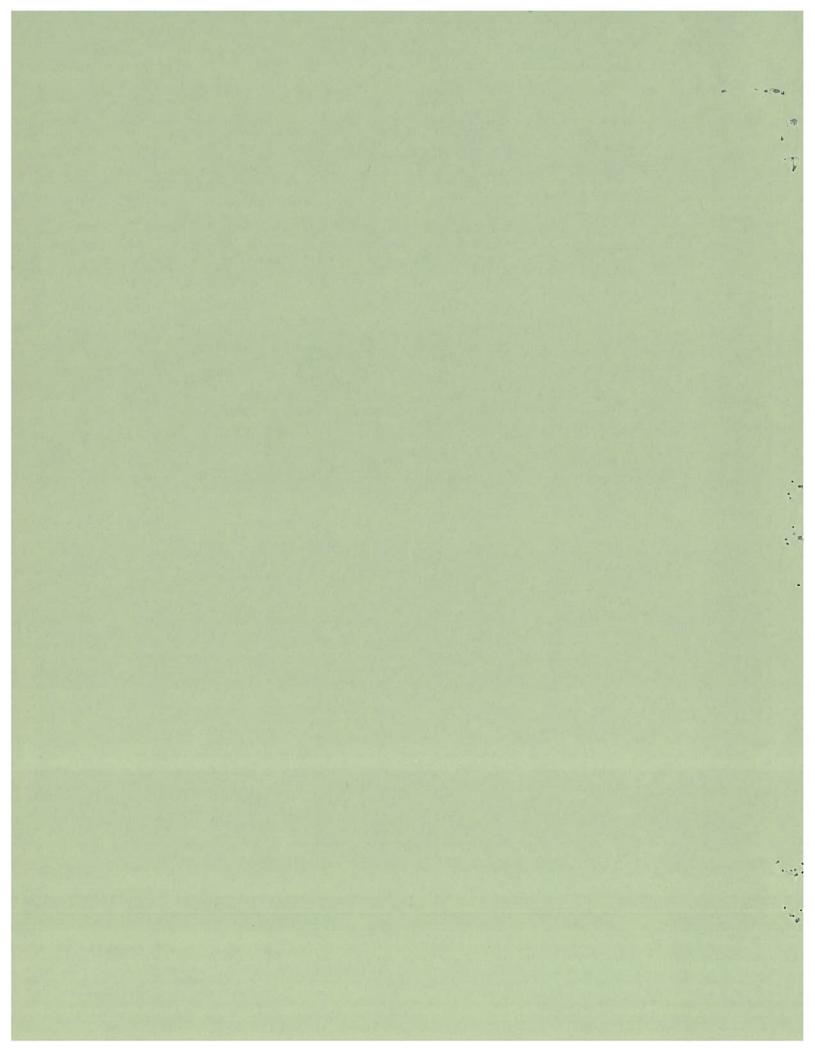
THE SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

AND THE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTING RECRUITS

SPRING 1973

Prepared by

Eric N. Melgren



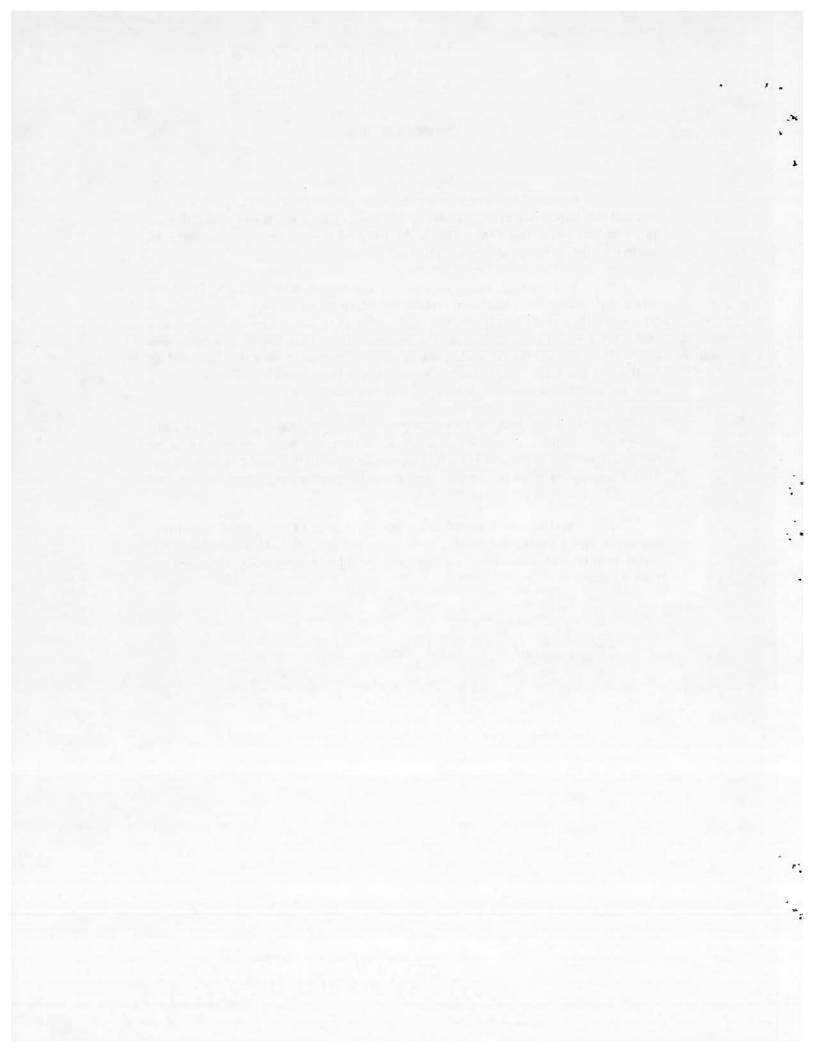
INTRODUCTION

In response to the need for better information on the supply of and demand for public accounting recruits, the American Institute of CPAs publishes an annual study on this topic. This is the third of these annual studies and is intended to update the predictions of the 1972 study.

