



**STATISTICS OF INCOME DIVISION
RESEARCH, APPLIED ANALYTICS, AND STATISTICS**

Publication 6292

Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States: 2020–2027

Fall 2020



Projections
of Federal Tax Return Filings

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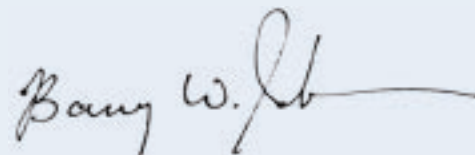
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Online Availability of Forecasts

Forecasts from the most recent edition of this publication may be found on the IRS Internet site. The World Wide Web address is: www.irs.gov/statistics. From the Website, select "All Topics" in the "Products, Publications & Papers" section.

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Barry W. Johnson
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Overview

The Fall 2020 edition of IRS Publication 6292, *Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States*, provides U.S.-level projections of the number of tax returns expected to be filed in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 through FY 2027 by: (1) major return categories; and (2) business operating divisions.

Statistics of Income (SOI) staff within the IRS Research, Applied Analytics, and Statistics (RAAS) organization prepare these projections semiannually to incorporate changes in filing patterns, economic and demographic trends, legislative requirements, and IRS administrative processes.

Data Sources and Projections Methodology

IRS Data Sources

To develop projections for FY 2020 through FY 2027, SOI staff relied on data from the IRS Master File, which reports the historical number of returns processed and recorded each year. In cases where master file return counts were not available, SOI staff relied on data provided by program staff in the IRS operating divisions.

General Projections Methodology

SOI staff computed the projections presented here for the calendar year of filing, and then converted them to the corresponding fiscal year based on the historical quarterly filing experience. For some individual return series, SOI staff computed the projections based on quarterly historical data and then derived the fiscal year projections by adding the relevant four quarters.

The projections are derived from various statistical models that capture and extrapolate historical filing trends by unique form types and filing mediums. Most of the models use time series extrapolation methods, such as trended exponential smoothing. However, the projections for some return types are based on regression models that used the August 2020 economic and demographic variables provided by IHS Markit as key input factors. Additionally, where historical data were limited or nonexistent, such as for new e-file products, the filing pattern for a comparable return type was applied.

Adjustments Related to COVID-19 Pandemic and Economic Uncertainties

SOI staff performed an extensive research of U.S. laws and the IRS administrative processes that will impact the FY 2020 to FY 2027 tax return volumes. The staff's biggest challenges for this publication were determining how to deal with the tax provisions of the CARES Act of 2020 (e.g., the effect of Recovery Rebate Credits on filer behavior) and how to handle the extension of the April 15, 2020, tax filing and payment deadline due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SOI staff incorporated some off-model adjustments using the information gathered from their research efforts. For example, staff adjusted the modeled individual tax return volumes to account for those taxpayers who traditionally are not required to file a return, but who will file solely to receive the Recovery Rebate Credit. This adjustment was guided, in part, by the filer behavior patterns during the 2008 stimulus package (the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008).

Nevertheless, the FY 2020 to FY 2027 projections presented in this publication are valid as of early-August 2020.

New Electronic Filing Option for Form 1040-X

On May 28, 2020, the IRS announced that taxpayers can submit an Amended *U.S. Individual Income Tax Return* (Form 1040-X) electronically using commercial tax-filing software, beginning August 2020. As e-filing has grown in the past 30 years, the Form 1040-X was one of the last major individual tax forms that was required to be filed on paper.

To develop the initial forecasts for the new electronic filing option for Form 1040-X, SOI staff re-researched past scenarios and taxpayer filing behavior patterns following the IRS launch of a new e-file option for other IRS forms. The behavior observed and the number of returns submitted electronically when past e-file options first became available is reflected in the electronic Form 1040-X projections, in the short term, which accounts for a standard diffusion curve. Alternatively, the volume of electronically filed 1040-X forms, in the long-run, depends on the taxpayers who file amended returns and the updates to the actual reports, effectively transitioning this methodology closer to forecasting within the trend model moving forward.

