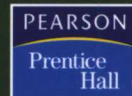


清华会计学系列英文版教材



# 财务会计

Financial Accounting Sixth Edition

(美) 沃尔特·T. 小哈里森 (Walter T. Harrison Jr.) 著  
查尔斯·T. 亨格瑞 (Charles T. Horngren)

第 6 版

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北京

EISBN: 0-13-149945-9

Original edition, entitled Financial Accounting, 6th Edition by Water T. Harrison Jr., Charles T. Horngren, published by Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Prentice Hall, Copyright © 2006.

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English reprint edition published by PEARSON EDUCATION ASIA LTD. and TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY PRESS, Copyright © 2007.

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### 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

财务会计=Financial Accounting: 第6版: 英文/(美)哈里森(Harrison, W. T.), (美)亨格瑞(Horngren, C. T.)著. —影印本. —北京: 清华大学出版社, 2007. 9

(清华会计学系列英文版教材)

ISBN 978-7-302-15929-2

I. 财… II. ①哈…②亨… III. 财务会计—教材—英文 IV. F234. 4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2007)第 125748 号

责任编辑: 王 青

责任印制: 何 芊

出版发行: 清华大学出版社 地 址: 北京清华大学学研大厦 A 座

<http://www.tup.com.cn> 邮 编: 100084

c-service@tup.tsinghua.edu.cn

社 总 机: 010-62770175 邮购热线: 010-62786544

投稿咨询: 010-62772015 客户服务: 010-62776969

印 刷 者: 北京市清华园胶印厂

装 订 者: 三河市新茂装订有限公司

经 销: 全国新华书店

开 本: 203 × 260 印 张: 47

版 次: 2007 年 9 月第 1 版 印 次: 2007 年 9 月第 1 次印刷

印 数: 1 ~ 6000

定 价: 69.00 元

本书如存在文字不清、漏印、缺页、倒页、脱页等印装质量问题,请与清华大学出版社出版部联系调换。联系电话: (010)62770177 转 3103 产品编号: 023571-01

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# 出 版 说 明

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为了适应经济全球化的发展趋势,满足国内广大读者了解、学习和借鉴国外先进的管理经验和掌握经济理论的前沿动态,清华大学出版社与国外著名出版公司合作影印出版一系列英文版经济管理方面的图书。我们所选择的图书,基本上是已再版多次、在国外深受欢迎,并被广泛采用的优秀教材,绝大部分是该领域较具权威性的经典之作。

由于原作者所处国家的政治、经济和文化背景等与我国不同,对书中所持观点,敬请广大读者在阅读过程中注意加以分析和鉴别。

我们期望这套影印书的出版对我国经济科学的发展能有所帮助,对我国经济管理专业的教学能有所促进。

欢迎广大读者给我们提出宝贵的意见和建议;同时也欢迎有关的专业人士向我们推荐您所接触到的国外优秀图书。

清华大学出版社

2007.8



世纪之交，中国与世界的发展呈现最显著的两大趋势——以网络为代表的信息技术的突飞猛进，以及经济全球化的激烈挑战。无论是无远弗界的因特网，还是日益密切的政治、经济、文化等方面的国际合作，都标示着21世纪的中国是一个更加开放的中国，也面临着一个更加开放的世界。

教育，特别是管理教育总是扮演着学习与合作的先行者的角色。改革开放以来，尤其是20世纪90年代之后，为了探寻中国国情与国际上一切优秀的管理教育思想、方法和手段的完美结合，为了更好地培养高层次的“面向国际市场竞争、具备国际经营头脑”的管理者，我国的教育机构与美国、欧洲、澳大利亚以及亚洲一些国家和地区的大量的著名管理学院和顶尖跨国企业建立了长期密切的合作关系。以清华大学经济管理学院为例，2000年，学院顾问委员会成立，并于10月举行了第一次会议，2001年4月又举行了第二次会议。这个顾问委员会包括了世界上最大的一些跨国公司和中国几家顶尖企业的最高领导人，其阵容之大、层次之高，超过了世界上任何一所商学院。在这样高层次、多样化、重实效的管理教育国际合作中，教师和学生与国外的交流机会大幅度增加，越来越深刻地融入到全球性的教育、文化和思想观念的时代变革中，我们的管理教育工作者和经济管理学习者，更加真切地体验到这个世界正发生着深刻的变化，也更主动地探寻和把握着世界经济发展和跨国企业运作的脉搏。

