



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

Publication 6292

Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States: 2021–2028

Spring 2021



Projections
of Federal Tax Return Filings

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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.

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 Timothy Castle, Chief, Servicewide Support Section, at (202) 803-9106.



Barry W. Johnson
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Overview

The Spring 2021 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) 2021 through FY 2028 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 2021 through FY 2028, 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 April 2021 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 Implications from COVID-19 Pandemic

SOI staff performed an extensive research of U.S. laws and the IRS administrative processes that will impact the FY 2021 to FY 2028 tax return volumes. The staff's biggest challenges were determining how to deal with the tax provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (e.g., the effect of Recovery Rebate Credits on filer behavior) and how to account for the backlog of paper returns that were not processed in 2020 because of the IRS campus closures. Based on the SOI staff's research and the available 2021 filing season data as of early-May 2021, staff made appropriate adjustments to some of its modeled forecasts.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic led to the temporary closures of the IRS processing centers in 2020. As a result, some of the paper returns that were received in 2020 could not be processed and had to be carried over into 2021 for processing. This is evident in most of the 2020 actual paper volumes presented in this publication which are lower than expected based on the historical trends. SOI staff adjusted the 2021 paper estimates to account for these carryover returns that were received in 2020 but processed in 2021.

New Electronic Filing Option for Form 1040-X

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

To develop the initial projections for the new electronic Form 1040-X filing option, SOI staff researched past scenarios and taxpayer filing behavior patterns following the IRS launch of a new e-file option for other forms. The behavior observed and the number of returns submitted electronically when past e-file options first became available is reflected in the projections of electronic Form 1040-X returns. Actual Free File data from 2020 and year-to-date 2021 have a more significant role in this year's update of the electronic Form 1040-X forecasts.

The Impact of Taxpayer First Act

The Taxpayer First Act (TFA), enacted on July 1, 2019, made filing electronically a more widespread practice for business taxpayers. Two of the TFA provisions directly affect the forecasts provided in this publication. First, the TFA lowers the thresholds needed for corporations and partnerships to file electronically starting in CY 2021. Second, the TFA makes electronic filing mandatory for exempt organizations (Form 990 series) and political organizations (Form 8872) starting in CY 2021, with a temporary waiver for small business filers. Both provisions will increase the number of electronic filings for the various forms and will either decrease, or eliminate altogether, the amount of paper filings.

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, the grand total return filings were 242.1 million in FY 2020, a decrease of 5.2 percent over FY 2019. This is largely due to the backlog of individual tax returns filed by paper and other types of taxpayer account work that IRS was unable to process in 2020 due to the IRS campus closures. The paper grand total return filings were 46.4 million in FY 2020, a decrease of 33.9 percent from the FY 2019 total.

The IRS is currently processing the paper backlog, along with processing the tax returns filed in 2021, which will impact the FY 2021 count of overall paper returns (a projected 47.3-percent increase in FY 2021 compared to FY 2020). However, the volume of overall paper returns is expected to return to its normal declining trend in FY 2022, with an expected count of 60.0 million. After FY 2022, paper grand total returns are projected to decline by an average annual rate of 4.1 percent. Over the same time, grand total return filings are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.1 percent, reaching 280.1 million by FY 2028.

In contrast to paper returns, the electronic grand total return filings were 195.7 million in FY 2020, an increase of 5.7 percent over FY 2019. The volume of electronic grand total returns in FY 2021 is expected to be similar to the volume in FY 2020, with an expected count of approximately 195.7 million filings. After FY 2021, electronic grand total return filings are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 2.5 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 tax 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 2017 through 2020, 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 2019 made in 2016 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, 2021–2028

