

# SKILLS PROFILE // ACCOUNTANT

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Accountants are practitioners of accountancy or accounting, which is the measurement, disclosure or provision of assurance about financial information. They are responsible for producing accurate financial reports which give a true and fair view of a company's standing.

A key role is the distillation and communication of financial information to non-financial people in a company.

### Role Responsibilities:

- International Reporting
- Consolidations
- Budgets/Forecasts
- Balance Scorecards KPIs – Reviewing Monthly with Managers
- Activity Based Costings
- Manufacturing Standard Costings
- Business Cases

Source: OCG Consulting



## WHO HIRES?

Most accountants work for accounting firms, which can range in size from small firms employing just a few people, to large, nationwide firms employing hundreds of people.

Diverse range of employing industries that include:

- Government
- Law
- Fashion
- Entertainment
- Advertising

Source: Careers New Zealand and MBIE

## HIRING CRITERIA

To become a professional accountant you need to join a professional accounting body.

Each professional body has different requirements that must be met before full membership of the body can be obtained. The requirements cover three areas:

- Academic or university study (both length of study and papers required to be taken);
- Professional study; and
- Professional experience.

To meet the academic requirements of these professional bodies, students should complete at least a 3-year BCA or BCom degree with an Accounting and Commercial Law major.

Some of the more largely recognised Accounting bodies are: NZICA, CPA, CIMA and ACCA.

Source: Careers New Zealand and OCG Consulting



## EMPLOYMENT BY REGION

Regions ranked in order of Accountant job opportunities.

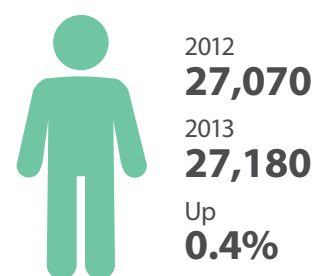
1. Auckland
2. Canterbury
3. Wellington

Careers New Zealand



## INDUSTRY SECTOR FOOTPRINT

Number of people doing this job:



Source: MBIE (NZ)

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## IMPORTANT SKILLS FOR ROLE

Accountants need to have:

- Knowledge of finance, economics and marketing
- Knowledge of business management practices, including business ethics
- Accounting and maths skills.

**Source: Careers New Zealand and OCG Consulting**

## AVERAGE SALARY RANGES FOR ACCOUNTING ROLES

ROLE	LOWER	MID	UPPER
Financial Accounting & Reporting	\$75,000	\$82,674	\$90,348
Management Accounting & Budgeting	\$84,706	\$92,426	\$100,146
Management	\$101,538	\$110,961	\$120,384
Financial Managers & Controllers	\$110,870	\$121,413	\$131,956

## REGIONAL SALARY COMPARISON FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING & REPORTING PROFESSIONALS

REGION	LOWER	MID	UPPER
Wellington	\$81,871	\$89,806	\$97,741
Auckland	\$74,405	\$81,726	\$89,047
Canterbury	\$73,158	\$81,184	\$89,210

**Source: Seek NZ**

## COMPATIBLE ROLES

Auditors, Financial Analysts, Personal Financial Advisors, Risk Management Specialists, Bookkeeping, Accounting and Auditing Clerks.

**Source: O\*NET**

## MARKET CONDITIONS

Demand for accountants is expected to keep rising as:

- A range of industries, such as manufacturing, have begun to fill accountant positions that were left vacant during the 2008-2009 economic recession.
- Many accountants leave New Zealand to work overseas, which creates vacancies.

Senior accountant appears on Immigration New Zealand's immediate skill shortage list.

**Source: MBIE NZ**



## EMPLOYMENT EXPECTATIONS

Chances of getting a job as an accountant are good due to strong demand for accounting services.

Your chances of getting work as an accountant are best if you are a senior financial or management accountant.

### Growth expectations:

- 2011-2016- An increase of 3.5% per year.
- 2016-2021- An increase of 3% per year.

**Source: MBIE NZ**

Potential income



Training fees



Employment prospects



**Source: MBIE (NZ)**

## QUICK FACT

3-7 years training.

**Source: Careers New Zealand and OCG Consulting**

