2008 NASE Tax Survey Questions - Wyden

1. Please indicate if you have utilized	1. Please indicate if you have utilized any of these IRS taxpayer advice and assistance resources? Check all that apply.		
		Response Percent	Response Count
Toll Free Telephone Assistance services		12.2%	160
Taxpayer Assistance Centers		3.9%	51
Free IRS Software (i.e. free-file software, retirement resources, etc.)		5.2%	68
Online resource information		28.7%	376
No, I have not used any of the IRS taxpayer advice or assistance resources.		61.2%	801
Do No Know		2.1%	28
Other (please specify)		4.5%	59
	answere	ed question	1309
	skippe	ed question	0

2. How consistent are the IRS answer	2. How consistent are the IRS answers to the tax questions you ask?			
		Response Percent	Response Count	
Very Consistent		16.9%	78	
Somewhat Consistent		36.9%	170	
Little Consistency		9.8%	45	
No Consistency		2.8%	13	
No Opinion		33.6%	155	
	answere	ed question	461	
	skipp	ed question	848	

3. If you got conflicting answers, have these been from the same IRS office?				
			Response Percent	Response Count
Yes			28.6%	71
No			71.4%	177
answered question		248		
skipped question		1061		

4. If you have received conflicting answers, please give examples:	
	Response Count
	77
answered question	77
skipped question	1232

5. Have you ever sought assistance from IRS staff and they did not have the knowledge to accurately answer your question?				
		Response Percent	Response Count	
Yes		32.1%	130	
No		67.9%	275	
	answer	ed question	405	
	skipp	ed question	904	

6. In your opinion, which of the followi	ng do you think attributed to the inability of IRS staff to answer your questions? Check all that apply.		
		Response Percent	Response Count
Industry specific tax question unique to your business		36.1%	73
Regional differences in your business needs		14.4%	29
Limited or inadequate training of your IRS staff contacts		41.1%	83
Rapid tax law changes		34.2%	69
Other (please specify)		20.8%	42
	answere	ed question	202
	skippe	ed question	1107

7. Give an example of a question that IRS staff has not been able to answer?	
	Response Count
	77
answered question	77
skipped question	1232

8. Please indicate how well the IRS meets your information needs regarding assistance they offer, tax code changes, and instructional information on preparing taxes?				
		Response Percent	Response Count	
Exceeded		0.7%	7	
Met		20.5%	221	
Nearly Met		12.5%	134	
Missed		20.8%	224	
No Opinion		45.5%	490	
	answered question		1076	
	skippe	ed question	233	

9. What does the IRS do well? Check	all that apply.		
		Response Percent	Response Count
Process paperwork		50.9%	430
Handle audits		12.2%	103
Prepare understandable instructions for tax forms		16.1%	136
Explain tax code changes		6.3%	53
Respond to taxpayer questions		19.8%	167
Other (please specify)		26.4%	223
	answere	ed question	844
	skippe	ed question	465

10. What does it do poorly? Check all	that apply.		
		Response Percent	Response Count
Process paperwork		23.6%	208
Handle audits		17.2%	152
Prepare understandable instructions for tax forms		63.5%	561
Explain tax code changes		59.8%	528
Respond to taxpayer questions		35.4%	313
Other (please specify)		13.9%	123
	answere	ed question	883
	skipp	ed question	426

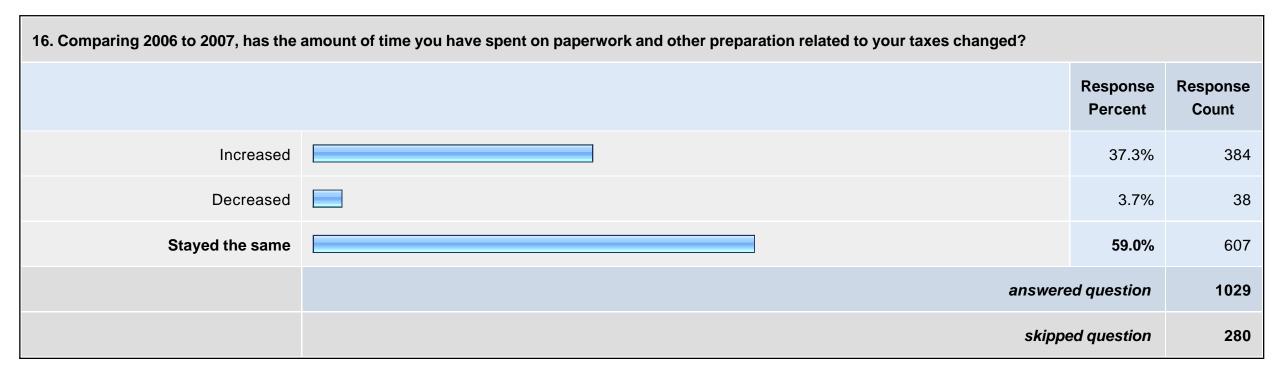
11. How well does the IRS deal with the tax issues that most matter to you?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Very Well		2.0%	21
Good		15.0%	155
Fair		28.2%	292
Poorly		29.7%	307
No Opinion		25.1%	260
	answere	ed question	1035
	skippe	ed question	274

