

Accounting is the study of how businesses track their income and assets over time. **Public Accountants** engage in a wide variety of activities including: preparing financial statements and recording business transactions, computing costs and efficiency gains from new technologies, participating in strategies for mergers and acquisitions, quality management, developing and using information systems to track financial performance, tax strategy, and health care benefits management.

Accountants perform a broad range of accounting, auditing, tax, and consulting activities for their clients, who may be corporations, governments, nonprofit organizations, or individuals. **Management Accountants**—also called **Industrial, Corporate, or Private Accountants** record and analyze the financial information of the companies for which they work. **Government Accountants** and auditors maintain and examine the records of government agencies and audit private businesses and individuals whose activities are subject to government regulations or taxation. **Internal Auditors** verify the accuracy of their organization's records and check for mismanagement, waste, or fraud.

An **Associate's degree** can facilitate entry into the accounting field. These positions include: **Bookkeeping Clerks** that handle all financial transactions and record keeping. They record all transactions, post debits and credits, produce financial statements, and prepare reports and summaries for supervisors and managers. Entry-level **Accounting Clerks** post details of transactions, total accounts, and compute interest charges. They also may monitor loans and accounts, to ensure that payments are up to date. **Auditing Clerks** verify records of transactions posted by other workers. They check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. They also correct or note errors for accountants or other workers to adjust.

Salary Information:

- Accounting, Associate in Applied Science
\$25,000 Median Salary (Follow-up Study, Monroe Community College Graduates, 2006)
- Bookkeeping, Accounting and Auditing Clerk
\$22,400 Entry Level Salary (Finger Lakes Region, NYS Department of Labor, 2007)
- Accountant and Auditor, Bachelor's Level Degree
\$50,770 Median Salary (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2007)
[*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location.]

Additional Information:

- Accounting Jobs & Careers: accountingaide.com/jobs.htm
- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants: www.aicpa.org
- Start Here Go Places: www.startheregoplaces.com

