

**Table T18-0144**  
**Estate Tax Returns and Liability Under Current Law and Certain Prior Laws, 2019-2028<sup>1</sup>**

	Decedent's Year of Death									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Current Law <sup>2</sup></b>										
Number of Returns (thousands) <sup>3</sup>	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)	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	7.0	7.1	7.2
Estate Tax Liability (\$ billions)	15.6	16.0	16.4	16.8	17.3	17.8	18.3	29.0	29.9	30.8
<b>2000 Law <sup>4</sup></b>										
Number of Returns (thousands) <sup>3</sup>	144.5	155.8	160.8	163.1	168.8	177.8	185.0	194.1	200.8	211.4
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	73.3	75.4	78.6	84.6	88.6	93.6	100.4	104.0	110.9	113.7
Estate Tax Liability (\$ billions)	66.1	68.7	71.3	74.0	77.0	80.2	83.6	86.8	90.5	94.2
<b>2009 Law <sup>5</sup></b>										
Number of Returns (thousands) <sup>3</sup>	27.6	28.6	29.2	29.8	30.3	31.9	32.7	33.8	34.5	36.1
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	14.0	14.5	15.2	15.7	15.8	16.3	16.5	17.2	18.7	19.1
Estate Tax Liability (\$ billions)	36.5	38.1	39.6	41.2	42.9	44.8	46.6	48.5	50.6	52.7
<b>2009 Law, Exemption Indexed for Inflation <sup>6</sup></b>										
Number of Returns (thousands) <sup>3</sup>	22.3	22.2	22.3	22.3	22.4	22.5	23.4	24.1	24.3	24.4
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.2	11.2	11.9	12.0	12.1	12.1
Estate Tax Liability (\$ billions)	33.3	34.3	35.2	36.2	37.2	38.3	39.4	40.5	41.7	43.0
<b>Addenda</b>										
Projected Number of Deaths (thousands)	2,743	2,777	2,811	2,848	2,887	2,927	2,971	3,016	3,064	3,115
<b>Taxable Returns as Percentage of Deaths</b>										
Current Law	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
2000 Law	2.7%	2.7%	2.8%	3.0%	3.1%	3.2%	3.4%	3.4%	3.6%	3.7%
2009 Law	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
2009 Law, Exemption Indexed for Inflation	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%

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. Reversion to prior law would be effective for decedents dying on or after 01/01/19.

(2) Refers to the law currently in place for each year as of September 27, 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 2000 law, the exemption would be \$1 million (not indexed for inflation), the top statutory rate would be 55 percent, there would be a 5 percent surtax that phased out the benefit of lower rates for large estates, and a credit (rather than a deduction) for state wealth transfer taxes.

(5) Under 2009 law, the exemption would be \$3.5 million (not indexed for inflation), and the statutory rate would be 45 percent.

(6) Under this option, the statutory rate would be 45 percent. The exemption would be \$3.5 million, indexed for inflation after 2009. Inflation indexing would be based on the CPI-U for years before 2018 and on the chain-weighted CPI for 2018 and thereafter.