

**Table T21-0230**  
**Estate Tax Returns and Liability, 2021-2031<sup>1</sup>**

	Decedent's Year of Death										
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
<b>Current Law<sup>2</sup></b>											
Number of Returns (thousands) <sup>3</sup>	6.2	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	17.7	17.9	18.4	18.7	19.0	19.6
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.8	9.0	9.2
Estate Tax Liability (\$ billions)	19.2	20.8	21.4	21.8	22.4	37.3	38.8	40.6	42.5	43.9	46.4
<b>Make 2017 Tax Act Law Permanent<sup>4</sup></b>											
Number of Returns (thousands)	6.2	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	7.0	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.7
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9
Estate Tax Liability (\$ billions)	19.2	20.8	21.4	21.8	22.4	23.2	24.1	25.2	26.3	26.8	28.4
<b>Restore 2009 Law, Unindexed<sup>5</sup></b>											
Number of Returns (thousands)	6.2	26.8	26.8	27.1	27.6	27.8	28.2	28.4	28.9	29.4	30.1
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	3.5	13.5	13.4	13.4	13.6	13.5	13.3	13.4	13.7	14.0	14.4
Estate Tax Liability (\$ billions)	19.2	46.9	48.1	48.7	50.2	51.8	53.9	56.3	58.8	60.9	64.3
<b>Addenda</b>											
Projected Number of Deaths (thousands) <sup>6</sup>	2,781	2,811	2,844	2,878	2,915	2,954	2,996	3,040	3,086	3,134	3,134
<b>Taxable Returns as Percentage of Deaths</b>											
Current Law	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.28	0.28	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29
Make 2017 Tax Act Law Permanent	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12
Restore 2009 Law, Unindexed	0.13	0.48	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.45	0.46

Sources: Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Microsimulation Model (version 0721-1). Projected Population Size and Births, Deaths, and Migration: Main Projections Series for the United States, 2017-2060. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division: Washington, DC. Table NP2017-T1. Revised Release Date: September 2018.

(1) Decedent's year of death.

(2) Refers to the law currently in place for each year as of September 23, 2021. Under current law, the estate tax rate is 40 percent. For decedents dying in 2021-25, the exemption is \$10 million, indexed for inflation after 2011. For decedents dying in 2026 and thereafter, the exemption is \$5 million, indexed for inflation after 2011. Inflation indexing is based on the CPI-U for years before 2018 and on the chain-weighted CPI for 2018 and thereafter.

(3) Returns filed with gross estate greater than the exemption.

(4) The exemption would be \$10 million, indexed for inflation after 2011; the estate tax rate would be 40 percent.

(5) The estate tax rate would be 45 percent and the exemption would be \$3.5 million, not indexed for inflation. Effective for decedents dying on or after 01/01/2022.

(6) Numbers are based on the latest projection provided by the Census and do not account for deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic.