



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

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Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States: 2024–2031

Spring 2024



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 pages. The World Wide Web address is: www.irs.gov/statistics. From the webpage, select "Projections Publications" in the "Products and Publications" 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.



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Overview

The Spring 2024 edition of IRS Publication 6292, Fiscal Year Return Projections for the United States: 2024–2031, provides U.S.-level projections of the number of tax returns expected to be filed in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 through FY 2031 by: (1) major return categories; and (2) business operating divisions.

Statistics of Income (SOI) staff within IRS Research, Applied Analytics, and Statistics 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 2024 through FY 2031, 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 other data sources, including Business Objects Enterprise Data and 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 FY numbers 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 FY 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 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 2024 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

Previous updates of Publication 6292 highlighted issues with the historical tax return data due to tax return processing delays. The processing delays impacted data for FY 2020 through FY 2023. However, the processing issues were resolved by the IRS in 2023. As a result, SOI did not have to adjust the estimated volumes after 2023 to account for carryover returns from the previous year, as had been done in prior updates of Publication 6292.

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 TFA provisions directly affect the forecasts provided in this publication. First, the TFA lowered the required electronic filing thresholds for corporations and partnerships starting in Calendar Year (CY) 2021. Second, the TFA made electronic filing mandatory for tax-exempt organizations (Form 990 series) and political organizations (Form 8872) starting in CY 2021. Both provisions have increased the number of electronic filings for the impacted forms, and will ultimately either decrease, or eliminate altogether, the number of paper filings.

New Digital Intake Scanning Initiative and Paperless Processing Initiative

Since the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) passed into law in August 2022, the IRS has made significant progress towards adopting new digitalization technology. On March 8, 2023, the IRS announced a new Digital Intake Initiative to scan paper returns of select form types, including Forms 940, 941, and 1040. In the first quarter of CY 2024, 29.3% of processed paper returns of Form 940, 15.7% of processed paper returns of Form 941 and 1.8% of processed paper returns of Form 1040 were scanned. This digitalization effort will expand to include the scanning of other form types. In August 2023, the IRS announced the Paperless Processing Initiative that aims to digitally process all paper tax returns by filing season 2025. The projections provided in the Spring 2024 update of Publication 6292 do not account for the Digital Intake initiative and the Paperless Processing Initiative. However, as more data and program information become available, future Publication 6292 updates will establish a methodology for estimating scanned paper volumes.

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 of return filings was 271.5 million in FY 2023, an increase of 3.3% over FY 2022. The large increase in the grand total is primarily due to the higher than usual number of paper returns. The grand total is projected to return to its normal trend in FY 2024 and then grow at an average annual rate of 0.8% after FY 2024, reaching 281.3 million filings by FY 2031.

The paper grand total was 57.9 million in FY 2023, an increase of 12.9% from the FY 2022. The high FY 2023 count of paper returns is due to the larger than usual number of paper returns that were processed in the fourth quarter of CY 2022 (the first quarter of FY 2023). The volume of overall paper returns is expected to return to its pre-pandemic trend in FY 2024, with an expected count of 46.6 million. After FY 2024, the paper grand total is projected to decline by an average annual rate of 6.8%.

The electronic grand total was 213.6 million filings in FY 2023, a 1.0% increase over FY 2022. The electronic grand total is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 2.1% between FY 2024 and FY 2031, reaching 252.8 million filings by FY 2031.

Detail by Business Operating Division

Table 2 presents estimates of selected return filings by the IRS Business Operating Division (BOD). The selected returns include total individual income tax, corporation income tax, partnership, employment excise tax and exempt organization returns. As applicable, these volumes are broken out by their operating division components: Taxpayer Services, Small Business/Self-Employed (SB/SE), Large Business and International (LB&I), and Tax Exempt/Government Entities (TE/GE). Table 2 also includes the projected total filings of Employee Plan (EP) returns, including those processed by the Department of Labor, as these returns are filed by a major segment of 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 four years of actual data, from 2020 through 2023, 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 four-year period, regardless of whether the projections were over or under the actual filings in each of the four projection cycles. The number of overprojections can show whether projections are consistently over- or under-projected. 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, 2024–2031

