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Statistical release

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2014

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Preface

This statistical release primarily presents information on recorded live births in South Africa, for births that occurred and were registered in 2014. Live birth occurrences from 1994 to 2014 are included to show trends and patterns in the occurrence and registration of live births. Estimates of the completeness of birth registration in the country for 1996–2011 are also provided. The release is based on births registered and collated through the national birth registration system maintained by the Department of Home Affairs.



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Key findings

1. Introduction

Civil registration is a compulsory, universal, permanent, official and continuous recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events, such as births, deaths and marriages (UN, 2014). Birth registration is the process by which a child's birth is recorded in the population register (UN, 2014) and in South Africa it is coordinated by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Registered individuals are issued with a birth certificate to provide them with a permanent, official and visible evidence of the country's legal recognition of their existence (UNHCR, 2013). The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by member states of the United Nations, including South Africa for the period 1990 to 2015 contained no target on the need for all children to have a legal identity as an important aspect of social inclusion and development. However, the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set for the period 2016 to 2030's goal 16 calls for free and universal birth registration by 2030 as a way of promoting inclusive and sustainable access to essential services (UNICEF, 2014).

Birth registration does not in itself guarantee access to basic services, protection from exploitation and other fundamental human rights (UNICEF, 2002). However, for unregistered individuals with no proof of age and who they are it almost inevitably marks the cornerstone for their social exclusion, lack of access to basic services such as education and health care, and lack of an identity (UNICEF, 2002). The importance of birth registration goes beyond the individual. At the national level, availability of strong, complete and accurate civil registration systems facilitates implementation of sufficient, effective and efficient development strategies both in terms of equality and equity (UN-OHCHR, 2014). Unregistered children become invisible when important evidence-based public health policies as well as other social development initiatives are made (UN-OHCHR, 2014). In addition, information on the number of live births is crucial for measurement of changes in population size and composition as every country needs to know its characteristics (UN, 2014). This information allows the government to plan for the needs of its population at every administrative level, from national to the lowest geographic level.

In South Africa, the right to birth registration is enshrined in the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1992 (Act No. 51 of 1992) last amended as the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act, 2010 (Act No. 18 of 2010) (Republic of South Africa, 1992; Republic of South Africa, 2010). The regulations for registration were revised in 2014 (Republic of South Africa, 2014). According to the Amendment Act all children born in South Africa must be registered within 30 days of their birth. However, it is still possible to register births after 30 days provided reasons for non-compliance are provided (DHA, 2014). After birth registration is completed, a birth certificate is issued to the applicant and thereafter Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) acquires the births data from DHA on a monthly basis through State Information Technology Agency (SITA).

Ultimately, birth registration is essential for compiling vital statistics that are needed to develop policies and implement services. The availability of reliable, up-to-date and continuous vital statistics depends on the level of development of civil registration systems. The South African government is currently comprehensively assessing the civil registration system with the view of providing the evidence required to prioritise interventions for strengthening the civil registration and vital statistics systems in the country. In terms of birth registration, the assessment includes the development of coherent strategies to achieve universal birth registration including accessibility of registration services, allocation of sufficient human and financial needs and alignment of mandates of key stakeholders working on either birth registration or birth statistics systems.

The main purpose of this release is to present information on the number of live births that occurred and were registered in 2014. Live births from 1994 to 2013 are also included to show trends and patterns in the occurrence and registration of live births. The reporting of live births is divided into year of birth occurrence (the year in which the birth occurred) and year of birth registration (the year in which the birth was registered, regardless of when it occurred).

2. Data and methods

2.1 Data source

Administrative records on live births from the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) are the exclusive data source for this statistical release. The DHA provides recorded live births data files for births registered in 2014 and captured on the national birth registration system up until 31 December 2014. The data files are categorised into five files: births registered within 30 days; births registered after 30 days but before 15 years; births registered from 15 years; births registered in health facilities; and births that occurred to South African citizens while in a foreign country.

2.2 Assessment of the quality of data

Completeness of birth registration

The availability of the 2011 population census results allowed the estimation of completeness for three intercensal periods: 1996–2001 (Census 1996 and 2001); 2001–2007 (Census 2001 and Community Survey [CS] 2007) and 2007–2011 (CS 2007 and Census 2011). The 2013 statistical release (Stats SA, 2015) estimated the completeness of birth registration for the intercensal period 1996–2001 at 68,7%, while for the period 2001–2007, the level of completeness was 84,8% and 89,2% for the 2007–2011 period. The method used to derive the levels of completeness for the three intercensal periods can be obtained in the Recorded Live births statistical release (Stats SA, 2015). For the 2014 statistical release, the same estimates of completeness are maintained. Revised estimates will be provided after the 2016 Community Survey.

Timeliness of birth registration

The Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act (Act No. 18 of 2010) makes it compulsory for all South African citizens and non-citizens who live in the country permanently or temporarily to register live births that take place in the country within 30 days following birth occurrence (Republic of South Africa, 2010). Timeliness of birth registration in this statistical release refers to the number of days and years it took to register a birth from the date on which the birth occurred to the date the birth was registered at the DHA.

The distribution of live births registered in 2014 by the number of days and years it took to register the births from the date of their occurrence is presented in Table 1. The results show that overall, there were 1 161 159 births registered in 2014. The vast majority of these births (59,1%) were registered in accordance with the Amendment Act, and more than one-quarter (27,3%) of the births were registered after 30 days of occurrence but before the expiration of one year. Taken together, these percentages translate to 86,3% births registered within a year of birth occurrence. The timeliness of birth registration has improved slightly from the observation made for 2013 births. In 2013, 84,8% of the births were registered within the first year of birth occurrence. Approximately 7,9% of the 2014 total birth registrations were for persons aged one year and older but less than 15 years, and 5,8% were for persons aged 15 years and older.

Table 1: Distribution of birth registrations by the number of days it took to register the birth, 2014

Number of days	Number of birth registrations	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
0–30 days	685 731	59,1	59,1
31–364 days	316 642	27,3	86,3
1–14 years	91 653	7,9	94,2
15 years and older	67 133	5,8	100,0
Total	1 161 159	100,0	

2.3 Data analysis

The analyses undertaken in this release involve descriptive statistics based on registered births and birth occurrences. Three levels of descriptive analysis were undertaken: univariate analysis (frequency distributions) of births, bivariate analysis (cross-tabulations) of selected background characteristics and trends in median ages at birth. The latter are used to determine how early or late births occur in the population.

The background characteristics considered in the analysis include age, sex and geographic information (provincial and district municipalities). Additional information on month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration is also provided.

3. Birth registrations

3.1 Trends in birth registration

The total number of birth registrations consists of all live births registered at the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) within the year of birth and those registered later than the year in which they occurred. The former are referred to as current birth registrations, while the latter are late birth registrations. Thus for any given year, the total number of birth registrations provided by the DHA will include both current and late birth registrations.

Trends in birth registration provide us with an understanding of the patterns of registration over time. These trends are presented in Figure 1 and Table 2 spanning over two decades (1994 to 2014), categorised by status of birth registration (current or late). Over time, the total number of birth registrations has varied. Figure 1 shows that between 1994 and 2003 total birth registrations increased consistently from 667 107 to 1 677 415. The results further show that during the period 2004 to 2007 total birth registrations took a downward trend from 1 475 809 to 1 119 712 and thereafter there was no noticeable pattern from 2008 up to 2010. Between 2011 and 2014, a consistent decline in total birth registrations was noted again from 1 202 377 in 2011 to 1 161 159 in 2014.

Figure 1: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1994–2014

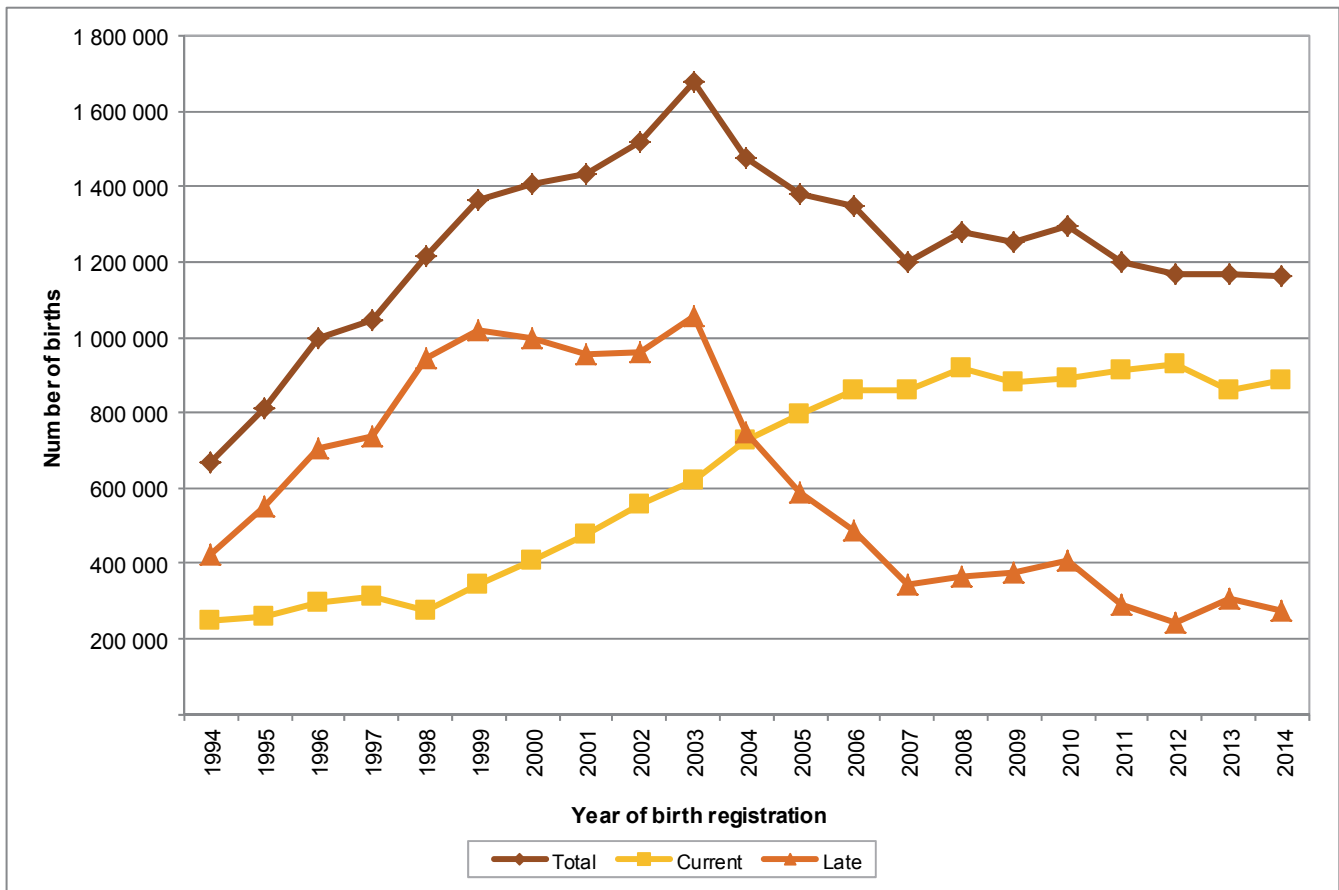


Table 2 shows that a total of 1 161 159 births were registered in 2014, representing a slight decline of 0,5% from the 1 166 554 births that were registered in 2013. The table shows that from 1994 to 2004, the number of late registrations was consistently higher than the number of current registrations. Further analysis shows that since 2005, the pattern reversed with current birth registrations becoming higher than late registrations. In 1994, 63,1% of birth registrations were late, whereas in 2005 only 42,5% of births were registered late. In 2013, about 73,8% of total birth registrations were current registrations, increasing to over 75% in 2014 (76,3%). Of the total birth registrations in 2013, 26,2% were late registrations in comparison to 23,7% in 2014. This pattern indicates that most births are now registered during the year of birth rather than later and shows improvements in the registration of births.

