



Fewer Americans Expect Tax Refund

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

For Immediate Release: Monday, April 13, 2015

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This Marist Poll Reports:

With the deadline looming for Americans to file their tax returns, fewer residents who file taxes think they will get a refund compared with 2014. More than six in ten of those who wait until April 15th to file do not expect a refund.

“Late filers are less motivated,” says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. “Most Americans who wait until the last minute to file their taxes are not expecting good news.”

Poll points:

- 54% of Americans who are filing taxes this year **expect a refund**, down from 61% who anticipated one last time.
- 63% of those who wait until April 15th to submit their taxes do not expect a refund. 32% do. The opposite is true among those who have already filed. 60% of Americans who have filed expect to get money back. 34% do not.
- Among Americans who expect a tax refund, 47% say they will **use their refund** to pay bills, and 38% report they will put the money into their savings. Only 15% plan to spend it.
- Men, 18%, are more likely than women, 13%, to spend their tax refund. Women, 52%, are more likely than men, 42%, to say they will pay their bills.
- Age differences exist. Residents 60 and older, 28%, are more likely to spend their refund than their younger counterparts.
- While 22% of Americans who file taxes **wait until April 15th** to do so, 78% file earlier. This is little changed from last year.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: Marist Poll of 1,169 National Adults

This survey of 1,169 adults was funded and conducted by The Marist Poll February 25th through March 1st, 2015. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed in English by telephone using live interviewers. Landline telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. Respondents in the household were selected by asking for the youngest male. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers from Survey Sampling International. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2010 Census results for age, gender, income, race, and region. Results are statistically significant within ± 2.9 percentage points. There are 1,086 adults who are filing taxes this year and 582 adults who expect a refund. Results for these subsets are statistically significant within ± 3.0 percentage points and ± 4.1 percentage points, respectively. The error margin was not adjusted for sample weights and increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample

		National Adults	National Registered Voters
		Col %	Col %
National Adults		100%	
National Registered Voters		79%	100%
Party Identification	Democrat	n/a	34%
	Republican	n/a	29%
	Independent	n/a	36%
	Other	n/a	1%
Political Ideology	Very liberal	n/a	6%
	Liberal	n/a	20%
	Moderate	n/a	34%
	Conservative	n/a	30%
	Very conservative	n/a	10%
Gender	Men	49%	48%
	Women	51%	52%
Age	Under 45	45%	37%
	45 or older	55%	63%
Age	18 to 29	24%	18%
	30 to 44	21%	20%
	45 to 59	28%	31%
	60 or older	27%	32%
Race	White	67%	71%
	African American	11%	11%
	Latino	14%	12%
	Other	7%	6%
Region	Northeast	18%	18%
	Midwest	22%	22%
	South	37%	37%
	West	23%	23%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	51%	49%
	\$50,000 or more	49%	51%
Education	Not college graduate	62%	59%
	College graduate	38%	41%
Marital Status	Married	49%	53%
	Not married	51%	47%
Parents with Children under 18		36%	35%
No Children under 18 in Household		64%	65%
Interview Type	Landline	52%	58%
	Cell phone	48%	42%

Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted February 25th through March 1st, 2015, n=1169 MOE +/- 2.9 percentage points. National Registered Voters: n=920 MOE +/- 3.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults Filing Taxes	
		Do you wait until April 15th to file your taxes?	
		Yes	No
		Row %	Row %
National Adults Filing Taxes		22%	78%
National Registered Voters Filing Taxes		21%	79%
Party Identification^	Democrat	20%	80%
	Republican	23%	77%
	Independent	22%	78%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	19%	81%
	Moderate	20%	80%
	Conservative-Very conservative	24%	76%
Gender	Men	24%	76%
	Women	20%	80%
Age	18 to 29	19%	81%
	30 to 44	16%	84%
	45 to 59	25%	75%
	60 or older	26%	74%
Age	Under 45	17%	83%
	45 or older	25%	75%
Race	White	23%	77%
	African American	19%	81%
	Latino	22%	78%
Region	Northeast	21%	79%
	Midwest	21%	79%
	South	21%	79%
	West	23%	77%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	18%	82%
	\$50,000 or more	24%	76%
Marital Status	Married	26%	74%
	Not married	18%	82%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	22%	78%
	No children in household	22%	78%
Interview Type	Landline	24%	76%
	Cell phone	19%	81%

Marist Poll National Adults Filing Taxes. Interviews conducted February 25th and March 1st, 2015, n=1086 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters Filing Taxes: n=869 MOE +/- 3.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults Filing Taxes		
		Do you expect to get a refund this year, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults Filing Taxes		54%	40%	6%
Wait Until April 15th to File Taxes	Yes	32%	63%	5%
	No	60%	34%	6%
National Registered Voters Filing Taxes		52%	42%	6%
Party Identification [^]	Democrat	53%	43%	4%
	Republican	51%	42%	7%
	Independent	54%	40%	7%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	50%	44%	6%
	Moderate	57%	39%	3%
	Conservative-Very conservative	48%	43%	9%
Gender	Men	56%	37%	7%
	Women	52%	43%	6%
Age	18 to 29	69%	26%	5%
	30 to 44	69%	25%	5%
	45 to 59	49%	44%	6%
	60 or older	35%	59%	7%
Age	Under 45	69%	26%	5%
	45 or older	42%	51%	6%
Race	White	50%	43%	7%
	African American	59%	39%	2%
	Latino	61%	33%	6%
Region	Northeast	57%	38%	5%
	Midwest	55%	37%	8%
	South	50%	43%	7%
	West	55%	41%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	56%	38%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	53%	42%	5%
Marital Status	Married	50%	43%	7%
	Not married	58%	37%	5%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	64%	29%	7%
	No children in household	47%	47%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	48%	45%	7%
	Cell phone	60%	34%	5%

Marist Poll National Adults Filing Taxes. Interviews conducted February 25th and March 1st, 2015, n=1086 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points.

[^]National Registered Voters Filing Taxes: n=869 MOE +/- 3.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults Expecting a Tax Refund		
		What will you mostly do with your refund? Will you:		
		Spend it	Pay bills with it	Save it
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults Expecting a Tax Refund		15%	47%	38%
National Registered Voters Expecting a Tax Refund		14%	47%	38%
Party Identification [^]	Democrat	15%	49%	36%
	Republican	15%	45%	40%
	Independent	13%	46%	42%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	17%	38%	45%
	Moderate	13%	53%	35%
	Conservative-Very conservative	14%	48%	38%
Gender	Men	18%	42%	40%
	Women	13%	52%	36%
Age	18 to 29	12%	47%	41%
	30 to 44	13%	50%	37%
	45 to 59	15%	52%	33%
	60 or older	28%	32%	40%
Age	Under 45	13%	48%	39%
	45 or older	20%	44%	36%
Race	White	15%	47%	38%
	Non-white	16%	45%	39%
Region	Northeast	12%	44%	44%
	Midwest	18%	48%	34%
	South	17%	48%	35%
	West	14%	45%	41%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	16%	57%	27%
	\$50,000 or more	16%	38%	46%
Marital Status	Married	20%	45%	35%
	Not married	12%	48%	40%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	15%	49%	36%
	No children in household	15%	45%	39%
Interview Type	Landline	17%	47%	36%
	Cell phone	15%	46%	39%

Marist Poll National Adults Expecting a Tax Refund. Interviews conducted February 25th and March 1st, 2015, n=582 MOE +/- 4.1 percentage points.

[^]National Registered Voters Expecting a Tax Refund: n=450 MOE +/- 4.6 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.