

Projections of Federal Tax Return Filings: Calendar Years 2011–2018

by Brett Collins

Projections of tax return filings prepared by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) research staff show that a grand total of 239.3 million tax returns are expected to be filed with the IRS during Calendar Year (CY) 2012. This number represents an increase of 1 percent from the estimated CY 2011 filings of 236.8 million returns.

After CY 2012, the grand total return filings are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1 percent and are expected to reach 253.5 million returns by 2018. The average rate of growth is derived mainly by projected trends for the major return categories that comprise grand total filings, including individual income tax returns and business tax returns such as employment tax returns, corporation tax returns, partnership returns, and estate tax returns.

In addition, the projections for total electronic returns continue to show a steady increase over the forecast horizon. This growth of electronic filing furthers IRS's strategic goal to improve taxpayer service. For example, according to the most recent forecast, total individual electronic returns are estimated to be 77 percent of all individual income tax returns filed in 2011 and are projected to constitute 84 percent of all returns in 2018.

Trend in Grand Total Returns

Table 1 shows the most current forecasts for the major form types for Calendar Years 2011 to 2018. In preparing these forecasts, partial-year data through late summer 2011 were used to derive estimates for the year. Various elements that may affect IRS workload are carefully considered during the estimation process. These include economic and demographic trends, recent filing patterns, enacted legislation, and administrative changes. The total number of returns filed consists of two filing mediums—paper

and electronic. The “grand total” category includes a wide variety of tax forms, such as individual, fiduciary, corporation, employment, partnership, exempt organization, government entity, political organization, estate, gift, excise, estimated tax vouchers, and other forms, as described in Table 1.

“Total primary returns” include the three major tax return categories that represent the bulk of the forms processed by IRS submissions processing operations. Individual income tax returns generate 60 percent of the grand total. Employment tax returns generate 13 percent, and individual estimated tax payment vouchers made up 10 percent. In 2010, these three categories constituted approximately 83 percent of total return filings.

Figure A presents a list of the growth rates of selected tax return form types from 2011 to 2012 and the average annual change over the period from 2012 to 2018. In CY 2012, approximately 239.3 million returns are projected to be filed. This is a 1-percent increase over the estimated 2011 filings of 236.8 million. The increase in the grand total is reflected in the 4.3-percent projected increase in electronic filings from 132.3 million returns in 2011 to 138.0 million returns in 2012. Higher electronic filings are projected to result in the overall increase in total returns, despite an expected drop in paper filings, from 104.5 million returns in CY 2011 to 101.3 million returns in CY 2012, a decrease of 3.1 percent.

Figure A also shows an average annual growth rate over the period 2012–2018. The grand total's average annual growth rate is expected to be 1 percent, reaching 253.5 million returns in 2018. Over this forecast horizon, this growth rate in grand total return filings represents a general shift among taxpayers from paper filing to electronic filing. According to current trends, paper filings are expected to continue declining by an average annual rate of 1.3 percent to a total of 93.8 million paper returns by 2018. Meanwhile, electronic filings (“e-filed” returns) are expected to increase at an average rate of 2.5 percent, reaching 159.8 million returns in 2018.

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* Most of the values in Table 1 are reported in *Calendar Year Return Projections for the United States and IRS Campuses: 2011–2018*, IRS Document 6186, October 2011, National Headquarters Office of Research, Analysis, and Statistics, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of the Treasury.

** Throughout the year, the Forecasting and Data Analysis (FDA) group under the IRS National Headquarters Office of Research publishes forecasts of a large number of tax return filings and other IRS workload categories. These projections provide a foundation for IRS workload estimates/resource requirements contained in budget submissions and also help with other major IRS planning and analysis efforts.

Projections of Federal Tax Return Filings: Calendar Years 2011–2018

Statistics of Income Bulletin | Winter 2012

Figure A

Projected Increase (Decrease) in Selected Tax Return Filings: Calendar Years 2011–2018

