

Table T18-0134
Estate Tax Returns and Liability Under Current Law and Pre-2017 Tax Act Law, 2017-2028¹

	Decedent's Year of Death											
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Current Law²												
Number of Returns (thousands)³	11.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	12.9	13.0	13.0
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	6.5	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	7.0	7.1	7.2
Estate Tax Liability (\$ billions)	21.9	14.9	15.6	16.0	16.4	16.8	17.3	17.8	18.3	29.0	29.9	30.8
Pre-2017 Tax Act Law⁴												
Number of Returns (thousands)³	11.9	12.0	12.1	12.3	12.3	12.2	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.4
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.7
Estate Tax Liability (\$ billions)	21.9	22.8	23.7	24.4	25.0	25.6	26.3	27.0	27.8	28.6	29.4	30.2
Addenda												
Projected Number of Deaths (thousands)	2,681	2,712	2,743	2,777	2,811	2,848	2,887	2,927	2,971	3,016	3,064	3,115
Taxable Returns as Percentage of Deaths												
Current Law	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Pre-2017 Tax Act Law	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%

Sources: Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Microsimulation Model (version 0718-1). 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) Decedent's year of death.

(2) Refers to the law currently in place for each year as of September 14, 2018. Under current law, the estate tax rate is 40 percent for all years. For 2017 and 2026-28, the exemption is \$5 million, indexed for inflation after 2011 and for 2018-25, the exemption is \$10 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) Under pre-2017 Tax Act Law, the estate tax rate is 40 percent for all years; the exemption is \$5 million, indexed for inflation after 2011. Inflation indexing is based on the CPI-U for all years.