Type of Return	Actual— FY 2020	Projected							
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Grand Total	242,093,672	263,977,600	262,280,900	265,317,500	268,193,600	271,146,200	274,159,100	277,094,400	280,067,800
Paper Grand Total	46,356,302	68,283,200	59,973,300	56,752,100	54,498,300	52,376,900	50,404,900	48,538,200	46,787,200
Electronic Grand Total	195,737,370	195,694,300	202,307,700	208,565,400	213,695,400	218,769,300	223,754,200	228,556,200	233,280,600
Total Primary Returns	220,529,050	233,088,700	232,472,500	234,871,000	236,999,000	239,145,000	241,291,100	243,358,700	245,457,700
Individual Income Tax, Total	157,195,302	160,331,100	160,066,900	162,759,000	164,534,000	166,329,300	168,215,000	170,039,500	171,848,200
Forms 1040, 1040-SP, and 1040-SR, Total	156,580,123	159,406,100	159,115,000	161,775,700	163,528,800	165,303,400	167,169,100	168,972,100	170,759,900
Paper Forms 1040, 1040-SP, and 1040-SR	8,468,113	17,225,100	13,221,700	12,400,100	11,603,100	10,857,300	10,159,400	9,506,400	8,895,400
Electronic Forms 1040, 1040-SP, and 1040-SR	148,112,010	142,181,000	145,893,300	149,375,600	151,925,700	154,446,100	157,009,700	159,465,600	161,864,500
Forms 1040-NR/NR-EZ/C	546,572	788,100	825,000	862,000	889,300	915,600	941,800	968,100	994,400
Electronic Form 1040-NR	288,438	431,100	473,400	515,600	557,900	600,100	642,400	684,700	726,900
Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	68,607	136,900	128,900	121,400	115,900	110,400	104,900	99,400	93,900
Electronic Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	45,296	39,300	39,100	39,000	38,900	38,700	38,600	38,500	38,400
Individual Estimated Tax, Form 1040-ES, Total	17,579,898	19,137,300	19,300,900	19,626,000	19,520,600	19,415,100	19,309,700	19,204,300	19,132,100
Paper Form 1040-ES	17,392,950	18,854,400	19,003,200	19,313,600	19,193,400	19,073,200	18,953,100	18,833,000	18,746,000
Electronic (Credit Card) Form 1040-ES	186,948	282,900	297,700	312,400	327,200	341,900	356,600	371,400	386,100
Fiduciary, Form 1041, Total	2,820,317	3,038,200	3,034,700	3,002,700	2,973,300	2,946,400	2,921,900	2,899,500	2,879,200
Paper Form 1041	185,826	358,600	351,800	317,100	285,800	257,400	231,700	208,500	187,500
Electronic Form 1041	2,634,491	2,679,600	2,682,900	2,685,500	2,687,500	2,689,000	2,690,100	2,691,000	2,691,700
Fiduciary Estimated Tax, Form 1041-ES	633,707	652,600	653,500	653,500	653,500	653,500	653,500	653,500	653,500
Partnership, Forms 1065/1065-B, Total	4,470,095	4,578,200	4,806,100	5,002,900	5,211,700	5,429,000	5,551,400	5,662,800	5,776,800
Paper Forms 1065/1065-B	184,687	344,700	318,600	264,100	223,700	193,700	173,200	156,800	144,600
Electronic Forms 1065/1065-B	4,285,408	4,233,500	4,487,400	4,738,900	4,988,100	5,235,300	5,378,200	5,506,000	5,632,200
Corporation Income Tax, Total	6,841,771	7,296,300	7,453,700	7,510,000	7,562,100	7,612,500	7,660,900	7,707,200	7,751,200
Paper Corporation Returns, Total	697,421	944,400	951,000	877,200	815,000	762,500	718,100	680,400	648,500
Electronic Corporation Returns, Total	6,144,350	6,352,000	6,502,600	6,632,800	6,747,100	6,850,000	6,942,800	7,026,800	7,102,700
Form 1120, Total	1,595,515	1,688,800	1,725,900	1,712,500	1,696,600	1,681,400	1,667,100	1,653,800	1,641,600
Paper Form 1120	193,948	250,600	271,800	250,500	231,200	213,800	198,000	183,700	170,800
Electronic Form 1120	1,401,567	1,438,200	1,454,100	1,462,000	1,465,300	1,467,600	1,469,100	1,470,100	1,470,800
