



Statistics of Income

Publication 6292

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

Fall 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" in the "Other IRS Data & Research" 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 Fall 2024 edition of 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 (BODs).

Statistics of Income (SOI) staff 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 (CY) 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 July 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 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 two quarters of CY 2024, 20% of processed paper returns of Form 940, 16% of processed paper returns of Form 941, and 3% 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 Fall 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 282.4 million filings by FY 2031.

The paper grand total was 57.9 million in FY 2023, an increase of 12.9% from 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 46.0 million. After FY 2024, the paper grand total is projected to decline by an average annual rate of 6.9%.

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 2.2% between FY 2024 and FY 2031, reaching 254.5 million filings by FY 2031.

Detail by Business Operating Division

Table 2 presents estimates of selected return filings by the IRS 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 the IRS, 2024–2031

Type of Return	Actual— FY 2023	Projected							
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Grand Total	271,462,415	267,101,800	269,172,800	271,251,700	273,377,100	275,554,800	277,816,100	280,091,100	282,433,000
Paper Grand Total	57,889,675	45,954,600	42,520,700	39,657,500	37,009,100	34,542,900	32,240,600	30,023,900	27,891,000
Electronic Grand Total	213,572,740	221,147,200	226,652,100	231,594,200	236,368,000	241,011,900	245,575,400	250,067,200	254,542,000
Total Primary Returns	233,172,788	228,987,200	230,804,400	232,510,000	234,206,600	235,919,700	237,631,200	239,339,500	241,077,900
Individual Income Tax, Total	163,124,867	162,341,700	163,792,000	165,231,900	166,676,000	168,134,500	169,592,800	171,044,400	172,527,800
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	858,300	882,900	907,500	932,200	956,900	981,600	1,006,200	1,030,900
Paper Form 1040-NR	477,525	367,900	357,100	346,300	335,600	324,900	306,900	289,700	272,400
Electronic Form 1040-NR	433,024	490,400	525,800	561,200	596,600	632,000	674,600	716,600	758,500
Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS Total	432,861	358,300	338,500	323,200	310,100	299,200	291,700	286,500	283,100
Paper Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	192,687	107,900	106,000	105,900	105,300	104,100	103,500	102,400	100,300
Electronic Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	240,174	250,500	232,500	217,300	204,900	195,200	188,300	184,100	182,700
Individual Estimated Tax, Form 1040-ES, Total	11,799,634	11,947,500	11,948,100	11,819,700	11,691,300	11,562,900	11,434,600	11,306,200	11,177,800
Paper Form 1040-ES	11,571,849	11,685,400	11,671,400	11,529,000	11,386,600	11,244,200	11,101,800	10,959,400	10,817,000
Electronic (Credit Card) Form 1040-ES	227,785	262,100	276,700	290,700	304,700	318,700	332,800	346,800	360,800
Fiduciary, Form 1041, Total	3,370,406	3,267,800	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	5,246,200	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/SF*	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	6,350,600	6,396,900	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	33,054,000	33,183,600	33,397,900	33,611,200	33,824,800	34,039,600	34,256,000	34,474,300
Paper Employment Returns, Total	15,228,471	11,128,200	9,921,000	8,844,500	7,788,400	6,743,400	5,699,700	4,647,500	3,577,000
Electronic Employment Returns, Total	20,964,345	21,925,900	23,262,700	24,553,400	25,822,800	27,081,400	28,339,800	29,608,500	30,897,300
Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR, Total	6,433,244	6,516,700	6,590,200	6,643,700	6,695,200	6,745,800	6,796,300	6,846,900	6,897,900
Paper Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR	2,032,414	2,278,100	2,115,700	1,938,300	1,762,900	1,590,100	1,420,600	1,254,500	1,091,800
Form 940 E-File/Online/XML	4,400,830	4,238,500	4,474,500	4,705,300	4,932,300	5,155,700	5,375,600	5,592,400	5,806,000
Forms 941, 941-PR, and 941-SS, Total	29,435,205	26,262,800	26,324,000	26,494,200	26,666,200	26,839,100	27,013,200	27,188,400	27,364,700
Paper Form 941, 941-PR/SS, Total	12,931,555	8,648,100	7,615,300	6,731,600	5,867,100	5,010,600	4,151,700	3,280,300	2,386,600
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	102,300	95,000	88,000	81,200	74,700
Electronic Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS	23,472	29,300	33,400	37,200	40,900	44,400	47,700	50,800	53,800
Forms 944, 944-PR, and 944-SS, Total	81,520	70,800	70,600	67,800	64,000	60,000	56,000	52,200	48,600
Paper Forms 944, 944-PR, and 944-SS	53,089	36,900	35,200	31,400	26,500	21,300	16,200	11,200	6,400
Electronic Form 944	28,431	34,000	35,400	36,400	37,600	38,700	39,900	41,000	42,200
Form 945, Total	65,520	48,600	45,900	43,400	40,900	38,700	36,700	34,800	33,000
Paper Form 945	57,558	39,100	35,200	31,500	27,900	24,600	21,500	18,600	15,800
Electronic Form 945	7,962	9,500	10,700	11,900	13,000	14,100	15,200	16,200	17,200
Form CT-1*	2,357	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700

Footnotes are at end of table.

