

# Accountants



## WHAT THEY DO

Analyzes financial information and prepares financial reports to determine or maintain record of assets, liabilities, profit and loss, tax liability, or other financial activities within an organization. Belongs to the Business, Management and Administration cluster and Business Information Technology pathway.

## IS THIS FOR YOU?

**Work Interests** are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model) by people who tend to succeed in this career:

- **Conventional** – You are an "organizer". Keeping things neat and organized is important to you. You like working with charts and reports, and work well with power and authority.
- **Enterprising** – You are a "persuader". You like to sell things or ideas. Prestige and power are important to you. You like to use your language skills to convince other people of your ideas.

**Work Values** are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

- **Achievement** – It's very important to you that your work allows you to use your best abilities. You want to see the results of your work and get a feeling of accomplishment.
- **Working Conditions** – It's very important to you that your work satisfies your needs in areas like salary, job security and your working style preferences, such as working alone, staying busy all the time or having variety in your work tasks.

**Aptitudes** reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in the career:

- **General Learning Ability**
- **Verbal Aptitude**
- **Numerical Aptitude**
- **Clerical Perception**

## SKILLS YOU NEED

### Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Writing
- Speaking
- Mathematics
- Critical Thinking
- Active Learning
- Monitoring

### Transferable Skills (applicable in other careers):

#### High level

- Examining and evaluating financial records
- Explaining banking, loan, and financial services
- Giving advice on financial matters
- Preparing and organizing numerical records
- Preparing financial reports

#### Medium level

- Planning financial reports

### Workplace Skills:

#### High level

- Judgment and Decision Making
- Time Management

#### Medium level

- Complex Problem Solving
- Coordination
- Management of Financial Resources
- Operations Analysis
- Social Perceptiveness
- Systems Analysis
- Systems Evaluation

Additional skills for this occupation may be found at <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/pubs/careers/cps>.

Source: <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

## ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2010 Estimated Employment	2020 Projected Employment	2010-20 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total All Occupations	1,717,020	1,948,700	231,680	1.3	64,525
Business & Financial Operations Occupations	69,835	83,665	13,830	2.0	2,850
Accountants & Auditors	13,415	15,825	2,410	1.8	530

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/>

## 2012 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Average Wage	Average Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Experienced Wage	Experienced Salary
Total All Occupations	18.90	39,295	9.30	19,341	23.69	49,272
Business & Financial Operations Occupations	27.75	57,718	17.00	35,365	33.12	68,893
Accountants & Auditors	29.93	62,241	19.25	40,027	35.27	73,349

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/>

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education	Work Experience	Job Training
Bachelor's Degree	None	None

Most accountant positions require at least a bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. Some employers prefer applicants with a master's degree in accounting or with a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting. Accountants are required to be licensed in each state as Certified Public Accountants (CPA). The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) provides information regarding state licensing requirements. Iowa's Accountancy Examining Board at [http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom\\_state\\_data/iowa\\_licensed\\_occupations/13-2011.htm](http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom_state_data/iowa_licensed_occupations/13-2011.htm) provides additional information.

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf> and <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

## NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	6
Locating Information	5
Reading for Information	5

This ACT-developed credential demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6).

Source: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/analysis/occup.html>

## PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

### (Where are Accountants Employed?)

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services  
 Insurance Carriers  
 Animal Production  
 Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional  
 Self Employed  
 Crop Production  
 Credit Intermediation and Related  
 Administrative and Support  
 Management of Companies  
 Educational Services  
 State Government  
 Local Government  
 Machinery Manufacturing  
 Merchant Wholesalers

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf>

## ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

This publication was produced by the Labor Market and Workforce Information Division of Iowa Workforce Development. Revisions and/or corrections made when necessary. Inquiries may be directed to Brent Paulson at 515.281.3439 or Brent.Paulson@iwd.iowa.gov. Visit <http://iwin.iowaworkforce.org/> to obtain the latest workforce data and trends including this document under the **Publications** tab. Published 10/2013.