# Electronic Income Tax Filing Grows in Importance at the State Level 

## To State Tax Administrators:


#### Abstract

Summary This Bulletin presents an analysis of state electronic filing of individual income tax returns in 2004. It looks at e-filing from two perspectives: (a) state e-filing as a proportion of federal returns e-filed from a state; and (b) electronic returns as a proportion of total state income tax filings. It also looks at the use of direct deposit for making refund payments. The basic conclusion is that the volume of state electronic filing is growing rapidly and consistently. E-filed returns of all types constitute a growing proportion of all income tax filings. Seven states now receive one-half or more of their total returns electronically.


This Bulletin presents an analysis of state electronic filing of individual income tax returns in 2004. It looks at e-filing from two perspectives: (a) state e-filing as a proportion of federal returns e-filed from a state; and (b) electronic returns as a proportion of total state income tax filings. It also looks at the use of direct deposit for making refund payments.

The analysis is based on data from the Internal Revenue Service which tracks the number of federal and state electronic returns filed by taxpayers in each state through the FedState e-filing program. ${ }^{1}$ This data is supplemented with information provided by the states to the Federation of Tax Administrators on the distribution of returns filed on paper and by various electronic means throughout the filing season. Both the state and federal data are for returns filed through the October 15, 2004 extension date. ${ }^{2}$

[^0]In the analysis, electronic returns are categorized in several ways:

- ELF returns - Electronic returns filed by practitioners either with the IRS and then to the state or directly with the state in those states that also have a direct practitioner-filing program in addition to the FedState program. (See footnote 1);
- Telefile returns - Returns where the individual taxpayer enters his/her return information using a touch tone telephone. It includes returns filed through both the Joint FedState Telefile program in which Georgia, Kentucky, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, Oklahoma and West Virginia participate and returns filed via independent Telefile programs in 15 states. Twenty states do not have a Telefile program.
- Online returns - Returns filed by individual taxpayers using personal computers and commercial software that are routed through IRS-approved Electronic Return Originators (EROs). As with ELF returns, these returns flow to the states through IRS except in those states with direct practitioner-filing programs in which case the online returns are filed directly with the state.
- Direct I-file returns - Returns where individual taxpayers file their state returns directly with the state through a state-developed Web site. Twenty-four states operated such sites in 2004.


## State Electronic Returns Relative to Federal Electronic Returns

Total Returns. It is instructive to look at the relationship between the volume of state electronic returns and federal electronic returns filed from that state because of the degree to which state e-file programs are piggy-backed on the federal program. While states can generate state electronic filings (via Telefile and Direct I-file) that don't have a federal counterpart return, returns filed jointly through a practitioner or commercial software are the largest component of e-filed returns. Thus, the size of the federal e-file market has a large influence on the size of the state e-file market, and the ratio of state to federal e-filings is an indicator of the degree of 'market penetration' states have achieved. ${ }^{3}$

The basic data on the number of federal and state returns filed through the various components of the e-file program (ELF, Telefile, Online and Direct I-file) is shown in Table I. In 2004, state efile returns of all types amounted to approximately 44.4 million returns, or 90 percent, of the 49.4 million electronically filed federal individual income tax returns in the 41 states and D.C. with a state income tax. ${ }^{4}$ In 2003, by comparison, state returns totaled 36 million and comprised 86 percent of the total federal e-file count.

Both state and federal electronic filing has grown rapidly in recent years, and the growth in state filing has generally outstripped federal growth over this period. In 2000, electronic returns totaled about 17 million at the state level, 72 percent of the federal electronic return volume in

[^1]that year. Since 2000, state electronic filing has grown at an annual compound rate exceeding 27 percent, and federal e-filing has grown roughly 20 percent annually. ${ }^{5}$

Types of Returns. Looking at the ratio of state to federal returns for the various types of electronic filing yields the following observations:

