

## MEDIA RELEASE

### 42 percent of 92,081 candidates worldwide go for gold and pass June 2008 CFA exams

- *Record-breaking number of candidates sat for the June 2008 examinations*
- *Australia ranked seventh highest in number of CFA exam applicants among non-North American regions*

**Sydney, Australia, September 2, 2008** – More than 92,000 candidates worldwide in the CFA program were going for the gold standard of the investment profession when they sat for the June 2008 exams. CFA Institute has announced that 42 percent of those candidates passed, bringing them one step closer to earning the distinguished CFA charter.

To earn the CFA charter, candidates must sequentially pass three six-hour exams that are widely considered to be among the most arduous in the investment profession.

The Level I global pass rate was 35 percent (44,063 took the exam) and the Level II global pass rate was 46 percent (33,449 took the exam). Of the 14,569 individuals who in June 2008 took the third and final exam that leads to the prestigious CFA designation, 53 percent passed. CFA Institute expects the majority of those candidates who passed the Level III exam will become CFA charterholders later this year, bringing the number of charterholders worldwide to more than 89,000.

More than one million exams have been administered since the inauguration of the CFA program in 1963. The average historical global pass rates are 45 percent for Level I, 50 percent for Level II, and 65 percent for Level III. Descriptions of the grading and pass-rate setting processes are available [here](#) (PDF).

“Successful candidates in the CFA program demonstrate a mastery of essential investment and finance concepts, as well as a profound understanding of the global marketplace” said Robert Johnson, CFA, deputy CEO of CFA Institute. “The content of the program evolves annually to reflect changing industry developments and new challenges, and is determined through a regular, extensive survey of practicing CFA charterholders. For example, equity security analysis and ethical standards have remained important since the program’s inception 45 years ago, but over the years, topics such as wealth planning, International Financial Reporting Standards, and alternative and derivative investments have been incorporated to keep pace with the evolution and globalisation of the profession.”

The CFA curriculum also includes debt analysis, fixed income analysis, financial statement analysis, quantitative methods, economics, corporate finance, portfolio management, risk management, asset allocation, and performance measurement.

CFA Institute recommends candidates spend a minimum of 250 hours preparing for each of the three exams. On average, CFA candidates take four years to pass the three required exams. The Level I exam is offered twice per year, while the Level II and Level III exams are offered once each year (access [registration information](#)). The Level I exam consists of multiple-choice questions. Level II is composed of

item sets (i.e., mini cases with detailed vignettes) and the questions at Level III are 50 percent item set and 50 percent short answer and essay.

Those who passed the Level III exam – 7,720 candidates – will begin receiving their CFA charters in early October, provided that they also have completed the minimum [work-experience requirement](#) of four years in the investment industry, signed a commitment to abide by the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct, apply to a CFA Institute society, and become a member of CFA Institute.

“CFA charterholders maintain high ethical standards and objectivity, and are dedicated to staying current on industry developments through lifelong learning,” said Jeff Diermeier, CFA, president and CEO of CFA Institute. “These qualities foster confidence and inspire trust in charterholders’ expertise among clients and employers alike.”

Just as earning the CFA charter shows that an investment professional is committed to a higher standard, hiring a CFA charterholder signifies that a firm is, too.

Employers in Australia with the largest number of CFA charterholders include Macquarie Bank, UBS, Colonial First State Group Ltd, Westpac Banking Corporation, Maple-Brown Abbott Limited, AMP Limited, Barclays, Citigroup, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, State Street, ABN AMRO Bank, Northwestern Mutual, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Mellon Financial, Insurance Australia Group, JP Morgan Chase & Co, Orbis Investment Management, Goldman Sachs and Legg Mason.

### June 2008 Exam Results by Country/Region

By country/region, the pass rates for the Level I, Level II, and Level III exams combined are:

- United States: 43 percent of the 28,306 total exam candidates
- Canada: 41 percent of the 7,768 total exam candidates
- Europe: 46 percent of the 15,656 total exam candidates
- Asia and Pacific Asia: 40 percent of the 33,936 total exam candidates
- Central and South America: 37 percent of the 1,543 total exam candidates
- Africa/Middle East: 28 percent of the 4,872 total exam candidates

Non-North American countries and territories with the largest number of candidates that took a CFA exam were Mainland China (8,510), Hong Kong (6,194), United Kingdom (6,169), India (4,103), Singapore (3,838), South Korea (3,357), Australia (1,864), Taiwan (1,555), Germany (1,429), and Switzerland (1,264).

ENDS

#### Additional Resources:

[1963-2008 Candidate Exam Results](#) (PDF)

[Into Our Fifth Decade](#) (PDF)

[CFA program Sample Questions](#)

[CFA program Fact Sheet](#) (PDF)

[CFA Institute Fact Sheet](#) (PDF)



Setting a higher standard



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### **CFA Institute**

CFA Institute is the global association for investment professionals. It administers the CFA® and CIPM curriculum and exam programs worldwide; publishes research; conducts professional development programs; and sets voluntary, ethics-based professional and performance-reporting standards for the investment industry. CFA Institute has more than 96,000 members, who include the world's 82,800 CFA charterholders, in 133 countries and territories, as well as 136 affiliated professional societies in 57 countries and territories. More information may be found at [www.cfainstitute.org](http://www.cfainstitute.org).

### **About CFA Society of Sydney**

CFA Society of Sydney (CFA Sydney) is a member society of CFA Institute. It was established in 1996 and has over 830 members, of whom 85 percent hold the CFA designation. CFA Sydney is a member-focused organisation, run by a group of dedicated volunteers elected by the members. The society is an association of local investment professionals engaged in a wide variety of roles, including portfolio management, security analysis, corporate finance, and investment advice. CFA Sydney aims to promote the highest ethical and professional standards within the investment industry. It encourages professional development through the CFA program and continuing education; it facilitates the exchange of information and ideas within the local investment community and beyond; and it works to further the recognition of the CFA designation and what it stands for. As one of 135 CFA Institute member societies, it also connects members with a global network of investment professionals. Visit [www.cfas.org.au](http://www.cfas.org.au) for further information.