

kpmg accounting for income taxes

Understanding KPMG Accounting for Income Taxes: A Comprehensive Guide

kpmg accounting for income taxes encompasses a sophisticated approach to managing the complexities of corporate tax accounting. Businesses face intricate regulations and accounting standards when determining their income tax liabilities. This guide delves into the core principles and practical applications of how KPMG assists clients in navigating these challenges, from understanding deferred tax assets and liabilities to implementing robust tax provision processes. We will explore the critical role of tax accounting in financial reporting, the impact of evolving tax laws, and the strategic advantages of partnering with a leading firm like KPMG. Our aim is to provide a clear, comprehensive overview for financial professionals, business owners, and anyone seeking to understand the intricacies of income tax accounting within a professional services context.

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The Foundation of KPMG Income Tax Accounting Services

KPMG, as a global network of professional services firms, offers extensive expertise in accounting for income taxes. Their services are designed to help organizations of all sizes accurately calculate, report, and manage their income tax obligations in compliance with local and international accounting standards, such as Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). This involves a deep understanding of the tax laws in various jurisdictions and how they interact with financial reporting frameworks. KPMG's specialists work closely with clients to interpret complex tax legislation, assess the financial implications of tax changes, and ensure that financial statements reflect a true and fair view of the company's tax position. The foundation of their approach lies in a commitment to accuracy, compliance, and delivering value through strategic tax management.

Key Principles of Income Tax Accounting

At its core, accounting for income taxes involves recognizing the tax effects of all reported items of income and expense in the financial statements. This principle is governed by specific accounting standards that dictate how current and future tax liabilities should be measured and presented. Understanding these fundamental principles is crucial for any organization seeking to comply with tax regulations and financial reporting requirements.

Current Tax Expense

The current tax expense represents the amount of income taxes payable to taxing authorities for the current period. This is calculated based on the taxable income for the period, determined in accordance with tax laws. KPMG's professionals assist in calculating this component by analyzing the differences between accounting profit and taxable income, often referred to as permanent and temporary differences, to arrive at the correct tax liability.

Deferred Tax Expense

The deferred tax expense, or benefit, arises from the recognition of future tax consequences of events that have already been recognized in the financial statements. This is a critical area where KPMG's specialized knowledge becomes invaluable. It accounts for the impact of temporary differences that will reverse in future periods, either leading to additional taxes payable (deferred tax liabilities) or future tax deductions (deferred tax assets).

Permanent Differences

Permanent differences are items of revenue or expense that are recognized for accounting purposes but are never recognized for tax purposes, or vice versa. Examples include certain non-deductible expenses, tax-exempt income, or penalties and fines that are not tax-deductible. These differences affect the effective tax rate but do not give rise to deferred tax assets or liabilities because they are not expected to reverse in the future.

Temporary Differences

Temporary differences are the most significant drivers of deferred tax accounting. These are differences between the carrying amount of an asset or liability in the statement of financial position and its tax base. They arise when the timing of recognition of income or expense differs for accounting and tax purposes. These differences are expected to reverse in future periods, leading to taxable or deductible amounts in future tax returns. KPMG's role is to meticulously identify and track these temporary differences across all reporting periods.

KPMG's Approach to Deferred Taxes

The management of deferred taxes is a cornerstone of effective income tax accounting, and KPMG provides comprehensive support in this complex area. Their approach emphasizes a thorough understanding of the accounting standards and tax legislation to ensure accurate recognition and measurement of deferred tax assets and liabilities.

Deferred Tax Assets (DTAs)

Deferred tax assets arise when taxable income in future periods will be less than the accounting

profit for those periods. This typically occurs due to deductible temporary differences or operating loss carryforwards. KPMG assists clients in identifying potential DTAs, assessing their recoverability, and determining the appropriate accounting treatment, including the recognition of a valuation allowance if it is more likely than not that some portion of the DTA will not be realized.

Deferred Tax Liabilities (DTLs)

Deferred tax liabilities arise when taxable income in future periods will be more than the accounting profit for those periods. This is generally caused by taxable temporary differences. KPMG's experts help businesses accurately calculate DTLs, ensuring that these future tax obligations are appropriately reflected in the current financial statements. This includes understanding the tax implications of various business transactions and the impact of changes in tax rates.

