



2017 Tax Return Tracker #8

- 1) The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tracks tax return filings on a weekly basis.
- 2) As of April 7, the IRS had received 103.6 million tax returns, down 3.6% year over year.
- 3) A total of 80.3 million refunds had been issued as of April 7 (down 1.8% year over year), totaling \$229.0 billion (up 0.1% year over year) and averaging \$2,851 each (up 1.9% 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 seven 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 April 7, 2017:

- The IRS had received 103.6 million tax returns, of which, 101.0 million have been processed. The number of returns processed was down 3.4% from the corresponding year-ago date.
- Of the returns filed, 92.1% were electronically filed. Of those, 57.3% were prepared by tax professionals and the remaining 42.7% were self-prepared.
- Fewer people are using the IRS website to get information: the site logged about 276.1 million visits, down 4.8% from the year-ago period.
- A total of 80.3 million refunds have been issued, totaling \$229.0 billion and averaging \$2,851 each. The number of refunds issued was down 1.8% and the total amount refunded was up 0.1% year over year, while the average refund is up 1.9%.
- Of those refunds issued, 86.3% were paid using direct deposit. The average direct deposit refund was \$3,009, up 1.6% from the corresponding date last year. The average direct deposit refund has turned positive year over year for the first time during this filing season.
- 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 seven weeks ago, to a low single-digit difference now.

Figure 1. 2017 Filing Season Statistics

Cumulative Statistics Comparing April 8, 2016 and April 7, 2017

Individual Income Tax Returns	2016	2017	YoY Change
Total Receipts	107,452,000	103,612,000	(3.6)%
Total Processed	104,527,000	100,990,000	(3.4)%
E-Filing Receipts			
Total	98,731,000	95,458,000	(3.3)%
Tax Professionals	57,006,000	54,720,000	(4.0)%
Self-Prepared	41,725,000	40,738,000	(2.4)%
Web Usage			
Visits to IRS.gov	289,884,145	276,082,236	(4.8)%
Total Refunds			
Number	81,751,000	80,296,000	(1.8)%
Amount (USD Bil.)	\$228.780	\$228.951	0.1%
Average Refund	\$2,798	\$2,851	1.9%
Direct Deposit Refunds			
Number	70,027,000	69,293,000	(1.0)%
Amount (USD Bil.)	\$207.360	\$208.475	0.5%
Average Refund	\$2,961	\$3,009	1.6%

Source: IRS



TAX
RETURNS
2017

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