

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

year, down 7.8% from the previous year.

Isaac M. O'Bannon • Oct. 12, 2023



The number of students earning U.S. post-secondary accounting degrees fell sharply in the 2021-22 academic year, according to a biennial American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) report on trends related to accounting graduation rates, the CPA Exam and hiring demand by accounting firms.

Some 47,067 students earned a bachelor's degree in accounting in the 2021-22 school year, down 7.8% from the previous year, according to [2023 Trends: A Report on](#)

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

“We’re still on a downward trajectory for accounting graduates, although it’s worthwhile to note U.S. university enrollment and earned degrees collectively shrank during this period,” said Jan Taylor, the AICPA’s academic in residence. “The AICPA remains focused on advocating profession-wide solutions to the talent shortage, and we saw increased mobilization and coordination in these efforts over the past year.”

The Trends report has been published since 1971, measuring both the supply of and demand for accounting graduates. This year, however, the response rate from accounting firms on their hiring practices was too low to be statistically valid – despite an extension of the time the survey was in the field – so the AICPA is unable to accurately project the number of graduates hired into public accounting in 2021. The organization is looking into a number of issues, including the survey’s timing, delivery methods and promotion, to ensure more complete data in the next report.

Other key findings of the survey include:

- The gender ratio and racial-ethnic mix of accounting graduates remained similar to the previous Trends report, with two exceptions: Hispanic/Latino graduates increased by almost a percentage point and nonresident alien graduates decreased by a similar amount in both the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years.
- Master’s degrees earned at private institutions fell 10.9% in the 2021-22 school year, while those earned at public schools decreased 3.3%.
- For accounting firms who responded to the survey, hiring expectations are optimistic for new hires of accounting graduates, with 91% of respondents saying they expect to hire the same or more new graduates in the next year.
- Sixty percent of surveyed firms reported they expect to have the same or higher number of CPAs on staff in 2023 compared to 2022.
- The number of unique CPA Exam candidates declined from 72,271 in 2021 to 67,335 in 2022. The number of exam sections taken in 2023 is on the upswing, in part

because test takers are looking to complete their requirements before the 2024

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

meeting in May 2024. The AICPA is also moving forward with its [Pipeline Acceleration Plan](#), a series of initiatives that already have considerable consensus within the profession.

Accounting

CPA Practice Advisor is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors.

© 2024 Firmworks, LLC. All rights reserved