Type of return	Estimated 2011	Projected 2012	Percentage increase over 2011	Projected 2018	Average annual percentage increase 2012–2018
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Grand total	236,791,500	239,271,700	1.0	253,537,500	1.0
Paper grand total	104,522,300	101,313,700	-3.1	93,776,300	-1.3
Electronic grand total	132,269,300	137,958,000	4.3	159,761,200	2.5
Individual, total	143,261,000	145,436,600	1.5	156,420,300	1.2
Forms 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ	142,396,100	144,565,800	1.5	155,478,100	1.2
Total individual paper returns	31,652,800	29,698,800	-6.2	24,365,400	-3.2
Form 1040	21,427,600	19,672,000	-8.2	15,081,500	-4.3
Form 1040-A	5,304,000	5,173,700	-2.5	4,640,400	-1.8
Form 1040-EZ	4,921,200	4,853,100	-1.4	4,643,400	-0.7
Total individual electronic returns	110,743,300	114,867,000	3.7	131,112,700	2.2
Online filing	39,325,200	41,522,300	5.6	47,974,300	2.4
Practitioner electronic filing	71,418,100	73,344,700	2.7	83,138,400	2.1
Forms 1040NR/NR-EZ/C/EZ-T	625,600	630,200	0.7	683,600	1.4
Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	239,300	240,600	0.5	258,600	1.2
Electronic Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	93,500	94,300	0.9	105,100	1.8
Individual estimated tax, Form 1040-ES, total	23,281,000	23,287,500	0.0	22,872,800	-0.3
Form 1040-ES, paper	23,179,000	23,180,400	0.0	22,751,500	-0.3
Form 1040-ES, electronic (credit card)	102,000	107,100	5.0	121,300	2.1
Partnership, Forms 1065/1065B, total	3,511,600	3,589,900	2.2	4,098,300	2.2
Paper partnership returns	1,739,700	1,533,800	-11.8	1,341,200	-2.2
Electronic partnership returns	1,771,900	2,056,100	16.0	2,757,100	5.0
Corporation, total	6,765,000	6,837,900	1.1	7,405,700	1.3
Paper corporation returns, total	3,816,100	3,692,500	-3.2	3,364,300	-1.5
Electronic corporation returns, total	2,948,900	3,145,400	6.7	4,041,400	4.3
Forms 1120 and 1120-A, total	1,915,800	1,880,400	-1.8	1,756,200	-1.1
Forms 1120/1120-A, electronic	641,600	724,500	12.9	942,400	4.5
Form 1120-F, total	33,400	34,200	2.4	39,300	2.3
Form 1120-F, electronic	4,100	6,000	46.3	13,700	14.8
Form 1120-FSC	200	100	-50.0	0	-100.0
Form 1120-H	236,800	244,800	3.4	293,000	3.0
Form 1120-RIC	13,600	13,900	2.2	15,800	2.2
Form 1120-S, total	4,540,200	4,638,200	2.2	5,267,200	2.1
Form 1120-S, electronic	2,303,100	2,414,900	4.9	3,085,300	4.2
Forms 1120L/ND/PC/REIT/SF	15,500	16,100	3.9	19,500	3.2
Form 1120-C	9,500	10,200	7.4	14,600	6.2
Employment, total	29,592,800	29,653,000	0.2	30,065,000	0.2
Paper employment returns	22,301,800	22,075,800	-1.0	21,456,300	-0.5
Electronic employment returns	7,290,900	7,577,200	3.9	8,608,600	2.1
Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR, total	5,692,100	5,737,400	0.8	5,983,800	0.7
Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR, paper	4,287,100	4,270,500	-0.4	4,244,100	-0.1
Form 940, e-file/online/XML	1,405,000	1,466,900	4.4	1,739,600	2.9
Forms 941, 941PR/SS/E, total	23,387,400	23,416,900	0.1	23,652,600	0.2
Forms 941, 941PR/SS/E, paper	17,508,200	17,313,800	-1.1	16,792,100	-0.5
Form 941, e-file/online/XML	5,879,200	6,103,100	3.8	6,860,500	2.0
Forms 943, 943PR, and 943SS	215,500	212,600	-1.3	197,500	-1.2
Forms 944, 944PR/SS, total	193,900	185,000	-4.6	145,400	-3.9
Forms 944, 944PR/SS, paper	187,100	177,900	-4.9	137,000	-4.3
Form 944, e-file	6,700	7,200	7.5	8,400	2.6
Form 945	102,000	99,200	-2.7	83,800	-2.8
Form CT-1	1,800	1,800	0.0	1,800	0.0
Exempt organization, total	1,457,100	1,499,500	2.9	1,681,400	1.9
Paper exempt organization, total	774,200	763,400	-1.4	785,300	0.5
Electronic exempt organization, total	682,900	736,000	7.8	896,000	3.3
Form 990, total	401,700	407,700	1.5	448,100	1.6

Footnotes at end of figure.

Projections of Federal Tax Return Filings: Calendar Years 2011–2018

Statistics of Income Bulletin | Winter 2012

Figure A—Continued

Projected Increase (Decrease) in Selected Tax Return Filings: Calendar Years 2011–2018—Continued

Type of return	Estimated 2011	Projected 2012	Percentage increase over 2011	Projected 2018	Average annual percentage increase 2012–2018
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Exempt organization, total—continued					
Form 990, electronic	113,900	129,700	13.9	175,500	5.2
Form 990-EZ, total	222,500	228,100	2.5	264,500	2.5
Form 990-EZ, electronic	73,600	83,900	14.0	114,200	5.3
Form 990-N	479,800	503,700	5.0	574,500	2.2
Form 990-PF, total	117,000	120,300	2.8	130,000	1.3
Form 990-PF, electronic	15,600	18,700	19.9	31,800	9.3
Form 990-T	112,200	115,100	2.6	136,300	2.9
Form 4720	2,800	2,900	3.6	3,000	0.6
Form 5227	121,100	121,600	0.4	124,800	0.4
Supplemental documents, total	23,538,400	23,540,400	0.0	25,225,600	1.2
Form 1040-X	6,072,700	5,773,800	-4.9	5,869,700	0.3
Form 4868, total	10,504,800	10,685,000	1.7	11,593,800	1.4
Form 4868, paper	6,436,200	6,473,600	0.6	6,519,200	0.1
Form 4868, electronic	4,068,600	4,211,400	3.5	5,074,600	3.2
Credit card	50,600	52,300	3.4	63,100	3.2
E-file	4,018,100	4,159,000	3.5	5,011,500	3.2
Form 1120-X	3,900	4,000	2.6	4,700	2.7
Form 5558	605,000	628,100	3.8	766,800	3.4
Form 7004, total	5,772,900	5,861,300	1.5	6,344,100	1.3
Form 7004, electronic	2,715,800	3,197,000	17.7	4,168,800	4.5
Form 8868, total	579,100	588,300	1.6	646,500	1.6
Form 8868, electronic	127,000	144,100	13.5	209,500	6.4

NOTES: For form and category definitions, see text and footnotes to Table 1, at the end of this article. Detail may not add to total due to rounding.

