically filed returns) filed during Calendar Year 2017. Returns in the sample were stratified based on: (1) the larger of positive income or negative income; (2) the size of business and farm receipts; and (3) the presence or absence of specific forms or schedules. ${ }^{3}$ Returns were then selected at rates ranging from 0.1 percent to 100 percent. The preliminary Tax Year 2016 data are based on a sample of 267,838 returns and an estimated final population of $151,014,093$ returns. The corresponding sample and population for the preliminary 2015 data were 257,083 returns and $151,238,929$ returns, respectively.

Since the data presented here are estimates based on a sample of returns filed, they are subject to sampling error. To use the statistical data provided properly, the magnitude of the potential sampling error must be known; coefficients of variation (CVs) are used to measure that magnitude. [The reliability of estimates based on samples, and the use of coefficients of variation for evaluating the precision of estimates based on samples, are discussed in "SOI Sampling Methodology and Data Limitations," located at http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-soi/sampling.pdf.]

While the preliminary estimates are intended to represent a full year of taxpayer reporting, they are based on returns processed for tax administration purposes; in the case of 2016 returns, between January and late September of 2017. In general, returns processed during the remainder of each year tend to have somewhat different characteristics compared to returns processed earlier. These characteristics include, for example, disproportionately large amounts of investment income, passive losses, and alternative minimum tax.

[^1][^2]Table 1. Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data for Tax Years 2015 and 2016: Selected Income and Tax Items, by Size of Adjusted Gross Income
[(All figures are estimates based on samples-money amounts are in thousands of dollars]

| Item | All returns |  |  | Tax Year 2016 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Size of adjusted gross income |  |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Tax Year } \\ 2015 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Tax Year } \\ 2016 \end{gathered}$ | Percent difference | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Under } \\ & \$ 15,000 \text { [1] } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 15,000 \\ \text { under } \\ \$ 30,000 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
|  | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| Number of returns, total | 150,565,918 | 150,315,944 | -0.2 | 34,703,083 | 29,734,201 |
| Form 1040 returns | 85,421,307 | 86,063,674 | 0.8 | 12,812,214 | 11,014,985 |
| Form 1040A returns | 41,133,634 | 40,336,292 | -1.9 | 9,826,611 | 13,183,388 |
