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The US government collects over $5.3 trillion in taxes each year, but how much will the average American pay in taxes throughout their lifetime?

We used the Bureau of Labor Statistics' expenditure numbers to see what we as Americans were spending each day to work out what taxes we would be paying until we're no longer able to contribute financially. It's a lot.

We've analyzed this data specific to each state so you can see what you may be giving to your local government in taxes across your entire life.

Key statistics

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and maintenance
- Tax payers in **California** will pay the most on everyday expenses **($40,084)**, followed by **New Yorkers** **($39,745)**

Which states will pay the most in taxes over their lifetime?

How much tax will the average American pay in their lifetime?

Using our state averages, we can see that the average American will pay $525,037 over their lifetime, almost 65% of this will purely be tax on earnings. This amount varies drastically by state but uses averages for earnings, expenditures, property and auto taxes. You can see the average American's lifetime tax breakdown in the following chart:

Methodology

We used the Consumer Expenditure Report (2019) from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to understand the main average household spending habits. We took this data and divided it by 2 to create a personal spending report for one American. We then took this spending data and applied state-specific taxes on each expenditure. Car property tax and sales tax data was also analyzed at a state level based on the average number of vehicles the average American will own over 60 years and a purchase cost of $25,000. The tax paid on earnings was based on state level tax and federal income taxes when applied to the average salaries in each state. While Alaska does not implement a state-wide sales tax it does allow localities to charge local sales taxes which we have gathered as an average to analyze via the Tax Foundation.

A worklife of 36 years was used to analyze income taxes based on data from the study

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