This study is based on a survey conducted in early 1973. The Institute's staff surveyed a stratified sample of 65 firms as to their projected manpower needs, and 417 colleges and universities as to their supply of accounting graduates during the same period. The response from both firms and schools was good. Over 83% of the 65 public accounting firms replied, and this included almost all of the larger firms. Replies were received from schools which historically have produced approximately 79% of accounting graduates.

It is difficult to equate supply and demand and precisely identify relative trends. This is because not all accounting graduates are employed by public accounting firms and firms hire graduates who do not major in accounting. Also, respondents often report that their predictions, especially those beyond two years, are very rough approximations.

The three sections of this report deal with the supply of accounting graduates, the demand for public accounting recruits, and the relationship between supply and demand. Each section includes commentary followed by related tables.



THE SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

Participation in Supply Survey

The Institute's staff surveyed 417 colleges and universities as to the supply of accounting graduates in the United States for the academic year 1971-72 and their predictions for the next five years, 1972-73 through 1976-77.

Participating schools were divided into two groups:

- AACSB (American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business)
 Member Schools are members of the AACSB assembly and have been accredited by the AACSB.
- AACSB Assembly Schools are members of the AACSB assembly but have not been accredited by the AACSB.

A summary of the participation in the survey follows:

	AACSB Member Schools		AACSB Assembly Schools		Tot	Total	
	Number	%	Number	<u>%</u>	Number		
Usable Responses	109	74	161	60	270	65	
Nonresponses	39	26	108	40	147	35	
Survey Requests	148	100	269	100	417	100	

The prior two studies included schools which were not members of the AACSB assembly. Due to poor responses from these schools and the immaterial effect they had on the overall survey results in the past, they were not surveyed in the current study. The 1972 study's figures presented herein have been adjusted to reflect this change.

Estimation of Total Supply

Supply for the nonresponding schools was estimated under the assumption that the nonresponding schools will have the same growth rate as the responding schools. For determining this growth rate, information was obtained on the number of accounting graduates for 1969-70 from either the 1971 survey responses or Earned Degrees Conferred: 1969-70. Total supply was then estimated based on the following relationship:

1969-70 graduates per responding schools

Response per responding schools

1969-70 graduates per total schools surveyed

Total estimated supply

Results of Supply Survey

Data on the number of accounting graduates for the period, 1967-68 through 1971-72 and for the projected period, 1972-73 through 1976-77, are shown in Tables I to XII at the end of this section.

Member Schools. Table IV compares the results of the 1973 and 1972 surveys for graduates from AACSB member schools. The difference between the two studies is too small to make inferences concerning a possible changed condition and could possibly be due to sampling error.

The 1972 survey showed a large increase over the 1971 survey because a large number of students were transferring to accounting due to the tight job market in many other fields. The results of the 1973 survey tend to support the assumption that this situation is expected to continue since the 1973 and 1972 surveys are so similar.

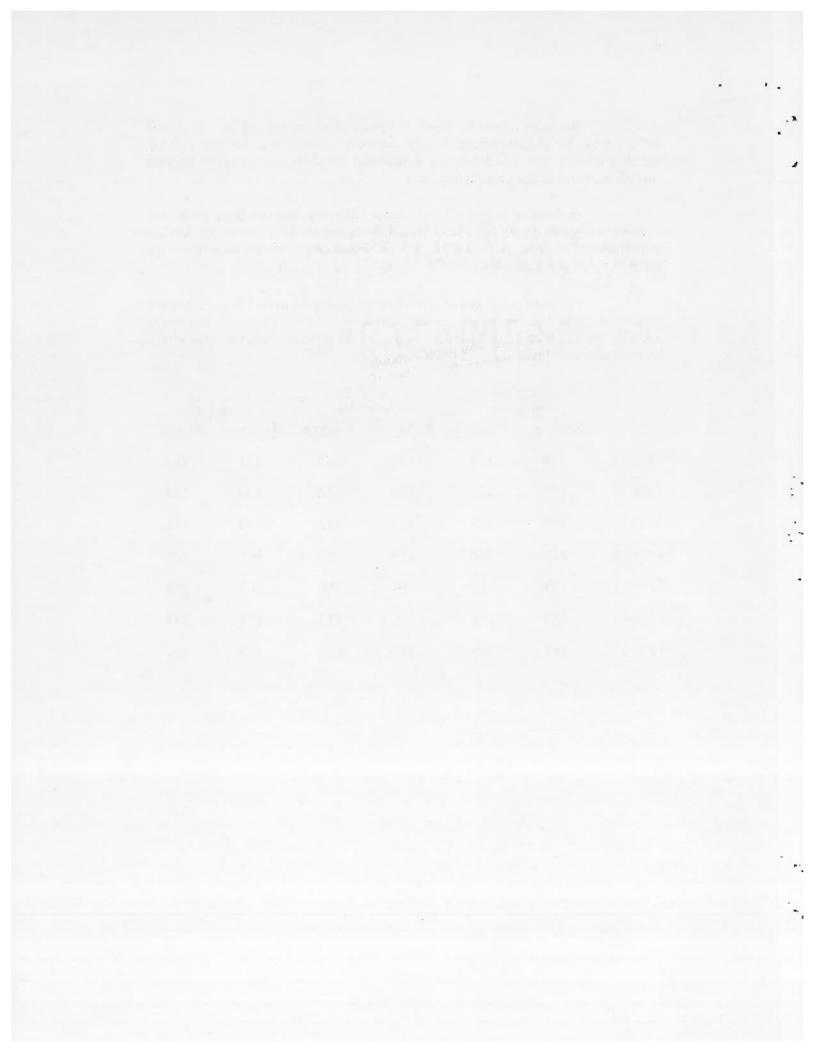
¹Mary Evans Hooper, <u>Earned Degrees Conferred</u>: 1969-70 Institutional Data, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1971, pp. 103-110.