Form 1120-C	5,778	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300
Form 1120-F	44,592	50,400	54,900	55,800	56,700	57,600	58,400	59,300	60,100
Paper Form 1120-F	12,423	14,600	16,900	15,900	15,000	14,300	13,800	13,300	12,900
Electronic Form 1120-F	32,169	35,800	38,000	39,900	41,700	43,200	44,700	46,000	47,200
Form 1120-H	123,896	247,900	269,700	271,900	274,200	276,400	278,600	280,800	283,100
Forms 1120-FSC/LND/PC/REIT/RIC/SF	27,687	34,600	48,200	48,500	48,900	49,200	49,600	49,900	50,200
Form 1120-S, Total	5,044,303	5,271,300	5,351,700	5,418,000	5,482,500	5,544,700	5,603,900	5,660,100	5,712,900
Paper Form 1120-S	333,689	393,300	341,100	287,000	242,400	205,500	174,800	149,400	128,100
Electronic Form 1120-S	4,710,614	4,878,000	5,010,600	5,131,000	5,240,100	5,339,200	5,429,100	5,510,700	5,584,800
Small Corporation Election, Form 2553	391,234	489,500	462,100	462,100	462,100	462,100	462,100	462,100	462,100
"REMIC" Income Tax, Form 1066	19,062	48,100	46,100	46,800	47,400	48,100	48,700	49,400	50,000
Estate, Forms 706, 706NA/GS(D)/GS(T), Total	15,023	16,000	14,900	14,000	13,200	12,500	11,800	11,100	10,500
Gift, Form 709	158,095	240,800	234,900	234,900	234,900	234,900	234,900	234,900	234,900
Employment Tax, Total	28,002,543	34,148,600	33,195,600	32,386,100	32,564,900	32,736,500	32,904,700	33,071,300	33,241,400
Paper Employment Returns, Total	12,327,250	17,361,800	15,570,900	13,887,800	13,222,500	12,572,100	11,935,100	11,309,800	10,698,300
Electronic Employment Returns, Total	15,675,293	16,786,800	17,624,700	18,498,300	19,342,400	20,164,400	20,969,500	21,761,500	22,543,000
Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR, Total	5,964,394	6,401,100	6,272,400	6,308,900	6,343,600	6,376,600	6,408,900	6,440,700	6,472,400
Paper Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR	2,946,308	3,113,700	2,872,200	2,725,400	2,581,200	2,439,700	2,301,800	2,167,600	2,037,400
Form 940 E-File/Online/XML	3,018,086	3,287,400	3,400,200	3,583,500	3,762,400	3,936,900	4,107,100	4,273,100	4,435,000
Forms 941, 941-PR, and 941-SS, Total	21,761,825	27,453,300	26,647,900	25,813,200	25,967,400	26,116,000	26,261,900	26,406,600	26,554,800
Paper 941, 941-PR/SS, Total	9,129,683	13,981,600	12,453,900	10,932,100	10,424,100	9,928,200	9,442,300	8,964,000	8,495,700
Form 941 E-File/Online/XML	12,632,142	13,471,700	14,194,000	14,881,100	15,543,300	16,187,800	16,819,600	17,442,500	18,059,100
Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS, Total	170,678	179,700	167,700	163,000	158,400	153,900	149,400	144,900	140,500
Paper Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS	158,500	165,000	151,600	145,100	138,800	132,600	126,400	120,200	114,100
Electronic Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS	12,178	14,700	16,100	17,800	19,600	21,300	23,000	24,700	26,400
Forms 944, 944-PR, and 944-SS, Total	51,593	56,600	55,500	54,000	52,500	51,000	49,500	48,000	46,400
Paper Forms 944, 944-PR, and 944-SS	43,203	48,800	47,000	44,800	42,600	40,400	38,200	36,000	33,700
Electronic Form 944	8,390	7,800	8,500	9,200	9,900	10,600	11,300	12,000	12,700
Form 945, Total	52,549	55,900	50,200	45,100	41,200	37,200	33,300	29,400	25,400
Paper Form 945	48,052	50,600	44,300	38,600	33,900	29,300	24,700	20,200	15,600
Electronic Form 945	4,497	5,300	5,900	6,600	7,200	7,900	8,500	9,200	9,800
Form CT-1	1,504	2,100	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, 2021–2028—Continued

