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Statistical release

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Preface

This statistical release presents information on recorded live births in South Africa, based on data from the national birth registration system maintained by the Department of Home Affairs. The main focus of this release is live birth occurrences and registrations for 2013. Reference is also made to live births between 1993 and 2012, in order to provide information on trends and patterns in the occurrence and registration of live births.



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Contents

Preface	ii
Key findings	1
1. Introduction	1
2. Data and methods.....	2
2.1 Data source.....	2
2.2 Assessment of the quality of data.....	2
2.3 Data analysis.....	3
3. Birth registrations	4
3.1 Trends in birth registration	4
3.2 Birth registrations by selected variables	6
4. Birth occurrences	11
4.1 Birth occurrences as at 31 December 2013.....	12
4.2 Birth occurrences as at 31 December 2014.....	16
5. Concluding remarks	19
References	20
Appendices	21
Appendix A: Notice of birth form (DHA-24) – page 1	21
Appendix B: Total birth registrations for 2013 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality	23
Appendix C: Birth registrations by registration status, sex, province and district municipality, 2013.....	25
Appendix D: Birth occurrences by year of birth and age of the mother, 2009–2013.....	27
Appendix E: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration and age of the mother, 2013	27
Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2009–2013	28
Appendix G: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1993–1995.....	30
Appendix G.1: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1996–1998.....	31
Appendix G.2: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1999–2001.....	32
Appendix G.3: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2002–2004.....	33
Appendix G.4: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2005–2007.....	34
Appendix G.5: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2008–2010.....	35
Appendix G.6: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2011–2013.....	36
Explanatory Notes	37

List of tables

Table 1: Distribution of birth registrations by the number of days it took to register the birth, 2013 3

Table 2: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1993–2013 5

Table 3: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2013..... 7

Table 4: Birth occurrences by year of birth and reference period, South Africa: 1993–2013 11

Table 5: Birth occurrences (as at end of December 2013) by year of birth occurrence and year of birth registration, South Africa: 1994–2013 13

Table 6: Number of births by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration, South Africa: 2013 14

Table 7: Number and percentage of births by age of the mother, South Africa: 2013..... 15

Table 8: Birth occurrences (as at 31 December 2014) by sex, year of birth and citizenship, South Africa: 1993–2013..... 17

List of figures

Figure 1: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1993–2013 4

Figure 2: Late birth registrations by year of birth, South Africa: 1981–2012 6

Figure 3: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2013..... 7

Figure 4: Birth registrations by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa: 2013 9

Figure 5: Sex ratios by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2013 10

Figure 6: Median age of the mother by year of birth, South Africa: 1998–2013..... 15

Figure 7: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2013 16

Figure 8: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences by year and month of birth, South Africa: 2009–2013..... 18

Key findings

1. Introduction

Civil registration of the occurrence and characteristics of births provides individuals with the basis for securing the right to legal identity; for proof of age and for establishing access to social and economic rights (WHO, 2014). The data on births are an essential component of the country's population growth rate and composition. Birth registration provides the necessary data required to inform effective planning for social and economic development; provide evidence needed to monitor development progress and advocate for policy change (UN, 2014). The data on births are invaluable for measuring demographic indicators such as total fertility rates and age-specific fertility rates, as well as for preparing population estimates and projections at national, provincial and district municipality levels (UN, 2014). In addition, births are useful as denominators for mortality indicators such as child mortality and maternal mortality.

The registration of births in South Africa falls under the mandate of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and is governed by the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1992 (Act No. 51 of 1992), which was last amended in 2010 as the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act, 2010 (Act No. 18 of 2010) (Republic of South Africa, 1992; Republic of South Africa, 2010). The DHA uses form DHA-24 to register children within 30 days of birth and form DHA-24/LRB (late registration of birth) for persons registered after 30 days of their birth date.

Late birth registration is divided into three categories: after 30 days but before one year, after one year but before 15 years, and 15 years and older (DHA, 2014). In terms of the Act where notice of birth is given after the expiration of 30 days, the birth shall only be registered if it complies with prescribed requirements for the late registration of the birth. For births registered within a year, form DHA-24 is still used but submitted with written reasons for not complying with the Act. For births registered after a year but before fifteen years, the requirements include an affidavit for late registration; a certificate from the hospital or maternity home where the child was born acknowledging that the birth took place in that facility; and a clinic card, baptismal certificate, letter from the first school attended by the child, school reports and social worker's report for abandoned children (DHA, 2014). Persons fifteen years and older, whose births have not been registered, must complete forms DHA-24, DHA-24/A x 2 and DHA-288 for the registration of their births. The forms need to be submitted along with affidavits by the parents or by a close relative at least ten years older than the child (where the parents are deceased), confirming the person's identity as well as the same documents required for births registered after one year but before fifteen years (DHA, 2014).

The main purpose of this release is to present information on the number of live births recorded on the South African birth register maintained by the DHA up to 31 December 2014. Live births from 1993 to 2012 are also included to show trends and patterns in the occurrence and registration of live births. The reporting of live births is divided into year of birth occurrence (the year in which the birth occurred) and year of birth registration (the year in which the birth was registered, regardless of when it occurred).

2. Data and methods

2.1 Data source

Recorded live births from the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) are the only source of data used in the production of this statistical release. For the recorded live births data used in 2012 and in previous releases, birth registrations were based on, for example, births registered in 2012 and captured in the birth registration system from January 2012 up to February 2013, resulting in a total of 14 files. This information was categorised into births registered within the year of occurrence, and births registered later than the year of occurrence. However, for the current (2013) statistical release, there have been changes in the programming of births. The recorded live births data files received have been reduced to five files with each file containing births registered in 2013 and captured up until 31 December 2013. The five data files include births registered within 30 days; births registered after 30 days but before 15 years; births registered from 15 years; births registered in health facilities; and births that occurred to South African citizens in foreign countries.

2.2 Assessment of the quality of data

Completeness of birth registration

The completeness of birth registration is an important determining factor of the usefulness of vital statistics obtained from the South African civil registration system – in particular the birth register. In addition, it is also essential as a measure of the functioning, efficiency and effectiveness of the DHA, which is mandated to maintain this birth register.