我国管理教育的发展，闭关锁国、闭门造车是绝对不行的，必须同国际接轨，按照国际一流的水准来要求自己。正如朱镕基同志在清华大学经济管理学院成立十周年时所发的贺信中指出的那样：“建设有中国特色的社会主义，需要一大批掌握市场经济的一般规律，熟悉其运行规则，而又了解中国企业实情的经济管理人才。清华大学经济管理学院就要敢于借鉴、引进世界上一切优秀的经济管理学院的教学内容、方法和手段，结合中国的国情，办成世界第一流的经管学院。”作为达到世界一流的一个重要基础，朱镕基同志多次建议清华的MBA教育要加强英语教学。我体会，这不仅因为英语是当今世界交往中重要的语言工具，是连接中国与世界的重要桥梁和媒介，而且更是中国经济管理人才参与国际竞争，加强国际合作，实现中国企业的国际战略的基石。推动和实行英文教学并不是目的，真正的目的在于培养学生——这些未来的企业家——能够具备同国际竞争对手、合作伙伴沟通和对抗的能力。按照这一要求，清华大学经济管理学院正在不断推动英语教学的步伐，使得英语不仅是一门需要学习的核心课程，而且渗透到各门专业课程的学习当中。

课堂讲授之外，课前课后的大量英文原版著作、案例的阅读对于提高学生的英文水平也是非常

关键的。这不仅是积累相当的专业词汇的重要手段，而且是对学习者思维方式的有效训练。

我们知道，就阅读而言，学习和借鉴国外先进的管理经验和掌握经济理论动态，或是阅读翻译作品，或是阅读原著。前者属于间接阅读，后者属于直接阅读。直接阅读取决于读者的外文阅读能力，有较高外语水平的读者当然喜欢直接阅读原著，这样不仅可以避免因译者的疏忽或水平所限而造成的纰漏，同时也可以尽享原作者思想的真实表达。而对于那些有一定外语基础，但又不能完全独立阅读国外原著的读者来说，外文的阅读能力是需要加强培养和训练的，尤其是专业外语的阅读能力更是如此。如果一个人永远不接触专业外版图书，他在获得国外学术信息方面就永远会比别人差半年甚至一年的时间，他就会在无形中减弱自己的竞争能力。因此，我们认为，有一定外语基础的读者，都应该尝试一下阅读外文原版，只要努力并坚持，就一定能过了这道关，到那时就能体验到直接阅读的妙处了。

在掌握大量术语的同时，我们更看重读者在阅读英文原版著作时对于西方管理者或研究者的思维方式的学习和体会。我认为，原汁原味的世界级大师富有特色的表达方式背后，反映了思维习惯，反映了思想精髓，反映了文化特征，也反映了战略偏好。知己知彼，对于跨文化的管理思想、方法的学习，一定要熟悉这些思想、方法所孕育、成长的文化土壤，这样，有朝一日才能真正“具备国际战略头脑”。

以往，普通读者购买和阅读英文原版还有一个书价的障碍。一本外版书少则几十美元，多则上百美元，一般读者只能望书兴叹。随着全球经济合作步伐的加快，目前在出版行业有了一种新的合作出版的方式，即外文影印版，其价格几乎与国内同类图书持平。这样一来，读者可以不必再为书价发愁。清华大学出版社这些年来在这方面一直以独特的优势领先于同行。早在1997年，清华大学出版社敢为人先，在国内最早推出一批优秀商学英文版教材，规模宏大，在企业界和管理教育界引起不小的轰动，更使国内莘莘学子受益良多。

为了配合清华大学经济管理学院推动英文授课的急需，也为了向全国更多的MBA试点院校和更多的经济管理学院的教师和学生提供学习上的支持，清华大学出版社再次隆重推出与世界著名出版集团合作的英文原版影印商学教科书，也使广大工商界人士、经济管理类学生享用到最新最好质优价廉的国际教材。

祝愿我国的管理教育事业在社会各界的大力支持和关心下不断发展、日进日新；祝愿我国的经济建设在不断涌现的大批高层次的面向国际市场竞争、具备国际经营头脑的管理者的勉力经营下早日中兴。