Summary of Significant Trends

A summary of the major trends for this edition of Publication 6292 are noted below:

Trends in the Grand Total Return Filings

As presented in Table 1, grand total return filings were 255.2 million in FY 2019, an increase of 0.5 percent over FY 2018. After FY 2019, grand total return filings are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.0 percent, reaching 276.1 million by FY 2027. The paper grand total return filings were 70.1 million in FY 2019, a decrease of 5.9 percent from the FY 2018 total. The electronic grand total return filings were 185.1 million in FY 2019, an increase of 3.1 percent over FY 2018. After FY 2019, electronic grand total return filings are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 2.3 percent.

Detail by Business Operating Division

Table 2 presents estimates of selected return filings by IRS Business Operating Division (BOD). 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 plan (EP) returns, including those processed by the Department of Labor, which comprise major return filings by taxpayers served by the TE/GE operating division.

Accuracy of Prior Projections

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 4 years of actual data, from 2016 through 2019, 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 approximating the overall reliability of our U.S.-level return projections.

The table presents two measures of projection accuracy: (1) the mean absolute percent error (MAPE); and (2) the number of overprojections. The MAPE is computed as the average percentage projection error for the 4-year period, regardless of whether the projections were over or under the actual filings in each of the four projection cycles. In addition, the number of overprojections can show whether projections are consistently over- or underprojected. A value of “2” indicates balanced forecasts over the four cycles.

The table groups these two measures by time horizon. The time horizon is determined based on the year a forecast was made and the year projected. For example, a forecast for 2018 made in 2015 would be part of the “3-years-ahead” time horizon.

Table 1. Fiscal Year Projections of the Number of Returns To Be Filed with IRS, 2020–2027

