



**stats sa**

Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, ISibalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002  
www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za, Tel +27 12 310 8911

# Statistical release

**P0305**

## Recorded live births

**2018**

**Embargoed until:  
26 September 2019  
13:00**

**ENQUIRIES:**  
User Information Services  
Tel.: 012 310 8600

**FORTHCOMING ISSUE:**  
2019

**EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:**  
27 August 2020



Dipalopalo tsa Aforikaborwa • Dipalopalo tsa Afrika Borwa • Ezezibalo zaseNingizimu Afrika • Tshitatistika Afrika Tshipembe • Tinhlayohlayo Afrika-Dzonga  
Statistieke Suid-Afrika • Dipalopalo tša Afrika Borwa • Telubalo taseNingizimu Afrika • EzeeNkukacha maNani zoMzantsi Afrika • Iimbalobalo zeSewula Afrika

The South Africa I know, the home I understand



## Preface

This statistical release presents information on South Africa's recorded live birth occurrences and registrations for 2018. It also provides information on live birth occurrences and registrations from 1996 to 2017 to show trends and patterns in recorded live births. The release is based on live births from the national birth registration system at the Department of Home Affairs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maluleke', with a stylized initial 'M'.

**Mr Risenga Maluleke**  
**Statistician-General**

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

Through the registration of birth, the country acknowledges the existence of a child and the related fundamental fulfilment of their right to a name and nationality as enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa (Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996). The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) defines birth registration as “a compulsory, continuous, permanent and universal recording, within the civil registry, of the occurrence and characteristics of births in accordance with the legal requirements of the United Nations”. Universal birth registration is part of a system of vital statistics, which is important for sound resource allocation and social planning, and is therefore not only a fundamental human right, but also key to ensuring the fulfilment of other rights (UNICEF, 2013).

Around 25% of children under the age of five worldwide have never been registered, and this is particularly problematic in sub-Saharan Africa, where only 43% of children are registered. Barriers to registration are attributed to the distance to a registration facility, availability of transportation and terrain accessibility. Another important factor for none or low registration is the lack of knowledge on the importance and benefits of birth registration (UNICEF, 2017). This lack of formal recognition of the child's existence means that a child is unable to obtain a birth certificate and as a result may lack access to healthcare, education and other social services.

Civil registration and vital statistics data are essential for planning and implementing development policies and programmes, particularly the National Development Plan (NDP) in South Africa; Agenda 2063 at regional level; and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at international level. Civil registration relates directly to the achievement of SDG target 16.9, which aims to provide legal identity for all, including achieving completeness of birth registration by 2030. Additionally, civil registration contributes to the monitoring and achievement of SDG Goal 5, '*achieve gender equity and empower all women and girls*', as birth certificates can enable the enforcement of such laws that relate to child labour and child marriage. Civil registration and vital statistics data are also useful for SDG 3 on health.

Vital events registration such as births and deaths in South Africa is governed by the Birth and Deaths Registration Act of 1992 (Act No. 51 of 1992) and is administered by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). In 2010 it was amended as the Birth and Deaths Registration Amendment Act, 2010 (Act No. 18 of 2010). The Act mandates the registration of births within 30 days of occurrence of a birth (Republic of South Africa, 2010). These births are recorded on Form DHA-24 (Appendix A on page 28). The Act also makes provision for late registration, where notice of birth is given after the expiration of 30 days. These are classified into the following three groups: after 31-364 days, 1- 14 years and 15 years and above.

The late registration of births has additional requirements including providing supporting documents such as proof of birth if it occurred in a healthcare facility, proof of birth affidavit if it occurred at home, affidavit giving reasons for late registration of birth, biometrics (palm, foot or fingerprint) of the child to be registered, and fingerprints of parent/s (DHA, 2018a). Once the child's birth has been registered, an unabridged birth certificate is issued free of charge to the applicant and the information is captured in the national population register (NPR), the latter only applies to South African with identity documents (ID). In the case of mothers without IDs, they are issued with a hand written certificate and the birth is not uploaded onto the NPR. This information is then obtained by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), and used to produce statistics on recorded live births in South Africa as well as mid-year population estimates.

The registration of vital events has improved impressively in South Africa. This increase arose from a number of concerted efforts aimed at improving registration rates, such as an increase in civil registration service delivery points (e.g. hospitals, mobile units, Thusong centres), national campaigns and outreach programmes mobilising the nation to adhere to civil registration laws, institutionalisation of key role players (traditional authorities and funeral undertakers) and demand for registration documents to access social services.

## **1.2 Objective of this statistical release**

This statistical release has two main objectives, which are:

- To present information on the births that occurred and were registered at the DHA between January 2018 and February 2019.
- To show a historical pattern of birth occurrence and registration from 1995 to 2018.

## 2. Data and methods

### 2.1 Data source

The production of this statistical release is based on recorded live births data, obtained from the National Population Register (NPR) acquired from the DHA. In essence, the release covers current birth registrations and occurrences of live births for 2018 recorded for a period of 14 months (from January 2018 to February 2019). In addition, it covers information for late birth registrations that occurred in 2017 and earlier, but that were captured between March 2018 and February 2019. The recorded live births statistics files attained from DHA were reduced to five sub-files, where every file carries births registered in 2017 and captured up until 31 December 2017. The sub-files include: (i) births registered within 30 days; (ii) births registered after 30 days up to 365 days; (iii) one to 14 years; (iv) 15 years and older; as well as (v) births registered at health facilities together with births that occurred in foreign countries to South African citizens.

The total number of birth registrations for the 2017 and 2018 reporting periods are presented in Table 1. The table also shows how the birth registrations were combined to reach the final aggregate birth registration as used in the analyses. Likewise, Table 1 shows that 1 165 538 births were registered between January 2017 and February 2018. It is important to note that 61 439 registrations have to be subtracted from the 2017 total birth registrations (1 165 538) as they were late registrations for the earlier years. In addition, a further 114 781 have to be subtracted for births registered from January to February 2018. These were included by the DHA in the 1 191 694 births registered between January 2018 and February 2019. The births for 2019 registered between January and February were also subtracted from the 1 191 694 births, while births for 2018 and earlier years registered between January and February 2019 were retained, as these constituted the 2018 reporting period. For the 2018 processing year, Table 1 shows that 1 009 065 registered births occurred in 2018 and earlier years.

**Table 1: Birth registrations, 2017–2018**

<b>2017</b>	<b>Number of birth registrations</b>
Total births registered January 2017 to February 2018	1 165 538
Less births for 2016 and earlier years registered in January to February 2017	61 439
	<b>1 104 099</b>
Less 2018 births registered in January to February 2018	114 781
	<b>989 318</b>
<b>2018</b>	
Total births registered January 2018 to February 2019	1 191 694
Less births for 2017 and earlier years registered in January to February 2018	54 418
	<b>1 137 276</b>
Less 2019 births registered in January to February 2019	128 211
	<b>1 009 065</b>

## 2.2 Assessment of the quality of data

### Completeness of birth registration

Completeness of birth registration cannot be over-emphasized as a measure of the quality of vital statistics data. It is further an important assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency and functioning of the Department of Home Affairs, which is mandated to maintain the birth register and has invested considerable effort in improving its vital registration system.

Various methods can be applied to measure the completeness of birth registration from the vital statistics system. One method is the synthetic cohort P/F method suggested by Zlotnik together with Hill. Conversely, Hill applied it to the data from several countries as an alternative to the Brass P/F ratio method (1964). The method presumes that cumulated age-specific fertility rates for every known age is equivalent to the average number of children ever born by women at a particular age. Women falling in the age group 15–49 years ideally make up the input data required for estimating the completeness of birth registrations. The overall completeness of birth registrations is estimated at 88,6% for the intercensal period 2011–2016.

### Timeliness of birth registration

According to the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act (Act No. 18 of 2010), a birth must be registered within 30 days after it has occurred (Republic of South Africa, 2010). Table 2 shows that birth registration within 30 days has been increasing from 2014 to 2018. Early registrations of birth have shown an upward trend for 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 with rates of 60,1%; 65,1%; 75,6%; 77,7% and 79,6%, respectively. Contrary, during the same period, late registrations of birth, after the lapse of 30 days but before a year, declined from 26,7% in 2014 to 14,2% in 2018. Late birth registrations for those aged 1–14 years constituted 3,9% of all registrations, whereas registrations of birth for persons aged 15 years and older constituted 2,3%. These continued declines are indicative of the successes of the DHA's efforts to strengthen early registration through raising awareness and expediting birth registrations in line with legislation.

**Table 2: Distribution of birth registrations by the number of days it took to register the birth, 2014–2018**

Number of days/years	Number of birth registrations					Percentage*					Cumulative percentage*				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
0–30 days	686 803	706 191	732 672	768 418	803 286	60,1	65,1	75,6	77,7	79,6	60,1	65,1	75,6	77,7	79,6
31–364 days	305 235	245 323	169 495	151 145	143 260	26,7	22,6	17,5	15,3	14,2	86,8	87,7	93,1	92,9	93,8
1–14 years	88 248	76 280	40 234	45 271	39 219	7,7	7,0	4,2	4,6	3,9	94,6	94,8	97,2	97,5	97,7
15 years and older	61 989	56 717	27 014	24 484	23 300	5,4	5,2	2,8	2,5	2,3	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 142 275</b>	<b>1 084 511</b>	<b>969 415</b>	<b>989 318</b>	<b>1 009 065</b>	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0					

\* Percentages may not sum exactly to 100 due to rounding.



## Year-on-year changes in birth registration

Table 3 depicts information on the yearly percentage changes in the number of births registered by age in days or years for the period 2014 to 2018. Throughout these years, an increase has been observed in the number of births registered within 30 days, while decreases were observed in the number of births registered after 30 days. This gives an indication of improvements in timely registration of births over time. During 2014–2015, an increase of 2,8% was observed, followed by a 3,7% increase during 2015–2016, a 4,9% increase during 2016–2017; and a 4,5% increase during 2017–2018. Overall, an 11,5% increase was observed for births registered within the 30-day period between 2014 and 2018.

Regarding births registered after 30 days, there is a clear pattern indicating that there are more improvements in births registered within 30 days of birth occurrence. The percentage changes between 2014 and 2018 are all positive. In terms of births registered from 31 days to 364 days, the year-on-year percentage changes show a 19,6% decline between 2014 and 2015, as well as a much steeper decrease of 30,9% between 2015 and 2016. Similarly, the year-on-year percentage changes indicate decreases in the births registered for those aged 1–14 years and for those aged 15 years and older. Between 2017 and 2018, registration of births for ages 1–14 years decreased by 13,4% and by 4,8% for ages 15 years and older.

**Table 3: Year-on-year changes in the number of days/years it took to register the birth, 2014–2018**

Number of days/years	Number of birth registrations					Percentage change			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014–2015	2015–2016	2016–2017	2017–2018
0–30 days	686 803	706 191	732 672	768 418	803 286	2,8	3,7	4,9	4,5
31–364 days	305 235	245 323	169 495	151 145	143 260	-19,6	-30,9	-10,8	-5,2
1–14 years	88 248	76 280	40 234	45 271	39 219	-13,6	-47,3	12,5	-13,4
15 years and older	61 989	56 717	27 014	24 484	23 300	-8,5	-52,4	-9,4	-4,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 142 275</b>	<b>1 084 511</b>	<b>969 415</b>	<b>989 318</b>	<b>1 009 065</b>	<b>-5,1</b>	<b>-10,6</b>	<b>2,1</b>	<b>2,0</b>

## 2.3 Data analysis

This release includes descriptive analyses by making use of both bivariate and univariate analyses. Additionally, it also includes trends or patterns of median ages at birth together with cross-tabulations. Analyses were mainly on birth occurrences and registered births. Socio-demographic variables covered include but are not limited to, age of the mother, sex of the child, and province of birth registration. Furthermore, statistics on month of birth occurrence, citizenship status, and baby forenames and surnames are covered.

The appendices include information on current or late registrations of birth by district municipality, birth occurrences by province and age of mother, birth occurrences by district municipality from 2014 to 2018, while birth occurrences by sex and month for the years 1994–2018 are also shown.

### 3. Birth registrations

#### 3.1 Trends in birth registration

This statistical publication reports on the total number of current and late births registered at the DHA offices between 1996 and 2018. As shown in Table 4, birth registrations in South Africa have steadied at more than a million births each year from 1996 to 2015 over the 23-year reference period. Under a million births were registered in years 1996, and 2016–2017, rising again to 1 009 065 in 2018. To date, the highest number of birth registrations were recorded in the year 2003 with a total 1 677 415 registrations, and of these, just under two-thirds (62,9%) were late registrations. Worth noting is the significant decrease in late registrations by 23,2% after the amendment of the Births and Deaths Registration Act in 2010. This indicates that the DHA's concerted efforts aimed at universal and early birth registrations are yielding positive outcomes as the number of timeous registrations has improved significantly over recent years, dropping from 31,3% in 2010 to a low 8,1% in 2018.

**Table 4: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa, 1996–2018**

Year of registration	Number of birth registrations			Percentage		
	Total	Current	Late	Total	Current	Late
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	1 158 622	939 011	219 611	100,0	81,0	19,0
2014	1 142 275	954 385	187 890	100,0	83,6	16,4
2015	1 084 511	919 562	164 949	100,0	84,8	15,2
2016	969 415	876 435	92 980	100,0	90,4	9,6
2017	989 318	897 750	91 568	100,0	90,7	9,3
2018	1 009 065	927 113	81 952	100,0	91,9	8,1

Figure 1 below provides information on birth registrations for the period 1996 to 2018, categorised by status of registration. A sharp increase in total birth registrations was observed between 1996 and 2003, followed by a gradual reduction until 2007. The number of births registered from 2011 to 2016 continued to steady, but there was an upward change in 2017 and 2018 as the number of birth registrations began to increase year-on-year.

Late registrations were continually higher than current registrations until 2004, during which period there was a 1,4% difference between current and late registrations. Thereafter, current registrations surpassed late registrations. It is also worth noting that in the more recent years (2011 to 2018) the gap between current and late registrations has increased, with 2018 having the widest gap since 1996.