赵纯钧 教授

清华大学经济管理学院

## 会计循环：成功的关键

教师请注意：前三章是这门财务会计课程的基础，着重讨论了会计的基本原理和会计循环。学生必须掌握前三章的内容才能确保学有所获。基于此，《财务会计》（第6版）重视让学生掌握会计的基础知识，并着重培养他们利用会计信息做决策的娴熟技能，从而使他们有动力学好本门课程。

## 新的章节内学习工具

- 会计警示！每一章的专栏都集中讨论会影响会计决策的事项或需当心的易犯的错误。
- 付诸行动：学生学习完一个概念后应尽快让他们做一项商业决策。他们利用所提供的信息做出决策的能力可使他们尽快掌握概念的应用，并使他们能自我检查对材料的理解。
- 做决策：该专题提供一种需要做出决策的特定情境，并将会计指引以简单易用的图表形式描绘出来，应用于做决策的过程之中。
- 聚焦财务：百胜（YUM!）公司。每章的最后都以百胜公司的财务报表作为案例练习。百胜公司报表摘录贯穿整本书，适时辅助学习。百胜公司完整的报表见附录A。
- 聚焦分析：第一码头（Pier1）进口公司。第一码头进口公司的财务报表作为附加的案例练习，收录在每一章的后面，着重于分析应用。第一码头公司完整的报表见附录B。

## 学习方法：着重于练习和绩效

学生学有所成和“练习，练习，练习”是相辅相成的。这也是我们为你增加测试机会和为你的学生增加自我导向型练习的原因。

## 教材内练习材料

章节回顾测试：在每章的末尾都设计了多项选择题（附答案），供读者快速自我检测。

练习测试：章末作业里的多项选择题的答案附在教材后面的参考答案中。

### 练习测试

请回答下列问题，检验自己对财务报表的理解。从所给的备选答案中选出最恰当的一项。

**问题 1-1** 财务报告的主要目的是提供信息：

- a. 给联邦政府。
- b. 有关企业的赢利情况。
- c. 有关公司的现金流状况。
- d. 帮助做投资和信贷决策。

**问题 1-2** 哪种企业组织形式给银行或公司其他债权人提供的保护最少？

- a. 公司制
- b. 合伙制
- c. 个体业主制
- d. b 和 c

**问题 1-3** 通常如何报告资产价值？

- a. 评估价值
- b. 历史成本
- c. 市场现值
- d. 上述均不符

### 在线练习和作业材料

■ **练习材料：**一个开放性的在线练习环境能使学生更好地掌握章节内容。从第 1 章到第 3 章，章末都有选作型习题，教师可以根据不同的学习目标选择相应的习题。a 类问题是算法式的，让学生一步步练习直到完全掌握学习内容；b 类问题提供迅捷的反馈信息，让学生有机会检查他们目前的学习效果；c 类问题反映书中的主要内容，给学生机会练习，为他们以后接触实际情况做准备。

■ **家庭作业和测试材料：**Prentice Hall 阶段帮助 (PHGA)

PHGA 是一种在线作业和测试系统。该系统可以让教师根据自己的课堂情况量身订制作业和测试内容。

每章后面的选做型（偶数号）练习和教材中的 A 类问题都可供选择。教师可以布置作业，也能收到打分的情况。所有的问题都是算法式生成的，每个学生训练堂为教师及其学生提供不同的问题和解答，同时提供迅捷的信息反馈和评分。

