

A yearly publication by ACRA on the

# **ACCOUNTING ENTITIES SURVEY 2025**

Insights for the year 2024



## Content



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The figures presented in this report have been rounded up to one decimal place. As such, the totals and subtotals may not match perfectly, and percentages may not add up to 100%.

The estimated figures presented are extrapolated to represent the entire industry.

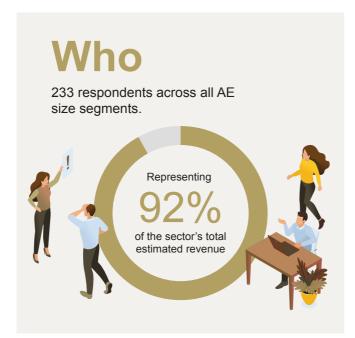
# Introduction



### What

National Survey conducted by the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) on Accounting Entities.





	AE RESPONDENTS		
	No. of Respondents	Estimated Population by AE Size	Response Rate
<b>Big 4</b> (≥1,000 staff)	4	4	100%
<b>Large</b> (101-999 staff)	12	12	100%
Medium (31-100 staff)	20	26	77%
Small (10-30 staff)	55	185 <sup>1</sup>	30%
Micro (<10 staff)	142	<b>534</b> <sup>1</sup>	27%

The survey comprises four segments: market structure, accountancy workforce, revenue per employee, and technology adoption. These segments were measured as follows:



#### **MARKET STRUCTURE**

Measured by both domestic revenue (work performed in Singapore) and foreign revenue (work performed outside Singapore).



#### **ACCOUNTANCY WORKFORCE**

Measured firms' distribution of jobs across the 5 service categories: audit and assurance, business advisory, tax advisory and compliance, corporate support, and administrative/support, as well as wages across different seniorities.



#### **REVENUE PER EMPLOYEE**

Measured by the average annual revenue per employee; total wage expenses as a percentage of total operating revenue; and total wage expenses as a percentage of total operating expenses.



#### **TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION**

Measured by the average adoption level of common accounting related software such as audit, data analytics and tax software as well as broad-based software such as human resources (HR)/payroll and marketing/customer relationship management (CRM) software etc.

#### **About ACRA**

The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) is the regulator of business registration, financial reporting, public accountants, and corporate service providers. We are responsible for developing the accountancy sector and setting the accounting standards for companies, charities, co-operative societies, and societies in Singapore. ACRA fosters a vibrant and trusted business environment that enables innovation and growth and contributes towards making Singapore the best place for business.

For more information, please visit: www.acra.gov.sg.

#### **Acknowledgement**

ACRA would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all respondents who contributed their time to participate in the survey.

#### **Supporting Partners**





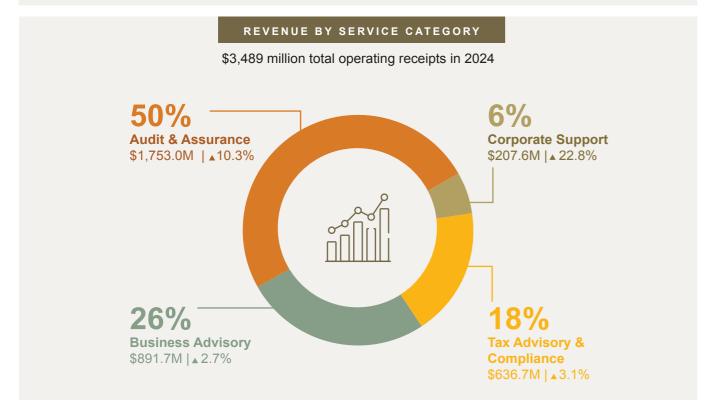




<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Estimated based on total population of 761 Accounting Entities approved under the Accountants Act as at 31 March 2025 (Source: Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority)

# **Summary of Findings**







REVENUE PE	ER EMPLOYEE
AUDIT & ASSURANCE  10.9%  \$148,500	CORPORATE SUPPORT  • 9.4%  \$129,600
TAX ADVISORY & COMPLIANCE  1.7% \$211,500	**************************************

Increase in headcount in 2024
201

First year manager and first year director earn about

32% and 47% higher wages
compared to peers of similar years of experience<sup>4</sup>