Valuation Allowances

A critical aspect of deferred tax asset accounting is the assessment of recoverability. If it is determined that it is more likely than not that a portion or all of a deferred tax asset will not be realized, a valuation allowance must be established to reduce the carrying amount of the DTA to the amount expected to be realized. KPMG provides guidance on the methodologies for assessing the need for and the amount of a valuation allowance, considering factors such as future taxable income projections, tax planning strategies, and the reversal of existing taxable temporary differences.

Navigating Tax Provision and Compliance with KPMG

The tax provision represents the total tax expense for a period, encompassing both current and deferred tax amounts. Accurately calculating and reporting the tax provision is essential for financial reporting integrity. KPMG's services in this area are robust, aiming to ensure compliance and provide strategic insights.

The Tax Provision Process

KPMG guides clients through the entire tax provision process, which involves gathering relevant financial data, identifying all temporary and permanent differences, calculating current and deferred tax liabilities and assets, and ensuring compliance with applicable accounting standards and tax laws. This iterative process requires meticulous attention to detail and a deep understanding of both accounting and tax principles.

Interim and Annual Tax Provisions

Organizations are required to calculate and report tax provisions not only at year-end but also on an interim basis. KPMG assists in preparing both annual and quarterly tax provisions, ensuring that the estimated tax liabilities reflect the most current information and expectations. This includes forecasting future taxable income and considering the impact of any significant events or changes in

tax law that may occur during the reporting period.

Uncertain Tax Positions

Accounting standards, such as ASC 740 in US GAAP, require companies to recognize and disclose uncertain tax positions. These are tax positions where the interpretation of tax law is uncertain, and there is a risk of challenge by tax authorities. KPMG helps clients assess the recognition and measurement of uncertain tax positions, including determining the amount of tax benefit to recognize and disclosing the potential impact of these uncertainties in the financial statements, thereby enhancing transparency and mitigating risk.

International Tax Considerations

For multinational corporations, the complexities of income tax accounting are amplified by differing tax laws and regulations across jurisdictions. KPMG's global network provides expertise in international tax accounting, addressing issues such as transfer pricing, foreign tax credits, withholding taxes, and the tax implications of cross-border transactions. They help clients manage their global tax provisions effectively and ensure compliance with diverse international tax regimes.

The Strategic Value of KPMG's Income Tax Accounting Expertise

Engaging with KPMG for income tax accounting services extends beyond mere compliance; it offers significant strategic advantages for businesses aiming to optimize their financial operations and mitigate risks. Their deep understanding of tax legislation and financial reporting frameworks allows clients to make informed decisions that positively impact their bottom line.

Risk Management and Compliance

One of the primary benefits of KPMG's services is enhanced risk management and a strengthened compliance posture. By ensuring accurate calculation and reporting of tax liabilities, companies can avoid penalties, interest charges, and reputational damage associated with tax errors or non-compliance. KPMG's proactive approach helps identify potential risks before they escalate.

Financial Reporting Accuracy

The accuracy of financial statements is paramount for investor confidence and stakeholder trust. KPMG's expertise in income tax accounting directly contributes to the reliability and integrity of a company's financial reports. By applying established accounting principles and best practices, they ensure that the tax provision is correctly stated, providing a true reflection of the company's financial performance and position.

Strategic Tax Planning

While the focus is on accounting for taxes, KPMG's insights often lead to opportunities for strategic tax planning. By thoroughly analyzing a company's tax position, they can identify areas where tax efficiency can be improved, such as optimizing the use of tax credits, managing the timing of income and deductions, and structuring transactions in a tax-advantageous manner. This strategic element can lead to significant cost savings and improved cash flow.

Technological Integration in Tax Accounting

KPMG leverages advanced technologies and data analytics to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of income tax accounting processes. From sophisticated tax provision software to data visualization tools, they help clients streamline their tax operations, improve data accuracy, and gain deeper insights into their tax positions. This technological integration is crucial for managing the increasing volume and complexity of tax data in today's business environment.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key challenges KPMG accountants face when advising clients on income tax accounting (ASC 740 / IAS 12)?

KPMG accountants face challenges related to the increasing complexity of tax laws globally, the evolving nature of business transactions (e.g., digital economy, M&A), the need for robust data analytics and technology to manage tax provisions, and ensuring compliance with ever-changing accounting standards and tax regulations. Effective communication of complex tax implications to stakeholders is also crucial.