In the 2012 and previous releases, completeness of birth registration was based on the comparison of recorded live births from the civil registration system with the expected number of births estimated from the mid-year population estimates. The 2012 results showed an increase in the level of completeness of birth registration for births registered within the year of birth from 55,9% in 2003 to 85,0% in 2012. When taking into account late registrations, completeness of birth registration was estimated at 86,3% in 2003 and 89,2% in 2012. One limitation for using mid-year estimates is that the information on recorded live births from the civil registration system is used as an input in the estimation of the population of South Africa at mid-year. As such, for this release births from the population census will be used. Population censuses are affected by age misreporting, omissions, recall errors and coverage issues, which may hinder usage of the data without evaluating and adjusting for these errors. Indirect methods of estimation either first correct data for these errors before estimating completeness or take the most reliable parts of the data (UN, 1983).

Hill (2009) proposed a method based on the Brass (1964) P/F ratio method, to assess the level of completeness of birth registration when fertility has been declining as is the case in South Africa (Stats SA, 2010). This method proposes the use of the synthetic cohort P/F method as suggested by Zlotnik and Hill (1981) (*Check Zlotnik and Hill; 1981 for underlying assumptions*). The method is applicable if data on children ever born are available for two time periods. In this statistical release, this method is used to estimate completeness for the periods, 1996-2001, 2001-2007 and 2007-2011 corresponding to the three enumeration points for South Africa, namely; Census 1996, 2001 and 2011 and Community Survey (CS) 2007. The most important assumption for this method is that the census is complete and that any deficiency within the data is not systematic (Zlotnik and Hill, 1981). Overall completeness of birth registration for the intercensal period 1996–2001 was estimated at 68,7%, while for the period 2001–2007, the level of completeness was 84,8% and for the 2007–2011 period, it was estimated at 89,2%. Although Hill (2009) cautions against the use of information on the age distribution from two different types of data collection activity (for example, CS and Census), the results of estimation using census 2001 and 2011 yielded a completeness of 90,6%; which is not too far from that obtained from CS/Census.

Timeliness of birth registration

Timeliness of birth registration refers to the number of days and years it took to register a birth after its occurrence. The Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act (Act No. 18 of 2010) stipulates that a birth must be registered within 30 days from the date of birth occurrence (Republic of South Africa, 2010). Table 1 shows the number of days and years it took for births registered in 2013 to be registered from the date of birth occurrence.

Of the total births registered in 2013, 55,1% were registered in line with the Amendment Act during the first 30 completed days of life, whilst 29,7% were registered after 30 days but before one year. These percentages translate to 84,8% births registered before the expiration of one year from date of birth. About 9,2% of the 2013 total birth registrations were for persons aged 1–14 years, and 5,9% were for persons aged 15 years and older.

Table 1: Distribution of birth registrations by the number of days it took to register the birth, 2013

Number of days/years	Number of birth registrations	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
0–30 days*	642 869	55,1	55,1
31–364 days	346 710	29,7	84,8
1–14 years	107 836	9,2	94,1
15 years and older	69 139	5,9	100,0
Total	1 166 554	100,0	

*Excludes births that occurred in December 2013 and were registered in 2014 which were within 0–30 days

2.3 Data analysis

Descriptive analyses were used in this release. Analysis was based on registered births and birth occurrences. Frequency tables, cross-tabulation and median ages at birth were calculated.

The demographic indicators considered in the analysis include age, sex and provincial distribution. Additional information on months of birth occurrence and citizenship status is provided.

3. Birth registrations

3.1 Trends in birth registration

Total birth registrations are all births registered at the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) during a specific year, irrespective of when they occurred. Accordingly, the total number of birth registrations consists of both current registrations (live births registered in the year in which they occurred) and late registrations (live births registered later than the year of birth).

Figure 1 and Table 2 provide information on birth registrations for the period 1993 to 2013, classified by status of registration to show trends and patterns in birth registrations. In 2013, 1 166 554 births were registered, representing a slight decline of 0,2% from 2012, when 1 168 403 births were registered.

Figure 1 shows the absolute distribution of birth registrations by status of registration. Three patterns can be deduced from the total number of registrations. The first pattern shows increases from 1993 to 2003 where birth registrations reached their peak. During this period, the total number of birth registrations increased from 557 995 to 1 677 415. The second pattern shows a decline in total registrations between 2004 and 2007, from 1 475 809 to 1 199 712. The third pattern is not as distinct and precise, because it is characterised by fluctuations in the total counts of live births registered since 2008.