Changes in Estate Tax

Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010

Enacted in December 2010, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 reinstated the estate tax for persons who died in 2010. Furthermore, for a death in 2011 or 2012, the estate tax exclusion amount is \$5 million, and the highest marginal Federal estate tax rate is 35 percent. Under the current law, as of January 1, 2013, the generation-skipping tax rate is scheduled to revert to 55 percent, which is the pre-2001 rate. In addition, the generation-skipping tax exemption is scheduled to drop to approximately \$1.4 million. Beginning this year, the unused estate tax exemption of a spouse becomes “portable,” as taxpayers can now claim a spouse’s unused exemption on Form 706, the Federal estate tax return. The filing volume of Form 706 is expected to increase, since some estates will file in order to take advantage of the exemption’s

portability, even though they are not otherwise required to file.

As shown in Table 1, total estate tax returns were 23,014 in 2010 and are projected to decline to approximately 8,600 returns in 2011 (a 63-percent decrease), primarily as a result of the new exclusion amounts.

Changes in Form 990 and Their Impact on Grand Total

Form 990 and New Form 990-N

The IRS has revised filing requirements to file Form 990 series returns, beginning with Tax Year 2008 and continuing over a 3-year period. Some filers will be allowed to file Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 990. For Tax Year 2008 (returns filed in 2009), organizations with gross receipts less than \$1 million and total assets less than \$2.5 million may file Form 990-EZ. For Tax Year 2009 (returns filed in 2010), organizations with gross receipts less than \$500,000 and total

Projections of Federal Tax Return Filings: Calendar Years 2011–2018

Statistics of Income Bulletin | Winter 2012

assets less than \$1.25 million may file Form 990-EZ. The Form 990-EZ filing thresholds will be adjusted permanently to gross receipts less than \$200,000 and total assets less than \$500,000, beginning in Tax Year 2010.

Table 1 shows a total of 261,016 Form 990 returns, *Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax*, filed in 2010. In 2011, this total is expected to grow to 401,700 returns, an increase of approximately 141,000 returns. However, filers of Form 990-EZ, *Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax*, are expected to file 222,500 returns in 2011, down by more than 148,400 from 370,902 Forms 990-EZ filed in 2010.

Trend in Individual Tax Returns

“Individual, total” returns include paper and electronic portions of the major individual tax returns. These are Forms 1040 and 1040-A, *U.S. Individual Income Tax Return*; 1040EZ, *Income Tax Return for Single and Joint Filers with No Dependents*; Form 1040NR, *U.S. Non-Resident Alien Income Tax Return*; Form 1040-PR, *Planilla para la Declaracion de la Contribucion Federal Sobre El Trabajo Por Cuenta Propia—Puerto Rico*; and Form 1040-SS, *U.S. Self-Employment Tax Return*. This category excludes Form 1040X, *Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return*, which is included under the “Supplemental documents” heading.

The “Individual, total” category constitutes the majority volume of tax return filings and is expected to rise to 143.3 million returns in 2011 from 141.5 million in 2010. After 2011, the “Individual, total” series is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.2 percent through 2018. This projected growth is tied mainly to the expected increase in U.S. employment over the same period. At this rate, the projected number of total individual returns filed will be 156.4 million by 2018.

Trend in Individual Estimated Tax Returns

Form 1040-ES, *U.S. Estimated Tax for Individuals*, is used by individual taxpayers who need to make advance tax payments. Such filers are typically those who expect their tax withholding to be less than 90 percent of their Federal tax liability for the year, due to additional income, such as earnings from self-employment, interest, dividends, rents, and alimony. Individual taxpayers who make estimated tax payments

often file more than one voucher (Form 1040-ES) during the course of the year, usually one per quarter.

Though filing volumes of Form 1040-ES are declining, the form still represents the third largest share of the 2011 grand total. In 2011, approximately 23.3 million individual estimated tax vouchers are expected to be filed, a decrease of 0.4 percent from the 23.4 million vouchers filed in 2010. A total of 22.9 million returns are projected to be filed in 2018, implying an average annual growth rate of -0.3 percent from 2012 to 2018.

Trend in Business and Other Tax Returns

Employment Tax Returns

Paper and electronic versions of several business related tax forms fall under the heading of “Employment, total” returns. These forms include: Form 940 series, *Employer’s Annual Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax Return*; Form 941 series, *Employer’s Quarterly Federal Tax Return*; Form 943 series, *Employer’s Annual Federal Tax Return for Agricultural Employees*; Form 944, *Employer’s Annual Federal Tax Return* (an annualized version of Form 941); Form 945, *Annual Return of Withheld Federal Income Tax*; and Form CT-1, *Employer’s Annual Railroad Tax Return*.

In 2011, the employment tax returns constitute the second largest share of the grand total and are projected to maintain this status through 2018, growing at a 0.2-percent annual rate from 2012 to 2018. The projected filings of Forms 940 and 941 comprise the bulk of employment tax return volume. Their projected growth over the 2011-2018 forecast period is tied mainly to the expected trends in the U.S. employment and real gross domestic product.

