

Table 25. Delinquent Collection Activities, Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021

[Money amounts are in thousands of dollars]

Activity	2020	2021
Returns filed with additional tax due:		
Gross total yield from unpaid assessments [1]	60,324,317	92,627,815
Less: Credit transfers [2]	21,860,277	33,109,946
Equals: Net total amount collected	38,464,040	59,517,869
Taxpayer delinquent accounts:		
Number in beginning inventory	11,230,082	8,426,950
Number of new accounts	4,598,320	8,142,985
Number of accounts closed	7,401,452	6,291,609
Ending inventory:		
Number	8,426,950	10,278,326
Balance of assessed tax, penalties, and interest [3]	114,258,860	133,447,314
Returns not filed timely:		
Delinquent return activity:		
Net amount assessed [4]	14,373,309	18,544,481
Amount collected with delinquent returns	1,489,704	2,773,688
Taxpayer delinquency investigations [5]:		
Number in beginning inventory	2,644,059	3,335,794
Number of new investigations	2,257,180	413,224
Number of investigations closed	1,565,445	1,155,079
Number in ending inventory	3,335,794	2,593,939
Offers in compromise [6]:		
Number of offers received	44,809	49,285
Number of offers accepted	14,288	15,154
Amount of offers accepted	158,013	220,936
Enforcement activity:		
Number of notices of Federal tax liens filed [7]	291,081	212,251
Number of notices of levy requested on third parties [8]	396,269	305,610
Number of seizures [9]	77	96
Installment agreements [10]:		
Number in beginning inventory	4,241,975	3,891,791
Number of new agreements established [11]	1,825,378	2,361,646
Number of taxpayers that were full paid [12]	1,638,667	1,747,723
Number in ending inventory [11]	3,891,791	3,782,842
Amount collected for cases in installment agreement status [13]	12,517,754	13,676,673

[1] Includes amounts collected through collection activity on previously unpaid assessed taxes plus assessed and accrued penalties and interest. Assessed tax may result from voluntarily filed returns, examinations of taxpayers' returns, or a combination of both.

[2] In this instance, credit transfers are credits transferred from one tax module to another tax module where the receiving module is in collection status. A tax module is a record of tax data for a specific taxpayer covering one return for one tax period. These credit transfers are then subtracted from total yield to avoid overstating the net total amount collected.

[3] Includes assessed penalties and interest but excludes any accrued penalties and interest. Assessed penalties and interest are determined simultaneously with the unpaid balance of tax computed on the unpaid balance of tax from the due date of the return to the date of assessment. Penalties and interest continue to accrue after the date of assessment until the taxpayer's balance is paid in full.

[4] Includes net assessment of tax, penalty, and interest amounts (less prepaid credits, withholding, and estimated tax payments) on delinquent tax returns secured by collection activity. Excludes accrued penalty and interest.

[5] A delinquency investigation is opened when a taxpayer does not respond to an IRS notice of a delinquent return.

[6] An offer in compromise is a proposal by a taxpayer to the Federal Government that would settle a tax liability for payment less than the full amount owed. Absent special circumstances, an offer will not be accepted if the IRS believes the liability can be paid in full as a lump sum or through a payment agreement.

[7] Represents the number of lien requests entered into the IRS Automated Lien System.

[8] Represents the number of levies requested upon third parties by the Automated Collection System and Field Collection programs.

[9] Represents the number of seizures conducted by the Field Collection program.

[10] An installment agreement (IA) is an arrangement which allows an individual or business to pay their tax liabilities over time. Generally, a taxpayer may apply for an IA online, by phone, by mail, or in person. Penalties and interest continue to accrue until the balance due has been paid in full.

[11] The number of agreements represents the number of taxpayers with IAs, not the number of tax modules in an IA status. Does not include agreements of 180 days or less.

[12] The number of taxpayers whose remaining module(s) were moved from an active IA status to fully paid status. Taxpayers module(s) may leave an active IA status in ways other than through Full Paid."

[13] Includes penalties and interest; does not include user fees.

NOTES:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IRS suspended most collection activities from March 30, 2020, through July 15, 2020, in order to provide relief to taxpayers and to ensure the health and safety of both taxpayers and IRS employees. Fiscal Year 2021 collections continued to be affected by the pandemic as additional collection activities resumed.

Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

All amounts are in current dollars.

This table reflects delinquent collection activities for all return types.

SOURCE: Small Business/Self-Employed, Collection, Performance Planning and Analysis, Collection Data Assurance/Specialty Reports and Plans.