- The ratio of state ELF or practitioner-filed returns to federal ELF returns is generally higher than for other types of e-filed returns. In 2004, state ELF returns equalled 94 percent of federal ELF filings. The practitioner system is the most mature form of efiling which is one reason for the high ratio of state to federal returns. Taxpayers are likely to have both their state and federal return prepared professionally and thus file both returns electronically if they choose to file electronically at all.
- The ratio of state Online returns to federal Online returns is generally lower than for other types of e-file returns, with state returns coming in at 67 percent of federal returns in 2004. ${ }^{6}$ There are likely two reasons for this.
- Online filing is the newest (but fastest growing) ${ }^{7}$ form of electronic filing.
- Returns filed through the IRS-sponsored Free File Alliance ${ }^{8}$ are accounted for in this category. Members of the Free File Alliance are not required to provide free state return filing (although some do). Moreover, all members of the Alliance have determined that they will not provide free state e-filing services to taxpayers in states that operate a Direct I-file program. In 2004, there were a reported 3.5 million returns filed through the Free File Alliance which amounts to about onequarter of all federal Online returns. The determination by the Alliance not to provide services in states with Direct I-file programs almost certainly affects the number of state Online returns filed. (See also discussion below.)
- If Direct I-file returns are added to the Online volume (treating I-file as a substitute for Online and an option for those federal Free File participants that cannot use that service at the state level), the state total jumps to 76 percent of federal Online returns, more comparable to the other forms of e-filing.

[^2]- State Telefile returns in relation to federal Telefile returns show greater variability among the states, possibly reflecting that some state Telefile programs predated by several years the federal program. Several states (e.g., Kansas, Massachusetts, Ohio and Pennsylvania) substantially exceed the federal volume, while in others the proportion is substantially lower. In the 22 states with a state Telefile program, both the IRS and the states received a total of 2.2 million Telefile returns. Since 2001, the volume of state Telefile returns has declined from about 3.2 million to 2.2 million ( 31 percent), while the volume of federal Telefile returns has declined by 15 percent. In 2004, four states terminated their Telefile programs.

Charts I and II explore the relationship between federal and state e-filing on a state-by-state basis.' Chart I displays total state e-filed returns of all types as a percentage of total federal efilings on a state-by-state basis. As shown, the state proportion ranges from over 100 percent in Kansas, Massachusetts and Ohio (each of which has high Telefile volumes) to about 63 and 67 percent in Hawaii and Rhode Island, respectively. The U.S. average is 90 percent, and all but 10 states (down from 14 in 2003) are at 80 percent or better; the state proportion exceeds 90 percent in 17 states (up from 15 in 2003). In 2000, state e-file returns as a proportion of federal returns were only slightly over 70 percent.

Because not all states have a Telefile program (and it is in some cases seen as a secondary, declining form of electronic filing), it is relevant to look at the relationship of federal to state efiling without including Telefile returns. (See Chart II.) Viewed in this way, state electronic returns as a proportion of federal returns range from 95 percent or more in California, Colorado, Delaware, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico and South Carolina to less than 75 percent in Connecticut, Hawaii, Missouri and Rhode Island. The U.S. average on this measure is 91 percent. The ratio is 90 percent or more in 18 states.

Online and I-file Returns. The Online return category deserves a little closer look since it is the fastest growing category of returns and the area where state totals lag the federal totals by the largest margin.

Chart III presents information on state Online returns (only) received as a proportion of the Online returns filed federally from that state. As shown, only three states (Minnesota, Massachusetts and Georgia) receive state Online returns equal to or greater than 80 percent of the federal Online returns filed from that state, and the U.S. average is 67 percent. Twelve states have a ratio below 60 percent. Notably, all but one of these states maintains a Direct I-file program, meaning that they do not benefit from receiving state returns from the Free File Alliance. (See Table I for those states with a Direct I-file program.)

[^3]When Direct I-file returns are included with the Online returns, however, the picture changes rather dramatically as shown in Chart IV The U.S. average proportion increases to 81.6 percent of the federal volume. In three states with Direct I-file programs (Delaware, New Mexico and Maryland) the total of state Online returns and Direct I-file returns exceeds the federal volume of Online returns. Of the 15 states where the state proportion exceeds the national average, only one (Minnesota) does not have a Direct I-file program. Three states with relatively small Direct I-file programs at this time (Arkansas, West Virginia and Hawaii) have a ratio of less than 60 percent. ${ }^{10}$

This analysis would seem to suggest that participation in state Direct I-file programs is more than offsetting the Free File Alliance determination to not provide free filing services - at least to this point - in most states with a Direct I-file program. This does not hold true in some of the newer, smaller Direct I-file programs.