**Figure 1: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa, 1996–2018**

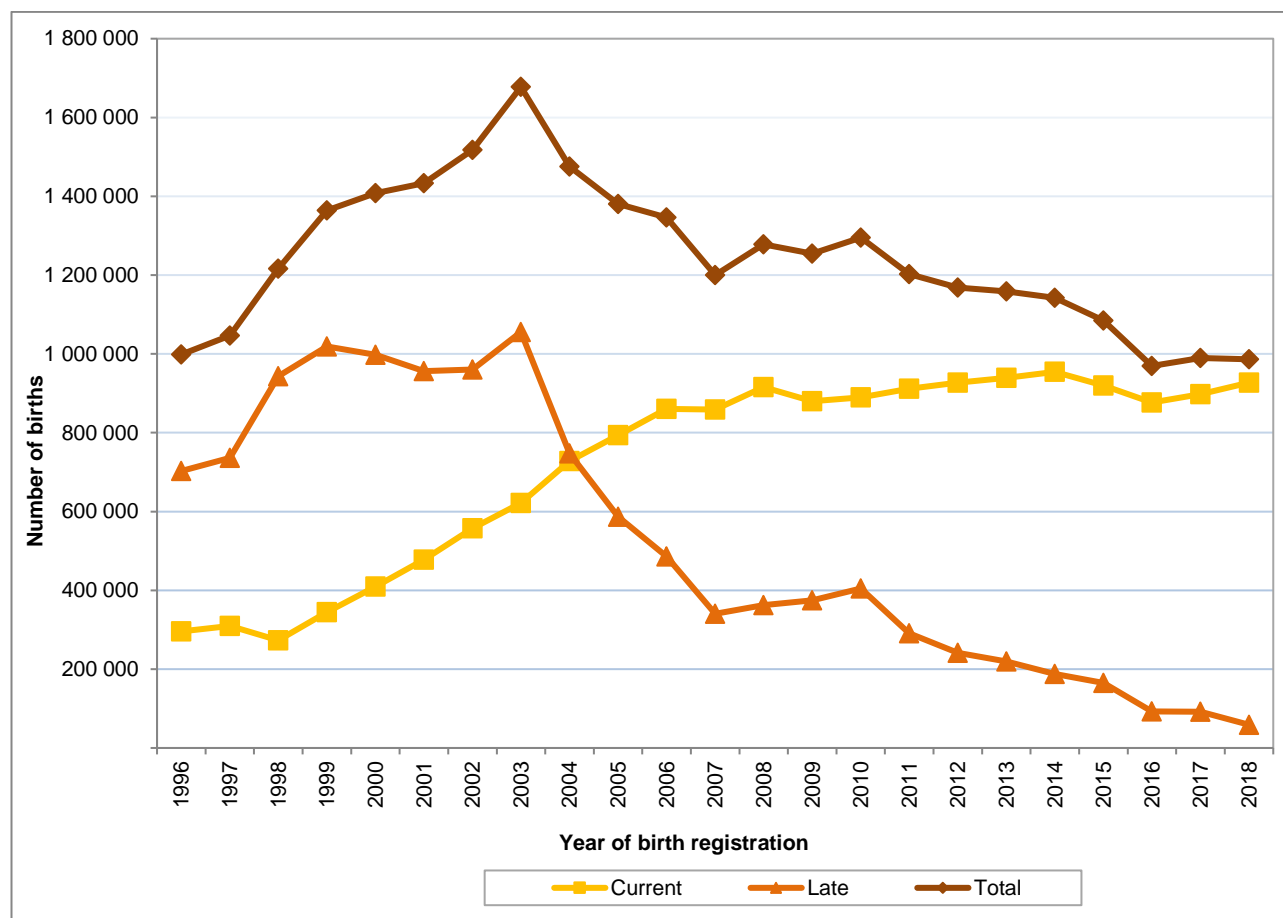
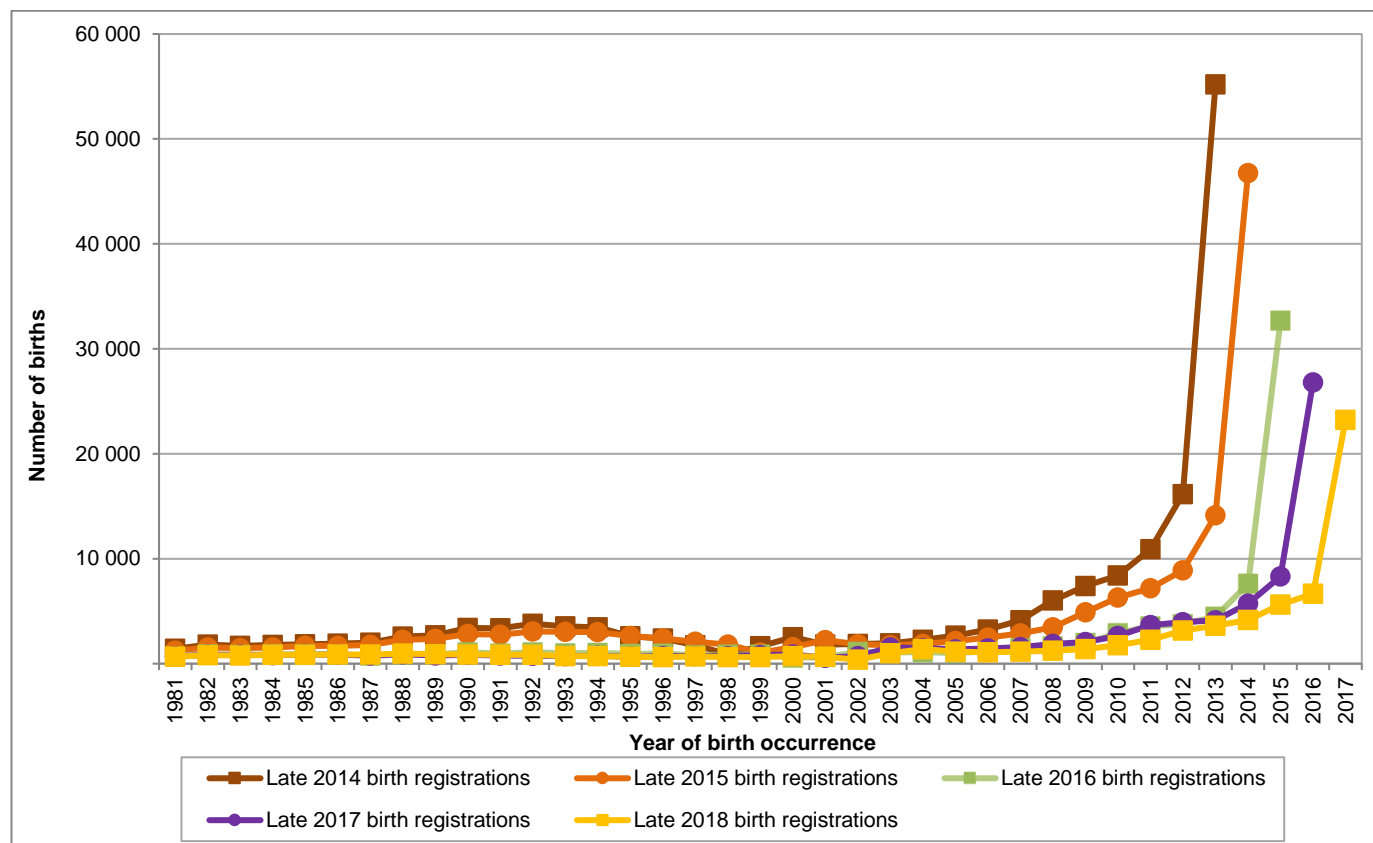


Figure 2 shows the overall number of late birth registrations between the years 2014 and 2018. These are births that occurred in the period 1981 to 2017, but that were registered between 2014 and 2018. Generally, the figure shows that for most of the years, late registrations were highest in the year preceding the reporting year; however, over the past five years they have continued to decline, with the lowest number of late registrations observed in 2018.

**Figure 2: Late birth registrations by year of birth, South Africa, 1981–2018**



### 3.2 Birth registrations by selected variables

#### Age of the mother

The birth registration form DHA-24 provides for the recording of basic information on both the father and natural mother of the child. As has been the case in the previous years, a high proportion of births (62,7%) still did not contain information on the father in 2018. As a result, the information reported in this section will cover only the birth mothers, which is better reported.

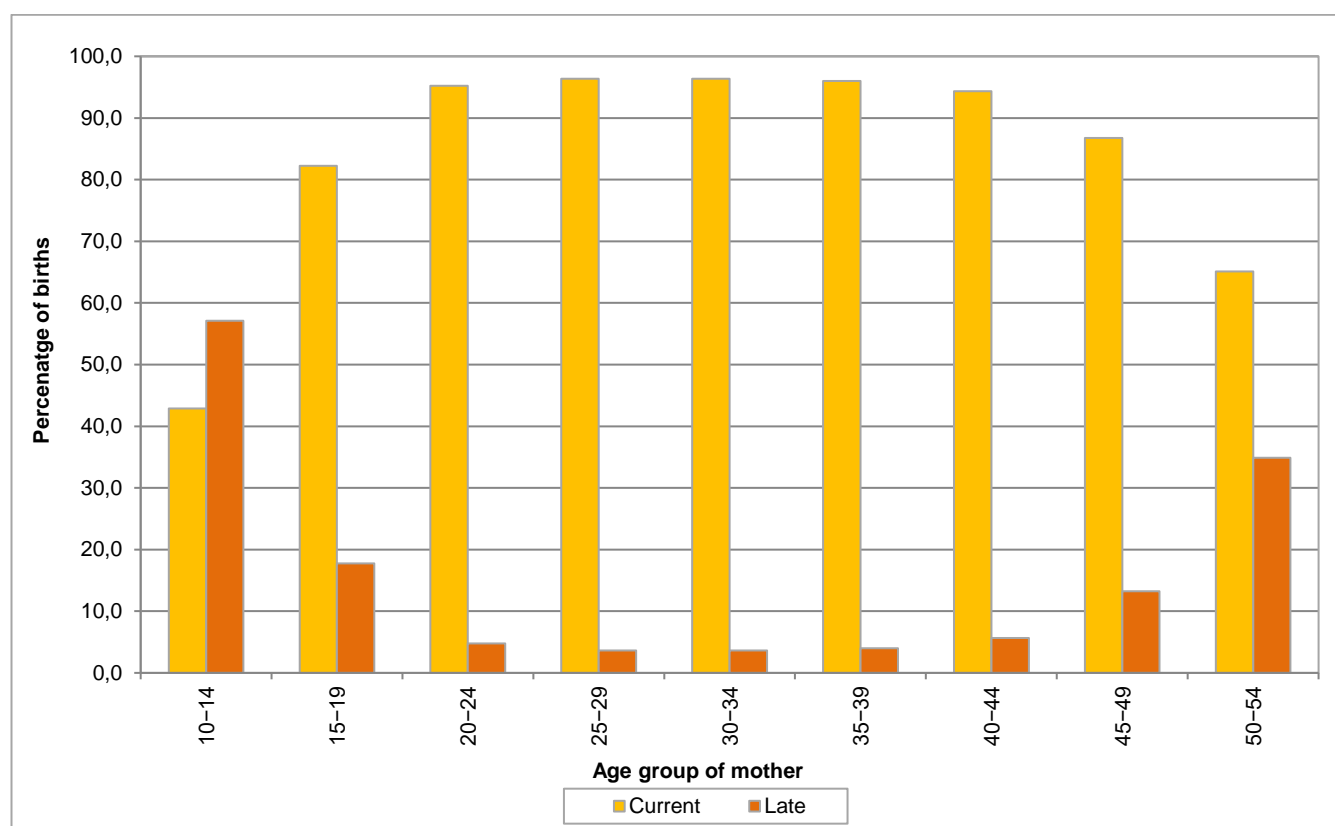
Table 5 below describes the number and percentage distribution of registered births by age of the mother and status of registration. The table shows that mothers in the age group 25–29 years accounted for the highest number of total birth registrations (259 182), followed by those aged 20–24 years and 30–34 years. The lowest number of births (381) occurred for mothers in the 50–54-year-old age group, which is to be expected when the fertility patterns of the country are taken into consideration.

With regard to status of birth registration, 86,6% of the births for mothers aged 15–49 years were registered in the year of occurrence compared to 51,4% for mothers aged 50–54 years, and only a 0,1% decline was recorded from the 2017 rates for mothers aged 10–14 years (39,8%). Mothers aged 25–29 and 30–34 years both had the highest proportion (95,6%) of births registered during the year of occurrence, followed by mothers aged 35–39 years (95,2%) and those aged 20–24 years (94,3%). A high proportion of births registered later than the year of occurrence was observed among age groups 10–14 years (60,2%) and 50–54 years (48,6%). About 75,8% of births were registered late for mothers in the category 'unspecified or outside the 10–54 age range'.

**Table 5: Birth registrations by age of mother and status of registration, South Africa, 2018**

Age of mother	Number of birth registrations			Percentage		
	Total	Current	Late	Total	Current	Late
10–14	3 235	1 287	1 948	100,0	39,8	60,2
15–19	107 548	86 861	20 687	100,0	80,8	19,2
20–24	251 551	237 197	14 354	100,0	94,3	5,7
25–29	259 182	247 688	11 494	100,0	95,6	4,4
30–34	211 251	201 972	9 279	100,0	95,6	4,4
35–39	118 450	112 709	5 741	100,0	95,2	4,8
40–44	34 231	31 843	2 388	100,0	93,0	7,0
45–49	3 065	2 488	577	100,0	81,2	18,8
50–54	381	196	185	100,0	51,4	48,6
Unspecified/outside the 10–54 age range	20 171	4 872	15 299	100,0	24,2	75,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 009 065</b>	<b>927 113</b>	<b>81 952</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>91,9</b>	<b>8,1</b>

Figure 3 presents the proportion of birth registrations by registration status and age of the mother. As observed in previous years, current birth registrations were higher than late birth registrations for all age groups, with the exception of mothers aged 10–14 and 50–54 years. Current birth registrations increased with as the mother's age increases until age group 35–39 years; from age 45 onward, current birth registrations decrease as the mother's age increases.

**Figure 3: Birth registrations by age of mother and status of registration, South Africa, 2018\***

\*Excluding births where the age of the mother is unknown or outside the 10–54 age range.

## Province of birth registration

The 2016 municipal boundaries have been used to derive province of birth occurrence in this statistical release. The information on the office where a birth was registered is provided by the DHA, which Stats SA then uses to derive province of birth registration. It must be noted that births that occurred outside of the country and where at least one parent was a South African citizen at the time of the child's birth, were not classified into any of the provinces as was previously done in 2017, whereby births were classified into the province and district municipality of registration. Furthermore, for persons 15 years and older, the majority of registrations are allocated to the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality in Gauteng province, which is where late registrations from 15 years and above are centralised for processing.

Figure 4A illustrates the distribution of all births registered in 2018 by province of registration and registration status according to the following four categories:

- I. 0–30 days: registered within the time stipulated by law (classified as current registrations)
- II. 31–364 days: registered after a month but within a year
- III. 1–14 years: registered between one year and 14 years
- IV. 15 years and above: registered from 15 years

As observed in the 2017 birth registrations, Gauteng remained the province with the highest total number of births registered (230 363), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (207 034) and Limpopo (128 267). Northern Cape ranked lowest with a total of 24 994 births registered. Births that were registered outside South Africa totalled only 133, with 89 registered in 0–30 days and 44 registered in 31–364 days.

In all the provinces, there were more births registered within 0–30 days than in all other categories. Gauteng had the highest number of births registered within 0–30 days at 174 379, followed by KwaZulu-Natal with 140 975. Northern Cape had the lowest number of births registered within 30 days at 22 019. KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of births registered within 31–364 days at 54 987 and also the highest number of births registered between 1–14 years (11 066). This was followed by Gauteng for both registration types – 23 358 for 31–364 days and 9 427 for birth registrations between 1–14 years. As mentioned previously, due to the centralisation of registrations for persons 15 years and above, Gauteng (23 199) had the highest number of birth registrations in this age category.

Appendix B on pages 30 and 31 provide analysis of total birth registrations by year of birth occurrence and status of registration, province and district municipality. Appendix B1 on pages 32–33 shows total birth registrations by province and district municipality, year of birth occurrence and status of registration. Out of the total registrations in 2018, the highest number of births were registered in the City of Tshwane in Gauteng (85 432), the City of Cape Town in Western Cape (65 936), Ekurhuleni in Gauteng (63 830), eThekweni in KwaZulu-Natal (63 039) and the City of Johannesburg (62 567) in Gauteng, which are all metropolitan district municipalities. The top three district municipalities that recorded the lowest number of birth registrations were Central Karoo in Western Cape (1 206), Namakwa in Northern Cape (1 684) and Xhariep in Free State (1 863). Of the 1 009 065 total births registered in 2018, 927 113 were current birth registrations and 81 952 were late birth registrations.

The top five district municipalities for total birth registrations also had the highest number of current birth registrations although they do not follow the same order in terms of registration status. The City of Cape Town (64 226) had the highest number of current birth registrations, followed by Ekurhuleni (63 830), the City of Tshwane (58 886), the City of Johannesburg (57 799) and then eThekweni (57 573). The lowest number of current birth registrations was recorded in Central Karoo (1 171), Xhariep (1 511) and Namakwa (1 657). These figures must be interpreted with caution, as they are a reflection of the population size in each of the municipalities. For example, it is possible that Central Karoo in terms of proportion of births by registration status has the highest percentage of current birth registrations.

The highest number of late registrations were registered in the City of Tshwane (26 546), eThekweni (5 466), the City of Johannesburg (4 768), the City of Ekurhuleni (3 611) and OR Tambo (3 396). The City of Tshwane will always have the highest number of late birth registrations owing to of the centralisation of late registrations by the Department of Home Affairs. All late registrations are approved by the Head Office, which is situated in Pretoria.

Appendix B1 on pages 32 and 33 shows district-level variations in registration status for 2018 birth registrations. Overall, 79,6% of the total birth registrations were registered within the 30 days after birth, as mandated by law, 14,2% occurred between one day and one year after birth, 3,9% occurred for persons aged one year to 14 years and 2,3% of the registrations were for persons aged 15 years and older. Variations by district municipality show that the highest proportions of birth registrations that occurred within 30 days were recorded in Mangaung in Free State (93,9%), Namakwa in Northern Cape (93,2%), Amathole in KwaZulu-Natal (92,4%) and John Taolo Gaetsewe in Northern Cape (92,2%).

A total of fourteen out of the fifty-four district municipalities performed poorly in terms of registering births within 30 days of birth. In these municipalities, less than 75% of birth registrations occurred within 30 days of birth. Of the fourteen district municipalities that performed poorly, ten district municipalities were situated in KwaZulu-Natal. Efforts are needed to expedite early birth registration particularly in districts with proportions below the national percentage.