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This was 70% in 2023. Residents are Singapore citizens and permanent residents

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Compared to the median gross monthly income of resident managers and administrators across industries in full-time employment in the 25 to 29, and 35 to 39 age groups respectively. Source: Labour Force in Singapore 2024. Comprehensive Labour Force Survey. Manpower Research & Statistics Department, Ministry of Manpower

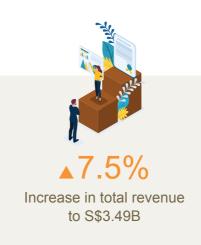
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Year-on-Year change

#### CHAPTER 1

# **Market Structure**

#### **Overview**

In 2024, the accounting sector's total estimated revenue rose by \$244.5 million (7.5%), reaching \$3,489.0 million. This robust growth outpaced Singapore's overall economic growth of 4.4% in 2024, and was significantly higher than the 1.2% growth in real value added for the professional services sector<sup>5</sup>.



2024 \$3.5 Billion

2023 TOTAL REVENUE
\$3.2 Billion

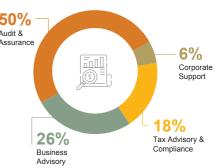


#### <sup>5</sup> Ministry of Trade and Industry Singapore, Economic Survey of Singapore 2024

#### **Revenue Composition**

The sector's growth was driven primarily by increases in audit and assurance services of \$163.4 million (10.3%), followed by corporate support services, business advisory services, and tax advisory and compliance services. Audit and assurance services remained the primary source of revenue, accounting for 50% of the sector's total operating receipts, with business advisory services being the next biggest contributor at 26%.





Year	Audit & Assurance	Business Advisory	Corporate Support	Tax Advisory & Compliance
2024	\$1,753.0	\$891.7	\$207.6	\$636.7
2023	\$1,589.5	\$868.3	\$169.1	\$617.6
Change	<b>▲</b> \$163.4	<b>▲</b> \$23.4	▲ \$38.6	▲ \$19.1
% Change	<b>▲</b> 10.3%	<b>▲</b> 2.7%	<b>▲</b> 22.8%	▲ 3.1%

#### Top 3 business advisory services in 2024





FIG 2 | Revenue by Business Advisory Services (\$' million)

Service Line	2024	2023	Change	Year-on-Year Change
Corporate Finance & Deal Advisory	\$249.7	\$201.0	<b>▲</b> \$48.7	▲ 24.2%
IT Advisory	\$250.4	\$233.0	<b>▲</b> \$17.3	<b>▲</b> 7.4%
Restructuring & Insolvency	\$76.5	\$136.0	▼ \$59.5	▼ 43.7%
Risk Management & Governance	\$176.0	\$182.1	▼ \$6.1	▼ 3.4%
Other Advisory Services *	\$139.1	\$116.2	<b>▲</b> \$22.9	<b>▲</b> 19.7%

<sup>\*</sup> Includes revenue from sustainability reporting and advisory services



# Sustainability-related services

(includes sustainability reporting and advisory, and sustainability assurance)

**▲** 19.2%



**2024** \$33.2M

**2023** \$27.9M

#### **Overseas Revenue**

AEs generated an estimated \$369.0 million from work performed outside Singapore, accounting for 11% of the sector's total revenue. This reflects a substantial growth, with revenue from work performed outside Singapore increasing by \$81.9 million (28.5%). The growth in overseas revenue demonstrates the growing global reach and competitiveness of AEs as they enhance their capabilities in serving cross-border clients, and expand their service offerings beyond Singapore to capture opportunities in international markets.

FIG 3 | Estimated Revenue Derived from Work Performed Outside Singapore (\$'million)

	2024	2023	% of revenue 2024	% of revenue 2023	Change	Year-on-Year Change
Total	\$369.0	\$287.1	11%	10%	▲\$81.9	▲28.5%