### 为当前使用者开设的专栏介绍

感谢您继续使用哈里森编著的《财务会计》作为教科书。下面列出了第 6 版的主要章节变化，以帮助您快速适应新版教材。



## 第1章 财务报表

新增百胜公司作为本书的公司专题分析

新增会计警示：通过审计鉴证财务报表的可信性

会计循环指南

## 第2章 交易分析

新增章节讨论苹果电脑公司

新增会计警示：单式记账法不尽如人意

新增章节分析交易情况

新增演示形式以便更好地授课

简化制作凭证日记账

会计循环指南

## 第3章 使用权责发生制计量收入

新增章节讨论卡拉威高尔夫公司

新增会计警示：现金收付实现制同样不尽如人意

新增交易行为如何影响比率的演示

会计循环指南

## 第4章 内部控制与现金管理

新增章节讨论美林公司

新增章节讨论《萨班斯-奥克斯利法案》

新增会计警示：外部审计者真的是独立的吗？

新增会计警示：内部控制的三性原则

简化现金收款方面的内部控制内容并新增演示

简化现金支付方面的内部控制内容并新增演示

## 第5章 应收账款与短期投资

新增章节讨论福特汽车公司

新增投资归类的图示操作

扩充了投资范围的已实现收益

更新了无法收现的应收账款的会计处理

新增会计警示：该项投资真的是流动资产吗？

新增会计警示：将销售转入当前会计期间

## 第6章 商品存货与销售成本

新增章节讨论第一码头进口公司

更新章节：更加清晰地区分销售价格和单位存货的成本

产品销售成本模型移到本章最后

新增永续盘存制的内容

新增新进先出法、后进先出法和成本平均化等内容并用 T 形账户代替先前的 6-6 演示删除了物质性一节

新增按照成本和市场价值孰低来登记存货的方式

新增第一码头进口公司与五月百货公司和沃尔玛的对比演示

新增会计警示：造假账以增加报告收入

第 7 章 固定资产、自然资源与无形资产

新增有关易趣和联合包裹服务公司的章节

新增会计警示：该项支出真的是资本性支出吗？

第 8 章 流动负债与长期负债

新增章节对比美国航空公司（AMR）和联合航空公司（UAL）

新增预收收入的内容

新增会计警示：你所有的负债都在资产负债表上报告了吗？

第 9 章 股东权益

新增有关 IHOP 的章节

新增资产负债表上所有者权益的组成部分的小结

新增会计警示：股票发行不只是为了筹资

第 10 章 长期投资与跨国经营

新增有关通用电气公司的章节

新增长期投资的会计处理规则演示

新增会计警示：我们该在什么时候出售我们在惠普公司股票上的投资？

第 11 章 损益表与股东权益表

新增有关百思买公司的章节

新增会计警示：需当心自愿性会计政策变更引起的报告收入的增加

新增会计警示：当心备考赢利

删除章节：使用 P/E 比率和留存收益的局限性

第 12 章 现金流量表

新增会计警示：财务困难的标志

第 13 章 财务报表分析

回到案例公司百胜公司，进行估值和分析

新增有关百胜公司的思考题

简化普通规模报表章节

简化标杆分析章节

新增会计警示：比率分析的局限性

新增会计警示：财务报表分析中的危险信号

## 教与学的辅助资料

### 针对教师的补充材料一览

	教师手册	测验手册	教师解答手册	互动式解答幻灯片	Ph 会计制表技巧	Ph 阶梯式辅导	Onekey	相关网站	会计循环指南
印刷品	✓	✓	✓		✓				
在线	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
教师资源光盘	✓	✓	✓	✓					

教师资源中心 [www.prenhall.com/accounting](http://www.prenhall.com/accounting) 网站设有密码保护, 提供下列资源:

- 新增! 互动式解答幻灯片, 由罗伯特·鲍曼制作: 这些幻灯片基于每章的学习目标, 为教师提供了章后练习的电子解决方案。通过提供教学小工具简化了课堂准备工作。
- 教师手册
- 测验手册
- TestGEN EQ 软件
- 图像库: 教材中大部分的图像和插图都收录在内。
- Peachtree 和 Quickbooks Computer Workshops (不含软件): 这些 Workshops (第 2 章末开始) 帮助教师融合 Peachtree 和 Quickbooks 软件最新的版本, 解决现实公司运作中遇到的特定会计问题。
- 总分类账簿和 Excel 电子制表模板: 使用这些模板可以完成家庭作业。这些问题由教科书中的图标标出。
- Excel 应用问题: 这些问题显示人们将在什么时候、为什么以及怎样应用会计指引来做商业决策。学生可以应用决策指引来实现一个理想的情境, 并利用 Excel 的强大功能得到解答。
- Excel 的基本应用, 由 L. 墨菲·史密斯博士和凯瑟琳·T. 史密斯编写: 介绍微软 Excel 最基本的工具和技术应用。学生可以从参照指引和创建样本工具表格中学到经验。
- 解答手册, 由汤姆·哈里森主编 (ISBN:0-13-149969-6): 这本手册包含所有问题、作业和教科书中的习题的全部的、精确的解答。