Type of Return	Actual— FY 2020	Projected							
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Withholding on Foreign Persons, Form 1042	25,459	72,900	63,900	62,300	64,700	67,100	69,700	72,300	75,100
Exempt Organizations, Total	1,358,305	1,746,100	1,838,200	1,803,400	1,840,500	1,877,600	1,916,500	1,957,300	1,999,900
Paper Exempt Organizations, Total	221,556	355,900	213,800	93,900	84,900	82,700	80,500	78,300	76,200
Electronic Exempt Organizations, Total	1,136,749	1,390,200	1,624,300	1,709,500	1,755,600	1,795,000	1,836,100	1,878,900	1,923,700
Form 990, Total	288,062	325,000	330,400	329,100	329,100	329,100	329,100	329,100	329,100
Paper Form 990	25,828	29,600	8,800	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 990	262,234	295,500	321,600	329,100	329,100	329,100	329,100	329,100	329,100
Form 990-EZ, Total	184,737	253,200	260,200	254,500	256,100	256,100	256,100	256,100	256,100
Paper Form 990-EZ	44,321	91,000	47,700	5,800	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 990-EZ	140,416	162,100	212,500	248,700	256,100	256,100	256,100	256,100	256,100
Form 990-N*	658,983	712,100	754,300	788,800	824,900	862,600	902,000	943,200	986,400
Form 990-PF, Total	94,894	134,300	131,800	124,300	125,700	127,100	128,600	130,000	131,500
Paper Form 990-PF	19,778	27,100	12,100	1,000	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 990-PF	75,116	107,200	119,700	123,300	125,700	127,100	128,600	130,000	131,500
Form 990-T**	116,975	186,100	263,400	218,200	218,200	218,200	218,200	218,200	218,200
Paper Form 990-T	116,975	73,300	48,300	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 990-T	N/A	112,800	215,100	218,200	218,200	218,200	218,200	218,200	218,200
Form 4720***	1,659	2,300	3,000	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,200
Paper Form 4720	1,659	1,900	1,900	1,700	1,500	1,300	1,100	1,000	900
Electronic Form 4720	N/A	500	1,100	1,300	1,600	1,800	2,000	2,200	2,300
Form 5227	12,995	133,200	94,900	85,400	83,400	81,400	79,400	77,400	75,400
Form 1041-A	2,859	7,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100
Government Entity/Bonds	30,385	28,500	37,600	38,900	38,300	37,700	37,100	36,500	35,900
Form 8038	1,849	1,600	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,700	1,600	1,500	1,300
Form 8038-CP	7,747	8,600	9,300	9,500	9,600	9,800	10,000	10,200	10,400
Form 8038-G	16,001	13,500	19,900	20,900	20,600	20,400	20,100	19,800	19,500
Form 8038-GC	4,459	4,500	6,000	6,100	5,800	5,400	5,100	4,800	4,400
Form 8038-T	118	200	200	200	100	100	100	100	100
Form 8038-TC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Form 8328	209	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Political Organizations, Total	8,115	9,300	10,000	7,600	10,000	7,400	10,000	7,200	9,900
Form 1120-POL, Total	2,771	3,400	3,400	3,300	3,200	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,700
Paper Form 1120-POL	2,724	3,400	3,400	3,200	3,100	3,000	2,900	2,700	2,600
Electronic Form 1120-POL	47	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Form 8871****	2,930	3,000	3,300	2,200	3,400	2,200	3,500	2,200	3,600
Form 8872, Total	2,414	3,000	3,300	2,200	3,400	2,200	3,500	2,200	3,600
Paper Form 8872	232	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 8872	2,182	2,900	3,300	2,200	3,400	2,200	3,500	2,200	3,600
Excise, Total	905,722	1,102,300	1,108,600	1,117,000	1,125,400	1,133,900	1,142,300	1,150,800	1,159,300
Form 11-C	2,141	4,000	3,800	3,600	3,400	3,200	3,000	2,900	2,700
Form 720, Total	144,485	186,700	182,000	179,500	176,900	174,400	171,900	169,300	166,800
Paper Form 720	141,835	183,500	178,400	175,600	172,800	169,800	167,000	164,300	161,500
Electronic Form 720	2,650	3,200	3,600	3,900	4,200	4,600	4,800	5,000	5,300
Form 730	13,012	21,200	20,600	20,000	19,400	18,900	18,300	17,800	17,400
Form 2290, Total	731,551	867,100	878,900	890,700	902,500	914,200	926,000	937,800	949,600
Paper Form 2290	76,617	181,400	178,700	176,500	174,300	171,900	169,700	167,500	165,400
Electronic Form 2290	654,934	685,700	700,200	714,200	728,200	742,400	756,300	770,300	784,200
Form 8849, Total	14,533	23,300	23,300	23,200	23,200	23,100	23,000	23,000	22,900
Paper Form 8849	8,952	17,300	17,100	16,800	16,600	16,300	16,100	15,800	15,600
Electronic Form 8849	5,581	6,000	6,200	6,400	6,600	6,800	7,000	7,100	7,300
Excise Taxes re Employee Plans, Form 5330	11,153	15,300	19,900	19,800	19,800	19,800	19,700	19,700	19,600
Form 5500-EZ, One-Participant Retirement Plans	53,134	106,600	96,500	96,500	96,500	96,500	96,500	96,500	96,500
Payment or Refund Under Sec. 7519, Form 8752	6,871	23,900	22,400	21,300	20,100	19,000	17,800	16,700	15,600
Supplemental Documents, Total	21,564,622	30,888,800	29,808,400	30,446,600	31,194,600	32,001,200	32,868,000	33,735,700	34,610,100
Form 1040-X, Total	2,630,645	4,851,800	3,703,900	3,474,100	3,358,800	3,248,600	3,220,600	3,192,700	3,164,700
Paper Form 1040-X	2,567,798	3,336,100	2,171,400	1,924,800	1,744,900	1,570,200	1,453,400	1,354,500	1,265,600
Electronic Form 1040-X*****	62,847	1,515,700	1,532,500	1,549,300	1,613,800	1,678,400	1,767,200	1,838,100	1,899,100
Form 4868, Total	10,644,513	15,457,700	15,463,500	15,985,300	16,477,300	16,935,200	17,390,600	17,844,600	18,298,000
Paper Form 4868	1,399,230	4,531,900	3,451,400	3,059,900	2,809,200	2,521,500	2,262,600	2,018,700	1,773,700
Electronic Form 4868	9,245,283	10,925,800	12,012,100	12,925,300	13,668,200	14,413,700	15,128,000	15,825,900	16,524,300
Form 1120-X	14,174	15,400	15,800	16,100	16,400	16,700	17,100	17,400	17,700
Form 5558	48,639	675,500	574,600	551,000	549,400	583,200	586,600	592,400	603,200
Form 7004, Total	7,728,992	8,982,900	9,183,500	9,573,600	9,963,600	10,353,700	10,743,700	11,133,800	11,523,800
Paper Form 7004	931,655	1,371,600	1,331,900	1,293,200	1,254,500	1,215,800	1,177,000	1,138,300	1,099,600
Electronic Form 7004	6,797,337	7,611,200	7,851,600	8,280,400	8,709,100	9,137,900	9,566,700	9,995,400	10,424,200
Form 8868, Total	497,659	905,400	867,200	846,600	829,100	863,700	909,400	954,900	1,002,700
Paper Form 8868	43,063	341,100	298,000	272,500	241,000	243,100	256,300	269,400	283,100
Electronic Form 8868	454,596	564,400	569,200	574,000	588,100	620,600	653,100	685,600	719,600

