



## ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Colorado Remains the Highest for Population Exchange with Wyoming

**CHEYENNE** – Between 2019 and 2020, Wyoming had the most population exchange with Colorado. The gross in-migration to Wyoming from Colorado totaled 4,456, which covered 17.3 percent of the total in-migrants (inflow). Gross out-migration (outflow) to Colorado (3,223) comprised 13.3 percent of Wyoming's total out-migrants. Other states exhibiting sizable population exchange with Wyoming were large states such as California, Texas, Arizona, and Washington, as well as Wyoming's other neighboring states. All together, these 10 states make up approximately 60 percent of Wyoming's migration flows.

In recent years, the annual number of migrants who moved into or out of Wyoming was about 26,000, or 4.6 percent of Wyoming's total population. In comparison, only 2.3 percent of the population in the U.S. moved between states each year. "Americans may move many times during their adult lives due to factors such as a job change, education, change of household or family, change in financial status, retirement, access to amenities, or just a change in lifestyle," said Dr. Wenlin Liu, Chief Economist with State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division.

Migration data for the United States are produced by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Statistics of Income Division (SOI), and the tabulation is based on year-to-year address changes reported on individual income tax returns, combined with the number of personal exemptions or individuals. These data are extracted from the IRS Individual Master File, which contains administrative information collected for every Form 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ processed by the IRS. They present migration patterns by state, and are available for inflows (the number of new residents who moved to a state and where they migrated from) and outflows (the number residents leaving a state and where they went). The data also include tabulations on the number of non-movers and in-state movers. Taxpayers who have matching returns for two consecutive calendar years are counted in, which covers over 85 percent of the population nationwide. Available data items are:

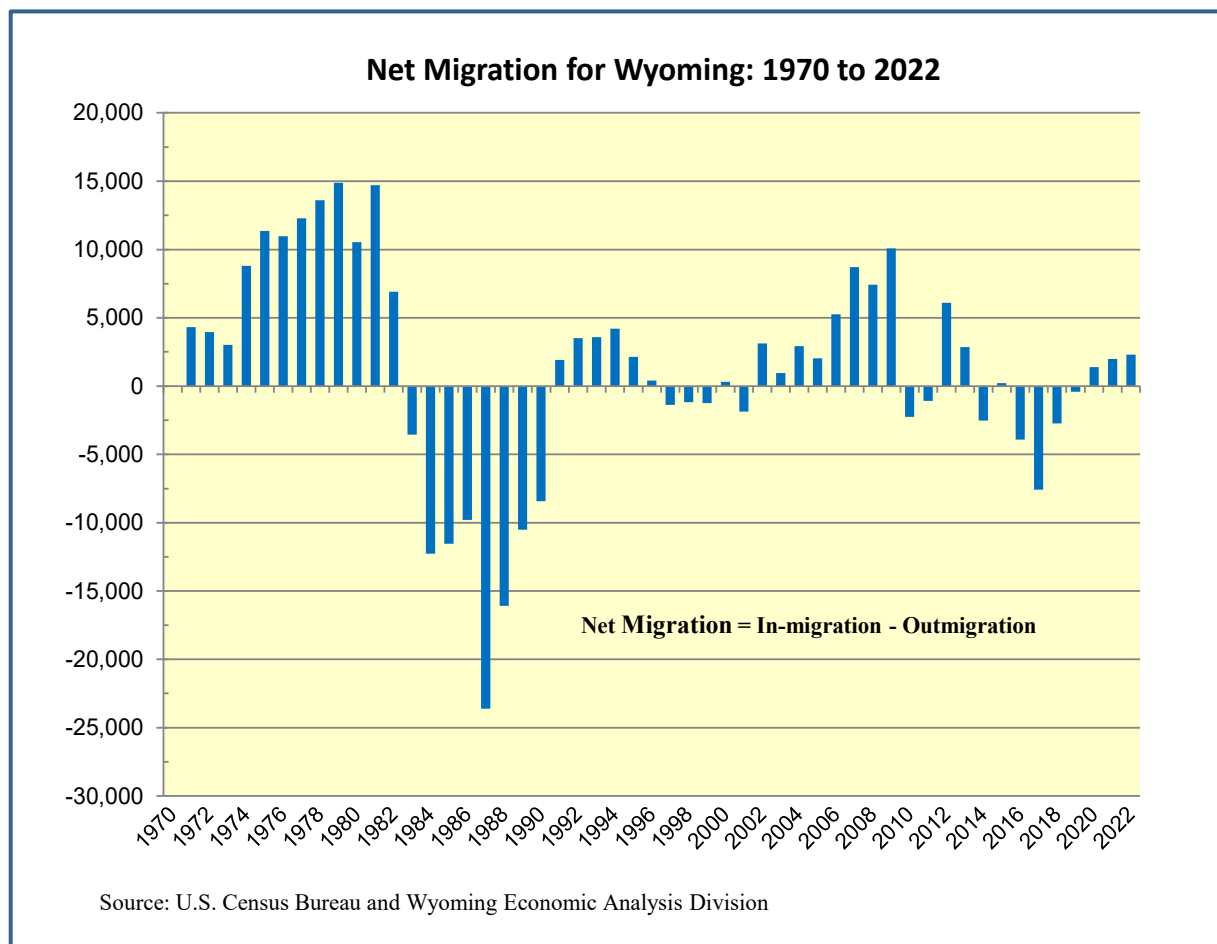
- Number of returns filed, which approximates the number of households that migrated
- Number of personal exemptions claimed, which approximates the number of individuals
- Migration flows by Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and age of primary taxpayer

