

ACCOUNTANT

Job Description: Large energy companies have a need for individuals to direct activities and balance budgets in their financial departments. For example, oil companies need to make and track payments to suppliers, subcontractors, maintenance service providers, landowners, mineral rights owners, employees, and many others. The job of an accountant is to budget, reconcile, analyze and advise management on trends, costs, revenues and expenses.

Core tasks include:

- Analyze revenues, expenses and business operations using recordkeeping/accounting computer software and technology
- Prepare budgets and reports for departments and senior management
- Maintains required documents for government agencies

An accountant may also receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers. They need to comply with federal, state, and company financial policies, procedures and regulations, and identify and reconcile or report discrepancies found in records.

Needed Skills and Education: Skills important to this line of work include: evaluating and analyzing spreadsheets and budgets, preparing and organizing financial reports, processing and analyzing numbers and figures, giving recommendations and guidance on financial matters, and data entry. Entry-level positions usually require a Bachelor's degree. For a bookkeeper or accounting clerk, often a certificate or associate degree in business or accounting is required. On-the-job training and work experience improves job opportunities.

Wages: The average annual wage for an accountant in North Dakota is \$56,000. This is below the national average annual wage of \$72,540. In North Dakota, hourly wages vary from an entry-level of \$15 to a wage for experienced workers of \$40.

Other Information: This position is one of the most transferable occupations there is. Nearly all larger businesses, government agencies, non-profit organizations and others have a need for accountants. The outlook for employment in North Dakota is increasing and is stable nationally.

Find out more at www.rureadynd.com.