Table 2: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1994–2014

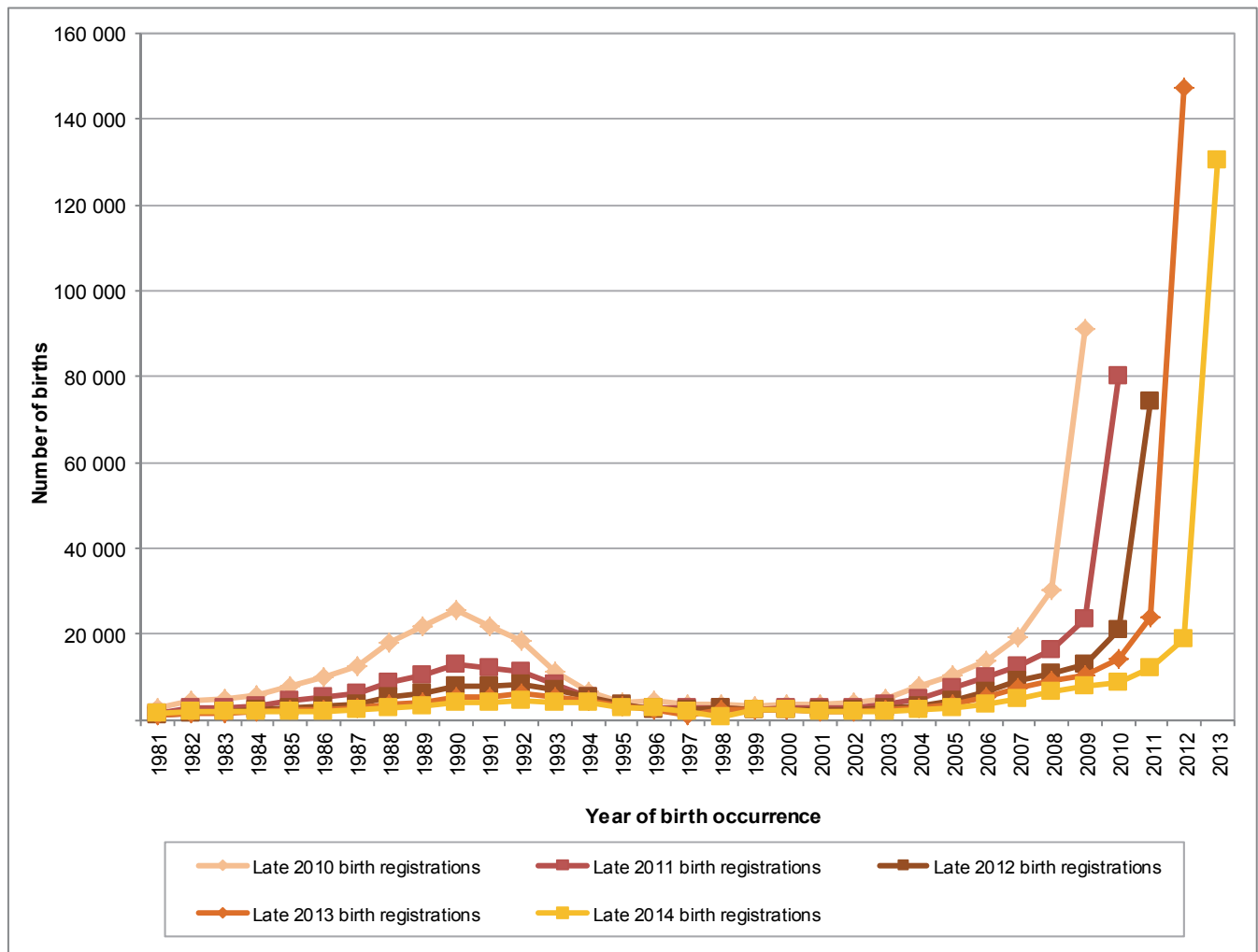
Year of registration	Number of birth registrations			Percentage		
	Total	Current	Late	Total	Current	Late
1994	667 107	246 345	420 762	100,0	36,9	63,1
1995	809 439	260 880	548 559	100,0	32,2	67,8
1996	998 798	295 719	703 079	100,0	29,6	70,4
1997	1 046 095	309 723	736 372	100,0	29,6	70,4
1998	1 216 337	273 180	943 157	100,0	22,5	77,5
1999	1 363 800	344 700	1 019 100	100,0	25,3	74,7
2000	1 407 833	409 707	998 126	100,0	29,1	70,9
2001	1 433 432	477 489	955 943	100,0	33,3	66,7
2002	1 517 671	557 573	960 098	100,0	36,7	63,3
2003	1 677 415	621 887	1 055 528	100,0	37,1	62,9
2004	1 475 809	728 283	747 526	100,0	49,3	50,7
2005	1 380 496	793 788	586 708	100,0	57,5	42,5
2006	1 346 119	860 263	485 856	100,0	63,9	36,1
2007	1 199 712	858 866	340 846	100,0	71,6	28,4
2008	1 277 763	915 674	362 089	100,0	71,7	28,3
2009	1 254 707	879 707	375 000	100,0	70,1	29,9
2010	1 294 694	889 691	405 003	100,0	68,7	31,3
2011	1 202 377	911 353	291 024	100,0	75,8	24,2
2012	1 168 403	926 726	241 677	100,0	79,3	20,7
2013	1 166 554	860 393	306 161	100,0	73,8	26,2
2014	1 161 159	886 202	274 957	100,0	76,3	23,7

Information on late registrations for births that were registered in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 but had occurred over the period 1981–2013 is provided in Figure 2. In general, across the five observation periods, late birth registrations were highest in the year preceding the year of observation. For example, in 2014, most late registrations (50,8%) were for births that occurred in 2013, while for the 2013 year of reporting most late birth registrations (50,4%) were for births that occurred in 2012.

The results show minimal differences in late birth registrations across the five years for births that occurred before 1985 as well as those that occurred between 1994 and 2003. Differences in late registrations widened for the period 1986 to 1992 and between 2006 and 2013. However, late registration of births has been declining consistently over time.

Figure 2 shows that although for the past five years (2010–2014), most late registrations were for years immediately prior to the year of reporting, there were no marked differences in the number of births registered between 2010 and 2012. However, for the years 2013 and 2014, there were high numbers of late registrations for births that occurred in 2012 and 2013, respectively. This pattern reflects improvements in early registration of births in the country owing to the legislation’s requirement for births to be registered within 30 days of occurrence, coupled with the establishment and resulting accessibility of the DHA birth registration offices within health facilities with maternity wards and obstetric units. This may also be due to increased awareness of the value of birth registration because a birth certificate is a prerequisite for accessing social grants and other social services.

Figure 2: Late birth registrations by year of birth, South Africa: 1981–2013



3.2 Birth registrations by selected variables

Age of the mother

The birth registration form (DHA-24) has a section requiring details of both the father and the mother of the child. However, similar to previous years, over two-thirds of the births registered in 2014 did not have details of the father. The percentage of births with no information on fathers slightly declined from 66,6% in 2012 to 65,1% in 2013 and further narrowed to 63,6% in 2014. As such, due to the continued high proportion of missing details on fathers, only information pertaining to the mothers will be provided in this section.

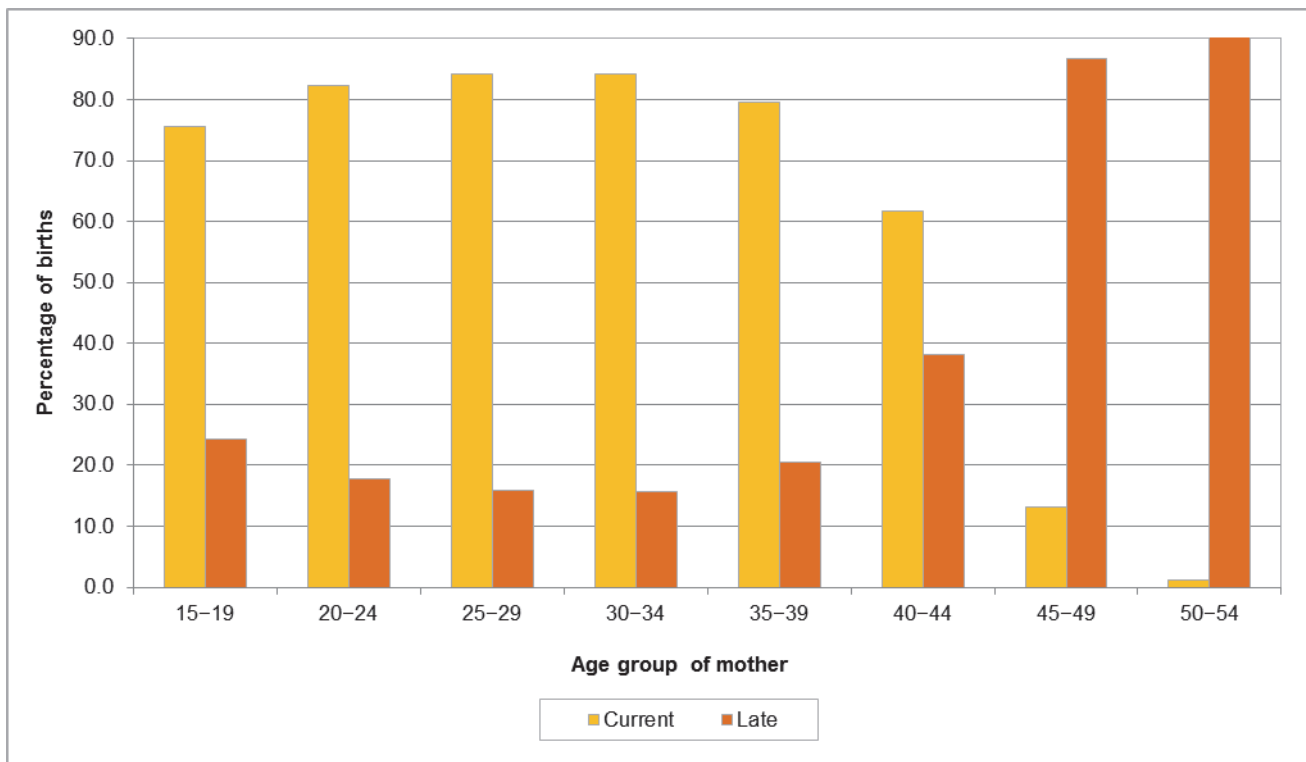
Information on age of the mother gives a picture of the relationship between birth registration and age of mother. This includes a reflection of patterns and variations in the age profile of birth registrations. It further provides a measure of the number of births by age group, which is essential in population estimations and health planning.

Table 3 and Figure 3 show the distribution of 2014 birth registrations by the age of the mother and status of registration. The majority (above half) of births occurring to mothers aged 15–19 up to 40–44 were registered within the year of birth occurrence. Conversely, higher proportions of late registrations were observed among mothers aged 45 and above, where over half of the births in these ages were registered later than the year of birth occurrence. Percentages of births registered within the year of occurrence were highest for mothers aged 30–34 (84,3%), closely followed by mothers in age groups 25–29 (84,1%) and 20–24 (82,2%). Of the 10 030 births that occurred to mothers aged 50–54 in 2014, only 1,3% were registered within the year of birth. Mothers aged 50–54 years had the highest proportion of births registered later than the year of birth (98,7%) while mothers aged 45–49 years had the second highest (86,8%).

Table 3: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2014

Age of mother	Number of birth registrations			Percentage		
	Total	Current	Late	Total	Current	Late
15–19	154 869	117 139	37 730	100,0	75,6	24,4
20–24	288 847	237 574	51 273	100,0	82,2	17,8
25–29	274 201	230 640	43 561	100,0	84,1	15,9
30–34	209 307	176 419	32 888	100,0	84,3	15,7
35–39	116 509	92 613	23 896	100,0	79,5	20,5
40–44	44 764	27 636	17 128	100,0	61,7	38,3
45–49	13 557	1 793	11 764	100,0	13,2	86,8
50–54	10 030	128	9 902	100,0	1,3	98,7
Unspecified/outside the 15–54 age range	49 075	2 260	46 815	100,0	4,6	95,4
Total	1 161 159	886 202	274 957	100,0	76,3	23,7

Figure 3: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2014*



*Excluding 49 075 births whose mothers' ages were not stated or were outside the age range of 15–54 years.

Province of birth registration

In 2014, the office and province of birth registration were provided in the data set from the DHA. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) then derived the magisterial district of birth registration based on the 2011 municipal boundaries. In recorded live births publications for 2012 and previous years, magisterial districts captured were interpreted to be the districts of birth occurrence for births registered before 15 years and magisterial district of birth registration for births registered from 15 years. However, for this publication as well as the 2013 publication, magisterial districts were classified by magisterial district of birth registration irrespective of age at birth registration. For birth registrations from 15 years of age, the district of birth registration is mostly City of Tshwane (Gauteng province), where the Department of Home Affairs head office responsible for processing these late registrations is situated.

Figure 4 presents the distribution of all births registered in 2014 by province of birth registration and status of birth registration. Analysis of information on status of birth registration takes into consideration births registered within the year of occurrence (current births) and late registrations which are categorised into births registered after the year of birth but before 15 years and births registered from 15 years of age.

It is observed that out of the 1 161 159 total birth registrations in 2014, the highest number of births were registered in Gauteng (303 660), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (235 692) and Limpopo (137 162). Northern Cape had the lowest number, accounting for 31 210 of all birth registrations. It is worth noting that in all provinces, there were more current than late birth registrations.