Figure 1: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1993–2013

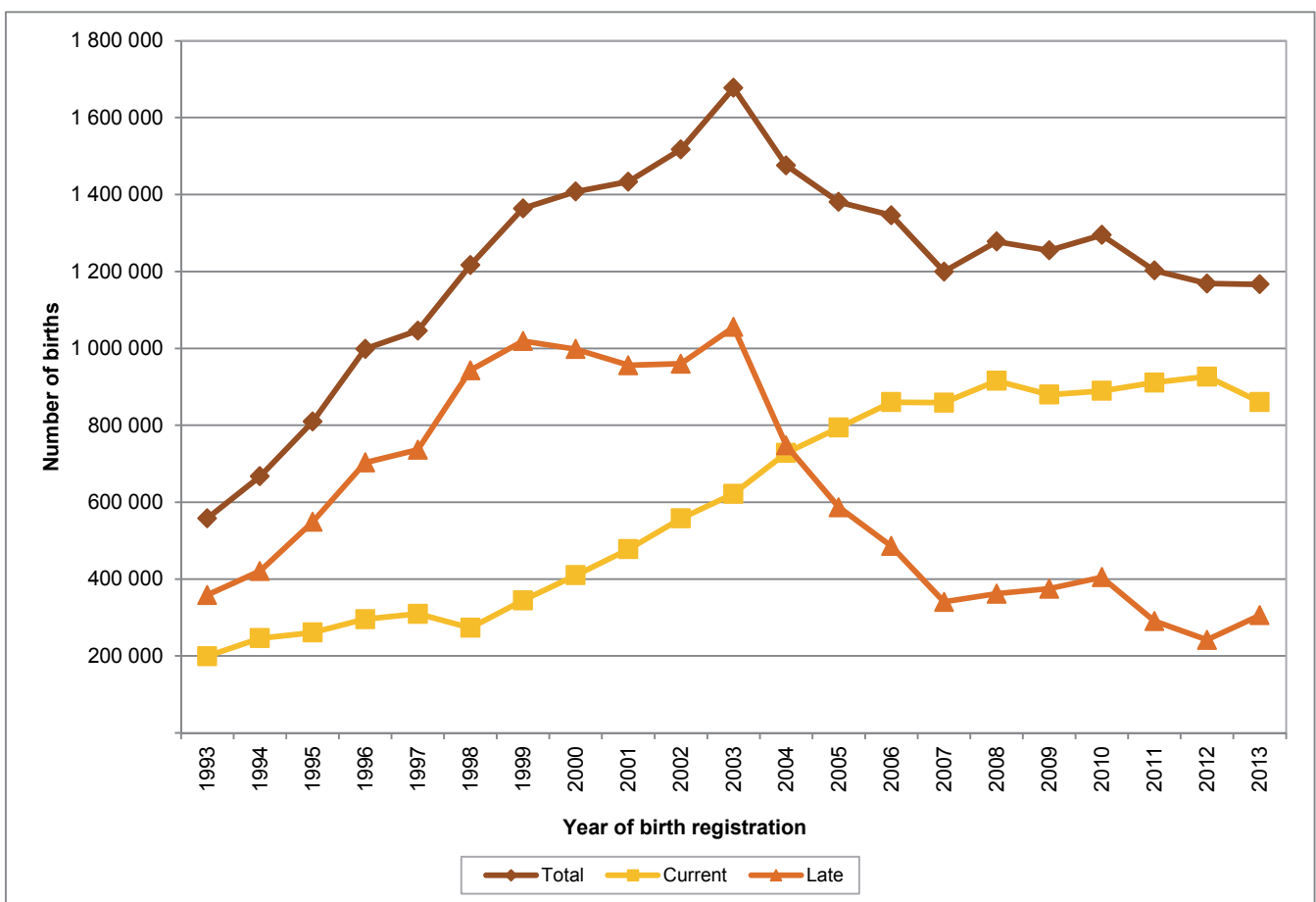


Table 2 shows that from 1993 to 1998, the proportion of late registrations was consistently higher than current registrations and increased yearly, reaching a peak in 1998 where late registrations accounted for 77,5% of all birth registrations. The percentage of late registrations then decreased between 1999 and 2004, although the late registrations were still higher than current registrations. The reverse of this pattern was observed from 2005 to 2013, where late registrations were consistently below half of the birth registrations, indicating that births were now

registered during the year of birth rather than later. Of the births registered in 2013, 73,8% were current registrations and 26,2% were late registrations.

Table 2: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1993–2013

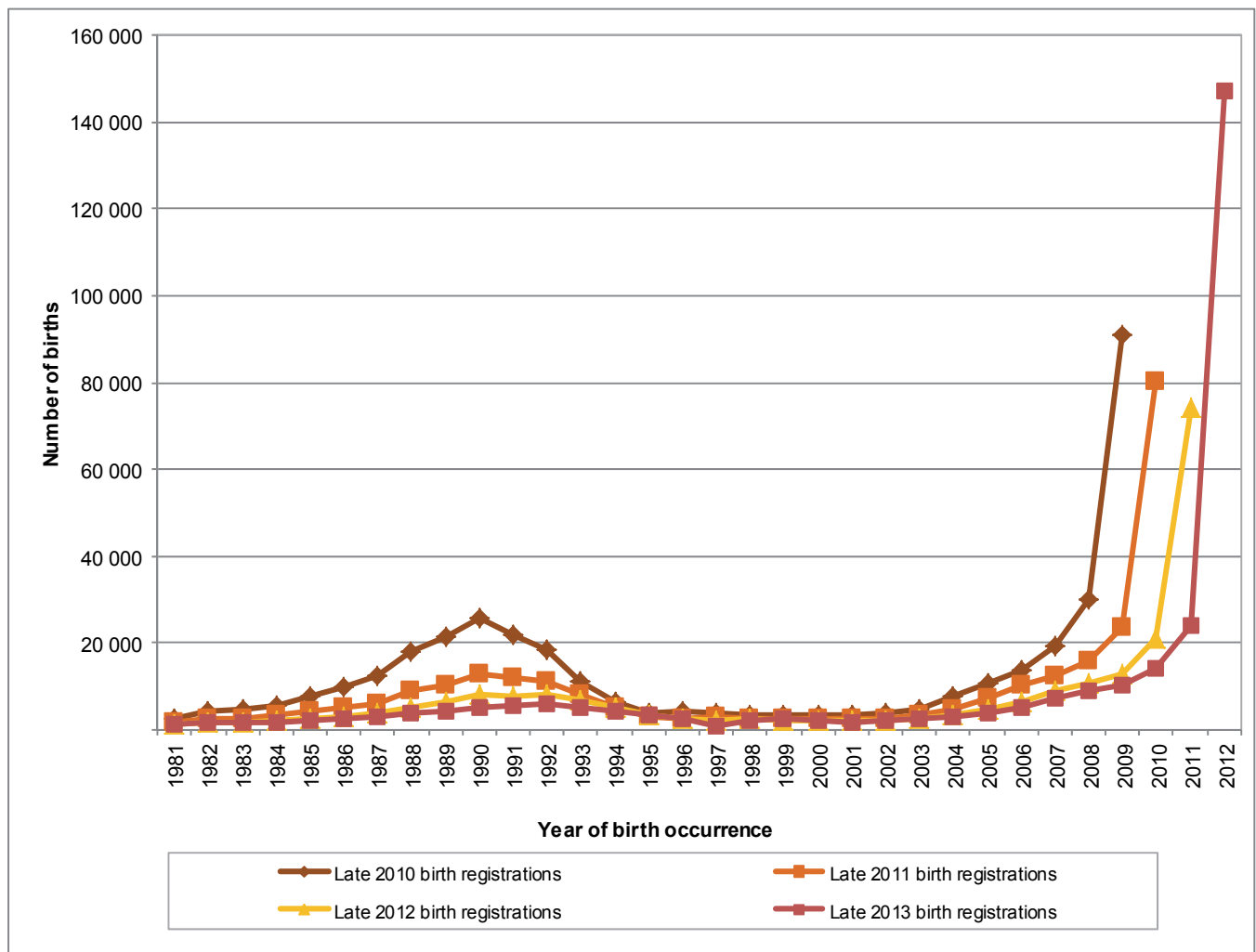
Year of registration	Number of birth registrations			Percentage		
	Total	Current	Late	Total	Current	Late
1993	557 995	199 460	358 535	100,0	35,7	64,3
1994	667 107	246 345	420 762	100,0	36,9	63,1
1995	809 439	260 880	548 559	100,0	32,2	67,8
1996	998 798	295 719	703 079	100,0	29,6	70,4
1997	1 046 095	309 723	736 372	100,0	29,6	70,4
1998	1 216 337	273 180	943 157	100,0	22,5	77,5
1999	1 363 800	344 700	1 019 100	100,0	25,3	74,7
2000	1 407 833	409 707	998 126	100,0	29,1	70,9
2001	1 433 432	477 489	955 943	100,0	33,3	66,7
2002	1 517 671	557 573	960 098	100,0	36,7	63,3
2003	1 677 415	621 887	1 055 528	100,0	37,1	62,9
2004	1 475 809	728 283	747 526	100,0	49,3	50,7
2005	1 380 496	793 788	586 708	100,0	57,5	42,5
2006	1 346 119	860 263	485 856	100,0	63,9	36,1
2007	1 199 712	858 866	340 846	100,0	71,6	28,4
2008	1 277 763	915 674	362 089	100,0	71,7	28,3
2009	1 254 707	879 707	375 000	100,0	70,1	29,9
2010	1 294 694	889 691	405 003	100,0	68,7	31,3
2011	1 202 377	911 353	291 024	100,0	75,8	24,2
2012	1 168 403	926 726	241 677	100,0	79,3	20,7
2013	1 166 554	860 393	306 161	100,0	73,8	26,2