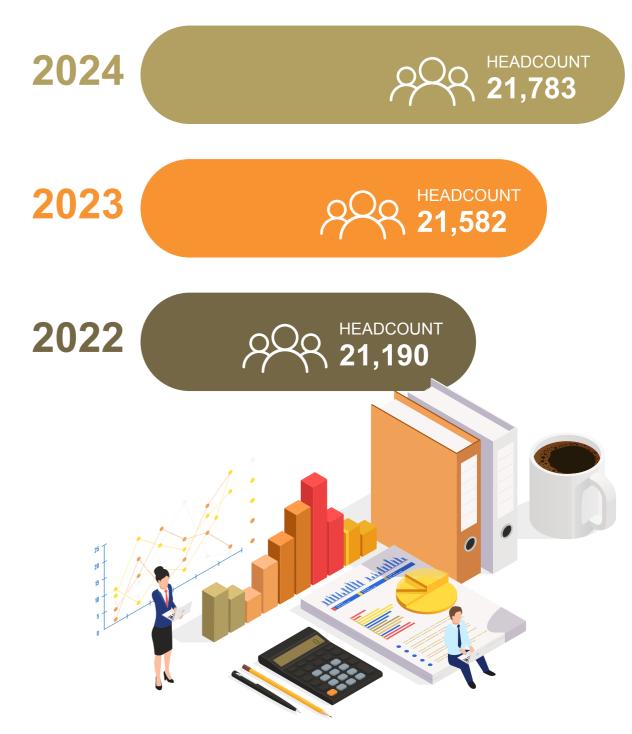
#### CHAPTER 2

# **Accountancy Workforce**

#### **Overview**

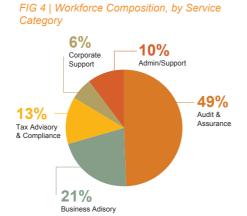
In 2024, Singapore's accountancy workforce grew by approximately 200 positions, driven by an expansion in the resident workforce of more than 1,300 positions, marking the first rise since 2020. While this growth was offset by a decrease in the non-resident workforce of about 1,100 positions, the sector successfully attracted more residents to join and remain in the accountancy profession in 2024.





#### **Workforce Composition**

Almost 10,700 professionals, which accounted for almost half of the workforce, worked in audit and assurance roles in 2024. Audit and assurance recorded a marginal decline in headcount mainly due a decline in non-resident headcount, despite an 8.7% increase in the resident workforce. Administrative/support as well as corporate support services experienced the largest increases in headcount, adding 177 and 167 staff respectively.



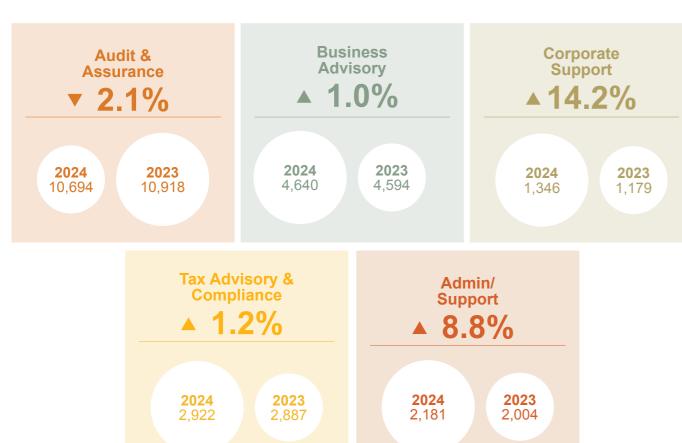


FIG 5 | Workforce Composition, by Business Advisory Services (Based in Singapore)

Service Line	2024	2023	Change	Year-on-Year Change
Corporate Finance & Deal Advisory	1,083	761	▲ 322	▲ 42.3%
IT Advisory	1,244	1,492	▼ 248	▼ 16.6%
Restructuring & Insolvency	278	623	▼ 345	▼ 55.4%
Risk Management & Governance	1,195	891	▲ 304	<b>▲</b> 34.1%
Other Advisory Services	840	827	<b>▲</b> 13	▲ 1.6%

#### **Resident Workforce**

The resident workforce expanded significantly by 1,339 positions (8.8%) in 2024. Following the release of the Accountancy Workforce Review Committee's (AWRC) report<sup>6</sup> in May 2024 which outlined key strategies to strengthen the attractiveness of the accountancy sector to grow Singapore's pool of skilled accounting professionals, several recommendations such as increases in starting salaries and the expansion of entry pathways have been announced and implemented to strengthen the sector's talent pipeline and deepen professional competencies.

Administrative/support roles remained the highest proportion of residents in their workforce at 88%, followed by corporate support and other advisory services.