| Form 1040EZ returns | 24,010,976 | 23,915,978 | -0.4 | 12,064,258 | 5,535,827 |
| Electronically filed returns [2] | 132,251,035 | 132,409,588 | 0.1 | 29,333,842 | 26,431,567 |
| Adjusted gross income (less deficit) | 10,172,951,296 | 10,184,729,067 | 0.1 | 80,884,255 | 657,276,347 |
| Salaries and wages: Number of returns | 125,283,036 | 125,150,106 | -0.1 | 25,225,457 | 24,909,113 |
| Amount | 7,278,186,298 | 7,388,376,187 | 1.5 | 216,283,468 | 534,428,141 |
| Taxable interest: Number of returns | 42,628,389 | 42,548,410 | -0.2 | 4,930,155 | 4,138,209 |
| Amount | 73,329,112 | 71,407,046 | -2.6 | 4,645,042 | 3,014,704 |
| Tax-exempt interest: [3] Number of returns | 5,772,571 | 6,012,143 | 4.2 | 437,661 | 353,869 |
| Amount | 57,040,888 | 56,370,666 | -1.2 | 2,086,878 | 1,456,580 |
| Ordinary dividends: Number of returns | 27,519,936 | 27,350,244 | -0.6 | 3,167,359 | 2,304,262 |
| Amount | 229,721,327 | 218,892,983 | -4.7 | 6,942,970 | 5,654,349 |
| Qualified dividends: Number of returns | 25,689,088 | 25,518,186 | -0.7 | 2,891,817 | 2,089,018 |
| Amount | 181,615,058 | 175,742,121 | -3.2 | 4,468,951 | 3,805,984 |
| State income tax refunds: Number of returns | 20,462,593 | 20,975,362 | 2.5 | 410,526 | 801,146 |
| Amount | 28,124,473 | 29,803,549 | 6.0 | 399,004 | 465,539 |
| Alimony received: Number of returns | 404,476 | 405,668 | 0.3 | 41,148 | 91,383 |
| Amount | 9,654,891 | 10,023,057 | 3.8 | 355,667 | 993,466 |
| Business or profession net income: Number of returns | 18,756,369 | 18,905,757 | 0.8 | 5,565,375 | 3,342,848 |
| Amount | 375,046,912 | 367,655,290 | -2.0 | 41,930,890 | 44,440,779 |
| Business or profession net loss: Number of returns | 5,943,072 | 6,120,036 | 3.0 | 1,011,257 | 1,047,853 |
| Amount | 62,117,940 | 63,022,630 | 1.5 | 21,153,119 | 9,740,059 |
| Net capital gain: [4] Number of returns | 15,837,931 | 14,819,947 | -6.4 | 1,483,722 | 1,112,312 |
| Amount | 607,950,634 | 536,604,639 | -11.7 | 11,172,020 | 3,998,574 |
| Capital gain distributions: [4] <br> Number of returns | 14,088,024 | 13,236,410 | -6.0 | 1,459,066 | 962,853 |
| Amount | 73,453,403 | 42,088,545 | -42.7 | 1,575,955 | 1,462,005 |
| Net capital loss: <br> Number of returns | 8,213,924 | 8,980,200 | 9.3 | 1,450,018 | 742,114 |
| Amount | 18,466,584 | 19,901,233 | 7.8 | 3,265,248 | 1,631,596 |
| Sales of property other than capital assets, net gain: Number of returns | 984,347 | 894,187 | -9.2 | 108,022 | 55,711 |
| Amount | 22,744,833 | 15,543,496 | -31.7 | 1,805,025 | 275,491 |
| Sales of property other than capital assets, net loss: Number of returns | 1,052,324 | 999,011 | -5.1 | 164,808 | 78,789 |
| Amount | 18,238,114 | 18,503,133 | 1.5 | 9,050,665 | 738,206 |
| Taxable Individual Retirement Arrangement distributions: Number of returns | 14,201,166 | 14,399,801 | 1.4 | 1,838,988 | 1,891,792 |
| Amount | 250,683,526 | 254,463,193 | 1.5 | 10,312,662 | 15,538,803 |