Assembly Schools. Table V compares the results of the 1973 and 1972 surveys for graduates from AACSB assembly schools. As is the case with the member schools, the results are very similar and any difference between the two surveys is probably due to sampling error.

Holders of Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. The following table indicates the trends in supply of holders of bachelor's and master's degrees by AACSB affiliation and in total. An index of 100 was based on the average experience for the period, 1967-68 through 1969-70.

For both categories of affiliation a higher growth rate is projected for master's degrees than bachelor's degrees. The growth rate for master's degrees in assembly schools is greatest; however, because of the relatively low base, the effect on total supply is small.

	AACSB Member		AACSB Assembly		Total	
	Bachelor's	Master's	Bachelor's	Master's	Bachelor's	Master's
1970-71	128	133	113	129	121	133
1971-72	148	150	128	172	138	154
1972-73	160	175	144	215	152	181
1973-74	169	208	154	258	162	216
1974-75	173	233	160	386	167	258
1975-76	180	258	176	472	178	293
1976-77	184	283	182	515	183	321



Public and Private Schools. The growth rate from 1971-72 to 1976-77 for public and private schools is as follows:

	Public	Private
Bachelor's Degrees	32%	33%
Master's Degrees	100%	122%

In the prior studies, the growth rate for public schools was greater than for private schools. This predicted trend has reversed; however, the fact that public schools have a greater historical base (Table VI) explains why public schools will continue to account for the majority of accounting graduates for holders of both bachelor's and master's degrees (Table VI).

Regional Data. Information on graduates by AACSB regional classification is included in Tables IX to XI. Table XII lists the states that make up each region.

The growth rate for bachelor's degrees in the New England, North Central, South, and Pacific regions are all approximately 6%. For master's degrees, the rates are 15%, 15%, 20%, and 16%, respectively.

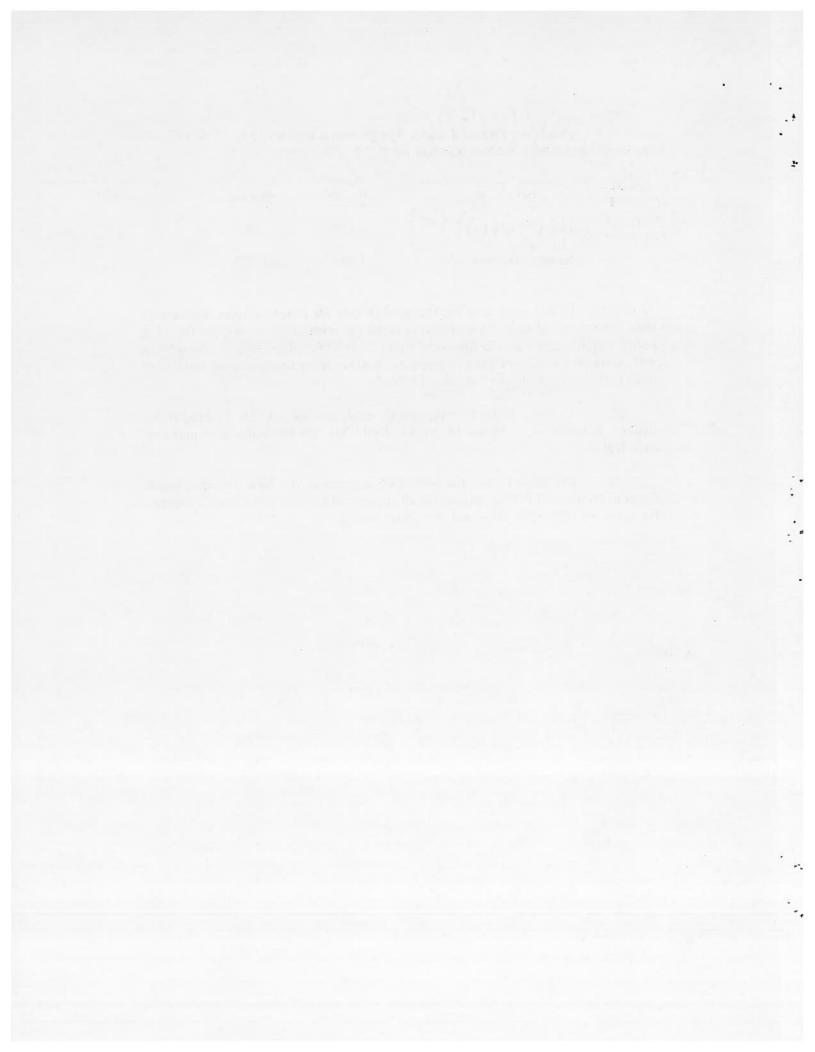


TABLE I SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING GRADUATES FROM ALL SCHOOLS 1967-68 to 1976-77

