Abstract

Literature has formed varying opinions of the world of international accounting. However, these opinions come from professionals across the globe. There is one voice I have not exposed…

What are the opinions of accounting professionals in TN?

This question I expect to answer, along with the cause of these views (path to receiving their CPA and years of experience).

Research Question

What are Tennessee accounting professionals' perceptions on current international accounting issues, according to their experience level and their educational background?

Research Objectives

The world of international accounting is a topic on the minds of all public accounting professionals. With my research I desire to reveal the opinions of professionals on three current international accounting issues…

• Is IFRS less difficult to implement than US GAAP?
• Is it fair for international companies traded in the US to file in their own country’s accounting standards?
• Have opinions changed on the current status of the FASB/IASB standards convergence?

Method

100 Tennessee CPAs will be interviewed by survey to determine their opinions on the three prevalent international accounting issues selected. I anticipate to uncover a causal relationship between their perceptions and their educational background and years of experience.

Survey to be administered to CPA professionals.

What level of education did you complete to receive your CPA license?

• Undergraduate
• Undergraduate in Accounting with additional undergraduate hours
• Undergraduate in Business Administration
• Undergraduate in Accounting with additional graduate hours
• Master’s of Accountancy
• Masters plus a Master’s of Business Administration
• MBA
• MBA in Accounting
• MBA in Accounting with additional graduate hours

How long have you been a CPA in public accounting?

• Less than ten years
• Ten to twenty years
• Twenty to thirty years
• Thirty to forty years
• Forty years

If your opinion has changed over the last ten years, what is the reasoning behind the change?

• More principles based
• More rules based
• More rules based but it will be interesting to discover if my independent variables (professional experience and path to CPA) affect opinions of these current international accounting issues.

Conclusions

After preliminary discussions with accounting professionals, literature review, and research, these preliminary findings have been discovered…

• IFRS is perceived as less difficult to implement due to its principle-based nature.
• The SEC rules on international filings are clear, but it will be interesting to uncover whether professionals believe the ruling prevents comparability of companies.
• The FASB and IASB are facing disagreements between lease standards, but has this changed the opinions of TN CPAs on an impending convergence of the standards.

References


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