How does KPMG leverage technology and data analytics for income tax accounting services?

KPMG utilizes advanced technology platforms and data analytics to automate tax provision calculations, identify potential tax risks and opportunities, improve the efficiency of tax compliance processes, and provide deeper insights into a client's tax position. This includes tools for data extraction, reconciliation, modeling, and reporting, enabling more accurate and timely tax accounting.

What are some recent developments or upcoming changes in accounting for income taxes that KPMG is closely monitoring?

KPMG is closely monitoring developments such as potential new accounting standards, changes in international tax frameworks (e.g., Pillar Two of the OECD's Base Erosion and Profit Shifting project), evolving interpretations of existing standards like ASC 740/IAS 12, and the impact of tax reform initiatives in various jurisdictions. Staying ahead of these changes is critical for advising clients.

How does KPMG assist clients in managing uncertain tax positions and potential tax exposures under ASC 740 / IAS 12?

KPMG helps clients identify, assess, and account for uncertain tax positions by applying judgment based on technical tax knowledge and relevant legal and regulatory guidance. They assist in quantifying potential exposures, determining appropriate tax reserves (or provisions), and managing disclosure requirements, ensuring compliance with recognition and measurement criteria.

What role does KPMG play in advising multinational corporations on the income tax accounting implications of global operations?

For multinational corporations, KPMG provides expertise on the complex income tax accounting issues arising from cross-border transactions, transfer pricing, foreign tax credits, permanent establishment rules, and the application of tax treaties. They help clients navigate the intricacies of different tax regimes and consolidate their global tax provision effectively.

How does KPMG address the sustainability and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) considerations within income tax accounting?

KPMG is increasingly integrating ESG considerations into income tax accounting advice. This involves advising clients on the tax implications of sustainability initiatives, green tax incentives, carbon taxes, and the disclosure of tax transparency related to ESG reporting. They help clients understand how their tax strategy aligns with their broader sustainability goals and stakeholder expectations.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to KPMG and accounting for income taxes, with short descriptions:

1. KPMG's Tax Insights: Navigating Global Corporate Tax

This book offers a comprehensive overview of the complex and ever-evolving landscape of corporate taxation worldwide, drawing on KPMG's extensive experience and insights. It delves into key considerations for multinational enterprises, including transfer pricing, permanent establishment rules, and international tax treaties. The publication aims to equip tax professionals and business leaders with the knowledge to effectively manage tax risks and opportunities in a globalized economy.

2. Accounting for Income Taxes: A KPMG Perspective

This essential guide provides a detailed examination of accounting for income taxes, adhering to major accounting standards like IFRS and US GAAP. It breaks down complex concepts such as deferred tax assets and liabilities, uncertain tax positions, and the impact of tax rate changes. Readers will find practical examples and case studies developed by KPMG's tax accounting specialists to illustrate real-world applications.

3. KPMG's Transfer Pricing Handbook: Strategies and Compliance

Focusing on a critical area of international taxation, this handbook outlines KPMG's approach to transfer pricing, a cornerstone of intra-group transactions for multinational corporations. It covers the principles of the arm's length standard, documentation requirements, and dispute resolution mechanisms. The book provides actionable strategies for companies to ensure compliance and optimize their transfer pricing policies effectively.

4. KPMG's Guide to Tax Provision Processes and Controls

This practical guide addresses the critical internal control aspects of tax provision calculations and reporting. It details best practices for establishing robust processes to ensure the accuracy and reliability of financial statement tax provisions. The book offers insights into risk mitigation, documentation, and the role of technology in modern tax departments, informed by KPMG's audit and tax expertise.

5. KPMG's International Tax Planning: Minimizing Global Tax Exposure

This publication explores advanced strategies for international tax planning, aiming to help companies legally minimize their global tax liabilities. It examines various tax jurisdictions, incentives, and structures that can be leveraged to achieve efficient tax outcomes. The book emphasizes the importance of aligning tax planning with business strategy and adhering to evolving regulatory environments, as guided by KPMG's global network.

6. Understanding Tax Attributes: A KPMG Framework for Asset Utilization

This book focuses on the strategic management and utilization of tax attributes, such as net operating losses (NOLs) and tax credits. It provides a framework for analyzing, preserving, and effectively applying these valuable assets to reduce current tax liabilities. The authors, drawing on KPMG's tax advisory experience, offer guidance on the accounting and reporting implications of these attributes.