Type of Return	Actual— FY 2019	Projected							
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Grand Total	255,249,983	259,995,800	262,654,300	262,198,400	266,071,100	269,317,000	271,832,000	274,012,600	276,063,400
Paper Grand Total	70,139,157	65,824,200	64,284,600	62,386,500	60,297,800	58,770,300	56,913,200	55,399,300	53,670,700
Electronic Grand Total	185,110,826	194,171,600	198,369,700	199,811,900	205,773,400	210,546,700	214,918,800	218,613,300	222,392,600
Total Primary Returns	226,640,486	230,983,300	232,845,500	232,002,400	235,019,500	237,647,800	239,546,300	241,110,100	242,667,500
Individual Income Tax, Total	154,094,555	160,423,600	161,395,100	159,502,500	162,259,900	164,692,400	166,379,600	167,637,400	168,846,100
Form 1040, Total*	153,130,682	159,443,000	160,399,500	158,491,100	161,231,900	163,646,900	165,315,800	166,554,500	167,743,100
Paper Form 1040*	15,927,227	15,029,800	14,376,400	13,460,400	12,604,100	12,242,400	11,493,600	11,001,000	10,346,300
Electronic Form 1040*	137,203,455	144,413,200	146,023,100	145,030,700	148,627,800	151,404,500	153,822,200	155,553,500	157,396,800
Forms 1040-NR/NR-EZ/C	802,006	823,400	844,800	866,800	889,400	912,500	936,300	960,700	985,800
Electronic Form 1040-NR	274,110	289,900	329,400	375,900	424,600	475,600	528,900	584,600	642,900
Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	161,867	157,300	150,800	144,600	138,700	133,000	127,500	122,200	117,200
Electronic Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	38,564	38,700	38,700	38,700	38,700	38,700	38,700	38,700	38,700
Individual Estimated Tax, Form 1040-ES, Total	22,225,590	20,691,700	21,068,600	21,445,600	21,290,500	21,129,700	20,968,900	20,808,200	20,647,400
Paper Form 1040-ES	21,979,975	20,456,000	20,815,600	21,175,100	21,008,900	20,836,900	20,664,900	20,493,000	20,321,000
Electronic (Credit Card) Form 1040-ES	245,615	235,600	253,000	270,500	281,600	292,800	304,000	315,200	326,400
Fiduciary, Form 1041, Total	3,116,479	3,113,600	3,173,200	3,191,000	3,201,500	3,211,900	3,222,400	3,232,800	3,243,300
Paper Form 1041	483,792	530,400	581,500	536,000	507,800	487,200	470,400	460,900	454,600
Electronic Form 1041	2,632,687	2,583,200	2,591,700	2,655,100	2,693,600	2,724,700	2,752,000	2,771,900	2,788,700
Fiduciary Estimated Tax, Form 1041-ES	754,655	725,400	755,800	762,400	766,900	771,500	776,000	780,500	785,100
Partnership, Forms 1065/1065-B, Total	3,946,342	4,274,100	4,419,900	4,522,400	4,598,000	4,669,400	4,745,000	4,858,000	4,976,300
Paper Forms 1065/1065-B	471,509	336,500	273,300	237,600	204,600	175,800	150,900	129,000	110,700
Electronic Forms 1065/1065-B	3,474,833	3,937,600	4,146,600	4,284,800	4,393,400	4,493,600	4,594,100	4,729,000	4,865,700
Corporation Income Tax, Total	7,288,019	7,119,800	7,338,600	7,398,500	7,448,600	7,508,400	7,568,700	7,630,200	7,691,800
Paper Corporation Returns, Total	1,325,429	1,155,900	1,141,500	1,089,200	1,045,300	1,018,600	995,800	976,400	959,800
Electronic Corporation Returns, Total	5,962,590	5,963,900	6,197,100	6,309,300	6,403,300	6,489,800	6,572,900	6,653,800	6,732,000
Form 1120, Total	1,734,396	1,654,900	1,676,300	1,662,300	1,647,700	1,641,300	1,634,800	1,628,200	1,621,600
Paper Form 1120	367,248	251,000	263,900	235,800	214,500	205,900	197,900	190,300	183,000
Electronic Form 1120	1,367,148	1,404,000	1,412,400	1,426,400	1,433,200	1,435,500	1,437,000	1,438,000	1,438,600
