



For Immediate Release
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More than One Million Taxpayers have E-Filed in the First 30 Days of Tax Season

SPRINGFIELD – Nearly 1.2 million taxpayers chose to get fast refunds and eliminate waste by filing their Illinois tax returns electronically during the first month of the filing season, a 13 percent increase over the same period last year.

Filing electronically dramatically reduces the amount of paper used during tax season, and the energy used to print, mail, and handle all of the paper. In terms of tax booklets alone, the electronic filing allowed the department to save printing and mailing of 55 million sheets of paper for 2009.

Taxpayers can file electronically in one of three ways:

- 1) WebFile - Taxpayers can file for free at tax.illinois.gov
- 2) Tax professionals – Taxpayers can tell their tax preparer to file their return electronically
- 3) Tax preparation packages – Taxpayers who purchase a tax preparation package can file it online instead of printing and mailing a return

All three methods will result in faster refunds and environmental benefits.

“I am pleased Illinoisans are finding our electronic services helpful,” said Brian Hamer, Director, Department of Revenue. “In times like these when families are struggling, we need to do everything we can to get tax refunds to taxpayers quickly and easily. By electronically filing and direct depositing their refund, taxpayers will see their Illinois refund in about a week and their federal refund in about ten days.”

In 2008 over 3.1 million or 52% of all IL-1040's were received through one of our electronic filing methods. Since the average tax return for individuals is three pages long, the department did not have to process and store approximately ten million pieces of paper. If the 3.1 million IL-1040 returns and attachments were laid end to end, they would start out in Springfield, Illinois and end up just outside of San Diego, California.

IDOR continues to encourage taxpayers to file electronically on its website tax.illinois.gov or ask about E-Filing when they visit their tax preparer. Electronic filing is fast, easy and, by reducing the use of paper, is environmentally friendly.