Educational Level r's M

Year	Bachelor's Degrees	Master's Degrees	Total Supply
1967-68	15,700	1,500	17,200
1968-69	17,200	1,500	18,700
1969-70	18,700	1,300	20,000
1970-71	20,800	1,900	22,700
1971-72	23,800	2,200	26,000
1972-73	26,200	2,600	28,800
1973-74	27,800	3,100	30,900
1974-75	28,700	3,700	32,400
1975-76	30,600	4,200	34,800
1976-77	31,500	4,600	36,100

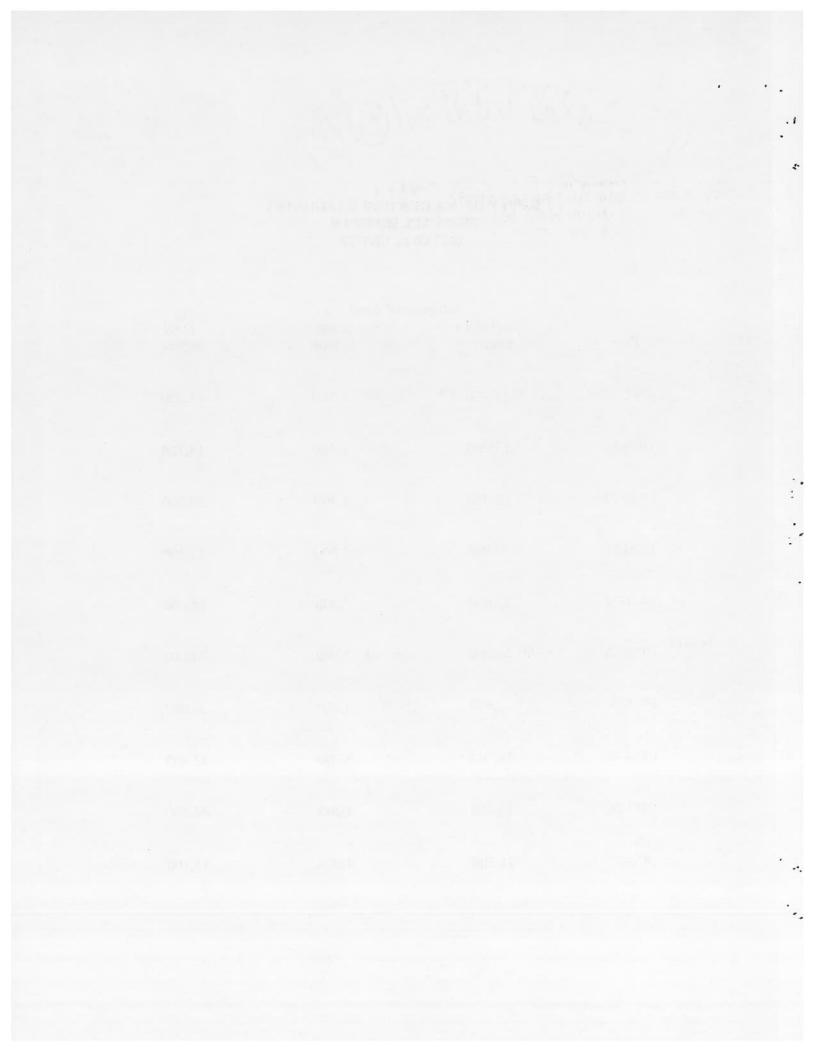


TABLE II
SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING GRADUATES
FROM AACSB MEMBER SCHOOLS
1967-68 to 1976-77

Educational Level					
Year	Bachelor's Degrees	Master's Degrees	Total Supply		
1967-68	8,400	1,300	9,700		
1968-69	9,200	1,200	10,400		
1969-70	9,800	1,100	10,900		
1970-71	11,700	1,600	13,300		
1971-72	13,500	1,800	15,300		
1972-73	14,600	2,100	16,700		
1973-74	15,400	2,500	17,900		
1974-75	15,800	2,800	18,600		
1975-76	16,400	3,100	19,500		
1976-77	16,800	3,400	20,200		