Type of Return	Actual— FY 2023	Projected								
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	
		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
Grand Total	271,462,415	266,597,200	268,806,200	270,769,800	272,630,900	274,548,000	276,767,500	279,015,900	281,317,600	
Paper Grand Total	57,889,675	46,567,200	43,372,000	40,493,600	37,675,500	35,034,200	32,769,100	30,595,000	28,485,700	
Electronic Grand Total	213,572,740	220,029,900	225,434,200	230,276,200	234,955,500	239,513,800	243,998,500	248,420,900	252,831,900	
Total Primary Returns	233,172,788	229,159,300	231,213,300	232,921,900	234,620,800	236,336,400	238,047,100	239,756,900	241,496,800	
Individual Income Tax, Total	163,124,867	162,315,300	163,758,600	165,196,500	166,639,600	168,097,500	169,551,900	171,001,900	172,483,800	
Forms 1040 and 1040-SR, Total	161,781,457	161,125,100	162,570,600	164,001,200	165,433,700	166,878,300	168,319,500	169,751,700	171,213,800	
Paper Forms 1040 and 1040-SR	14,489,226	10,187,600	8,940,100	8,030,200	7,232,400	6,549,400	5,931,000	5,370,900	4,863,800	
Electronic Forms 1040 and 1040-SR	147,292,231	150,937,500	153,630,400	155,971,000	158,201,300	160,328,900	162,388,500	164,380,800	166,350,100	
Forms 1040-NR/NR-EZ/C Total	910,549	815,600	834,200	857,500	880,800	904,100	927,400	950,700	974,000	
Paper Form 1040-NR	477,525	316,300	303,900	291,500	279,100	266,800	247,100	228,100	209,200	
Electronic Form 1040-NR	433,024	499,300	530,300	566,000	601,700	637,300	680,300	722,600	764,800	
Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS Total	432,861	374,600	353,900	337,900	325,100	315,100	305,000	299,500	295,900	
Paper Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	192,687	134,000	130,500	129,100	128,300	127,600	124,100	122,600	120,400	
Electronic Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	240,174	240,600	223,400	208,800	196,800	187,500	180,900	176,900	175,600	
Individual Estimated Tax, Form 1040-ES, Total	11,799,634	11,688,700	11,688,700	11,562,500	11,436,300	11,310,000	11,183,800	11,057,600	10,931,400	
Paper Form 1040-ES	11,571,849	11,441,400	11,427,700	11,288,300	11,148,800	11,009,400	10,869,900	10,730,500	10,591,100	
Electronic (Credit Card) Form 1040-ES	227,785	247,300	261,000	274,200	287,400	300,700	313,900	327,100	340,300	
Fiduciary, Form 1041, Total	3,370,406	3,267,801	3,254,400	3,240,200	3,225,700	3,211,400	3,197,500	3,184,200	3,171,500	
Paper Form 1041	593,921	420,900	392,500	366,800	343,600	322,600	303,500	286,300	270,700	
Electronic Form 1041	2,776,485	2,846,800	2,861,900	2,873,400	2,882,100	2,888,800	2,894,000	2,897,900	2,900,800	
Fiduciary Estimated Tax, Form 1041-ES*	550,179	587,800	591,000	591,000	591,000	591,000	591,000	591,000	591,000	
Partnership, Forms 1065/1065-B, Total	5,117,987	5,149,000	5,366,500	5,483,000	5,594,900	5,707,900	5,821,600	5,935,700	6,050,000	
Paper Forms 1065/1065-B	556,772	268,000	249,500	236,700	226,500	219,000	213,400	209,300	206,200	
Electronic Forms 1065/1065-B	4,561,215	4,881,000	5,117,000	5,246,300	5,368,400	5,488,900	5,608,200	5,726,400	5,843,700	
Corporation Income Tax, Total	8,269,075	8,398,800	8,450,900	8,501,600	8,550,500	8,597,500	8,642,300	8,685,000	8,725,600	
Paper Corporation Returns, Total	1,356,072	1,144,900	1,093,800	1,051,400	1,016,200	987,000	962,800	942,900	926,600	
Electronic Corporation Returns, Total	6,913,003	7,253,900	7,357,100	7,450,200	7,534,300	7,610,500	7,679,500	7,742,100	7,799,000	
Form 1120, Total	1,867,015	1,873,100	1,853,800	1,835,800	1,819,200	1,803,900	1,789,900	1,777,200	1,765,500	
Paper Form 1120	346,630	307,800	286,400	267,000	249,500	233,600	219,300	206,300	194,500	