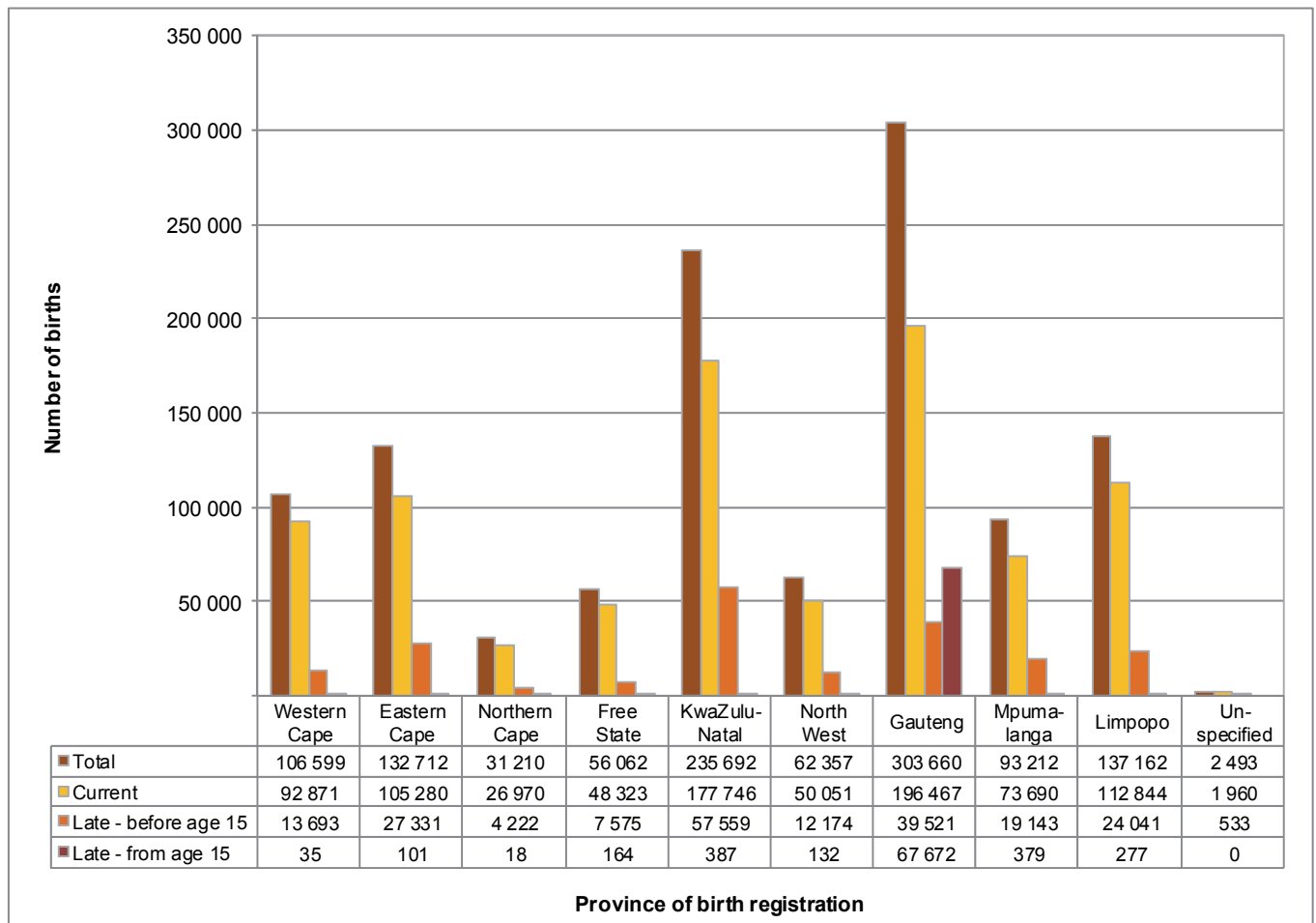
Overall, the highest number of current birth registrations was in Gauteng (196 467). However, in terms of proportions, Gauteng had the lowest percentage of current birth registrations relative to other provinces with only 64,7% of its birth registrations falling in the current births category. This is mainly attributed to the centralisation of the processing of late birth registrations from 15 years of age in the City of Tshwane district municipality in

Gauteng. Western Cape had the highest percentage of current birth registrations (87,1 %), followed by Northern Cape with 86,4%.

Late birth registrations from age 15 years and above show a skewed distribution in favour of Gauteng. For example, 22,3% of all birth registrations in Gauteng were registered from 15 years, while comparative proportions for the rest of the provinces were less than one per cent. Accordingly, the province contributed 97,8% to the 69 165 total 2014 late birth registrations in the 15 years and above category.

An additional table providing the number of birth registrations by year of birth occurrence and status of birth registration, province and district municipality is provided in Appendix B. In general, the appendix shows total 2014 current registrations as well as late registrations characterised by year of birth for births that occurred from 2010 up to 2013 and combined totals for earlier years (2009 and below). The results show that from the total births registered in 2014, City of Tshwane (146 922) had the highest number of births registered compared to other districts, followed by eThekweni (72 888) and City of Cape Town (69 924). Appendix B further shows that City of Tshwane (81 504) had the highest number of late birth registrations (due to reasons stated earlier) whereas other districts had late birth registrations totalling less than 20 000 births for each district.

Figure 4: Birth registrations by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa: 2014

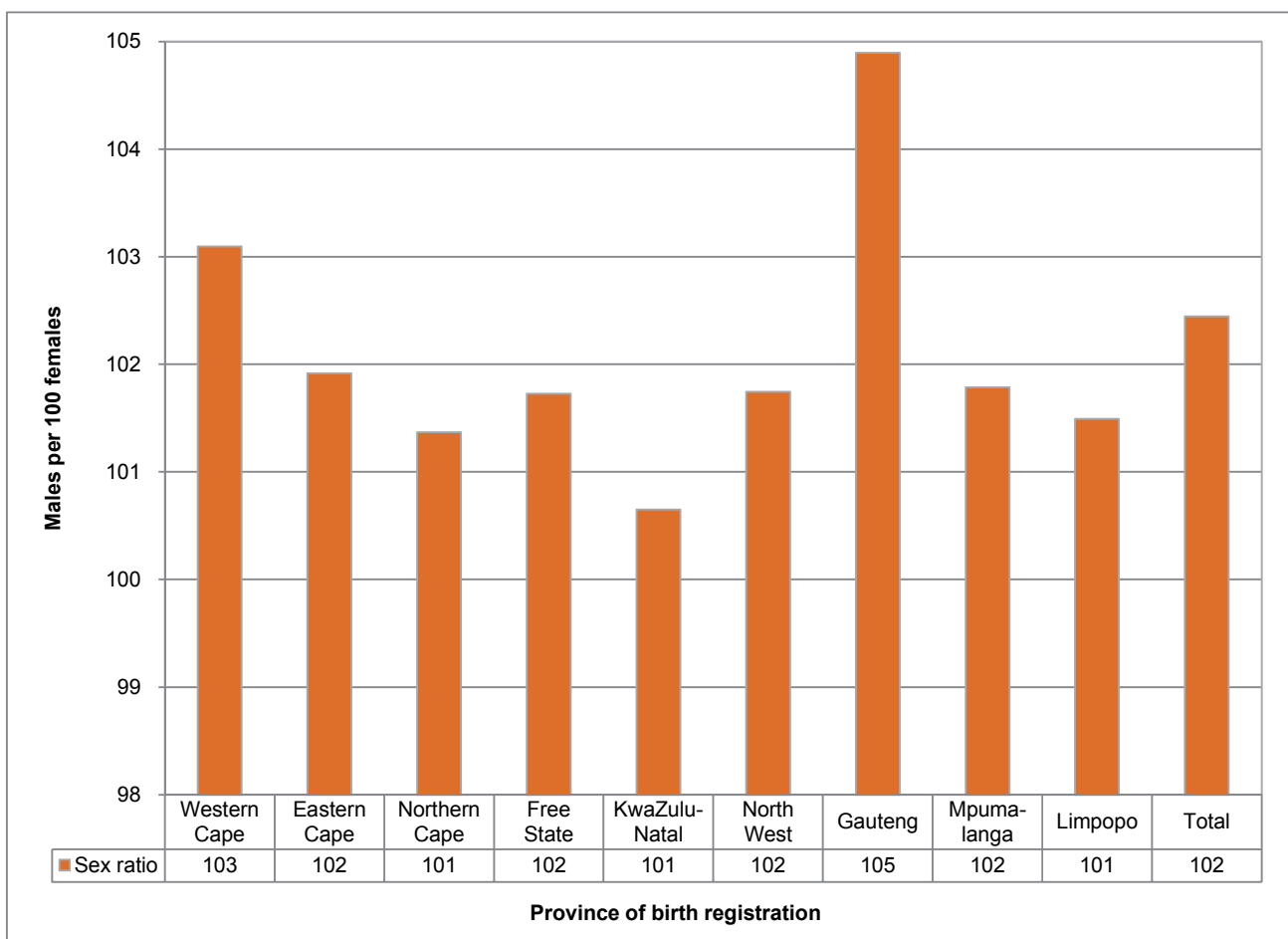


Sex of the child

The provincial distribution of the number of male birth registrations relative to female birth registrations is presented in Figure 5. The distribution of total birth registrations by sex in 2014 indicates that there were more male births registered (587 592) than female births (573 567), yielding a sex ratio of 102 males per 100 female births registered for South Africa. All provinces had a sex ratio between 101 and 105 males per 100 female birth registrations. Gauteng had the highest sex ratio of 105 male births per 100 female birth registrations, compared to all other provinces. The lowest sex ratios were observed in Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo, with a sex ratio of 101 male births per 100 female births registrations.

Appendix C provides additional information on total registrations by sex, status of registration, province and district municipality.

Figure 5: Sex ratios by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2014



4. Birth occurrences

This section reports on birth occurrences based on year of birth data captured in the birth registration system up to 31 December 2014 (this being the cut-off for processing by Stats SA). Birth occurrences extracted from the National Population Register (NPR) on 14 July 2015 are also presented. The former information is received from the DHA in an electronic format, while the latter is received as a print-out from the same department.

Birth occurrences are all births that occur within a specific year and are registered at the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) within the same year. Each time a birth for any particular year is registered, the birth occurrences for that particular year are updated to include those that were registered late. As a result, information on birth occurrences varies each time data are extracted from the National Birth Register.

Table 4 shows the total birth occurrences as at 31 December 2014 and the updated birth occurrences as at 14 July 2015 for the period 1994 to 2014. It is observed that by 31 December 2014 a total of 886 202 births that occurred in 2014 were registered, increasing to 988 007 by 14 July 2015. This indicates that between 31 December 2014 and 14 July 2015, the national birth register was updated by 101 805 births that occurred in 2014. This translates to a 11,5% increase which was the highest increase relative to other years.

Since the national population register is continuously updated with late registration, births for each year are expected to increase between the two time periods. The highest number of birth occurrences was recorded in 2012 for the 31 December 2014 processing cut-off and in 2008 for the 14 July 2015 processing cut-off. An unexpected feature of the table is the reduction of 2012 birth occurrences between these two time periods, decreasing from 1 092 592 births as at 31 December 2014 to 1 020 088 births as at 14 July 2015. This inconsistency needs to be interpreted with caution and could not be resolved by the time of publication.

Table 4: Birth occurrences by year of birth and reference period, South Africa: 1994–2014

Year of birth occurrence	Birth occurrences (as at 31 Dec. 2014)	Updated birth occurrences (as at 14 Jul. 2015)
1994	937 392	984 271
1995	930 426	954 419
1996	972 148	980 055
1997	962 902	964 405
1998	904 115	947 928
1999	935 419	963 840
2000	933 348	975 933
2001	927 389	958 662
2002	915 605	968 884
2003	923 377	963 142
2004	1 011 134	1 019 759
2005	1 057 733	1 061 569
2006	1 085 867	1 090 773
2007	1 072 457	1 076 844
2008	1 090 431	1 100 095
2009	1 025 468	1 047 273
2010	1 013 620	1 017 532
2011	1 021 783	1 023 160
2012	1 092 592	1 020 088
2013	990 642	1 001 195
2014	886 202	988 007

4.1 Birth occurrences as at 31 December 2014

Table 5 shows the number of births that occurred during the period 1995 to 2014 by year of birth occurrence and year of birth registration. These birth occurrences for different years are categorised into births registered within the year in which they occurred and those registered later than the year of occurrence. The figures in bold indicate all births that were registered within the year of occurrence, while those not in bold represent late birth registrations, showing when the births for a particular year were eventually registered. The 'Total' row shows the updated number of births registered up to 31 December 2014.