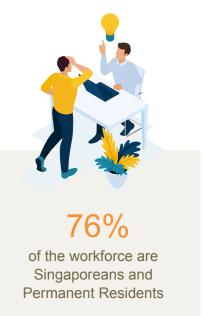
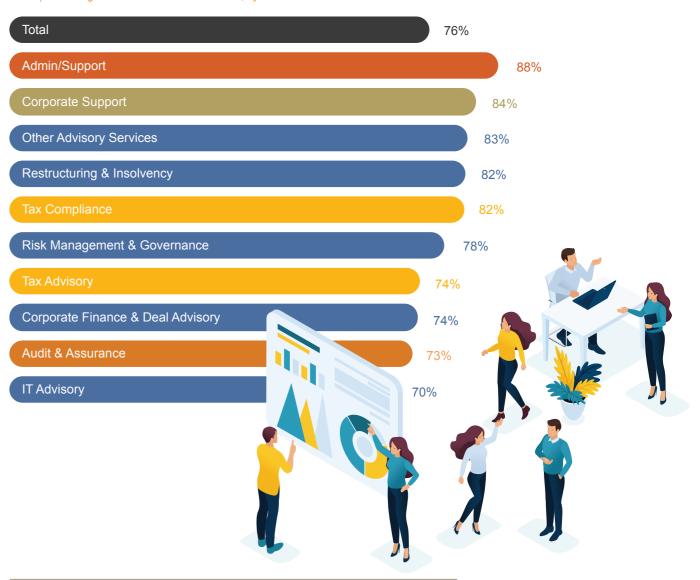


FIG 6 | Percentage of Resident Workforce in AEs, by Service Line

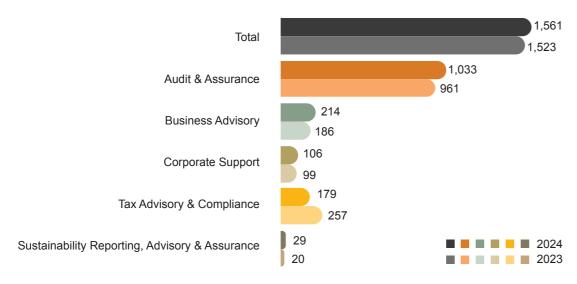


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Developing Singapore's Accountancy Workforce of Tomorrow – The Report of the Accountancy Workforce Review Committee

#### **Range of Job Opportunities**

The sector is expected to continue expanding its workforce with AEs reporting an estimated total of 1,561 job vacancies in 2024, representing a marginal increase of 2.5% compared to 2023. About two-thirds of these career opportunities are in audit and assurance, followed by business advisory contributing over 200 roles.

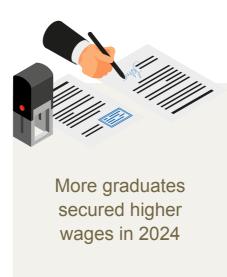
FIG 7 | Job Vacancies, by Service Category



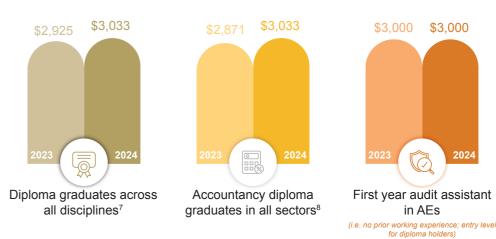
#### **Wages**

Although median entry-level wages held steady for first year audit assistants and associates at \$3,000 and \$4,200 respectively, more graduates secured higher wages in 2024. This is in line with recommendations from the AWRC report for firms to redesign reward structures to attract and retain young talent.

The percentage of first-year audit assistants earning above \$3,200 increased from 12% in 2023 to 37% in 2024. Similarly, the proportion of first-year associates with salaries above \$4,000 rose from 60% to 66%, with over a quarter earning more than \$4,400 in 2024, compared to none in 2023.