Electronic Form 1120	1,520,385	1,565,300	1,567,400	1,568,800	1,569,700	1,570,300	1,570,700	1,570,900	1,571,000	
Form 1120-C*	11,678	8,800	8,600	8,600	8,600	8,600	8,600	8,600	8,600	
Form 1120-F Total	60,937	61,400	62,200	63,100	64,000	64,700	65,500	66,200	66,900	
Paper Form 1120-F	18,164	15,700	15,000	14,500	14,000	13,600	13,300	13,000	12,800	
Electronic Form 1120-F	42,773	45,600	47,200	48,700	50,000	51,200	52,200	53,200	54,100	
Form 1120-H*	385,466	325,300	332,200	339,100	346,100	353,000	359,900	366,900	373,800	
Forms 1120-FSC/LND/PC/REIT/RIC/ISF*	61,949	60,000	61,500	63,100	64,600	66,200	67,700	69,300	70,900	
Form 1120-S, Total	5,882,030	6,070,300	6,132,500	6,191,800	6,248,000	6,301,000	6,356,000	6,399,900	6,440,000	
Paper Form 1120-S	532,185	427,300	390,100	359,100	333,400	311,900	294,000	278,800	266,000	
Electronic Form 1120-S	5,349,845	5,643,000	5,742,400	5,832,700	5,914,600	5,989,000	6,056,600	6,118,100	6,173,900	
Small Corporation Election, Form 2553*	693,461	665,200	665,200	665,200	665,200	665,200	665,200	665,200	665,200	
"REMIC" Income Tax, Form 1066	73,736	49,100	50,500	51,900	53,400	54,800	56,200	57,700	59,100	
Estate, Forms 706, 706NA/GS(D)/GS(T), Total*	49,633	26,700	26,200	25,800	25,300	24,800	24,400	23,900	23,500	
Gift, Form 709*	516,991	247,000	253,200	253,100	253,000	252,900	252,800	252,500	252,200	
Employment Tax, Total	36,192,816	33,560,800	33,863,100	34,077,500	34,290,700	34,504,300	34,719,000	34,935,500	35,153,800	
Paper Employment Returns, Total	15,228,471	11,632,500	10,598,000	9,521,500	8,465,400	7,420,400	6,376,700	5,324,400	4,254,000	
Electronic Employment Returns, Total	20,964,345	21,928,400	23,265,200	24,555,900	25,825,300	27,083,900	28,342,400	29,611,000	30,899,800	
Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR, Total	6,433,244	6,497,800	6,571,100	6,624,600	6,676,100	6,726,800	6,777,200	6,827,800	6,878,800	
Paper Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR	2,032,414	2,256,400	2,093,700	1,916,400	1,740,900	1,568,200	1,398,700	1,232,600	1,069,900	
Form 940 E-File/Online/XML	4,400,830	4,241,400	4,477,400	4,708,200	4,935,200	5,158,500	5,378,500	5,595,200	5,808,900	
Forms 941, 941-PR, and 941-SS, Total	29,435,205	26,777,300	27,011,000	27,181,200	27,353,200	27,526,100	27,700,200	27,875,400	28,051,700	
Paper Form 941, 941-PR/SS, Total	12,931,555	9,162,700	8,302,300	7,418,600	6,554,100	5,697,600	4,838,700	3,967,300	3,073,600	
Electronic Form 941 E-File/Online/XML	16,503,650	17,614,600	18,708,700	19,762,600	20,799,000	21,828,500	22,861,500	23,908,100	24,978,100	
Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS, Total	174,970	153,500	151,300	147,200	143,200	139,400	135,600	132,000	128,400	
Paper Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS	151,498	124,300	117,900	110,000	102,400	95,100	88,000	81,200	74,700	
Electronic Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS	23,472	29,200	33,300	37,200	40,800	44,300	47,600	50,700	53,700	
Forms 944, 944-PR, and 944-SS, Total	81,520	76,600	76,600	73,800	70,000	66,000	62,000	58,200	54,600	
Paper Forms 944, 944-PR, and 944-SS	53,089	42,800	41,400	37,600	32,700	27,500	22,400	17,400	12,600	
Electronic Form 944	28,431	33,800	35,200	36,200	37,400	38,500	39,700	40,800	42,000	
Form 945, Total	65,520	53,800	51,400	48,900	46,400	44,200	42,200	40,300	38,500	
Paper Form 945	57,558	44,500	40,800	37,200	33,500	30,200	27,100	24,200	21,400	
Electronic Form 945	7,962	9,400	10,600	11,800	12,900	14,000	15,100	16,100	17,100	
Form CT-1*	2,357	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, 2024–2031—Continued