The number of birth occurrences in 2014 registered up until 31 December 2014 was 886 202. This number is expected to increase in the next report because it only refers to births registered within the year of occurrence (current registrations). The average number of birth occurrence for a particular year increases due to updating of the national birth register with either late registrations or births that were not processed in time to reach Stats SA during the 2014 processing phase. The average annual number of births in 2013 registered by 31 December 2014 was 990 642, which was an increase of 130 249 from the 860 393 births registered in 2013 by 31 December 2013.

Table 5 shows that the overall number of registered birth occurrences in the 20-year period has been fluctuating, in particular between 1995 and 1999. Decreases in birth registrations were observed between 2000 and 2002; increases between 2003 and 2006 and decreases again between 2009 and 2010. The latest trend shows that the number of births that were registered within the year of occurrence increased yearly between 2011 and 2012, and after that declined between 2013 and 2014.

Late registrations play a crucial role in the updating of birth occurrences. For example, in 1995, only 260 880 births were registered within the year in which they occurred, by 2014, there were 930 426 births registered that occurred in 1995. This means that out of the 930 426 total births for 1995, 669 546 were late registrations and 260 880 were current registrations. In general, the results show that before 2001, there were more late registrations than current registrations and after 2001 the pattern was reversed. The table further shows that for all the years, the highest number of late registrations were registered during the year immediately following the year of birth occurrence.

Table 5: Birth occurrences (as at end of December 2014) by year of birth occurrence and year of birth registration, South Africa: 1995–2014

Year of birth registration	Year of birth occurrence																				
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
1995	260 880																				
1996	89 566	295 719																			
1997	54 198	93 807	309 723																		
1998	59 942	70 261	105 766	273 180																	
1999	80 362	92 276	104 453	146 055	344 700																
2000	78 122	92 269	102 179	114 781	178 516	409 707															
2001	65 682	79 095	87 285	96 809	116 374	192 410	477 489														
2002	36 685	58 125	73 665	86 859	98 553	118 600	218 256	557 573													
2003	73 845	69 465	68 289	69 795	72 533	77 256	94 588	194 204	621 887												
2004	44 477	41 014	38 700	41 372	42 511	43 503	48 197	63 234	165 662	728 283											
2005	28 386	25 341	23 240	23 162	24 996	24 807	23 798	27 701	43 404	150 546	793 788										
2006	18 034	18 217	17 623	19 518	21 911	26 516	24 057	26 042	34 601	54 941	154 331	860 263									
2007	9 472	9 309	9 227	9 897	10 969	14 158	15 200	16 766	20 009	26 769	42 569	126 358	858 866								
2008	7 955	7 105	6 548	6 691	6 927	8 327	8 722	11 378	14 085	17 869	23 732	40 554	128 336	915 674							
2009	6 204	5 406	4 489	4 317	4 609	5 128	5 072	6 053	8 322	11 793	14 208	19 510	31 885	101 743	879 707						
2010	3 913	4 495	3 790	3 483	3 340	3 450	3 535	3 844	4 852	7 623	10 566	13 736	19 323	30 164	91 064	889 691					
2011	2 991	2 576	2 879	2 624	2 517	2 604	2 632	2 743	3 457	4 763	7 298	10 111	12 628	16 091	23 665	80 079	911 353				
2012	3 493	2 532	2 151	2 654	2 240	2 310	2 139	2 259	2 644	3 301	4 578	6 599	9 104	10 776	13 065	21 005	74 374	926 726			
2013	3 277	2 500	1 023	2 136	2 409	2 176	1 894	1 987	2 418	2 890	3 803	5 293	7 514	9 226	10 246	14 063	24 002	147 160	860 393		
2014	2 942	2 636	1 872	782	2 314	2 396	1 810	1 821	2 036	2 356	2 860	3 443	4 801	6 757	7 721	8 782	12 054	18 706	130 249	886 202	
Total	930 426	972 148	962 902	904 115	935 419	933 348	927 389	915 605	923 377	1 011 134	1 057 733	1 085 867	1 072 457	1 090 431	1 025 468	1 013 620	1 021 783	1 092 592	990 642	886 202	886 202

Age of the mother for births occurring in 2014

The age of mother is an important variable in the analysis of live births as it can reflect substantial differences in fertility amongst the various sub-groups of the mothers. The distribution of births occurring in 2014 by age of the mother is presented in Table 6. Women aged 20–24 had the highest percentage of births (26,8%), closely followed by women aged 25–29 (26,0%) and those aged 30–34 (19,9%). Mothers aged 40–54 when taken together accounted for a lower proportion of births (3,3%). This is expected as the probability to conceive decreases as women get older.

Appendix D provides detailed information on the distribution of total births by age of the mother for the years 2010 to 2014. Overall, the age pattern of birth occurrences was uniform over the five-year period, with higher birth occurrences amongst women aged 20–24, followed by women aged 25–29 and those aged 30–34 whilst age group 50–54 had the lowest number of birth occurrences.

Table 6: Number and percentage of births by age of the mother, South Africa: 2014

Age of the mother	Number of birth occurrences	Percentage
15–19	117 139	13,2
20–24	237 574	26,8
25–29	230 640	26,0
30–34	176 419	19,9
35–39	92 613	10,5
40–44	27 636	3,1
45–49	1 793	0,2
50–54	128	0,0
Unspecified/outside the 15–54 age range	2 260	0,3
Total	886 202	100,0

Section 4 of the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act, 2010 (Act No. 18 of 2010) which states that births in South Africa should be registered within 30 days of birth occurrence, reinforces the fundamental importance of not only the right to birth registration but also timeliness of civil registration. The tabulation of month of birth occurrence by month of birth registration provides necessary information for evaluating compliance to this requirement. Table 7 presents the distribution of births that occurred in 2014 classified by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration.

In general, the table shows the number of births that occurred in for example January and were registered in January as well as those that occurred in January but were still within 30 days when they were registered the following month, in this case February. The table indicates that September had the highest number of births (64 441) registered in the same month of birth occurrence or in the following month but still in line with the legislation (within 30 days). March had the second highest number of birth registrations that complied with the legislation (60 092) while August had the third highest with 59 000 births. February had the lowest number of births registered before the expiration of 30 days (52 569). Although December had 31 151 births occurring and being registered in December, it is not considered as having the lowest number of birth registrations within 30 days. This is because by the time the data was extracted on 31 December 2014 births that occurred in December but were registered within 30 days in January were not yet captured on the Birth Register.

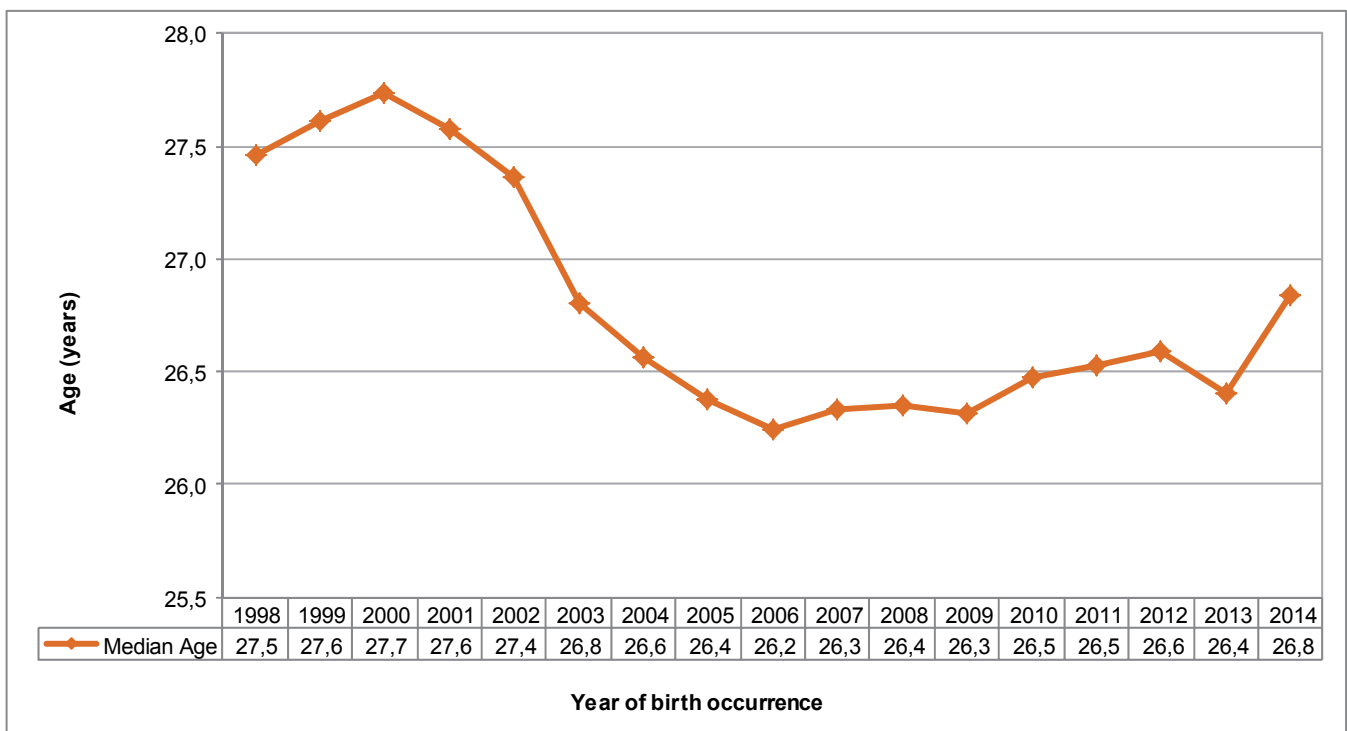
Table 7: Number of births by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration, South Africa: 2014

Month of birth registration	Month of birth occurrence																									
	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		
January	36 776																									
February	21 072	6 656	32 804																							
March		8 411	19 765	5 817	36 662																					
April		4 142		7 844	23 430	6 276	29 632																			
May		2 392		4 002		9 718	25 262	7 873	34 150																	
June		1 507		2 046		4 145		8 211	22 006	7 084	32 998															
July		1 212		1 525		2 620		4 501		9 472	24 027	7 087	37 714													
August		790		945		1 438		2 141		3 962		8 001	20 658	6 347	35 042											
September		659		841		1 242		1 635		2 484		4 297		8 456	23 958	6 162	39 259									
October		600		689		885		1 127		1 635		2 274		3 884		8 200	25 182	6 842	38 320							
November		384		363		569		643		871		1 128		1 674		2 845	6 471	18 867	4 976	32 894						
December		251		276		382		442		566		677		998		1 450	2 790	4 933	20 434	3 373						31 151

Median age of the mother from 1998 to 2014

The median ages of the mothers for births occurring between 1998 and 2014 are shown in Figure 6. The median age at birth indicates the age at which exactly half of the mothers are younger than this age and half are older. In essence, the median age at birth specifies how early or late births occur within a population. The first pattern (1998–2000), shows that the median age at birth increased gradually from 27,5 years in 1998 and reached a peak of 27,7 years in 2000. In the second pattern (2001–2006), the median age at birth took a downward trend from 27,6 years in 2001 and reached its lowest 26,2 years in 2006. It then stabilised around 26,5 years between 2010 and 2011, after which it fluctuated throughout 2012 to 2014. The median age of mothers for registered 2014 birth occurrences was 26,8 years, up from the 26,4 years observed for registered 2013 birth occurrences.

Figure 6: Median age of the mother by year of birth, South Africa: 1998–2014



Provincial distribution of births in 2014

Figure 7 presents the distribution of all 2014 birth occurrences by province of birth registration. Information on foreign birth registrations was not included in this release as it is being explored with DHA and will be provided on the next release.