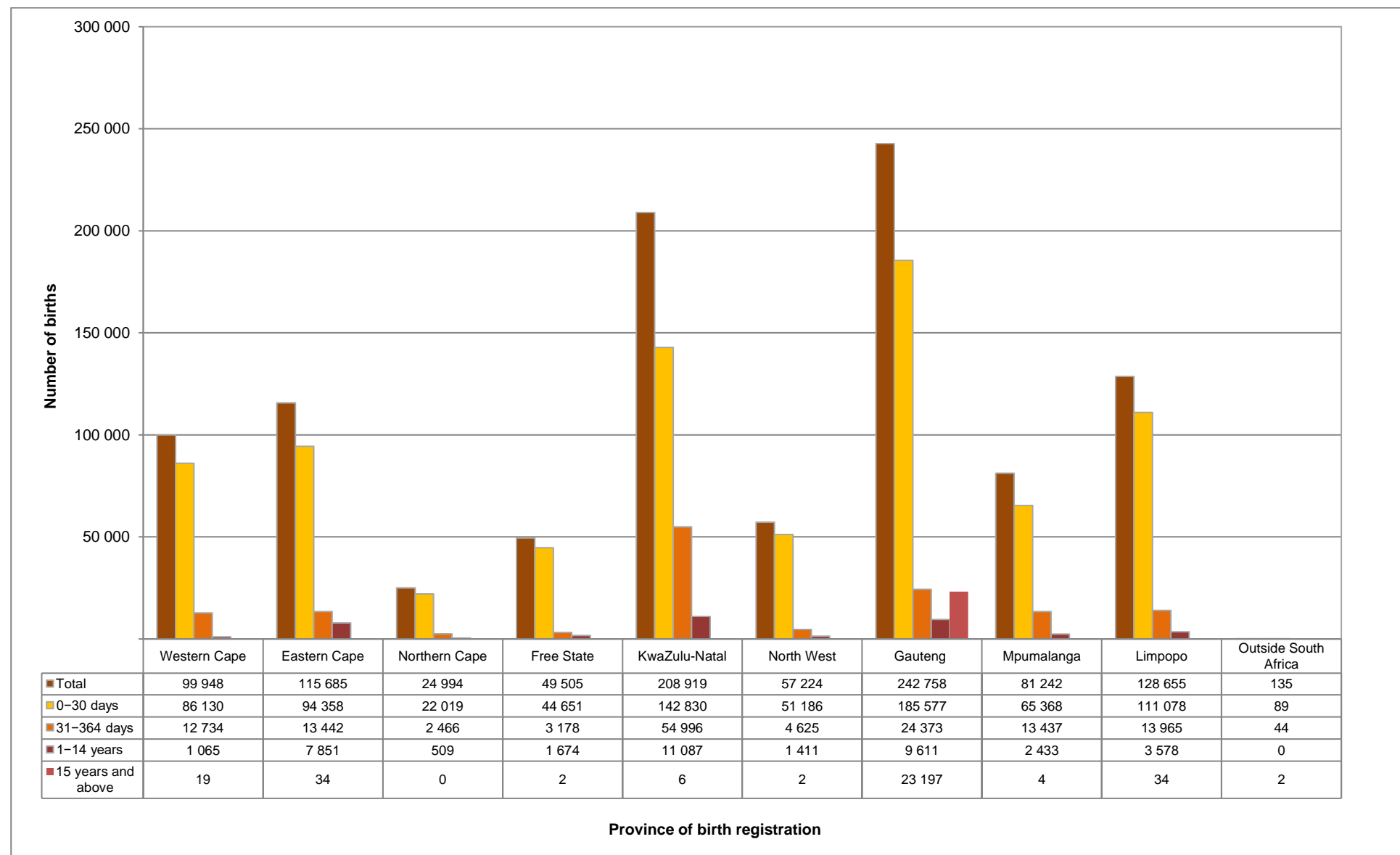
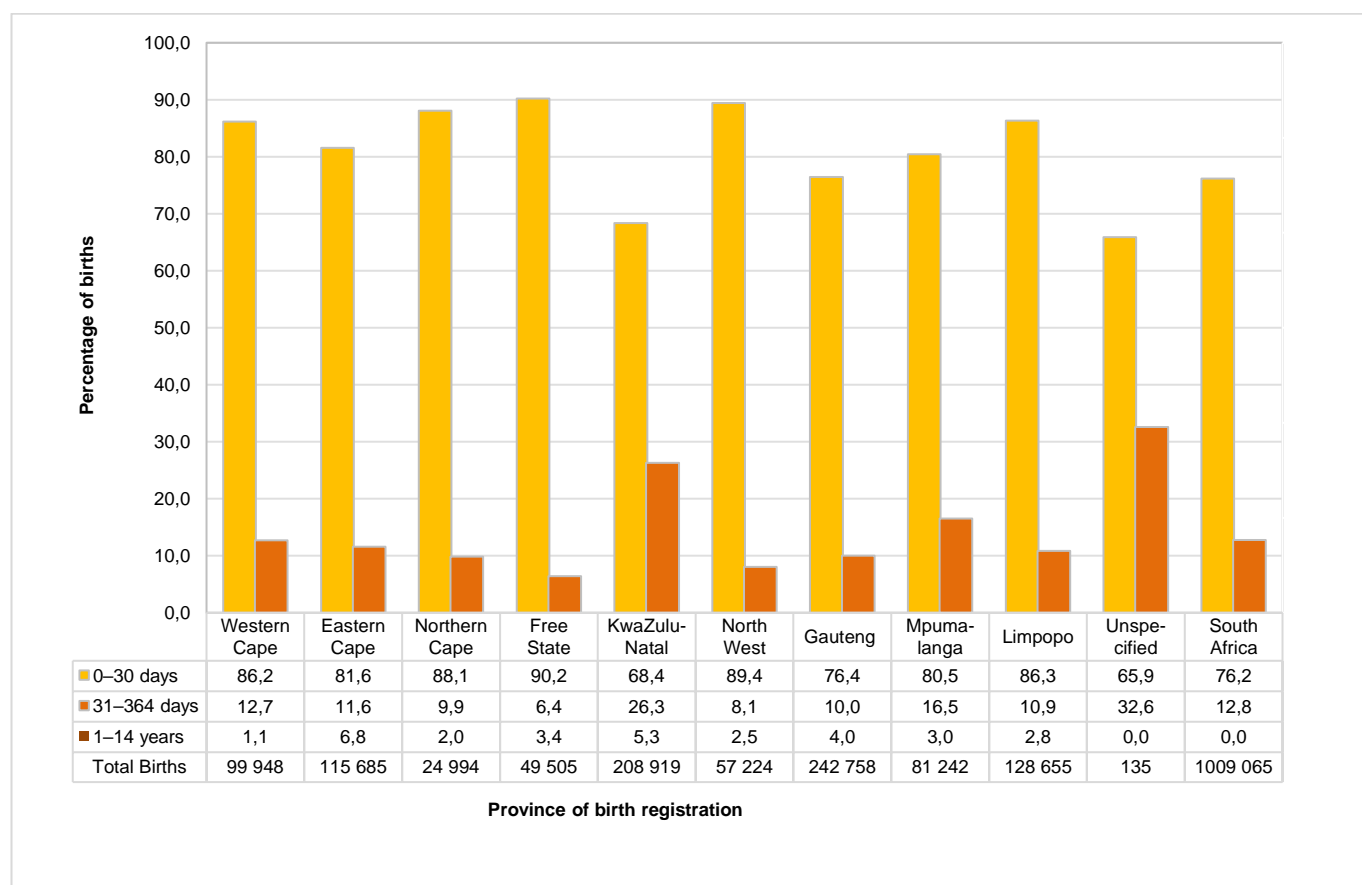
**Figure 4A: Birth registrations by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa, 2018**



Figure 4B illustrates the percentage distribution of 1 009 065 registered birth occurrences for 2018 by province of birth registration and status of registration. The figure shows that Free State (90,2%) is in the lead in registrations of birth within 30 days. It is closely trailed by North West (89,7%) and Northern Cape (88,1%). The provinces with the lowest proportions were KwaZulu-Natal (68,1%), and Gauteng (75,7%). About 66,9% of births with no recorded province of registration information were for births registered within 30 days of birth occurrence.

**Figure 4B: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa, 2018\***



\*The percentages for Gauteng exclude 9,6% for birth registrations occurring for persons aged 15 years and above.

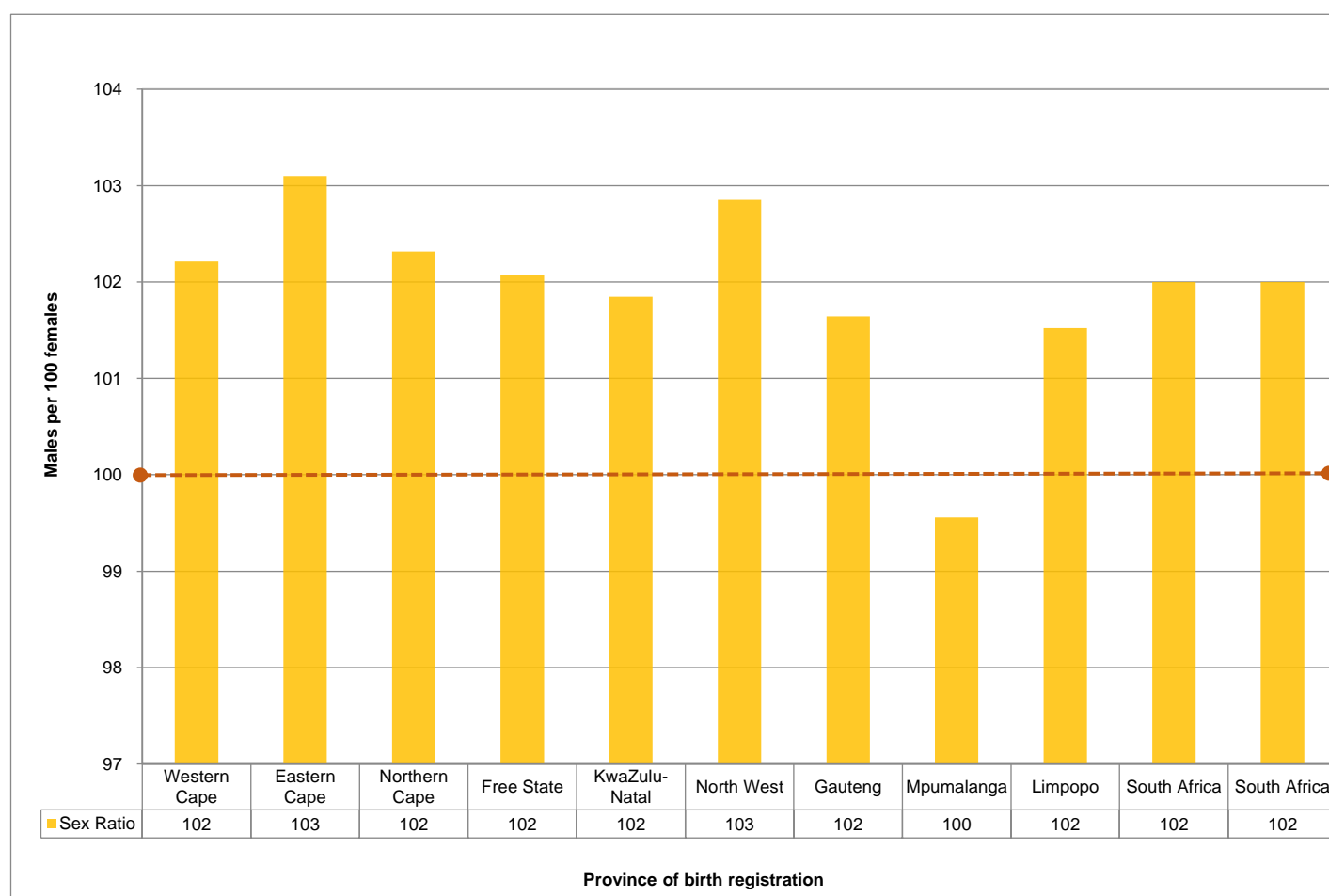
## Sex of the child

The sex ratio of birth registrations is defined as the number of male births per 100 female births in a population. A ratio of 100 indicates an equal number of male births for every female birth, whereas a number less than 100 indicates relatively more female births and a number above 100 indicates more male births.

Sex ratios at birth registration by provincial distribution are presented on Figure 5. South Africa had a sex ratio of 102 males per 100 females, indicating that there were more male birth registrations than female birth registrations in 2018. Six out of nine provinces had a sex ratio of 102 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations. These were Western Cape, Northern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Limpopo. Eastern Cape and North West had the highest sex ratio at 103 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations, whereas Mpumalanga had the lowest at 100, indicating an equal number of male birth registrations for every female birth registration.

Further information on total registrations by sex, status of registration, province and district municipality for the year 2018 is provided in Appendix C on pages 34 and 35

**Figure 5: Sex ratios by province of birth registration, South Africa, 2018**



## 4. Birth occurrences

Birth occurrences are all births that occur in a specific year and that have been registered with the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). They pertain to the year in which the birth actually occurred (year of birth) irrespective of whether the registration is current or late.

This section reports on birth registrations, which have been acquired from the DHA through two different methods. The first is the electronic format where data are loaded to the SITA database, after which Stats SA, through the National Statistics System (NSS), downloads the data using a cloud service solution. These are birth occurrences based on year of birth. The data are captured in the birth registration system up to 28 February 2019 (with 28 February being the cut-off date for the processing phase by Stats SA).

The second method covers birth occurrences extracted from the national population register (NPR) on 30 June 2019. Data are received in the form of a print-out from the Department of Home Affairs. 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, and it is for this reason that information on birth occurrences varies each time data are extracted from the birth register. In general, birth occurrences from the print-out are always expected to be higher than those from the electronic format, as they are extracted at a later date and, as such, have an updated number of birth occurrences.

Table 6 below shows the total birth occurrences as at 28 February 2019, and the updated birth occurrences as at 1 July 2019 for the period 1998 to 2019. It is observed that by 31 December 2018, a total of 927 113 births that occurred in 2018 were registered, increasing to 945 527 by 01 July 2019. This indicates that between 28 February 2019 and 01 July 2019, the national birth register was updated by 18 414 births that occurred in 2018. This follows the general trend which has been observed in all the previous reports whereby birth occurrences indicate an increase between the two reference periods. This is indicative of the continuous updating of the national birth registration system.

The pattern on birth occurrences for the period 1998–2018 shows that since 2004, the number of registered births exceeded a million, with the exception of the four years (2015–2018) where the number of birth occurrences registered were less than 1 million. In general, updated birth occurrences as at last day of June for each observation period exceed those from February of the same observation period.

**Table 6: Birth occurrences by year of birth and reference period, South Africa, 1998–2018**

Year of birth occurrence	Birth occurrences	Updated birth occurrences
	(as at 28 Feb. 2019)	(as at 01 Jul. 2019)
1998	907 112	952 045
1999	937 712	967 886
2000	936 575	980 248
2001	930 851	962 927
2002	919 239	973 185
2003	928 587	968 277
2004	1 016 783	1 026 307
2005	1 062 973	1 067 271
2006	1 091 324	1 096 916
2007	1 078 254	1 083 667
2008	1 097 753	1 107 938
2009	1 035 153	1 056 752
2010	1 025 742	1 029 943
2011	1 034 325	1 038 489
2012	1 029 378	1 038 086
2013	1 020 533	1 023 536
2014	1 018 603	1 024 525
2015	966 201	972 191
2016	909 912	913 373
2017	920 966	924 942
2018	927 113	945 527

#### 4.1 Birth occurrences as at 28 February 2018

Table 7 on page 17 illustrates the number of births that occurred between 1998 and 2018 by year of birth occurrence and year of registration. Birth occurrences for different years comprise births registered within the year of their occurrence and those registered later than the year in which they occurred. Births registered within the year in which they occurred are in bold, while those not in bold are late registrations. The table also shows the year in which the births for a particular year were eventually registered, therefore showing updated births up to 28 February 2019.

The total number of births that occurred and were registered for the year 2018 was 927 113. This number is expected to increase in the next report because it only refers to births registered within the year of occurrence. The average number of birth occurrences 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 2019 processing phase. The number of 2017 birth occurrences registered by 28 July 2018 was 897 750; however, due to updating of birth registrations for births that occurred in 2017 but were registered late, the number of birth occurrences for 2017 increased to 920 968 by 28 February 2019. This indicates that within the 12-month period (28 February 2018 and 28 February 2019) there was an increase of 23 218 birth registrations for births that occurred in 2017.

The table further shows that the highest number of late registrations was registered during the year immediately following the year of birth occurrence. Prior to 2001, there were more late registrations than current registrations, while the reverse was observed from 2001. This indicates that the completeness of birth records from 1998 to 2000 was highly dependent on late registrations. Thereafter, late registrations started to decrease, with increases in registration of births during the year of occurrence.

**Table 7: Birth occurrences (as at end of February 2018) by year of birth occurrence and year of birth registration, South Africa, 1998–2018**

Year of birth registration	Year of birth occurrence																				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1998	273 180																				
1999	146 055	344 700																			
2000	114 781	178 516	409 707																		
2001	96 809	116 374	192 410	477 489																	
2002	86 859	98 553	118 600	218 256	557 573																
2003	69 795	72 533	77 256	94 588	194 204	621 887															
2004	41 372	42 511	43 503	48 197	63 234	165 662	728 283														
2005	23 162	24 996	24 807	23 798	27 701	43 404	150 546	793 788													
2006	19 518	21 911	26 516	24 057	26 042	34 601	54 941	154 331	860 263												
2007	9 897	10 969	14 158	15 200	16 766	20 009	26 769	42 569	126 358	858 866											
2008	6 691	6 927	8 327	8 722	11 378	14 085	17 869	23 732	40 554	128 336	915 674										
2009	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	3 483	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	2 624	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	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	1 605	2 626	2 262	1 904	1 925	2 357	2 800	3 590	4 742	6 914	9 018	9 938	12 978	21 023	66 775	939 011					
2014	889	1 664	2 531	1 802	1 866	1 950	2 261	2 673	3 241	4 122	6 039	7 390	8 418	10 898	16 147	55 202	954 385				
2015	1 826	1 046	1 570	2 256	1 838	1 759	1 874	2 151	2 489	2 892	3 476	4 908	6 290	7 197	8 882	14 125	46 754	919 562			
2016	872	856	569	626	1 098	1 072	1 084	1 010	1 186	1 468	1 675	1 973	2 901	3 556	3 771	4 470	7 601	32 680	876 435		
2017	717	820	860	569	709	1 535	1 488	1 342	1 446	1 578	1 863	2 046	2 636	3 663	3 938	4 118	5 709	8 319	26 811	897 750	
2018	620	621	703	651	374	996	1 389	1 137	1 089	1 139	1 234	1 399	1 752	2 287	3 147	3 611	4 157	5 641	6 669	23 218	927 113
Total	907 726	938 329	937 271	931 493	919 607	928 592	1 016 784	1 062 973	1 091 324	1 078 255	1 097 753	1 035 155	1 025 750	1 034 351	1 029 386	1 020 537	1 018 606	966 202	909 915	920 968	927 113

## 4.2 Birth occurrences registered within 30 days from date of birth

In terms of the law, births of children should be registered within 30 days of birth. This is in line with the World Health Organization which advocates for a functional civil registration that is up to date and reliable for evidence-based decision-making (World Health Organization [WHO], 2013). The Department of Home Affairs has opened offices in some hospitals and health facilities throughout the country, to help register the birth of a child immediately. This was an effort to ensure that parents do not leave a hospital or health facility without registering the birth of their child and receiving a birth certificate. As a measure to enforce registration of birth within 30 days, parents who register their children after the 30-day period, but within a period of a year, will be liable for a penalty fee.

