Job performance and career prospects of auditors
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Citation for published version (APA):

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Preface

If someone had told me right after finishing VWO that one day I would write a thesis in economics I would not have believed him and I would have laughed in his face. This little booklet you are reading right now shows that things do not always run the way you expect. When I was a second year student in statistics I considered starting studying econometrics instead of statistics. There was only one drawback and that was that if I started studying econometrics I would have to attend some colleges in economics and, to be quite honest, that was not something I looked forward to. However, one day, when travelling home to Zaandam I met Hans van Ophem in the train and I asked him whether he could tell me which courses I should take. He recommended me the course 'Labor economics' given by Hessel Oosterbeek and Joop Hartog. I liked that course very much and my interest did not remain unnoticed. A few months after finishing that course Hessel asked me whether I would be interested in becoming research assistant, which I was. It was very pleasant to work for him and I enjoyed doing research in the field of labor and educational economics. So it was not really surprising that I started doing a Ph.D. project shortly after graduating.

Throughout the last four years in which I was working on my thesis I have been supported by many people. First of all I would like to thank my promotor Joop Hartog for his enthusiasm, his thorough readings of my papers and his valuable suggestions. I would also like to thank my co-promotor Hans van Ophem for his support, his help with Gauss and the literature recommendations he gave me while travelling from home to work or vice versa. Philip Wallage introduced me in the world of auditing, he read and commented on some of my papers and he helped me very well with getting firm data for which I am very grateful.

I thank my roommates Caroline, Jeroen, Bas van der Klaauw and Jesse for their companionship and the pleasant talks which of course also holds for the other Scholar colleagues Henriette, Wim, Hessel, Erik, Paul Oosterveld, Edwin,
Randolph, Niels, Ib, Bas Jacobs, Mieke, Simone and Simona. I also enjoyed the tea sessions I had with Aviva, Hely and Paul Frijters very much. Furthermore, I would like to thank Loes, Robert and Renée very much for helping me with the mailing of my survey to 3000 auditors in the Netherlands and for just being there when I needed a nice chat.

Various institutions have also been of great help. I would like to thank the Royal NIVRA for providing me a sample of 3000 addresses of auditors in the Netherlands and I would like to thank KPMG, and in particular Dominique Nelissen, Annemary Kuks and Reinier Koning, for the use of their firm data. I would like to thank NWO for funding my trips to conferences in Toulouse and Regensburg and I would also like to thank the Tinbergen Institute for providing me facilities of various kind.

I would like to thank Martijn Koppen, Sebastiaan Bernard, Heleen Kroese, Hae Won Uh and Gacielle Riel for their friendship in general and the enjoyable moments I had with them outside the academic world but inside other sorts of environments like swimming pools and cinemas.

Last but not least I would like to thank my father, my mother and my brother for their support throughout this whole project.

Nicole Jonker,

February, 2001