Controllership 2030: Predictions Study

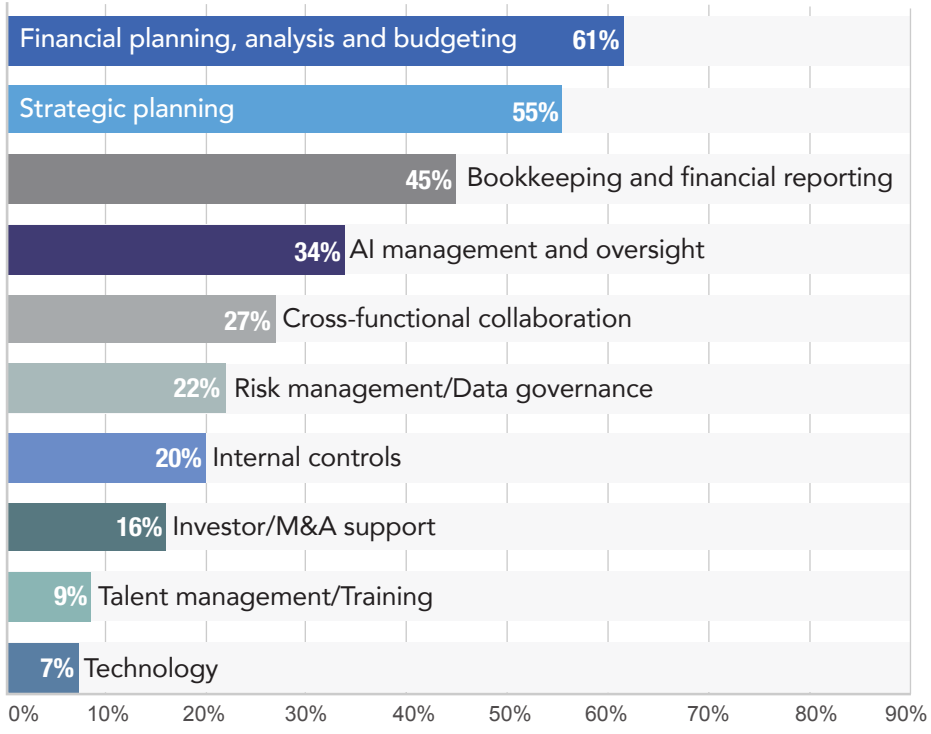
Infographic

Controllers Council™

The findings of this important study provide benchmarks and a roadmap for the controllership role, and the corporate accounting and finance organization including duties and responsibilities, rapid AI and automation adoption, talent challenges and skill gaps, governance practices, and organizational structures. Following are **Key Takeaways:**

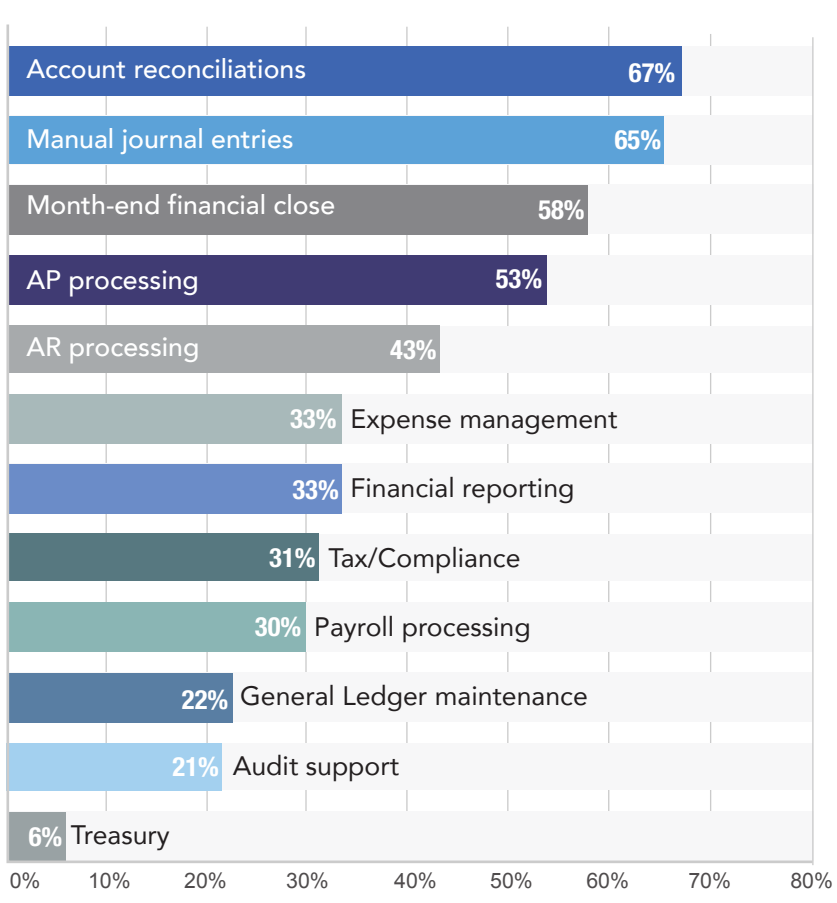
Transactional Duties Decline While Managing AI Grows by 2030

