

ACROSS THE NATION

Corporations escape taxes

Items compiled from Tribune news services

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Most American and foreign corporations operating in the United States paid no income tax between 1996 and 2000, government auditors said Friday.

The General Accounting Office, using Internal Revenue Service data, found that 71 percent of foreign corporations paid no federal income tax. During the same time, 61 percent of U.S. corporations paid no income tax.

Among the largest corporations, American businesses were more likely to avoid taxation than foreign businesses.

GAO investigators, who work for Congress, also looked at companies that paid less than 5 percent of their total income in taxes. They conducted their study at the request of two Democratic senators.

In 2000, the most recent year for which data was available, an estimated 94 percent of U.S. corporations and 89 percent of foreign corporations paid less than 5 percent of their total incomes in taxes.

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