

**Table 9.17-- CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUAL FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS: TAX YEARS 1997 AND 1998**

Subject	1997		1998	
	Number of returns	Amount (\$1,000)	Number of returns	Amount (\$1,000)
All returns and adj. gross income (AGI)	552,105	20,367,085	553,525	20,874,106
Salaries and wages	461,379	14,962,558	460,581	15,231,624
Taxable interest income	373,305	679,451	365,389	689,865
Tax-exempt interest income	24,163	153,376	23,724	155,211
Dividends	140,348	458,284	143,151	426,050
Business or prof. net income (less loss)	80,343	776,116	79,801	751,408
Net capital gain (less loss)	111,141	965,190	118,643	1,092,446
Taxable Indiv. Retire. Arrangements distrib.	30,492	249,513	43,575	367,930
Pensions and annuities	100,780	1,652,245	103,174	1,760,332
Social security benefits	42,946	349,033	45,464	360,446
Total statutory adjustments	86,868	203,523	94,298	208,173
Self-employment retirement plans	5,781	44,153	5,752	45,460
Itemized deductions	180,042	3,445,595	183,467	3,488,201
Medical & dental expenses	27,555	227,553	28,107	131,063
Taxes paid	179,215	960,175	182,618	1,012,024
Interest paid	143,794	1,748,061	144,506	1,797,355
Contributions	160,797	347,571	163,821	374,399
Taxable income	455,234	13,165,194	449,788	13,646,230
Total tax credits	41,798	26,984	140,752	110,260
Child care credit	27,093	9,984	27,335	9,873
Earned income credit	66,480	81,529	67,211	88,059
Excess earned income credit (refundable)	49,136	62,314	53,340	73,400
Income tax	453,380	2,575,869	432,777	2,580,336
Tax liability	468,570	2,709,226	450,491	2,720,096
Tax due at time of filing	147,158	291,116	126,337	280,209
Overpayments	271,127	453,414	390,882	555,649

Source: U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service, *SOI Bulletin, Spring 1999* and <<http://ftp.fedworld.gov/irs-soi/97in12hi.exe>> and *Spring 2000* and <<http://ftp.fedworld.gov/irs-soi/98in12hi.xls>>.