



2017 Tax Return Tracker #7

- 1) The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tracks tax return filings on a weekly basis.
- 2) As of March 31, the IRS had received 93.7 million tax returns, down 4.1% year over year.
- 3) A total of 74.2 million refunds had been issued as of March 31 (down 2.4% year over year), totaling \$213.6 billion (down 0.8% year over year) and averaging \$2,878 each (up 1.6% year over year).
- 4) The pace of refunds continues to pick up after a decline of tax refunds earlier in the filing season, due to delays caused by the enactment of the Path Act. The year-over-year changes have since dropped from a mid double-digit difference in Tax Return Tracker #1 published six weeks ago, to a low single-digit difference now.

In exchange for a small number of American tax dollars, Uncle Sam (through the IRS) keeps citizens updated on the number of returns filed during tax season.

As of March 31, 2017:

- The IRS had received 93.7 million tax returns, of which, 91.3 million have been processed. The number of returns processed was down 3.9% from the corresponding year-ago date.
- Of the returns filed, 92.4% were electronically filed. Of those, 56.2% were prepared by tax professionals and the remaining 43.8% were self-prepared.
- Fewer people are using the IRS website to get information: the site logged about 261.1 million visits, down 5.0% from the year-ago period.
- A total of 74.2 million refunds have been issued, totaling \$213.6 billion and averaging \$2,878 each. The number of refunds issued was down 2.4% and the total amount refunded was down 0.8% year over year, while the average refund is up 1.6%.
- Of those refunds issued, 87.2% were paid using direct deposit. The average direct deposit refund was \$3,031, up 1.4% from the corresponding date last year.
- The pace of refunds continues to pick up after a decline of tax refunds earlier in the filing season, due to a delay caused by the enactment of the Path Act. The year-over-year changes have since dropped from a mid double-digit difference in Tax Return Tracker #1 published six weeks ago, to a low single-digit difference now.

Figure 1. 2017 Filing Season Statistics

Cumulative Statistics Comparing April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017

| Individual Income Tax Returns | 2016 | 2017 | YoY Change |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Total Receipts | 97,631,000 | 93,675,000 | (4.1)% |
| Total Processed | 94,988,000 | 91,267,000 | (3.9)% |
| E-Filing Receipts | | | |
| Total | 89,973,000 | 86,595,000 | (3.8)% |
| Tax Professionals | 51,014,000 | 48,646,000 | (4.6)% |
| Self-Prepared | 38,959,000 | 37,949,000 | (2.6)% |
| Web Usage | | | |
| Visits to IRS.gov | 274,877,786 | 261,081,385 | (5.0)% |
| Total Refunds | | | |
| Number | 76,040,000 | 74,196,000 | (2.4)% |
| Amount (USD Bil.) | \$215.350 | \$213.568 | (0.8)% |
| Average Refund | \$2,832 | \$2,878 | 1.6% |
| Direct Deposit Refunds | | | |
| Number | 65,780,000 | 64,694,000 | (1.7)% |
| Amount (USD Bil.) | \$196.633 | \$196.080 | (0.3)% |
| Average Refund | \$2,989 | \$3,031 | 1.4% |

Source: IRS



TAX
RETURNS
2017

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