#### FIG 8 | Estimated Median Gross Monthly Salary for First Year Audit Assistant



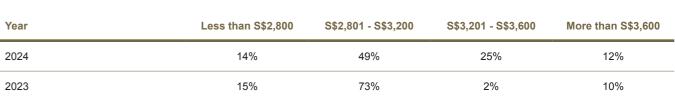
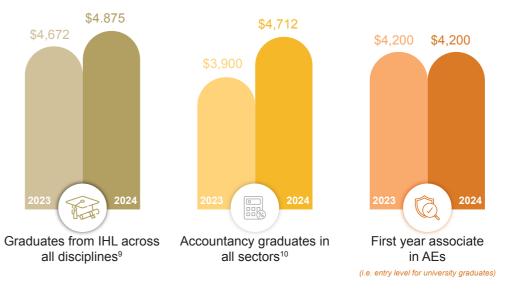


FIG 9 | Estimated Median Gross Monthly Salary for First Year Associate



Year	\$3,600 or less	S\$3,601 - S\$4,000	S\$4,001 - S\$4,400	S\$4,401 - S\$4,800
2024	27%	7%	39%	27%
2023	35%	5%	60%	0%

Median gross monthly salary (excluding bonuses) of fresh polytechnic graduates and Post-NS graduates in full-time employment in 2024 was \$2,800 and \$3,000 (2023: \$2,700 and \$2,963) respectively. Assuming a 1 month annual wage supplement, ACRA estimates that the median gross monthly starting salary inclusive of bonuses would be \$3,033. Source: Graduate Employment Survey.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The median gross starting salary (excluding bonuses) of accountancy polytechnic graduates was estimated to be \$2,800 in 2024 (2023: \$2,650). Assuming a 1 month annual wage supplement, ACRA estimates that the median gross starting salary inclusive of bonuses in 2024 would be \$3,033 (2023: \$2,871). Source: Graduate Employment Survey.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Median gross monthly salary (excluding bonuses) of graduates in full-time employment from the Institutes of Higher Learning in 2024 was \$4,500 (2023: \$4,350). Assuming a 1 month annual wage supplement, ACRA estimates that the median gross monthly starting salary inclusive of bonuses for 2024 would be \$4,875 (2023: \$4,672). Source: Graduate Employment Survey.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The median gross starting salary (excluding bonuses) of accountancy graduates was estimated to be \$4,350 in 2024 (2023: \$3,600).

Assuming a 1 month annual wage supplement, ACRA estimates that the median gross starting salary inclusive of bonuses in 2024 would be \$4,712 (2023: \$3,900). Source: Graduate Employment Survey.

Median gross monthly salaries rose across experienced roles, with wages of first year senior associates, managers, and directors growing by 8.0%, 6.9% and 17.4% respectively. This trajectory demonstrates that accountants' salaries accelerate as they advance in their careers.

# > 30% Extent by which wages of managers and directors outperform resident managers in the 25-29 and 35-39 age groups

FIG 10 | Estimated Median Gross Monthly Salary for First Year Senior Associate

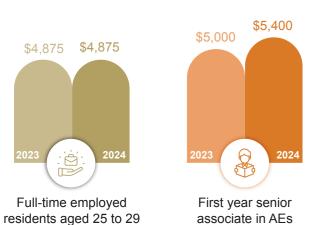


FIG 11 | Estimated Median Gross Monthly Salary for First Year Manager

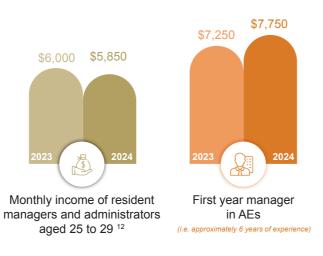
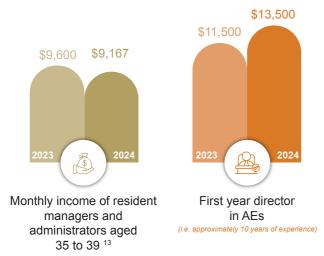


FIG 12 | Estimated Median Gross Monthly Salary for First Year Director

(i.e. at least 3 years of experience)

with degree<sup>11</sup>



<sup>11</sup> Median gross monthly income from work (excluding employer CPF) of full-time employed residents aged 25 to 29 with degree in June 2024 was \$4,875 (June 2023: \$4,875). Source: Comprehensive Labour Force Survey. Manpower Research & Statistics Department, Ministry of Manpower