Corporation Tax Returns

Corporation income tax returns include a number of form types. The vast majority of these returns are filed on Form 1120, *U.S. Corporation Income Tax Return*, or Form 1120S, *U.S. Income Tax Return for an S Corporation* (returns filed by qualifying corporations electing to be taxed through shareholders). The remainder of corporation income tax returns are filed by entities such as homeowners’ associations (Form 1120H), foreign corporations (Form 1120F), and real estate investment trusts (Form 1120REIT), among others. Amended returns (Form 1120X) are

Projections of Federal Tax Return Filings: Calendar Years 2011–2018

Statistics of Income Bulletin | Winter 2012

not included under corporation income tax returns, but are instead listed under “Supplemental documents.” In CY 2011, the projected number of corporation returns filed is 6.8 million, a 0.9-percent increase over CY 2010. It is expected that these returns will continue to grow over the forecast horizon, reaching 7.4 million returns by CY 2018, as shown in Table 1.

Partnership Returns

Form 1065, *U.S. Partnership Return of Income*, is filed by a partnership to report income, deductions, tax credits, or losses. The projected number of these returns in CY 2011 is 3.5 million. This number, an increase of 2.2 percent over CY 2010, is projected to continue growth at the same average rate of 2.2 percent per year, reaching 4.1 million by CY 2018. Form 1065B, *U.S. Large Partnership Return of Income*, is also included in partnership returns. This form was introduced in CY 1999, and a relatively small number of Form 1065B returns have been filed to date.

Estate Tax Returns

Analysts using these data are advised to monitor legislation in this area. (See “Changes in Estate Tax” above.)

Trends in Electronic Filing (e-file)

Individual Returns

As Table 1 indicates, 98.6 million individual income tax returns were filed electronically in 2010, and 110.7 million electronic returns are estimated to be filed in 2011, a 12.3-percent increase over the prior year. The projection for 2012 is 114.9 million returns, which also represents a substantial 3.7-percent growth rate. From 2012 through 2018, the growth rate of individual e-filed returns is expected to stabilize at an average annual rate of 2.2 percent, resulting in a total of 131.1 million e-filed returns in 2018. The projected e-file pattern for individual returns in 2010-2013 is stronger growth in the initial forecast years, followed by a somewhat dampened growth in the later years. This is the typical growth pattern for technology adoption and diffusion. Higher e-file growth will also be supported by a recent e-file mandate on tax return preparers, which was introduced under the Worker, Homeowner, and Business Assistance Act, signed into law in November 2009. The

Act requires preparers who expect to file more than 10 individual tax returns (including Forms 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, and 1041) to file them electronically beginning in CY 2011. The current phase-in plan requires preparers to electronically file tax returns starting in CY 2011, if they expect to file more than 100 individual tax returns. The threshold drops to more than 10 returns for the CY 2012 processing year. The projections in this update include our analysis of the current information available on the IRS implementation and communication plans. Projected growth in e-file is much steeper than the overall growth in total individual return filings, and, under current trends, roughly 84 percent of individual income tax returns are projected to be filed electronically by 2018.

As reported in Table 1, “Total individual electronic returns” are made up of two e-file categories: 1) online filing and 2) practitioner e-file. Online filing enables taxpayers to use a computer, tax preparation software, or the Internet to file their returns. Online filing includes the “Free File” option, which is accessible from the IRS Web site and involves a public-private partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, a consortium of tax preparation software companies. In the case of practitioner electronic filing, taxpayers use a paid preparer to prepare and file their tax returns electronically.

Within the e-file categories, about 34.3 million people utilized online filing in 2010. That number is estimated to grow to 39.3 million in 2011, a 14.8-percent increase. Meanwhile, practitioners are expected to have filed 71.4 million returns electronically in 2011, up 11 percent from the 64.3 million returns filed in 2010.

Various initiatives further encourage the growth of individual electronic filing. One is the IRS “e-services” program. The e-services program is open to professional tax preparers who e-filed five or more accepted individual or business returns during a filing season. The program provides a suite of Web-based products that allow tax professionals to conduct business with the IRS electronically. These products include disclosure authorization, electronic account resolution, and a transcript delivery system. Authorized agents who submit (any of six) information returns subject to backup withholding can also make use of TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number) matching with e-services.

Projections of Federal Tax Return Filings: Calendar Years 2011–2018

Statistics of Income Bulletin | Winter 2012

Business Returns

IRS also continues to enhance its business e-file programs under the Modernized e-File (MeF) platform. Most of the common business tax forms are now available for e-file, either through MeF or other electronic filing systems. This includes fiduciary (Form 1041), partnership (Form 1065), corporation (Forms 1120 and 1120S), employment (Forms 940, 941, and 944) and tax-exempt (Forms 990, 990-EZ, 990-PF, and 990-N) returns.

Department of the Treasury regulations issued in 2005 mandate electronic filing of Federal returns for some large corporations and tax-exempt organizations whose assets exceed certain dollar thresholds. However, these e-file mandates only apply to those corporations and tax-exempt entities that file at least 250 other returns with the IRS during a calendar year, including employment returns, excise tax returns, and information reporting documents, such as Forms W-2, 1099-DIV, and Schedules K-1. The e-file mandates require corporations with gross assets of at least \$50 million to e-file their Forms 1120 or 1120S returns beginning in Calendar Year 2006. Beginning in 2007, this e-file requirement expanded to corporations with at least \$10 million in gross assets.