## State Electronic Returns as a Proportion of All Returns

Table II presents the basic data provided by states on their total income tax filings broken down by paper returns, electronic returns (ELF, Online and Direct I-file combined) and Telefile. This data is examined on a state-by-state basis in Charts V and VI.

As shown in Chart V, electronic returns (of all types including Telefile) made up 42 percent of total individual income tax filings in all states. ${ }^{11}$ The proportion ranges from a high of 60 percent in Iowa to a low of 19 percent in Rhode Island. One-half of all returns or more were received electronically in Minnesota, California, Georgia, Michigan, Arkansas, South Carolina and Iowa. The ratio exceeds 40 percent in 22 states (a jump from 10 states in 2003), showing the rapid growth in electronic filing at the state level.

Chart VIl presents a state-by-state breakdown of electronic returns (not including Telefile) as a percent of total returns. Here, the U.S. average is 40 percent. Iowa leads the way with 58 percent of all returns received electronically, followed closely by Minnesota at 55 percent and California, Michigan and South Carolina hovering at the 50 percent mark.

The proportion of income tax returns being received electronically (including Telefile) has increased steadily over the years. In 2003, states received 34 percent of their individual income tax returns electronically. In 2000, the ratio was only 19 percent.

## Bar Code Returns

In 2004, 20 states had a program that called for certain computer-produced returns that are filed on paper to also include a 2-dimensional bar code capable of being read quickly and accurately by either hand-held or high speed scanners. While not as efficient from a processing standpoint as electronic returns, bar code returns substantially reduce the resources required for income tax return data capture for states.

[^4]The volume of bar code returns by state is also presented in Table II. Chart VII examines the proportion of all paper income tax returns that are received with a bar code as a measure of state success in reducing the work associated with paper returns. About 25 percent of all paper returns contained a bar code in those states with a bar code program. This level ranged from 73 percent in Massachusetts ${ }^{12}$ to less than 10 percent in Colorado, Louisiana and New Jersey.

Again, a number of factors affect the degree to which paper returns contain bar codes, including the number of years the state has used the program, the nature of the practitioner community, legal requirements, and the overall taxpayer population. In addition, not all paper returns are candidates for carrying a bar code. Only those that are produced with computer software and then only if the software provider has included the bar code printing as part of the program.

Finally, Chart VIII presents a state-by-state breakdown of the proportion of all individual income tax returns that are received electronically (including Telefile) or with a bar code - i.e., in one of the three available 'easy' data capture methods. The chart shows that 50 percent of all income tax returns are received through one of these three modes. Massachusetts leads the way on this measure with 83 percent of its returns arriving electronically or with a bar code. Nine states each receive 60 percent or more of their returns through these vehicles. Arkansas, California, Iowa, Minnesota and South Carolina rate above 50 percent on this measure without even having a bar code program.

## Direct Deposit Refunds

States have also begun converting their income tax refund payment systems to electronic means through direct deposit. Electronic refund payments save the time and expense of printing, stuffing and mailing refunds as well as putting funds in the hands of taxpayers more quickly. Twenty-five states reported data on direct deposit payments; this data is displayed in Chart IX Wisconsin leads the reporting states with 55 percent of all refund payments being made electronically; six other states report nearly 40 percent or more electronic refunds. The average for all reporting states is 31.9 percent.

## Conclusion

States have made substantial strides in recent years in shifting individual income tax filings away from paper and to electronic or other means that enable them to process the returns more quickly, efficiently and accurately. In 2004, virtually every state reached a point where state electronic filing was at least 75 percent of the level of federal electronic filing within their borders. In three states, the state electronic filing volume exceeded that of the federal government.

In addition, seven states receive at least one-half of their individual income tax returns electronically. Moreover, the growing use of bar codes on income tax returns enables a dozen states to receive nearly 60 percent or more of their returns in some form that eases the data capture process.