7. KPMG's Financial Reporting for Indirect Taxes: VAT, GST, and Sales Tax

While primarily focused on income tax, a comprehensive understanding of tax in financial reporting also includes indirect taxes. This book offers insights into the accounting and reporting treatment of value-added tax (VAT), goods and services tax (GST), and sales tax across different jurisdictions. It covers recognition, measurement, and disclosure requirements, reflecting KPMG's broad tax advisory capabilities.

8. KPMG's Best Practices in Tax Risk Management

This title delves into the crucial area of managing tax risks within an organization, a key concern for companies and their auditors. It outlines methodologies and frameworks for identifying, assessing, and mitigating potential tax exposures that could impact financial statements and reputation. The book leverages KPMG's experience in tax assurance and advisory services to provide practical risk management strategies.

9. KPMG's Digital Transformation in Tax: Leveraging Technology for Efficiency

Reflecting the increasing impact of technology, this book explores how KPMG advises clients on digital transformation within their tax functions. It discusses the adoption of data analytics, artificial intelligence, and automation tools to enhance tax compliance, reporting, and strategic decision-making. The publication highlights how technology can streamline processes related to income tax accounting and improve overall tax management.

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KPMG Accounting for Income Taxes: A Comprehensive Guide to Navigating Complex Tax Regulations

This ebook delves into the intricacies of KPMG's approach to accounting for income taxes, exploring its significance for businesses of all sizes facing increasingly complex global tax landscapes and providing practical strategies for compliance and optimization. We will examine KPMG's methodologies, the software and tools they utilize, and the implications for financial reporting and strategic tax planning.

Ebook Title: Mastering KPMG's Approach to Income Tax Accounting: A Practical Guide for Businesses

Outline:

Introduction: Understanding the evolving landscape of income tax accounting and KPMG's role.

Chapter 1: KPMG's Methodology and Framework: A detailed analysis of KPMG's unique approach to income tax accounting, including its principles, processes, and best practices.

Chapter 2: ASC 740 (or IFRS 12) and KPMG's Interpretation: A deep dive into the application of the relevant accounting standards (ASC 740 in the US or IFRS 12 internationally) through a KPMG lens, including the treatment of uncertain tax positions (UTPs).

Chapter 3: Practical Application: Case Studies and Examples: Real-world examples illustrating KPMG's methodology in action, showcasing diverse scenarios and challenges.

Chapter 4: Technology and Tools Utilized by KPMG: Exploring the software and technological solutions employed by KPMG to enhance efficiency and accuracy in income tax accounting.

Chapter 5: Tax Planning and Optimization Strategies: Strategies for minimizing tax liabilities while maintaining compliance, leveraging KPMG's expertise in tax optimization.

Chapter 6: Financial Reporting and Disclosure Requirements: Understanding the implications of KPMG's income tax accounting methods on financial statement preparation and disclosures.

Chapter 7: Managing Tax Risks and Compliance: Mitigation strategies for potential tax risks and ensuring ongoing compliance with relevant regulations.

Conclusion: Recap of key takeaways and future considerations in income tax accounting.

Detailed Explanation of Outline Points:

Introduction: This section sets the stage by explaining the increasing complexity of international and domestic tax regulations, highlighting the need for expert guidance, and introducing KPMG's role as

a leading provider of tax services. It will briefly cover the history and reputation of KPMG in this field.

Chapter 1: KPMG's Methodology and Framework: This chapter will dissect KPMG's internal processes and best practices for handling income tax accounting. This includes their internal quality control procedures, methodologies for assessing and managing uncertain tax positions, and their approach to different types of taxes (e.g., corporate income tax, international tax).

Chapter 2: ASC 740 (or IFRS 12) and KPMG's Interpretation: This chapter focuses specifically on the interpretation and application of the relevant accounting standards (ASC 740 for US GAAP or IFRS 12 for IFRS) by KPMG. It will explore how KPMG addresses complex issues such as uncertain tax positions (UTPs), valuation allowances, and the impact of tax law changes. We'll examine their specific guidance and tools for navigating these intricate rules.