**教师手册** 由杰克逊维尔州立大学的安杰拉·山伯格 (Angela Sandberg) 编写 (ISBN: 0-13-149959-9): 这本含有丰富资源的手册中的每一章都列出了学习目的, 对主要论题进行了叙述性简介, 还包含教学技巧的概览, 针对所有章末问题、难题和练习的建议性网格作业, 以及从 PH

Grade Assist、Excel 和总分类账簿中可获得的所有练习和问题。

**测验手册** 由圣路易斯大学的安妮·卫斯理 (Anne Wessley) 编写 (ISBN:0-13-149960-2): 该测试手册专门为第 6 版设计了 1800 多个问题, 有多项选择题、判断题、概念题和计算题, 争议性思考题和练习。这些问题根据难易程度排序, 并赋予相应的学习目标级别数字。

**教师资源光盘** (ISBN:0-13-149961-0) 这个 CD-ROM 光盘现在换上了新的封面, 还拥有—个可供搜索的数据库。它囊括了在线的教师资源中心提供的所有内容, 包含书中所有的计算机线画艺术。光盘还提供了最新的互动式解答幻灯片, 根据每章的学习目的, 提供给教师章末练习的电化提示性解答, 用于课堂上的讨论, 帮助学生学习和理解。

## 针对学生

### 掌握好会计循环

<http://www.prenhall.com/harrison>

打开提供给你如下内容的互联网站点 (无需注册也不需要登陆密码):

- 会计循环指南: 提供 1~3 章的练习材料
- 提供针对 1~3 章的算法式问题的在线练习环境
- 会计循环指引: 该辅助工具帮你轻松走过会计循环的每一步
- 针对教科书中每一章节的互动学习指引

## 致谢

在第 6 版的修订过程中, 我们得到了来自全美的参加在线调查、章节评论和焦点团体访谈的教师们的帮助。在本书的编写和修订过程中, 他们对教科书及辅导资料的意见和建议起到了很大的作用, 在这里, 我们对他们的贡献深表感谢。

# Prologue

## ACCOUNTING CAREERS: MUCH MORE THAN COUNTING THINGS

***What kind of career can you have in accounting? Almost any kind you want. A career in accounting lets you use your analytic skills in a variety of ways, and it brings both monetary and personal rewards. According to the 2002 Jobs Rated Almanac, "accountant" was the fifth best job in terms of low stress, high compensation, lots of autonomy, and tremendous hiring demand.<sup>1</sup>***

Look at what these accountants do:

- Jeffrey S. Sallet is a CPA at the FBI who investigates the financial side of criminal activities. He conducts interviews, surveillance, and crime scene investigations as well as reviewing financial documents and testifying in court. "I have conducted numerous organized crime, public corruption and terrorism investigations," Sallet says. "While conducting these investigations I have applied traditional investigative techniques and forensic accounting. My efforts have resulted in the conviction of members and associates of Organized Crime and Union Officials."<sup>2</sup>
- Alan Friedman loves music. He plays guitar in a band and knows the industry inside and out. As a CPA, he helps music store retailers, musicians, and independent recording labels with accounting and tax services. "My clients appreciate the fact that we are intimately familiar with the product they sell, the suppliers they deal with and the ever-changing condition of the music retailing marketplace," Friedman says. There are 9,000 music retailers in the United States, and while most of them already have a CPA, chances are that they do not have one who's an expert in the music business. Friedman found his niche by combining his hobby with his work.<sup>3</sup>
- Jane Cozzarelli, CPA, is vice president of internal audit at Battelle Memorial Institute, a \$1 billion research and development enterprise. She helps Battelle evaluate the risks of multi-million-dollar deals such as joint ventures and acquisitions. "By measuring your risks, you can direct capital to them more efficiently. You also are better able to understand the upside and downside of undertaking a risk," Jane says.<sup>4</sup>
- Regine Metellus, CPA, is the CFO for the Germantown Settlement, a charity that empowers over 195,000 elderly and low-to-moderate income residents in Philadelphia. "Germantown needed someone to organize their records and put in place policies and procedures and help improve the financial reporting," Regine says. By making the charity's financial operations more efficient, she helps Germantown Settlement put more money back into the community and truly "make a difference."<sup>5</sup>
- After doing auditing work at KPMG and serving as a controller for a venture-capital-backed firm, David Kupferman started his own CPA practice. He specializes in serving high-net-worth individuals and businesses looking for sound



advice along with technology ventures. Day to day, Kupferman provides taxation advice, litigation support, business valuation, complex business modeling, and CFO-like financial consulting for early stage companies. He has a particular interest in bringing foreign technology companies to the United States and works with clients from Australia, Spain, Hungary, England, France, Byelorussia, Singapore, and Japan.<sup>6</sup>