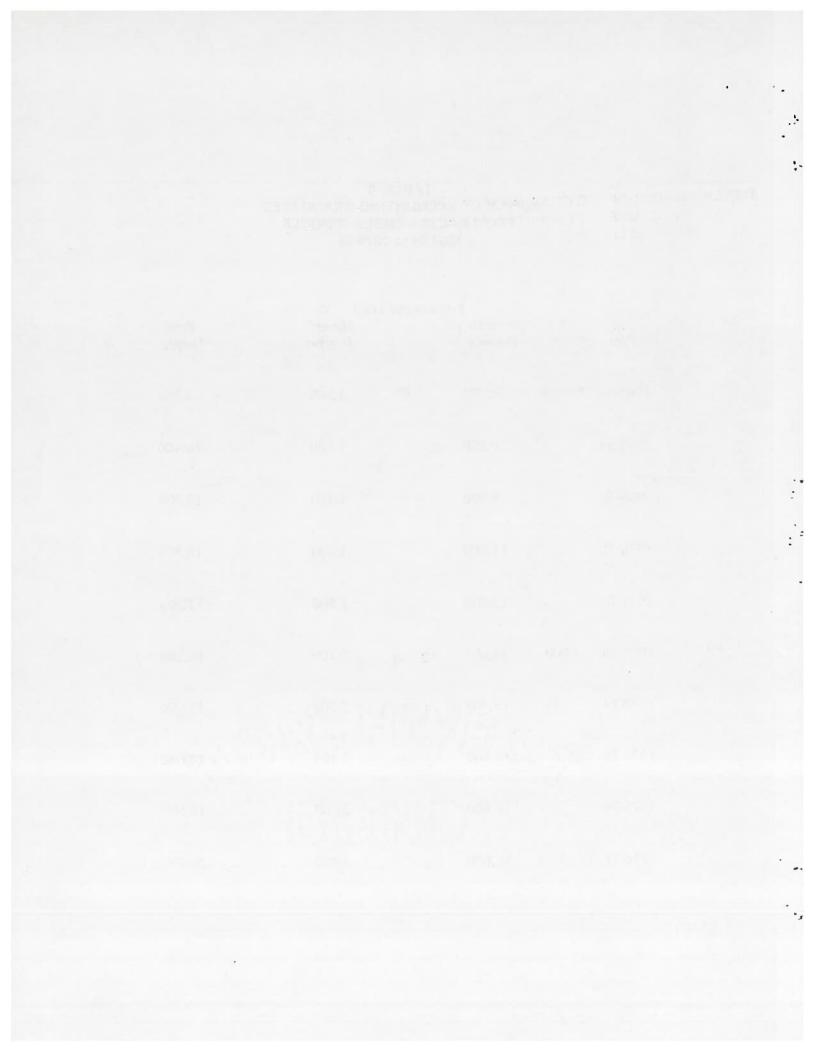


TABLE III
SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING GRADUATES
FROM AACSB ASSEMBLY SCHOOLS
1967-68 to 1976-77

Educational Level

Year	Bachelor's Degrees	Master's Degrees	Total Supply
1967-68	7,300	200	7,500
1968-69	8,000	300	8,300
1969-70	8,900	200	9,100
1970-71	9,100	300	9,400
1971-72	10,300	400	10,700
1972-73	11,600	500	12,100
1973-74	12,400	600	13,000
1974-75	12,900	900	13,800
1975-76	14,200	1,100	15,300
1976-77	14,700	1,200	15,900

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TABLE IV
COMPARISON OF 1973 AND 1972 SUPPLY STUDIES
FOR AACSB MEMBER SCHOOLS
1971-72 to 1975-76

		Educatio	nal Level			
	Bachelor	's Degrees	Master's	Degrees	Tota	l Supply
	1973	1972	1973	1972	1973	1972
Year	Study	Study	Study	Study	Study	Study
1971-72	13,500	13,200	1,800	2,000	15,300	15,200
1972-73	14,600	14,300	2,100	2,300	16,700	16,600
1973-74	15,400	15,100	2,500	2,600	17,900	17,700
1974-75	15,800	15,700	2,800	3,000	18,600	18,700
1975-76	16,400	16,500	3,100	3,200	19.500	19 700

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TABLE V
COMPARISON OF 1973 AND 1972 SUPPLY STUDIES
FOR AACSB ASSEMBLY SCHOOLS
1971-72 to 1975-76

Educational Level Total Supply Buchelor's Degrees Master's Degrees 1973 1972 1973 1973 1972 1972 Year Study Study Study Study Study Study 1971-72 10,300 10,000 400 10,700 500 10,500 11,600 1972-73 11,100 500 700 12,100 11,800 1973-74 12,400 12,200 600 900 13,000 13,100 1974-75 12,900 13,400 900 13,800 14,500 1,100 14,200 14,100 1975-76 1,100 1,300 15,300 15,400

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TABLE VI SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING GRADUATES FROM ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS 1967-68 to 1976-77

	Bachelo	r's Degrees	Master's Degrees		
Year	Public	Private	Public	Private	
1967-68	9,400	6,300	900	600	
1968-69	10,700	6,500	800	700	
1969-70	12,100	6,600	700	600	
1970-71	14,500	6,300	1,200	700	
1971-72	16,800	7,000	1,300	900	
1972-73	18,500	7,700	1,500	1,100	
1973-74	19,700	8,100	1,800	1,300	
1974-75	20,200	8,500	2,100	1,600	
1975-76	21,700	8,900	2,300	1,900	
1976-77	22,200	9,300	2,600	2,000	

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TABLE VII
SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING GRADUATES
FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AACSB MEMBER SCHOOLS
1967-68 to 1976-77