Figure 2 presents the overall number of late registrations registered in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 for the period 1981 to 2012 to show trends of late registrations in the country. In general, the figure shows that most late registrations were highest in the year prior to the year of reporting. For instance, in 2013, 50% of late registrations were for births that occurred in 2012, while approximately 32% of the late registrations in 2012 were for births that occurred in 2011.

On the one hand, the results show a steady reduction in late registrations in the year preceding the reporting year between 2010 and 2012. On the other hand, the most striking feature of the graph is the spike in 2013 of late registrations for births that occurred in 2012. This may be indicative of the amendment and enforcement of the birth registration law that now requires births to be registered within 30 days of occurrence, coupled with the establishment and resulting accessibility of DHA birth registration offices within health facilities with maternity wards. In addition, the demand for birth registration has been made more pressing by the social grant system that makes it mandatory for the child to be registered prior to being a grant recipient.

Figure 2 also shows that there were virtually no marked differences in late registrations across the four time periods for births that occurred prior to 1985 and those that occurred between 1994 and 2003. It is also observed that variations in late registrations were more noticeable for the period 1986 to 1992 and between 2006 and 2012.

Figure 2: Late birth registrations by year of birth, South Africa: 1981–2012



3.2 Birth registrations by selected variables

Age of the mother

The tabulation of births by age of the mother is useful for the study of fertility and its differentials, and is essential as part of an information system for planning and policy development. Only information relating to the mothers will be reported on in this section. The notice of birth form (DHA-24) makes provision for the inclusion of the details of both the biological father and mother of a child. However, as has been the case in the previous years, a high proportion of births did not contain information on fathers. Notwithstanding this, it is worth noting that the proportions of total birth registrations with no information on fathers have been decreasing slightly in the past three years (65,1% in 2013; 66,6% in 2012 and 67,5% in 2011).

The number and percentage distribution of 2013 registered births by age of mother and status of registration are presented in Table 3 and Figure 3. In general, most of the births to mothers aged 15–19 up to 40–44 were registered within the year of birth occurrence, while most of the births occurring to older women (aged 45 and above) were registered late. The highest proportion of births registered within the year of occurrence were among women aged between 20 and 34, where women aged 30–34 had the highest percentage (82,4%), followed by women aged 25–29 and 20–24 (82,1% and 79,5%, respectively).

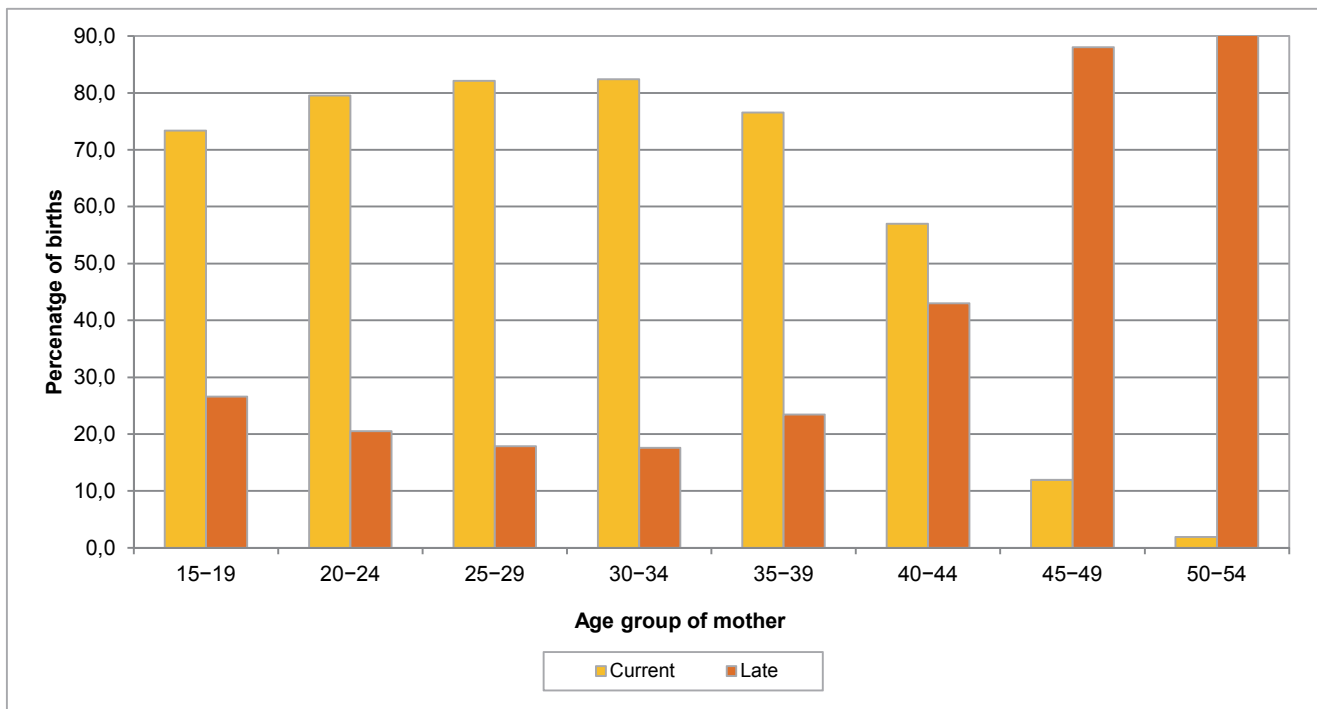
In 2013, there was a decrease in the proportions of current registrations from age group 40–44 up to 50–54. For example, in the age group 40–44, current registration declined from 77,3% in 2012 to 57,0% in 2013. Amongst age

