

Figure 1: Total Dollars Lost to Tax Preparation Fees, Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs) and Refund Anticipation Checks (RACs) in Mississippi Cities with the Highest Number of Returns Filed, Tax Year 2005

City	Number of Tax Returns	Number of EITC Tax Returns	% of EITC Returns Using Paid Preparers	% of EITC Returns That Received a RAL*	Dollars Lost to Tax Preparation, RALs and RACs**
Jackson	73,587	31,541	67.8%	43.0%	\$ 4,749,810
Gulfport	30,736	9,349	75.8%	36.8%	\$ 1,468,410
Hattiesburg	29,958	8,851	77.3%	41.5%	\$ 1,446,840
Brandon	27,061	3,805	69.0%	32.1%	\$ 533,040
Meridian	25,075	8,228	83.3%	47.9%	\$ 1,469,280
Biloxi	21,879	4,893	72.7%	29.8%	\$ 707,940
Vicksburg	20,890	7,055	81.1%	42.0%	\$ 1,189,200
Columbus	20,092	6,463	61.2%	46.0%	\$ 920,880
Tupelo	18,701	5,149	79.2%	47.1%	\$ 870,360
Olive Branch	17,678	2,462	71.0%	35.2%	\$ 358,950
Mississippi Totals	1,130,867	370,490	75.7%	42.6%	\$ 59,772,330
U.S. TOTALS	130,354,745	22,053,667	70.9%	26.8	\$ 3,029,007,780

SOURCE: Internal Revenue Service SPEC Information Database, Tax Year 2005 (December 2007). CDF calculations.

Notes: * Of those who receive a refund. ** Calculated based on a \$150 average tax preparation fee, a \$100 average RAL fee and a \$30 average RAC fee.