	Bacheloi	r's Degrees	Master's Degrees		
Year	Public	Private	Public	Private	
1967-68	5,900	2,500	800	500	
1968-69	6,500	2,700	700	500	
1969-70	7,200	2,600	600	500	
1970-71	8,900	2,800	1,000	600	
1971-72	10,400	3,100	1,000	800	
1972-73	11,300	3,300	1,200	900	
1973-74	11,900	3,500	1,400	1,100	
1974-75	12,200	3,600	1,600	1,200	
1975-76	12,600	3,800	1,700	1,400	
1976-77	12,800	4,000	1,900	1,500	



TABLE VIII
SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING GRADUATES
FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AACSB ASSEMBLY SCHOOLS
1967-68 to 1976-77

	Bachelor's Degrees		Master's Degrees	
Year	Public	Private	Public	Private
1967-68	3,500	3,800	100	100
1968-69	4,200	3,800	100	200
1969-70	4,900	4,000	100	100
1970-71	5,600	3,500	200	100
1971-72	6,400	3,900	300	100
1972-73	7,200	4,400	300	200
1973-74	7,800	4,600	400	200
1974-75	8,000	4,900	500	400
1975-76	9,100	5,100	600	500
1976-77	9,400	5,300	700	500

TABLE IX SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING GRADUATES BY REGION FROM ALL SCHOOLS 1970-71 to 1976-77

Bachelor's Degrees

Year	New England	North Central	South	Pacific
1970-71	5,100	6,700	5,800	3,200
1971-72	5,900	7,400	6,800	3,700
1972-73	6,600	8,200	7,400	4,000
1973-74	7,000	8,600	7,900	4,300
1974-75	1974-75 7,100		8,200	4,500
1975-76	7,600	9,400	8,900	4,700
1976-77	7,800	9,800	9,000	4,900
		Master's Degrees		
1970-71	500	800	500	100
1971-72	800	600	500	300
1972-73	900	800	500	400
1973-74	1,200	800	600	500
1974-75	1,400	1,000	800	500
1975-76	1,500	1,100	1,000	600
1976-77	1,600	1,200	1,200	600

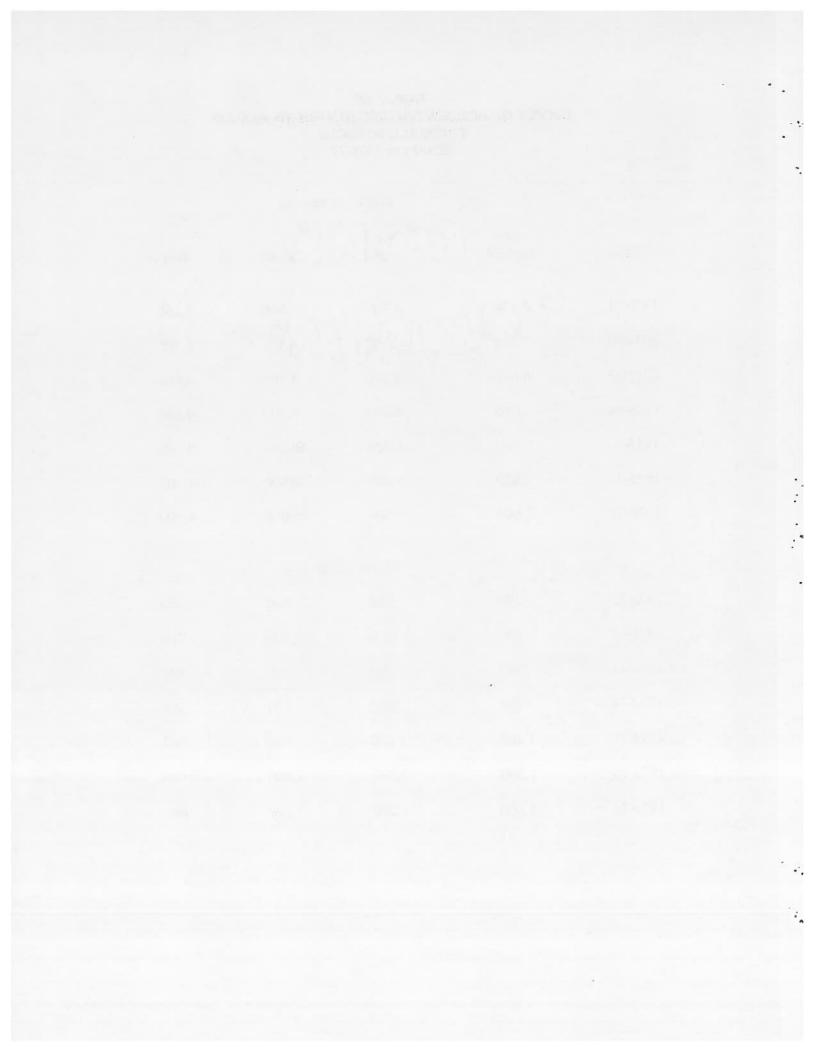


TABLE X
SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING GRADUATES BY REGION
FROM AACSB MEMBER SCHOOLS
1970-71 to 1976-77

Bachelor's Degrees

Year	New England	North Central	South	Pacific
1970-71	2,400	3,900	3,100	2,300
1971-72	2,800	4,400	3,800	2,500
1972-73	3,000	4,800	4,100	2,700
1973-74	3,100	5,000	4,400	2,900
1974-75	3,100	5,100	4,600	3,000
1975-76	3,200	5,300	4,800	3,100
1976-77	3,300	5,400	4,900	3,200
		Master's D	egrees	
1970-71	400	700	400	100
1971-72	700	500	400	200
1972-73	800	600	400	300
1973-74	1,000	600	500	400
1974-75	1,100	700	600	400
1975-76	1,200	700	700	500
1976-77	1,300	800	800	500

