

New and Emerging Roles of Accountants

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Abstract

An accountant performs financial functions related to the collection, accuracy, recording, analysis and presentation of a business, organization or company's financial operations. This study presents an accountant usually has a variety of administrative roles within a company's operations. In a smaller business, an accountant's role may consist of primarily financial data collection, entry and report generation. Middle to larger sized companies may utilize an accountant as an adviser and financial interpreter, who may present the company's financial data to people within and outside of the business. Generally, the accountant can also deal with third parties, such as vendors, customers and financial institutions.

KEYWORDS-1. DUTIES 2. SHAPES 3. ROLES OF AN ACCOUNTANT

INTRODUCION

The modern business environment has changed drastically in a short time. Business technology has advanced accountant functions and operations to levels not previously believed possible. The role of accountant and business is perhaps one of the most reliable functions in business. While few basic procedures or methods have changed, and purpose of accounting to measure their company's financial performance and make business decisions.

Who is an accountant?

An accountant is a person who records business transactions on behalf of an organization, reports on company performance to management and issues financial statements. An accountant is trained to compile, inspect, interpret, and/or report financial statement and tax returns that comply with governmental and regulatory authority requirements.

An accountant may become involved the following transactions:

Issuing an invoice to a customer, this involves recording a sale and account receivable. Receiving an invoice from a supplier, which involves recording an expense, or asset and an account payable. Issuing a salary or wage payment to an employee, this involves recording an expenses and the outflow of cash. Reconciling a bank statement, this likely produces adjustments to the cash accountant.

An accountant produces the following number of reports are as follows:

The financial statements include the income statement, balance sheet and statement of cash flows. The sales of certain product lines, investigations of cost variances, sales returns and an analysis of overtime incurred. The reports of income taxes, property taxes, sales taxes etc.,

An accountant may also be involved in the creation of a number of processes:

- ❖ Shipments to customers
- ❖ Receipts from suppliers
- ❖ Cash receipts from customers.

An accountant can specialize the following many fields:

- Tax accountants
- Cost accountants
- Inventory accountants
- General accountants
- Payroll clerks
- Billing clerks
- Collection clerks

General duties of an accountant:

- Prepares asset, liability and capital account entries by compiling and analyzing account information.
- Documents financial transactions by entering account information.
- Summarizes current financial status by collecting information.
- Preparing balance sheet, profit and loss account and other reports.
- Substantiates financial transactions by auditing documents.
- Maintains accounting controls by preparing and recommending policies and procedures.
- Contributes to team effort.
- Maintains professional and technical knowledge.
- Maintains financial security by following internal controls.

Shape of the things to come:

Global competition efforts new demand on all professionals. Employees will be judged by their delivery of agreed output and level of services. Knowledge will create competitive advantage. More empowerment at the individual level. Adoption of the team based organization. Financial information will be considered in organizational decision making.

Role of an accountant:

- Accountants evaluate stocks and prepare monthly results speedily.
- Accountant must re-orient its capabilities, otherwise he will be overtaken by other professionals.
- Accountant has to be futuristic instead of provider of historic or current information.
- The responsibility of accountant is less a forecasting the future and more on contributing to its creating.

- Accountant will have to be more adaptable to be a versatile professional rather than an accounting specialist.
- Quality of “leadership” will be more in demand than fact of a “manager” or an accountant.
- Repositioning of the all types of accountant.
- Shift from “informational” role to be an “influential” role.
- To develop alliance with finance, MIS/ IT, Industrial engineering, corporate planning.
- To actively participate along with managers in decision making and strategy implementation.
- Change in mind-set from product profitability to customer profitability analysis.
- Accountant needs to lead the effort in training managers to use accounting information.

EMERGING ROLES OF AN ACCOUNTANT:

FINANCIAL DATA MANAGEMENT

The accounting structure of a company is an essential component to business operations. The accountant ensures that financial records are maintained in compliance with lawful and accepted procedures and policies on the corporate level. Managing the financial data of an organization can also include more sophisticated duties, such as developing, implementing and maintaining financial databases, as well as establishing and monitoring control procedures. The financial information for any organization should be kept component used in operating and managing any business.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE

As analysts, accountants may perform certain types of analysis using financial data that is used to assist in making business decisions. From deciding which kinds of supplies to order, payment of bills to payroll, the accountant handles many intricate financial details on a daily basis. Advising on business operations can include issues, such as revenues and expenditure trends, financial commitments and future revenue expectations. The accountant also analyzes financial data to resolve certain discrepancies and irregularities that may arise. Recommendations may also involve developing efficient resources and procedures, while providing strategic recommendations for specific financial problems or situations.

FINANCIAL REPORT PREPARATION

Accountants typically prepare financial statements that may include monthly and annual accounts based upon the financial information that is compiled and analyzed. The preparation of financial management reports can include accurate quarterly and year-end closing documents. Reports compiled may be used in connection with the continual support and management of budgetary forecast activities. The financial reports may be used by a financial director or officer for the development, implementation and operation of a company’s financial software and systems, such as Hyperion, Excel and CODA financial management.

REGULATORY AND REPORTING COMPLIANCE

An accountant may also be responsible for ensuring that all financial reporting deadlines are met, internally and externally. For example, quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports all have specific deadlines, as well as some tax implications. Monitoring and supporting taxation issues and filings can also be a responsibility of an accountant. The accountant also usually coordinates the audit process by assisting with financial data preparation.

EXTERNAL BUSINESS AFFILIATIONS

Accountants must work with financial professionals from the four major fields of the industry: public, management, internal auditing and government accounting. Accountant may provide data to a public accountant, who acts as a consultant, auditor and tax service professional. Corporations, non-profits, organizations and government use management accountants to record and analyze financial information of the businesses in which they are employed. They usually advise company executives, creditors, stockholders, regulatory agencies and tax personnel. Accountants may also work with government officials who are examining and maintaining the financial records of the private business for which an accountant is employed, in connection with taxation and government regulations.

CONCLUSION

In an increasingly knowledge based world, the most important resource for any organization is the people who work for it. They are the key asset enables an organization to create and sustain a competitive advantage. Success in the knowledge-driven economy involves using the expertise and professional skills of employees and specialist consultants to develop business opportunities that meet the needs of global customers. Accountants have a vital role to play in this process.

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