group 45–49, the decline was from 49,3% to 11,9% (2012 and 2013, respectively). Lastly, women aged 50–54 had the lowest percentage of births registered in the current year (1,9%), which is a decline from 15,8% in 2012. It is not clear why there was such a pronounced decline in current birth registration in these three reproductive age groups. However, what is evident in the 2013 data is that these three groups had increases in the total number of birth registrations as compared to women below 40 years, and the majority of these births were registered late. Similarly, there was a significant increase of birth registrations in the unspecified category, of which late registrations were highest.

Table 3: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2013

Age of mother	Number of birth registrations			Percentage		
	Total	Current	Late	Total	Current	Late
15–19	160 513	117 824	42 689	100,0	73,4	26,6
20–24	293 433	233 323	60 110	100,0	79,5	20,5
25–29	270 152	221 868	48 284	100,0	82,1	17,9
30–34	198 335	163 500	34 835	100,0	82,4	17,6
35–39	114 218	87 448	26 770	100,0	76,6	23,4
40–44	45 196	25 757	19 439	100,0	57,0	43,0
45–49	15 331	1 828	13 503	100,0	11,9	88,1
50–54	10 826	207	10 619	100,0	1,9	98,1
Unspecified/outside the 15–54 age range	58 550	8 638	49 912	100,0	14,8	85,2
Total	1 166 554	860 393	306 161	100,0	73,8	26,2

Figure 3: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2013*



*Excluding 13 251 births whose mothers' ages were not stated or were outside the age range of 15–54 years.

Province of birth registration

In previous releases, reporting on province was based on province of birth occurrence for births registered before age 15 and province of birth registration for birth registrations for persons 15 years and older. However, in this release, reporting is based only on province of birth registration, whilst for persons 15 years and older, the majority of registrations are allocated to the City of Tshwane, which is where late registrations from 15 years are centralised for processing. In 2013, the office of registration and province of birth registration were provided in the dataset from the DHA. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) then derived the magisterial district of birth registration based on the 2011 municipal boundaries.

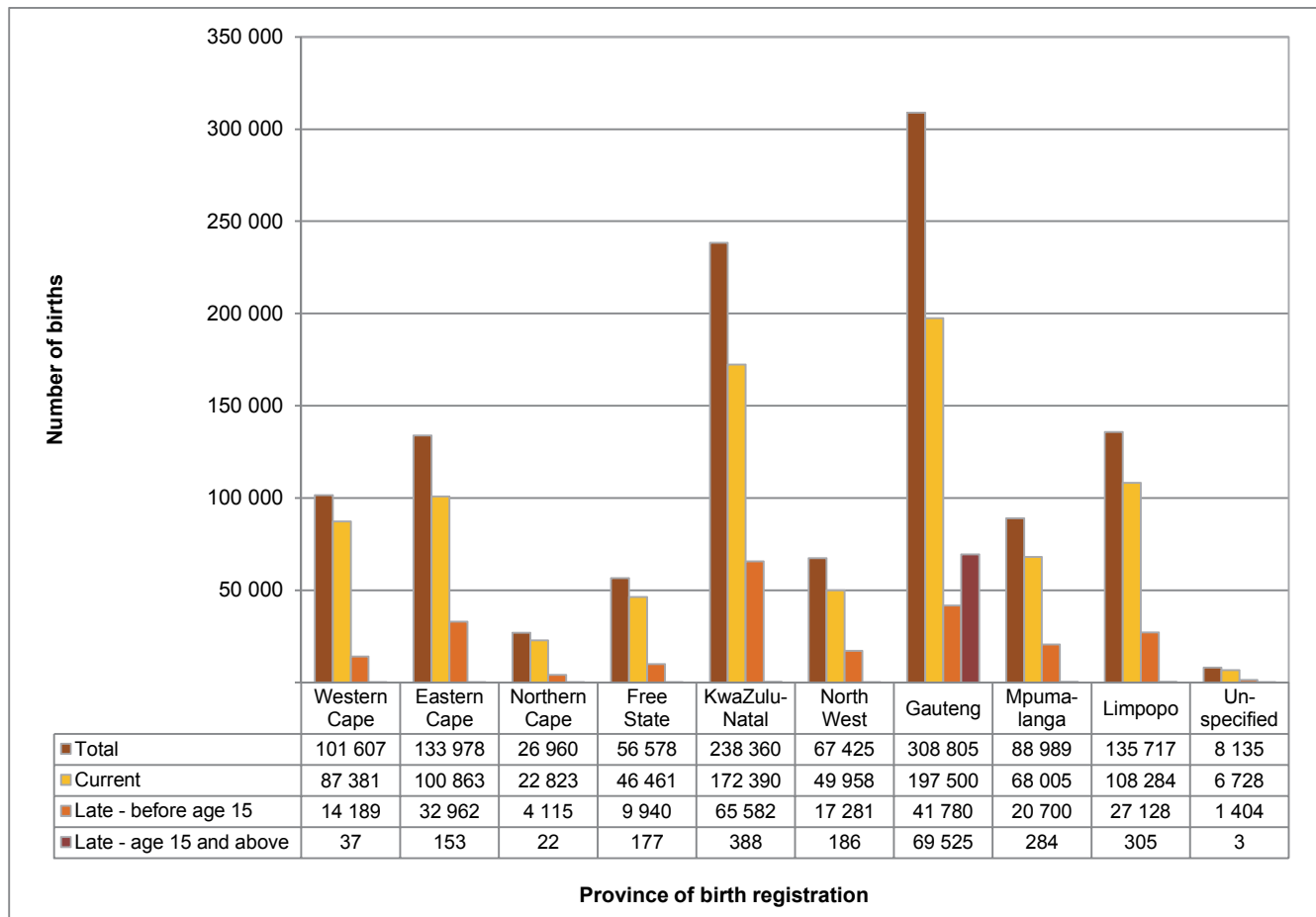
Figure 4 shows the number of all births registered in 2013 by province of registration and registration status. The analysis takes into account births registered before 15 years of age subdivided into current registrations (births registered before one year of birth occurrence) and late registrations (births registered after one year but before 15 years), as well as late registrations for births registered from 15 years of age.