Table 1. Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data for Tax Years 2015 and 2016: Selected Income and Tax Items, by Size of Adjusted Gross Income-Continued
[All figures are estimates based on samples--money amounts are in thousands of dollars]

| Item | All returns |  |  | Tax Year 2016 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Size of adjusted gross income |  |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Tax Year } \\ 2015 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Tax Year } \\ 2016 \end{gathered}$ | Percent difference | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Under } \\ & \$ 15,000 \text { [1] } \end{aligned}$ | \$15,000 under \$30,000 |
| Taxable pensions and annuities: Number of returns | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
|  | 28,403,147 | 28,054,617 | -1.2 | 3,774,496 | 4,336,546 |
| Amount | 700,815,387 | 703,550,696 | 0.4 | 26,454,322 | 54,111,177 |
| Rent and royalty net income: <br> Number of returns | 6,195,659 | 6,112,976 | -1.3 | 754,369 | 602,988 |
| Amount | 92,102,437 | 88,951,077 | -3.4-5.2 | 4,839,454 | 4,009,032 |
| Rent and royalty net loss: Number of returns | 4,310,573 | 4,085,246 |  | 487,267 | 387,080 |
| Amount | 42,407,552 | 43,108,226 | 1.7 | 7,840,151 | 2,778,533 |
| Rent and royalty net income less loss: Number of returns | 10,506,233 | 10,198,222 | -2.9 | 1,241,636 | 990,068 |
| Amount | 49,694,885 | 45,842,851 | -7.8 | -3,000,696 | 1,230,498 |
| Partnership and S corporation net income: <br> Number of returns | 5,361,321 | 5,364,391 | 0.1 | 286,506 | 327,371 |
| Amount | 655,169,213 | 649,817,239 | -0.8 | 5,557,663 | 3,567,439 |
| Partnership and S corporation net loss: <br> Number of returns | 2,394,983 | 2,376,820 | -0.8 | 387,624 | 166,189 |
| Amount | 74,869,150 | 76,073,639 | 1.6 | 34,446,610 | 1,722,681 |
| Partnership and S corporation net income less loss: <br> Number of returns | 7,756,304 | 7,741,211 | -0.2 | 674,129 | $493,561$ |
| Amount | 580,300,063 | 573,743,600 | -1.1 | -28,888,948 | 1,844,758 |
| Estate and trust net income: <br> Number of returns | 562,255 | 549,266 | -2.3 | 53,023 | 38,918 |
| Amount | 26,174,791 | 23,908,205 | -8.7 | 595,782 | 153,064 |
| Estate and trust net loss: <br> Number of returns | 49,718 | 40,952 | -17.6 | 4,213 | * 3,809 |
| Amount | 4,480,833 | 1,522,051 | -66.0 | 520,270 | * 58,795 |
| Estate and trust net income less loss: <br> Number of returns <br> Amount | 611,972 | 590,218 | -3.6 | 57,236 | 42,728 |
|  | 21,693,958 | 22,386,154 | 3.2 | 75,512 | 94,269 |
| Farm net income: <br> Number of returns | 537,286 | 488,564 | -9.1 | 83,679 | 52,516 |
| Amount | 14,977,389 | 12,668,566 | -15.4 | 755,498 | 574,954 |
| Farm net loss: <br> Number of returns | 1,256,182 | 1,262,214 | 0.5 | $247,560$ | 138,126 |
| Amount | 26,445,074 | 28,782,927 | 8.8 | 9,208,765 | 2,594,002 |
| Unemployment compensation: <br> Number of returns <br> Amount | 6,233,913 | 5,579,779 | -10.5 | 725,617 | 1,353,134 |
|  | 27,146,461 | 25,381,039 | -6.5 | 2,306,768 | 5,707,976 |
| Taxable Social Security benefits: <br> Number of returns | 19,655,470 | 19,917,783 | 1.3 | 214,308 | 3,400,149 |
| Amount | 277,814,515 | 285,532,254 | 2.8 | 546,225 | 8,505,507 |
| Total statutory adjustments: |  |  |  |  | 5,693,409 |
| Amount | 142,049,300 | 145,176,272 | 2.2 | 8,909,990 | 9,230,201 |
| Educator expenses: Number of returns | 3,783,131 | 3,903,183 | 3.2 | 113,377 | 232,598 |
| Amount | 967,285 | 996,770 | 3.0 | 24,772 | 53,128 |
| Certain business expenses of reservists, performing artists, and fee-basis government officials: <br> Number of returns | 172,239 | 162,498 | -5.7 | 20,132 | 18,776 |
| Amount | 597,847 | 632,073 | 5.7 | 105,272 | 86,961 |