Table 1. Fiscal Year Projections of the Number of Returns To Be Filed with the 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	62,500	64,200	66,200	68,300	70,500	72,700	75,000	77,400
Paper Form 1042	93,311	41,000	29,600	26,500	22,500	21,200	18,700	17,900	14,900
Electronic Form 1042	N/A	21,500	34,600	39,800	45,800	49,300	54,000	57,200	62,500
Exempt Organizations, Total	1,738,481	1,777,300	1,808,100	1,821,000	1,830,400	1,839,500	1,849,000	1,858,700	1,868,100
Paper Exempt Organizations, Total	169,404	58,500	24,700	11,000	5,900	3,300	1,900	1,700	1,700
Electronic Exempt Organizations, Total	1,569,077	1,718,800	1,783,400	1,810,000	1,824,400	1,836,200	1,847,100	1,857,000	1,866,400
Form 990, Total	348,028	362,800	370,000	371,700	371,700	371,700	371,700	371,700	371,700
Paper Form 990	6,934	4,600	1,100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 990	341,094	358,300	369,000	371,700	371,700	371,700	371,700	371,700	371,700
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	9,200	1,600	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 990-EZ	206,083	211,400	214,800	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	1,800	500	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 990-PF	123,911	127,400	130,800	134,000	136,400	138,700	141,000	143,500	145,900
Form 990-T Total	223,710	207,700	210,900	212,300	212,300	212,300	212,300	212,300	212,300
Paper Form 990-T	4,067	1,900	600	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Form 990-T	219,643	205,800	210,300	212,300	212,300	212,300	212,300	212,300	212,300
Form 4720 Total	5,110	4,400	4,200	4,200	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,400
Paper Form 4720	2,572	1,300	900	800	700	600	600	600	600
Electronic Form 4720	2,538	3,000	3,300	3,400	3,500	3,600	3,700	3,800	3,800
Form 5227 Total	156,157	92,600	89,600	87,000	84,600	82,400	80,200	78,000	75,800
Paper Form 5227	133,507	39,600	20,000	10,200	5,200	2,700	1,400	1,100	1,100
Electronic Form 5227	22,650	53,000	69,600	76,800	79,400	79,700	78,800	76,800	74,700
Form 1041-A*	11,038	6,100	5,600	5,300	5,000	4,700	4,500	4,300	4,100
Government Entity/Bonds	45,533	36,200	34,200	33,400	32,600	31,900	31,200	30,500	29,800
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	5,500	5,200	4,900	4,600	4,300	4,000	3,700	3,300
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	10,700	9,300	10,500	9,300	10,500	9,300	10,600	9,300
Form 1120-POL, Total	4,055	3,800	3,700	3,600	3,500	3,300	3,200	3,000	2,900
Paper Form 1120-POL	3,950	3,300	3,200	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,600	2,500	2,300
Electronic Form 1120-POL	105	500	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
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	1,132,700	1,145,400	1,158,400	1,171,700	1,185,300	1,199,200	1,213,400	1,227,900
Form 11-C*	6,327	3,600	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
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	17,800	17,100	16,300	15,500	14,900	14,300	13,700	13,200
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	102,900	99,700	93,900	88,800	84,200	80,200	75,900	72,000
Electronic Form 2290	822,597	811,300	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	12,100	11,900	11,700	11,400	11,200	10,900	10,700	10,500
Electronic Form 8849	8,386	8,500	8,700	8,900	9,100	9,300	9,500	9,700	9,900
Excise Taxes re Employee Plans, Form 5330*	32,971	26,400	20,200	20,100	20,100	20,100	20,100	20,000	20,000
Form 5500-EZ, One-Participant Retirement Plans*	239,618	181,800	117,900	117,000	116,100	115,200	114,300	113,500	112,600
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	38,114,600	38,368,400	38,741,600	39,170,500	39,635,100	40,184,900	40,751,600	41,355,000
Form 1040-X, Total	5,504,839	5,478,400	5,148,300	4,866,900	4,626,200	4,419,200	4,240,000	4,083,400	3,944,700
Paper Form 1040-X ****	3,322,368	3,151,400	2,742,700	2,388,200	2,080,800	1,814,200	1,583,000	1,382,400	1,208,300
Electronic Form 1040-X	2,182,471	2,327,000	2,405,700	2,478,700	2,545,400	2,605,000	2,657,100	2,701,000	2,736,400
Form 4868, Total	18,511,015	20,103,700	20,284,300	20,532,900	20,795,500	21,058,300	21,378,600	21,692,900	22,028,000
Paper Form 4868	2,248,766	2,656,300	2,347,400	2,106,300	1,879,300	1,651,200	1,481,800	1,306,500	1,152,000
Electronic Form 4868	16,262,249	17,447,400	17,937,000	18,426,600	18,916,200	19,407,200	19,896,800	20,386,400	20,876,000
Form 1120-X*	35,677	33,600	33,600	33,600	33,700	33,700	33,800	33,800	34,100
Form 5558*	748,157	560,100	559,700	559,300	558,900	558,400	558,000	557,600	557,200
Form 7004, Total	9,800,716	10,214,300	10,583,500	10,953,600	11,324,700	11,697,500	12,069,900	12,443,000	12,813,600
Paper Form 7004	1,217,727	1,121,300	1,103,200	1,086,000	1,069,700	1,054,200	1,039,200	1,024,900	1,008,200
Electronic Form 7004	8,582,989	9,092,900	9,480,300	9,867,600	10,255,000	10,643,400	11,030,700	11,418,100	11,805,400
Form 8868, Total	1,170,875	1,232,200	1,265,700	1,299,000	1,332,400	1,365,800	1,399,500	1,432,800	1,466,300
Paper Form 8868	445,443	373,600	369,000	364,400	359,800	355,200	350,600	346,000	341,400
Electronic Form 8868	725,432	858,600	896,600	934,600	972,600	1,010,600	1,048,900	1,086,800	1,124,800
Form 941-X*	2,500,859	485,900	487,000	490,100	493,300	496,500	499,700	503,000	506,200
Form 943-X*	10,775	2,600	2,600	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,200	2,200
Form 944-X*	3,434	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,000	1,000
Form 945-X*	3,079	2,400	2,300	2,200	2,000	1,900	1,800	1,700	1,700
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 two quarters of 2024, about 3% paper returns are scanned for Form 1040, 20% for Form 940 and 16% for Form 941.

