

Structure and organisation of the profession - key features - 2020 update

FRANCE

- Capital: Paris
- Population: approx. 67,000,000
- Language: French
- Part of the EU since: Founder

MEMBER BODIES:

- Institute of Statutory Auditors (CNCC)
www.cncc.fr
- The Order of Certified Accountants (CSOEC)
www.experts-comptables.fr



PROFESSIONAL BODIES

	CNCC	CSOEC
Membership	Mandatory	Mandatory
No. of members	12,341	21,296
Institute staff	80	163
Date of establishment	1966	1945
Local branches	Yes, 33 Compagnies régionales des commissaires aux comptes (CRCC)	Yes, 25 Conseils régionaux de l'Ordre des Experts-comptables (CROEC)
Subject to public oversight	Yes	Yes
Public oversight authority	High Council for Statutory Audit (H3C)	Ministry of Finance

Involvement in Qualification and Market Access	CNCC	CSOEC
Initial education	Yes (practical training and final examination)	Yes (master's degree DSCG, practical training, final examination)
Examination	Yes	Yes
Approval and registration	Yes (delegation will go back to H3C on 5 November 2020)	Yes
Continued Professional Development	Yes (with H3C)	Yes, legal base (Code of Ethics published by decree, 27 Sept. 2007)

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Activities	CNCC	CSOEC
Standard setting	Yes (with H3C)	Yes, under the supervision of the Ministry of Budget
Quality assurance	Yes (only audits of non-PIEs, PIEs: H3C)	Yes
Disciplinary measures	No (H3C)	Yes, at a regional and national levels; in both case, court chaired by a judge

PROFESSION

Professions	Statutory Auditor (Commissaire aux comptes)	Professional Accountant (Expert-comptable)
Professional body	CNCC	CSOEC
Protected title	Yes Delivered after registration on the professionals list drawn up by CNCC (by delegation from H3C, ending 5 November)	Yes Delivered after registration on the professionals list "Tableau de l'Ordre des experts-comptables" drawn up by each Regional Council of the Ordre des Experts-comptables.
Reserved activities	Statutory audit leading to the expression of an audit opinion and specific verifications; additional tasks related to the overall mission.	Contractual audits, reviews and compilation of financial statements; accountancy services to business enterprises.
Included authorisations	Related assignments stated in specific laws.	Tax, social, financial and legal advices when they are retained as accounting advisers to a client. Since a short time, they are authorised to provide assistance to individuals.

SUPERVISION

	Statutory Auditor	Professional Accountant
Regulated profession	Yes	Yes
Supervision	Yes	No
Public oversight authority	Competent authority: The Ministry of Justice www.justice.gouv.fr And an oversight authority: The Haut Conseil du Commissariat aux Comptes (H3C) set by the Ministry of Justice	N/A

QUALIFICATION

	Statutory Auditor	Professional Accountant
General initial education steps (without possible exemptions)	<p>Main route: Diploma of Expertise Comptable (DEC). Full reciprocity if 2/3 of the 3 years practical training has been realized in an accounting and auditing firm with a statutory auditor (Audit Directive).</p> <p>Specific route: Certificat d'aptitude aux fonctions de commissaire aux comptes (being modernised) Mastered by the Ministry of Justice Equivalent to the DSCG + 3 years practical training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University degree (master, 5 years): Diplôme supérieur de comptabilité et de gestion (DSCG); 3 years practical training organised and controlled by the profession; Diploma of Expertise Comptable (DEC) delivered by the Ministry of Higher Education: final examination (2 written tests in audit and ethics, and a thesis)

STATISTICS

	Statutory Auditor	Professional Accountant
No. of qualified professionals	12,341	21,296
No. of new trainees per year	Information not available	Information not available
No. of people taking the professional examination	Information not available	Information not available
No. of people passing the professional examination	Information not available	Information not available

MARKET ACCESS – QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS

	Statutory Auditor	Professional Accountant
Registration required	Yes	Yes
Competent authority for registration	CNCC (by delegation from H3C, ending 5 November)	OEC, Regional Councils
Cost of appointment/ registration	No registration cost	No registration cost
Oath required	Yes	Yes

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Insurance required	Yes (insurance group contracted at a national level)	Yes (insurance group contracted at a national level)
Professional address required	Yes	Yes