

Tax Auditor

Check that businesses and people paid the tax they owed. A government job with a steady paycheck and a pension.

TYPICAL PAY

\$83,680

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$56k to \$144k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Federal and state revenue offices,
city finance departments, taxpay...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 9 to 12
Math through at least algebra 2, plus any accounting, business or economics your school offers.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Accounting is the direct route. Finance, economics and business work too if you take enough accounting courses.
- 3 Internship** One or two summers
State revenue departments, city finance offices and the federal government all run paid student programs. This is how most people get hired later.
- 4 Apply and wait** 3 to 9 months
Federal jobs go through USAJOBS (the official federal hiring site). Expect a long application, a background check and several months before an offer.
- 5 Agency training** 6 to 18 months
New auditors are trained in tax law and audit procedure on the job before they are given their own cases.

Pros and cons

- + Stable work with a pension and predictable raises
- + Normal hours compared with private accounting firms
- + The skills transfer straight into a well paid private sector job
- Hiring is slow and the paperwork to get in is genuinely painful
- Nobody is happy to see you, and some people are hostile
- Pay rises on a schedule, so a great year does not get you a big raise

Optional boosts

CPA (Certified Public Accountant). Enrolled agent. Certified fraud examiner. Certified internal auditor.

Good to know

Nine states do not tax your wages

A handful of states, including Texas, Florida, Nevada and Washington, have no personal income tax on wages. Their revenue departments still employ plenty of auditors, because sales tax, business tax and pr...

You can represent taxpayers without a degree

The enrolled agent credential is earned purely by exam. It is the only tax credential the Internal Revenue Service itself awards, and it lets the holder represent any taxpayer before the agency in any state.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Accountants and Auditors (13-2011.00)
National Association of State Boards of Accountancy: the Uniform CPA Examination
Internal Revenue Service careers
USAJOBS, the official federal hiring site

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/tax-auditor>



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