

Media release
For immediate release

SAICA reflects on perseverance and advancement following the release of the June 2026 IAC results

Johannesburg, 28 August 2026 – The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) has announced the pass rate for the 2026 Initial Assessment of Competence (IAC), showing that 73% of candidates passed both the January and June 2026 IAC, compared to 76% in 2025. A total of 2 546 candidates successfully passed the IAC in 2026, compared to 2 740 candidates in 2025.

491 candidates successfully demonstrated their competence in the June 2026 IAC, resulting in a pass rate of 37%, against the June 2025 IAC pass rate of 39%. The June 2026 IAC candidate population consists mostly of candidates who were not successful in previous IAC sittings. Therefore, the pass rate cannot be compared to the January 2026 IAC sitting where most candidates writing are first-time candidates.

The IAC is a standard setting exam which is written at the end of the postgraduate diploma in accounting and represents the culmination of a robust academic qualification journey; candidates in the IAC are required to integrate three interdependent competency types: professional values and attitudes; enabling acumens (including business acumen, critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making among others); and technical competencies in the value creation process. These competencies are assessed in an integrative manner, as expected of a Chartered Accountant (South Africa) [CA(SA)], requiring the ability to apply their technical knowledge using the identified skills which requires demonstrating critical thinking, evaluating alternatives and making decisions ethically and responsibly.

The June 2026 IAC results highlight the importance of collaboration across the CA qualification pathway. SAICA will continue to work with endorsed academic providers and accredited training offices to support candidate success across the pathway to the CA(SA) designation.

SAICA also acknowledges the contribution of the Finance and Accounting Services Sector Education and Training Authority (FASSET), a key partner in supporting transformation and candidate success. Through funding of a June 2026 IAC support programme, FASSET enabled SAICA to provide additional support to repeat candidates. Candidates participating in the FASSET IAC Repeat Programme achieved a pass rate that was 10% higher than that of other repeat candidates.



SAICA's Chief Executive Officer, Patricia Stock CA(SA), highlighted that the development of future CAs(SA) is an ecosystem effort requiring sustained commitment from all stakeholders. "The IAC results are a reflection of a complex professional pathway that extends well beyond a single institution. Strengthening the talent pipeline of future CAs(SA) therefore requires collective action and shared accountability across the profession. By working together, we can ensure that aspiring chartered accountants are supported throughout their journey and emerge as competent, ethical and future-fit professionals who can serve local and global businesses, society and the public interest," she said.

SAICA remains focused on continuous improvement and on equipping candidates with the competence, adaptability and ethical foundation required to serve the public interest.

Pass rate by demographics:

	June 2026			June 2025		
Race	Pass	Total	% Pass	Pass	Total	% Pass
African	272	849	32%	261	758	34%
Coloured	31	87	36%	24	71	34%
Indian	58	137	42%	67	164	41%
White	106	211	50%	123	226	54%
Not disclosed	24	52	46%	14	35	40%
Grand Total	491	1336	37%	489	1 254	39%

SAICA continues to monitor demographic performance trends closely. While the pass rate of African and Coloured candidates remained consistent to the performance of June 2025, the outcomes in 2026 highlights that sustainable transformation requires long-term, structured intervention across the academic pipeline. SAICA remains committed to targeted support, mentorship and funding initiatives to strengthen throughput over a certain period.

Stock underscored the importance of sustained collaboration and ongoing refinement of the qualification pathway whilst maintaining the high quality of the SAICA programme. "We remain focused on strengthening the support structures that contribute to enabling candidate's success, ensuring appropriate academic, professional and mentorship support. While we have seen encouraging areas of progress, we recognise that disparities persist across demographic groups which requires deliberate, evolving evidence-based intervention. SAICA is working closely with key stakeholders across the education and training value chain, from cradle-to-career, including the Department of Basic Education, higher education providers and FASSET, to better understand the root causes of these gaps and to implement targeted solutions. Our commitment to quality, transformation and continuous improvement remains unwavering, as we strive to uphold the integrity and global standing of the CA(SA) designation".

ENDS

Issued by the SAICA Corporate Affairs and Stakeholder Engagement Team

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.

SAICA media contacts

Nqaba Mabece, nqabam@saica.co.za or +27 76 142 0141
Head: Corporate Affairs and Stakeholder Engagement
SAICA Strategic Affairs division

Kgauhelo Dioka, kgauhelod@saica.co.za or +27 68 087 1867
Manager: Corporate Affairs and Stakeholder Engagement
SAICA Strategic Affairs division