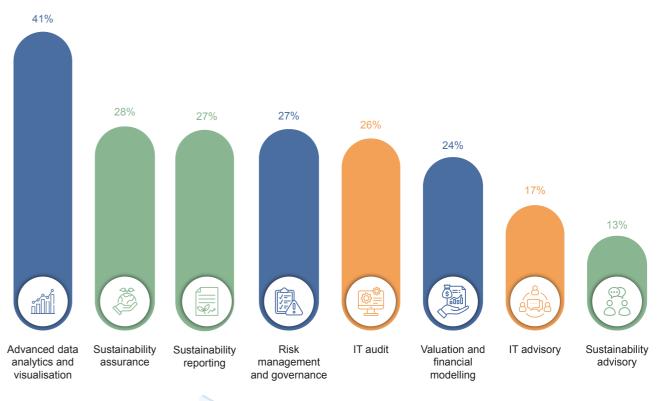
Median gross monthly income from work (excluding employer CPF) of full-time employed resident managers and administrators aged 25 to 29 in June 2024 was \$5,850 (June 2023: \$6,000) Source: Comprehensive Labour Force Survey. Manpower Research & Statistics Department, Ministry of Manpower.

<sup>13</sup> Median gross monthly income from work (excluding employer CPF) of full-time employed resident managers and administrators aged 35 to 39 in June 2024 was \$9,167 (June 2023: \$9,600). Source: Comprehensive Labour Force Survey. Manpower Research & Statistics Department, Ministry of Manpower.

#### **In-Demand Skillsets**

With the growth of the digital and green economy, majority of accounting firms indicated interest in growing digital and sustainability capabilities and skills within their workforce. 41% of respondents indicated interest to build data analytics and visualisation skills within their workforce over the next 3 years, followed by sustainability assurance, sustainability reporting as well as risk management and governance skills. These priorities signal a strategic focus on data-driven decision-making and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) competencies.

FIG 13 | Top In-Demand Skillsets that AEs Would Like to Build Within Their Workforce Over the Next 3 Years (Percentage of Respondents)



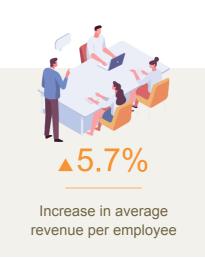


#### CHAPTER 3

# Average Revenue per Employee

#### **Overview**

In 2024, average revenue per employee rose by 5.7% to \$149,300. The increase in revenue per employee was driven mainly by audit and assurance services, and corporate support services.



AVERAGE REVENUE PER EMPLOYEE \$149,300

2023



2022



#### **Average Revenue per Employee**

Average revenue per employee grew across all service categories in 2024. Audit and assurance services recorded the highest increase at 10.9%, followed by corporate support services at 9.4%.

FIG 14 | Average Revenue per Employee, by Service Category (\$'000)

Service Category	2024	2023	Year-on-Year Change
Audit & Assurance	\$148.5	\$133.9	▲ 10.9%
Business Advisory	\$189.6	\$186.9	<b>▲</b> 1.4%
Corporate Support	\$129.6	\$118.5	<b>▲</b> 9.4%
Tax Advisory & Compliance	\$211.5	\$207.9	<b>▲</b> 1.7%
TOTAL	\$149.3	\$141.3	<b>▲</b> 5.7%

#### Average Revenue per Employee, by Service Line

Restructuring and insolvency services achieved the highest average revenue per employee at \$274,200, followed by tax advisory and corporate finance and deal advisory. Business advisory, as well as tax advisory and compliance services consistently generated higher revenue per employee compared to other service lines.

FIG 15 | Average Revenue per Employee, by Service Line (\$'000)

Service Line	% of Total Revenue	Average Revenue per Employee	Ranking Based on Average Revenue per Employee
Restructuring & Insolvency	2%	\$274.2	1
Tax Advisory	9%	\$243.6	2
Corporate Finance & Deal Advisory	7%	\$228.9	3
IT Advisory	7%	\$200.9	4
Tax Compliance	10%	\$189.8	5
Other Advisory Services	4%	\$157.5	6
Audit & Assurance	50%	\$148.5	7
Risk Management & Governance	5%	\$146.1	8
Corporate Support	6%	\$129.6	9

ACCOUNTING ENTITIES SURVEY 2025 ACCOUNTING ENTITIES SURVEY 2025 ACCOUNTING ENTITIES SURVEY 2025

# Total Wage Expense as a Percentage of Total Operating Revenue

Total wage expense as a percentage of total operating revenue decreased from 61% in 2023 to 58% in 2024. This decline was primarily attributed to the 7.5% increase in revenue, which outpaced the modest 0.9% growth in workforce size.