Figure A shows that 641,600 Form 1120 returns and 2.3 million Form 1120S returns are estimated to be e-filed in 2011. Assuming growth patterns typical of innovative technology-based products, the forecast for 2012 is 724,500 for the former and 2.4 million for the latter. These represent increases of 12.9 percent for Form 1120 and 4.9 percent for Form 1120S. In subsequent years, e-filed Forms 1120/1120S are both expected to continue to grow rapidly, reaching 942,400 Form 1120 returns and almost 3.1 million Form 1120S returns filed electronically in 2018.

Tax-exempt organizations with \$10 million or more in total assets were also required to file their Forms 990 electronically beginning in 2007. Private foundations and charitable trusts were also impacted by changes in 2007, when they were required to file their Forms 990-PF, *Return of Private Foundation*, electronically, regardless of their asset size. With the scope of the 2007 mandate limited to only those organizations filing at least 250 other tax returns, however, only a relatively small number of tax exempt filers have been affected (an estimated 10,000 were covered by the mandate in 2007). The new Form 990-N also debuted in 2008, increasing the modest

e-filing percentage for the exempt organization category by a noticeable amount.

As indicated in Table 1, some 600,111 Forms 990, 990EZ, 990N, and 990-PF returns were filed electronically in 2010. With the help of the 2007 mandates and the new all-electronic Form 990-N, tax exempt e-file returns are expected to have increased to more than 682,900 in 2011, building on the dramatic increase in e-file rates for these forms seen since 2008. In the longer term, more than 896,000 exempt organization tax returns are expected to be filed electronically by 2018.

In 2011, approximately 7.3 million employment returns are projected to be filed electronically. According to the most current forecasts, the number of e-filed returns is expected to demonstrate a steady growth pattern, and the total number of e-filed employment returns (i.e., Forms 940, 941, and 944) should approach 8.6 million by 2018, growing at an average annual rate of 2.1 percent over the next 6 years.

Data Sources

The reported actual volumes of returns filed in Calendar Year 2010 by form type and filing medium are based primarily on filings as recorded on the IRS master files. With a few exceptions, these volumes correspond with the fiscal year volumes reported in the *Internal Revenue Service Data Book* (Publication 55B). However, master file counts were not available in a few instances. In these cases, tallies of actual filings were provided by program staff in the IRS operating divisions, typically from data-capture systems located in the IRS processing campuses. For Calendar Year 2011, master file data through August 2011 were generally available. Partial-year data were extrapolated in order to generate estimates for Calendar Year 2011.

Projection Methodology

Each major form type is forecasted separately using either a time series or a linear regression model. Time series models use historical data for a form type to make predictions based on the patterns exhibited by the data. Some of the most common time series models used were several types of trended exponential smoothing and lower order Box-Jenkins ARIMA models. These models were applied for such return series as corporation (Forms 1120, 1120A, and

Projections of Federal Tax Return Filings: Calendar Years 2011–2018

Statistics of Income Bulletin | Winter 2012

1120S), partnership (Form 1065), and excise (Forms 720, 730, and 2290) tax returns.

In other instances, models based on linear regression analysis were used with independent (“predictor”) variables such as gross domestic product and employment. For these models, forecasts of the independent variables were provided by Global Insight, Inc. For example, linear regression models incorporating economic and demographic variables were used to project the individual income tax return series and employment Forms 940 and 941.

Legislative and administrative changes approved for future implementation and not captured in the statistical models are also factored into tax

return forecasts as “off-model adjustments.” This was the case in developing the projections for the estate tax returns category, such as Form 706. Analysis of the impact of similar events in the past, as well as input from subject-matter experts, are used to develop these “off-model adjustments.” However, such adjustments are made only for enacted tax law changes and confirmed (or reasonably certain) administrative plans and exclude initiatives that are simply under consideration. This is particularly true of e-filed returns. As a result, the e-file forecasts presented in this article are not IRS goals and should not be interpreted as precluding an alternative e-file future.

Projections of Federal Tax Return Filings: Calendar Years 2011–2018

Statistics of Income Bulletin | Winter 2012

Table 1. Total Number of Returns To Be Filed with the Internal Revenue Service: Calendar Years 2011–2018