Table 1. Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data for Tax Years 2015 and 2016: Selected Income and Tax Items, by Size of Adjusted Gross Income-Continued

| Item | All returns |  |  | Tax Year 2016 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Size of adjusted gross income |  |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Tax Year } \\ 2015 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Tax Year } \\ 2016 \end{gathered}$ | Percent difference | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Under } \\ & \$ 15,000 \text { [1] } \end{aligned}$ | \$15,000 under \$30,000 |
| Payments to an Individual Retirement Arrangement: Number of returns | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
|  | 2,671,897 | 2,694,545 | 0.8 | 100,899 | 285,574 |
| Amount | 13,253,050 | 13,622,442 | 2.80.0 | 341,733 | 1,094,648 |
| Student loan interest deduction: <br> Number of returns | 12,550,054 | 12,551,954 |  | 759,138 | 1,753,780 |
| Amount | 13,643,332 | 13,597,140 | -0.3 | 667,917 | 1,636,839 |
| Tuition and fees deduction: <br> Number of returns | 1,671,524 | 1,690,715 | 1.1 | 454,932 | 196,156 |
| Amount | 3,972,397 | 3,910,767 | -1.6 | 1,386,649 | 427,238 |
| Health savings account deduction: Number of returns | 1,367,475 | 1,702,684 | 24.5 | 36,244 | 121,675 |
| Amount | 4,172,701 | 4,857,333 | 16.4 | 80,415 | 180,097 |
| Moving expenses adjustment: Number of returns | 1,131,165 | 1,117,928 | -1.2 | 85,577 | 170,007 |
| Amount | 3,721,613 | 3,469,049 | -6.8 | 215,058 | 403,984 |
| Self-employment tax deduction: <br> Number of returns | 19,379,805 | 19,301,404 | -0.4 | 5,384,540 | 3,320,251 |
| Amount | 27,874,627 | 27,451,816 | -1.5 | 3,070,092 | 3,318,821 |
| Self-employed health insurance deduction: <br> Number of returns | 3,750,069 | 3,711,403 | -1.0 | 419,827 | 405,629 |
| Amount | 25,732,341 | 26,896,646 | 4.5 | 1,508,706 | 1,390,307 |
| Payments to a self-employed retirement (Keogh) plan: <br> Number of returns | 954,504 | 930,694 | -2.5 | 10,852 | 10,503 |
| Amount | 22,176,881 | 22,148,925 | -0.1 | 70,939 | 113,722 |
| Penalty on early withdrawal of savings: <br> Number of returns | 462,599 | 409,840 | -11.4 | 84,172 | 66,061 |
| Amount | 77,286 | 106,119 | 37.3 | 13,478 | 35,328 |
| Alimony paid: Number of returns | 592,214 | 580,874 | -1.9 | 47,304 | 37,411 |
| Amount | 11,904,390 | 12,432,629 | 4.4 | 903,676 | 318,432 |
| Domestic production activities deduction: <br> Number of returns | 657,709 | 670,363 | 1.9 | 39,025 | 30,890 |
| Amount | 12,798,480 | 13,048,677 | 2.0 | 365,697 | 84,307 |
| Other adjustments [5]: <br> Number of returns | 121,146 | 128,331 | 5.9 | 10,845 | 22,789 |
| Amount | 1,027,525 | 1,831,217 | 78.2 | 58,944 | 81,306 |
| Total exemptions: <br> Number of exemptions [6] | 293,163,551 | 290,844,371 | -0.8 | 41,799,349 | 53,573,629 |
| Amount | 1,145,862,358 | 1,150,899,302 | 0.4 | 169,177,453 | 216,887,519 |
| Total deductions: Number of returns | 148,594,382 | 148,286,513 | -0.2 | 32,678,539 | 29,732,038 |
| Amount | 2,108,106,095 | 2,118,559,667 | 0.5 | 243,552,757 | 270,927,777 |
| Total standard deduction: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 904,867,107 | 897,656,479 | -0.8 | 221,734,725 | 226,450,028 |
| Basic standard deduction: <br> Number of returns | 104,117,197 | 103,247,579 | -0.8 | 31,324,294 | 26,978,202 |
| Amount | 876,612,501 | 868,978,191 | -0.9 | 214,165,843 | 220,321,193 |
| Additional standard deduction: <br> Number of returns <br> Amount | 15,137,971 | $15,353,730$$28,678,287$ | 1.4 | 4,307,662 | 3,302,468 |
|  | 28,254,607 |  | 1.5 | 7,568,881 | 6,128,835 |

[^3]Table 1. Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data for Tax Years 2015 and 2016: Selected Income and Tax Items, by Size of Adjusted Gross Income-Continued
[All figures are estimates based on samples--money amounts are in thousands of dollars]