Chapter 3: Practical Application: Case Studies and Examples: This chapter provides concrete examples of how KPMG applies its methodology in various business contexts. These real-world scenarios will demonstrate the practical application of the concepts discussed in previous chapters and highlight the challenges and solutions encountered.

Chapter 4: Technology and Tools Utilized by KPMG: This section explores the technological tools and software solutions employed by KPMG to improve efficiency and accuracy in income tax accounting. It might include discussions of specific software platforms, data analytics tools, and automation processes.

Chapter 5: Tax Planning and Optimization Strategies: This chapter shifts the focus to proactive tax planning, showcasing strategies for minimizing tax liabilities within the boundaries of legal compliance. It will leverage KPMG's expertise in various tax optimization techniques.

Chapter 6: Financial Reporting and Disclosure Requirements: This chapter explains how KPMG's income tax accounting methods affect financial statement preparation and disclosures. It will cover the specific requirements of relevant accounting standards and the importance of accurate and transparent reporting.

Chapter 7: Managing Tax Risks and Compliance: This chapter addresses the crucial aspect of risk management in income tax accounting. It will cover strategies for identifying and mitigating potential tax risks and ensuring consistent compliance with all relevant regulations.

Conclusion: This section summarizes the key concepts and practical strategies discussed throughout the ebook. It will also look ahead, discussing potential future trends and challenges in income tax accounting.

H1: Understanding KPMG's Approach to Income Tax Accounting

KPMG, a globally renowned professional services network, provides extensive services in accounting, auditing, tax, and advisory. Their approach to income tax accounting is guided by a combination of professional standards, internal methodologies, and technological advancements.

This approach aims to ensure compliance with relevant accounting standards (like ASC 740 in the US or IFRS 12 internationally) while optimizing tax liabilities for clients.

H2: Key Aspects of KPMG's Income Tax Accounting Methodology

KPMG's methodology is characterized by a robust framework encompassing several key aspects:

Risk Assessment: A thorough evaluation of the client's tax profile, identifying potential areas of risk and uncertainty.

Technical Expertise: Leveraging deep knowledge of tax laws and regulations across various jurisdictions.

Technology Integration: Utilizing advanced software and data analytics to streamline processes and improve accuracy.

Collaboration: Close collaboration with clients to understand their business objectives and tailor solutions accordingly.

Documentation: Meticulous record-keeping and documentation to support all tax positions and decisions.

H2: Navigating Uncertain Tax Positions (UTPs) with KPMG

One of the most challenging aspects of income tax accounting is dealing with uncertain tax positions (UTPs). KPMG employs a rigorous process for evaluating UTPs, which often involves:

Probability Weighting: Assessing the likelihood of a tax authority accepting a specific tax position.

Financial Statement Impact: Determining the potential impact on the financial statements if the tax position is not upheld.

Valuation Allowances: Establishing valuation allowances to reflect the uncertainty surrounding UTPs.

H2: KPMG's Use of Technology in Income Tax Accounting

KPMG integrates various technologies to enhance efficiency and accuracy in income tax accounting. These include:

Automated Tax Software: Streamlining tasks like data entry, calculation, and reporting.

Data Analytics: Using advanced analytics to identify patterns, anomalies, and potential risks.

Cloud-Based Solutions: Facilitating secure data storage, access, and collaboration.

H2: Tax Planning and Optimization Strategies with KPMG

KPMG's tax planning and optimization services go beyond simple compliance. They work with clients to develop proactive strategies that minimize tax liabilities while ensuring full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. This involves:

Tax Structuring: Designing optimal business structures to minimize overall tax burdens.

International Tax Planning: Navigating complex international tax regulations to optimize cross-border transactions.

Transfer Pricing: Establishing appropriate transfer pricing policies for transactions between related entities.

H2: Financial Reporting and Disclosure Implications

Accurate and transparent reporting of income taxes is crucial for financial statement integrity. KPMG ensures that its clients' financial statements accurately reflect the impact of income tax accounting, adhering to all relevant disclosure requirements. This includes providing detailed explanations of tax positions, uncertainties, and any significant tax adjustments.

H2: Mitigating Tax Risks and Ensuring Compliance

KPMG helps clients manage tax risks through comprehensive risk assessments and mitigation strategies. This involves proactively identifying potential compliance issues, implementing robust internal controls, and staying up-to-date on evolving tax laws and regulations.