Bookkeeping/reporting declines from 68% today to 45% by 2030, FP&A from 66% to 61%. Strategic planning increases from 42% to 55%, while AI management increases more than 3x from 10% today to 34% by 2030.



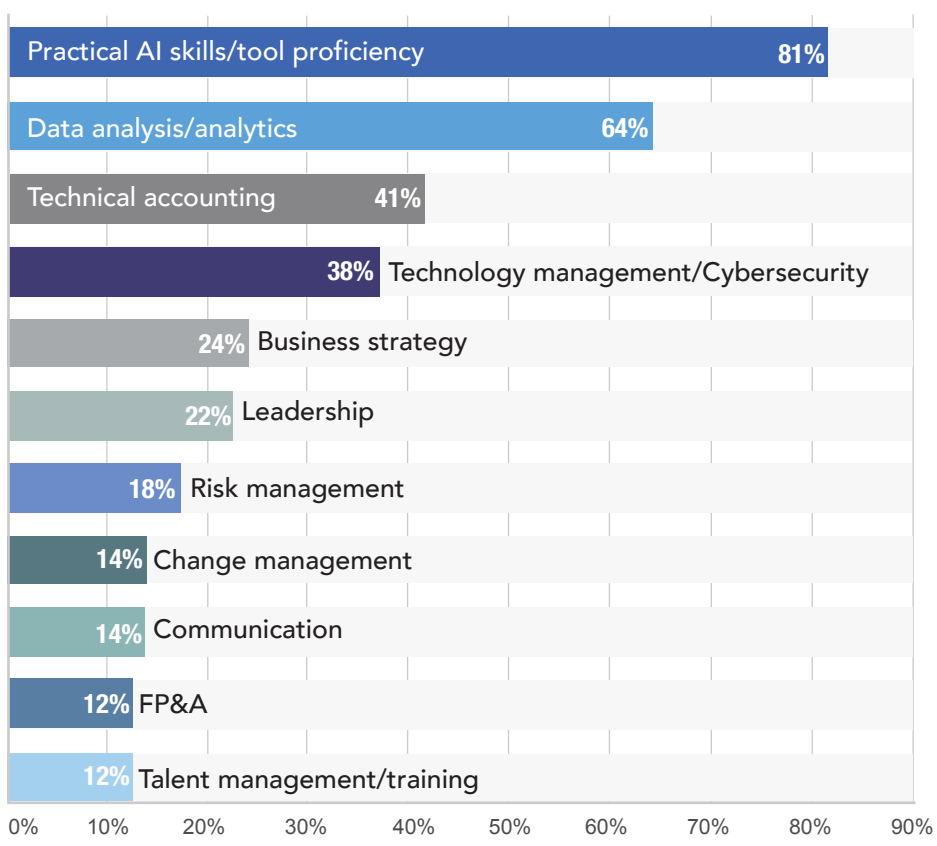
AI and Automation Use will Become Universal

AI and automation will be used by 98% by 2030, from 86% today. Specific functions using automation expected for account reconciliations by 67%, manual journal entries (65%), financial close (58%), AP processing (53%), and AR processing (43%). Though less, tax, compliance, and audit will automate.