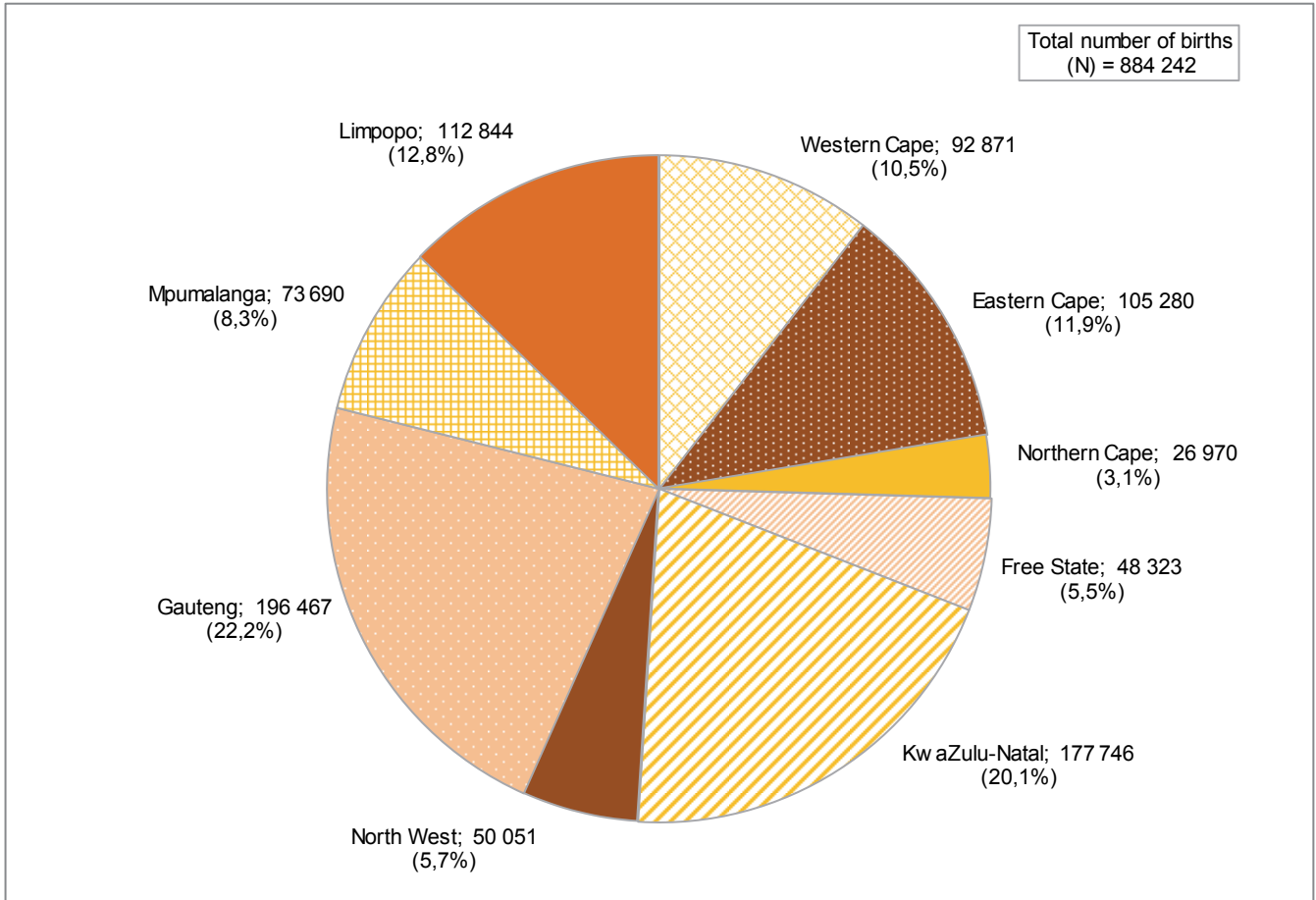
The highest proportions of births were registered in Gauteng (22,2%) followed by KwaZulu-Natal (20,1%). Northern Cape (3,1%) and Free State (5,5%) accounted for the lowest proportions of birth registrations.

Additional information on birth occurrences by province of birth registration and age of mother is provided in Appendix E. The results show that of the total 2014 birth occurrences, KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of births amongst women in the 15–24 and 50–54 age categories, while Gauteng had the highest birth occurrences in the remaining age groups. Overall, Northern Cape had the lowest birth occurrences in all age groups, with the exception of age group 50–54. For women aged 50–54, it is observed that the birth occurrences were both lowest and similar for three provinces: Free State, Western Cape and North West.

Appendix F shows a detailed distribution of birth occurrences by province and district municipality of birth registration for the years 2010 to 2014. The results indicate that birth occurrences were highest in KwaZulu-Natal

between the years 2010 and 2012. However, for the years 2013 and 2014, Gauteng had the highest number of birth occurrences. Information on district municipalities shows that while City of Cape Town had the highest number of births between 2010 and 2012; this trend has since changed with City of Tshwane recording the highest number of birth occurrences between 2013 and 2014.

Figure 7: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2014*



*Excluding 1 960 births with unspecified province

Baby forenames and surnames in South Africa, 2014

Table 1 shows the distribution of the top ten forenames for males and females as well as surnames for births that occurred and were registered in 2014. Popular forenames and surnames were derived by counting the number of occurrences of each forename and surname and then ranking them in order of frequency. The most popular boys' name was Junior, followed by Bandile. The forename Bokamoso appeared in the top ten for both sexes. However, it was the most popular name amongst girls and was the eighth most popular forename amongst boys. Iminathi was the most popular girls' forename followed by Minenhle. Although there seems to be diversity in baby forenames in terms of ethnic identities, religious influences or meanings, all the forenames for males and females that form part of the top ten most popular forenames for 2014 birth occurrences appear to have positive meanings. In general, the names express happiness, acceptance and thankfulness.

Overall, the ten most common surnames appear to be from Nguni languages namely isiZulu, isiXhosa, isiNdebele and siSwati. Dlamini was the most common surname accounting for 6 281 for 2014 birth occurrences. Ntuli appearing for 5 899 births registered in 2014 was the second most common surname followed by Ngubane with 5 734 births bearing the surname.

Table 8: Distribution of the top ten baby forenames and surnames, South Africa: 2014

Rank	Male Forename	Number	Rank	Female Forename	Number	Rank	Both sexes Surname	Number
1	Junior	1 137	1	Iminathi	1 116	1	Dlamini	6 281
2	Bandile	794	2	Minenhle	880	2	Ntuli	5 899
3	Kungawo	716	3	Rethabile	789	3	Ngubane	5 734
4	Siyabonga	709	4	Bokamoso	663	4	Ndlovu	5 381
5	Lethabo	683	5	Karabo	655	5	Nkosi	5 313
6	Khayone	655	6	Amogelang	629	6	Khumalo	5 046
7	Mpho	647	7	Tshegofatso	629	7	Ngobeni	4 521
8	Bokamoso	641	8	Lesedi	610	8	Mthethwa	4 347
9	Kamogelo	627	9	Amahle	601	9	Zwane	4 347
10	Thato	622	10	Thandolwethu	548	10	Maluleke	4 308

4.2 Birth occurrences as at 14 July 2015

The sub-section provides birth occurrences by sex and year of birth as reflected in the national population register on 14 July 2015. The total number of birth occurrences per year, as shown in Table 9, indicates that a total of approximately 21,1 million births occurred in South Africa between 1994 and 2014. On average, over the 21-year period 1 005 135 births occurred per year. The number of birth occurrences fluctuated between 947 928 and around one million per year over the period 1994–2014. The table further shows that the highest number of birth occurrences was observed in 2008, and the lowest in 1998.

Sex of the child

The overall number of birth occurrences by birth year provided in Table 9 shows that in general, there were slightly more male births than female births between 1994 and 2014. Sex ratios were between 100 and 102 male births per 100 female births during the entire observation period.

Table 9: Birth occurrences (as at 14 July 2015) by sex and year of birth, South Africa: 1994–2014

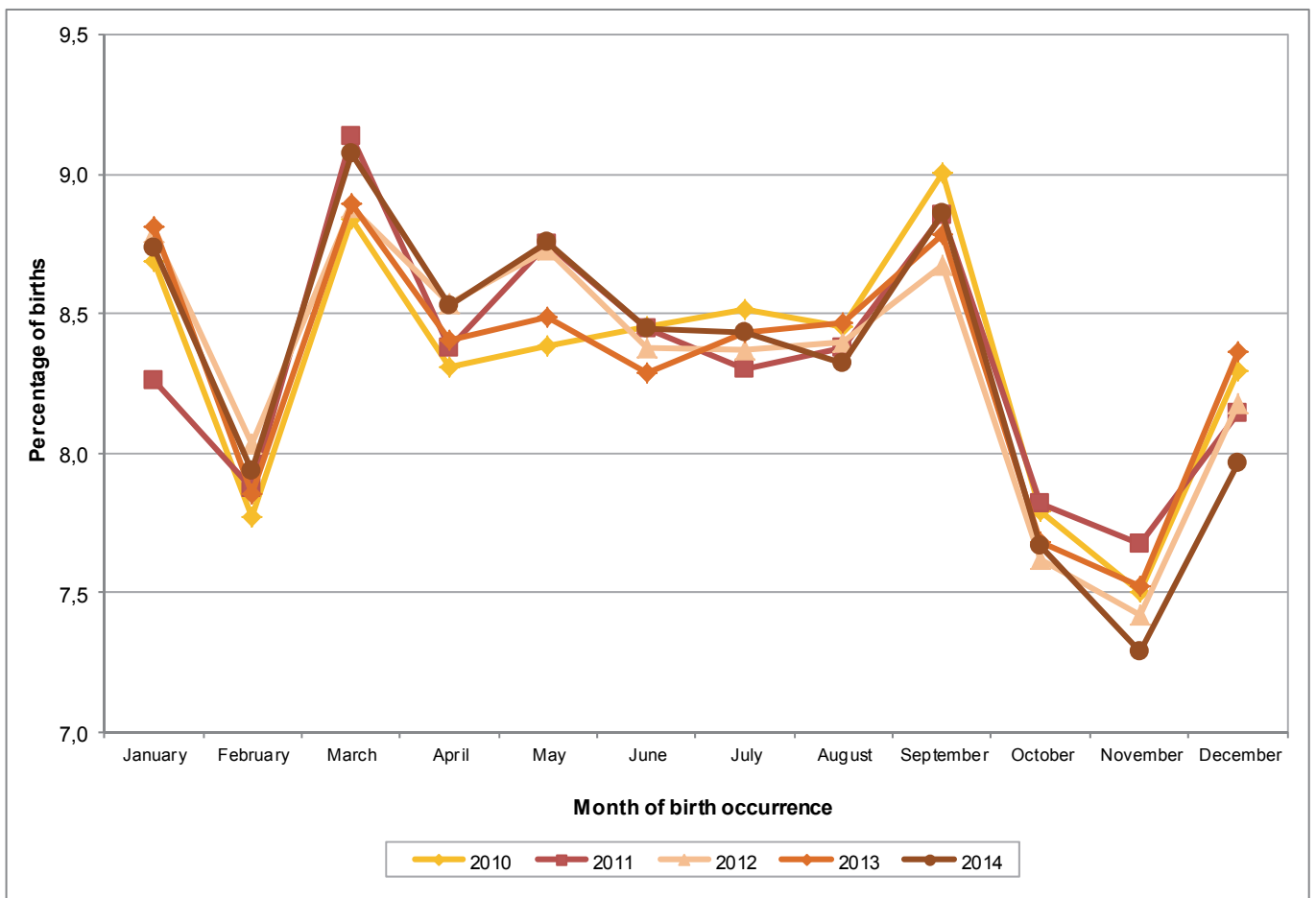
Year	Grand Total			Sex ratio
	Total	Male	Female	
1994	984 271	493 681	490 590	101
1995	954 419	478 440	475 979	101
1996	980 055	491 519	488 536	101
1997	964 405	482 835	481 570	100
1998	947 928	474 312	473 616	100
1999	963 840	482 389	481 451	100
2000	975 933	489 059	486 874	100
2001	958 662	480 131	478 531	100
2002	968 884	485 094	483 790	100
2003	963 142	483 668	479 474	101
2004	1 019 759	512 538	507 221	101
2005	1 061 569	533 987	527 582	101
2006	1 090 773	547 770	543 003	101
2007	1 076 844	541 997	534 847	101
2008	1 100 095	553 248	546 847	101
2009	1 047 273	527 216	520 057	101
2010	1 017 532	513 323	504 209	102
2011	1 023 160	516 041	507 119	102
2012	1 020 088	514 511	505 577	102
2013	1 001 195	505 111	496 084	102
2014	988 007	498 292	489 715	102
Total	21 107 834	10 605 162	10 502 672	101

Month of birth as at 14 July 2015

The percentage distribution of birth occurrences from 2010 to 2014, classified by month of birth updated as at 14 July 2015 are shown in Figure 8. Generally, the results show that over the years the highest proportions of birth occurrences were in March, September and January. The pattern of birth occurrences by month and year of birth indicates that the highest proportion of births occurred during the month of September for 2010 birth occurrences and during the month of March for the rest of the observation period (2011–2014). The second most common month was March for 2010 birth occurrences, September for 2011 and 2014 birth occurrences, and September for the other years. November had the lowest percentage of birth occurrences for all the years.

Appendix G presents detailed information on birth occurrences from 1994 to 2014 by month of birth and sex.

Figure 8: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences by year and month of birth, South Africa: 2010–2014



5. Concluding remarks

Birth registration is a fundamental human right and from a legal perspective it opens the door to other rights, including nationality, education and health care. From a statistical perspective, the data provided by civil registration of births allows for the provision of accurate data for planning, development, implementation and monitoring of sustainable human development policies. With regard to children, the information is crucial in planning and coordinating immunization efforts, monitoring child growth, providing social welfare and promoting universal enrolment in primary education. In addition, the data are invaluable in the development of indicators on fertility rates, population growth rates as well as neonatal, infant and child mortality at national and sub-national levels.