Type of return	Actual 2010	Estimated 2011 [1]	Projected						
			2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Grand total [2]	235,160,163	236,791,500	239,271,700	242,087,300	245,133,700	247,923,200	250,259,300	252,091,600	253,537,500
Paper grand total	118,306,489	104,522,300	101,313,700	99,574,000	98,452,900	97,612,400	96,523,400	95,217,800	93,776,300
Electronic grand total	116,853,674	132,269,300	137,958,000	142,513,300	146,680,800	150,310,700	153,735,800	156,873,900	159,761,200
Total primary returns [3]	211,353,115	213,253,100	215,731,300	218,492,900	221,486,600	223,854,600	225,787,200	227,235,100	228,311,900
Individual, total [4]	141,458,813	143,261,000	145,436,600	147,724,000	150,089,400	152,079,300	153,804,500	155,232,800	156,420,300
Forms 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ [5]	140,599,267	142,396,100	144,565,800	146,846,000	149,202,100	151,181,200	152,893,000	154,306,700	155,478,100
Total individual paper returns	42,001,133	31,652,800	29,698,800	28,720,400	28,054,100	27,318,000	26,419,100	25,419,100	24,365,400
Form 1040	29,763,340	21,427,600	19,672,000	18,787,400	18,182,400	17,579,500	16,861,500	15,998,700	15,081,500
Form 1040-A	6,617,781	5,304,000	5,173,700	5,142,100	5,097,500	4,985,400	4,835,100	4,737,000	4,640,400
Form 1040-EZ	5,620,012	4,921,200	4,853,100	4,790,800	4,774,200	4,753,100	4,722,500	4,683,500	4,643,400
Total individual electronic returns	98,598,134	110,743,300	114,867,000	118,125,600	121,148,000	123,863,200	126,473,900	128,887,600	131,112,700
Online filing	34,252,127	39,325,200	41,522,300	42,890,100	44,117,500	45,207,200	46,261,800	47,183,500	47,974,300
Practitioner electronic filing	64,346,007	71,418,100	73,344,700	75,235,500	77,030,500	78,656,000	80,212,100	81,704,100	83,138,400
Forms 1040NR/NR-EZ/C/EZ-T	621,314	625,600	630,200	635,600	642,600	650,600	660,600	671,600	683,600
Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	238,232	239,300	240,600	242,400	244,700	247,500	250,900	254,500	258,600
Electronic Forms 1040-PR and 1040-SS	93,132	93,500	94,300	95,300	96,600	98,300	100,300	102,500	105,100
Individual estimated tax, Form 1040-ES, total	23,380,380	23,281,000	23,287,500	23,481,900	23,720,600	23,743,400	23,613,300	23,312,400	22,872,800
Form 1040-ES, paper	23,289,458	23,179,000	23,180,400	23,371,800	23,607,900	23,628,300	23,495,900	23,193,000	22,751,500
Form 1040-ES, electronic (credit card)	90,922	102,000	107,100	110,100	112,700	115,100	117,400	119,400	121,300
Fiduciary (Form 1041), total	3,051,389	3,031,900	3,071,200	3,078,900	3,086,600	3,094,300	3,102,100	3,109,800	3,117,600
Paper fiduciary returns	2,179,555	1,372,000	1,328,700	1,225,400	1,122,300	1,019,300	916,400	813,700	711,100
Electronic fiduciary returns	871,834	1,660,000	1,742,600	1,853,500	1,964,300	2,075,000	2,185,600	2,296,100	2,406,500
Fiduciary estimated tax, Form 1041-ES	335,821	558,800	563,400	572,400	578,400	588,500	616,900	637,900	658,900
Partnership, Forms 1065/1065B, total	3,434,905	3,511,600	3,589,900	3,670,100	3,752,000	3,835,700	3,921,300	4,008,800	4,098,300
Paper partnership returns	2,166,949	1,739,700	1,533,800	1,400,700	1,322,700	1,286,600	1,282,200	1,302,300	1,341,200
Electronic partnership returns	1,267,956	1,771,900	2,056,100	2,269,300	2,429,200	2,549,100	2,639,100	2,706,500	2,757,100
Corporation, total	6,706,386	6,765,000	6,837,900	6,918,300	7,009,700	7,104,500	7,200,700	7,300,600	7,405,700
Paper corporation returns, total	4,474,723	3,816,100	3,692,500	3,605,900	3,541,200	3,481,700	3,433,000	3,391,300	3,364,300
Electronic corporation returns, total	2,231,663	2,948,900	3,145,400	3,312,400	3,468,500	3,622,800	3,767,700	3,909,300	4,041,400
Forms 1120 and 1120-A, total [6]	1,961,773	1,915,800	1,880,400	1,850,500	1,829,500	1,809,900	1,789,900	1,771,400	1,756,200
Forms 1120/1120-A, electronic	552,888	641,600	724,500	777,300	819,400	861,200	893,600	922,800	942,400
Form 1120-F, total	32,512	33,400	34,200	35,100	35,900	36,800	37,600	38,500	39,300
Form 1120-F, electronic	2,794	4,100	6,000	8,600	10,800	11,600	12,300	13,000	13,700
Form 1120-FSC	222	200	100	100	100	100	100	100	0
Form 1120-H	230,796	236,800	244,800	252,800	261,000	269,000	277,100	285,100	293,000
Form 1120-RIC	13,337	13,600	13,900	14,200	14,500	14,800	15,100	15,500	15,800
Form 1120-S, total	4,444,154	4,540,200	4,638,200	4,738,000	4,839,800	4,943,600	5,049,400	5,157,300	5,267,200
Form 1120-S, electronic	1,675,981	2,303,100	2,414,900	2,526,600	2,638,300	2,750,100	2,861,800	2,973,500	3,085,300
Forms 1120L/ND/PC/REIT/SF	14,967	15,500	16,100	16,700	17,300	17,800	18,400	19,000	19,500
Form 1120-C [7]	8,625	9,500	10,200	10,900	11,700	12,400	13,100	13,900	14,600
Small Corporation Election, Form 2553	384,648	366,900	350,200	334,400	319,400	305,300	292,000	279,300	267,400
"REMIC," Form 1066	34,296	35,600	37,200	38,800	40,500	42,100	43,600	45,100	46,600
Estate, Forms 706, 706GS(D), 706GS(T), and 706NA, total	23,014	8,600	9,600	9,100	79,100	105,800	111,200	115,800	119,900
Gift, Form 709	226,241	209,700	203,500	198,000	213,900	240,000	248,200	251,100	253,600
Employment, total [8]	29,730,957	29,592,800	29,653,000	29,722,300	29,798,600	29,870,400	29,938,600	30,003,000	30,065,000
Paper employment returns	22,737,280	22,301,800	22,075,800	21,859,400	21,651,100	21,545,500	21,496,500	21,468,800	21,456,300
Electronic employment returns	6,993,677	7,290,900	7,577,200	7,862,900	8,147,500	8,324,900	8,442,000	8,534,200	8,608,600
Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR, total	5,749,925	5,692,100	5,737,400	5,785,500	5,835,200	5,879,200	5,918,300	5,953,000	5,983,800
Forms 940, 940-EZ, and 940-PR, paper	4,431,283	4,627,100	4,270,500	4,261,200	4,257,000	4,253,100	4,250,400	4,249,700	4,244,100
Form 940, e-file/online/XML	1,318,642	1,405,000	1,466,900	1,524,300	1,578,200	1,626,100	1,667,900	1,703,300	1,739,600
Forms 941, 941PR/SS/E, total	23,399,755	23,387,400	23,416,900	23,454,100	23,492,900	23,532,000	23,571,800	23,611,900	23,652,600
Forms 941, 941PR/SS/E, paper	17,731,947	17,508,200	17,313,800	17,123,000	16,931,400	16,841,200	16,805,800	16,789,300	16,792,100
Form 941, e-file/online/XML	5,667,808	5,879,200	6,103,100	6,331,100	6,561,600	6,690,800	6,766,000	6,822,600	6,860,500
Forms 943, 943-PR, and 943-SS	219,739	215,500	212,600	209,400	207,200	204,700	202,300	199,800	197,500

