

# New York City's swankiest neighborhoods footing much of the country's tax bill

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Tuesday, November 22, 2011

Do you blame rich New Yorkers for the country's ills? Well, maybe you should thank them instead.

Nine out of the ten most heavily-taxed neighborhoods in the country are in the city's metro area, according to IRS research compiled by Bloomberg News.

The nine neighborhoods, which range from Manhattan to Fairfield County, Connecticut, accounted for 0.2% of all federal income-tax filers in 2008, the latest year for which data are available.

Residents of these swanky areas paid 1.6% of all individual income taxes, eight times their proportionate share of the filing population.

In all, they shelled out a whopping \$16.5 billion in taxes — enough to buy a controlling interest in General Motors, the Bloomberg report said.

The large amount in taxes paid by well-heeled locals flies in the face of the anti-Wall Street protesters who claim to represent “99%” of Americans and say the rich should be taxed more, said Mitchell Moss, an urban policy professor at New York University's Wagner School.

“We're subsidizing the slackers in the rest of the country,” Moss said.

The gilded Upper East Side zip code of 10021 has the largest amount of individual tax collections. The average tax bill there is \$95,489.

The zip code extends from the East River into Central Park, between 69th and 77th Streets. Its residents include such business titans as Stephen Schwarzman, chairman of Blackstone Group; David Koch, co-owner of Koch Industries; and John Thain, chairman of CIT Group.

More than 93% of taxes in the zip code came from households with adjusted gross income greater than \$200,000, the IRS records show.