Of the 1 166 554 births registered in 2013, the highest proportion of registrations occurred in Gauteng (26,5%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (20,4%) and Limpopo (11,6%). Northern Cape accounted for the lowest proportion of birth registrations (2,3%). There were more current registrations than late registrations in all provinces. Although Gauteng had the highest number of current registrations, the province had the lowest percentage (64,0%) of current birth registrations as compared to other provinces, and Western Cape had the highest proportion (86,0%) of current birth registrations.

Gauteng also had the highest percentage of late birth registrations relative to other provinces. The disproportionate allocation of late registrations to Gauteng province is reflective of the processing of late registrations after age 15 at the Department of Home Affairs head offices situated in City of Tshwane, Gauteng. The province recorded 22,5% of late registrations from persons 15 and above in 2013, thus contributing 97,8% of the 71 080 late birth registrations amongst persons registered from 15 years.

The results of further analysis of the 2013 total birth registrations by year of birth occurrence and status of registration, province and district municipality are provided in Appendix B. In particular, the appendix shows late registrations in 2013 categorised by year of birth for births that occurred from 2009 to 2012, and combined totals for earlier years. Out of the total registrations in 2013, the highest number of births were registered in the City of Tshwane (148 641), the City of eThekweni (76 102) and the City of Johannesburg (71 769). Births registered late were most prevalent in the City of Tshwane (84 161) whereas the City of eThekweni and the City of Johannesburg had lower numbers of late registrations (17 703 and 11 323, respectively).

Figure 4: Birth registrations by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa: 2013



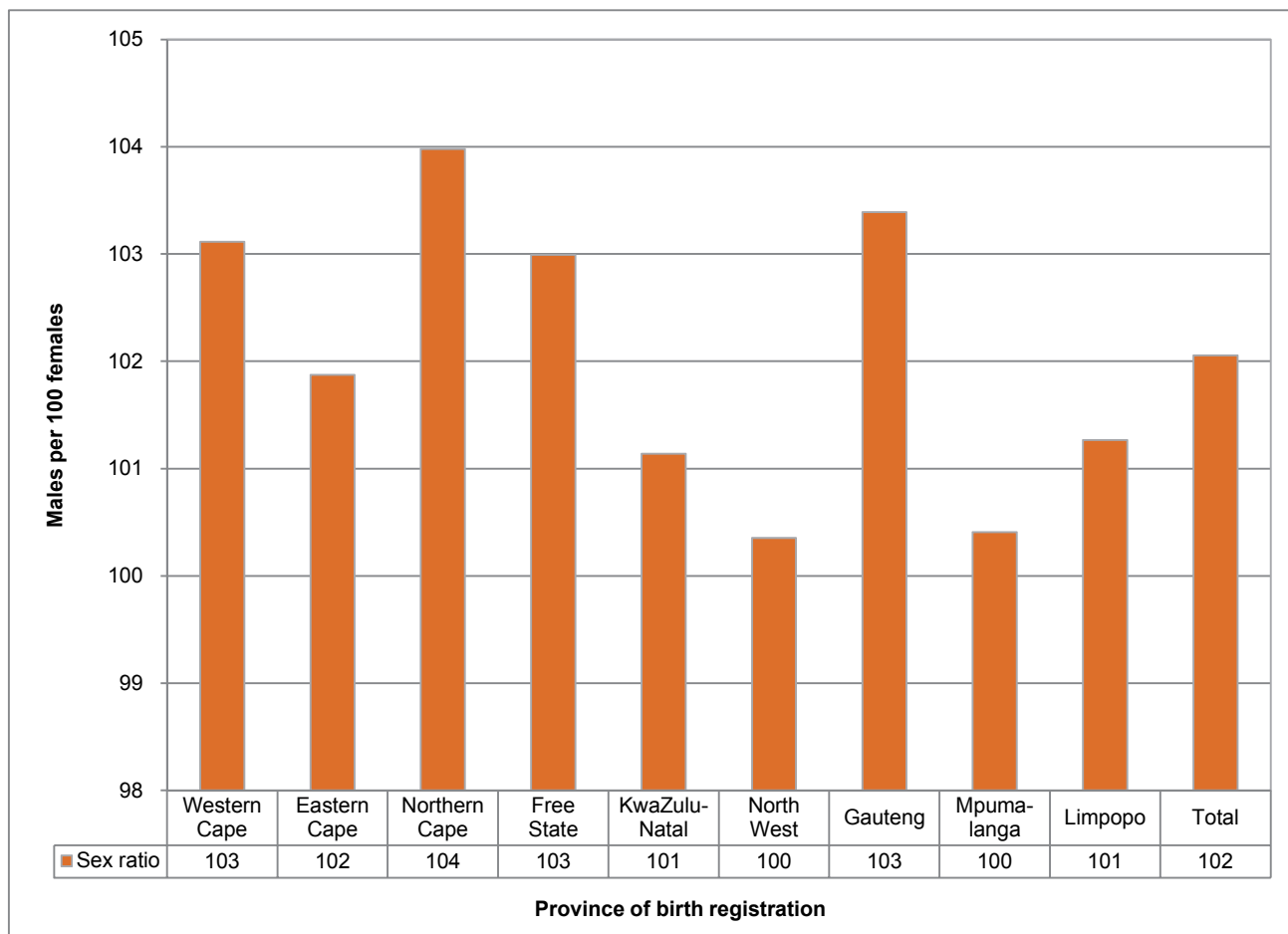
Sex of the child

The sex ratio of birth registration denotes the number of male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations. A ratio of 100 indicates an equal number of male and female birth registrations, a number less than 100 indicates relatively more female birth registrations, and a number more than 100 indicates relatively more male birth registrations.

Figure 5 shows the number of male birth registrations as compared to female birth registrations. In 2013, there were more birth registrations for males, with a sex ratio of 102 male birth registrations per 100 female births registered. Northern Cape had the highest sex ratio of 104 male births registered per 100 female births registered, compared to the other provinces. The lowest sex ratios were observed in North West and Mpumalanga, where equal numbers of male and female births were registered (100 male births per 100 female births). All other provinces had sex ratios between 101 and 103 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations.