Form 1120-C	8,857	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100
Form 1120-F	49,693	50,700	52,000	53,500	54,100	54,700	55,200	55,800	56,400
Paper Form 1120-F	20,007	19,600	19,700	19,400	19,200	19,000	19,000	18,900	18,800
Electronic Form 1120-F	29,686	31,100	32,300	34,200	34,900	35,600	36,300	36,900	37,600
Form 1120-H	262,592	254,800	270,400	276,000	279,500	283,000	286,300	289,600	292,800
Forms 1120-FSC/LND/PC/REIT/RIC/SF	45,924	45,500	46,400	48,100	49,200	50,300	51,400	52,400	53,500
Form 1120-S, Total	5,186,557	5,104,800	5,284,400	5,349,500	5,409,000	5,470,000	5,531,900	5,595,100	5,658,400
Paper Form 1120-S	620,801	575,900	532,000	500,900	473,900	451,300	432,300	416,200	402,600
Electronic Form 1120-S	4,565,756	4,528,800	4,752,400	4,848,700	4,935,200	5,018,700	5,099,600	5,178,900	5,255,800
Small Corporation Election, Form 2553	494,412	451,800	466,400	472,100	472,100	472,100	472,100	472,100	472,100
"REMIC" Income Tax, Form 1066	41,323	41,200	43,000	43,300	43,400	43,500	43,500	43,600	43,600
Estate, Forms 706, 706NA/GS(DJ/GS(T), Total	25,742	18,900	16,100	14,400	13,200	12,200	11,100	11,000	10,800
Gift, Form 709	239,618	224,700	215,000	216,400	217,800	219,200	220,700	222,100	223,500
Employment Tax, Total	31,513,501	31,093,700	30,924,400	31,329,700	31,547,400	31,696,000	31,859,800	32,074,500	32,322,600
Paper Employment Returns, Total	16,796,117	15,660,000	14,801,400	14,392,500	13,860,800	13,312,600	12,807,500	12,370,300	11,983,100
Electronic Employment Returns, Total	14,717,384	15,433,700	16,123,000	16,937,200	17,686,600	18,383,400	19,052,200	19,704,300	20,339,500
Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR, Total	6,071,206	6,130,200	5,906,300	5,993,700	6,051,500	6,059,800	6,087,300	6,149,600	6,219,200
Paper Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR	3,247,976	3,109,400	2,825,000	2,755,100	2,667,700	2,546,000	2,444,600	2,376,000	2,318,000
Form 940 E-File/Online/XML	2,823,230	3,020,700	3,081,300	3,238,600	3,383,900	3,513,900	3,642,700	3,773,600	3,901,200
Forms 941, 941-PR, and 941-SS, Total	25,133,391	24,662,900	24,729,900	25,056,900	25,228,600	25,379,700	25,526,800	25,689,900	25,879,000
Paper 941, 941-PR/SS, Total	13,261,014	12,275,100	11,716,000	11,388,700	10,958,700	10,545,500	10,154,900	9,799,200	9,482,900
Form 941 E-File/Online/XML	11,872,377	12,387,800	13,013,900	13,668,200	14,269,900	14,834,200	15,371,900	15,890,700	16,396,100
Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS, Total	181,252	177,000	172,300	167,600	163,000	158,400	153,900	149,400	144,900
Paper Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS	170,756	164,800	158,200	152,400	146,700	141,100	135,600	130,200	125,000
Electronic Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS	10,496	12,200	14,100	15,200	16,300	17,300	18,300	19,100	19,900
Forms 944, 944-PR, and 944-SS, Total	65,706	64,200	61,900	59,600	57,400	55,100	52,800	50,600	48,300
Paper Forms 944, 944-PR, and 944-SS	57,881	55,700	52,900	50,000	47,000	44,000	41,100	38,100	35,100
Electronic Form 944	7,825	8,400	9,000	9,700	10,400	11,100	11,800	12,500	13,200
Form 945, Total	60,141	57,600	52,200	50,100	45,100	41,200	37,200	33,300	29,400
Paper Form 945	56,685	53,100	47,500	44,600	39,000	34,300	29,600	25,000	20,300
Electronic Form 945	3,456	4,500	4,700	5,400	6,200	6,900	7,600	8,300	9,000
Form CT-1	1,805	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800