[^5]Table I: Federal and State Electronic Individual Income Tax Returns Returns Filed Through October 15, 2004 Extension

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | State as Percent of Federal |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| State | Returns | Federal ELF | Federal Telefile | Federal Online | State Returns | State ELF | State Telefile | Online | I-File | Total | ELF | Telefile | Online | ex. Tele | w/l-file |
| Alabama | 1,005,217 | 770,171 | 38,142 | 196,904 | 751,304 | 629,525 |  | 121,779 | - | 74.7\% | 81.7\% | 0.0\% | 61.8\% | 77.7\% | 61.8\% |
| Arkansas | 629,459 | 490,312 | 29,768 | 109,379 | 536,767 | 455,758 | 20,165 | 59,510 | 1,334 | 85.3\% | 93.0\% | 67.7\% | 54.4\% | 86.1\% | 55.6\% |
| Arizona | 1,053,957 | 716,624 | 37,897 | 299,436 | 847,107 | 625,797 |  | 221,310 | - | 80.4\% | 87.3\% | 0.0\% | 73.9\% | 83.4\% | 73.9\% |
| California | 7,557,913 | 6,014,893 | 264,584 | 1,278,436 | 7,168,397 | 6,090,872 | 74,359 | 893,625 | 109,541 | 94.8\% | 101.3\% | 28.1\% | 69.9\% | 97.3\% | 78.5\% |
| Colorado | 875,341 | 544,393 | 46,909 | 284,039 | 823,545 | 523,674 | 30,566 | 189,256 | 80,049 | 94.1\% | 96.2\% | 65.2\% | 66.6\% | 95.7\% | 94.8\% |
| Connecticut | 634,550 | 416,913 | 58,875 | 158,762 | 430,223 | 342,713 |  | 87,510 | - | 67.8\% | 82.2\% | 0.0\% | 55.1\% | 74.7\% | 55.1\% |
| D.C. | 111,507 | 75,316 | 3,518 | 32,673 | 92,138 | 64,095 |  | 19,886 | 8,157 | 82.6\% | 85.1\% | 0.0\% | 60.9\% | 85.3\% | 85.8\% |
| Delaware | 178,226 | 117,052 | 11,328 | 49,846 | 170,647 | 107,499 |  | 24,548 | 38,600 | 95.7\% | 91.8\% | 0.0\% | 49.2\% | 102.2\% | 126.7\% |
| Georgia | 2,021,011 | 1,434,003 | 92,809 | 494,199 | 1,869,623 | 1,394,092 | 72,508 | 403,023 | - | 92.5\% | 97.2\% | 78.1\% | 81.6\% | 93.2\% | 81.6\% |
| Hawaii | 219,908 | 152,977 | 12,944 | 53,987 | 139,395 | 109,084 |  | 28,311 | 2,000 | 63.4\% | 71.3\% | 0.0\% | 52.4\% | 67.4\% | 56.1\% |
| lowa | 845,547 | 658,282 | 37,530 | 149,735 | 810,211 | 655,744 | 20,142 | 111,510 | 22,815 | 95.8\% | 99.6\% | 53.7\% | 74.5\% | 97.8\% | 89.7\% |
| Idaho | 304,350 | 207,996 | 14,097 | 82,257 | 260,092 | 194,412 |  | 65,680 | - | 85.5\% | 93.5\% | 0.0\% | 79.8\% | 89.6\% | 79.8\% |
| Illinois | 2,562,832 | 1,759,029 | 185,567 | 618,236 | 2,165,733 | 1,531,122 | 116,327 | 316,814 | 201,470 | 84.5\% | 87.0\% | 62.7\% | 51.2\% | 86.2\% | 83.8\% |