Detailed information on total registrations by sex, status of registration, province and district municipality is provided in Appendix C.

Figure 5: Sex ratios by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2013



4. Birth occurrences

Birth occurrences refer to all births that occur within a specific year and are registered at the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). They pertain to the year in which the birth actually occurred. Information on birth occurrences varies each time data are extracted from the Birth Register. This is because each time a birth for a particular year is registered; birth occurrences for that year are updated continuously to include those births that have been registered late.

This section reports on birth occurrences based on year of birth data captured in the birth registration system up to 31 December 2013. The section also covers birth occurrences extracted from the National Population Register (NPR) on 31 December 2014. The former information is received from the DHA in electronic format, while the latter is received as a print-out from the same department.

Total birth occurrences for the period 1993 to 2013 based on the two time periods are presented in Table 4. The table shows that by 31 December 2013, 860 393 births that occurred in 2013 had been registered. These increased to 991 044 by 31 December 2014, representing an update of the birth register by 130 651 births (15,2% increase) between the two time periods.

As expected, birth occurrences increased for each year between the two time periods for births occurring from 1993 to 2011 as well as for 2013 birth occurrences. The highest number of birth occurrences was recorded in 2008 for both time periods, while the lowest was recorded in 2013. The results also show a decrease in total birth occurrences between 2012 and 2013. In comparison to 2012, as at 31 December 2013, there were 213 493 less births in 2013, and as of 31 December 2014, there were 23 154 fewer births in 2013. An unexpected feature of the table is the reduction of 2012 birth occurrences between these two time periods, decreasing from 1 073 886 births as at 31 December 2013 to 1 014 198 births as at 31 December 2014. This anomaly needs to be interpreted with caution and could not be resolved by the time of publication.

Table 4: Birth occurrences by year of birth and reference period, South Africa: 1993–2013

Year of birth occurrence	Birth occurrences (as at Dec. 2013)	Updated birth occurrences (as at 31 Dec. 2014)
1993	952 028	975 548
1994	933 460	982 617
1995	927 484	953 027
1996	969 512	978 815
1997	961 030	963 302
1998	903 333	946 965
1999	933 105	963 323
2000	930 952	974 654
2001	925 579	957 556
2002	913 784	967 842
2003	921 341	962 124
2004	1 008 778	1 018 677
2005	1 054 873	1 060 222
2006	1 082 424	1 089 203
2007	1 067 656	1 074 915
2008	1 083 674	1 097 468
2009	1 017 747	1 043 732
2010	1 004 838	1 013 478
2011	1 009 729	1 018 660
2012	1 073 886	1 014 198
2013	860 393	991 044

4.1 Birth occurrences as at 31 December 2013

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. Table 5 shows the number of births that occurred between 1994 and 2013 by year of birth occurrence and year of registration. 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 31 December 2013. The 'Total' row shows the updated number of births registered up to 31 December 2013.

The table shows that the pattern of birth occurrences in the 20-year period has not been consistent, with an average of 980 700 births occurring per year. This average increases yearly, due to the updating of the birth register with late registrations, as well as birth registrations for the current year.

The number of births that were registered within the year of occurrence increased yearly between 1994 and 1997, after which it declined in 1998. Again, an upward trend was observed from 1999 and 2006, then there were fluctuations until 2009. Yearly increases were observed again between 2010 and 2012. Of the births that occurred in 2013, 860 393 were registered by the end of the year.

The table further shows that from 1995, the highest number of late registrations were 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 indicated that the completeness of birth records from 1993 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 5: Birth occurrences (as at end of December 2013) by year of birth occurrence and year of birth registration, South Africa: 1994–2013

Year of birth registration	Year of birth occurrence																				
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
1994	246 345																				
1995	73 336	260 880																			
1996	51 748	89 566	295 719																		
1997	50 627	54 198	93 807	309 723																	
1998	61 919	59 942	70 261	105 766	273 180																
1999	84 563	80 362	92 276	104 453	146 055	344 700															
2000	58 170	78 122	92 269	102 179	114 781	178 516	409 707														
2001	43 932	65 682	79 095	87 285	96 809	116 374	192 410	477 489													
2002	34 679	36 685	58 125	73 665	86 859	98 553	118 600	218 256	557 573												
2003	63 494	73 845	69 465	68 289	69 795	72 533	77 256	94 588	194 204	621 887											
2004	58 549	44 477	41 014	38 700	41 372	42 511	43 503	48 197	63 234	165 662	728 283										
2005	36 883	28 386	25 341	23 240	23 162	24 996	24 807	23 798	27 701	43 404	150 546	793 788									
2006	20 002	18 034	18 217	17 623	19 518	21 911	26 516	24 057	26 042	34 601	54 941	154 331	860 263								
2007	10 178	9 472	9 309	9 227	9 897	10 969	14 158	15 200	16 766	20 009	26 769	42 569	126 358	858 866							
2008	11 767	7 955	7 105	6 548	6 691	6 927	8 327	8 722	11 378	14 085	17 869	23 732	40 554	128 336	915 674						
2009	6 024	6 204	5 406	4 489	4 317	4 609	5 128	5 072	6 053	8 322	11 793	14 208	19 510	31 885	101 743	879 707					
2010	6 389	3 913	4 495	3 790	3 483	3 340	3 450	3 535	3 844	4 852	7 623	10 566	13 736	19 323	30 164	91 064	889 691				
2011	5 148	2 991	2 576	2 879	2 624	2 517	2 604	2 632	2 743	3 457	4 763	7 298	10 111	12 628	16 091	23 665	80 079	911 353			
2012	5 346	3 493	2 532	2 151	2 654	2 240	2 310	2 139	2 259	2 644	3 301	4 578	6 599	9 104	10 776	13 065	21 005	74 374	926 726		
2013	4 361	3 277	2 500	1 023	2 136	2 409	2 176	1 894	1 987	2 418	2 890	3 803	5 293	7 514	9 226	10 246	14 063	24 002	147 160	860 393	
TOTAL	933 460	927 484	969 512	961 030	903 333	933 105	930 952	925 579	913 784	921 341	1 008 778	1 054 873	1 082 424	1 067 656	1 083 674	1 017 747	1 004 838	1 009 729	1 073 886	860 393	860 393

The Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act, 2010 (Act No. 18 of 2010) requires births to be registered within 30 days from the date of birth. The functioning of the civil registration system cannot be effectively evaluated without information on the date of birth occurrence and date of birth registration. As such, the tabulation of month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration can be used to measure the effectiveness of the legislation. The distribution of births that occurred in 2013 classified by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration is given in Table 6. The table indicates that May had the highest number of births (35 116) registered in the same month of birth occurrence. December had the lowest number of births occurring and being registered during that month (27 195).