As mentioned earlier in the release, timely birth registration is mandated in the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act (Act No. 18 of 2010), which stipulates that all births must be registered within 30 days from date of occurrence (Republic of South Africa, 2010). However, even if registration of births is anchored in a legal framework, which makes provisions for birth registration within a prescribed period, if there is lack of oversight or enforcement of the legal framework, birth registration can be undermined (WHO, 2013). Accordingly, the tabulation of month of birth occurrence by month of birth registration provides necessary information for evaluating progress towards this requirement.

Table 8 presents the distribution of births that occurred in 2018 and that were registered within 30 days by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration. The table shows that 803 286 births that occurred in 2018 were registered within 30 days. This represents 86,6% of the 927 113 total birth occurrences for 2018. This is a slight improvement from 85,6% of the birth occurrences in 2017, which were registered before the end of 30 days.

The highest number of birth occurrences that were registered within the 30-day timeframe were for September (71 611), followed by March (70 223) and January (69 849). The months of November and February had the lowest number of births registered within 30 days (61 848 and 63 553, respectively).

**Table 8: Number of births registered within 30 days of occurrence by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration, South Africa, 2018**

Month of birth registration	Month of birth occurrence											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
January	48 813											
February	20 952	42 036										
March	84	21 517	45 124									
April			25 099	41 639								
May				24 553	48 071							
June					20 160	43 807						
July						22 061	46 657					
August							19 657	49 669				
September								19 392	46 610			
October									25 001	47 709		
November										17 888	45 786	
December											16 062	39 951
January												24 988
<b>Total</b>	<b>69 849</b>	<b>63 553</b>	<b>70 223</b>	<b>66 192</b>	<b>68 231</b>	<b>65 868</b>	<b>66 314</b>	<b>69 061</b>	<b>71 611</b>	<b>65 597</b>	<b>61 848</b>	<b>64 939</b>

### Age of the mother, for births occurring in 2018

Several observational studies have reported that increasing maternal age is associated with better child development outcomes. As such, information on the mother's age is useful when developing maternal and child health policies and planning for the provision of healthcare services (Kathleen et al., 2018). The information is crucial for planning, monitoring and evaluation of programmes focusing on maternal and child health, social welfare, access to family planning, curbing teenage pregnancies and safe motherhood initiatives. Form BI-24 makes provision for the inclusion of the mother's details, making it possible to derive the mother's age at birth of her child.

The distribution of births occurring in 2018 by age of the mother is presented in Table 9. Women aged 25–29 had the highest percentage of births (26,7%), closely followed by women aged 20–24 (25,6%) and those aged 30–34 (21,8%). Mothers aged 40–54, taken together mothers in the unspecified age category, accounted for a lower proportion of births (4,2%). This is to be expected, as the probability to conceive decreases as women get older. Less than 1% of births in 2018 occurred to teenage mothers aged 10–14 years.

Appendix D on page 36 provides detailed information on the distribution of total births by age of the mother for the years 2014 to 2018. 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 9: Number and percentage of births by age of mother, South Africa, 2018**

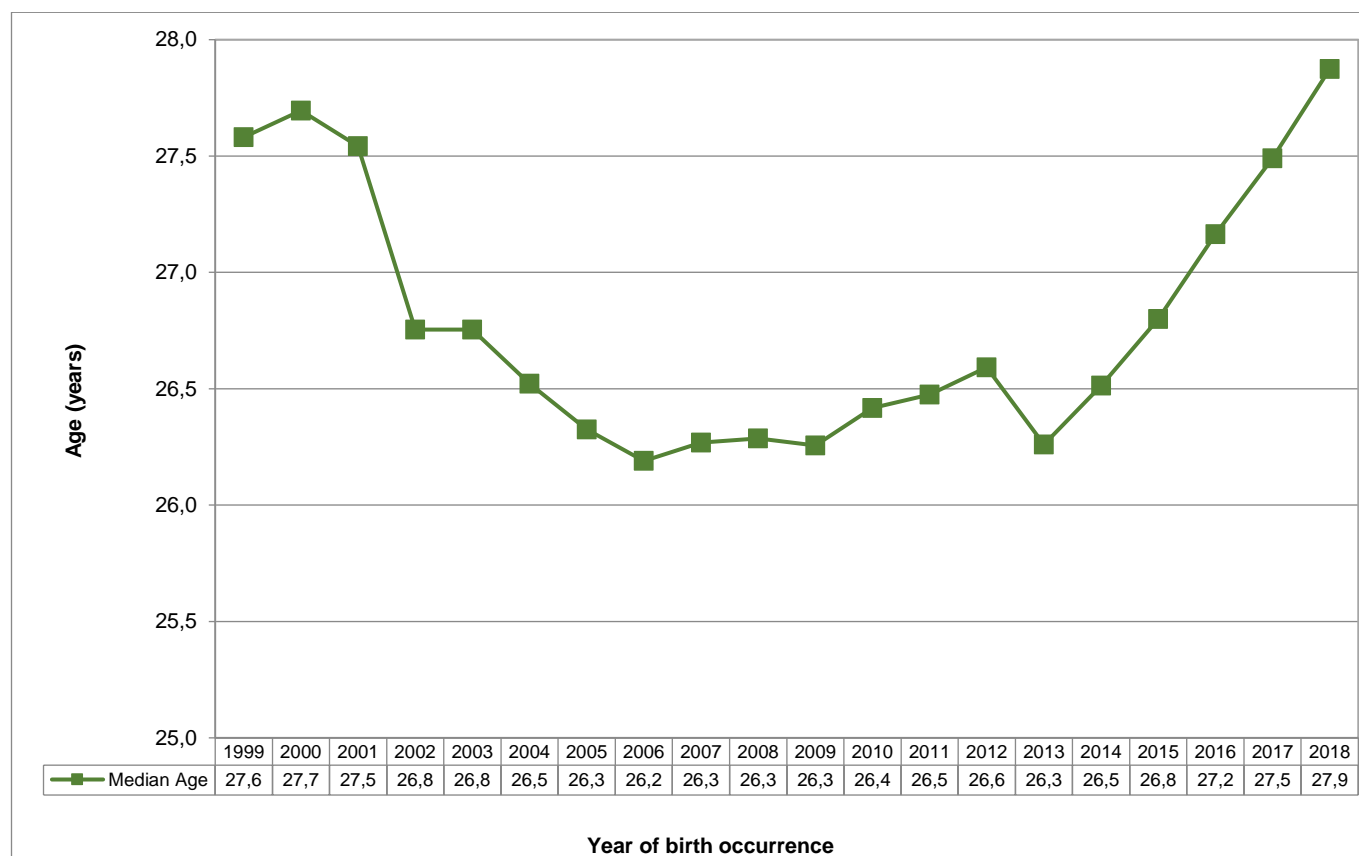
Age of mother	Number of birth occurrences	Percentage
10–14	1 287	0,1
15–19	86 861	9,4
20–24	237 197	25,6
25–29	247 688	26,7
30–34	201 972	21,8
35–39	112 709	12,2
40–44	31 843	3,4
45–49	2 488	0,3
50–54	196	0,0
Unspecified/outside the 10–54 age range	4 872	0,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>927 113</b>	<b>100,0</b>

### Median age of mother from 1999 to 2018

The median age at birth indicates the age at which exactly half of the mothers are younger than that particular age and half are older. The median age at birth specifies how early or late births occur within a population. If more births occur before the median age, it indicates that more births are occurring earlier for that given population. It is important to note that this section does not look at median age at first birth, but rather at median age at birth for a particular year.

Figure 6 below presents the median ages of the mothers for births occurring between 1999 and 2018. In the years 1999 to 2018, the median age of mothers hovered around 26 and 28 years. There was a slight increase in the median age between the years 1999 and 2000, from 27,6 years in 1999 to a high of 27,7 years in 2000. Between 2003 and 2006, a gradual decrease was observed from 26,8 years in 2003 to 26,2 years in 2006; after that, the median age remained somewhat similar up until 2009. It then increased gradually from 26,4 years in 2010 to 26,6 years in 2012, followed by a slight decrease to 26,3 years in 2013. The mean age of mothers was 27,6 years in 2017, increasing to 27,9 years in 2018.

**Figure 6: Median age of mother by year of birth, South Africa, 1999–2018**





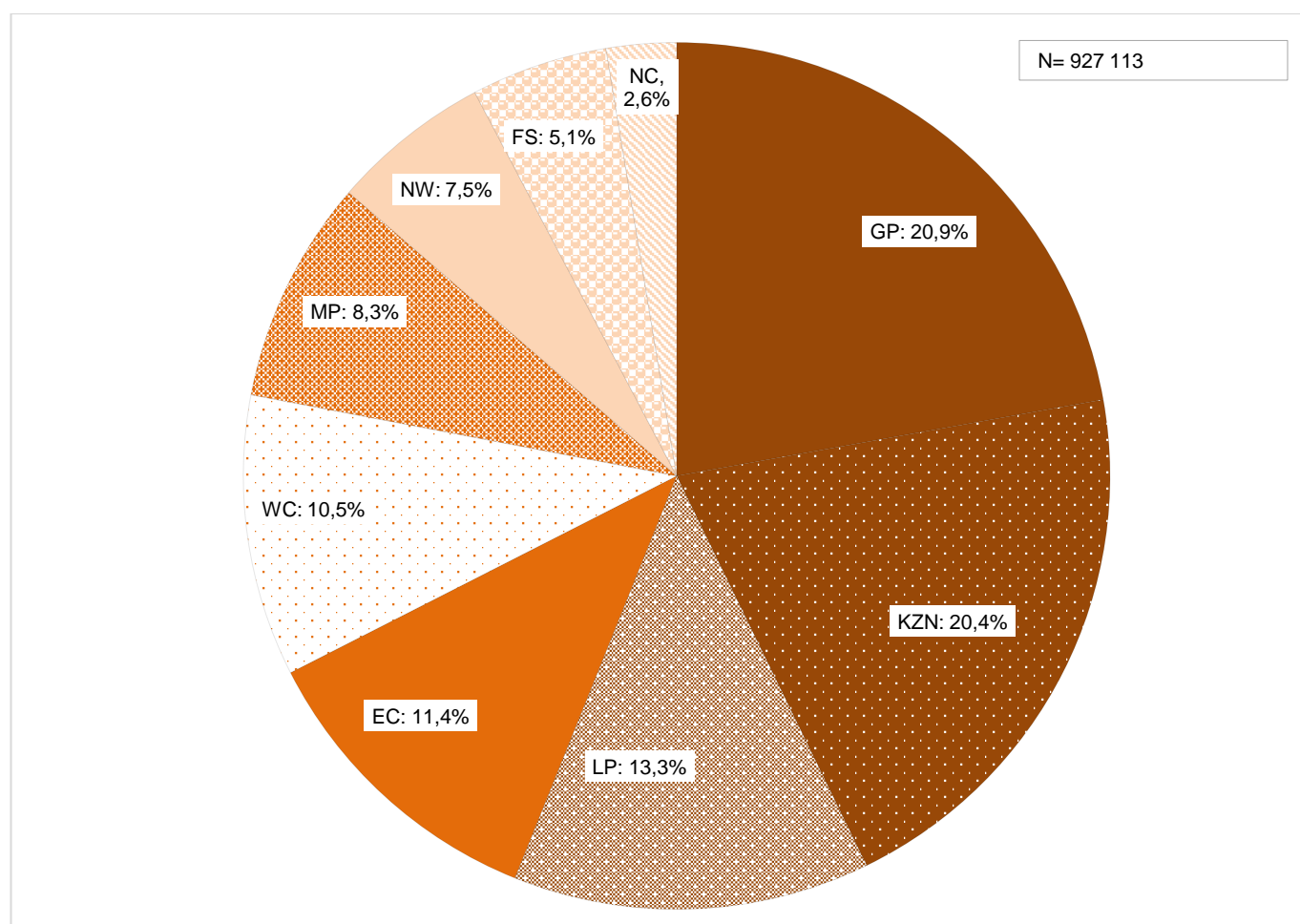
### Provincial distribution of births 2018

Figure 7 below illustrates the distribution of 2018 birth occurrences by province where the birth was registered. Generally, birth registrations remain higher in the most populated provinces in South Africa. The highest proportions of births were registered in Gauteng (20,9%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (20,4%). The provinces with lower birth registrations in 2018 were Northern Cape at 2,6% and Free State at 5,1% of birth registrations.

Additional information on birth occurrences by province of birth registration and age of mother is provided in Appendix E on page 37. The table shows that for all the age groups, the highest number of birth registrations for each age category was recorded in either Gauteng or in KwaZulu-Natal. The only exception were teenage mothers (aged 10–14), where Eastern Cape had the highest number of births occurring to teen mothers (317 births), followed closely by KwaZulu-Natal with 310 birth registrations to teenage mothers.

Appendix F on pages 38 and 39 shows a detailed distribution of birth occurrences by province and district municipality of birth registration for the years 2014 to 2018. In this five-year period, results show that Gauteng has had the highest number of birth occurrences throughout, followed by KwaZulu-Natal. This is indicative of the population of South Africa, as these two provinces are the most populated provinces according to Census 2011 results and the 2018 mid-year population estimates. The metropolitan municipalities continue to dominate as the top five district municipalities with regard to the highest number of birth occurrences in the five-year period.

**Figure 7: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration, South Africa, 2018\***



\* Percentages may not sum exactly to 100 due to rounding.

### 4.3 Birth occurrences as at 01 July 2019

This subsection provides information on birth occurrences by sex and year of birth as reflected in the national population register as at 01 July 2019. The total number of birth occurrences per year, as shown in Table 10 below, indicates that a total of approximately 20,8 million births occurred and were registered in South Africa between 1998 and 2018. On average, over the 21-year period, 990 242 births occurred per year. From 2004, the total number of birth occurrences was just above the million mark up until 2014, after which it started to decrease to less than a million birth occurrences 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 year of birth and sex from the year 1998 to 2018 is provided in Table 10. The last column in Table 10 provides sex ratios at birth for each year since 1998. Sex ratio at birth refers to the number of boys born alive per 100 girls born alive. Generally, there were slightly more male births than female births between 2003 and 2018. Sex ratios were between 100 and 102 male births per 100 female births during the entire observation period.

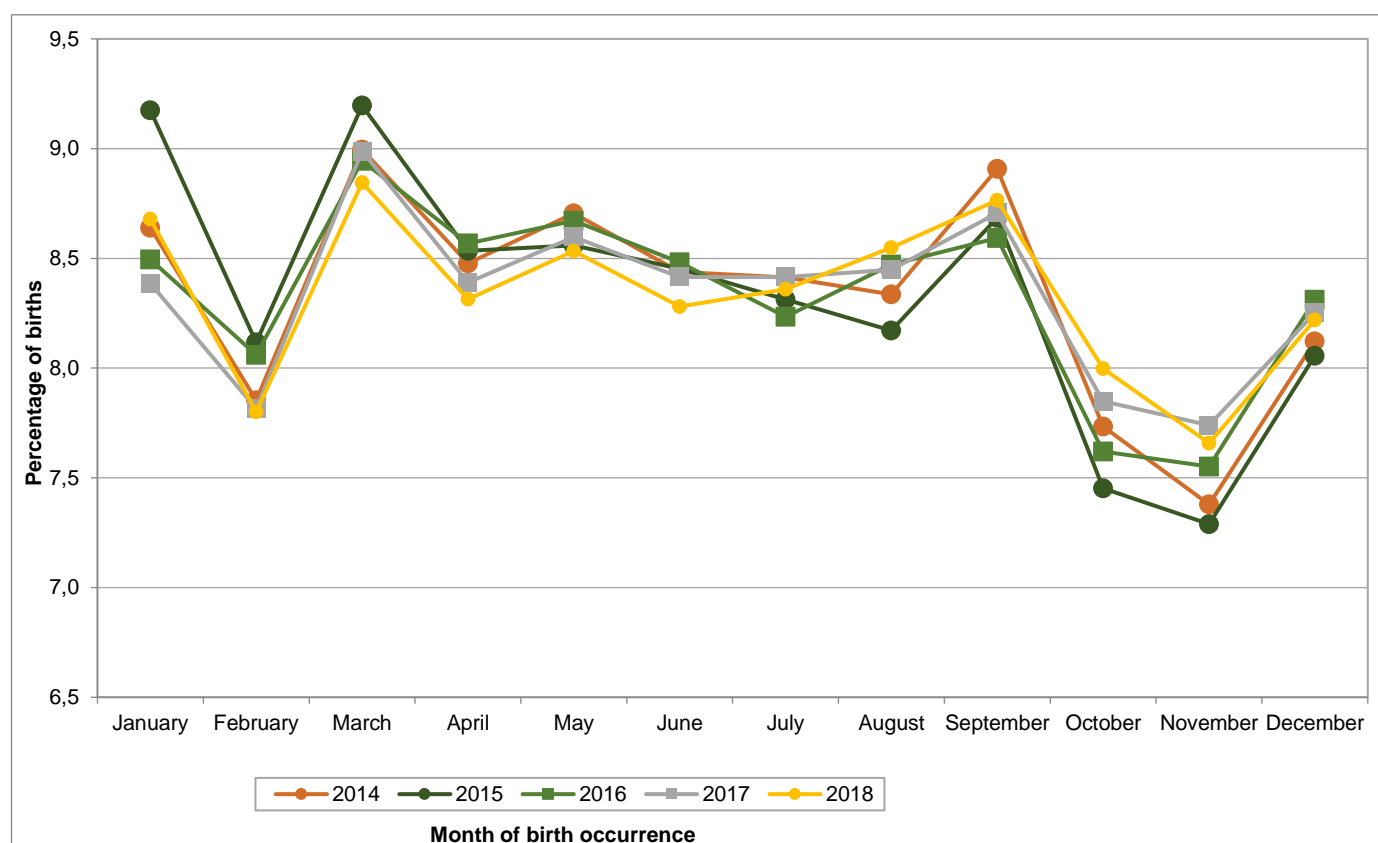
**Table 10: Birth occurrences (as at 01 July 2019) by year of birth and sex, South Africa, 1998–2018**