FAQs:

1. What is the difference between KPMG's approach to income tax accounting and other firms? KPMG distinguishes itself through its global reach, technological integration, and emphasis on proactive tax planning and risk management.
2. How does KPMG handle uncertain tax positions? KPMG utilizes a rigorous process to assess and quantify UTPs, ensuring proper financial statement disclosures and compliance.
3. What technologies does KPMG use for income tax accounting? KPMG utilizes advanced software, data analytics, and cloud-based solutions to optimize efficiency and accuracy.

4. How can KPMG help with tax planning and optimization? KPMG helps businesses develop proactive strategies to minimize tax liabilities legally and within compliance.
5. What are the financial reporting implications of using KPMG's services? KPMG ensures compliance with all disclosure requirements, providing accurate and transparent reporting of income tax information.
6. How does KPMG manage tax risks and ensure compliance? KPMG provides comprehensive risk assessments, mitigation strategies, and ongoing monitoring to ensure regulatory compliance.
7. What types of businesses benefit from KPMG's income tax accounting services? Businesses of all sizes and across various industries can benefit from KPMG's expertise, particularly those with complex tax profiles or international operations.
8. How does KPMG stay up-to-date on tax law changes? KPMG has dedicated teams of tax professionals who continuously monitor changes in tax laws and regulations, ensuring their clients remain informed and compliant.
9. What are the costs associated with KPMG's income tax accounting services? The cost varies depending on the complexity of the client's tax profile and the scope of services required.

Related Articles:

1. ASC 740 (or IFRS 12): A Comprehensive Guide: A detailed explanation of the accounting standards governing income tax accounting.
2. Uncertain Tax Positions: A Practical Guide: A deep dive into the complexities of UTPs and how to manage them effectively.
3. International Tax Planning Strategies: Strategies for optimizing tax liabilities in cross-border transactions.
4. Transfer Pricing: Best Practices and Compliance: Guidance on establishing compliant transfer pricing policies.
5. Tax Technology and Automation: Improving Efficiency and Accuracy: Exploring the role of technology in modern tax accounting.
6. Financial Statement Disclosure Requirements for Income Taxes: A guide to properly disclosing income tax information in financial statements.
7. Tax Risk Management: Identifying and Mitigating Potential Risks: Strategies for proactive risk management in the tax arena.
8. KPMG's Tax Services: An Overview: A broad overview of the various tax services offered by KPMG.
9. The Future of Income Tax Accounting: Trends and Challenges: Analyzing emerging trends and challenges in the field of income tax accounting.

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R. Larkins, 2003-11-20 A clear, concise explanation of United States tax law's international aspects In tackling a sometimes thorny set of laws and treaties, international tax expert Ernest Larkins emphasizes their economic effects, showing how to avoid hazards while reaping rewards which often go ignored. Coverage includes: Special issues arising when a foreign person invests in U.S. real estate, as well as the best structures for holding such real estate What a controlled foreign corporation is and what consequences result from this status Acceptable transfer pricing methods and what penalties apply when taxpayers do not follow arm's-length principles International Applications of U.S. Income Tax Law also contains many useful tools which allow readers to build understanding through practice, as well as formulate and solve the complex problems international taxes can present. Order your copy today!

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kpmg accounting for income taxes: Financial Reporting Handbook 2021 New Zealand Caanz (Chartered CAANZ (Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand), 2021-02 The Financial Reporting Handbook 2021 from Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (Chartered Accountants ANZ) is designed to meet the demands of the ever-changing business environment. Developed for Chartered Accountants, accountancy students and other professionals working in Australia, the Handbook is a comprehensive guide to the Australian accounting standards. A companion to the Handbook is Chartered Accountants ANZ's Auditing, Assurance and Ethics Handbook 2021, which contains Australian and New Zealand auditing and assurance standards. Together, these are part of the suite of products and services available to Chartered Accountants ANZ members and the student and business community.

