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### **Q:** Did the IRS increase audits and enforcement in 2010?

**A:** Yes. During fiscal year 2010, the IRS put its budget to good use. Almost 600 additional revenue officers were hired to collect tax, obtain unfiled returns, and pursue individual assessments for unpaid employment tax. More than 900 revenue agents were hired to audit returns. And more than 200 special agents were hired to investigate potential criminal tax and financial related offenses.

With increased resources came increased audits and enforcement. The IRS audited almost 60,000 business returns, issued 3.6 million levies, filed more than a million Notices of Federal Tax Lien and initiated more than 600 asset seizures. For the more egregious cases, the IRS initiated more than 4,700 criminal investigations and for those taxpayers charged, enjoyed a better than 90% conviction rate with an average sentence of 27 months.

As we approach the 2011 filing season, it is important to keep these statistics in mind. If a taxpayer is contacted by the IRS, they should immediately seek the advice of a competent tax professional.



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