Year	Total	Male	Female	Sex ratio
1998	907 112	453 578	453 534	100
1999	937 712	469 138	468 574	100
2000	936 575	469 008	467 567	100
2001	930 851	466 086	464 765	100
2002	919 239	459 947	459 292	100
2003	928 587	465 956	462 631	101
2004	1 016 783	510 501	506 282	101
2005	1 062 973	534 126	528 847	101
2006	1 091 324	547 613	543 711	101
2007	1 078 254	542 363	535 891	101
2008	1 097 753	551 691	546 062	101
2009	1 035 153	520 581	514 572	101
2010	1 025 742	517 088	508 654	102
2011	1 034 325	521 205	513 120	102
2012	1 029 378	518 804	510 574	102
2013	1 020 533	514 558	505 975	102
2014	1 018 603	513 606	504 997	102
2015	966 201	486 598	479 603	101
2016	909 912	459 330	450 582	102
2017	920 966	464 326	456 640	102
2018	927 113	467 808	459 305	102
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 795 089</b>	<b>10 453 911</b>	<b>10 341 178</b>	<b>101</b>

### Month of birth as at 01 July 2019

Figure 8 shows the percentage distribution of birth occurrences by year of birth occurrence (2014–2018) and month of birth updated as of 01 July 2019. It indicates that the pattern of birth occurrences by month every year was similar over the five-year period. It is observed that the highest proportions of births occurred during the month of March for all the years, followed by September, with the exception of 2016, when the second highest number of births in a month were recorded in January. This indicates that over the five-year period, birth occurrences were likely to be conceived during June or July. November had the lowest percentage of birth occurrences for this period. Appendices G to G8 on pages 40–48 provide more information on birth occurrences from 1994 to 2018 by month of birth and sex.

**Figure 8: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences as at 01 July 2019 by year and month of birth, South Africa, 2014–2018**



#### 4.4 Baby forenames and surnames in South Africa, 2018

A person's forename and surname are fundamental human rights enshrined in the Births and Deaths Registration Act (Act No. 51 of 1992), and are some of the most distinctive markers of individuality. These are also a prerequisite for the issuing of a birth certificate (Republic of South Africa, 1992). According to section 28 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No. 108 of 1996), 'every child has the right to a name from birth' (Republic of South Africa, 1996).

Similar to most African countries, South African baby names (such as the traditional African names) often have a unique story or meaning behind them. From the day or time a baby is born to the circumstances surrounding the birth, several factors influence the names that parents choose for their children (Vivian de Klerk & Barbara Bosch, 1996). Whichever ethnic group one looks at, these local names reveal a wealth of information about the bearer. For instance, a mother would name a child Zanele as a last born, meaning "they are enough".

Table 11 shows that in 2018, the most popular first names for males were Enzokuhle, followed by Lethabo and then Melokuhle. These three were also the top three names for 2017 births, and the order remains the same. For middle names, Junior was the most popular, followed by Blessing and then Gift. Amongst females, the first three most common first names for 2018 were Enzokuhle, Melokuhle and then Amahle. Similar to males, the order remains the same as that of 2017. For middle names, the most popular choices were Precious, Princess and Angel, in that order. Enzokuhle, Melokuhle, Omphile and Amogelang were in the top ten list of names for both sexes. All the top ten first names for both sexes were of native languages. Most of the popular baby names for males and females reflect positive hopes for the child, express beliefs and are inspired by positive connotations of both love and acceptance.

Table 11 further shows that for both sexes, Dlamini was the most common baby surname in 2018, closely followed by Nkosi and then Ndlovu. It is noteworthy that nine of the surnames were from the Nguni clans, namely isiZulu, isiXhosa, isiNdebele and siSwati. Mokoena – which featured as the sixth most popular surname – was the only non-Nguni surname.

Appendix H on Pages 49 to 51 shows detailed provincial information on the top ten baby first names and surnames for births which occurred and were registered in 2018 by province of birth registration. The distribution of male first names shows that Enzokuhle was the most common baby first name amongst male babies in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, while it came fourth amongst male babies in Western Cape. Amogelang and Amohelang were the most common male baby names in Limpopo and Free State, respectively. Amogelang was the second most common first name amongst male babies born in the North West province. Blessing was the most common male baby name in Mpumalanga, while it was Lethabo for both North West and Northern Cape. Junior was the most common second name in seven of the nine provinces, with the exceptions being KwaZulu-Natal where it was Lubanzi and Mpumalanga where it was Blessing.

Amongst female baby first names, Lethabo was the most common first name for babies born in Gauteng and Limpopo, while Amogelang was most popular in North West and Amohelang was the preferred name in Free State. Enzokuhle was the most popular first name in KwaZulu-Natal, while Mia was the chosen name in Western Cape, with Iminathi was the most well-liked in Eastern Cape. Melokuhle was the preferred female baby first name in Mpumalanga and Reatlegile held the sway in Northern Cape. Lethabo and Amohelang were the most common baby names in 2018 for both sexes.

Regarding baby surnames, Nkosi was the most common baby surname in both Gauteng and Mpumalanga, while it was Jacobs for both Eastern Cape and Western Cape. For the other provinces, Baloyi was the most common baby surname in Limpopo, Van Wyk in Northern Cape, Molefe in the North West province, Mokoena in Free State, and Dlamini in KwaZulu-Natal.

**Table 11: Number distribution of top ten baby forenames and surnames, South Africa, 2018**

Rank	Male				Female				Both sexes	
	First name	Number	Middle name	Number	First name	Number	Middle name	Number	Surname	Number
1	Enzokuhle	4 124	Junior	9 785	Enzokuhle	3 751	Precious	5 178	Dlamini	6 530
2	Lethabo	3 137	Blessing	4 646	Melokuhle	3 076	Princess	4 306	Nkosi	5 887
3	Melokuhle	2 823	Gift	3 736	Amahle	2 856	Angel	3 295	Ndlovu	5 735
4	Lubanzi	2 801	Prince	3 055	Okuhle	2 389	Blessing	2 757	Khumalo	5 564
5	Junior	2 181	Lubanzi	1 769	Lethabo	2 364	Faith	2 301	Sithole	4 727
6	Siyabonga	2 039	Innocent	1 723	Omphile	2 205	Hope	2 182	Mokoena	4 025
7	Bokamoso	1 988	Enzokuhle	1 669	Lesedi	2 092	Amahle	1 669	Mkhize	3 760
8	Omphile	1 905	Melokuhle	1 323	Rethabile	2 050	Enzokuhle	1 577	Gumede	3 573
9	Amogelang	1 847	Quinton	1 311	Amogelang	1 849	Okuhle	1 537	Mthembu	3 498
10	Thato	1 808	Bandile	1 152	Onthatile	1 810	Grace	1 443	Mahlangu	3 432

## 5. Concluding remarks

Birth registration provides a child with legal identity, and is a cornerstone to other rights, such as education, healthcare, social welfare and protection, among others. Of prime importance, the data produced during birth registration provide information for the state to plan, monitor, develop and implement policies and related programmes. In addition, the data are also used to track and compare national progress with other countries in the region and beyond. Among others, this is done through provision of related data for progress and developmental reports on the National Development Plan, Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Plan.

This recorded live birth release provided information on the 2018 birth registrations and occurrences for births that occurred in South Africa. The release also provides information on the trends in birth occurrence and registration, and information for the period 1996 to 2018. A total of 1 009 065 births were registered in 2018, where current birth registrations constituted 91,9%, while late registrations were at 8,1%. The total number of birth registrations for 2018 increased by 2% from the 989 318 total birth registrations noted in 2017. This shows an improvement in current birth registrations in South Africa. In addition, the continued improvements in current birth registrations point to the efforts made by the Department of Home Affairs to strengthen early registration through awareness raising and expediting birth registrations in line with legislation.

In terms of timeliness, over eighty-six per cent (86,6%) of total births (927 113) that occurred in 2018 were registered within a 30-day period. Additionally, the highest number of birth occurrences in this category (those registered within the 30-day timeframe) was recorded in September (71 611), followed by March (70 223) and January (69 849). The lowest number of births registered within 30 days was observed in November and February (61 848 and 63 553, respectively).

At provincial level, birth registrations for 2018 show that the most populous provinces, namely Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, had the highest number of birth registrations (230 363 and 207 034, respectively), followed by Limpopo (128 267). The lowest number (24 994) of birth registrations was observed in Northern Cape. In addition, the provincial distribution of births for 2018 shows that more births were registered within 30 days within provinces, than in all other categories. The 2018 release shows continuous improvement of birth occurrence registrations within 30 days, while the opposite happens to late birth registrations.

In 2018, the most popular first names for males wereENZOKUHLE, followed by LETHABO and then MELOKUHLE. For females, the first three most common first names wereENZOKUHLE, MELOKUHLE and AMAHLE. The popularity of these names for both males and females seems to continue, as they occupied the same top three spots in 2017. Regarding middle names for males, the most popular were JUNIOR, followed by BLESSING and then GIFT. In terms of female middle names, PRECIOUS, PRINCESS and ANGEL were most common.

In South Africa, like in many African countries, the top ten first names for both sexes were of native languages, which reflect positive hopes for the child, express beliefs and are inspired by positive connotations of both love and acceptance. Nationally, the most populous surname for both sexes was DLAMINI, followed by NKOSI and then NDLOVU. The 2018 top 10 baby surnames are occupied by those from the Nguni clans (isiZulu, isiXhosa, isiNdebele and siSwati), with the exception of MOKOENA, which was the sixth most popular surname. There was very little to no change in the comparison of most popular names and surnames between the 2018 and 2017 releases both at national and provincial levels.

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## Appendix A: Notice of birth form (DHA-24) – page 2

### F. DECLARATION

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby declare that the information supplied is to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and correct, I understand that a false statement is punishable under section 31 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1992.

**Informant**

Initials and surname	Signature	Date	Y Y Y Y	M M	D D
		Place			

Relationship to the child: ☐ Father (Parent A) ☐ Mother (Parent B) ☐ Legal guardian ☐ Social worker

### G. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY - OFFICE OF ORIGIN

#### NOTICE OF BIRTH RECEIVED BY:

Identity number

Surname

First name

Persal number

Stat		Birth	
I	O	S	M
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Office stamp - Office of origin

#### DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION: PLEASE TICK ☒

##### Birth Registration within 30 Days:

- ☐ Confirmation of Birth
- ☐ Certified copy of Father's/Parent A's ID document (if applicable)
- ☐ Certified copy of Mother's/Parent B's ID document
- ☐ Certified copy of Legal Guardian/Social Worker's ID document
- ☐ Certified copy of Marriage Certificate of parents (if married)
- ☐ BI 1658 if married religiously i.e. Moslem, Hindu
- ☐ Medical Report: Same Sex Parents
- ☐ Certified copy of Social Worker's Registration Certificate

##### Birth Registration after 30 Days, additional documents:

- ☐ Proof of Paternity

##### If foreign birth, additional documents:

- ☐ Certified copy of the Foreign birth certificate of the child
- ☐ Citizenship determination form BI-529 (SA Parent)
- ☐ Citizenship determination form BI-529 (Child)

#### Online verification performed and printouts attached for following persons:

- ☐ Father (Parent A) ☐ Mother (Parent B) ☐ Legal guardian ☐ Social worker

Date Y Y Y Y M M D D

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### H. APPLICATION VERIFIED

Date Y Y Y Y M M D D

I hereby declare that I have verified the application and registration

Initials and surname \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Identity number

Persal number

## Appendix B: Total birth registrations for 2018 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality\*

Province and district municipality	Grand total	2018 (current)	Late registrations					
			Total	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013 and earlier
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 009 065</b>	<b>927 113</b>	<b>81 952</b>	<b>23 218</b>	<b>6 669</b>	<b>5 641</b>	<b>4 159</b>	<b>42 265</b>
<b>Western Cape</b>								
Cape Winelands (Boland)	14 177	13 870	307	208	17	24	14	44
Central Karoo	1 206	1 171	35	12	5	3		15
City of Cape Town	65 936	64 226	1 710	1 034	104	152	105	315
Eden	9 511	9 253	258	132	28	22	17	59
Overberg	4 075	3 986	89	34	7	11	7	30
West Coast	5 043	4 792	251	185	21	12	10	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>99 948</b>	<b>97 298</b>	<b>2 650</b>	<b>1 605</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>486</b>
<b>Eastern Cape</b>								
Alfred Nzo	14 883	13 495	1 388	436	149	121	110	572
Amathole	11 711	11 016	695	69	68	58	52	448
Buffalo City	15 531	14 878	653	216	62	93	61	221
Cacadu (Sarah Baartman)	5 760	5 214	546	225	70	56	41	154
Chris Hani	13 439	11 772	1 667	306	159	157	129	916
Joe Gqabi (Ukhahlamba)	5 068	4 566	502	168	50	42	32	210
Nelson Mandela Bay	17 962	16 920	1 042	409	108	124	87	314
OR Tambo	31 331	27 935	3 396	765	298	403	323	1 607
<b>Total</b>	<b>115 685</b>	<b>105 796</b>	<b>9 889</b>	<b>2 594</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>1 054</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>4 442</b>
<b>Northern Cape</b>								
Frances Baard	9 571	9 298	273	122	43	19	18	71
John Taolo Gaetsewe	5 436	5 336	100	46	8	16	9	21
Namakwa	1 684	1 657	27	15		2		10
Pixley ka Seme	3 215	3 015	200	110	18	14	14	44
ZF Mgcawu (Siyanda)	5 088	4 889	199	61	14	10	14	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 994</b>	<b>24 195</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>246</b>
<b>Free State</b>								
Fezile Dabi	8 056	7 655	401	89	46	48	31	187
Lejweleputswa	9 628	9 288	340	150	30	25	14	121
Mangaung	16 359	15 809	550	169	58	67	51	205
Thabo Mofutsanyane	13 599	13 043	556	189	58	42	41	226
Xhariep	1 863	1 511	352	51	18	20	29	234
<b>Total</b>	<b>49 505</b>	<b>47 306</b>	<b>2 199</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>973</b>

## Appendix B: Total birth registrations for 2018 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality\* (concluded)

Province and district municipality	Grand total	2018 (current)	Late registrations					
			Total	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013 and earlier
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 009 065</b>	<b>803 286</b>	<b>143 260</b>	<b>39 219</b>	<b>23 300</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>79,6</b>	<b>14,2</b>
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>								
Amajuba	9 300	8 675	625	355	86	54	38	92
Harry Gwala (Sisonke)	9 597	8 960	637	320	62	56	37	162
Ugu	14 219	13 134	1 085	467	174	114	78	252
uMkhanyakude	19 156	17 307	1 849	673	230	167	142	637
uMzinyathi	13 901	12 759	1 142	717	135	74	53	163
uThukela	13 186	12 051	1 135	616	135	88	64	232
uThungulu	19 996	18 143	1 853	886	266	187	124	390
Zululand	18 663	16 776	1 887	746	299	198	131	513
eThekwini	63 039	57 573	5 466	2 253	864	681	472	1 196
iLembe	11 480	10 256	1 224	691	136	121	60	216
uMgungundlovu	16 382	15 289	1 093	548	109	98	74	264
<b>Total</b>	<b>208 919</b>	<b>190 923</b>	<b>17 996</b>	<b>8 272</b>	<b>2 496</b>	<b>1 838</b>	<b>1 273</b>	<b>4 117</b>
<b>North West</b>								
Bojanala	17 054	16 437	617	225	87	76	64	165
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	9 876	9 594	282	180	18	24	8	52
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	13 196	12 483	713	298	83	45	43	244
Ngaka Modiri Molema	17 098	16 580	518	204	75	79	50	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>57 224</b>	<b>55 094</b>	<b>2 130</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>571</b>
<b>Gauteng</b>								
City of Johannesburg	62 567	57 799	4 768	1 647	673	448	298	1 702
City of Tshwane	85 432	58 886	26 546	1 429	352	327	216	24 222
Ekurhuleni	63 830	60 219	3 611	1 426	356	315	228	1 286
Sedibeng	17 578	16 363	1 215	397	97	94	55	572
West Rand	13 351	12 345	1 006	365	84	89	59	409
<b>Total</b>	<b>242 758</b>	<b>205 612</b>	<b>37 146</b>	<b>5 264</b>	<b>1 562</b>	<b>1 273</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>28 191</b>
<b>Mpumalanga</b>								
Ehlanzeni	38 805	37 274	1 531	524	139	146	146	576
Gert Sibande	20 634	19 214	1 420	575	118	105	116	506
Nkangala	21 803	20 865	938	495	74	71	64	234
<b>Total</b>	<b>81 242</b>	<b>77 353</b>	<b>3 889</b>	<b>1 594</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>1 316</b>
<b>Limpopo</b>								
Capricorn	31 301	30 307	994	436	128	107	68	255
Mopani	25 991	25 343	648	299	66	56	39	188
Sekhukhune	26 276	25 512	764	250	99	66	48	301
Vhembe	29 886	27 906	1 980	595	177	126	102	980
Waterberg	15 201	14 346	855	389	108	88	71	199
<b>Total</b>	<b>128 655</b>	<b>123 414</b>	<b>5 241</b>	<b>1 969</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>1 923</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

\* Foreign births reflected in province and district of birth registration.