Footnotes are at end of table.

Table 1. Fiscal Year Projections of the Number of Returns To Be Filed with IRS, 2020–2027—Continued

Type of Return	Actual— FY 2019	Projected								
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
Withholding on Foreign Persons, Form 1042	52,672	55,800	54,800	57,500	59,400	60,700	62,100	63,500	65,000	
Exempt Organizations, Total	1,587,359	1,505,300	1,688,600	1,740,000	1,787,500	1,836,800	1,885,600	1,935,000	1,984,600	
Paper Exempt Organizations, Total	471,772	335,700	419,200	147,100	85,000	83,000	81,300	79,900	78,800	
Electronic Exempt Organizations, Total	1,115,587	1,169,700	1,269,400	1,592,900	1,702,600	1,753,800	1,804,200	1,855,100	1,905,800	
Form 990, Total	321,095	308,300	321,100	321,100	321,100	321,100	321,100	321,100	321,100	
Paper Form 990	67,433	50,700	41,200	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Electronic Form 990	253,662	257,600	280,000	321,100	321,100	321,100	321,100	321,100	321,100	
Form 990-EZ, Total	241,899	229,800	253,200	260,000	266,700	273,500	280,300	287,100	293,900	
Paper Form 990-EZ	103,091	90,400	89,700	43,500	0	0	0	0	0	
Electronic Form 990-EZ	138,808	139,300	163,500	216,500	266,700	273,500	280,300	287,100	293,900	
Form 990-N**	651,691	699,500	742,000	786,400	827,000	869,000	910,200	951,800	993,200	
Form 990-PF, Total	115,316	109,100	120,200	122,700	125,100	127,600	130,100	132,500	135,000	
Paper Form 990-PF	43,890	35,900	36,200	16,300	0	0	0	0	0	
Electronic Form 990-PF	71,426	73,200	84,000	106,400	125,100	127,600	130,100	132,500	135,000	
Form 990-T***	161,001	134,900	162,500	162,500	162,600	162,600	162,600	162,600	162,600	
Form 4720	2,294	2,100	2,300	2,800	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,100	
Form 5227	94,063	21,600	87,200	84,500	82,100	80,100	78,300	76,900	75,700	
Form 1041-A	6,831	6,300	6,700	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	
Government Entity/Bonds	36,926	40,200	40,000	40,300	39,600	39,000	38,300	37,700	37,000	
Form 8038	2,383	2,400	2,300	2,200	2,000	1,800	1,700	1,500	1,300	
Form 8038-CP	10,350	9,500	9,700	9,900	9,900	9,900	9,900	9,900	9,900	
Form 8038-G	17,518	21,100	21,000	21,300	21,100	20,800	20,600	20,300	20,100	
Form 8038-GC	6,249	6,700	6,600	6,500	6,300	6,000	5,800	5,500	5,300	
Form 8038-T	212	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	
Form 8038-TC	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Form 8328	209	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	
Political Organizations, Total	10,436	11,000	9,600	11,400	9,600	11,200	9,400	11,000	9,200	
Form 1120-POL, Total	4,119	3,900	4,000	3,900	3,800	3,600	3,500	3,400	3,200	
Paper Form 1120-POL	4,080	3,800	4,000	3,900	3,700	3,600	3,500	3,300	3,200	
Electronic Form 1120-POL	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Form 8871****	3,255	3,700	3,400	3,900	3,600	4,000	3,700	4,100	3,800	
Form 8872, Total	3,062	3,400	2,200	3,500	2,200	3,500	2,200	3,500	2,200	