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TABLE XI
SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING GRADUATES BY REGION
FROM AACSB ASSEMBLY SCHOOLS
1970-71 to 1976-77

Bachelor's Degrees

Year	New England	North Central	South	Pacific
1970-71	2,700	2,800	2,700	900
1971-72	3,100	3,000	3,000	1,200
1972-73	3,600	3,400	3,300	1,300
1973-74	3,900	3,600	3,500	1,400
1974-75	4,000	3,800	3,600	1,500
1975-76	4,400	4,100	4,100	1,600
1976-77	4,500	4,400	4,100	1,700
		Master's D	egrees	
1970-71	100	100	100	_
1971-72	100	100	100	100
1972-73	100	200	100	100
1973-74	200	200	100	100
1974-75	300	300	200	100
1975-76	300	400	300	100
1976-77	300	400	400	100

TABLE XII STATES PER REGION

New England	North Central	South	Pacific
Connecticut Delaware	Colorado Illinois	Alabama Arkansas	Alaska Arizona
Maine	Indiana	Florida	California
Maryland	Iowa	Georgia	Hawaii
Massachusetts	Kansas	Kentucky	Idaho
New Hampshire	Michigan	Louisiana	Nevada
New Jersey	Minnesota	Mississippi	Oregon
New York	Missouri	New Mexico	Utah
Pennsylvania	Montana	North Carolina	Washington
Rhode Island	Nebraska	Oklahoma	
Vermont	North Dakota	South Carolina	
	Ohio	Tennessee	
	South Dakota	Texas	
	West Virginia	Virginia	
	Wisconsin		
	Wyoming		

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THE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTING RECRUITS

Participation in Demand Survey

The 1973 study of demand, like the prior two, consisted of only larger firm participation. This "larger firm" classification, defined as firms with 10 or more Institute members, included 316 firms. For the 1973 demand survey, only those firms which responded to the 1972 survey were contacted. This sample consisted of 65 firms and included 19 of the 20 firms with the most Institute members. The firms contacted were asked to report their actual demand for 1971-72, to update their projections for the four years 1972-73 through 1975-76, and to make a projection for 1976-77.

Of the 65 firms contacted, 54 replied, including 19 of the 20 firms with the most Institute members. The aggregate demand data reported in this study are based upon these 54 replies. Results for the 251 firms not sampled and the 11 firms that did not reply were estimated based upon demand indicated by the responding firms. For purposes of this estimate, firms were classified by size. Within each class-size, the results for the nonsampled and nonresponding firms were estimated to be the same as the responding firms.

As a result of the excellent responses from the largest firms, the amount of estimation involved was minor. Estimates applicable to nonrespondents and firms not included in the sample are only 12% of the demand totals.

A summary of the participation in the survey follows:

Number of Institute			Surv Reque			nses
Members	Number	<u>_</u> %	Number	%	Number	%
More than 32	44	14	42	65	35	65
22-32	19	6	7	11	4	7
16-21	55	17	6	9	6	11
10-15	<u>198</u>	<u>63</u>	_10	15	_9	<u>17</u>
	<u>316</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>65</u>	100	<u>54</u>	100

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Results of Demand Study

The aggregate results of the 1973 demand study and a comparison of the 1973 and 1972 studies are shown in Tables XIII and XIV at the end of this section.

Results of 1971-72. Total demand for both holders of bachelor's and master's degrees was approximately the same as predicted in the 1972 study. There was little offset between the different size firms, so that the results for 1971-72 for all size firms was approximately the same as the 1972 study prediction.

Both the 1971 and 1972 studies suggested that the larger the firm the greater the emphasis upon the master's degree. The actual demand for 1971-72 as reported in the 1973 study continues to support this suggestion in that 24% of the total recruits hired by firms with more than 32 Institute members held master's degrees while only 11% of the total recruits hired by firms with from 10 to 32 Institute members held master's degrees. The percentage of total recruits holding master's degrees hired by the smaller firms, however, has increased substantially from 1970-71, when only 5% of the total recruits hired by firms with from 10 to 27 Institute members held master's degrees. (The firm or firms with 27 members in 1972 had 32 members in 1973.)

Predictions for 1972-73 through 1976-77. Demand for holders of bachelor's degrees is almost unchanged from the 1972 study (Table XIV). The major change between the 1973 and 1972 studies is the decrease in the demand for holders of master's degrees. The 1972 study predicted that by 1975-76, 28% of recruits would hold the master's degree. This prediction has dropped to 23% in the 1973 study. The decrease is due to a change in the larger firms' demand. The 1972 study predicted for the larger firms a 6% increase in percent of total demand for holders of master's degrees from 1971-72 to 1975-76 with a decreasing percentage of total demand for the smaller firms. The 1973 study shows that both the larger and smaller firms are predicting an almost constant percentage of master's degrees as shown in the following table:

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PERCENTAGE OF NEW EMPLOYEES EXPECTED TO HOLD MASTER'S DEGREES

Firm Size (Institute Members)

Year	More than 32	10 to 32
1972-73	24%	2%
1973-74	24	2
1974-75	24	3
1975-76	25	4
1976-77	25	4

Nondegree Individuals. Both the 1971 and 1972 studies suggested an inverse relationship between firm size and demand for individuals without bachelor's degrees and in the future an overall decline in demand for such individuals. The 1973 study supports the first conclusion. During 1971-72, firms with more than 32 Institute members filled only 0.4% of their total demand with non-degree individuals while firms with 10 to 32 Institute members met 2.3% of their total demand in this manner. The demand for such individuals has reached such small proportions that any conclusions reached concerning the second premise is meaningless.