IRS numbers show that the state experienced a positive net migration (inflow minus outflow) of roughly 1,400 persons between 2019 and 2020. After the state endured nearly consecutive years of negative net migration (more people left than moved into the state) between 2014 and 2019, the direction of net migration reversed in 2020. "Employment opportunities have always been the driving factor for Wyoming's migration trend, but the pandemic played a significant role in 2020," continued Dr. Liu. "Many people chose to relocate to less populated, lower cost areas during the pandemic, and the increased availability of remote work made this possible." The largest net migration to the state during this time was from California (1,391), followed by Colorado (1,233) and New York (298). Wyoming also added over 100 residents from Illinois, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington, respectively. Idaho led Wyoming's net outmigration with

547 more people switching residency. Arizona, Texas, Montana, and Florida also gained at least 200 residents each from Wyoming.

The average AGI for Inflow Returns in 2020 was \$138,789, 92.6 percent higher than the Outflow Returns of \$72,065. In comparison, the average AGI from Non-Migrant Returns (non-movers and the same county movers) was \$97,452 during the year. For migrants with AGI less than \$50,000, the number of Outflows was higher than the number of Inflows, while the Inflow was larger for higher AGI migrants. In particular for wealthy migrants with AGI over \$200,000, the number of Inflows was 63.8 percent higher than the number of outflow, and the average AGI from Inflow Returns was \$1.5 million, compared to \$0.6 million from Outflow Returns.

For migrant householders younger than 26 years old, the number of Outflows exceeded the number of Inflows in 2020. However, the number of Inflows was 19.1 percent higher than Outflows for householders between 45 and 64 years old, and was 9.2 percent higher for householders 65 years and over. The average AGI for middle-aged and older (age 35 and over) in-migrants was significantly higher than out-migrants in the similar age groups. For example, the average AGI was \$318,329 for in-migrant householders age 45-54, which was 3.6 times as much as out-migrants in the same age group. “The first year of COVID-19 appeared to have prompted a number of professionals with higher earnings and “work at home” opportunities to relocate to Wyoming,” commented Dr. Liu. Previously for many years, more people age 65 and over moved out of Wyoming than moved in. This trend was reversed since the pandemic started, resulting in a positive net migration of over 200 elderly individuals in 2020. “Perhaps a few more households with high income chose to early retire or retire in Wyoming because of pandemic concerns.”