Paper Form 8872	643	700	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Electronic Form 8872	2,419	2,700	2,100	3,500	2,200	3,500	2,200	3,500	2,200	
Excise, Total	1,074,480	1,053,100	1,089,600	1,105,900	1,115,900	1,126,300	1,136,400	1,146,500	1,156,700	
Form 11-C	4,193	4,200	4,100	3,900	3,700	3,500	3,300	3,100	2,900	
Form 720, Total	187,734	178,400	182,600	181,400	178,700	176,000	173,300	170,500	167,800	
Paper Form 720	185,671	175,900	179,900	178,500	175,500	172,500	169,500	166,600	163,600	
Electronic Form 720	2,063	2,400	2,700	3,000	3,200	3,500	3,700	4,000	4,200	
Form 730	21,859	21,200	21,100	20,700	20,000	19,400	18,700	18,000	17,400	
Form 2290, Total	838,701	826,300	857,500	875,200	888,800	902,700	916,400	930,200	943,900	
Paper Form 2290	209,698	186,800	184,000	182,500	182,300	183,500	185,300	187,600	190,100	
Electronic Form 2290	629,003	639,600	673,500	692,700	706,400	719,200	731,000	742,600	753,800	
Form 8849, Total	21,993	23,000	24,300	24,700	24,700	24,700	24,700	24,700	24,700	
Paper Form 8849	17,460	18,000	19,000	19,200	18,900	18,700	18,400	18,100	17,800	
Electronic Form 8849	4,533	5,000	5,300	5,500	5,800	6,100	6,400	6,600	6,900	
Excise Taxes re Employee Plans, Form 5330	20,696	20,700	21,000	21,300	21,300	21,300	21,300	21,300	21,300	
Form 5500-EZ, One-Participant Retirement Plans	86,392	93,300	96,300	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800	
Payment or Refund Under Sec. 7519, Form 8752	24,458	19,100	22,600	21,900	21,100	20,400	19,600	18,800	18,100	
Supplemental Documents, Total	28,609,497	29,012,400	29,808,800	30,195,800	31,051,800	31,669,100	32,285,800	32,902,500	33,395,900	
Form 1040-X, Total	3,123,786	3,374,800	3,283,400	3,214,000	3,144,700	3,076,100	3,007,300	2,938,600	2,746,800	
Paper Form 1040-X	3,123,786	3,334,000	1,777,800	1,652,500	1,537,300	1,466,300	1,390,400	1,312,500	1,148,500	
Electronic Form 1040-X*****	N/A	40,800	1,505,600	1,561,500	1,607,400	1,609,800	1,616,900	1,626,200	1,598,300	
Form 4868, Total	15,707,071	16,366,200	16,559,200	16,752,200	17,423,200	17,856,100	18,288,900	18,721,800	19,154,600	
Paper Form 4868	4,063,801	4,248,000	3,793,300	3,338,500	3,077,500	2,816,400	2,555,400	2,294,300	2,033,300	
Electronic Form 4868	11,643,270	12,118,200	12,765,900	13,413,700	14,345,700	15,039,600	15,733,500	16,427,400	17,121,300	
Form 1120-X	12,357	13,500	13,800	13,800	13,800	13,800	13,800	13,800	13,800	
Form 5558	520,654	438,600	529,500	543,400	553,200	563,000	572,800	582,600	592,300	
Form 7004, Total	8,332,678	8,184,400	8,806,900	9,009,500	9,203,500	9,396,300	9,588,700	9,780,900	9,973,200	
Paper Form 7004	1,566,146	1,271,800	1,312,600	1,294,000	1,256,800	1,218,500	1,184,300	1,155,200	1,131,000	
Electronic Form 7004	6,766,532	6,912,700	7,494,300	7,715,500	7,946,700	8,177,800	8,404,400	8,625,700	8,842,200	
Form 8868, Total	912,951	634,900	616,000	662,900	713,400	763,900	814,300	864,800	915,200	
Paper Form 8868	518,064	213,200	165,700	184,100	205,900	227,800	249,700	271,600	293,400	
Electronic Form 8868	394,887	421,700	450,300	478,900	507,500	536,000	564,600	593,200	621,800	