| Item | All returns |  |  | Tax Year 2016 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Size of adjusted gross income |  |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Tax Year } \\ 2015 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Tax Year } \\ 2016 \end{gathered}$ | Percent difference | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Under } \\ & \$ 15,000 \text { [1] } \end{aligned}$ | \$15,000 under \$30,000 |
| Total itemized deductions (after limitation): <br> Number of returns | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
|  | 44,477,185 | 45,038,934 | 1.3 | 1,354,244 | 2,753,836 |
| Amount | 1,203,238,988 | 1,220,903,188 | 1.5 | 21,818,032 | 44,477,749 |
| Medical and dental expenses deduction: Number of returns | 8,655,113 | 8,823,935 | 2.0 | 963,238 | 1,461,765 |
| Amount | 84,180,300 | 87,520,316 | 4.01.3 | 8,771,542 | 12,986,643 |
| Taxes paid deduction: <br> Number of returns | 44,105,843 | 44,695,688 |  | 1,291,617 | 2,669,054 |
| Amount | 539,813,263 | 546,609,973 | 1.31.1 | 5,018,119 | 9,514,658 |
| State and local income taxes: [7] Number of returns | 42,596,926 | 43,061,784 |  | 1,113,616 | 2,462,210 |
| Amount | 338,281,259 | 340,353,997 | 0.6 | 1,019,081 | 2,779,767 |
| Income taxes: <br> Number of returns | 33,266,107 | 33,547,028 | 0.8 | 421,262 | 1,225,585 |
| Amount | 321,321,321 | 322,430,547 | 0.3 | 600,513 | 1,688,042 |
| General sales taxes: <br> Number of returns | 9,330,819 | 9,514,756 | 2.0 | 692,355 | 1,236,625 |
| Amount | 16,959,939 | 17,923,450 | 5.7 | 418,568 | 1,091,726 |
| Interst paid deduction: <br> Number of returns | 33,195,263 | 33,349,987 | 0.5 | 706,006 | 1,367,228 |
| Amount | 294,456,248 | 293,761,809 | -0.2 | 4,773,343 | 8,547,932 |
| Total mortgage interest paid deduction: <br> Number of returns | 32,668,175 | 32,855,668 | 0.6 | 692,762 | 1,338,226 |
| Amount | 278,548,442 | 278,552,421 | [9] | 4,592,371 | 8,095,077 |
| Charitable contributions deduction: Number of returns | 36,653,154 | 36,954,106 | 0.8 | 840,456 | 1,929,501 |
| Amount | 201,264,228 | 203,534,065 | 1.1 | 1,236,223 | 4,871,799 |
| Taxable income: <br> Number of returns | 115,131,366 | 115,735,559 | 0.5 | 8,149,478 | 22,576,525 |
| Amount | 7,332,804,126 | 7,323,555,199 | -0.1 | 21,397,029 | 212,001,025 |
| Alternative minimum tax: Number of returns | 4,431,689 | 4,594,902 | 3.7 | 10,195 | 5,781 |
| Amount | 26,434,663 | 26,619,816 | 0.7 | 92,677 | 7,145 |
| Excess advance premium tax credit repayment: Number of returns | 3,263,411 | 3,421,203 | 4.8 | 382,710 | 1,166,427 |
| Amount | 2,606,284 | 2,989,568 | 14.7 | 116,851 | 453,779 |
| Income tax before credits: <br> Number of returns | 114,763,285 | 115,430,582 | 0.6 | 8,133,854 | 22,511,240 |
| Amount | 1,513,655,190 | 1,506,704,117 | -0.5 | 2,321,722 | 23,726,091 |
| Total tax credits: [8] |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 75,915,766 | 72,952,001 | -3.9 | 401,949 | 4,765,058 |
| Child care credit: <br> Number of returns | 6,472,822 | 6,595,018 | 1.9 | * 6,484 | 697,593 |
| Amount | 3,652,473 | 3,699,398 | 1.3 | * 1,203 | 297,736 |
| Credit for the elderly or disabled: Number of returns | 48,502 | 57,731 | 19.0 | 23,288 | 34,442 |
| Amount | 6,066 | 6,080 | 0.2 | 3,191 | 2,889 |
| Child tax credit: <br> Number of returns | 22,576,654 | 22,309,767 | -1.2 | 69,617 | 3,273,911 |
| Amount | 27,355,136 | 27,082,922 | -1.0 | 17,847 | 1,489,381 |

[^4]Table 1. Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data for Tax Years 2015 and 2016: Selected Income and Tax Items, by Size of Adjusted Gross Income-Continued
[All figures are estimates based on samples--money amounts are in thousands of dollars]


Table 1. Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data for Tax Years 2015 and 2016: Selected Income and Tax Items, by Size of Adjusted Gross Income-Continued


[^5]Table 1. Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data for Tax Years 2015 and 2016: Selected Income and Tax Items, by Size of Adjusted Gross Income-Continued
[(All figures are estimates based on samples-money amounts are in thousands of dollars]


Table 1. Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data for Tax Years 2015 and 2016: Selected Income and Tax Items, by Size of Adjusted Gross Income-Continued
[All figures are estimates based on samples--money amounts are in thousands of dollars]