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TABLE XIII
DEMAND FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTING RECRUITS
1967-68 to 1976-77

	H	Educational Level		
Year	Less than Bachelor's	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	Total Demand
1967-68	200	6,600	1,500	8,300
1968-69	200	9,600	1,800	11,600
1969-70	300	9,900	1,900	12,100
1970-71	100	5,300	1,600	7,000
1971-72	100	6,800	2,000	8,900
1972-73	100	8,500	2,400	11,000
1973-74	100	9,500	2,600	12,200
1974-75	100	10,400	3,000	13,500
1975-76	100	11,400	3,400	14,900
1976-77	100	12,200	4,000	16,300

NOTE: As explained in the report, this demand is based upon a survey of firms with 10 or more Institute members.

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TABLE XIV
COMPARISON OF 1973 AND 1972 DEMAND STUDIES
1971-72 to 1975-76

		ss than helor's	Ва	ional Level chelor's egree		ster's gree		otal mand
Year	1973 Study	1972 Study	1973 Study	1972 Study	1973 Study	1972 Study	1973 Study	1972 Study
1971-72	100	100	6,800	7,000	2,000	2,000	8,900	9,100
1972-73	100	100	8,500	8,500	2,400	2,600	11,000	11,200
1973-74	100	100	9,500	9,400	2,600	3,000	12,200	12,500
1974-75	100	100	10,400	10,400	3,000	3,700	13,500	14,200
1975-76	100	100	11,400	11,400	3,400	4,400	14,900	15,900

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RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING GRADUATES AND DEMAND FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTING RECRUITS

Tables XV to XVII at the end of this section attempt to show the relationships between supply and demand.

The supply of accounting graduates and the demand for public accounting recruits are separate but overlapping populations. Some of the factors that should be considered in discussing them are:

- 1. The supply of graduates includes many students who are not interested in public accounting.
- 2. Holders of bachelor's degrees who go on to graduate study are reported twice, in the year they receive the bachelor's degree and in the year they receive the master's degree.
- 3. Demand is often filled by students who did not major in accounting. (This is particularly true at the master's level, because this study may not have identified all MBAs concentrating in or interested in accounting.)

Observations relating to the relationship between supply and demand should be made with these qualifications in mind.

The ratio of demand to supply is expected to increase over the next five years, but at a slower rate than that predicted in the 1972 study. This is principally due to the decrease in the ratio of supply of and demand for holders of master's degrees between the 1973 and 1972 studies. Predicted supply of such graduates for 1975-76 dropped 9% from the 1972 study while demand dropped 23%.

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TABLE XV
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUPPLY OF ACCOUNTING
GRADUATES AND DEMAND FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTING RECRUITS
1967-68 to 1976-77

Year	Supply of Graduates	Demand for Recruits	Ratio (%)	Ratio Per 1972 Study (%)
1967-68	17,200	8,100	47	47
1968-69	18,700	11,400	61	61
1969-70	20,000	11,800	59	59
1970-71	22,700	6,900	30	30
1971-72	26,000	8,800	34	35
1972-73	28,800	10,900	38	40
1973-74	30,900	12,100	40	40
1974-75	32,400	13,400	41	42
1975-76	34,800	14,800	43	45
1976-77	36,100	16,200	45	_

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TABLE XVI
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND
FOR HOLDERS OF BACHELOR'S DEGREES
1967-68 to 1976-77

Year	Supply of Graduates	Demand for Recruits	Ratio (%)	Ratio Per 1972 Study (%)
1967-68	15,700	6,600	42	42
1968-69	17,200	9,600	56	56
1969-70	18,700	9,900	53	53
1970-71	20,800	5,300	25	25
1971-72	23,800	6,800	29	30
1972-73	26,200	8,500	32	33
1973-74	27,800	9,500	34	35
1974-75	28,700	10,400	36	36
1975-76	30,600	11,400	37	37
1976-77	31,500	12,200	39	

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TABLE XVII
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND
FOR HOLDERS OF MASTER'S DEGREES
1967-68 to 1976-77

Year	Supply of Graduates	Demand for Recruits	Ratio (%)	Ratio Per 1972 Study (%)
1967-68	1,500	1,500	100	100
1968-69	1,500	1,800	120	120
1969-70	1,300	1,900	146	146
1970-71	1,900	1,600	84	84
1971-72	2,200	2,000	91	80
1972-73	2,600	2,400	92	87
1973-74	3,100	2,600	84	86
1974-75	3,700	3,000	81	90
1975-76	4,200	3,400	81	98
1976-77	4,600	4,000	87	

NOTE: As explained in the report, the supply determined in this study does not include all recipients of the master's degree who might seek employment in public accounting.

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