| Indiana | 1,423,579 | 964,140 | 99,877 | 359,562 | 1,217,389 | 876,010 | 64,927 | 215,233 | 61,219 | 85.5\% | 90.9\% | 65.0\% | 59.9\% | 87.1\% | 76.9\% |
| Kansas | 612,602 | 433,126 | 36,524 | 142,952 | 618,871 | 448,234 | 44,408 | 91,813 | 34,416 | 101.0\% | 103.5\% | 121.6\% | 64.2\% | 99.7\% | 88.3\% |
| Kentucky | 919,959 | 694,236 | 60,766 | 164,957 | 791,259 | 626,358 | 45,355 | 119,546 | - | 86.0\% | 90.2\% | 74.6\% | 72.5\% | 86.8\% | 72.5\% |
| Louisiana | 926,454 | 677,250 | 42,195 | 207,009 | 706,317 | 548,989 |  | 91,184 | 66,144 | 76.2\% | 81.1\% | 0.0\% | 44.0\% | 79.9\% | 76.0\% |
| Mass. | 1,202,455 | 737,077 | 141,770 | 323,608 | 1,207,479 | 676,949 | 268,772 | 261,758 | - | 100.4\% | 91.8\% | 189.6\% | 80.9\% | 88.5\% | 80.9\% |
| Maryland | 1,058,899 | 678,936 | 64,498 | 315,465 | 969,739 | 618,156 | 31,694 | 222,934 | 96,955 | 91.6\% | 91.0\% | 49.1\% | 70.7\% | 94.3\% | 101.4\% |
| Maine | 240,026 | 144,758 | 28,172 | 67,096 | 212,511 | 143,392 | 22,530 | 38,057 | 8,532 | 88.5\% | 99.1\% | 80.0\% | 56.7\% | 89.7\% | 69.4\% |
| Michigan | 2,727,990 | 2,007,107 | 142,319 | 578,564 | 2,498,091 | 2,061,320 |  | 436,771 | - | 91.6\% | 102.7\% | 0.0\% | 75.5\% | 96.6\% | 75.5\% |
| Minnesota | 1,526,654 | 1,111,121 | 101,930 | 313,603 | 1,489,292 | 1,117,550 | 89,093 | 282,649 | - | 97.6\% | 100.6\% | 87.4\% | 90.1\% | 98.3\% | 90.1\% |
| Missouri | 1,321,566 | 955,428 | 89,647 | 276,491 | 1,214,431 | 940,083 | 57,652 | 205,477 | 11,219 | 91.9\% | 98.4\% | 64.3\% | 74.3\% | 93.9\% | 78.4\% |
| Mississippi | 653,798 | 518,830 | 24,289 | 110,679 | 466,120 | 390,356 |  | 75,764 | - | 71.3\% | 75.2\% | 0.0\% | 68.5\% | 74.0\% | 68.5\% |
| Montana | 221,025 | 162,551 | 16,226 | 42,248 | 168,063 | 140,791 |  | 27,272 | - | 76.0\% | 86.6\% | 0.0\% | 64.6\% | 82.1\% | 64.6\% |
| N. Carolina | 1,792,588 | 1,269,034 | 74,525 | 449,029 | 1,566,046 | 1,214,787 |  | 351,259 | - | 87.4\% | 95.7\% | 0.0\% | 78.2\% | 91.2\% | 78.2\% |
| N. Dakota | 160,953 | 116,728 | 11,634 | 32,591 | 129,491 | 108,802 |  | 20,689 | - | 80.5\% | 93.2\% | 0.0\% | 63.5\% | 86.7\% | 63.5\% |
| Nebraska | 419,034 | 283,529 | 37,176 | 98,329 | 404,130 | 284,641 | 38,204 | 72,549 | 8,736 | 96.4\% | 100.4\% | 102.8\% | 73.8\% | 95.8\% | 82.7\% |