* A new, streamlined Form 1040 replaced Forms 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ as of January 2019.

** Form 990-N is all electronic.

*** Form 990-T can only be filed by paper. However, starting with Tax Year 2021, Form 990-T must be filed electronically, as mandated by the Taxpayer First Act of 2019.

**** Form 8871 is all electronic.

***** The IRS began offering an electronic option for Form 1040-X in August 2020.

NOTES: Table does not contain non-master file counts. Each of the forms listed under "Type of Return" is defined in the "Table Notes" of Publication 6292.

Detail may not add to subtotal/total due to rounding. In addition, actual volumes that are less than 10 have been rounded to the nearest 10.

SOURCE: Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Division, Fall 2020 Publication 6292.

Table 2. Selected Fiscal Year Return Filing Estimates by Business Operating Division (BOD), 2020–2027

Type of Return/BOD	Actual— FY 2019	Projected							
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Individual Income Tax, Total	153,130,682	159,443,000	160,399,500	158,491,100	161,231,900	163,646,900	165,315,800	166,554,500	167,743,100
Small Business/Self-Employed	43,238,735	47,249,100	48,180,700	48,153,000	49,479,700	50,678,100	51,622,700	52,413,000	53,170,400
Wage and Investment	109,891,947	112,193,900	112,218,800	110,338,000	111,752,100	112,968,800	113,693,100	114,141,500	114,572,700
Corporation Income Tax, Total	7,288,019	7,119,900	7,338,700	7,398,600	7,448,700	7,508,400	7,568,700	7,630,300	7,691,800
Small Business/Self-Employed	7,085,040	6,919,900	7,134,200	7,191,800	7,241,000	7,299,400	7,358,500	7,418,700	7,479,000
Large Business and International	192,514	189,900	194,200	196,500	197,500	198,800	200,000	201,300	202,500
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	10,465	10,100	10,300	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,300	10,300	10,300
Partnership Returns, Total	3,946,342	4,274,100	4,419,900	4,522,400	4,598,000	4,669,400	4,745,000	4,858,000	4,976,300
Small Business/Self-Employed	3,754,067	4,065,800	4,204,600	4,302,100	4,373,900	4,441,900	4,513,800	4,621,300	4,733,900
Large Business and International	191,875	207,800	214,900	219,900	223,600	227,000	230,700	236,200	242,000
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	400	400	400	500	500	500	500	500	500
Employment Tax, Total	31,513,501	31,093,700	30,924,400	31,329,700	31,547,400	31,696,000	31,859,800	32,074,500	32,322,600
Small Business/Self-Employed	28,671,583	28,298,100	28,134,000	28,503,800	28,703,800	28,838,600	28,988,200	29,185,700	29,413,500
Large Business and International	788,123	778,000	772,300	782,200	787,000	790,200	793,700	798,700	804,400
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	2,053,795	2,017,700	2,018,100	2,043,800	2,056,600	2,067,200	2,077,800	2,090,200	2,104,600
Excise, Total	1,074,480	1,053,100	1,089,600	1,106,000	1,116,000	1,126,300	1,136,400	1,146,600	1,156,700
Small Business/Self-Employed	938,103	921,000	953,900	970,000	980,800	992,000	1,002,900	1,014,000	1,025,000
Large Business and International	94,059	91,400	94,300	95,000	94,800	94,700	94,600	94,500	94,400
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	42,318	40,700	41,400	41,100	40,300	39,600	38,800	38,100	37,300
Exempt Organization, Total	1,587,359	1,505,300	1,688,600	1,740,000	1,787,500	1,836,800	1,885,600	1,935,000	1,984,600
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	1,587,359	1,505,300	1,688,600	1,740,000	1,787,500	1,836,800	1,885,600	1,935,000	1,984,600
Employee Plans, Forms 5500, 5500EZ, and 5500SF	904,167	908,900	919,300	929,000	937,900	946,200	953,900	961,000	967,500
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	904,167	908,900	919,300	929,000	937,900	946,200	953,900	961,000	967,500

NOTES: Detail may not add to total due to rounding. See Table Notes page for definitions of "Type of Return/BOD."
SOURCE: Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Division, Fall 2020 Publication 6292.

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

Item	Projection Error on Forecasts for:					
	Calendar Year 2019 Actual* (thousands)	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
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Grand Total—Selected Returns*	256,216					
MAPE		0.70%	1.30%	1.41%	1.64%	1.68%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	3	4	4
Grand Total—Paper	72,766					
MAPE		3.66%	5.05%	5.24%	6.19%	9.68%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Grand Total—E-file	183,450					
MAPE		0.98%	1.37%	1.49%	0.79%	1.87%
Number of Overprojections		1	2	1	1	1
Total Primary—Selected Returns*	227,622					
MAPE		0.54%	1.08%	1.43%	1.95%	2.03%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Primary Total—Paper	60,312					
MAPE		1.50%	2.74%	4.73%	7.54%	11.07%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	4	4	4
Primary Total—E-file	167,309					
MAPE		0.51%	0.61%	0.65%	0.57%	1.63%
Number of Overprojections		1	2	3	1	1
Individual Total	153,463					
MAPE		0.64%	0.73%	1.33%	1.93%	2.48%
Number of Overprojections		3	3	4	4	4
Individual Total—Paper	15,964					
MAPE		2.11%	3.11%	5.01%	9.19%	15.19%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	2	2	4
Individual Total—E-file	137,499					
MAPE		0.44%	1.10%	1.50%	1.65%	1.71%
Number of Overprojections		1	3	3	3	3
Individual Estimated Tax	22,280					
MAPE		3.03%	5.25%	7.43%	9.74%	8.70%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Fiduciary Total	3,158					
MAPE		1.39%	2.72%	3.72%	4.05%	4.62%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	3	3
Partnership Total	4,315					
MAPE		0.81%	1.38%	2.47%	5.21%	5.81%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	0	0	0
Corporation Total	7,340					
MAPE		1.41%	0.64%	2.55%	4.10%	6.86%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	1	0	1
Employment Total	31,584					
MAPE		0.65%	1.17%	1.73%	1.49%	2.45%
Number of Overprojections		1	1	1	2	1
Exempt Organization Total	1,650					
MAPE		3.13%	3.98%	3.92%	6.71%	5.23%
Number of Overprojections		3	3	3	4	3
Excise Total	1,075					
MAPE		0.51%	1.41%	2.32%	1.94%	8.03%
Number of Overprojections		2	2	1	0	0

* 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 cannot yet be evaluated.
SOURCE: Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Division, Fall 2020 Publication 6292.