## Appendix B1: Total birth registrations for 2018 by registration status, province and district municipality\*

Province and district municipality	Number of birth registrations					Percentages				
	Total	0–30 days	31–364 days*	1–14 years	From age 15	Total	0–30 days	31–364 days	1–14 years	From age 15
<b>Total: South Africa</b>	<b>1 009 065</b>	<b>803 286</b>	<b>143 260</b>	<b>39 219</b>	<b>23 300</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>79,6</b>	<b>14,2</b>	<b>3,9</b>	<b>2,3</b>
<b>Western Cape</b>										
Cape Winelands (Boland)	14 177	12 301	1 770	106	0	100,0	86,8	12,5	0,7	0,0
Central Karoo	1 206	1 020	163	23	0	100,0	84,6	13,5	1,9	0,0
City of Cape Town	65 936	57 184	8 061	672	19	100,0	86,7	12,2	1,0	0,0
Eden	9 511	8 393	982	136	0	100,0	88,2	10,3	1,4	0,0
Overberg	4 075	3 641	376	58	0	100,0	89,3	9,2	1,4	0,0
West Coast	5 043	3 591	1 382	70	0	100,0	71,2	27,4	1,4	0,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>99 948</b>	<b>86 130</b>	<b>12 734</b>	<b>1 065</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>86,2</b>	<b>12,7</b>	<b>1,1</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>Eastern Cape</b>										
Alfred Nzo	14 883	11 739	2 110	1 034	0	100,0	78,9	14,2	6,9	0,0
Amathole	11 711	10 821	205	685	0	100,0	92,4	1,8	5,8	0,0
Buffalo City	15 531	14 063	991	477	0	100,0	90,5	6,4	3,1	0,0
Cacadu (Sarah Baartman)	5 760	4 237	1 154	369	0	100,0	73,6	20,0	6,4	0,0
Chris Hani	13 439	10 163	1 833	1 410	33	100,0	75,6	13,6	10,5	0,2
Joe Gqabi (Ukhahlamba)	5 068	3 804	895	369	0	100,0	75,1	17,7	7,3	0,0
Nelson Mandela Bay	17 962	15 114	2 166	681	1	100,0	84,1	12,1	3,8	0,0
OR Tambo	31 331	24 417	4 088	2 826	0	100,0	77,9	13,0	9,0	0,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>115 685</b>	<b>94 358</b>	<b>13 442</b>	<b>7 851</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>81,6</b>	<b>11,6</b>	<b>6,8</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>Northern Cape</b>										
Frances Baard	9 571	8 499	908	164	0	100,0	88,8	9,5	1,7	0,0
John Taolo Gaetsewe	5 436	5 010	362	64	0	100,0	92,2	6,7	1,2	0,0
Namakwa	1 684	1 569	99	16	0	100,0	93,2	5,9	1,0	0,0
Pixley ka Seme	3 215	2 532	571	112	0	100,0	78,8	17,8	3,5	0,0
ZF Mgcawu (Siyanda)	5 088	4 409	526	153	0	100,0	86,7	10,3	3,0	0,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 994</b>	<b>22 019</b>	<b>2 466</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>88,1</b>	<b>9,9</b>	<b>2,0</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>Free State</b>										
Fezile Dabi	8 056	7 200	519	337	0	100,0	89,4	6,4	4,2	0,0
Lejweleputswa	9 628	8 838	589	201	0	100,0	91,8	6,1	2,1	0,0
Mangaung	16 359	15 353	592	413	1	100,0	93,9	3,6	2,5	0,0
Thabo Mofutsanyane	13 599	11 938	1 249	412	0	100,0	87,8	9,2	3,0	0,0
Xhariep	1 863	1 322	229	311	1	100,0	71,0	12,3	16,7	0,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>49 505</b>	<b>44 651</b>	<b>3 178</b>	<b>1 674</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>90,2</b>	<b>6,4</b>	<b>3,4</b>	<b>0,0</b>

## Appendix B1: Total birth registrations for 2018 by registration status, province and district municipality\* (concluded)

Province and district municipality	Number of birth registrations					Percentages				
	Total	0–30 days	31–364 days*	1–14 years	From age 15	Total	0–30 days	31–364 days	1–14 years	From age 15
<b>Total: South Africa</b>	<b>1 009 065</b>	<b>803 286</b>	<b>143 260</b>	<b>39 219</b>	<b>23 300</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>79,6</b>	<b>14,2</b>	<b>3,9</b>	<b>2,3</b>
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>										
Amajuba	9 300	6 729	2 226	345	0	100,0	72,4	23,9	3,7	0,0
Harry Gwala (Sisonke)	9 597	7 010	2 246	340	1	100,0	73,0	23,4	3,5	0,0
Ugu	14 219	10 138	3 403	676	2	100,0	71,3	23,9	4,8	0,0
uMkhanyakude	19 156	13 213	4 629	1 314	0	100,0	69,0	24,2	6,9	0,0
uMzinyathi	13 901	8 267	5 100	533	1	100,0	59,5	36,7	3,8	0,0
uThukela	13 186	9 017	3 530	639	0	100,0	68,4	26,8	4,8	0,0
uThungulu	19 996	13 450	5 408	1 138	0	100,0	67,3	27,0	5,7	0,0
Zululand	18 663	12 805	4 537	1 321	0	100,0	68,6	24,3	7,1	0,0
eThekweni	63 039	43 721	15 736	3 581	1	100,0	69,4	25,0	5,7	0,0
iLembe	11 480	6 196	4 675	608	1	100,0	54,0	40,7	5,3	0,0
uMgungundlovu	16 382	12 284	3 506	592	0	100,0	75,0	21,4	3,6	0,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>208 919</b>	<b>142 830</b>	<b>54 996</b>	<b>11 087</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>68,4</b>	<b>26,3</b>	<b>5,3</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>North West</b>										
Bojanala	17 054	15 327	1 280	446	1	100,0	89,9	7,5	2,6	0,0
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	9 876	8 798	934	144	0	100,0	89,1	9,5	1,5	0,0
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	13 196	11 605	1 112	478	1	100,0	87,9	8,4	3,6	0,0
Ngaka Modiri Molema	17 098	15 456	1 299	343	0	100,0	90,4	7,6	2,0	0,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>57 224</b>	<b>51 186</b>	<b>4 625</b>	<b>1 411</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>89,4</b>	<b>8,1</b>	<b>2,5</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>Gauteng</b>										
City of Johannesburg	62 567	53 373	5 749	3 430	15	100,0	85,3	9,2	5,5	0,0
City of Tshwane	85 432	53 864	6 164	2 266	23 138	100,0	63,0	7,2	2,7	27,1
Ekurhuleni	63 830	52 446	9 012	2 364	8	100,0	82,2	14,1	3,7	0,0
Sedibeng	17 578	14 867	1 799	900	12	100,0	84,6	10,2	5,1	0,1
West Rand	13 351	11 027	1 649	651	24	100,0	82,6	12,4	4,9	0,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>242 758</b>	<b>185 577</b>	<b>24 373</b>	<b>9 611</b>	<b>23 197</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>76,4</b>	<b>10,0</b>	<b>4,0</b>	<b>9,6</b>
<b>Mpumalanga</b>										
Ehlanzeni	38 805	32 883	4 868	1 054	0	100,0	84,7	12,5	2,7	0,0
Gert Sibande	20 634	15 515	4 203	914	2	100,0	75,2	20,4	4,4	0,0
Nkangala	21 803	16 970	4 366	465	2	100,0	77,8	20,0	2,1	0,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>81 242</b>	<b>65 368</b>	<b>13 437</b>	<b>2 433</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>80,5</b>	<b>16,5</b>	<b>3,0</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>Limpopo</b>										
Capricorn	31 301	28 284	2 388	629	0	100,0	90,4	7,6	2,0	0,0
Mopani	25 991	22 768	2 828	393	2	100,0	87,6	10,9	1,5	0,0
Sekhukhune	26 276	24 007	1 703	542	24	100,0	91,4	6,5	2,1	0,1
Vhembe	29 886	23 502	4 934	1 442	8	100,0	78,6	16,5	4,8	0,0
Waterberg	15 201	12 517	2 112	572	0	100,0	82,3	13,9	3,8	0,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>128 655</b>	<b>111 078</b>	<b>13 965</b>	<b>3 578</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>86,3</b>	<b>10,9</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>44</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>65,9</b>	<b>32,6</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>1,5</b>

\* Foreign births reflected in province and district of birth registration.

**Appendix C: Birth registrations by registration status, sex, province and district municipality, 2018\***

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
<b>Total: South Africa</b>	<b>1 009 065</b>	<b>510 478</b>	<b>498 587</b>	<b>927 113</b>	<b>467 808</b>	<b>459 305</b>	<b>58 797</b>	<b>29 642</b>	<b>29 155</b>	<b>23 155</b>	<b>13 028</b>	<b>10 127</b>
<b>Western Cape</b>												
Cape Winelands (Boland)	14 177	7 161	7 016	13 870	6 994	6 876	307	167	140	0	0	0
Central Karoo	1 206	598	608	1 171	579	592	35	19	16	0	0	0
City of Cape Town	65 936	33 429	32 507	64 226	32 561	31 665	1710	868	842	0	0	0
Eden	9 511	4 744	4 767	9 253	4 607	4 646	258	137	121	0	0	0
Overberg	4 075	2 077	1 998	3 986	2 034	1 952	89	43	46	0	0	0
West Coast	5 043	2 521	2 522	4 792	2 406	2 386	251	115	136	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>99 948</b>	<b>50 530</b>	<b>49 418</b>	<b>97 298</b>	<b>49 181</b>	<b>48 117</b>	<b>2 650</b>	<b>1 349</b>	<b>1 301</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Eastern Cape</b>												
Alfred Nzo	14 883	7 545	7 338	13 495	6 854	6 641	1388	691	697	0	0	0
Amathole	11 711	5 881	5 830	11 016	5 560	5 456	695	321	374	0	0	0
Buffalo City	15 531	7 926	7 605	14 878	7 589	7 289	653	337	316	0	0	0
Cacadu (Sarah Baartman)	5 760	2 907	2 853	5 214	2 635	2 579	546	272	274	0	0	0
Chris Hani	13 439	6 875	6 564	11 772	6 002	5 770	1667	873	794	0	0	0
Joe Gqabi (Ukhahlamba)	5 068	2 546	2 522	4 566	2 293	2 273	502	253	249	0	0	0
Nelson Mandela Bay	17 962	9 149	8 813	16 920	8 625	8 295	1042	524	518	0	0	0
OR Tambo	31 331	15 808	15 523	27 935	14 147	13 788	3396	1661	1735	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>115 685</b>	<b>58 637</b>	<b>57 048</b>	<b>105 796</b>	<b>53 705</b>	<b>52 091</b>	<b>9 889</b>	<b>4 932</b>	<b>4 957</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Northern Cape</b>												
Frances Baard	9 571	4 875	4 696	9 298	4 745	4 553	273	130	143	0	0	0
John Taolo Gaetsewe	5 436	2 780	2 656	5 336	2 721	2 615	100	59	41	0	0	0
Namakwa	1 684	836	848	1 657	822	835	27	14	13	0	0	0
Pixley ka Seme	3 215	1 616	1 599	3 015	1 522	1 493	200	94	106	0	0	0
ZF Mgcawu (Siyanda)	5 088	2 527	2 561	4 889	2 426	2 463	199	101	98	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 994</b>	<b>12 634</b>	<b>12 360</b>	<b>24 195</b>	<b>12 236</b>	<b>11 959</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Free State</b>												
Fezile Dabi	8 056	4 054	4 002	7 655	3 858	3 797	401	196	205	0	0	0
Lejweleputswa	9 628	4 861	4 767	9 288	4 676	4 612	340	185	155	0	0	0
Mangaung	16 359	8 314	8 045	15 809	8 052	7 757	550	262	288	0	0	0
Thabo Mofutsanyane	13 599	6 839	6 760	13 043	6 550	6 493	556	289	267	0	0	0
Xhariep	1 863	944	919	1 511	759	752	352	185	167	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>49 505</b>	<b>25 012</b>	<b>24 493</b>	<b>47 306</b>	<b>23 895</b>	<b>23 411</b>	<b>2 199</b>	<b>1 117</b>	<b>1 082</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\* Foreign births reflected in province and district of birth registration.

## Appendix C: Birth registrations by registration status, sex, province and district municipality, 2018\* (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
<b>Total: South Africa</b>	<b>1 009 065</b>	<b>510 478</b>	<b>498 587</b>	<b>927 113</b>	<b>467 808</b>	<b>459 305</b>	<b>58 797</b>	<b>29 642</b>	<b>29 155</b>	<b>23 155</b>	<b>13 028</b>	<b>10 127</b>
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>												
Amajuba	9 300	4 737	4 563	8 675	4 404	4 271	625	333	292	0	0	0
Harry Gwala (Sisonke)	9 597	4 881	4 716	8 960	4 586	4 374	637	295	342	0	0	0
Ugu	14 219	7 202	7 017	13 134	6 656	6 478	1085	546	539	0	0	0
uMkhanyakude	19 156	9 679	9 477	17 307	8 756	8 551	1849	923	926	0	0	0
uMzinyathi	13 901	6 944	6 957	12 759	6 374	6 385	1142	570	572	0	0	0
uThukela	13 186	6 705	6 481	12 051	6 107	5 944	1135	598	537	0	0	0
uThungulu	19 996	10 065	9 931	18 143	9 141	9 002	1853	924	929	0	0	0
Zululand	18 663	9 357	9 306	16 776	8 383	8 393	1887	974	913	0	0	0
eThekweni	63 039	31 778	31 261	57 573	29 035	28 538	5466	2 743	2 723	0	0	0
iLembe	11 480	5 900	5 580	10 256	5 280	4 976	1224	620	604	0	0	0
uMgungundlovu	16 382	8 182	8 200	15 289	7 646	7 643	1093	536	557	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>208 919</b>	<b>105 430</b>	<b>103 489</b>	<b>190 923</b>	<b>96 368</b>	<b>94 555</b>	<b>17 996</b>	<b>9 062</b>	<b>8 934</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>North West</b>												
Bojanala	17 054	8 624	8 430	16 437	8 319	8 118	617	305	312	0	0	0
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	9 876	5 064	4 812	9 594	4 932	4 662	282	132	150	0	0	0
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	13 196	6 702	6 494	12 483	6 334	6 149	713	368	345	0	0	0
Ngaka Modiri Molema	17 098	8 645	8 453	16 580	8 388	8 192	518	257	261	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>57 224</b>	<b>29 035</b>	<b>28 189</b>	<b>55 094</b>	<b>27 973</b>	<b>27 121</b>	<b>2 130</b>	<b>1 062</b>	<b>1 068</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Gauteng</b>												
City of Johannesburg	62 567	31 433	31 134	57 799	29 037	28 762	4767	2 396	2 371	1	0	1
City of Tshwane	85 432	44 570	40 862	58 886	29 809	29 077	3410	1 743	1 667	23 136	13 018	10 118
Ekurhuleni	63 830	31 964	31 866	60 219	30 163	30 056	3610	1 801	1 809	1	0	1
Sedibeng	17 578	8 898	8 680	16 363	8 267	8 096	1215	631	584	0	0	0
West Rand	13 351	6 830	6 521	12 345	6 322	6 023	1004	507	497	2	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>242 758</b>	<b>123 695</b>	<b>119 063</b>	<b>205 612</b>	<b>103 598</b>	<b>102 014</b>	<b>14 006</b>	<b>7 078</b>	<b>6 928</b>	<b>23 140</b>	<b>13 019</b>	<b>10 121</b>
<b>Mpumalanga</b>												
Ehlanzeni	38 805	19 512	19 293	37 274	18 716	18 558	1531	796	735	0	0	0
Gert Sibande	20 634	10 214	10 420	19 214	9 504	9 710	1420	710	710	0	0	0
Nkangala	21 803	10 874	10 929	20 865	10 371	10 494	938	503	435	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>81 242</b>	<b>40 600</b>	<b>40 642</b>	<b>77 353</b>	<b>38 591</b>	<b>38 762</b>	<b>3 889</b>	<b>2 009</b>	<b>1 880</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Limpopo</b>												
Capricorn	31 301	15 707	15 594	30 307	15 206	15 101	994	501	493	0	0	0
Mopani	25 991	13 033	12 958	25 343	12 700	12 643	648	333	315	0	0	0
Sekhukhune	26 276	13 247	13 029	25 512	12 870	12 642	764	377	387	0	0	0
Vhembe	29 886	15 091	14 795	27 906	14 087	13 819	1976	1 002	974	4	2	2
Waterberg	15 201	7 747	7 454	14 346	7 326	7 020	855	421	434	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>128 655</b>	<b>64 825</b>	<b>63 830</b>	<b>123 414</b>	<b>62 189</b>	<b>61 225</b>	<b>5 237</b>	<b>2 634</b>	<b>2 603</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>

\* Foreign births reflected in province and district of birth registration.

