

Publication 6187

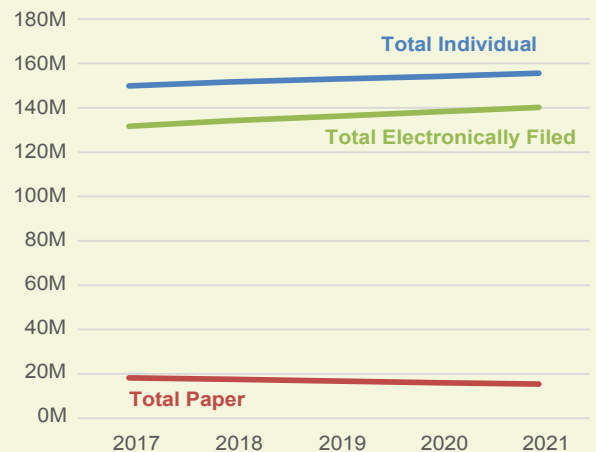
Calendar Year Projections of Individual Returns by Major Processing Categories

IRS *Publication 6187* contains multi-year projections of the number of individual returns to be filed with the IRS by major processing categories important to IRS planning operations. This includes detail by form type (Forms 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ), by medium of filing (paper versus electronic), and by other characteristics such as refund returns and Schedule A returns. Selected portions of the forecasts are also shown by IRS processing campus location and by State.

Significant Trends Found in This Update of *Publication 6187*

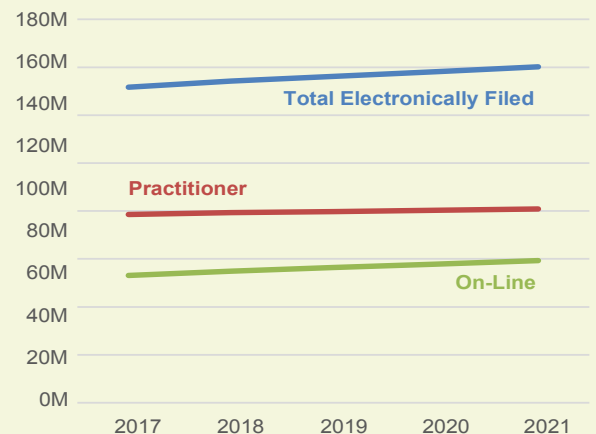
- The total individual tax returns filed was 149.9 million in Calendar Year 2017. The total individual return filings are projected to increase by 1.2 percent, reaching 151.7 million in CY 2018 and then they are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 0.9 percent, reaching 155.6 million returns by CY 2021.
- The total number of electronically filed individual returns were 131.7 million in Calendar Year 2017. The electronically filed returns are projected to increase at an average annual rate of 1.6 percent, reaching 140.2 million by CY 2021 which will be 90.1 percent of total individual returns.
- The total number of paper filed individual returns were 18.2 million in Calendar Year 2017. The paper filed returns are projected to remain around 17.5 million in CY 2018 and they are projected to be 15.4 million by CY 2021.
- Since the enactment of the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998, the total number of individual returns filed electronically has increased in volume from 24.6 million in Calendar Year 1998 to 131.7 million in CY 2017. This represents 87.9 percent of the total number of individual returns. In CY 2017, on-line filed individual returns were 53.1 million which represents 40.3 percent of the total electronically filed individual returns. The on-line filed individual returns are projected to increase at an average annual rate of 2.8 percent reaching 59.3 million by CY 2021. Electronically filed paid prepared individual returns were 78.6 million in CY 2017 and is expected to reach 80.9 million by CY 2021.

Projections of the Number of Individual Returns To Be Filed, Calendar Years 2018–2021



NOTES: Number of individual income tax returns for CY 2017 are actual filings. Forms 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ for Calendar Years 2017–2018; a new, streamlined Form 1040 replaces Forms 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ starting with Calendar Year 2019 and beyond.

Projections of the Number of Electronic Individual Returns To Be Filed, Calendar Years 2018–2021



NOTES: Number of individual income tax returns for CY 2017 are actual filings. Forms 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ for Calendar Years 2017–2018; a new, streamlined Form 1040 replaces Forms 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ starting with Calendar Year 2019 and beyond.