## 2019 - 2020 State to State Migration Flows: Inflow to and Outflow from Wyoming

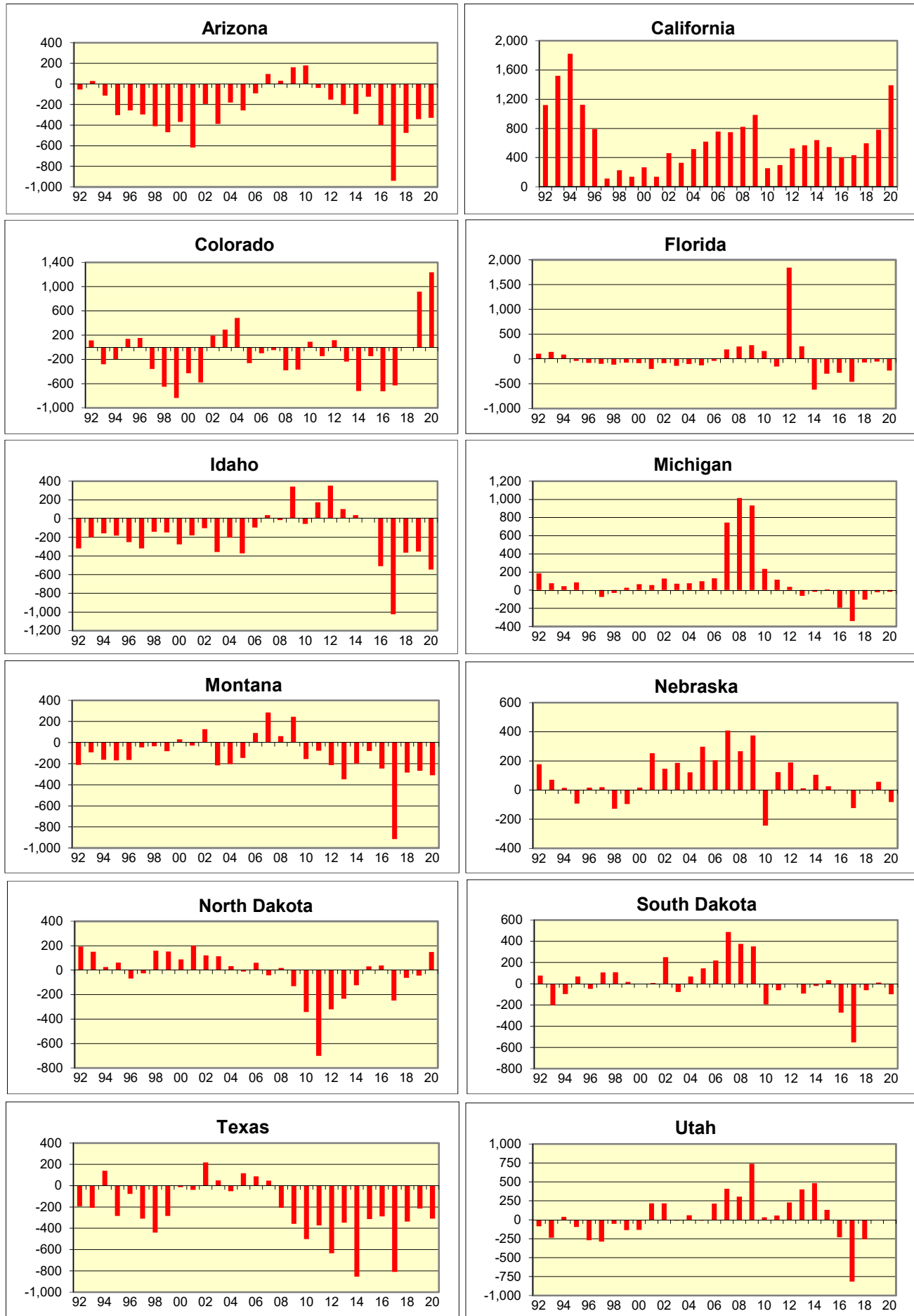
(Based on Internal Revenue Service tax return matches)