**Appendix D: Birth occurrences by year of birth and age of the mother, 2014–2018\***

Age of the mother	Year of birth occurrence				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
10–14	3 449	2 867	3 018	1 938	1 287
15–19	162 143	154 919	137 850	116 962	86 861
20–24	272 631	268 139	249 415	231 153	237 197
25–29	254 209	256 247	243 064	231 246	247 688
30–34	186 301	194 799	191 751	188 273	201 972
35–39	100 446	102 745	101 554	99 140	112 709
40–44	29 828	30 638	30 137	30 023	31 843
45–49	2 128	2 061	2 101	2 013	2 488
50–54	271	176	155	130	196
Unspecified/outside 10–54 age range	5 520	1 858	1 516	2 368	4 872
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 016 926</b>	<b>1 014 449</b>	<b>960 561</b>	<b>903 246</b>	<b>927 113</b>

\* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 28 February 2019.



**Appendix E: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration and age of the mother, 2018\***

Province of birth registration	Age of mother										Total
	10–14	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50–54	Unsp.*	
Western Cape	144	7 420	23 052	27 043	23 527	12 470	3 017	219	15	391	97 298
Eastern Cape	317	14 164	29 353	25 542	20 249	11 580	3 567	297	24	703	105 796
Northern Cape	22	2 498	6 484	6 415	4 814	2 925	776	69	5	187	24 195
Free State	27	3 553	12 297	13 507	10 239	5 735	1 566	102	7	273	47 306
KwaZulu-Natal	310	22 897	54 197	48 255	38 010	20 177	5 585	440	35	1017	190 923
North West	38	4 786	14 660	14 852	11 566	6 825	1 925	152	13	277	55 094
Gauteng	139	11 765	43 596	59 110	52 455	29 189	8 005	574	40	739	205 612
Mpumalanga	195	9 843	20 265	19 902	15 475	8 474	2 474	212	14	499	77 353
Limpopo	95	9 921	33 256	33 037	25 610	15 319	4 925	423	43	785	123 414
Unknown	0	14	37	25	27	15	3	0	0	1	122
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 287</b>	<b>86 861</b>	<b>237 197</b>	<b>247 688</b>	<b>201 972</b>	<b>112 709</b>	<b>31 843</b>	<b>2 488</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>4 872</b>	<b>927 113</b>

\* Unspecified or outside the 10–54 age range.

\*\* Foreign births are reflected in province and district of birth registration.

## Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2014–2018\*

Province and district municipality	Year of birth				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total: South Africa</b>	<b>1 021 083</b>	<b>1 020 090</b>	<b>967 230</b>	<b>926 464</b>	<b>927 113</b>
<b>Western Cape</b>					
Cape Winelands	13 629	14 220	13 649	13 029	13 870
Central Karoo	1 296	1 274	1 304	1 164	1 171
City of Cape Town	64 200	67 893	66 404	63 848	64 226
Eden	10 397	9 681	9 146	8 762	9 253
Overberg	3 517	4 043	3 161	3 732	3 986
West Coast	5 822	5 837	5 849	5 510	4 792
<b>Total</b>	<b>98 861</b>	<b>102 948</b>	<b>99 513</b>	<b>96 045</b>	<b>97 298</b>
<b>Eastern Cape</b>					
Alfred Nzo	14 921	16 655	15 227	14 102	13 495
Amatole	12 064	12 587	11 455	10 277	11 016
Buffalo City	16 194	16 164	15 914	14 585	14 878
Cacadu	5 868	6 160	5 846	5 406	5 214
Chris Hani	14 213	13 649	12 423	11 583	11 772
Joe Gqabi	5 616	5 945	5 418	4 756	4 566
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	19 597	18 799	17 192	17 293	16 920
OR Tambo	33 870	33 868	31 974	27 587	27 935
<b>Total</b>	<b>122 343</b>	<b>123 827</b>	<b>115 449</b>	<b>105 589</b>	<b>105 796</b>
<b>Northern Cape</b>					
Frances Baard	9 224	9 138	9 334	8 818	9 298
John Taolo Gaetsewe	6 056	6 117	5 850	5 353	5 336
Namakwa	1 763	1 632	1 709	1 530	1 657
Pixley ka Seme	3 343	3 364	3 097	2 984	3 015
Siyanda	4 849	5 162	5 008	4 770	4 889
<b>Total</b>	<b>25 235</b>	<b>25 413</b>	<b>24 998</b>	<b>23 455</b>	<b>24 195</b>
<b>Free State</b>					
Fezile Dabi	7 869	9 625	7 562	7 021	7 655
Lejweleputswa	11 401	9 885	10 559	9 646	9 288
Mangaung	15 987	16 989	16 115	15 888	15 809
Thabo Mofutsanyane	14 473	14 508	13 261	12 664	13 043
Xhariep	2 134	1 947	1 633	1 344	1 511
<b>Total</b>	<b>51 864</b>	<b>52 954</b>	<b>49 130</b>	<b>46 563</b>	<b>47 306</b>

\* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 28 February 2019.

## Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2014–2018 (concluded)\*

Province and district municipality	Year of birth				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018
<b>Total: South Africa</b>	<b>1 021 083</b>	<b>1 020 090</b>	<b>967 230</b>	<b>926 464</b>	<b>927 113</b>
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>					
Amajuba	9 080	9 373	9 028	8 942	8 675
eThekweni	9 234	11 438	12 070	13 648	57 573
iLembe	16 563	16 328	15 118	13 708	10 256
Sisonke	19 775	18 602	17 352	15 866	8 960
Ugu	69 965	67 428	59 977	56 139	13 134
uMgungundlovu	6 680	8 201	8 592	9 884	15 289
uMkhanyakude	17 740	17 095	16 843	15 263	17 307
uMzinyathi	17 151	16 250	14 397	15 151	12 759
uThukela	14 483	14 080	13 224	13 170	12 051
uThungulu	13 829	14 124	14 074	13 743	18 143
Zululand	22 590	22 670	20 425	18 359	16 776
<b>Total</b>	<b>217 090</b>	<b>215 589</b>	<b>201 100</b>	<b>193 873</b>	<b>190 923</b>
<b>North West</b>					
Bojanala	27 487	26 849	24 805	22 916	16 437
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	10 206	9 968	9 494	9 733	12 483
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	11 724	13 058	13 111	12 304	9 594
Ngaka Modiri Molema	10 411	10 190	10 230	11 151	16 580
<b>Total</b>	<b>59 828</b>	<b>60 065</b>	<b>57 640</b>	<b>56 104</b>	<b>55 094</b>
<b>Gauteng</b>					
City of Johannesburg	73 323	72 029	70 318	61 098	57 799
City of Tshwane	74 026	66 203	61 589	59 177	58 886
Ekurhuleni	52 565	57 026	54 823	56 819	60 219
Sedibeng	16 812	16 826	15 415	15 033	16 363
West Rand	10 036	10 245	9 913	14 159	12 345
<b>Total</b>	<b>226 762</b>	<b>222 329</b>	<b>212 058</b>	<b>206 286</b>	<b>205 612</b>
<b>Mpumalanga</b>					
Ehlanzeni	42 615	43 766	38 603	39 650	37 274
Gert Sibande	16 497	17 049	16 541	16 434	19 214
Nkangala	23 610	23 844	22 030	21 186	20 865
<b>Total</b>	<b>82 722</b>	<b>84 659</b>	<b>77 174</b>	<b>77 270</b>	<b>77 353</b>
<b>Limpopo</b>					
Capricorn	31 235	31 029	30 090	28 680	30 307
Greater Sekhukhune	25 154	23 736	23 279	23 371	25 512
Mopani	24 236	24 153	24 790	22 929	25 343
Vhembe	31 157	33 078	32 170	30 570	27 906
Waterberg	17 377	17 793	16 472	15 675	14 346
<b>Total</b>	<b>129 159</b>	<b>129 789</b>	<b>126 801</b>	<b>121 225</b>	<b>123 414</b>
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>7 219</b>	<b>2 517</b>	<b>3 367</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>122</b>

\* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 28 February 2019.

\*\* Foreign births are reflected in the district of birth registration.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
1994	January	41 886	41 435	83 321
	February	37 920	37 522	75 442
	March	41 649	41 259	82 908
	April	42 230	42 287	84 517
	May	40 992	40 718	81 710
	June	42 598	42 650	85 248
	July	40 001	39 429	79 430
	August	41 764	41 573	83 337
	September	46 065	45 591	91 656
	October	40 282	39 843	80 125
	November	37 858	37 928	75 786
	December	43 144	42 778	85 922
	<b>Total</b>	<b>496 389</b>	<b>493 013</b>	<b>989 402</b>
1995	January	41 159	40 908	82 067
	February	36 155	35 896	72 051
	March	40 339	40 024	80 363
	April	38 417	38 523	76 940
	May	40 249	39 607	79 856
	June	41 617	41 051	82 668
	July	39 239	39 484	78 723
	August	40 988	40 431	81 419
	September	45 084	44 986	90 070
	October	38 992	39 284	78 276
	November	36 943	36 784	73 727
	December	41 709	41 208	82 917
	<b>Total</b>	<b>480 891</b>	<b>478 186</b>	<b>959 077</b>
1996	January	42 863	42 887	85 750
	February	37 936	37 494	75 430
	March	41 391	41 671	83 062
	April	40 173	39 529	79 702
	May	40 755	40 652	81 407
	June	43 038	42 548	85 586
	July	40 491	40 448	80 939
	August	41 894	41 532	83 426
	September	46 245	46 082	92 327
	October	39 777	39 038	78 815
	November	36 911	37 004	73 915
	December	42 442	41 855	84 297
	<b>Total</b>	<b>493 916</b>	<b>490 737</b>	<b>984 653</b>

\* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 1 July 2019.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
<b>1997</b>	January	41 951	41 785	<b>83 736</b>
	February	37 347	37 271	<b>74 618</b>
	March	42 721	42 598	<b>85 319</b>
	April	39 874	40 153	<b>80 027</b>
	May	39 895	39 947	<b>79 842</b>
	June	41 020	41 321	<b>82 341</b>
	July	40 634	40 445	<b>81 079</b>
	August	40 711	40 895	<b>81 606</b>
	September	45 106	44 591	<b>89 697</b>
	October	38 759	38 195	<b>76 954</b>
	November	36 130	35 725	<b>71 855</b>
	December	40 826	40 787	<b>81 613</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>484 974</b>	<b>483 713</b>	<b>968 687</b>
<b>1998</b>	January	41 053	41 341	<b>82 394</b>
	February	37 279	37 202	<b>74 481</b>
	March	42 051	41 852	<b>83 903</b>
	April	39 023	39 561	<b>78 584</b>
	May	40 018	39 557	<b>79 575</b>
	June	40 435	40 332	<b>80 767</b>
	July	39 297	38 859	<b>78 156</b>
	August	39 768	40 172	<b>79 940</b>
	September	44 310	43 984	<b>88 294</b>
	October	38 127	38 014	<b>76 141</b>
	November	35 469	35 214	<b>70 683</b>
	December	39 516	39 611	<b>79 127</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>476 346</b>	<b>475 699</b>	<b>952 045</b>
<b>1999</b>	January	40 155	40 286	<b>80 441</b>
	February	35 934	35 659	<b>71 593</b>
	March	41 444	41 698	<b>83 142</b>
	April	41 009	41 257	<b>82 266</b>
	May	41 485	41 595	<b>83 080</b>
	June	41 733	41 732	<b>83 465</b>
	July	40 110	39 898	<b>80 008</b>
	August	40 597	40 441	<b>81 038</b>
	September	44 618	44 312	<b>88 930</b>
	October	38 436	38 775	<b>77 211</b>
	November	37 304	36 565	<b>73 869</b>
	December	41 509	41 331	<b>82 840</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>484 337</b>	<b>483 549</b>	<b>967 886</b>

\* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2019.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
<b>2000</b>	January	42 981	42 822	<b>85 803</b>
	February	40 062	39 711	<b>79 773</b>
	March	43 082	43 045	<b>86 127</b>
	April	40 727	40 796	<b>81 523</b>
	May	41 444	41 679	<b>83 123</b>
	June	41 931	41 679	<b>83 610</b>
	July	40 314	40 288	<b>80 602</b>
	August	41 094	40 578	<b>81 672</b>
	September	44 078	43 835	<b>87 913</b>
	October	38 993	38 682	<b>77 675</b>
	November	36 702	36 786	<b>73 488</b>
	December	39 557	39 382	<b>78 939</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>490 965</b>	<b>489 283</b>	<b>980 248</b>
<b>2001</b>	January	43 544	43 316	<b>86 860</b>
	February	36 991	37 235	<b>74 226</b>
	March	42 574	42 202	<b>84 776</b>
	April	40 415	40 328	<b>80 743</b>
	May	40 899	41 140	<b>82 039</b>
	June	40 325	40 719	<b>81 044</b>
	July	39 762	39 158	<b>78 920</b>
	August	39 832	39 850	<b>79 682</b>
	September	43 361	42 905	<b>86 266</b>
	October	38 264	38 641	<b>76 905</b>
	November	36 582	36 025	<b>72 607</b>
	December	39 728	39 131	<b>78 859</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>482 277</b>	<b>480 650</b>	<b>962 927</b>
<b>2002</b>	January	43 508	43 110	<b>86 618</b>
	February	38 252	38 126	<b>76 378</b>
	March	41 374	41 739	<b>83 113</b>
	April	39 495	39 746	<b>79 241</b>
	May	40 789	41 033	<b>81 822</b>
	June	41 505	41 201	<b>82 706</b>
	July	40 900	41 162	<b>82 062</b>
	August	40 946	39 993	<b>80 939</b>
	September	44 516	43 968	<b>88 484</b>
	October	39 111	39 534	<b>78 645</b>
	November	36 570	36 290	<b>72 860</b>
	December	40 284	40 033	<b>80 317</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>487 250</b>	<b>485 935</b>	<b>973 185</b>

\* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2019.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
<b>2003</b>	January	42 782	42 315	<b>85 097</b>
	February	37 907	37 730	<b>75 637</b>
	March	43 288	43 144	<b>86 432</b>
	April	40 750	40 369	<b>81 119</b>
	May	41 421	40 971	<b>82 392</b>
	June	41 020	40 682	<b>81 702</b>
	July	39 869	39 491	<b>79 360</b>
	August	40 287	40 104	<b>80 391</b>
	September	44 753	44 055	<b>88 808</b>
	October	38 439	38 397	<b>76 836</b>
	November	35 760	35 425	<b>71 185</b>
	December	40 004	39 314	<b>79 318</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>486 280</b>	<b>481 997</b>	<b>968 277</b>
<b>2004</b>	January	42 991	42 178	<b>85 169</b>
	February	39 519	38 542	<b>78 061</b>
	March	43 103	42 795	<b>85 898</b>
	April	41 570	41 023	<b>82 593</b>
	May	42 478	42 377	<b>84 855</b>
	June	43 203	43 023	<b>86 226</b>
	July	43 434	42 795	<b>86 229</b>
	August	44 835	44 207	<b>89 042</b>
	September	48 453	48 231	<b>96 684</b>
	October	41 818	41 582	<b>83 400</b>
	November	40 489	40 325	<b>80 814</b>
	December	43 994	43 342	<b>87 336</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>515 887</b>	<b>510 420</b>	<b>1 026 307</b>
<b>2005</b>	January	45 834	44 677	<b>90 511</b>
	February	41 227	40 744	<b>81 971</b>
	March	46 763	46 682	<b>93 445</b>
	April	44 954	44 762	<b>89 716</b>
	May	46 870	46 277	<b>93 147</b>
	June	45 695	45 716	<b>91 411</b>
	July	44 641	44 164	<b>88 805</b>
	August	44 855	43 910	<b>88 765</b>
	September	47 191	46 721	<b>93 912</b>
	October	41 818	41 009	<b>82 827</b>
	November	41 310	40 572	<b>81 882</b>
	December	45 733	45 146	<b>90 879</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>536 891</b>	<b>530 380</b>	<b>1 067 271</b>

\* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2019.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
<b>2006</b>	January	47 662	47 223	<b>94 885</b>
	February	42 925	42 962	<b>85 887</b>
	March	47 802	47 839	<b>95 641</b>
	April	45 886	45 766	<b>91 652</b>
	May	47 733	47 090	<b>94 823</b>
	June	46 826	46 413	<b>93 239</b>
	July	45 928	45 603	<b>91 531</b>
	August	46 047	45 902	<b>91 949</b>
	September	49 891	49 653	<b>99 544</b>
	October	43 637	43 038	<b>86 675</b>
	November	41 602	40 550	<b>82 152</b>
	December	44 960	43 978	<b>88 938</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>550 899</b>	<b>546 017</b>	<b>1 096 916</b>
<b>2007</b>	January	48 547	48 178	<b>96 725</b>
	February	42 330	41 515	<b>83 845</b>
	March	48 031	47 315	<b>95 346</b>
	April	46 419	46 183	<b>92 602</b>
	May	47 768	47 618	<b>95 386</b>
	June	46 381	45 276	<b>91 657</b>
	July	45 651	45 386	<b>91 037</b>
	August	45 054	44 579	<b>89 633</b>
	September	47 950	47 145	<b>95 095</b>
	October	41 964	41 031	<b>82 995</b>
	November	40 475	40 059	<b>80 534</b>
	December	44 960	43 852	<b>88 812</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>545 530</b>	<b>538 137</b>	<b>1 083 667</b>
<b>2008</b>	January	47 887	47 311	<b>95 198</b>
	February	44 956	44 307	<b>89 263</b>
	March	48 883	48 773	<b>97 656</b>
	April	46 344	46 080	<b>92 424</b>
	May	46 230	45 916	<b>92 146</b>
	June	45 928	45 337	<b>91 265</b>
	July	46 833	46 801	<b>93 634</b>
	August	47 213	46 208	<b>93 421</b>
	September	50 692	49 553	<b>100 245</b>
	October	43 280	43 261	<b>86 541</b>
	November	42 235	41 375	<b>83 610</b>
	December	46 772	45 753	<b>92 525</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>557 263</b>	<b>550 675</b>	<b>1 107 938</b>

\* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2019.