Type of Return	Actual— FY 2023	Projected								
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
Withholding on Foreign Persons, Form 1042	93,311	69,200	72,400	74,500	76,600	78,700	81,000	83,300	85,600	
Paper Form 1042	93,311	22,200	10,600	7,800	6,200	5,800	5,600	5,500	5,300	
Electronic Form 1042	N/A	47,000	61,800	66,600	70,400	72,900	75,300	77,800	80,400	
Exempt Organizations, Total	1,738,481	1,803,900	1,835,300	1,850,500	1,860,100	1,869,300	1,878,900	1,888,700	1,898,100	
Paper Exempt Organizations, Total	169,404	36,900	7,800	3,300	2,800	2,500	2,100	2,000	2,000	
Electronic Exempt Organizations, Total	1,569,077	1,767,000	1,827,500	1,847,200	1,857,300	1,866,800	1,876,800	1,886,700	1,896,100	
Form 990, Total	348,028	353,700	355,200	356,800	356,800	356,800	356,800	356,800	356,800	
Paper Form 990	6,934	4,000	900	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Electronic Form 990	341,094	349,700	354,300	356,800	356,800	356,800	356,800	356,800	356,800	
Form 990-EZ, Total	226,484	220,700	216,400	215,600	215,600	215,600	215,600	215,600	215,600	
Paper Form 990-EZ	20,401	7,500	1,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Electronic Form 990-EZ	206,083	213,200	215,300	215,600	215,600	215,600	215,600	215,600	215,600	
Form 990-N**	653,158	759,900	785,600	796,200	805,500	814,600	823,900	833,300	842,500	
Form 990-PF, Total	125,834	129,200	131,300	134,000	136,400	138,700	141,000	143,500	145,900	
Paper Form 990-PF	1,923	1,500	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Electronic Form 990-PF	123,911	127,700	130,900	134,000	136,400	138,700	141,000	143,500	145,900	
Form 990-T Total	223,710	213,700	222,800	226,400	226,400	226,400	226,400	226,400	226,400	
Paper Form 990-T	4,067	1,400	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Electronic Form 990-T	219,643	212,300	222,400	226,400	226,400	226,400	226,400	226,400	226,400	
Form 4720 Total	5,110	4,700	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,900	4,900	4,900	
Paper Form 4720	2,572	1,500	1,100	900	800	700	700	700	700	
Electronic Form 4720	2,538	3,300	3,700	3,900	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,200	4,200	
Form 5227 Total	156,157	122,000	119,300	116,700	114,600	112,400	110,300	108,100	106,000	
Paper Form 5227	133,507	21,100	4,100	2,400	1,900	1,800	1,500	1,400	1,300	
Electronic Form 5227	22,650	100,900	115,200	114,300	112,600	110,600	108,800	106,800	104,700	
Form 1041-A*	11,038	5,900	5,600	5,300	5,000	4,700	4,500	4,300	4,100	
Government Entity/Bonds	45,533	35,400	33,200	32,400	31,900	31,500	31,100	30,700	30,300	
Form 8038*	4,266	3,100	3,100	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Form 8038-CP***	5,423	5,100	4,600	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	
Form 8038-G*	28,089	22,000	20,900	20,500	20,100	19,700	19,300	18,900	18,500	
Form 8038-GC*	7,095	4,700	4,200	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900	
Form 8038-T*	349	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	
Form 8328*	311	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	
Political Organizations, Total	9,925	10,400	9,900	10,300	9,900	10,300	9,900	10,300	9,100	
Form 1120-POL, Total	4,055	3,500	3,500	3,300	3,200	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,600	
Paper Form 1120-POL	3,950	3,400	3,300	3,200	3,000	2,900	2,700	2,600	2,500	
Electronic Form 1120-POL	105	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	
Form 8871**	2,915	3,400	3,400	3,500	3,600	3,700	3,900	4,000	4,200	
Form 8872, Total	2,955	3,500	2,100	3,500	2,200	3,500	2,200	3,500	2,200	