| New Jersey | 1,352,050 | 960,950 | 88,285 | 302,815 | 1,179,715 | 840,951 | 98,146 | 183,107 | 57,511 | 87.3\% | 87.5\% | 111.2\% | 60.5\% | 85.6\% | 79.5\% |
| New Mexico | 399,459 | 272,313 | 18,090 | 109,056 | 394,464 | 254,723 |  | 58,582 | 81,159 | 98.7\% | 93.5\% | 0.0\% | 53.7\% | 103.4\% | 128.1\% |
| New York | 2,866,431 | 2,163,488 | 140,256 | 562,687 | 2,567,712 | 2,119,149 |  | 448,563 | - | 89.6\% | 98.0\% | 0.0\% | 79.7\% | 94.2\% | 79.7\% |
| Ohio | 2,480,189 | 1,597,211 | 242,360 | 640,618 | 2,487,133 | 1,481,475 | 435,888 | 356,156 | 213,614 | 100.3\% | 92.8\% | 179.9\% | 55.6\% | 91.7\% | 88.9\% |
| Oklahoma | 740,829 | 504,556 | 39,811 | 196,462 | 617,670 | 438,921 | 28,004 | 150,745 | - | 83.4\% | 87.0\% | 70.3\% | 76.7\% | 84.1\% | 76.7\% |
| Oregon | 712,258 | 470,107 | 40,286 | 201,865 | 554,696 | 408,937 |  | 145,759 | - | 77.9\% | 87.0\% | 0.0\% | 72.2\% | 82.5\% | 72.2\% |
| Penn. | 2,361,848 | 1,473,236 | 261,210 | 627,402 | 2,246,372 | 1,220,353 | 497,178 | 279,182 | 249,659 | 95.1\% | 82.8\% | 190.3\% | 44.5\% | 83.3\% | 84.3\% |
| Rhode Island | 192,269 | 135,163 | 16,881 | 40,225 | 128,763 | 105,350 |  | 23,413 | - | 67.0\% | 77.9\% | 0.0\% | 58.2\% | 73.4\% | 58.2\% |
| S. Carolina | 1,055,695 | 819,314 | 40,927 | 195,454 | 975,962 | 826,406 |  | 149,556 | - | 92.4\% | 100.9\% | 0.0\% | 76.5\% | 96.2\% | 76.5\% |
| Utah | 469,556 | 288,952 | 29,265 | 151,339 | 405,542 | 263,700 |  | 111,135 | 30,707 | 86.4\% | 91.3\% | 0.0\% | 73.4\% | 92.1\% | 93.7\% |
| Virginia | 1,562,002 | 947,629 | 109,164 | 505,209 | 1,320,043 | 790,871 | 55,972 | 316,849 | 156,351 | 84.5\% | 83.5\% | 51.3\% | 62.7\% | 87.0\% | 93.7\% |
| Vermont | 115,759 | 71,538 | 13,117 | 31,104 | 87,814 | 69,078 |  | 18,736 | - | 75.9\% | 96.6\% | 0.0\% | 60.2\% | 85.6\% | 60.2\% |
| Wisconsin | 1,538,608 | 1,087,132 | 112,758 | 338,718 | 1,441,808 | 1,039,034 | 79,561 | 242,099 | 81,114 | 93.7\% | 95.6\% | 70.6\% | 71.5\% | 95.5\% | 95.4\% |
| W. Virginia | 344,838 | 226,686 | 40,403 | 77,749 | 258,425 | 194,669 | 25,094 | 38,238 | 424 | 74.9\% | 85.9\% | 62.1\% | 49.2\% | 76.6\% | 49.7\% |
| U.S. Total | 49,399,191 | 35,130,087 | 2,998,329 | 11,270,775 | 44,390,530 | 32,974,422 | 2,216,545 | 7,577,837 | 1,621,726 | 89.9\% | 93.9\% | 73.9\% | 67.2\% | 90.9\% | 81.6\% |