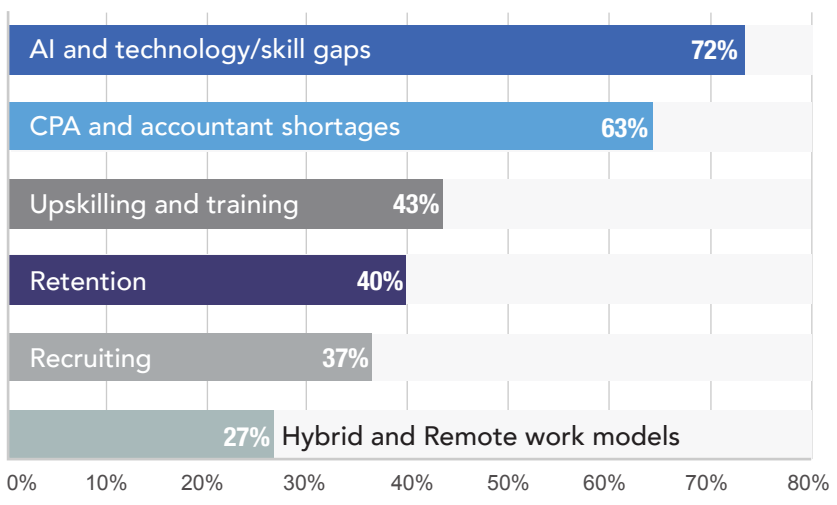
Controllers Skill Requirements Expect Major Changes

The study identified an average of 40% of controller duties will be automated by 2030. No surprise that practical AI skills and AI tool proficiency rank as most valuable skills by 81%, followed by data analysis and analytics for 64%. Technical accounting still ranked important at 41%, closely followed by Technology management including Cybersecurity for 38%.



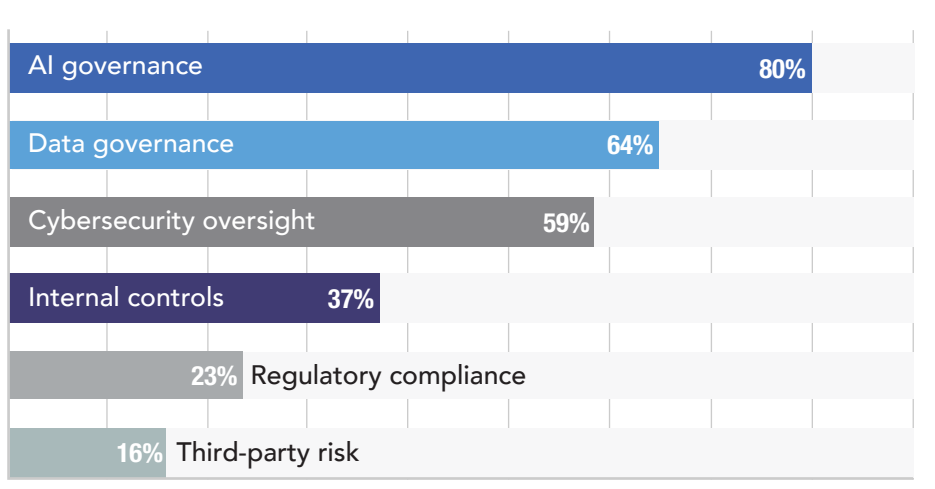
Significant Talent Challenges Predicted

Again, no surprises that AI and technology skill gaps lead all talent changes for 72%. Yet CPA and accountant shortages remain significant by 63%. Related to skill gaps, upskilling and training rank 3rd for 43%.



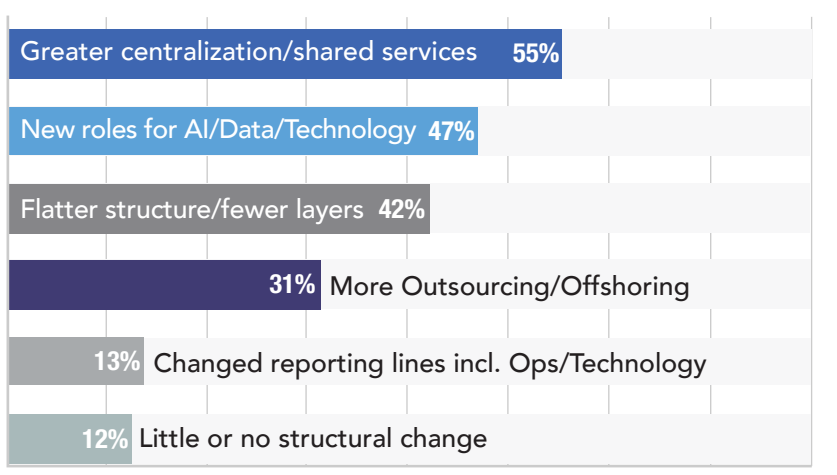
AI and Data Become Core Governance Responsibilities