Table 2. Selected Fiscal Year Return Filing Estimates by Business Operating Division (BOD), 2021–2028

Type of Return/BOD	Actual— FY 2020	Projected							
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Individual Income Tax, Total	156,580,123	159,406,100	159,115,000	161,775,700	163,528,800	165,303,400	167,169,100	168,972,100	170,759,900
Small Business/Self-Employed	40,990,333	45,010,700	44,937,900	45,689,400	46,184,500	46,685,700	47,212,600	47,721,800	48,226,700
Wage and Investment	115,589,790	114,395,400	114,177,000	116,086,300	117,344,300	118,617,700	119,956,500	121,250,200	122,533,100
Corporation Income Tax, Total	6,841,771	7,296,300	7,453,700	7,510,000	7,562,100	7,612,500	7,660,900	7,707,200	7,751,200
Small Business/Self-Employed	6,652,769	7,095,800	7,239,300	7,294,600	7,345,700	7,395,200	7,442,700	7,488,100	7,531,200
Large Business and International	180,207	190,500	203,900	205,000	206,000	207,000	207,900	208,900	209,800
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	8,795	10,000	10,400	10,400	10,400	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,200
Partnership Returns, Total	4,470,095	4,578,200	4,806,100	5,002,900	5,211,700	5,429,000	5,551,400	5,662,800	5,776,800
Small Business/Self-Employed	4,184,860	4,286,000	4,499,400	4,683,700	4,879,200	5,082,600	5,197,100	5,301,400	5,408,200
Large Business and International	284,858	291,700	306,300	318,800	332,100	346,000	353,800	360,900	368,100
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	377	400	400	400	400	500	500	500	500
Employment Tax, Total	28,002,543	34,148,600	33,195,600	32,386,100	32,564,900	32,736,500	32,904,700	33,071,300	33,241,400
Small Business/Self-Employed	25,503,882	31,050,800	30,187,700	29,463,400	29,626,900	29,783,800	29,937,600	30,089,900	30,245,400
Large Business and International	738,416	897,900	872,400	850,900	855,100	859,000	862,900	866,800	870,700
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	1,760,245	2,199,900	2,135,600	2,071,700	2,082,900	2,093,600	2,104,200	2,114,600	2,125,300
Excise, Total	905,722	1,102,300	1,108,600	1,117,000	1,125,400	1,133,900	1,142,300	1,150,800	1,159,300
Small Business/Self-Employed	803,914	962,400	967,900	975,200	982,600	989,900	997,300	1,004,700	1,012,100
Large Business and International	72,616	96,500	97,000	97,800	98,500	99,300	100,000	100,700	101,500
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	29,192	43,400	43,700	44,000	44,300	44,700	45,000	45,300	45,700
Exempt Organization, Total	1,358,305	1,746,100	1,838,200	1,803,400	1,840,500	1,877,600	1,916,500	1,957,300	1,999,900
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	1,358,305	1,746,100	1,838,200	1,803,400	1,840,500	1,877,600	1,916,500	1,957,300	1,999,900
Employee Plans, Forms 5500, 5500EZ, and 5500SF	881,396	936,500	938,800	941,200	961,100	964,200	985,400	980,700	989,300
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	881,396	936,500	938,800	941,200	961,100	964,200	985,400	980,700	989,300