Chart I: Total State Electronic Returns as Proportion of Total Federal Electronic Returns (2004)


Chart II: Total State Electronic Returns (without Telefile) as a Proportion of Federal Returns (without Telefile) (2004)


## Chart III: State Online Returns as a Proportion of Federal Online Returns (2004)



## Chart IV: State Online and Direct I-file Returns as a Proportion of Federal Online Returns (2004)



Table II: State Individual Income Tax Filings by Type

## Through the October 15, 2004 Extension

|  |  |  |  |  |  | Electronic | El. and Tele. | Bar Code | El., Tel. \& BC |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Paper | Electronic | Telefile | Bar Code* | Total | as \% Total | as \% of Total | as \% Paper | as \% Total |
| Alabama | 1,082,799 | 751,304 | - | 379,529 | 1,834,103 | 41\% | 41\% | 35\% | 62\% |
| Arizona | 1,496,375 | 847,107 | - | 368,271 | 2,343,482 | 36\% | 36\% | 25\% | 52\% |
| Arkansas | 528,748 | 516,602 | 20,165 | - | 1,065,515 | 48\% | 50\% | 0\% | 50\% |
| California | 6,909,347 | 7,094,038 | 74,359 | - | 14,077,744 | 50\% | 51\% | 0\% | 51\% |
| Colorado | 1,385,575 | 792,979 | 30,566 | 119,378 | 2,209,120 | 36\% | 37\% | 9\% | 43\% |
| Delaware | 275,334 | 170,647 | - | 103,569 | 445,981 | 38\% | 38\% | 38\% | 61\% |
| D.C. | 185,435 | 92,138 | - |  | 277,573 | 33\% | 33\% | 0\% | 33\% |
| Georgia | 1,823,234 | 1,797,115 | 72,508 | 622,715 | 3,692,857 | 49\% | 51\% | 34\% | 67\% |
| Hawaii | 420,729 | 139,395 | - | - | 560,124 | 25\% | 25\% | 0\% | 25\% |
| Idaho | 314,578 | 260,092 | - | - | 574,670 | 45\% | 45\% | 0\% | 45\% |
| Illinois | 3,526,087 | 2,049,406 | 116,326 | 1,223,427 | 5,691,819 | 36\% | 38\% | 35\% | 60\% |
| Indiana | 1,635,223 | 1,152,462 | 64,924 | 574,223 | 2,852,609 | 40\% | 43\% | 35\% | 63\% |
| lowa | 542,380 | 790,069 | 20,142 | - | 1,352,591 | 58\% | 60\% | 0\% | 60\% |
| Kansas | 818,575 | 574,463 | 44,408 | - | 1,437,446 | 40\% | 43\% | 0\% | 43\% |
| Kentucky | 906,353 | 745,904 | 45,355 | 251,346 | 1,697,612 | 44\% | 47\% | 28\% | 61\% |
| Louisiana | 1,084,632 | 706,317 | - | 59151 | 1,790,949 | 39\% | 39\% | 5\% | 43\% |
| Maine | 408,584 | 189,891 | 22,530 | - | 621,005 | 31\% | 34\% | 0\% | 34\% |
| Maryland | 1,645,058 | 938,045 | 31,694 | 208,629 | 2,614,797 | 36\% | 37\% | 13\% | 45\% |
| Massachusetts | 1,949,837 | 938,707 | 268,772 | 1,417,485 | 3,157,316 | 30\% | 38\% | 73\% | 83\% |
| Michigan | 2,445,267 | 2,498,091 | - | 679,126 | 4,943,358 | 51\% | 51\% | 28\% | 64\% |
| Minnesota | 1,056,540 | 1,400,199 | 89,093 | - | 2,545,832 | 55\% | 58\% | 0\% | 58\% |
| Missouri | 1,457,521 | 1,156,779 | 57,647 | 240,064 | 2,671,947 | 43\% | 45\% | 16\% | 54\% |
| Nebraska | 432,537 | 365,926 | 38,204 | - | 836,667 | 44\% | 48\% | 0\% | 48\% |
| New Jersey | 2,910,850 | 1,081,569 | 98,146 | 253,467 | 4,090,565 | 26\% | 29\% | 9\% | 35\% |
| New Mexico | 491,290 | 394,464 | - | 81,029 | 885,754 | 45\% | 45\% | 16\% | 54\% |
| New York | 7,844,859 | 2,567,712 | - | 1,449,894 | 10,412,571 | 25\% | 25\% | 18\% | 39\% |
| North Carolina | 2,012,259 | 1,566,046 | - | - | 3,578,305 | 44\% | 44\% | 0\% | 44\% |
| North Dakota | 196,102 | 129,491 | - | 59,237 | 325,593 | 40\% | 40\% | 30\% | 58\% |
| Ohio | 2,865,052 | 2,051,245 | 435,888 | - | 5,352,185 | 38\% | 46\% | 0\% | 46\% |
| Oklahoma | 837,127 | 589,666 | 27,906 | - | 1,454,699 | 41\% | 42\% | 0\% | 42\% |
| Oregon | 1,031,489 | 554,696 | - | 254,972 | 1,586,185 | 35\% | 35\% | 25\% | 51\% |
| Pennsylvania | 3,531,536 | 1,749,194 | 497,178 | - | 5,777,908 | 30\% | 39\% | 0\% | 39\% |
| Rhode Island | 552,425 | 128,763 | - | 109,629 | 681,188 | 19\% | 19\% | 20\% | 35\% |
| South Carolina | 976,024 | 975,962 | - | - | 1,951,986 | 50\% | 50\% | 0\% | 50\% |
| Utah | 545,036 | 405,542 | - | 104,736 | 950,578 | 43\% | 43\% | 19\% | 54\% |
| Vermont | 247,242 | 87,814 | - | - | 335,056 | 26\% | 26\% | 0\% | 26\% |
| Virginia | 2,344,353 | 1,264,071 | 55,972 | 640,750 | 3,664,396 | 34\% | 36\% | 27\% | 54\% |
| West Virginia | 483,600 | 233,331 | 24,682 | - | 741,613 | 31\% | 35\% | 0\% | 35\% |
| Wisconsin | 1,496,738 | 1,362,247 | 79,561 | - | 2,938,546 | 46\% | 49\% | 0\% | 49\% |
| United States | 60,696,730 | 41,109,489 | 2,216,026 | 9,200,627 | 104,022,245 | 40\% | 42\% | 15\% | 50\% |

