

Table T11-0156
Estate Tax Returns and Liability Under Current Law and Various Reform Proposals, 2011-2021¹

	Calendar Year											2011-20 Total
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Current Law²												
Number of Returns (thousands)	8.6	8.8	114.6	121.4	140.9	153.1	159.6	167.8	176.2	191.0	199.9	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	3.3	3.3	52.5	54.1	65.5	71.4	73.7	83.2	90.1	95.9	97.5	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	10.6	12.0	40.5	43.0	48.7	53.5	59.7	65.9	72.7	80.1	86.5	486.6
\$1M Exemption (Not indexed), 55% Rate³												
Number of Returns (thousands)	99.1	105.0	114.6	121.4	140.9	153.1	159.6	167.8	176.2	191.0	199.9	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	42.2	44.8	52.5	54.1	65.5	71.4	73.7	83.2	90.1	95.9	97.5	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	32.5	35.3	40.5	43.0	48.7	53.5	59.7	65.9	72.7	80.1	86.5	531.8
Make 2012 Law Permanent With Indexation⁴												
\$5M Exemption (Indexed), 35% Rate												
Number of Returns (thousands)	8.6	8.8	10.0	10.5	11.4	12.4	13.5	14.4	15.1	15.8	16.1	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	3.3	3.3	4.0	4.1	4.6	5.1	5.6	6.1	6.5	6.7	6.9	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	10.6	12.0	13.5	14.2	14.6	15.5	17.7	19.0	20.9	22.9	24.4	160.9
Make 2009 Law Permanent With Indexation⁵												
\$3.5M Exemption (Indexed), 45% Rate												
Number of Returns (thousands)	14.0	14.7	16.4	17.2	19.0	20.6	22.5	24.3	25.8	27.5	28.6	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	6.2	6.1	7.0	7.4	8.0	8.5	9.4	10.5	11.0	11.5	12.5	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	16.9	18.9	21.3	22.6	23.5	25.2	28.6	30.8	33.9	37.0	39.6	258.6
Make 2009 Law Permanent Without Indexation⁶												
\$3.5M Exemption (Not Indexed), 45% Rate												
Number of Returns (thousands)	14.4	15.5	17.4	18.8	22.6	25.3	27.3	29.5	32.4	38.0	40.4	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	6.3	6.4	7.5	8.0	9.0	10.7	12.0	13.4	14.2	16.6	18.2	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	17.1	19.2	21.8	23.3	24.6	26.8	30.7	33.6	37.5	41.5	45.2	276.2
ADDENDUM												
Projected Number of Deaths (thousands)	2,586	2,611	2,636	2,662	2,688	2,715	2,743	2,772	2,802	2,834	2,867	

Sources: Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Microsimulation Model (version 0411-2), and Table 1. Projections of the Population and Components of Change for the United States: 2010 to 2050 (NP2008-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, 2011 and 2012 exemption is \$5 million, indexed, with a rate of 35 percent. Beginning in 2013, the exemption is \$1 million with a top rate of 55 percent, and the credit for state-level estate taxes is restored

(3) Proposal imposes an exemption of \$1 million, a top rate of 55 percent, and credit for state-level estate taxes for 2011 and 2012.

(4) Proposal maintains exemption of \$5 million, indexes it for inflation after 2011, and maintains rate of 35 percent. The deduction for state-level wealth transfer taxes paid is extended.

(5) 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.

(6) 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.