

Accountants and Auditors

SOC: 13-2011 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$81,680

Median Salary

1,579,800

Employment

+5.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Medium Risk - 38.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

■■ Work-Life Balance

6.1/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	3.8/10	Investigative	7.2/10
Artistic	4.0/10	Social	6.6/10
Enterprising	8.2/10	Conventional	8.8/10

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical and critical-thinking skills, Communication skills, Detail oriented, Math skills, Organizational skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Accountants and Auditors are financial professionals who ensure **financial records are accurate, compliant, and transparent**. They play a critical role in helping individuals, businesses, and organizations track financial performance, meet regulatory requirements, and make informed decisions. While accountants focus on preparing and analyzing financial information, auditors examine records and controls to verify accuracy and prevent errors or fraud.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy working with numbers, rules, and structured systems, and who value precision, accountability, and ethical responsibility.

What Do Accountants and Auditors Do?

Accountants and auditors manage, review, and interpret financial data to support decision-making and compliance. Their responsibilities vary by role but consistently emphasize accuracy and integrity.

Common responsibilities include:

- Preparing and maintaining financial statements and records
- Examining accounts for accuracy and compliance with laws and standards
- Ensuring taxes are calculated and filed correctly
- Evaluating internal controls and financial procedures
- Identifying inefficiencies, errors, or potential fraud
- Advising management on financial practices and improvements
- Communicating financial findings to stakeholders

Types of Accountants and Auditors

This profession includes several areas of specialization:

- Public Accountants: Provide services such as auditing, tax preparation, and consulting to clients.
- Management or Corporate Accountants: Handle budgeting, cost analysis, and financial planning within organizations.
- Government Accountants: Manage and audit public funds and government programs.
- Internal Auditors: Review organizational controls and risk management processes.
- External Auditors: Examine financial statements for independent verification.
- Forensic Accountants: Investigate financial discrepancies and fraud.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Accountants and auditors combine technical financial expertise with analytical judgment.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

Most accountants and auditors enter the field through formal education and licensure:

- Bachelor's Degree: Typically in accounting, finance, or business administration
- Professional Certifications: Credentials such as CPA, CIA, or CISA (often required or preferred)
- Licensure Requirements: Vary by state and role, especially for CPAs
- Entry-Level Accounting Roles: Building experience in bookkeeping, analysis, or auditing
- Continuing Professional Education: Required to maintain certifications and licenses

Where Do Accountants and Auditors Work?

Accountants and auditors are employed across virtually every sector:

- Public Accounting Firms

- Corporations and Private Businesses
- Government Agencies
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Healthcare Systems and Educational Institutions
- Financial Services and Consulting Firms

Many roles offer structured schedules, with peak workloads during reporting or tax seasons.

How Much Do Accountants and Auditors Earn?

Earnings vary based on experience, certification, and employer:

- Entry-Level Accountants: Typically earn professional starting salaries
- Certified or Experienced Professionals: Often earn higher pay with credentials and specialization
- Senior Accountants and Managers: May earn more with leadership responsibilities

Compensation varies by industry, location, and certification level.

Is This Career Difficult?

Accounting and auditing are intellectually demanding and detail-oriented. Professionals must adhere to strict standards, manage deadlines, and maintain accuracy across complex financial data. The challenge lies in balancing compliance, analysis, and client or organizational expectations.

Who Should Consider Becoming an Accountant or Auditor?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy working with numbers and financial systems
- Are detail-oriented and methodical
- Value ethics and accountability
- Like structured work with clear standards
- Want a career with broad applicability and stability

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in accounting, math, and economics
- Learn spreadsheet and accounting software skills
- Practice organizing and analyzing financial information
- Develop strong writing and communication abilities
- Explore internships or entry-level finance roles

Accountants and auditors provide the financial clarity and trust that allow organizations and economies to function effectively and responsibly.