Inflow to Wyoming from:	2020 # of returns	2020 # of individuals*	Outflow from Wyoming to:	2020 # of returns	2020 # of individuals*	Net Inflow to Wyoming from:	Rank by individuals*
Total	12,991	25,813	Total	12,571	24,309	Total	1,456
Colorado	2,385	4,456	Colorado	1,907	3,223	California	1,391
California	1,199	2,409	Texas	908	1,895	Colorado	1,233
Utah	817	1,841	Utah	837	1,846	New York	298
Texas	713	1,584	Idaho	660	1,458	Illinois	152
Montana	578	1,130	Montana	805	1,440	North Dakota	148
Arizona	500	959	Arizona	706	1,290	Oregon	128
Idaho	408	911	California	574	1,018	Washington	106
Washington	431	782	Florida	467	986	New Jersey	80
Nebraska	387	758	South Dakota	447	856	Iowa	78
South Dakota	407	755	Nebraska	411	841	Pennsylvania	69
Florida	403	749	Washington	364	676	Wisconsin	63
Oregon	338	634	Nevada	327	654	Hawaii	62
Nevada	303	570	Oregon	307	506	New Mexico	47
North Dakota	228	534	Oklahoma	226	485	Foreign	44
New Mexico	196	431	Missouri	203	404	Maryland	43
New York	236	431	Michigan	202	402	Indiana	33
Illinois	223	407	North Dakota	179	386	Connecticut	32
Michigan	163	383	New Mexico	200	384	Kentucky	19
Missouri	175	358	Kansas	156	339	Alabama	18
North Carolina	167	339	North Carolina	182	339	Vermont	11
Minnesota	170	332	Minnesota	165	324	Massachusetts	8
Pennsylvania	164	329	Tennessee	155	324	Minnesota	8
Oklahoma	152	322	Georgia	145	307	Virginia	7
Kansas	149	318	Virginia	141	277	Delaware	0
Virginia	154	284	South Carolina	105	267	North Carolina	0
Georgia	143	281	Pennsylvania	128	260	Louisiana	-5
Wisconsin	153	281	Illinois	144	255	Ohio	-5
Iowa	139	269	Ohio	124	251	Utah	-5
Ohio	150	246	Arkansas	112	226	Alaska	-9
Tennessee	120	237	Wisconsin	122	218	Maine	-9
Foreign	103	233	Alaska	95	203	West Virginia	-10
Indiana	107	217	Iowa	101	191	Michigan	-19
Alaska	91	194	Foreign	80	189	Kansas	-21
Louisiana	89	180	Louisiana	95	185	New Hampshire	-25
Arkansas	76	176	Indiana	105	184	Georgia	-26
Alabama	82	173	Alabama	85	155	Mississippi	-30
Maryland	87	165	Mississippi	68	140	Missouri	-46
South Carolina	76	159	New York	89	133	Arkansas	-50
Kentucky	69	138	Maryland	71	122	Nebraska	-83
New Jersey	70	134	Kentucky	66	119	Nevada	-84
Hawaii	59	133	Massachusetts	60	90	Tennessee	-87
Mississippi	39	110	West Virginia	39	83	South Dakota	-101
Massachusetts	71	98	Maine	49	75	South Carolina	-108
Connecticut	51	86	Hawaii	31	71	Oklahoma	-163
West Virginia	34	73	New Hampshire	32	61	Florida	-237
Maine	35	66	Connecticut	31	54	Montana	-310
Vermont	30	42	New Jersey	34	54	Texas	-311
New Hampshire	24	36	Delaware	15	32	Arizona	-331
Delaware	18	32	Vermont	16	31	Idaho	-547
District Of Columbia	17	31	District Of Columbia	d	d	District Of Columbia	d
Rhode Island	12	17	Rhode Island	d	d	Rhode Island	d

d - The number of returns is less than 10, and the actual data has been suppressed to prevent disclosure.

