

Estimates of Taxpayer Burden

The table below shows burden estimates as of October 2009 for taxpayers filing a 2009 Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ tax return. Time spent and out-of-pocket costs are presented separately. Time burden is broken out by taxpayer activity, with recordkeeping representing the largest component. Out-of-pocket costs include any expenses incurred by taxpayers to prepare and submit their tax returns. Examples include tax return preparation and submission fees, postage and photocopying costs, and tax preparation software costs. While these estimates do not in-

clude burden associated with post-filing activities, IRS operational data indicate that electronically prepared and filed returns have fewer arithmetic errors, implying lower post-filing burden.

Reported time and cost burdens are national averages and do not necessarily reflect a "typical" case. For instance, the estimated average time burden for all taxpayers filing a Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ is 17.3 hours, with an average cost of \$225 per return. This average includes all associated forms and schedules, across all preparation methods and taxpayer activities.

Taxpayers filing Form 1040 are expected to have an average burden of about 21.4 hours, with taxpayers filing Form 1040A or Form 1040EZ averaging about 8.0 hours. Within each of these estimates there is significant variation in taxpayer activity. Similarly, tax preparation fees vary extensively depending on the tax situation of the taxpayer, the type of professional preparer, and the geographic area.

If you have comments concerning the time and cost estimates below, you can contact us at either one of the addresses shown under *Welcome Comments on Forms* on page 97.

Estimated Average Taxpayer Burden for Individuals by Activity

The average time and costs required to complete and file Form 1040, Form 1040A, Form 1040EZ, their schedules, and accompanying forms will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated averages are:

Primary Form Filed or Type of Taxpayer	Percentage of Returns	Average Time Burden (Hours)						Average Cost (Dollars)
		Total Time	Record Keeping	Tax Planning	Form Completion	Form Submission	All Other	
All taxpayers	100	17.3	8.0	1.7	4.3	1.0	2.4	\$225
Primary forms filed								
1040	70	21.4	10.2	2.1	5.2	1.0	2.9	280
1040A & 1040EZ	30	8.0	2.7	0.8	2.3	0.8	1.3	96
Type of taxpayer								
Nonbusiness*	69	10.7	4.1	1.1	3.0	0.8	1.7	129
Business*	31	31.9	16.5	3.0	7.1	1.2	4.0	434

* You are considered a "business" filer if you file one or more of the following with Form 1040: Schedule C, C-EZ, E, or F or Form 2106 or 2106-EZ. You are considered a "nonbusiness" filer if you did not file any of those schedules or forms with Form 1040 or if you file Form 1040A or 1040EZ.