| Item | Tax Year 2016 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Size of adjusted gross income |  |  |  |  |
|  | \$30,000 under \$50,000 | $\begin{gathered} \$ 50,000 \\ \text { under } \\ \$ 100,000 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 100,000 \\ \text { under } \\ \$ 200,000 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 200,000 \\ \text { under } \\ \$ 250,000 \end{gathered}$ | \$250,000 or more |
| Taxable pensions and annuities: Number of returns | (6) | (7) | (8) | (9) | (10) |
|  | 4,513,065 | 8,519,129 | 5,333,015 | 651,622 | 926,744 |
| Amount | 82,422,730 | 231,496,474 | 218,256,469 | 35,274,153 | 55,535,371 |
| Rent and royalty net income: <br> Number of returns | 718,467 | 1,595,355 | 1,509,076 | 246,914 | 685,806 |
| Rent and royalty net loss: Number of returns | 5,180,871 | 12,919,564 | 19,706,811 | 5,003,693 | 37,291,652 |
|  | 540,430 | 1,332,938 | 1,026,461 | 91,748 | 219,323 |
| Amount | 4,598,058 | 11,034,713 | 8,795,428 | 1,753,964 | 6,307,378 |
| Rent and royalty net income less loss: <br> Number of returns | 1,258,897 | 2,928,293 | 2,535,537 | 338,662 | 905,129 |
| Partnership and S corporation net income: Number of returns | 582,813 | 1,884,852 | 10,911,382 | 3,249,728 | 30,984,274 |
|  | 460,272 | 1,112,765 | 1,461,863 | 368,165 | 1,347,448 |
| Amount | 7,182,339 | 24,635,609 | 58,724,196 | 24,478,775 | 525,671,217 |
| Partnership and S corporation net loss: <br> Number of returns | 237,717 | 540,032 | 581,221 | 110,533 | 353,504 |
| Amount | 2,425,012 | 5,615,640 | 7,724,839 | 1,959,690 | 22,179,166 |
| Partnership and S corporation net income less loss: <br> Number of returns | 697,989 | 1,652,797 | 2,043,084 | 478,698 | 1,700,952 |
| Amount | 4,757,327 | 19,019,969 | 50,999,357 | 22,519,085 | 503,492,051 |
| Estate and trust net income: <br> Number of returns | 39,783 | 128,557 | 160,957 | 29,266 | 98,763 |
| Amount | 399,380 | 1,884,113 | 3,507,664 | 1,053,551 | 16,314,650 |
| Estate and trust net loss: <br> Number of returns | 4,237 | 2,761 | 15,012 | 736 | 10,183 |
| Amount | 13,876 | 12,314 | 120,382 | 3,661 | 792,754 |
| Estate and trust net income less loss: <br> Number of returns | 44,020 | 131,318 | 175,969 | 30,002 | 108,945 |
| Amount | 385,504 | 1,871,799 | 3,387,282 | 1,049,890 | 15,521,896 |
| Farm net income: <br> Number of returns | 72,712 | 141,168 | 94,794 | 12,105 | 31,591 |
| Amount | 1,030,872 | 3,292,219 | 3,171,375 | 734,394 | 3,109,253 |
| Farm net loss: <br> Number of returns | 165,893 | 379,100 | 231,828 | 31,181 | 68,525 |
| Amount | 2,527,684 | 5,792,614 | 4,166,754 | 777,665 | 3,715,443 |
| Unemployment compensation: Number of returns | 1,155,706 | 1,476,694 | 721,588 | 69,407 | 77,633 |
| Amount | 5,262,365 | 7,355,781 | 3,818,163 | 428,992 | 500,994 |
| Taxable Social Security benefits: <br> Number of returns | 4,084,408 | 7,162,935 | 3,851,287 | 443,589 | 761,106 |
| Amount | 31,674,994 | 122,647,902 | 89,541,741 | 11,638,557 | 20,977,329 |
| Total statutory adjustments: <br> Number of returns | 6,493,590 | 10,069,684 | 7,043,512 | 776,587 | 1,808,886 |
| Amount | 13,463,716 | 27,694,869 | 31,110,678 | 7,387,910 | 47,378,908 |
| Educator expenses: Number of returns | 611,699 | 1,438,649 | 1,273,693 | 127,164 | 106,003 |
| Amount | 146,936 | 370,064 | 342,335 | 32,967 | 26,569 |
| Certain business expenses of reservists, performing artists, and fee-basis government officials: <br> Number of returns | 28,957 | 41,734 | 44,613 | 4,969 | 3,319 |
| Amount | 126,215 | 139,841 | 126,638 | 27,264 | 19,883 |

Table 1. Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data for Tax Years 2015 and 2016: Selected Income and Tax Items, by Size of Adjusted Gross Income-Continued


[^6]Table 1. Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data for Tax Years 2015 and 2016: Selected Income and Tax Items, by Size of Adjusted Gross Income-Continued