This statistical release provided information on birth registrations and occurrences for 2014 in South Africa. Births for the years 1994 to 2013 were also included to provide information on trends in the occurrence and registration of live births. In 2014, a total of 1 161 159 births were registered, representing a decline of 0,5% from the 1 166 554 births registered in 2013. The completeness of birth registration in the country has improved over time, from about 84,8% during 2001–2007 to around 89,2% for the period 2007 to 2011. Timeliness of birth registration has also increased slightly, with 86,3% of births registered within a year of occurrence in 2014, up from 84,8% in 2013.

Of the 1 161 159 births registered in 2014, 886 202 (76,3%) were births that occurred in 2014 (current birth registrations), while 274 957 (23,7%) were births that occurred in previous years (late birth registrations). The results indicated that for current registrations, 59,1% were registered in line with the latest amendment to the Act during the first 30 days of life, whilst 27,3% were registered after 30 days but before one year. Late registrations are composed of births registered after one year but before 15 years of age and those registered from age 15. The 274 957 (23,7%) total late registrations is an addition of 205 792 (17,7%) births from the former and 69 165 (6,0%) births from the latter.

It is expected that births for each year will continue to increase as the national population register is continuously updated with late registrations. For instance, between 1994 and 2014 on average around 985 000 births occurred each year based on births as at 31 December 2014. However, this average increased to about one million as at 14 July 2015. The results further showed that for 2014 most births occurred amongst women aged 20–29 years with slightly more male than female births registered (102 male births per 100 female births). Overall, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of birth occurrences compared to other provinces and most births occurred during the months of March, January and September. Information on foreign birth registrations is being investigated with DHA and will be provided on the next release.

The most popular name amongst baby girls was Iminathi whilst the most popular name amongst baby boys was Junior. Dlamini was the most common surname amongst babies born and registered in 2014.

Although the completeness of birth registration has increased, coupled with more births being registered within the year of birth, there is still a need to increase not only birth registration in the country but quality of birth registration information obtained. The potential to improve birth registration coverage in South Africa exists as health facilities with maternity and obstetric units now provide registration services and the social grant system's birth registration prerequisite complements the birth registration network. In addition, the legislation facilitates registration as it stipulates that registration in South Africa is universal, free for first-time applicants, compulsory and should be done within 30 days from the date of birth. In terms of quality, there are still births that occur outside the known age range of giving birth and details of fathers were missing in the majority of cases, a problem that has persisted over a long time. It is therefore important that the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) works towards improving quality of this information to allow for in-depth analysis of birth occurrences.

It is anticipated that the assessment of the civil registration and vital statistics systems will yield results that will assist in identifying strengths and barriers of birth registration as well as further accelerate the momentum to both register and provide accurate, complete and timely statistics of all births occurring in South Africa.

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Appendix B: Total birth registrations for 2014 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality

Province and district municipality	Grand Total	2014 (current)	Late registrations					2009 and below
			Total	2013	2012	2011	2010	
Total - South Africa	1 161 159	886 202	274 957	130 249	18 706	12 054	8 782	105 166
Western Cape								
Cape Winelands	14 924	12 921	2 003	1 429	127	105	68	274
Central Karoo	1 355	1 168	187	138	13	9	7	20
City of Cape Town	69 924	61 237	8 687	6 018	764	459	328	1 118
Eden	10 066	8 914	1 152	875	87	39	30	121
Overberg	4 243	3 634	609	412	54	32	26	85
West Coast	6 087	4 997	1 090	821	68	58	30	113
Total	106 599	92 871	13 728	9 693	1 113	702	489	1 731
Eastern Cape								
Alfred Nzo	25 080	19 511	5 569	2 958	658	398	274	1 281
Amathole	13 633	10 543	3 090	1 637	329	238	158	728
Buffalo City	19 057	16 246	2 811	1 722	281	161	134	513
Cacadu	6 554	5 173	1 381	849	128	86	67	251
Chris Hani	14 284	11 140	3 144	2 005	314	219	149	457
Joe Gqabi	5 269	4 011	1 258	744	136	79	60	239
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	20 009	16 561	3 448	2 358	288	196	142	464
O.R. Tambo	28 826	22 095	6 731	4 223	700	456	289	1 063
Total	132 712	105 280	27 432	16 496	2 834	1 833	1 273	4 996
Northern Cape								
Frances Baard	9 466	8 489	977	640	68	57	35	177
John Taolo Gaetsewe	6 382	5 699	683	475	55	31	27	95
Namakwa	1 728	1 541	187	139	8	7	5	28
Pixley ka Seme	3 661	3 047	614	400	60	33	23	98
Siyanda	9 973	8 194	1 779	1 232	143	69	64	271
Total	31 210	26 970	4 240	2 886	334	197	154	669
Free State								
Fezile Dabi	10 170	8 532	1 638	978	134	71	83	372
Lejweleputswa	10 605	8 793	1 812	902	139	75	81	615
Mangaung	17 748	16 028	1 720	931	136	93	59	501
Thabo Mofutsanyane	15 345	13 308	2 037	1 174	125	105	103	530
Xhariep	2 194	1 662	532	246	47	27	33	179
Total	56 062	48 323	7 739	4 231	581	371	359	2 197

Appendix B: Total birth registrations for 2014 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality (concluded)

Province and district municipality	Grand Total	2014 (current)	Total	Late registrations				
				2013	2012	2011	2010	2009 and below
Total - South Africa	1 161 159	886 202	274 957	130 249	18 706	12 054	8 782	105 166
KwaZulu-Natal								
Amajuba	10 061	7 643	2 418	1 634	200	125	94	365
eThekweni	72 888	57 766	15 122	9 661	1 558	964	646	2 293
iLembe	11 356	8 046	3 310	2 083	367	211	137	512
Sisonke	11 808	8 723	3 085	1 574	242	199	139	931
Ugu	17 319	13 666	3 653	2 171	304	240	166	772
uMgungundlovu	18 463	14 262	4 201	2 461	390	244	180	926
uMkhanyakude	18 729	13 353	5 376	3 167	637	407	261	904
uMzinyathi	15 662	11 360	4 302	2 864	417	223	177	621
uThukela	15 129	11 204	3 925	2 381	335	259	165	785
uThungulu	23 301	17 126	6 175	3 684	669	406	287	1 129
Zululand	20 976	14 597	6 379	3 919	622	417	304	1 117
Total	235 692	177 746	57 946	35 599	5 741	3 695	2 556	10 355
North West								
Bojanala	22 097	18 157	3 940	2 103	362	280	212	983
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	14 257	11 934	2 323	1 401	207	162	114	439
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	11 126	8 583	2 543	1 871	186	104	85	297
Ngaka Modiri Molema	14 877	11 377	3 500	2 186	312	225	144	633
Total	62 357	50 051	12 306	7 561	1 067	771	555	2 352
Gauteng								
City of Johannesburg	66 642	56 509	10 133	6 513	771	516	406	1 927
City of Tshwane	146 922	65 418	81 504	8 481	1 331	914	665	70 113
Ekurhuleni	62 215	50 174	12 041	5 916	1 029	682	583	3 831
Sedibeng	17 310	15 071	2 239	1 335	179	125	111	489
West Rand	10 571	9 295	1 276	863	116	79	50	168
Total	303 660	196 467	107 193	23 108	3 426	2 316	1 815	76 528
Mpumalanga								
Ehlanzeni	49 472	39 949	9 523	5 799	785	530	392	2 017
Gert Sibande	18 571	13 989	4 582	2 899	480	284	207	712
Nkangala	25 169	19 752	5 417	3 612	457	239	200	909
Total	93 212	73 690	19 522	12 310	1 722	1 053	799	3 638
Limpopo								
Capricorn	34 665	28 745	5 920	4 486	441	298	156	539
Greater Sekhukhune	29 736	24 181	5 555	4 067	448	279	179	582
Mopani	22 810	19 745	3 065	2 245	197	108	97	418
Vhembe	35 310	28 330	6 980	5 031	536	296	257	860
Waterberg	14 641	11 843	2 798	2 095	240	120	84	259
Total	137 162	112 844	24 318	17 924	1 862	1 101	773	2 658
Unspecified	2 493	1 960	533	441	26	15	9	42

Appendix C: Birth registrations by registration status, sex, province and district municipality, 2014

Province and district municipality	Total registrations			Current registrations			Late registrations					
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Before age 15			From age 15		
							Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total - South Africa	1 161 159	587 592	573 567	886 202	446 660	439 542	205 792	103 640	102 152	69 165	37 292	31 873
Western Cape												
Cape Winelands	14 924	7 672	7 252	12 921	6 639	6 282	1 996	1 029	967	7	4	3
Central Karoo	1 355	706	649	1 168	608	560	187	98	89	0	0	0
City of Cape Town	69 924	35 394	34 530	61 237	31 012	30 225	8 671	4 372	4 299	16	10	6
Eden	10 066	5 126	4 940	8 914	4 540	4 374	1 147	584	563	5	2	3
Overberg	4 243	2 101	2 142	3 634	1 788	1 846	607	311	296	2	2	0
West Coast	6 087	3 113	2 974	4 997	2 550	2 447	1 085	562	523	5	1	4
Total	106 599	54 112	52 487	92 871	47 137	45 734	13 693	6 956	6 737	35	19	16
Eastern Cape												
Alfred Nzo	25 080	12 408	12 672	19 511	9 719	9 792	5 537	2 672	2 865	32	17	15
Amathole	13 633	6 989	6 644	10 543	5 402	5 141	3 073	1 576	1 497	17	11	6
Buffalo City	19 057	9 621	9 436	16 246	8 234	8 012	2 798	1 377	1 421	13	10	3
Cacadu	6 554	3 257	3 297	5 173	2 570	2 603	1 373	685	688	8	2	6
Chris Hani	14 284	7 219	7 065	11 140	5 582	5 558	3 141	1 636	1 505	3	1	2
Joe Gqabi	5 269	2 668	2 601	4 011	2 033	1 978	1 256	634	622	2	1	1
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	20 009	10 191	9 818	16 561	8 443	8 118	3 439	1 745	1 694	9	3	6
O.R. Tambo	28 826	14 633	14 193	22 095	11 237	10 858	6 714	3 387	3 327	17	9	8
Total	132 712	66 986	65 726	105 280	53 220	52 060	27 331	13 712	13 619	101	54	47
Northern Cape												
Frances Baard	9 466	4 736	4 730	8 489	4 256	4 233	975	479	496	2	1	1
John Taolo Gaetsewe	6 382	3 151	3 231	5 699	2 808	2 891	682	342	340	1	1	0
Namakwa	1 728	926	802	1 541	829	712	185	95	90	2	2	0
Pixley ka Seme	3 661	1 857	1 804	3 047	1 535	1 512	612	321	291	2	1	1
Siyanda	9 973	5 041	4 932	8 194	4 140	4 054	1 768	893	875	11	8	3
Total	31 210	15 711	15 499	26 970	13 568	13 402	4 222	2 130	2 092	18	13	5
Free State												
Fezile Dabi	10 170	5 119	5 051	8 532	4 316	4 216	1 627	798	829	11	5	6
Lejweleputswa	10 605	5 316	5 289	8 793	4 418	4 375	1 750	863	887	62	35	27
Mangaung	17 748	9 110	8 638	16 028	8 227	7 801	1 669	855	814	51	28	23
Thabo Mofutsanyane	15 345	7 681	7 664	13 308	6 654	6 654	2 010	1 013	997	27	14	13
Xhariep	2 194	1 045	1 149	1 662	808	854	519	230	289	13	7	6
Total	56 062	28 271	27 791	48 323	24 423	23 900	7 575	3 759	3 816	164	89	75

Appendix C: Birth registrations by registration status, sex, province and district municipality, 2014 (concluded)

