

**Illinois Board of Examiners
 Fiscal Year 2006 – Fiscal Year 2007¹
 CPA Examination Statistics**

July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2007

FY06: Testing windows: July-August, October-November 2005;
 January-February, April-May 2006

FY07: Testing windows: July-August, October 2006;
 January-February, April-May 2007

FY06 CBT² Exam Data – National vs. Illinois

- Comprehensive national data is available each quarter from NASBA³-AICPA⁴
- Overall pass rate was as follows:

| Exam section | FY06 National Pass Rate | FY06 Illinois Pass Rate | FY07 National Pass Rate | FY07 Illinois Pass Rate |
|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| AUD | 43% | 46.2% | 45.9% | 48.9% |
| BEC | 43.9% | 50.2% | 45.3% | 52.2% |
| FAR | 43.8% | 47.2% | 46.2% | 52.7% |
| REG | 41.1% | 43.8% | 44.6% | 49.5% |
| Cumulative | 42.9% | 46.8% | 45.5% | 50.8% |

- 127,650 candidates tested nationally in FY06; 6,694 Illinois candidates tested in FY06
 107,508 candidates tested nationally in the first three quarters of FY07⁵; 7,737 Illinois
 candidates tested in FY07 (four quarters)
- 190,199 exam sections were taken in FY06 nationally; Illinois candidates completed 9,973
 exam sections in FY06
 160,027 exam sections were taken in FY07 nationally through the first three quarters⁵;
 Illinois candidates completed 11,275 exam sections in FY07 (four quarters)
- Number of examinations taken and candidate pool has steadily increased since the
 computerized exam's inception in April 2004.
- The exam testing vendor, Prometric as well as the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and
 the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) increased computer seat

¹ Fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30.

² CBT = Computer Based Testing

³ National Association of State Boards of Accountancy

⁴ American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

⁵ National candidate data is not available as of October 2007 for the last testing window in FY07 (April-May 2007)

fees, grading fees and administrative fees respectively in 2006, effective July 1, 2005, and again in August 2006. These fees are know collectively as “examination fees.” The Illinois Board of Examiners has NOT raised application fees since the inception of the computerized CPA examination.

The total examination costs for an Illinois candidate to take the CPA exam is as follows:

Examination Fees: NASBA, AICPA, Prometric Effective July 1, 2005

| | <u>Auditing</u> (4.5 hrs) | <u>Financial Acct.</u> (4 hours) | <u>Regulation</u> (3 hours) | <u>Business E&C</u> (2.5 hours) | <u>Total</u> (14 hours) |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| AICPA (development & scoring) | \$ 45.00 | \$ 45.00 | \$ 45.00 | \$ 45.00 | |
| Prometric | | | | | |
| Computer delivery @\$22.50/hr. | \$ 101.25 | \$ 90.00 | \$ 67.50 | \$ 56.25 | |
| Digital Photograph | \$ 3.00 | \$ 3.00 | \$ 3.00 | \$ 3.00 | |
| NASBA (database & reporting) | \$ 10.00 | \$ 10.00 | \$ 10.00 | \$ 10.00 | |
| Totals | \$159.25 | \$148.00 | \$125.50 | \$114.25 | \$547.00 |

Examination Fees: NASBA, AICPA, Prometric Effective August 16, 2006

| | <u>Auditing</u> (4.5 hrs) | <u>Financial Acct.</u> (4 hours) | <u>Regulation</u> (3 hours) | <u>Business E&C</u> (2.5 hours) | <u>Total</u> (14 hours) |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| AICPA (development & scoring) | \$ 65.00 | \$ 65.00 | \$ 65.00 | \$ 65.00 | |
| Prometric | | | | | |
| Computer delivery @ \$23.11/hr. | \$ 104.00 | \$ 92.44 | \$ 69.33 | \$ 57.78 | |
| Digital Photograph | \$ 3.00 | \$ 3.00 | \$ 3.00 | \$ 3.00 | |
| NASBA (database & reporting) | \$ 15.00 | \$ 15.00 | \$ 15.00 | \$ 15.00 | |
| Totals | \$ 187.00 | \$175.44 | \$152.33 | \$140.78 | \$655.55 |

- Illinois Board of Examiners application fees for a first-time candidate with domestic academic transcripts applying for four exam sections are \$295.00.

FY06 CBT Exam Data – Illinois

- 1,106 Illinois candidates passed the Uniform CPA Exam
- 846 CPA examination candidates were certified in FY06 after completing the additional Ethics requirement (AICPA Comprehensive Course on Professional Conduct).
- Illinois ranks 5th nationally in number of candidates taking the CPA exam for FY06
- The trend is for candidates to take an average of 2 exam sections per six-month testing cycle.

FY07 CBT Exam Data – Illinois

- 1,222 Illinois candidates passed the Uniform CPA Exam

- 1,246 CPA examination candidates were certified in FY07 after completing the additional Ethics requirement (AICPA Comprehensive Course on Professional Conduct).
- Illinois ranks 5th nationally in number of candidates taking the CPA exam in FY07
- The trend continues for candidates to take an average of 2 exam sections per six-month testing cycle.

Illinois candidates approved to take the exam by calendar quarter/testing window:

| Testing window | IL Candidates approved to Test | Testing window | IL Candidates Approved to Test |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Q3 2005 (Jul-Aug) | 1528 | Q3 2006 (Jul-Aug) | 1783 |
| Q4 2005 (Oct-Nov) | 1244 | Q4 2006 (Oct-Nov) | 1520 |
| Q1 2006 (Jan-Feb) | 1686 | Q1 2007 (Jan-Feb) | 2015 |
| Q2 2006 (Apr-May) | 1927 | Q2 2007 (Apr-May) | 2248 |
| Total FY06 | 6385 | Total FY07 | 7566 |

- Annually, approximately 575 to 600 candidates apply annually to take the CPA examination as Illinois candidates who reside outside the United States. Twenty-seven countries are represented with the largest number coming from Canada, Japan, Germany and Hong Kong respectively.
- The ratio of male to female CPA examination applicants is 50% each. The majority of examination candidates range in age from 22 through 30 (57%).
- The distribution of exam candidates by classification is:
 First time candidates (never taken a CPA exam before as an Illinois candidate): 31%
 Re-examination candidates who took the exam only in paper and pencil format: 3%
 Re-examination candidates who have taken one or more sections of the computerized CPA examination: 65%