12. How extensive is your paperwork	burden in preparation for your taxes?		
		Response Percent	Response Count
Extremely burdensome		30.2%	316
Somewhat burdensome		50.1%	524
Not very burdensome		14.4%	151
No burden at all		2.2%	23
No opinion		3.0%	31
	answer	ed question	1045
	skipp	ed question	264

13. How often do tax code changes affect your efforts to file your tax returns accurately and timely?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Very often		14.9%	155
Sometimes		48.9%	507
Not at all		19.7%	204
No opinion		16.5%	171
	answere	ed question	1037
	skippe	ed question	272

14. How often must you seek the advice of an accountant or other tax professional in order to prepare to file your taxes?				
		Response Percent	Response Count	
Very often		65.0%	679	
Sometimes		24.9%	260	
Not at all		10.1%	105	
	answere	ed question	1044	
skipped question		265		

15. In your opinion, what percent of y	our time over the course of a year is spent on paperwork and other preparation related to your taxes?		
		Response Percent	Response Count
50% or more		4.7%	49
40%		4.8%	50
30%		13.7%	142
20%		15.7%	163
15%		13.5%	140
10%		18.5%	192
5%		26.2%	271
No time		2.8%	29
	answere	ed question	1036
	skippe	ed question	273



17. Approximately how much money have you spent in a year towards compliance and preparation of your taxes?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
\$100 dollars or less		12.5%	130
\$101- \$249 dollars		15.6%	162
\$250- \$499 dollars		21.3%	221
\$500- \$999 dollars		20.4%	211
\$1,000- \$1,999 dollars		14.4%	149
\$2,000- \$2,999 dollars		5.5%	57
\$3,000- \$4,999 dollars		4.1%	42
Over \$5,000 dollars		2.6%	27
Over \$10,000 dollars		1.4%	15
Other (please specify)		2.1%	22
	answered question		1036
	skipped question		273

18. Comparing 2006 to 2007, has the amount of money you have spent towards compliance and preparation of your taxes changed?			
	Respons Percent	_	
Increased	49.79	508	
Decreased	1.89	5 18	
Stayed the same	48.59	496	
	answered question		
	skipped question		

19. How serious is the complexity of the tax code as it relates to your ability to prepare your taxes?				
		Response Percent	Response Count	
Very serious		38.5%	390	
Somewhat serious		28.3%	287	
Slightly serious		16.0%	162	
No problem		7.6%	77	
No Opinion		9.6%	97	
	answer	ed question	1013	
	skipp	ed question	296	

20. Select which tax issue affects you	and you business the MOST. Choose only one.		
		Response Percent	Response Count
Depreciation		17.0%	170
Business Use of Automobiles		14.7%	147
Worker classification (independent contractor versus employee)		15.2%	152
Home office deduction		19.8%	198
Inventory accounting		3.9%	39
Differences between state and federal tax rules		13.4%	134
Pension rules		3.1%	31
Other (please specify)		12.8%	128
	answere	ed question	999
	skipp	ed question	310

21. Select which tax issue affects you	and you business the LEAST. Choose only one.		
		Response Percent	Response Count
Depreciation		8.3%	83
Business Use of Automobiles		6.5%	65
Worker classification (independent contractor versus employee)		12.6%	126
Home office deduction		8.8%	88
Inventory accounting		27.4%	273
Differences between state and federal tax rules		9.0%	90
Pension rules		25.2%	251
Other (please specify)		2.2%	22
	answere	ed question	998
	skipp	ed question	311

22. What would you suggest the IRS do differently to reduce your tax filing problems?		
	Response Count	
	545	
answered question	545	
skipped question	764	

23. How is your business organized?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Sole proprietorship		57.1%	573
Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)		1.6%	16
Limited Liability Company (LLC)		14.1%	141
Corporation (Chapter C)		4.5%	45
Corporation (Chapter S)		19.0%	191
Other (please specify)		3.7%	37
	answere	ed question	1003
	skippe	ed question	306

24. How many employees, including yourself and any family members, does your business have?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
1 (self only)		49.3%	496
2		25.4%	256
3		7.4%	74
4		5.2%	52
5-9		7.7%	77
Over 10		5.1%	51
	answere	ed question	1006
	skippe	ed question	303

25. Please indicate the highest level of education you have received:			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No formal education		0.8%	8
Trade/Vocational School		6.3%	63
High School / GED		21.1%	212
Associates (2-year) Degree		16.6%	167
Bachelor of Arts (4-year) Degree		35.1%	353
Masters		15.6%	157
Doctorate		4.6%	46
	answere	ed question	1006
	skippe	ed question	303

26. What is your household income?				
		Response Percent	Response Count	
Less than \$14,999		2.7%	26	
\$15,000-\$24,999		4.2%	40	
\$25,000-\$34,999		9.6%	91	
\$35,000-\$49,999		15.7%	149	
\$50,000 - \$74,999		21.9%	208	
\$75,000 - \$99,999		14.9%	142	
\$100,000 - \$124,999		12.0%	114	
\$125,000 - \$149,999		5.7%	54	
\$150,000 - \$174,999		3.2%	30	
\$175,000 - \$199,999		2.7%	26	
\$200,00 - \$249,999		3.0%	29	
Over \$250,000		4.4%	42	
	answere	ed question	951	
	skipped question		358	

27. Gender:					
	Resp	onse ent	Response Count		
Female	3	9.4%	392		
Male		0.6%	604		
	answered ques	nswered question			
	skipped ques	skipped question			

