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statistics from the IRS.

Feb. 20, 2024



By Leada Gore, *al.com* (TNS)

The average tax refund is down more than 20% over last year, according to the [latest statistics](#) from the IRS.

The tax agency has processed some 25.4 million returns out of the 25.5 million received since the official start of tax season on Jan. 29. Both figures reflect a decline

—4.4% and 11.4%, respectively—from last year when the official start

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Total returns received	28,826,000	25,553,000	-11.4
Total returns processed	26,622,000	25,443,000	-4.4
Total e-filing returns received (may not equal subtotals due to rounding)	27,239,000	24,989,000	-8.3
E-filing returns received from tax professionals	10,664,000	9,420,000	-11.7
E-filing returns received from self-prepared	16,575,000	15,570,000	-6.1
Web usage, IRS.gov visits	149,706,000	158,617,000	6.0
Total number of refunds	13,341,000	7,483,000	-43.9
Total amount refunded	\$26.648 billion	\$13.027 billion	-51.1
Average refund amount	\$1,997	\$1,741	-12.8
Total number of direct deposit refunds	12,186,000	7,417,000	-39.1
Total amount refunded with direct deposit	\$ 25.394 billion	\$13.581 billion	-46.5
Average direct deposit refund amount	\$ 2,084	\$1,831	-12.1

Data courtesy of the IRS.

The latest statistics show the number of refunds is down some 44% over last year from 13.4 million to 7.5 million while the total amount refunded fell by more than 50%—from \$26.6 billion to \$13 billion.

The average refund amount is down, too.

In 2023, the average refund was \$1,997. This year, that’s down almost 13% to \$1,741.

The average refund will likely increase in the coming weeks as payments are sent to those claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, or Additional Child Tax Credit, or ACTC. By law, people claiming those credits will not receive refunds sooner than Feb. 27, assuming they chose direct deposit and there are no other issues with their returns. The mandatory delay is due to federal law requiring extra identity checks for EITC or ACTC filers.

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