

Media release

For immediate release

SAICA announces a 77% first-time pass rate for the January 2026 IAC

Johannesburg, Friday 10 April 2026 – With the release of the January 2026 Initial Assessment of Competence (IAC) results, the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) congratulates the 2 055 (1 851 first timers and 204 repeat candidates) candidates who passed.

The January 2026 IAC assessed candidates against its updated CA of the Future Competency Framework. Underpinned by this framework, SAICA is developing finance professionals beyond auditors. The IAC evaluates critical thinking and problems solving as a core skill bolstered by an emphasis on business acumen, digital acumen and human centred skills. In terms of the technical competence, focus is placed on decision making, financial and non-financial reporting, strategy, risk management and governance. Demonstrating integrated thinking across these technical disciplines is core to the IAC and the role SAICA is playing in developing future fit finance professionals.

Key results and observations

Although the overall pass rate for first-time candidates has declined from last year’s 82%, this still reflects a solid performance in the first of SAICA’s professional assessments which is written at the end of a SAICA-endorsed postgraduate programme. SAICA’s analysis of the successful candidate population indicates that performance patterns vary between different modes of delivery. SAICA’s ongoing monitoring and endorsement of academic programmes, places continuous focus on improving students’ performance, progression and throughput.

First time candidates funded through the Thuthuka Education Upliftment Fund, achieved an 80% pass rate. This is testament to SAICA’s commitment to transform the profession through the generosity of our Thuthuka donors. We commend the significant work done by candidates and academic programme providers offering the Thuthuka bursary programme through the additional wrap around support offered.

Twenty-three candidates achieved 75% or more in the January 2026 IAC, passing with honours. This compares to 20 candidates who passed with honours in the January 2025 IAC. Included in the 23 are those candidates who earned a spot in SAICA’s prestigious Top Ten candidates list. The Top 10 candidates are:

Place	Name	Surname
1 st	Gamlath	Senarathne
2 nd	Simone	Wessels
3 rd	Waldo	Pienaar
4 th	Grace	Steward
5 th	Zander	Jansen van Rensburg
6 th	Rick	Nkosi



7 th	Hannah	Henry
8 th joint	Paiton	Rowan
8 th joint	Lily	Robinson
10 th	Nabeel	Ayob

The demographic breakdown of the results showed that 1 297 African, Coloured and Indian candidates passed in January 2026, compared to 1 398 candidates in the prior year January sitting.

It is encouraging to note the transformation of successful candidates with 63% of the candidate population being African, Coloured and Indian. This demonstrates the positive impact of SAICA’s targeted efforts and strategic initiatives which support the attractiveness and transformation of the talent pipeline.

The demographics of the January 2026 for all IAC candidates were as follows:

	First time candidates			All Candidates		
	Total	Pass	Pass Rate	Total	Pass	Pass Rate
African	1271	886	70%	1 763	1 003	57%
Coloured	139	107	77%	188	122	65%
Indian	200	146	73%	286	172	60%
Other	89	66	74%	113	73	65%
White	716	646	90%	821	685	83%
Grand Total	2 415	1851	77%	3 171	2 055	65%

SAICA driving a future-fit profession

SAICA CEO, Patricia Stock CA(SA), congratulated the successful candidates and the encouraging indicators within the results.

“We are encouraged by key aspects of the January 2026 IAC outcomes, particularly the number of African, Coloured and Indians candidates who successfully passed,” said Stock. “Despite the overall slight decline, this progress speaks to our ongoing efforts to broaden meaningful access to the profession and to support greater transformation, even as we reflect critically on areas where performance can be further strengthened”.

Stock explained that the introduction of the new assessment format reflects SAICA’s commitment to ensuring relevance and readiness for the evolving accounting landscape. “The revised assessment is designed to align more closely with the future of the profession by embedding critical competencies such as digital acumen and sustainability. The CA of the Future Competency Framework is not solely about examination outcomes; it is about equipping candidates with the skills, judgement and adaptability required to thrive in a rapidly changing world”.

She reiterated SAICA's ongoing responsibility to quality and standards, adding: "We remain steadfast in maintaining the rigour and credibility of our education and assessment processes, ensuring that those who qualify do so with the capabilities expected of CAs(SA)".

Stock further commended candidates for their perseverance congratulating all candidates who took on the challenge of the IAC examinations.

Addressing those who were unsuccessful, she added: "This result does not define your future. Use the experience to reflect, to learn, and to build forward. With persistence, commitment, and the right support structures, success remains within reach".

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About SAICA

The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), South Africa's pre-eminent accountancy body, is recognised as the world's leading accounting institute and is home to the leading CA designation in the world. The Institute provides a wide range of support services to more than 60 000 members and associates who are chartered accountants (CAs[SA]), as well as associate general accountants (AGAs[SA]) and accounting technicians (ATs[SA]), who hold positions as CEOs, MDs, board directors, business owners, chief financial officers, auditors and leaders in every sphere of commerce and industry, and who play a significant role in the nation's highly dynamic business sector and economic development.

SAICA is a member of Chartered Accountants Worldwide (CAW), a global family that connects over 1,8 million fellow Chartered Accountants and students in more than 190 countries. Together, we support, develop, and promote the role of Chartered Accountants as trusted business leaders, difference makers, and advisers.

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