\* Beginning in 2018, personal exemption deductions were suspended for the primary, secondary, and dependent taxpayers. However, the data used to create the "Number of individuals" - filing status, dependent status indicator, and identifying dependent information - are still available on the Form 1040. This field is based on these data.

## Net Migration between Wyoming and Selected States 1992 to 2020



Source: U.S. IRS, Statistics of Income Division

### Individual Income Tax Returns: Gross Migration by Adjusted Gross Income and Age of Taxpayer

Individual Income Tax Returns	Inflow Returns					Outflow Returns				
	Number of returns	Number of individuals [1]	Adjusted gross income (AGI, in thousands of \$)		Average AGI (\$)	Number of returns	Number of individuals [1]	Adjusted gross income (AGI, in thousands of \$)		Average AGI (\$)
			2019	2020	2020			2019	2020	2020
<b>Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)</b>	<b>12,818</b>	<b>25,537</b>	<b>\$1,402,211</b>	<b>\$1,778,997</b>	<b>\$138,789</b>	<b>12,412</b>	<b>24,082</b>	<b>\$829,878</b>	<b>\$894,470</b>	<b>\$72,065</b>
\$1 under \$10,000	1,129	1,647	\$18,692	\$5,673	\$5,025	1,181	1,695	\$19,083	\$6,138	\$5,197
\$10,000 under \$25,000	2,598	4,225	\$53,234	\$45,985	\$17,700	2,667	4,000	\$59,249	\$47,068	\$17,648
\$25,000 under \$50,000	3,409	6,017	\$118,648	\$123,193	\$36,138	3,410	5,702	\$121,037	\$122,024	\$35,784
\$50,000 under \$75,000	1,942	4,108	\$111,713	\$119,117	\$61,337	1,884	4,048	\$109,374	\$116,298	\$61,729
\$75,000 under \$100,000	1,237	3,042	\$101,146	\$107,042	\$86,534	1,194	3,013	\$95,853	\$103,794	\$86,930
\$100,000 under \$200,000	1,756	4,544	\$228,146	\$238,193	\$135,645	1,620	4,432	\$208,201	\$218,241	\$134,717
\$200,000 or more	747	1,954	\$770,628	\$1,139,790	\$1,525,823	456	1,192	\$217,078	\$280,903	\$616,015
<b>Age of Primary Tax Payer</b>	<b>12,818</b>	<b>25,537</b>	<b>\$1,402,209</b>	<b>\$1,778,997</b>	<b>\$138,789</b>	<b>12,412</b>	<b>24,082</b>	<b>\$829,875</b>	<b>\$894,468</b>	<b>\$72,065</b>
Under 26	2,471	3,437	\$62,326	\$75,707	\$30,638	2,666	3,535	\$64,295	\$76,613	\$28,737
26 to 34	3,554	7,100	\$166,578	\$192,093	\$54,050	3,553	7,127	\$164,062	\$182,316	\$51,313
35 to 44	2,090	6,260	\$234,513	\$268,240	\$128,344	2,111	6,102	\$149,674	\$155,351	\$73,591
45 to 54	1,458	3,435	\$257,774	\$464,123	\$318,329	1,232	2,660	\$105,956	\$107,450	\$87,216
55 to 64	1,475	2,508	\$366,873	\$370,678	\$251,307	1,229	2,092	\$132,810	\$143,914	\$117,098
65 and over	1,770	2,797	\$314,145	\$408,156	\$230,597	1,621	2,566	\$213,078	\$228,824	\$141,162

Note: The gross migration table does not include returns with adjusted gross deficit. Therefore, the state totals will be slightly different from the totals in the State-to-State Migration Flows table.

[1] Beginning in 2018, personal exemption deductions were suspended for the primary, secondary, and dependent taxpayers. However, the data used to create the "Number of individuals"—filing status, dependent status indicator, and identifying dependent information—are still available on the Form 1040. This field is based on these data.

