

Table T16-0276
Estate Tax Returns and Liability Under Current Law and Various Reform Proposals, 2015-2026¹

	Calendar Year											
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Current Law ²												
Number of Returns (thousands)	10.8	10.9	11.0	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.2	11.2	11.4	11.3	11.3
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.6	5.7
Estate Tax Liability (\$ billions)	18.5	19.1	19.7	20.2	20.8	21.4	22.0	22.8	23.5	24.3	25.1	25.9
Make 2009 Law Permanent With Indexation ³ \$3.5M Exemption (Indexed), 45% Rate												
Number of Returns (thousands)	17.4	17.6	17.8	17.9	19.4	19.5	19.6	19.6	19.7	19.7	19.8	19.8
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	8.7	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.4
Estate Tax Liability (\$ billions)	25.6	56.4	27.2	28.0	29.8	29.6	30.6	31.5	32.6	33.6	34.7	35.8
Make 2009 Law Permanent Without Indexation ⁴ \$3.5M Exemption (Not Indexed), 45% Rate												
Number of Returns (thousands)	20.7	21.2	21.8	22.2	22.9	23.9	24.5	25.2	26.0	28.3	29.1	30.0
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	9.6	9.7	10.3	10.5	10.8	11.0	11.3	12.0	12.4	13.0	13.4	14.2
Estate Tax Liability (\$ billions)	27.1	28.0	29.1	30.2	31.5	32.8	34.3	35.8	37.5	39.1	40.8	45.2
Addendum												
Projected Number of Deaths (thousands)	2,619	2,650	2,681	2,712	2,743	2,777	2,811	2,848	2,887	2,927	2,971	3,016

Sources: Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Microsimulation Model (version 0516-1). Projections of the Population and Components of Change for the United States: 2015 to 2060 (NP2014-T1) from Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

(1) Calendar year. Change in estate tax liability from the current law baseline does not include any behavioral response.

(2) Under current law, the exemption is \$5 million and indexed after 2011; the rate is 35 percent in 2011 and 2012 and rises to 40 percent in 2013.

(3) Proposal imposes an exemption of \$3.5 million, indexed for inflation from 2009 value with a top rate of 45 percent. The deduction for state-level wealth transfer taxes paid is extended.

(4) Proposal imposes an exemption of \$3.5 million, unindexed, with a top rate of 45 percent. The deduction for state-level wealth transfer taxes paid is extended.