Footnotes at end of table.

Projections of Federal Tax Return Filings: Calendar Years 2011–2018

Statistics of Income Bulletin | Winter 2012

Table 1. Total Number of Returns To Be Filed with the Internal Revenue Service: Calendar Years 2011–2018—Continued

Type of return	Actual 2010	Estimated 2011 [1]	Projected						
			2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Employment, total [8]—continued									
Forms 944, 944PR/SS, total	253,317	193,900	185,000	175,400	167,800	161,700	155,800	150,400	145,400
Forms 944, 944PR/SS, paper	246,090	187,100	177,900	167,900	160,000	153,800	147,600	142,100	137,000
Form 944, e-file	7,227	6,700	7,200	7,500	7,700	8,000	8,100	8,300	8,400
Form 945	106,379	102,000	99,200	96,100	93,700	91,000	88,600	86,100	83,800
Form CT-1	1,842	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Form 1042 [9]	36,680	38,000	39,000	40,000	40,600	41,300	41,900	42,600	43,100
Exempt organization, total [10]	1,426,131	1,457,100	1,499,500	1,537,500	1,571,400	1,602,100	1,630,300	1,656,600	1,681,400
Paper exempt organization, total	826,020	774,200	763,400	758,800	758,600	762,000	768,100	776,200	785,300
Electronic exempt organization, total	600,111	682,900	736,000	778,700	812,800	840,200	862,300	880,400	896,000
Form 990, total	261,016	401,700	407,700	414,300	420,900	427,600	434,300	441,200	448,100
Form 990, electronic	76,996	113,900	129,700	142,100	151,800	159,400	165,500	170,500	175,500
Form 990-EZ, total	370,902	222,500	228,100	233,800	239,700	245,600	251,800	258,100	264,500
Form 990-EZ, electronic	60,821	73,600	83,900	92,100	98,700	103,900	108,100	111,500	114,200
Form 990-N [11]	449,770	479,800	503,700	522,900	538,300	550,600	560,400	568,300	574,500
Form 990-PF, total	112,939	117,000	120,300	123,000	125,100	126,700	128,100	129,200	130,000
Form 990-PF, electronic	12,524	15,600	18,700	21,500	24,000	26,300	28,300	30,100	31,800
Form 990-T	108,270	112,200	115,100	118,400	121,800	125,400	129,000	132,600	136,300
Form 4720	2,652	2,800	2,900	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Form 5227	120,582	121,100	121,600	122,200	122,700	123,200	123,800	124,300	124,800
Government entity, total	46,089	45,900	45,500	45,500	45,400	45,300	45,200	45,100	45,100
Form 8038	3,782	3,800	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900	4,000	4,000	4,000
Form 8038-B	1,694	1,200	600	300	100	0	0	0	0
Form 8038-CP	3,233	3,600	3,900	4,200	4,400	4,400	4,500	4,500	4,500
Form 8038-G	25,594	25,700	25,800	25,800	25,900	26,000	26,100	26,200	26,300
Form 8038-GC	9,493	9,300	9,100	8,900	8,600	8,400	8,200	8,000	7,700
Form 8038-T	1,401	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
Form 8038-TC	667	700	700	800	800	800	900	900	900
Form 8328	225	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Political organization, total	12,635	10,800	13,200	11,500	14,000	12,200	14,800	12,900	15,600
Form 1120POL, total	6,142	6,300	6,400	6,600	6,700	6,800	7,000	7,100	7,300
Form 1120POL, electronic	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Form 8871 [12]	2,533	2,500	2,700	3,000	3,200	3,400	3,600	3,800	4,000
Form 8872, total	3,960	2,000	4,000	2,000	4,100	2,000	4,200	2,000	4,300
Form 8872, electronic	3,095	1,500	3,200	1,500	3,200	1,500	3,300	1,600	3,400
Excise, total	817,021	833,100	849,800	867,000	884,700	903,100	922,100	941,600	961,900
Form 11-C	6,264	6,200	6,200	6,100	6,100	6,000	6,000	5,900	5,900
Form 720, total	96,220	94,300	92,500	90,700	88,900	87,200	85,400	83,800	82,100
Form 720, electronic	69	100	100	200	400	700	1,100	1,700	2,400
Form 730	35,601	35,200	34,900	34,500	34,200	33,900	33,500	33,200	32,900
Form 2290, total	667,668	686,000	704,900	724,300	744,300	764,800	785,800	807,500	829,700
Form 2290, electronic	48,660	59,700	73,200	89,800	110,100	135,000	165,600	203,100	249,100
Form 8849, total	11,268	11,300	11,300	11,300	11,300	11,300	11,300	11,300	11,300
Form 8849, electronic	640	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
Form 5330 [13]	20,269	20,300	20,300	20,300	20,300	20,300	20,300	20,300	20,300
Form 5500-EZ [14]	191,263	191,300	191,300	191,300	191,300	191,300	191,300	191,300	191,300
Form 8752 [15]	36,177	33,800	32,800	31,800	30,800	29,900	29,000	28,100	27,200