SOURCE: U.S. IRS, Statistics of Income Division

## Individual Income Tax Returns: Non-Movers and In-State Movers by Adjusted Gross Income and Age of Taxpayer

Individual Income Tax Returns	Non-Migrant Returns [2]					Same State Returns [3]				
	Number of returns	Number of individuals [1]	Adjusted gross income (AGI, in thousands of \$)		Average AGI (\$)	Number of returns	Number of individuals [1]	Adjusted gross income (AGI, in thousands of \$)		Average AGI (\$)
			2019	2020	2020			2019	2020	2020
<b>Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)</b>	<b>208,293</b>	<b>455,118</b>	<b>\$19,700,321</b>	<b>\$20,298,524</b>	<b>\$97,452</b>	<b>4,848</b>	<b>9,244</b>	<b>\$259,351</b>	<b>\$283,457</b>	<b>\$58,469</b>
\$1 under \$10,000	12,434	18,196	\$188,977	\$65,363	\$5,257	542	768	\$8,320	\$2,748	\$5,070
\$10,000 under \$25,000	30,459	49,962	\$651,828	\$543,527	\$17,845	1,129	1,690	\$24,331	\$19,714	\$17,461
\$25,000 under \$50,000	49,833	90,541	\$1,862,332	\$1,833,181	\$36,786	1,279	2,162	\$43,891	\$46,765	\$36,564
\$50,000 under \$75,000	35,483	77,405	\$2,259,662	\$2,195,120	\$61,864	801	1,676	\$44,305	\$49,123	\$61,327
\$75,000 under \$100,000	26,954	69,197	\$2,295,150	\$2,345,275	\$87,010	427	1,078	\$34,806	\$37,344	\$87,457
\$100,000 under \$200,000	41,710	118,602	\$5,387,785	\$5,580,047	\$133,782	556	1,519	\$69,060	\$77,809	\$139,944
\$200,000 or more	11,420	31,215	\$7,054,587	\$7,736,011	\$677,409	114	351	\$34,638	\$49,954	\$438,193
<b>Age of Primary Tax Payer</b>	<b>208,293</b>	<b>455,118</b>	<b>\$19,700,322</b>	<b>\$20,298,525</b>	<b>\$97,452</b>	<b>4,848</b>	<b>9,244</b>	<b>\$259,351</b>	<b>\$283,457</b>	<b>\$58,469</b>
Under 26	17,398	24,665	\$461,295	\$564,065	\$32,421	1,152	1,533	\$30,901	\$37,772	\$32,788
26 to 34	35,401	82,257	\$1,890,085	\$2,103,306	\$59,414	1,413	2,842	\$62,322	\$70,487	\$49,885
35 to 44	37,391	120,428	\$3,279,680	\$3,568,948	\$95,449	794	2,314	\$49,258	\$52,467	\$66,079
45 to 54	30,671	76,988	\$3,205,418	\$3,373,897	\$110,003	485	957	\$39,235	\$45,548	\$93,913
55 to 64	36,946	67,351	\$4,351,387	\$4,407,306	\$119,290	458	773	\$34,678	\$36,031	\$78,670
65 and over	50,486	83,429	\$6,512,457	\$6,281,003	\$124,411	546	825	\$42,957	\$41,152	\$75,370

[1] Beginning in 2018, personal exemption deductions were suspended for the primary, secondary, and dependent taxpayers. However, the data used to create the “Number of individuals”—filing status, dependent status indicator, and identifying dependent information—are still available on the Form 1040. This field is based on these data.

[2] Non-migrant returns are individual returns where the state and county in year 1 matches the state and county in year 2. A non-migrant return does not necessarily mean that a taxpayer did not move. If a taxpayer moved, but stayed in the same county and state, they would be considered a non-migrant.

[3] Same state returns are those who migrated to another county within the same state.

SOURCE: U.S. IRS, Statistics of Income Division