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kpmg accounting for income taxes: The Big Four Ian D. Gow, Stuart Kells, 2018-08-28 Messrs. Gow and Kells have made an invaluable contribution, writing in an amused tone that nevertheless acknowledges the firms' immense power and the seriousness of their neglect of traditional responsibilities. 'The Big Four' will appeal to all those interested in the future of the profession--and of capitalism itself. —Jane Gleeson-White, Wall Street Journal With staffs that are collectively larger than the Russian army and combined revenues of over \$130 billion a year, the Big Four accounting firms—Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, and KPMG—are a keystone of global commerce. But leading scholar Ian Gow and award-winning author Stuart Kells warn that a house of cards may be about to fall. Stretching back to the Medicis in Renaissance Florence, this book is a fascinating story of wealth, power, and luck. The founders of the Big Four lived surprisingly colorful lives. Samuel Price, for example, married his own niece. Between the world wars, Nicholas Waterhouse collected postage stamps while also hosting decadent parties in his fashionable London home. All four firms have endured major calamities in recent decades. There have been hundreds of court cases and legal prosecutions for failed audits, tax scandals, and breaches of independence. The firms have come so close to “extinction level events” that regulators have required them to prepare “living wills.” And today, the Big Four face an uncertain future—thanks to their push into China, their vulnerability to digital disruption and competition, and the hazards of providing traditional services in a new era of transparency. This account of the past, present, and likely future of the Big Four is essential reading for anyone perplexed or fascinated by professional services, working or considering working in the industry, or simply curious about the fate of the global economy.

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kpmg accounting for income taxes: Taxes and Business Strategy Myron S. Scholes, Mark A. Wolfson, Merle M. Erickson, Michelle L. Hanlon, Edward L. Maydew, Terrence J. Shevlin, 2015-01-03 For MBA students and graduates embarking on careers in investment banking, corporate finance, strategy consulting, money management, or venture capital Through integration with traditional MBA topics, *Taxes and Business Strategy*, Fifth Edition provides a framework for understanding how taxes affect decision-making, asset prices, equilibrium returns, and the financial and operational structure of firms. Teaching and Learning Experience This program presents a better teaching and learning experience-for you and your students: *Use a text from an active author team: All 5 authors actively teach the tax and business strategy course and provide students with relevant examples from both classroom and real-world consulting experience. *Teach students the practical uses for business strategy: Students learn important concepts that can be applied to their own lives. *Reinforce learning by using in-depth analysis: Analysis and explanatory material help students understand, think about, and retain information.

kpmg accounting for income taxes: **Confidence Games** Tanina Rostain, Milton C. Regan, 2014-04-25 The rise and fall of a tax shelter industry that enabled some of America's richest citizens to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. For ten boom-powered years at the turn of the twenty-first century, some of America's most prominent law and accounting firms created and marketed products that enabled the very rich—including newly minted dot-com millionaires—to avoid paying their fair share of taxes by claiming benefits not recognized by law. These abusive domestic tax shelters bore such exotic names as BOSS, BLIPS, and COBRA and were developed by such prestigious firms as KPMG and Ernst & Young. They brought in hundreds of millions of dollars in fees from clients and bilked the U.S. Treasury of billions in revenues before the IRS and Justice Department stepped in with civil penalties and criminal prosecutions. In *Confidence Games*, Tanina Rostain and Milton Regan describe the rise and fall of the tax shelter industry during this period, offering a riveting account of the most serious episode of professional misconduct in the history of the American bar. Rostain and Regan describe a beleaguered IRS preoccupied by attacks from antitax and antigovernment politicians; heightened competition for professional services; the relaxation of tax practitioner norms against aggressive advice; and the creation of complex financial instruments that made abusive shelters harder to detect. By 2004, the tax shelter boom was over, leaving failed firms, disgraced professionals, and prison sentences in its wake. Rostain and Regan's cautionary tale remains highly relevant today, as lawyers and accountants continue to face intense competitive pressure and regulators still struggle to keep pace with accelerating financial risk and innovation.

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countries levy taxes on corporations, but the impact - and therefore the wisdom - of such taxes is highly controversial among economists. Does the burden of these taxes fall on wealthy shareowners, or is it passed along to those who work for, or buy the products of, corporations? Can a country with high corporate taxes remain competitive in the global economy? This book features research by leading economists and accountants that sheds light on these and related questions, including how taxes affect corporate dividend policy, stock market value, avoidance, and evasion. The studies promise to inform both future tax policy and regulatory policy, especially in light of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and other actions by the Securities and Exchange Commission that are having profound effects on the market for tax planning and auditing in the wake of the well-publicized accounting scandals in Enron and WorldCom.

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