Province and district municipality	Total registrations			Current registrations			Late registrations					
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Before age 15			From age 15		
							Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total - South Africa	1 161 159	587 592	573 567	886 202	446 660	439 542	205 792	103 640	102 152	69 165	37 292	31 873
KwaZulu-Natal												
Amajuba	10 061	5 062	4 999	7 643	3 862	3 781	2 404	1 194	1 210	14	6	8
eThekweni	72 888	36 675	36 213	57 766	29 058	28 708	15 042	7 567	7 475	80	50	30
iLembe	11 356	5 632	5 724	8 046	4 042	4 004	3 299	1 585	1 714	11	5	6
Sisonke	11 808	5 953	5 855	8 723	4 404	4 319	2 962	1 481	1 481	123	68	55
Ugu	17 319	8 665	8 654	13 666	6 848	6 818	3 633	1 807	1 826	20	10	10
uMgungundlovu	18 463	9 224	9 239	14 262	7 115	7 147	4 165	2 091	2 074	36	18	18
uMkhanyakude	18 729	9 415	9 314	13 353	6 678	6 675	5 367	2 733	2 634	9	4	5
uMzinyathi	15 662	7 911	7 751	11 360	5 737	5 623	4 285	2 163	2 122	17	11	6
uThukela	15 129	7 626	7 503	11 204	5 676	5 528	3 911	1 943	1 968	14	7	7
uThungulu	23 301	11 620	11 681	17 126	8 583	8 543	6 138	3 016	3 122	37	21	16
Zululand	20 976	10 445	10 531	14 597	7 194	7 403	6 353	3 241	3 112	26	10	16
Total	235 692	118 228	117 464	177 746	89 197	88 549	57 559	28 821	28 738	387	210	177
North West												
Bojanala	22 097	11 198	10 899	18 157	9 228	8 929	3 842	1 915	1 927	98	55	43
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	14 257	7 109	7 148	11 934	5 953	5 981	2 310	1 148	1 162	13	8	5
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	11 126	5 622	5 504	8 583	4 343	4 240	2 536	1 277	1 259	7	2	5
Ngaka Modiri Molema	14 877	7 519	7 358	11 377	5 751	5 626	3 486	1 757	1 729	14	11	3
Total	62 357	31 448	30 909	50 051	25 275	24 776	12 174	6 097	6 077	132	76	56
Gauteng												
City of Johannesburg	66 642	33 539	33 103	56 509	28 392	28 117	10 002	5 081	4 921	131	66	65
City of Tshwane	146 922	76 372	70 550	65 418	32 902	32 516	14 454	7 316	7 138	67 050	36 154	30 896
Ekurhuleni	62 215	31 396	30 819	50 174	25 239	24 935	11 574	5 927	5 647	467	230	237
Sedibeng	17 310	8 845	8 465	15 071	7 708	7 363	2 220	1 130	1 090	19	7	12
West Rand	10 571	5 306	5 265	9 295	4 683	4 612	1 271	623	648	5	0	5
Total	303 660	155 458	148 202	196 467	98 924	97 543	39 521	20 077	19 444	67 672	36 457	31 215
Mpumalanga												
Ehlanzeni	49 472	24 916	24 556	39 949	20 075	19 874	9 298	4 715	4 583	225	126	99
Gert Sibande	18 571	9 415	9 156	13 989	7 093	6 896	4 562	2 310	2 252	20	12	8
Nkangala	25 169	12 688	12 481	19 752	9 938	9 814	5 283	2 684	2 599	134	66	68
Total	93 212	47 019	46 193	73 690	37 106	36 584	19 143	9 709	9 434	379	204	175
Limpopo												
Capricorn	34 665	17 449	17 216	28 745	14 416	14 329	5 867	3 001	2 866	53	32	21
Greater Sekhukhune	29 736	14 870	14 866	24 181	12 097	12 084	5 531	2 759	2 772	24	14	10
Mopani	22 810	11 559	11 251	19 745	9 999	9 746	2 964	1 501	1 463	101	59	42
Vhembe	35 310	17 895	17 415	28 330	14 382	13 948	6 890	3 450	3 440	90	63	27
Waterberg	14 641	7 316	7 325	11 843	5 922	5 921	2 789	1 392	1 397	9	2	7
Total	137 162	69 089	68 073	112 844	56 816	56 028	24 041	12 103	11 938	277	170	107
Unspecified	2 493	1 270	1 223	1 960	994	966	533	276	257	0	0	0

Appendix D: Birth occurrences by year of birth and age of the mother, 2010–2014*

Age of the mother	Year of birth occurrence				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
15–19	142 452	143 812	150 984	147 120	117 139
20–24	279 613	279 782	298 182	267 866	237 574
25–29	259 761	264 290	278 319	250 091	230 640
30–34	182 146	183 545	202 759	184 000	176 419
35–39	106 487	109 393	116 621	99 411	92 613
40–44	34 961	33 506	37 656	30 075	27 636
45–49	3 903	3 560	3 224	2 250	1 793
50–54	424	367	334	261	128
Unspecified/outside 15–54 age range	3 873	3 528	4 513	9 568	2 260
Total	1 013 620	1 021 783	1 092 592	990 642	886 202

* Figures include birth occurrences as at 31 December 2014.

Appendix E: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration and age of the mother, 2014

Province of birth registration	Age of mother									Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	Unsp.*	
Western Cape	10 103	92 871	25 578	21 051	10 395	2 673	153	2	257	92 871
Eastern Cape	18 899	105 280	24 787	18 269	9 888	3 284	257	40	410	105 280
Northern Cape	4 384	26 970	6 471	5 056	2 729	809	47	4	84	26 970
Free State	6 158	48 323	12 935	9 467	4 711	1 344	88	2	102	48 323
KwaZulu-Natal	28 168	177 746	44 769	30 811	15 865	4 591	325	29	372	177 746
North West	6 707	50 051	12 680	9 580	5 382	1 796	105	2	134	50 051
Gauteng	16 310	196 467	55 011	47 519	24 373	6 777	374	19	410	196 467
Mpumalanga	11 158	73 690	19 008	13 454	7 104	2 267	154	18	240	73 690
Limpopo	15 090	112 844	28 850	20 750	11 893	4 024	288	12	246	112 844
Unspecified	162	1 960	551	462	273	71	2	0	5	1 960
Total	117 139	886 202	230 640	176 419	92 613	27 636	1 793	128	2 260	886 202

* Unspecified or outside the 15–54 age range.

Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2010–2014*

Province and district municipality	Year of birth				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total - South Africa	1 013 620	1 021 783	1 092 592	990 642	886 202
Western Cape					
Cape Winelands	13 468	13 470	14 066	13 403	12 921
Central Karoo	1 089	1 123	1 252	1 286	1 168
City of Cape Town	72 504	71 440	74 374	62 995	61 237
Eden	9 702	9 565	10 050	10 271	8 914
Overberg	2 895	2 854	3 173	3 433	3 634
West Coast	5 792	5 898	6 058	5 686	4 997
Total	105 450	104 350	108 973	97 074	92 871
Eastern Cape					
Alfred Nzo	14 496	14 566	16 909	21 301	19 511
Amathole	12 933	13 551	14 945	11 529	10 543
Buffalo City	15 797	15 829	16 348	15 806	16 246
Cacadu	6 564	6 868	7 040	5 585	5 173
Chris Hani	14 265	14 298	15 136	13 529	11 140
Joe Gqabi	5 744	5 700	6 066	5 442	4 011
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	20 265	20 158	21 138	19 085	16 561
O.R. Tambo	32 939	34 145	35 590	25 082	22 095
Total	123 003	125 115	133 172	117 359	105 280
Northern Cape					
Frances Baard	8 670	8 889	9 394	9 092	8 489
John Taolo Gaetsewe	5 332	5 703	6 311	5 984	5 699
Namakwa	1 513	1 426	1 603	1 749	1 541
Pixley ka Seme	4 154	3 800	4 139	3 249	3 047
Siyanda	4 738	4 637	5 351	5 635	8 194
Total	24 407	24 455	26 798	25 709	26 970
Free State					
Fezile Dabi	8 721	8 223	9 071	7 628	8 532
Lejweleputswa	11 771	11 535	12 058	9 954	8 793
Mangaung	17 821	17 571	18 563	16 885	16 028
Thabo Mofutsanyane	15 144	15 089	15 815	14 183	13 308
Xhariep	1 571	1 430	1 608	2 042	1 662
Total	55 028	53 848	57 115	50 692	48 323

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 31 December 2014.

Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2010–2014 (concluded)*

Province and district municipality	Year of birth				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total - South Africa	1 013 620	1 021 783	1 092 592	990 642	886 202
KwaZulu-Natal					
Amajuba	12 097	11 738	12 613	8 755	7 643
eThekweni	70 064	67 906	70 967	68 060	57 766
iLembe	9 833	9 006	9 217	8 123	8 046
Sisonke	12 143	12 353	12 319	7 019	8 723
Ugu	15 307	14 675	15 767	17 055	13 666
uMgungundlovu	17 826	17 973	19 434	17 091	14 262
uMkhanyakude	13 911	14 722	16 381	16 398	13 353
uMzinyathi	10 667	11 689	14 115	13 941	11 360
uThukela	14 411	14 273	15 192	13 097	11 204
uThungulu	21 993	22 538	23 799	19 626	17 126
Zululand	20 258	20 073	20 893	18 824	14 597
Total	218 510	216 946	230 697	207 989	177 746
North West					
Bojanala	36 712	36 376	37 068	19 902	18 157
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	14 148	14 210	15 138	11 392	11 934
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	17 920	18 164	19 926	13 077	8 583
Ngaka Modiri Molema	10 743	10 742	12 103	13 148	11 377
Total	79 523	79 492	84 235	57 519	50 051
Gauteng					
City of Johannesburg	65 210	64 586	68 815	66 959	56 509
City of Tshwane	44 850	45 309	51 825	72 961	65 418
Ekurhuleni	57 286	58 059	60 585	55 499	50 174
Sedibeng	17 696	17 160	17 527	11 624	15 071
West Rand	14 729	15 329	16 003	13 565	9 295
Total	199 771	200 443	214 755	220 608	196 467
Mpumalanga					
Ehlanzeni	43 207	45 289	48 365	39 274	39 949
Gert Sibande	19 294	19 322	21 409	18 185	13 989
Nkangala	20 990	22 386	24 947	22 856	19 752
Total	83 491	86 997	94 721	80 315	73 690
Limpopo					
Capricorn	32 536	34 026	36 908	31 082	28 745
Greater Sekhukhune	20 375	20 174	23 280	26 935	24 181
Mopani	25 767	27 476	29 606	26 195	19 745
Vhembe	29 149	30 537	33 081	27 503	28 330
Waterberg	15 773	16 924	17 552	14 493	11 843
Total	123 600	129 137	140 427	126 208	112 844
Foreign**	606	283	172	0	0

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 31 December 2014.

**Foreign births in 2013 and 2014 are reflected in the district of birth registration.

Appendix G: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1994–1996*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences		
		Total	Male	Female
1994	January	82 860	41 664	41 196
	February	75 050	37 723	37 327
	March	82 520	41 441	41 079
	April	84 020	41 957	42 063
	May	81 300	40 756	40 544
	June	84 762	42 354	42 408
	July	79 089	39 816	39 273
	August	82 892	41 548	41 344
	September	91 223	45 824	45 399
	October	79 722	40 070	39 652
	November	75 384	37 655	37 729
	December	85 449	42 873	42 576
	Total		984 271	493 681
1995	January	81 653	40 925	40 728
	February	71 687	35 971	35 716
	March	79 976	40 138	39 838
	April	76 584	38 231	38 353
	May	79 443	40 031	39 412
	June	82 218	41 377	40 841
	July	78 396	39 060	39 336
	August	81 033	40 796	40 237
	September	89 670	44 871	44 799
	October	77 893	38 802	39 091
	November	73 388	36 771	36 617
	December	82 478	41 467	41 011
	Total		954 419	478 440
1996	January	85 348	42 662	42 686
	February	75 116	37 767	37 349
	March	82 688	41 205	41 483
	April	79 352	39 992	39 360
	May	81 028	40 553	40 475
	June	85 145	42 808	42 337
	July	80 602	40 323	40 279
	August	83 023	41 693	41 330
	September	91 902	46 026	45 876
	October	78 415	39 555	38 860
	November	73 560	36 714	36 846
	December	83 876	42 221	41 655
	Total		980 055	491 519

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 14 July 2015.

Appendix G.1: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1997–1999*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences		
		Total	Male	Female
1997	January	83 382	41 773	41 609
	February	74 313	37 182	37 131
	March	84 950	42 569	42 381
	April	79 690	39 726	39 964
	May	79 499	39 755	39 744
	June	81 913	40 810	41 103
	July	80 724	40 436	40 288
	August	81 259	40 530	40 729
	September	89 292	44 857	44 435
	October	76 607	38 578	38 029
	November	71 535	35 967	35 568
	December	81 241	40 652	40 589
	Total		964 405	482 835
1998	January	82 049	40 864	41 185
	February	74 203	37 135	37 068
	March	83 543	41 835	41 708
	April	78 274	38 855	39 419
	May	79 228	39 841	39 387
	June	80 405	40 252	40 153
	July	77 827	39 149	38 678
	August	79 545	39 587	39 958
	September	87 914	44 150	43 764
	October	75 806	37 970	37 836
	November	70 372	35 326	35 046
	December	78 762	39 348	39 414
	Total		947 928	474 312
1999	January	80 113	40 019	40 094
	February	71 271	35 805	35 466
	March	82 824	41 287	41 537
	April	81 933	40 842	41 091
	May	82 734	41 304	41 430
	June	83 098	41 546	41 552
	July	79 679	39 932	39 747
	August	80 704	40 439	40 265
	September	88 583	44 466	44 117
	October	76 876	38 267	38 609
	November	73 544	37 167	36 377
	December	82 481	41 315	41 166
	Total		963 840	482 389

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 14 July 2015.