* Bar Code totals included in Paper Totals. Count not duplicated.

Source: FTA Compilation based on state-provided data.

## Chart V: State Electronic and Telefile Returns as Proportion of All State Returns (2004)



## Chart VI: State Electronic Returns (excluding Telefile) as a Proportion of All State Returns (2004)



## Chart VII: Bar Code Returns as Proportion of All Paper Returns (2004)



## Chart VIII: State Electronic, Telefile and Bar Code Returns as Proportion of All State Returns (2004)



## Chart IX: Proportion of State Income Tax Returns Paid via Direct Deposit (2004)




[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Under the FedState e-file program, a taxpayer, using an IRS-approved practitioner, may file both a federal and state return in a single transaction. The returns are sent to the IRS which, in turn, routes the return to the state. Every state with an individual income tax participates in the FedState program except Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New York which receive all or most of their electronic returns directly from the practitioners instead of through the IRS.
    ${ }^{2}$ Throughout the analysis, the District of Columbia is considered as a state since its e-file programs are identical to those in the states.

[^1]:    ${ }^{3}$ In 2004, practitioners could for the first time file a "state only" return through the FedState program. The program is used primarily to re-submit returns on which an error was discovered in the first submission. In 2004, 1.5 million "state-only" returns were filed.
    ${ }^{4}$ A total of 61.5 million federal returns were filed electronically in all states in 2004.

[^2]:    ${ }^{5}$ FTA calculations based on IRS and state data. Both state and federal e-filing received a considerable boost from the implementation of mandated electronic filing for certain practitioners in 2004 in California, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. California alone saw an increase of 3.3 million state electronic returns ( 87 percent) in 2004, and e-filed returns in Michigan increased by 900,000 returns or 57 percent. State e-filing increased by 25 percent in 2004 when all states are considered, but by only 14 percent when the four mandate states are deleted. Federal e-filing increased by 16 percent overall, but by about 11 percent if the four mandate states are deleted from the calculation.
    ${ }^{6}$ The lack of certain state data prevents an accurate comparison of online returns to 2003 levels.
    ${ }^{7}$ Federal Online returns increased by about 22 percent from 2003 to 2004, compared to 16 percent for e-filing of all types.
    ${ }^{8}$ The Free File Alliance is a consortium of private sector software and tax preparation firms that have agreed to provide free Web-based electronic filing to certain population segments (generally lower income taxpayers.) IRS provides certain marketing service to promote the Alliance and has committed not to develop its own Web-based filing service to encourage participation in the Free File Alliance.

[^3]:    ${ }^{9}$ Comparisons among states are not intended to suggest that some programs are more successful or effective than others. There are a number of reasons why the relationship of state to federal returns may vary among the states that need to be kept in mind as the data are viewed. These include the nature of the taxpayer population, the complexity of the state return, the number of taxpayers filing multiple state returns, the maturity of the state e-file program, the number of e-file options offered, the practitioner community in the state and the effectiveness of e-file marketing in the state.

[^4]:    ${ }^{10}$ Connecticut also has a Direct I-file program, but data were not available on the number of returns received through that program as of October 15, so it is excluded from this count.
    ${ }^{11}$ The data in this section is for all income tax states except Connecticut, Mississippi and Montana.

[^5]:    ${ }^{12}$ For the 2004 filing year, Massachusetts required that any computer-generated return to be filed electronically or with a 2-D bar code.