Paper Form 8872	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Electronic Form 8872	2,944	3,500	2,100	3,500	2,200	3,500	2,200	3,500	2,200	
Excise, Total	1,208,373	1,134,600	1,147,300	1,160,500	1,174,000	1,187,800	1,201,800	1,216,200	1,230,800	
Form 11-C*	6,327	4,000	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700	
Form 720, Total	232,085	176,400	174,700	173,100	171,500	169,800	168,100	166,500	164,900	
Paper Form 720	226,772	170,600	168,800	167,000	165,300	163,500	161,700	160,000	158,200	
Electronic Form 720	5,313	5,800	5,900	6,100	6,200	6,300	6,400	6,500	6,600	
Form 730*	20,688	19,300	18,800	18,200	17,700	17,200	16,800	16,300	15,900	
Form 2290, Total	929,456	914,200	929,400	944,900	960,600	976,600	992,800	1,009,300	1,026,000	
Paper Form 2290	106,859	106,100	99,700	93,900	88,800	84,200	80,200	75,900	72,000	
Electronic Form 2290	822,597	808,100	829,800	851,000	871,800	892,400	912,600	933,400	954,000	
Form 8849, Total	19,817	20,700	20,600	20,600	20,500	20,500	20,400	20,400	20,400	
Paper Form 8849	11,431	12,300	12,000	11,800	11,500	11,300	11,100	10,800	10,600	
Electronic Form 8849	8,386	8,400	8,600	8,800	9,000	9,200	9,400	9,600	9,800	
Excise Taxes re Employee Plans, Form 5330*	32,971	20,200	20,200	20,100	20,100	20,100	20,100	20,000	20,000	
Form 5500-EZ, One-Participant Retirement Plans*	239,618	104,700	104,100	103,500	103,000	102,500	102,000	101,500	101,100	
Payment or Refund Under Sec. 7519, Form 8752*	34,753	19,000	17,800	16,600	15,400	14,200	13,000	11,800	10,700	
Supplemental Documents, Total	38,289,627	37,437,800	37,592,900	37,847,900	38,010,200	38,211,600	38,720,400	39,258,900	39,820,800	
Form 1040-X, Total	5,504,839	5,440,300	5,052,200	4,716,000	4,424,900	4,173,000	3,954,900	3,766,200	3,603,100	
Paper Form 1040-X ****	3,322,368	3,104,100	2,700,100	2,349,800	2,045,800	1,782,300	1,553,600	1,355,300	1,183,300	
Electronic Form 1040-X	2,182,471	2,336,200	2,352,100	2,366,300	2,379,100	2,390,700	2,401,300	2,410,900	2,419,800	
Form 4868, Total	18,511,015	18,178,300	18,499,500	18,820,700	19,142,000	19,464,100	19,785,300	20,106,500	20,427,800	
Paper Form 4868	2,248,766	1,856,400	1,719,600	1,582,800	1,446,100	1,308,900	1,172,100	1,035,300	898,500	
Electronic Form 4868	16,262,249	16,321,800	16,779,900	17,237,900	17,695,900	18,155,200	18,613,200	19,071,300	19,529,300	
Form 1120-X*	35,677	32,100	32,200	32,200	32,200	32,200	32,300	32,300	32,600	
Form 5558*	748,157	519,500	519,200	518,800	518,400	518,000	517,700	517,300	516,900	
Form 7004, Total	9,800,716	10,240,200	10,605,900	10,972,800	11,340,500	11,710,100	12,079,300	12,449,200	12,819,400	
Paper Form 7004	1,217,727	1,198,600	1,179,200	1,160,900	1,143,400	1,126,800	1,110,800	1,095,600	1,077,600	
Electronic Form 7004	8,582,989	9,041,600	9,426,700	9,811,900	10,197,000	10,583,300	10,968,400	11,353,600	11,738,800	
Form 8868, Total	1,170,875	1,353,200	1,386,600	1,418,100	1,449,600	1,481,100	1,512,900	1,544,400	1,575,900	
Paper Form 8868	445,443	501,000	496,600	490,400	484,200	478,000	471,800	465,600	459,400	
Electronic Form 8868	725,432	852,200	890,000	927,700	965,400	1,003,100	1,041,100	1,078,700	1,116,500	
Form 941-X*	2,500,859	1,660,200	1,485,600	1,359,100	1,094,100	825,800	631,000	486,300	363,600	
Form 943-X*	10,775	8,400	6,800	5,900	4,300	3,500	3,400	3,300	3,200	
Form 944-X*	3,434	2,800	2,300	1,800	1,800	1,700	1,600	1,500	1,400	
Form 945-X*	3,079	2,700	2,600	2,400	2,300	2,200	2,100	2,000	1,900	
Form CT-1X*	201	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