[^7]Table 1. Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data for Tax Years 2015 and 2016: Selected Income and Tax Items, by Size of Adjusted Gross Income-Continued

| Item | Tax Year 2016 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Size of adjusted gross income |  |  |  |  |
|  | \$30,000 under \$50,000 | $\begin{gathered} \$ 50,000 \\ \text { under } \\ \$ 100,000 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 100,000 \\ \text { under } \\ \$ 200,000 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 200,000 \\ \text { under } \\ \$ 250,000 \end{gathered}$ | $\$ 250,000$ or more |
| (6) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Education tax credits: <br> Number of returns | 2,103,475 | 2,704,087 | 1,720,556 | 0 | 0 |
| Amount | 2,218,893 | 3,471,519 | 2,473,607 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 609,778 | 222,820 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Adoption credit: <br> Number of returns | 10,833 | 33,409 | 19,521 | ** 763 | ** |
| Amount | 15,974 | 104,641 | 165,377 | ** 5,446 | ** |
| Residential energy credits: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 203,133 | 647,756 | 873,169 | 167,896 | 429,442 |
| Foreign tax credit: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 145,216 | 527,870 | 1,251,400 | 744,272 | 15,568,587 |
| General business credit: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 21,695 | 67,755 | 297,497 | 112,863 | 2,381,265 |
| Prior year minimum tax credit: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 9,579 | 35,083 | 158,679 | 50,420 | 598,306 |
| Total refundable credits: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 17,081,127 | 3,577,796 | 1,572,237 | 43 | 5,122 |
| Total refundable credits used to offset income tax before <br> credits: <br> Number of returns    |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total refundable credits used to offset other taxes:    8,133 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 1,821,501 | 398,498 | 13,462 | * 6 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 13,716,297 | 1,615,125 | 60,207 | ** 36 | ** |
| Total earned income credit (EIC): |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 9,082,101 | 35,919 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EIC used to offset income tax before credits:   0 <br> Number of returns $1,944,679$ $* 7,611$ 0 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 894,573 | * 264 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EIC used to offset other taxes: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 1,166,849 | 10,458 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Excess EIC, refundable portion: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount | 7,020,679 | 25,196 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total additional child tax credit: Number of returns | 4,227,874 | 1,087,754 | 30,649 | ** 30 | ** |
| Amount | 6,354,306 | 1,544,032 | 56,966 | ** 42 | ** |
| Refundable additional child tax credit used to offset other taxes: |  |  |  |  | 0 |
| Amount | 497,064 | 283,759 | 11,499 | * 6 | 0 |

[^8]Table 1. Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data for Tax Years 2015 and 2016: Selected Income and Tax Items, by Size of Adjusted Gross Income-Continued
[All figures are estimates based on samples -money amounts are in thousands of dollars]


* Estimate should be used with caution because of the small number of sample returns on which it is based.
** Data combined to prevent disclosure of information for specific taxpayers.
[1] Includes returns with adjusted gross deficit.
[2] Included in data for Forms 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ.
[3] Not included in adjusted gross income (less deficit).
[4] Includes capital gain distributions reported on Form 1040 and Schedule D.
[5] Other adjustments does not include the foreign housing deduction or the medical savings account deduction. However, these are included in total statutory deductions.
[6] Data shown are the number of exemptions claimed on returns, rather than the number of returns with exemptions.
[7] State and local income taxes is the total of both income taxes and general sales taxes.
[8] Includes EIC, American opportunity credit, and net premium tax credit, which are used to offset income tax before credits, shown separately later in this table. Also includes other credits that are not shown separately in this table.
[9] Less than 0.05 percent.
NOTES: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Definitions for items in the table can be found at: https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-soi/15inexplanationofterms.pdf
These data represent estimates of income and tax items based on a sample of individual income tax returns filed between January and late September of a given processing year. These returns are then weighted to represent a full year of taxpayer reporting. In general, some of the returns processed during the remainder of the year may have somewhat different characteristics compared to these earlier ones. Therefore, these preliminary data are best utilized by comparisons made to the preliminary estimates from the prior year. When available, the estimates from the "complete year data" should be used in place of the preliminary data.
SOURCE: IRS, Statistics of Income Division, Individual Income Tax Returns, Preliminary Data, February 2018.


[^0]:    
     year-to-year changes. [Final statistics for Tax Year 2015 are available in Publication 1304, Individual Income Tax Returns Complete Report, 2015.]
     and the spouse itemized.

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[^2]:     (Individual, Fiduciary, or Nonresident Alien Individual); Schedule C, Profit or Loss from Business (Sole Proprietorship); and Schedule F, Profit or Loss from Farming.

[^3]:    Footnotes at end of table.

[^4]:    Footnotes at end of table.

[^5]:    Footnotes at end of table.

[^6]:    Footnotes at end of table.

[^7]:    Footnotes at end of table.

[^8]:    Footnotes at end of table.