# Total Wage Expense as a Percentage of Total Operating Expense

Total wage expense as a percentage of total operating expense also saw a slight decrease, falling from 74% in 2023 to 73% in 2024.

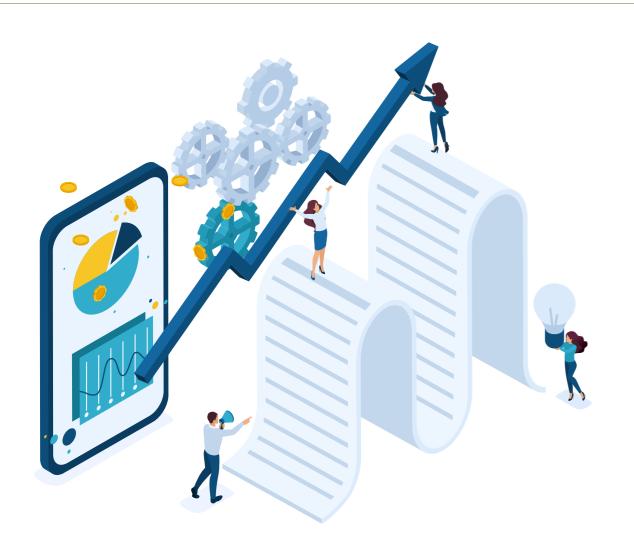


Total Mana Evnance on a Davisantone of

FIG 16 | Total Wage Expense as a Percentage of Total Operating Revenue and Expense

	ũ i	Total Operating Revenue		e as a Percentage of ting Expense
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Total	58%	61%	73%	74%

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#### CHAPTER 4

# **Technology Adoption**

#### **Overview**

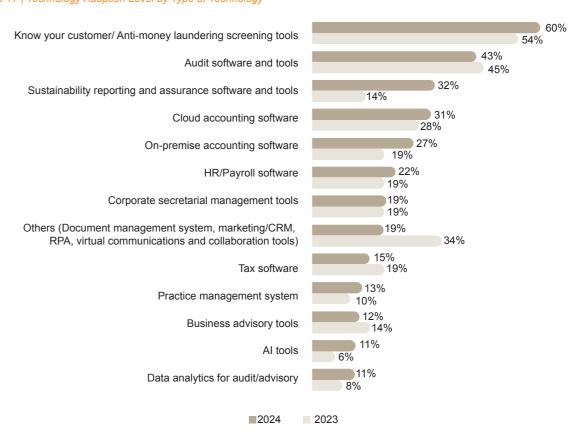
Technology adoption remained strong with 85% of AEs adopting at least one or more solution, and 64% adopting two or more solutions. The adoption rates increased from 82% and 57% in 2023 respectively, demonstrating sustained digital transformation across the sector.



Percentage of AEs that adopted solutions



FIG 17 | Technology Adoption Level by Type of Technology



# **Top 50 Accounting Entities by** Headcount<sup>14</sup>

#### Big 4

(≥ 1,000 staff)

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Ernst & Young LLP

**KPMG LLP** 

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

#### Large

(101 - 999 staff)

Baker Tilly TFW LLP

**BDO LLP** 

**CLA Global TS Public Accounting** 

Corporation

Crowe Horwath First Trust LLP

Foo Kon Tan LLP

**Grant Thornton Audit LLP** 

HLB Atrede STRB PAC

Forvis Mazars LLP

Moore Stephens LLP

**PKF-CAP LLP** 

RSM SG Assurance LLP

UHY Lee Seng Chan & Co.