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. 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: Statistics of Income, Fall 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	33,054,000	33,183,600	33,397,900	33,611,200	33,824,800	34,039,600	34,256,000	34,474,300
Small Business/Self-Employed	32,977,094	30,154,300	30,275,600	30,472,100	30,667,600	30,863,400	31,060,100	31,258,300	31,458,300
Large Business and International	928,384	849,100	852,300	857,600	862,800	868,100	873,500	878,900	884,300
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	2,287,338	2,050,600	2,055,800	2,068,300	2,080,700	2,093,300	2,106,000	2,118,800	2,131,700
Excise, Total	1,208,373	1,132,700	1,145,400	1,158,400	1,171,700	1,185,300	1,199,200	1,213,400	1,227,900
Small Business/Self-Employed	1,040,162	996,600	1,006,400	1,017,900	1,029,500	1,041,400	1,053,700	1,066,100	1,078,900
Large Business and International	118,410	100,600	97,300	98,400	99,500	100,700	101,800	103,000	104,300
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	49,801	35,600	41,700	42,200	42,700	43,200	43,700	44,200	44,700
Exempt Organization, Total	1,738,481	1,777,300	1,808,100	1,821,000	1,830,400	1,839,500	1,849,000	1,858,700	1,868,100
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	1,738,481	1,777,300	1,808,100	1,821,000	1,830,400	1,839,500	1,849,000	1,858,700	1,868,100
Employee Plans, Forms 5500, 5500EZ, and 5500SF	1,115,847	1,005,400	1,006,800	1,012,600	1,013,500	1,014,100	1,014,900	1,015,600	1,016,300
Tax Exempt/Government Entities	1,115,847	1,005,400	1,006,800	1,012,600	1,013,500	1,014,100	1,014,900	1,015,600	1,016,300

NOTES: Detail may not add to total due to rounding. See Table Notes page for definitions of "Type of Return/BOD."
SOURCE: Statistics of Income, Fall 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 Cycles

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: Statistics of Income, 2024 Publication 6292.

Table Notes

- Detail may not add to total due to rounding.
- Projected return counts are rounded to the nearest 100; 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 Small Business/Self-Employed (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 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 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 Tax Exempt/Government Entities 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 Business Operating Divisions indicator. This indicator is a single, point-in-time, taxpayer-level identifier (in contrast to a return-by-return identifier).

Projection Publication Series

Title	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.