- Mark Denton, an accountant at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, is helping to implement NASA's Core Financial Project. The project is an agencywide effort to provide timely, consistent, and reliable financial information to managers making program budget decisions. "This project will be a good thing, enabling NASA to operate more like a business," Denton says. "I love working with money," he adds, "but, more importantly, I love working with people."<sup>7</sup>

And then there is the opportunity for flexible work arrangements:

"I'm probably one of the first people who stayed in public accounting because of quality-of-life advantages," says Eileen Garvey, an audit partner at Ernst & Young in New York. Garvey works a 3-day-a-week schedule. The mother of two, she made partner as a part-timer. Flexibility works for men, too: Carl Moilienkamp, a manager with a firm in Chicago, took a summer leave to pursue his other career as a chef.

## Where Accountants Work

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Where can you work as an accountant? There are four kinds of employers.

### Public Practice

You can work for a public accounting firm, which could be a large international firm such as one of the Big Four where Eileen Garvey works, or a small CPA firm such as Alan Friedman's. Within the CPA firm, you can specialize in areas such as tax, audit, or consulting. In this capacity, you'll be serving as an external accountant to many different clients. Most CPAs start their career at a large CPA firm. From there, they can find themselves in a variety of situations:

- Josh Young's first consulting engagement found him on the site of the Northridge earthquake outside Los Angeles. One of his clients was a supermarket chain with 150 damaged stores. Young needed to visit the actual site to determine how much damage had occurred to help prepare the insurance claims.
- Jennifer Tufer is a Deloitte & Touche senior manager on assignment in Moscow. As she looks through her incoming mail, she finds a request from a U.S. manufacturer interested in expanding into Russia. "The company wants to know how they would be taxed," she says.

The highest career level in a CPA firm is partner—becoming a part owner of the firm. Only 2% to 3% of accountants in a Big Four CPA firm make partner.<sup>8</sup>

Deloitte & Touche	Employees: 29,000	Offices: 97
Ernst & Young	Employees: 103,000	Offices: 670
KPMG	Employees: 100,000	Offices: 103
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Employees: 122,000	Countries Served: 139

## Managerial Accounting

Instead of working for a wide variety of clients, you can work within one corporation or nonprofit enterprise. Your role within the organization is to analyze financial information and communicate that information to managers, who use it to plot strategy and make decisions. You may be called upon to make recommendations on how best to allocate corporate resources or improve financial performance. For example, you might do a cost-benefit analysis to help management decide whether to acquire a company or build a factory; or you might describe the financial implications of choosing one strategy over another. You might work in areas such as internal auditing, financial management, financial reporting, treasury management, and tax planning. The highest position in management accounting is the CFO position, with some CFOs rising all the way to the top to become CEOs.

**Phil Knight, CEO of Nike, and Arthur Blank, cofounder of Home Depot, are CPAs.**

## Government

You can also work as an accountant for the government, be it at the federal, state, or local level. Like your counterparts in public accounting and business, your role as an accountant in government includes responsibilities in the areas of auditing, financial reporting, and management accounting. You'll evaluate how government agencies are being run and advise decision makers in allocating resources to promote efficiency. You might find yourself working for the IRS, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Treasury, or even the White House.

## WORKING FOR THE GAO

Government Accountability Office (GAO)—formerly called the General Accounting Office—is an agency that works for Congress and the American people. Congress asks GAO to study federal government programs and expenditures. GAO studies how the federal government spends taxpayer dollars and advises Congress and the heads of executive agencies (such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Defense, and Health and Human Services) about ways to make government more effective and responsive. GAO evaluates federal programs, audits federal expenditures, and issues legal opinions.