# Medium

(31 - 100 staff)

Assentsure PAC

Assurance Partners LLP

Audit Alliance LLP

**Ecovis Assurance LLP** 

EisnerAmper PAC

**FOZL Assurance PAC** 

Helmi Talib LLP

Heng Lee Seng LLP

Infinity Assurance LLP

JK Medora PAC

Kreston David Yeung PAC

MRI Moores Rowland LLP

Nexia Singapore PAC

Natarajan & Swaminathan LLP

Onestop Assurance PAC

P G Wee Partnership LLP

Philip Liew & Co

Pinebridge LLP

Prime Accountants LLP

Reliance Audit PAC

#### Small

(10 - 30 staff)

Casey Lin & Company

**FAC Assurance PAC** 

K.C.Chan & Co PAC

KLP LLP

K Y Chiang LLP

MGI Alliance Singapore PAC

MGI N Rajan Associates

One Partnership PAC

Paul Wan & Co

Prestige Assurance PAC

Robert Yam & Co PAC

**TKNP International** 

Thong & Lim

Verity Partners LLP







# **Glossary Terms**

Accounting Entity (AE)	An Accounting Corporation, Accounting Firm, or Accounting Limited Liability Partnership, approved under the Accountants Act (Chapter 2). An accounting entity provides audit and
	assurance services – regulated by ACRA – as well as other non-audit related services such as basic accounting services, tax preparations, corporate advisory services and consultancy services.
Accounting Services Entity (ASE)	An entity that does not provide audit and assurance services that are regulated by ACRA, but provide non-audit related accounting services such as basic accounting services, tax preparations and corporate advisory services.
Audit and Assurance	Comprises:  Statutory audit; Accounting advisory; and Other assurance services.
Corporate Support Services	Comprises:     Bookkeeping;     Corporate secretarial and legal services;     Outsourcing of accounting/finance personnel;     Payroll; and     Statutory financial reporting/compilation services.
Corporate Finance and Deal Advisory	Comprises:  Business valuation; Financial modelling; Debt and capital advisory; IPOs and capital markets activity; and M&A and due diligence.
IT Advisory	Comprises:     IT solution business;     Technology risk advisory;     Technology consulting; and     IT forensic services.
Restructuring and Insolvency Advisory	Comprises:     Corporate restructuring (operational restructuring)     Debt restructuring (capital advisory, judicial management, scheme of arrangement);     Insolvency services (liquidation, receiverships); and     Litigation support and expert witness services.
Risk Management and Governance	Comprises:  Risk advisory; Corporate governance advisory; Fraud and forensic services; and Internal audit services.
Sustainability Advisory	<ul> <li>Comprises:</li> <li>Sustainability reporting - International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) Standards</li> <li>Sustainability reporting (Non-ISSB Standards e.g. GRI, SASB Standards)</li> <li>Sustainability advisory (e.g. climate scenario analysis, policy, strategy, impact measurement, risk management); and</li> <li>Other services.</li> </ul>
Sustainability Assurance	Comprises:     Assurance on sustainability reports; and     Assurance on greenhouse gas emissions and carbon tax.
Tax Compliance	Comprises:     Compliance in corporate tax;     Compliance in personal income tax; and     Compliance in GST services.

Tax Advisory	Comprises:     Transfer pricing advisory;     International tax advisory; and     Tax advisory – other services.
Other Advisory Services	Comprises:     Process improvement;     HR compliance/succession planning/business transfer; and     Other services.
Work Performed in Singapore	Income received by all entities based in Singapore which is sourced locally. This excludes non-operating income, such as sale/disposal of fixed assets, grants and from revenues collected on behalf of others.  For example:  Income received from the provision of accounting services in Singapore.
Work Performed outside Singapore	Income received by all entities based in Singapore which is sourced overseas. This excludes non-operating income, such as sale/disposal of fixed assets, grants and gross revenues collected on behalf of others.  For example:  Revenue from work performed by Singapore staff outside Singapore  Revenue from the provision of cloud-based services to clients based outside Singapore.
Business Unit	A segment of the entity that represents a specific business function or an entity comprising a business function.

 $^{24}$ 

#### **About Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority**

The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) fosters a vibrant and trusted business environment that enables innovation and growth, contributing towards making Singapore the best place for business. ACRA regulates the registration of businesses, and their financial and other reporting obligations. We also oversee the public accountancy and corporate service provider sectors. In addition, ACRA plays a critical role in developing the accountancy profession, and sets accounting standards for companies and various other entities in Singapore.

For more information, please visit www.acra.gov.sg



#### **ACCOUNTING AND CORPORATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

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