N/A - Not applicable.

*These forms are all paper. Some will have an electronic filing option in the near future. See "Electronic-Filing Requirements for Specified Returns and Other Documents." 88 Fed. Reg. 11754 (February 23, 2023).

** Forms 990-N and 8871 are all electronic.

*** Form 8038-CP returns are included in the Paper Grand Total.

**** The Paper Form 1040-X is not based on processed/closures inventory. Instead, sourcing for the paper individual amended return volume uses receipt inventory due to a stronger relationship with staffing and resource allocation needs. Starting in CY 2023, Submissions Processing began reporting Unassigned Global Inventory, resulting in a divergent actual. These adjustments to reporting have been incorporated into our future projections.

NOTES:

1. On March 8, 2023, the IRS announced a new Digital Intake initiative to scan popular paper forms, including Forms 1040, 940 and 941, beginning in 2023. The projections provided in the Spring 2024 update of Publication 6292 do not separate scanned paper returns from paper returns. Future Publication 6292 updates will consider how to reflect the scanned paper volumes, as more data and program information become available. In the first quarter of CY 2024, 29.3% of processed paper returns of Form 940, 15.7% of processed paper returns of Form 941 and 1.8% of processed paper returns of Form 1040, were scanned.

2. 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.

3. Details 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, Spring 2024 Publication 6292.

Table 2. Selected Fiscal Year Return Filing Estimates by Business Operating Division (BOD), 2024–2031

Type of Return/BOD	Actual— FY 2023	Projected							
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Individual Income Tax, Total	161,781,457	161,125,100	162,570,600	164,001,200	165,433,700	166,878,300	168,319,500	169,751,700	171,213,800
Small Business/Self-Employed	47,498,852	47,169,700	47,468,800	48,288,600	48,763,500	49,427,900	50,000,800	50,599,500	51,310,700
Taxpayer Services	114,282,605	113,955,400	115,101,700	115,712,600	116,670,200	117,450,400	118,318,600	119,152,200	119,903,200
Corporation Income Tax, Total	8,269,075	8,398,800	8,450,900	8,501,600	8,550,500	8,597,500	8,642,300	8,685,000	8,725,600
Small Business/Self-Employed	8,009,010	8,138,700	8,189,700	8,239,100	8,286,700	8,332,300	8,375,800	8,417,300	8,456,600
Large Business and International	247,223	247,600	248,800	250,200	251,500	252,800	254,100	255,400	256,700
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	12,842	12,400	12,400	12,400	12,400	12,400	12,400	12,400	12,400
Partnership Returns, Total	5,117,987	5,149,000	5,366,500	5,483,000	5,594,900	5,707,900	5,821,600	5,935,700	6,050,000
Small Business/Self-Employed	4,788,840	4,817,900	5,021,400	5,130,300	5,235,100	5,340,900	5,447,200	5,554,000	5,660,900
Large Business and International	328,598	330,600	344,600	352,000	359,200	366,500	373,800	381,100	388,400
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	549	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
Employment Tax, Total	36,192,816	33,560,800	33,863,100	34,077,500	34,290,700	34,504,300	34,719,000	34,935,500	35,153,800
Small Business/Self-Employed	32,977,094	30,608,800	30,885,700	31,082,300	31,277,800	31,473,500	31,670,300	31,868,500	32,068,400
Large Business and International	928,384	862,200	869,700	874,900	880,200	885,500	890,800	896,200	901,700
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	2,287,338	2,089,900	2,107,800	2,120,300	2,132,700	2,145,300	2,158,000	2,170,800	2,183,700
Excise, Total	1,208,373	1,134,600	1,147,300	1,160,500	1,174,000	1,187,800	1,201,800	1,216,200	1,230,800
Small Business/Self-Employed	1,040,162	996,900	1,008,000	1,019,700	1,031,500	1,043,600	1,056,000	1,068,600	1,081,400
Large Business and International	118,410	96,300	97,400	98,600	99,700	100,900	102,100	103,300	104,500
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	49,801	41,300	41,800	42,300	42,800	43,300	43,800	44,300	44,800
Exempt Organization, Total	1,738,481	1,803,900	1,835,300	1,850,500	1,860,100	1,869,300	1,878,900	1,888,700	1,898,100
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	1,738,481	1,803,900	1,835,300	1,850,500	1,860,100	1,869,300	1,878,900	1,888,700	1,898,100
Employee Plans, Forms 5500, 5500EZ, and 5500SF	1,115,847	957,400	958,400	963,900	964,700	965,400	966,100	966,800	967,400
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	1,115,847	957,400	958,400	963,900	964,700	965,400	966,100	966,800	967,400