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, Spring 2021 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 2020 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 *	246,507					
MAPE		1.76%	2.22%	1.86%	2.37%	2.74%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	3	4	4
Grand Total—Paper	51,890					
MAPE		8.21%	11.69%	10.70%	14.84%	15.85%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Grand Total—E-file	194,618					
MAPE		0.94%	1.84%	2.13%	1.85%	1.54%
Number of Overprojections		2	2	1	1	1
Total Primary—Selected Returns *	223,206					
MAPE		1.18%	1.43%	1.50%	2.50%	2.84%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Primary Total—Paper	45,144					
MAPE		5.83%	8.62%	10.04%	13.78%	17.07%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	4	4	4
Primary Total—E-file	178,062					
MAPE		0.69%	1.52%	1.67%	1.20%	1.56%
Number of Overprojections		1	2	3	1	1
Individual Total	145,211					
MAPE		2.84%	2.46%	2.57%	3.44%	3.94%
Number of Overprojections		3	3	4	4	4
Individual Total—Paper	9,095					
MAPE		12.90%	19.60%	21.41%	20.40%	19.34%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	2	2	4
Individual Total—E-file	136,116					
MAPE		2.03%	1.67%	1.83%	2.66%	2.58%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Individual Estimated Tax	17,565					
MAPE		6.98%	9.07%	10.12%	16.11%	18.86%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Fiduciary Total	2,831					
MAPE		3.66%	4.60%	5.32%	7.38%	7.19%
Number of Overprojections		2	3	4	4	4
Partnership Total	4,115					
MAPE		1.73%	2.73%	2.58%	4.63%	6.62%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	1	1	1
Corporation Total	6,721					
MAPE		2.38%	3.73%	3.80%	5.05%	5.11%
Number of Overprojections		3	1	2	1	1
Employment Total	27,541					
MAPE		3.44%	4.66%	4.72%	4.58%	3.70%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	2	2	2
Exempt Organization Total	1,245					
MAPE		9.00%	13.01%	12.46%	12.99%	16.97%
Number of Overprojections		3	3	3	4	4
Excise Total	1,020					
MAPE		1.17%	3.12%	2.63%	2.09%	2.45%
Number of Overprojections		2	2	2	1	1

*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, 2021 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-SP, 1040-SR, 1040-NR, 1040-NR-EZ, 1040-PR, 1040-SS, and 1040-C. Forms 1040-SP (*Declaración de Impuestos de los Estados Unidos Sobre los Ingresos Personales*) and Form 1040-SR (*U.S. Tax Return for Seniors*) are new individual form types. More information about these new forms can be found in Publication 6187, *Calendar Year Projections of Individual Returns by Major Processing Categories*.
- “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 (paper and electronic), 4720 (paper and electronic), and 5227. Beginning in Calendar Year 2021, the Form 990 series must be filed electronically. Temporary waivers are 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 CY 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 filings of 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).

Projection Publication Series

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.