Not surprising, AI governance leads all emerging governance for 80%, followed by Data governance for 64%. Interestingly, Cybersecurity oversight ranks a close 3rd at 59%. A 2nd-tier of governance includes Internal controls (37%), Regulatory compliance (23%), and 3rd-party risk (16%).



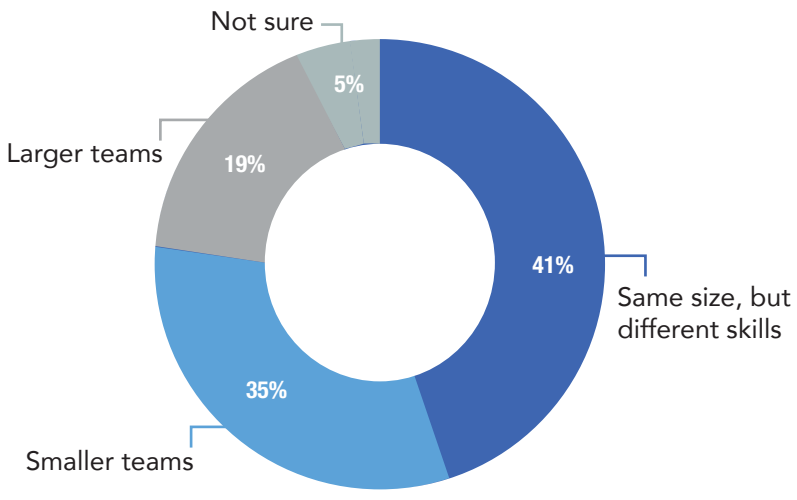
Finance Organizations Will Be Reconfigured

Fifty-five percent expect greater centralization or shared services, while 47% anticipate new AI, data, or technology roles, and 42% foresee flatter organizations. Automation is expected to change the structure of finance as well as the work performed within it.



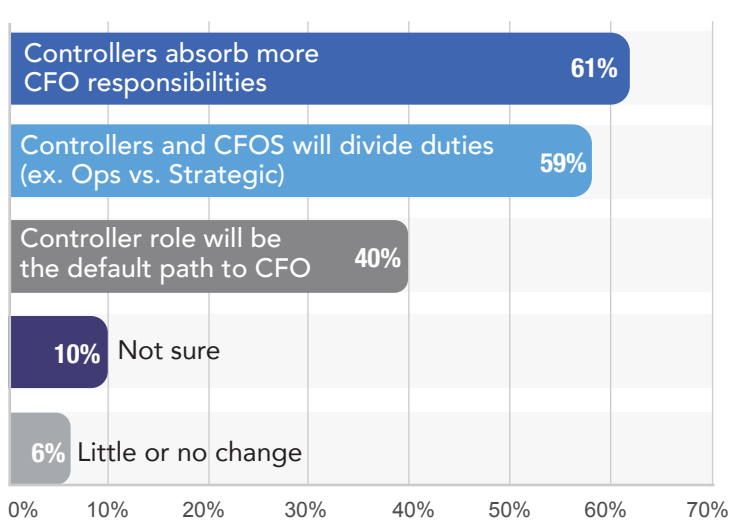
How will AI and Automation Affect Accounting/Finance Staffing?

Forty-one percent expect finance teams to remain approximately the same size but require different skills, compared with 35% who anticipate smaller teams. A smaller 19% predict larger teams. With practical AI proficiency leading future skills at 81%, workforce transformation may depend as much on reskilling as staffing levels.



The Controller-CFO Relationship is Changing

Sixty-one percent expect controllers to absorb duties traditionally held by CFOs, followed closely by 59% that predict controllers and CFOS will divide duties by "ops" or "strategic". Another 40% see the controllership becoming the default path to CFO. The findings point to a broader leadership role for controllers and greater responsibilities.



Visit: www.ControllersCouncil.org

View complete study report here.

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