Footnotes at end of table.

Projections of Federal Tax Return Filings: Calendar Years 2011–2018

Statistics of Income Bulletin | Winter 2012

Table 1. Total Number of Returns To Be Filed with the Internal Revenue Service: Calendar Years 2011–2018—Continued

Type of return	Actual 2010	Estimated 2011 [1]	Projected						
			2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Supplemental documents, total [16]	23,807,048	23,538,400	23,540,400	23,594,400	23,647,100	24,068,600	24,472,100	24,856,600	25,225,600
Form 1040-X, total	6,624,153	6,072,700	5,773,800	5,527,400	5,281,000	5,428,100	5,575,300	5,722,500	5,869,700
Form 4868, total	10,407,611	10,504,800	10,685,000	10,868,000	11,052,200	11,213,300	11,357,500	11,483,300	11,593,800
Form 4868, paper	6,454,301	6,436,200	6,473,600	6,516,400	6,563,500	6,600,000	6,581,000	6,553,400	6,519,200
Form 4868, electronic	3,953,310	4,068,600	4,211,400	4,351,500	4,488,800	4,613,400	4,776,500	4,929,800	5,074,600
Credit card	51,301	50,600	52,300	54,100	55,800	57,300	59,400	61,300	63,100
E-file	3,902,009	4,018,100	4,159,000	4,297,400	4,433,000	4,556,000	4,717,100	4,868,600	5,011,500
Form 1120-X	3,797	3,900	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,400	4,500	4,600	4,700
Form 5558	581,850	605,000	628,100	651,200	674,300	697,400	720,600	743,700	766,800
Form 7004, total	5,619,579	5,772,900	5,861,300	5,946,100	6,028,300	6,108,600	6,187,800	6,266,200	6,344,100
Form 7004, electronic	1,985,255	2,715,800	3,197,000	3,497,700	3,715,400	3,876,000	3,997,500	4,092,300	4,168,800
Form 8868, total	570,058	579,100	588,300	597,600	607,100	616,700	626,500	636,400	646,500
Form 8868, electronic	112,664	127,000	144,100	161,200	179,500	191,400	199,300	205,000	209,500

[1] Estimated based on information available as of August 2011.

[2] Grand total is the sum of total primary returns and supplemental documents.

[3] Total primary returns is the sum of all returns, excluding supplemental documents.

[4] "Individual, total" is the sum of paper and electronic Forms 1040, 1040-A, 1040-C, 1040-EZ, 1040-EZ-T, 1040-NR, 1040-NR-EZ, 1040-PR, and 1040-SS.

[5] Forms 1040/A/EZ is the sum of the paper and electronic Forms 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ.

[6] Form 1120-A cannot be filed for tax years beginning after December 31, 2006.

[7] Form 1120-C includes Form 990-C.

[8] "Employment, total" includes paper, magnetic tape, and electronic Forms 940, 940-EZ, 940-PR, 941, 941-E, 941-PR, 941-SS, 943, 943-PR, 943-SS, 944, 944-PR, 944-SS, 945, and CT-1.

[9] Form 1042 is the *Annual Withholding Tax Return for U.S. Source Income of Foreign Persons*.

[10] "Exempt organization, total" includes Forms 990, 990EZ, 990N, 990PF, 990T, 4720, and 5227. See footnote 7.

[11] Form 990-N is all electronic.

[12] Form 8871 is all electronic.

[13] Form 5330 is the *Return of Excise Taxes Related to Employee Benefit Plans*.

[14] IRS regained responsibility for processing Form 5500EZ from the Department of Labor beginning in 2010.

[15] Form 8752 is *Required Payment or Refund Under Section 7519*, a computation of payment or refund by a partnership or S corporation.

[16] Supplemental documents consist mainly of applications for extensions of time to file and amended tax returns.