Table Notes

- Detail may not add to total due to rounding.
- Projected return counts are rounded to the nearest hundred; therefore, counts of 49 or fewer are rounded to 0. However, some forms may report zero filings because they are associated with only selected areas, or because their filing options were recently established or eliminated.
- Actual and projected 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*.

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 in the table, excluding “Supplemental Documents.”
- “Individual Income Tax, Total” is the sum of paper and electronic Forms 1040, 1040-A, 1040-EZ, 1040-SR, 1040-NR, 1040-NR-EZ, 1040-PR, 1040-SS, and 1040-C. Forms 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ were replaced with a new, streamlined Form 1040 beginning with Filing Year 2019. Additionally, Form 1040-SR is a new tax return form for seniors that became available in Filing Year 2020. Refer to Publication 6187, *Calendar Year Projections of Individual Returns by Major Processing Categories*, for projections and more information on Form 1040-SR.
- “Individual Estimated Tax, Form 1040-ES” includes both paper and electronic Form 1040-ES. Various return categories, such as Form 1040-ES and other business and individual returns, include line items to account for alternative tax-filing methods. The “paper-only” components can be derived by subtracting the electronic counts from their respective return totals.
- “Fiduciary, Form 1041, Total” includes both paper and electronic Form 1041.
- “Fiduciary Estimated Tax, Form 1041-ES” is the *Estimated Income Tax for Estates and Trusts*.
- “Partnership, Forms 1065/1065-B, Total” includes both paper and electronic Forms 1065 and 1065-B.
- “Corporation Income Tax, Total” includes Forms 1120 (paper and electronic), 1120-C, 1120-F (paper and electronic), 1120-H, 1120-FSC, 1120-L, 1120-ND, 1120-PC, 1120-REIT, 1120-RIC, 1120-SF, 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 2553” is the *Election by a Small Business Corporation* (to file Form 1120-S).
- “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 is listed separately here.
- “Exempt Organizations, 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. Beginning in Tax Year 2021, the Form 990 series must be filed electronically. Temporary waivers will be available for small business filers.
- “Form 1041-A” is the *U.S. Information Return, Trust Accumulation of Charitable Amounts*.
- “Government Entities/Bonds” includes Forms 8038, 8038-CP, 8038-G, 8038-GC, 8038-T, 8038-TC, and 8328.
- “Political Organizations, Total” includes Forms 1120-POL (paper and electronic), 8871 (only available electronically), and 8872 (paper and electronic). Beginning in Tax Year 2021, Form 8872 must be filed electronically. Temporary waivers will be available for small business filers.
- “Excise, Total” includes Forms 11-C, 720 (paper and electronic) 730, 2290 (paper and electronic), and 8849 (paper and electronic).
- “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 Plan*.
- “Form 8752” is the *Required Payment or Refund Under Section 7519*.
- “Supplemental Documents” consists mainly of applications for extensions of time to file and amended tax returns, which include Forms 1040-X (paper and electronic), 4868 (paper and electronic), 1120-X, 5558, 7004 (paper and electronic), and 8868 (paper and electronic). In August 2020, the IRS began allowing taxpayers to file Form 1040-X electronically.

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 1120-S) 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.
- Nonprofit 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, 5500-EZ, and 5500-SF. 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
Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States	6292	Spring & Fall
Calendar Year Projections of Information and Withholding Documents for the United States and IRS Campuses	6961	Summer
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
Calendar Year Return Projections by State	6149	Winter

These publications are available electronically as noted on page iii of this report at www.irs.gov/statistics.