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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
<b>2009</b>	January	48 079	47 188	<b>95 267</b>
	February	42 357	41 941	<b>84 298</b>
	March	48 097	47 394	<b>95 491</b>
	April	43 892	43 615	<b>87 507</b>
	May	44 699	44 791	<b>89 490</b>
	June	45 022	44 170	<b>89 192</b>
	July	44 243	44 077	<b>88 320</b>
	August	44 219	43 635	<b>87 854</b>
	September	46 834	46 114	<b>92 948</b>
	October	40 987	39 891	<b>80 878</b>
	November	39 896	39 055	<b>78 951</b>
	December	43 658	42 898	<b>86 556</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>531 983</b>	<b>524 769</b>	<b>1 056 752</b>
<b>2010</b>	January	44 964	44 268	<b>89 232</b>
	February	40 277	39 640	<b>79 917</b>
	March	45 914	44 982	<b>90 896</b>
	April	42 998	42 479	<b>85 477</b>
	May	43 607	42 619	<b>86 226</b>
	June	43 807	43 190	<b>86 997</b>
	July	44 331	43 440	<b>87 771</b>
	August	44 164	42 938	<b>87 102</b>
	September	47 061	45 830	<b>92 891</b>
	October	40 451	40 023	<b>80 474</b>
	November	38 984	38 365	<b>77 349</b>
	December	43 085	42 526	<b>85 611</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>519 643</b>	<b>510 300</b>	<b>1 029 943</b>
<b>2011</b>	January	43 194	42 436	<b>85 630</b>
	February	41 306	40 265	<b>81 571</b>
	March	47 979	46 749	<b>94 728</b>
	April	43 557	43 387	<b>86 944</b>
	May	45 664	45 120	<b>90 784</b>
	June	44 221	43 560	<b>87 781</b>
	July	43 691	42 580	<b>86 271</b>
	August	43 927	43 159	<b>87 086</b>
	September	46 501	45 549	<b>92 050</b>
	October	40 563	40 697	<b>81 260</b>
	November	40 424	39 342	<b>79 766</b>
	December	42 762	41 856	<b>84 618</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>523 789</b>	<b>514 700</b>	<b>1 038 489</b>

\* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2019.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2012	January	45 985	45 058	91 043
	February	41 912	41 307	83 219
	March	46 318	45 726	92 044
	April	44 563	43 958	88 521
	May	45 590	44 934	90 524
	June	43 930	43 098	87 028
	July	43 724	43 172	86 896
	August	44 182	43 094	87 276
	September	45 518	44 613	90 131
	October	39 864	39 387	79 251
	November	38 902	38 177	77 079
	December	43 179	41 895	85 074
	<b>Total</b>	<b>523 667</b>	<b>514 419</b>	<b>1 038 086</b>
2013	January	45 487	44 379	89 866
	February	40 624	39 455	80 079
	March	45 462	45 238	90 700
	April	43 319	42 541	85 860
	May	43 740	43 056	86 796
	June	42 916	41 995	84 911
	July	43 478	42 894	86 372
	August	43 771	43 005	86 776
	September	45 266	44 851	90 117
	October	40 037	38 742	78 779
	November	39 073	38 247	77 320
	December	43 315	42 645	85 960
	<b>Total</b>	<b>516 488</b>	<b>507 048</b>	<b>1 023 536</b>
2014	January	44 637	43 879	88 516
	February	40 569	39 895	80 464
	March	46 521	45 635	92 156
	April	43 687	43 169	86 856
	May	44 894	44 284	89 178
	June	43 722	42 724	86 446
	July	43 484	42 717	86 201
	August	43 038	42 366	85 404
	September	46 165	45 100	91 265
	October	40 067	39 168	79 235
	November	38 059	37 540	75 599
	December	42 048	41 157	83 205
	<b>Total</b>	<b>516 891</b>	<b>507 634</b>	<b>1 024 525</b>

\* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2019.

**Appendix G.7: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2015–2017\***

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2015	January	45 139	44 051	89 190
	February	39 684	39 237	78 921
	March	45 077	44 325	89 402
	April	41 936	41 032	82 968
	May	41 678	41 534	83 212
	June	41 279	40 902	82 181
	July	40 641	40 170	80 811
	August	40 006	39 437	79 443
	September	42 598	41 828	84 426
	October	36 656	35 794	72 450
	November	35 754	35 112	70 866
	December	39 546	38 775	78 321
	<b>Total</b>	<b>489 994</b>	<b>482 197</b>	<b>972 191</b>
2016	January	39 451	38 135	77 586
	February	37 190	36 426	73 616
	March	41 369	40 331	81 700
	April	39 419	38 841	78 260
	May	39 789	39 409	79 198
	June	39 039	38 432	77 471
	July	37 744	37 457	75 201
	August	38 893	38 480	77 373
	September	39 703	38 774	78 477
	October	35 350	34 252	69 602
	November	34 899	34 072	68 971
	December	38 594	37 324	75 918
	<b>Total</b>	<b>461 440</b>	<b>451 933</b>	<b>913 373</b>
2017	January	39 227	38 331	77 558
	February	36 325	35 955	72 280
	March	41 884	41 255	83 139
	April	39 185	38 414	77 599
	May	40 162	39 358	79 520
	June	39 303	38 533	77 836
	July	39 128	38 708	77 836
	August	39 656	38 489	78 145
	September	40 633	39 890	80 523
	October	36 531	36 065	72 596
	November	36 305	35 283	71 588
	December	38 254	38 068	76 322
	<b>Total</b>	<b>466 593</b>	<b>458 349</b>	<b>924 942</b>

\* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2019.

**Appendix G.8: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2018\***

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2018	January	41 792	40 272	82 064
	February	37 208	36 555	73 763
	March	42 036	41 591	83 627
	April	39 753	38 856	78 609
	May	40 604	40 080	80 684
	June	39 455	38 839	78 294
	July	39 850	39 195	79 045
	August	40 834	39 993	80 827
	September	41 824	41 052	82 876
	October	38 202	37 419	75 621
	November	36 450	35 957	72 407
	December	39 407	38 303	77 710
	<b>Total</b>	<b>477 415</b>	<b>468 112</b>	<b>945 527</b>

\* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2019.

### Appendix H: Number distribution of 2018 top ten baby forenames and surnames by province of birth registration

Province of birth registration	Rank	Male				Female				Both sexes	
		First forename	Number	Second forename	Number	First forename	Number	Second forename	Number	Surname	Number
Western Cape	1	Liam	373	Junior	734	Melokuhle	317	Grace	303	Jacobs	891
	2	Enzokuhle	310	John	280	Enzokuhle	286	Rose	287	Williams	858
	3	Joshua	305	James	207	Othalive	266	Faith	280	Adams	786
	4	Noah	288	Joshua	193	Mia	260	Hope	227	Abrahams	681
	5	Othalive	256	Luke	175	Alunamda	242	Elizabeth	173	Davids	669
	6	Luke	235	Daniel	167	Leah	241	Angel	163	Hendricks	588
	7	Caleb	222	Liam	132	Iminathi	217	Joy	131	Van Wyk	491
	8	Kungawo	211	David	128	Ava	193	Jade	130	Petersen	469
	9	Alunamda	199	Noah	123	Faith	185	Lee	124	Smith	435
	10	Elijah	199	Matthew	118	Isabella	170	Mia	114	Daniels	420
Eastern Cape	1	Enzokuhle	763	Junior	459	Enzokuhle	735	Angel	151	Booi	261
	2	Alunamda	531	Alunamda	130	Alunamda	598	Precious	132	Williams	220
	3	Kungawo	492	Kungawo	120	Iminathi	586	Princess	119	Jacobs	219
	4	Othalive	429	Gift	114	Melokuhle	567	Enzokuhle	115	Klaas	190
	5	Melokuhle	405	Enzokuhle	110	Othalive	452	Alunamda	112	Dyantyi	180
	6	Likuwe	388	Likuwe	103	Likuwe	336	Khayone	109	Madikizela	157
	7	Lingomso	341	Lunje	102	Khayone	297	Iminathi	108	Smith	155
	8	Lubanzi	320	Othalive	102	Lingomso	294	Likuwe	103	Jack	152
	9	Iminathi	308	Lubanzi	99	Kungawo	287	Melokuhle	97	Peter	147
	10	Luphawu	292	Prince	86	Olothando	281	Othalive	87	Booyesen	143
Northern Cape	1	Lethabo	118	Junior	321	Reatlegile	84	Precious	137	Van Wyk	353
	2	Amogelang	65	Gift	59	Remofilwe	83	Faith	64	Louw	231
	3	Junior	64	Blessing	45	Rethabile	63	Princess	54	Jacobs	214
	4	Jayden	61	Daniel	44	Omolemo	60	Hope	52	Cloete	202
	5	Leano	61	Jayden	44	Onthatile	54	Grace	44	Olyn	146
	6	Bokamoso	53	Johannes	40	Rorisang	53	Elizabeth	37	Booyesen	125
	7	Katlego	52	John	38	Reneilwe	52	Angela	34	Beukes	122
	8	Ofentse	48	Innocent	35	Tshegofatso	50	Angel	33	Modise	122
	9	Lebogang	47	Prince	35	Warona	47	Blessing	30	Visagie	113
	10	Omaatla	47	William	31	Omaatla	46	Jasmine	29	Witbooi	105

**Appendix H: Number distribution of 2018 top ten baby forenames and surnames by province of birth registration (continued)**

Province of birth registration	Rank	Male				Female				Both sexes	
		First forename	Number	Second forename	Number	First forename	Number	Second forename	Number	Surname	Number
Free State	1	Lethabo	467	Junior	980	Amohelang	416	Precious	576	Mokoena	1 286
	2	Katleho	459	Blessing	365	Bokamoso	400	Princess	327	Mofokeng	1 258
	3	Amohelang	443	Prince	244	Rethabile	345	Blessing	324	Moloi	513
	4	Letlotlo	358	Innocent	241	Relebohile	334	Innocentia	123	Motaung	513
	5	Bokamoso	347	Gift	206	Omphile	332	Grace	114	Tshabalala	464
	6	Kamohelo	342	Lethabo	145	Bonolo	309	Portia	104	Radebe	396
	7	Bokang	325	Quinton	140	Oratilwe	302	Naledi	93	Mosia	285
	8	Lesedi	279	Letlotlo	120	Lethabo	286	Faith	90	Motloung	256
	9	Mpho	268	Vincent	120	Lesedi	284	Lesedi	89	Tsotetsi	239
	10	Siyabonga	254	Johannes	110	Naledi	263	Bokamoso	85	Nhlapo	230
KwaZulu-Natal	1	Enzokuhle	2 651	Lubanzi	1 417	Enzokuhle	2 293	Enzokuhle	1 186	Dlamini	4 666
	2	Lubanzi	2 006	Enzokuhle	1 310	Asemahle	1 246	Okuhle	939	Mkhize	3 368
	3	Melokuhle	1 395	Junior	1 007	Okuhle	1 231	Ziyanda	813	Khumalo	3 366
	4	Bandile	1 099	Bandile	826	Lisakhanya	1 062	Asemahle	805	Ndlovu	3 330
	5	Ayabonga	1 000	Bayanda	801	Emihle	1 013	Luthando	776	Gumede	3 113
	6	Bayanda	928	Melokuhle	787	Melokuhle	981	Emihle	716	Ngcobo	3 030
	7	Lethokuhle	922	Ayabonga	682	Esihle	970	Esihle	700	Mthembu	2 754
	8	Banele	861	Samkelo	570	Ziyanda	903	Amahle	695	Buthelezi	2 540
	9	Philasande	677	Okuhle	543	Luthando	900	Angel	626	Zulu	2 526
	10	Alwande	654	Banele	517	Aphelele	893	Aphelele	615	Sithole	2 202
North West	1	Lethabo	618	Junior	937	Onthatile	528	Precious	575	Molefe	558
	2	Amogelang	394	Blessing	383	Reatlegile	434	Princess	397	Modise	426
	3	Onthatile	390	Gift	374	Remofilwe	393	Blessing	326	Baloyi	289
	4	Bokamoso	368	Prince	274	Rethabile	391	Faith	150	Chauke	229
	5	Ofentse	366	Lethabo	187	Amogelang	374	Hope	147	Mahlangu	221
	6	Oratile	322	Innocent	146	Olerato	354	Warona	144	Sithole	209
	7	Katlego	315	Warona	118	Tshegofatso	346	Lethabo	130	Mogale	188
	8	Reatlegile	310	Bokamoso	113	Rorisang	308	Angel	129	Khumalo	181
	9	Omphile	304	Johannes	107	Omolemo	304	Onthatile	112	Moeng	179
	10	Kamogelo	298	Ofentse	93	Lethabo	299	Lesedi	95	Mokoena	173

**Appendix H: Number distribution of 2018 top ten baby forenames and surnames by province of birth registration (concluded)**

Province of birth registration	Rank	Male				Female				Both sexes	
		First forename	Number	Second forename	Number	First forename	Number	Second forename	Number	Surname	Number
Gauteng	1	Lethabo	986	Junior	2 208	Amahle	880	Precious	1 334	Nkosi	1 357
	2	Siyabonga	721	Blessing	1 184	Lethabo	814	Princess	1 242	Mokoena	1 307
	3	Bokamoso	666	Gift	989	Lesedi	799	Angel	751	Mahlangu	1 151
	4	Omphile	623	Prince	796	Naledi	619	Blessing	736	Khumalo	1 143
	5	Thato	606	Lethabo	395	Bokamoso	600	Faith	563	Sithole	1 115
	6	Lesedi	580	Siyabonga	373	Omphile	597	Hope	526	Ndlovu	1 062
	7	Ofentse	563	Njabulo	334	Karabo	588	Amahle	421	Dlamini	1 027
	8	Karabo	560	Johannes	299	Rethabile	572	Lesedi	370	Mofokeng	982
	9	Amogelang	540	Mpho	289	Amogelang	537	Grace	358	Baloyi	907
	10	Bokang	537	Quinton	288	Siphesihle	509	Elizabeth	333	Tshabalala	906
Mpumalanga	1	Blessing	428	Junior	939	Melokuhle	722	Princess	889	Nkosi	2 743
	2	Melokuhle	411	Blessing	866	Amahle	645	Angel	604	Mahlangu	1 525
	3	Siyabonga	390	Prince	593	Minenhle	470	Precious	550	Khoza	1 336
	4	Junior	386	Gift	464	Okuhle	384	Amahle	363	Mathebula	1 076
	5	Siphosethu	306	Innocent	379	Lethokuhle	378	Hope	308	Mnisi	908
	6	Lwandle	279	Quinton	332	Thandolwethu	350	Melokuhle	291	Ndlovu	836
	7	Lethokuhle	265	Brilliant	215	Siphesihle	284	Faith	285	Mokoena	771
	8	Nkosenhle	265	Siphosethu	203	Sphesihle	259	Minenhle	275	Shabangu	745
	9	Bandile	260	Siyabonga	201	Hlelokuhle	247	Pearl	228	Maseko	683
	10	Banele	253	Melokuhle	198	Angel	229	Thandolwethu	206	Ngwenya	670
Limpopo	1	Lethabo	657	Junior	2 229	Lethabo	667	Precious	1 429	Baloyi	1 556
	2	Katlego	605	Blessing	1 422	Amogelang	646	Blessing	1 086	Maluleke	1 325
	3	Ofentse	593	Gift	1 069	Tshegofatso	609	Angel	757	Chauke	1 275
	4	Amogelang	583	Prince	543	Ofentse	521	Faith	691	Ngobeni	1 063
	5	Phenyo	576	Innocent	381	Omphile	519	Princess	647	Malatji	967
	6	Mpho	572	Brilliant	278	Rethabile	505	Hope	626	Mathebula	832
	7	Kamogelo	554	Quinton	278	Karabo	457	Pretty	474	Mudau	782
	8	Tshegofatso	533	Emmanuel	273	Lesedi	432	Happiness	301	Mohlala	643
	9	Blessing	532	Johannes	257	Kamogelo	417	Pearl	295	Nkuna	600
	10	Karabo	523	Given	242	Katlego	367	Maria	288	Ndou	598

## 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 is 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 re-classified the offices of birth registration into district councils and metropolitan areas based on the 2016 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 the 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.

## General Information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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## Advance release calendar

An advance release calendar is disseminated on [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

## Stats SA products

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division  
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Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

## Electronic services

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Technical enquiries:	<a href="mailto:thabomol@statssa.gov.za">thabomol@statssa.gov.za</a>
Postal address:	Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

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