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 2024 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 Cycle

Item	Projection Error on Forecasts for:					
	Calendar Year 2023 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
Grand Total—Selected Returns *	265,006					
MAPE		3.50%	2.97%	1.90%	2.35%	2.72%
Number of Overprojections		4	3	2	1	1
Grand Total—Paper	48,617					
MAPE		12.35%	14.30%	14.79%	21.09%	24.49%
Number of Overprojections		4	3	3	3	4
Grand Total—E-file	218,022					
MAPE		1.52%	2.95%	3.20%	4.73%	5.62%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	0	0	0
Total Primary—Selected Returns *	227,136					
MAPE		3.41%	2.29%	1.56%	2.16%	2.80%
Number of Overprojections		4	3	3	2	3
Primary Total—Paper	40,256					
MAPE		13.94%	12.13%	17.96%	22.31%	26.78%
Number of Overprojections		4	4	4	4	4
Primary Total—E-file	186,881					
MAPE		1.79%	2.50%	2.87%	3.39%	3.81%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	0	0	0
Individual Total	160,237					
MAPE		2.20%	2.99%	2.77%	2.15%	1.98%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	1	0	1
Individual Total—Paper	11,922					
MAPE		28.32%	25.39%	32.15%	27.17%	17.61%
Number of Overprojections		3	3	2	2	4
Individual Total—E-file	148,315					
MAPE		2.97%	3.73%	4.40%	3.88%	3.39%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	1	1	0
Individual Estimated Tax	11,758					
MAPE		18.70%	39.56%	53.70%	57.08%	61.69%
Number of Overprojections		4	4	4	4	4
Fiduciary Total	3,278					
MAPE		4.27%	4.96%	6.67%	5.51%	6.01%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	2	2	2
Partnership Total	4,948					
MAPE		4.12%	3.87%	4.22%	5.87%	5.31%
Number of Overprojections		3	1	2	1	1
Corporation Total	8,347					
MAPE		4.44%	8.05%	6.48%	6.47%	4.67%
Number of Overprojections		1	1	1	1	1
Employment Total	33,681					
MAPE		6.21%	8.60%	7.95%	8.31%	7.60%
Number of Overprojections		3	1	1	1	1
Exempt Organization Total	1,699					
MAPE		13.77%	17.59%	13.76%	13.27%	17.00%
Number of Overprojections		3	2	2	3	3
Excise Total	1,162					
MAPE		4.60%	6.10%	5.17%	5.38%	6.61%
Number of Overprojections		2	1	1	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, 2024 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 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-SR, 1040-NR, 1040-NR-EZ, 1040-PR, 1040-SS, and 1040-C.
- Individual Estimated Tax, Form 1040-ES, includes paper and electronic Form 1040-ES.
- Fiduciary, Form 1041, Total, includes 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 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 in this publication.
- 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 (paper and electronic starting in 2022). Beginning in CY 2022, 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, and 8328.
- Political Organizations, Total, includes Forms 1120-POL (paper and electronic), 8871 (only available electronically), and 8872 (paper and electronic). Beginning in CY 2022, Form 8872 must be filed electronically. Temporary waivers are available.
- 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 consist 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), 8868 (paper and electronic), 941-X, 943-X, 944-X, 945-X, and CT-1-X.

Table 2:

- Individual filers classified as SB/SE reflect those taxpayers filing a Form 1040 return with either a Schedule C, Schedule F, Schedule E, or Form 2106 attached; or those filers with mailing addresses or forms that are considered International. All other individual filers are classified as Taxpayer Services.
- In general, corporation filers (Form 1120 series returns including Form 1120-S) and partnership filers are classified as LB&I if their reported total assets are \$10 million or more. Corporation and partnership returns with assets below \$10 million are generally classified as SB/SE. However, some partnership and corporation returns are also classified as part of the Tax Exempt/Government Entities operating division.
- Nonprofit organizations, pension plan filers, tribal authorities, and governmental units comprise the TE/GE classification.
- Employee Plans 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.