Appendix G.2: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2000–2002*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences			
		Total	Male	Female	
2000	January	85 445	42 790	42 655	
	February	79 495	39 954	39 541	
	March	85 819	42 946	42 873	
	April	81 229	40 594	40 635	
	May	82 822	41 289	41 533	
	June	83 316	41 793	41 523	
	July	80 339	40 199	40 140	
	August	81 068	40 903	40 165	
	September	87 489	43 865	43 624	
	October	77 326	38 862	38 464	
	November	73 102	36 532	36 570	
	December	78 483	39 332	39 151	
	Total		975 933	489 059	486 874
	2001	January	86 436	43 344	43 092
February		73 914	36 829	37 085	
March		84 455	42 418	42 037	
April		80 444	40 285	40 159	
May		81 678	40 712	40 966	
June		80 716	40 162	40 554	
July		78 577	39 606	38 971	
August		79 312	39 630	39 682	
September		85 889	43 166	42 723	
October		76 515	38 046	38 469	
November		72 243	36 388	35 855	
December		78 483	39 545	38 938	
Total			958 662	480 131	478 531
2002		January	86 269	43 323	42 946
	February	76 044	38 088	37 956	
	March	82 796	41 192	41 604	
	April	78 905	39 320	39 585	
	May	81 489	40 623	40 866	
	June	82 360	41 327	41 033	
	July	81 740	40 750	40 990	
	August	80 603	40 790	39 813	
	September	88 125	44 346	43 779	
	October	78 255	38 916	39 339	
	November	72 484	36 397	36 087	
	December	79 814	40 022	39 792	
	Total		968 884	485 094	483 790

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 14 July 2015.

Appendix G.3: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2003–2005*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences		
		Total	Male	Female
2003	January	84 628	42 554	42 074
	February	75 304	37 752	37 552
	March	86 008	43 080	42 928
	April	80 764	40 558	40 206
	May	82 023	41 242	40 781
	June	81 300	40 809	40 491
	July	78 985	39 657	39 328
	August	80 015	40 102	39 913
	September	88 315	44 492	43 823
	October	76 407	38 212	38 195
	November	70 752	35 543	35 209
	December	78 641	39 667	38 974
	Total		963 142	483 668
2004	January	84 616	42 711	41 905
	February	77 588	39 261	38 327
	March	85 341	42 826	42 515
	April	82 066	41 310	40 756
	May	84 335	42 199	42 136
	June	85 612	42 868	42 744
	July	85 713	43 175	42 538
	August	88 494	44 575	43 919
	September	96 091	48 151	47 940
	October	82 880	41 546	41 334
	November	80 328	40 240	40 088
	December	86 695	43 676	43 019
	Total		1 019 759	512 538
2005	January	89 992	45 552	44 440
	February	81 517	41 020	40 497
	March	93 003	46 522	46 481
	April	89 278	44 705	44 573
	May	92 650	46 609	46 041
	June	90 923	45 442	45 481
	July	88 344	44 402	43 942
	August	88 313	44 631	43 682
	September	93 388	46 950	46 438
	October	82 349	41 570	40 779
	November	81 430	41 092	40 338
	December	90 382	45 492	44 890
	Total		1 061 569	533 987

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 14 July 2015.

Appendix G.4: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2006–2008*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences		
		Total	Male	Female
2006	January	94 379	47 392	46 987
	February	85 448	42 724	42 724
	March	95 147	47 561	47 586
	April	91 126	45 616	45 510
	May	94 308	47 451	46 857
	June	92 686	46 540	46 146
	July	91 076	45 686	45 390
	August	91 434	45 808	45 626
	September	98 941	49 581	49 360
	October	86 142	43 358	42 784
	November	81 669	41 353	40 316
	December	88 417	44 700	43 717
	Total		1 090 773	547 770
2007	January	96 116	48 241	47 875
	February	83 362	42 099	41 263
	March	94 797	47 740	47 057
	April	92 062	46 137	45 925
	May	94 845	47 479	47 366
	June	91 069	46 063	45 006
	July	90 438	45 350	45 088
	August	89 070	44 760	44 310
	September	94 444	47 598	46 846
	October	82 422	41 680	40 742
	November	80 029	40 228	39 801
	December	88 190	44 622	43 568
	Total		1 076 844	541 997
2008	January	94 609	47 600	47 009
	February	88 724	44 681	44 043
	March	97 002	48 549	48 453
	April	91 820	46 054	45 766
	May	91 525	45 882	45 643
	June	90 623	45 606	45 017
	July	92 971	46 493	46 478
	August	92 669	46 827	45 842
	September	99 464	50 287	49 177
	October	85 887	42 952	42 935
	November	82 966	41 906	41 060
	December	91 835	46 411	45 424
	Total		1 100 095	553 248

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 14 July 2015.

Appendix G.5: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2009–2011*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences		
		Total	Male	Female
2009	January	94 526	47 720	46 806
	February	83 643	42 027	41 616
	March	94 768	47 750	47 018
	April	86 777	43 514	43 263
	May	88 686	44 290	44 396
	June	88 375	44 604	43 771
	July	87 529	43 847	43 682
	August	87 055	43 825	43 230
	September	91 983	46 344	45 639
	October	80 131	40 595	39 536
	November	78 162	39 496	38 666
	December	85 638	43 204	42 434
	Total		1 047 273	527 216
2010	January	88 357	44 514	43 843
	February	79 098	39 847	39 251
	March	89 933	45 423	44 510
	April	84 535	42 538	41 997
	May	85 295	43 143	42 152
	June	85 991	43 299	42 692
	July	86 632	43 741	42 891
	August	86 028	43 624	42 404
	September	91 646	46 425	45 221
	October	79 301	39 855	39 446
	November	76 318	38 437	37 881
	December	84 398	42 477	41 921
	Total		1 017 532	513 323
2011	January	84 513	42 646	41 867
	February	80 538	40 760	39 778
	March	93 467	47 339	46 128
	April	85 676	42 907	42 769
	May	89 506	45 046	44 460
	June	86 441	43 566	42 875
	July	84 900	43 008	41 892
	August	85 705	43 191	42 514
	September	90 597	45 776	44 821
	October	79 987	39 907	40 080
	November	78 524	39 794	38 730
	December	83 306	42 101	41 205
	Total		1 023 160	516 041

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 14 July 2015.

Appendix G.6: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2012–2014*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences		
		Total	Male	Female
2012	January	89 639	45 270	44 369
	February	81 918	41 228	40 690
	March	90 604	45 560	45 044
	April	87 097	43 851	43 246
	May	89 025	44 835	44 190
	June	85 429	43 109	42 320
	July	85 396	42 991	42 405
	August	85 642	43 362	42 280
	September	88 495	44 669	43 826
	October	77 749	39 116	38 633
	November	75 685	38 192	37 493
	December	83 409	42 328	41 081
	Total		1 020 088	514 511
2013	January	88 242	44 667	43 575
	February	78 648	39 877	38 771
	March	89 053	44 621	44 432
	April	84 111	42 432	41 679
	May	84 994	42 843	42 151
	June	83 004	41 928	41 076
	July	84 428	42 505	41 923
	August	84 795	42 756	42 039
	September	87 919	44 141	43 778
	October	76 907	39 072	37 835
	November	75 352	38 057	37 295
	December	83 742	42 212	41 530
	Total		1 001 195	505 111
2014	January	86 308	43 519	42 789
	February	78 419	39 542	38 877
	March	89 602	45 226	44 376
	April	84 268	42 375	41 893
	May	86 511	43 527	42 984
	June	83 466	42 170	41 296
	July	83 300	41 987	41 313
	August	82 196	41 448	40 748
	September	87 500	44 265	43 235
	October	75 749	38 286	37 463
	November	72 018	36 234	35 784
	December	78 670	39 713	38 957
	Total		988 007	498 292

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 14 July 2015.

Explanatory Notes

Sources of data

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) provides Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) with information on recorded live births. Two sets of birth statistics are provided: registration-based and occurrence-based data. Both these datasets come from the Nucleus Bureau of the DHA. When the officials at the various offices of the Department of Home Affairs capture the information about a birth, they do so directly onto the database at the Nucleus Bureau. These transactions are used to update the database of the birth register.

For the purpose of producing vital statistics, the following system is followed: each day, all civil transactions carried out at all the Department of Home Affairs offices are written onto a cassette. At the end of every month, a combined set of cassettes is created, containing all the transactions done for the month. These transactions are downloaded and the birth transactions are extracted for processing at Stats SA. The year in which the births are registered is the registration year. Using this information, Stats SA provides the breakdown of the registered births according to the year in which the births occurred.

While births information sent to Stats SA is the same as that in the population register, there is a difference of format between the two. On the one hand, Stats SA's data are based on births registered during the year (registration-based), while on the other hand, entries in the population register reflect the date of birth. The date of registration of birth is not stored on the population registration file. For this reason, the population register can only be used to obtain birth data broken down by date of birth (occurrence-based).

By continuously updating the population register for late registration, the occurrence-based data from the population register get closer and closer to the true level of births. In a situation where birth registrations are complete (with very few late registrations), the occurrence-based perspective will be very similar to the registration-based perspective. However, if there are a large number of late registrations, the two perspectives will become widely dissimilar. With improvements in birth registration, the recorded data from the two sources will gradually converge.

The South African population register

The South African population register covers births, deaths, identity, marriages, divorces and movements of all South African citizens and permanent residents. The Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1992 (Act No. 51 of 1992) guides the registration of births and deaths throughout South Africa. The Act was subsequently amended in 1997 (Act No. 67 of 1997), in 1998 (Act No. 43 of 1998) and in 2010 (Act No. 18 of 2010). Another Act pertinent to the population register is the Identification Act, 1997 (Act No. 68 of 1997). This Act repealed previous Identification Acts (Act No. 72 of 1986, Act No. 21 of 1991, Act No. 4 of 1993, and Act No. 47 of 1995). Thus, each of the Acts dealing with any aspect of civil registration has implications for the information recorded into the population register.

From these Acts and amendments, the following persons and particulars are eligible to be included on the population register:

- All children born of South African citizens and permanent residents when the notice of the birth is given within one year after the birth of the child.
- All children born of South African citizens and permanent residents when the notice of the birth is given one year after the birth of the child together with the prescribed requirement for a late registration of birth.
- All South African citizens and permanent residents who, upon attainment of the age of 16, applied for and were granted identification cards (or books).
- All South African citizens and permanent residents who die at any age after birth.
- All South African citizens and permanent residents who depart permanently from South Africa.
- Persons whose particulars are not eligible for inclusion on the population register are listed below:
 - Non-South African citizens who sojourn temporarily in the country.
 - All South African citizens and permanent residents who died before notice of their birth had been given.

Municipal demarcation

The Department of Home Affairs captured information on places based on office of birth registration. Stats SA reclassified the offices of birth registration into district councils and metropolitan areas based on the 2011 municipal boundaries. Certain magisterial districts are situated in more than one district council, in which case such magisterial districts are allocated to the district council where the majority of the land area falls. The only exception was with Nigel in Gauteng province. The majority of the land area of Nigel magisterial district is in Sedibeng District Council (which is mainly farm areas and therefore sparsely populated), while the majority of the population lives in the Ekurhuleni metropolitan area. As such, Nigel was classified under Ekurhuleni and not under Sedibeng. Maps for the old and the new classification are available from Stats SA on request.

Population group

As from 1991, no distinction is made between the different population groups on the data collected by the Department of Home Affairs. The statistics collected, therefore, refer to all population groups combined.

Definitions of concepts used

1.1 Live birth

The complete expulsion or extraction from its mother's womb of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. Each product of such a birth is considered live born (WHO, 1992).

1.2 Recorded live births

The number of births recorded (registered) in a specific year, irrespective of when the birth actually occurred. The births recorded in any given year include the births that occurred during that year plus other births that occurred in years prior to the year of registration. It should be noted that not all births are recorded (registered).

1.3 Current birth registrations

This refers to the number of births occurring in a specific year and registered within that same year.

1.4 Late birth registrations

This refers to births occurring in a given calendar year but registered in subsequent calendar years. In this release, late registrations are grouped into two: (i) births registered after one year of birth but less than 15 years after birth; and (ii) births registered from 15 years after birth.