Accounting - Private/Corporate

Private accountants are individuals who work in the accounting department of a company as staff accountants, cost accountants, or internal auditors. Private accountants conduct the accounting services for an entire company unlike public accountants who provide services for individual clients.

**Staff accountants** engage in setting up systems and recording business transactions that are combined into financial statements. They also set budgets, manage assets, track payroll, make accounts payable and receivable, and manage other financial matters.

**Internal auditors** are responsible for providing objective assurance and consulting activity that adds value and improves an organization's operations. Monitoring, assessing, and analyzing organizational risk and controls by reviewing and confirming information so that it is in compliance with policies, procedures, and laws.

**Cost accountants** collect, analyze, summarize and evaluate various alternative courses of action. Their goal is to advise management on the most appropriate course of action based on cost efficiency and capability. Cost accountants provide the detailed cost information that management needs to solve problems, control current operations, and plan for the future.

Source: Wiki

### For More Information

**Job & Internship Search Sites:**
- Calcpa.org
- Indeed.com
- LinkedIn.com
- Glassdoor.com
- Mastersinaccounting.info
- Vault.com - accessible through your Student Portal

**Industry Research & Tools:**
- Dca.ca.gov/cba
- Aicpa.org
- Fasab.org
- Sec.gov
- Irs.gov
- Vault.com - accessible through your Student Portal

### Average Salaries & Trajectory*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry-Level</th>
<th>Mid-Level</th>
<th>Executive-Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$52,000 annually</td>
<td>$69,000 annually</td>
<td>$100,000 annually</td>
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</table>

**Job Titles:**
- Staff Accountant
- Internal Auditor
- Cost Accountant
- Bookkeeper
- Tax Accountant
- Senior Accountant
- Senior Internal Auditor
- Senior Cost Accountant
- Accounting Manager
- Senior Tax Accountant
- Accounting/Tax Director
- Senior Accounting/ Tax Manager
- Financial Controller

*Note: Salaries are highly dependent on location, company type, and candidate experience/education. For the purposes of this guide we are providing average starting salaries as determined by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), overall average salaries as determined by the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), as well as supplemental information found from various industry-specific sources.

Don’t forget to check out the list of career path advisors

[business.fullerton.edu/Programs/Undergraduate/#career-path-advisors](business.fullerton.edu/Programs/Undergraduate/#career-path-advisors)
Learn More With O*Net

Visit O*Net OnLine to explore the sample roles in accounting - private/corporate. Career exploration tools are open to the public free of cost and are continuously updated according to a database of information collected from surveyed workers from each occupation. Learn about the knowledge, skills, tasks, and activities required for each occupation, as well as median wages and employment trends reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other federal agencies.

01 Visit O*Net OnLine at www.onetonline.org
02 Refer to the sample job titles listed in the “O*Net Keywords” section below.
03 Enter phrase into O*Net’s "Occupation Search" to explore sample roles

O*Net Keywords:
- Auditing
- Management Accounting
- Accounting
- Tax Accounting

Roles:
- Staff Accountant
- Internal Auditor
- Cost Accountant
- Tax Accountant

Technical Skills
- Strong knowledge of Excel
- Accounting Software (Intuit QuickBooks, Sage 50 Accounting, SAS Software)
- Strong quantitative analytic skills

Soft Skills
- Leadership
- Teamwork/collaboration
- Written and verbal communication
- People management
- Decision-making
- Problem Solving
- Interpersonal

Certifications
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
  - Bachelors degree, 24 units of accounting coursework and 24 units of business coursework are required to sit for the exam
  - 150 unit requirement for license
- Certified Management Accountant (CMA)
- Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)
- Microsoft Excel Certification

Professional Organizations
- Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)
- American Institute of CPA's (AICPA)
- National Society of Accountants

Campus Organizations
- Accounting Society
- Beta Alpha Psi
- ALPFA

Advanced Degrees:
- Master of Science in Accountancy
- Master of Business Administration in Accountancy
- Master of Science in Economics