Within the GAO, you can work in an area such as health care. Much of this work focuses on the ability of these federal programs to provide access to quality care while paying appropriately for that care. Accountants in health care also examine the activities of federal public health agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They examine not only the achievement of program goals but also the management, information systems, human capital, and financial operations of these agencies.

## Education

Finally, you can work at a college or university or a professional school of accountancy, advancing the thought and theory of accounting and teaching future generations of new accountants. On the research side of education, you might study how companies use or misuse accounting to further their goals, or you might develop new ways of categorizing financial flows, or study accounting practices in different countries. You then publish your ideas in journal articles and books and present them to your colleagues at meetings around the world. On the education side, you can help others learn about accounting and give them the tools they need to be their best.

**Did you know that 15% of FBI new hires in 2004 were CPAs?<sup>9</sup> In fact, 1,400 of the FBI's special agents are accountants, and the number 3 man at the FBI, Assistant Director Thomas Pickard, is a CPA.<sup>10</sup>**

## CPA: THREE LETTERS THAT SPEAK VOLUMES

When employers see the CPA designation, they know what to expect about your education, knowledge, abilities, and personal attributes. They value your analytic skills and extensive training. Your CPA credential gives you a distinct advantage in the job market and instant credibility and respect in the workplace. It's a plus when dealing with other professionals such as bankers, attorneys, auditors, and federal regulators. In addition, your colleagues in private industry tend to defer to you when dealing with complex business matters, particularly those involving financial management.<sup>11</sup>

## The Hottest Growth Areas in Accounting

Recent legislation, such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, has brought rising demand for accountants of all kinds. In addition to strong overall demand, certain areas of accounting are especially hot.<sup>12</sup>

### Sustainability Reporting

Sustainability reporting involves reporting on an organization's performance with respect to health, safety, and environmental (HSE) issues. As businesses take a greater interest in environmental issues, CPAs are getting involved in reporting on such matters as employee health, on-the-job accident rates, emissions of certain pollutants, spills, volumes of waste generated, and initiatives to reduce and minimize such incidents and releases. Utilities, manufacturers, and chemical companies are particularly affected by environmental issues. As a result, they turn to CPAs to set up a preventive system to ensure compliance and avoid future claims or disputes or to provide assistance once legal implications have arisen.

Corporate social responsibility reporting is similar to HSE reporting but with a broadened emphasis on social matters such as ethical labor practices, training, education, and diversity of workforce and corporate philanthropic initiatives. Here's a sampling of companies across industries that provide corporate social responsibility reports:

Company	Primary Industry
Anheuser-Busch	Beverages, theme parks
AT&T	Telecommunications
Bristol-Myers Squibb	Pharmaceuticals
Chiquita Brands	Agribusiness
Conoco	Energy
Dow Chemical	Chemicals
General Motors	Vehicle manufacture
Intel	Microprocessors
Johnson & Johnson	Health-care products and services
McDonald's	Restaurants
Mead	Forest products
Nike	Apparel
PepsiCo	Consumer products
Procter & Gamble	Consumer products
University of Florida	Academic institution

Source: AICPA

## Assurance Services

Assurance services are services provided by a CPA that improve the quality of information, or its context, for decision makers. Such information can be financial or nonfinancial; it can be about past events or about ongoing processes or systems. This broad concept includes audit and attestation services and is distinct from consulting because it focuses primarily on improving information rather than on providing advice or installing systems. You can use your analytical and information-processing expertise by providing assurance services in areas ranging from electronic commerce to elder care, comprehensive risk assessment, business valuations, entity performance measurement, and information systems quality assessment.

## Information Technology Services

Companies can't compete effectively if their information technology systems don't have the power or flexibility to perform essential functions. Companies need accountants with strong computer skills who can design and implement advanced systems to fit a company's specific needs and to find ways to protect and insulate data. CPAs skilled in software research and development (including multimedia technology) are also highly valued.

## International Accounting

Globalization means that cross-border transactions are becoming commonplace. Countries in Eastern Europe and Latin America, which previously had closed economies, are opening up and doing business with new trading partners. The passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) facilitates trade, and the economic growth in areas such as the Pacific Rim further brings greater volumes of trade and financial flows. Organizations need accountants who understand international trade rules, accords, and laws; cross-border merger and acquisition issues; and foreign business customs, languages, cultures, and procedures.