Table 6: Number of births by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration, South Africa: 2013

Month of birth registration	Month of birth occurrence												Total
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
January	34 950												34 950
February	27 860	29 669											57 529
March	9 109	25 948	29 533										64 590
April	4 895	8 943	33 400	32 872									80 110
May	2 683	4 222	10 149	28 638	35 116								80 808
June	1 579	2 051	4 293	7 936	25 945	28 729							70 533
July	1 387	1 733	3 091	4 831	9 933	32 169	35 086						88 230
August	867	1 057	1 721	2 339	4 207	8 286	27 367	34 058					79 902
September	677	781	1 175	1 529	2 321	4 074	8 524	28 441	33 982				81 504
October	620	697	1 015	1 156	1 662	2 572	4 299	9 461	31 891	34 068			87 441
November	435	458	632	751	986	1 396	1 980	3 497	7 856	24 082	31 114		73 187
December	262	272	372	406	486	723	876	1 483	2 936	5 275	21 323	27 195	61 609
Total	85 324	75 831	85 381	80 458	80 656	77 949	78 132	76 940	76 665	63 425	52 437	27 195	860 393

Age of the mother for births occurring in 2013

Table 7 shows the number and percentage distribution of births occurring in 2013 by age of the mother. The highest percentage of births occurred among women aged 20–24 (27,1%), closely followed by women aged 25–29 (25,8%) and then age group 30–34 (19,0%). Taken together, these age groups (20–34) accounted for 71,9% of the births that occurred and were registered in 2013. About 13,7% of births occurred to women aged 15–19. The smallest number and percentage of births occurred amongst older women in the 40–54 age range, with a cumulative total of 27 792 birth occurrences in 2013 and a negligible percentage of 3,2%.

Additional information on the number of births by age of the mother in the past five years (2009–2013) is presented in Appendix D.

Table 7: Number and percentage of births by age of the mother, South Africa: 2013

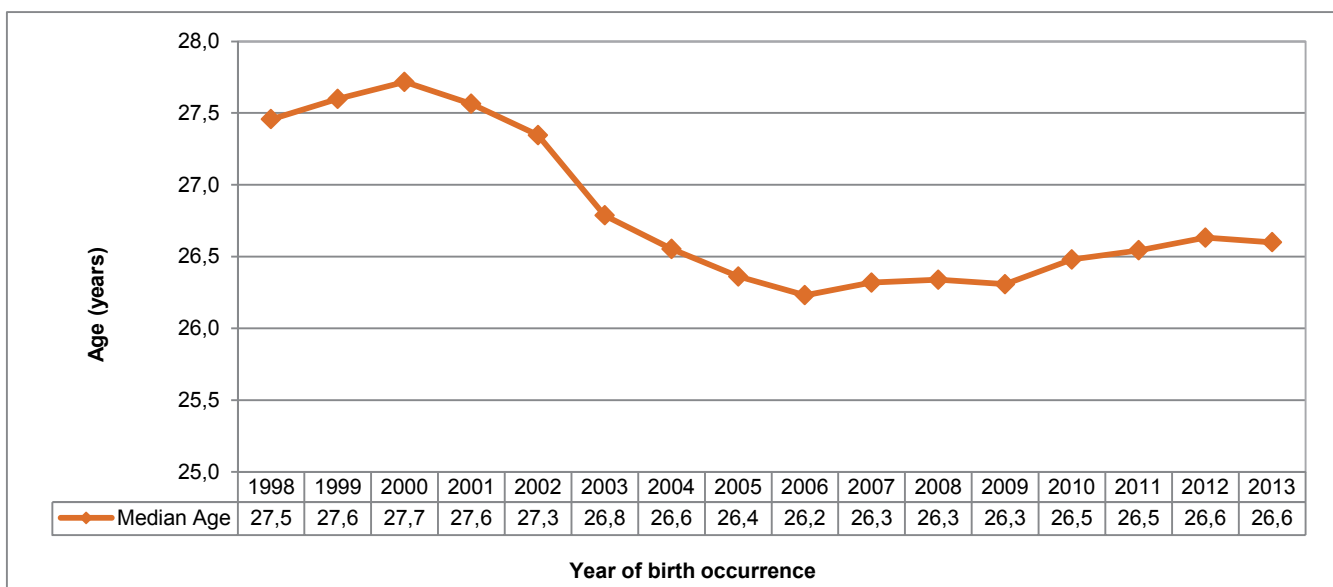
Age of the mother	Number of birth occurrences	Percentage
15–19	117 824	13,7
20–24	233 323	27,1
25–29	221 868	25,8
30–34	163 500	19,0
35–39	87 448	10,2
40–44	25 757	3,0
45–49	1 828	0,2
50–54	207	0,0
Unspecified/outside the 15–54 age range	8 638	1,0
Total	860 393	100,0

Median age of the mother from 1998 to 2013

Median age of mothers is the age that divides the mothers of children born in a specific year regardless of when they were registered into two equal groups; that is, exactly half of the mothers are younger at this age, while the other half are older than this age group. The median age specifies how early or late child bearing occurs in a population. An analysis of median ages of mothers can reveal changes in patterns of birth occurrences over time.

Figure 6 presents the median age of mothers for births occurring between 1998 and 2013 (updated with late registrations). The results show that the median age fluctuated between 26 and 28 years over the 16-year period. There was a consistent increase between 1998 and 2000, where the median age increased from 27,5 years to 27,7 years, which was the highest median age over the period of observation. Between 2001 and 2006, there was a consistent decline from 27,6 years to 26,2 years, after that the median age remained more or less similar between 2008 and 2009. The median age increased slightly in 2010 (26,5 years), but remained the same in 2011, 2012 and 2013, stabilising around 26,6 years.

Figure 6: Median age of the mother by year of birth, South Africa: 1998–2013



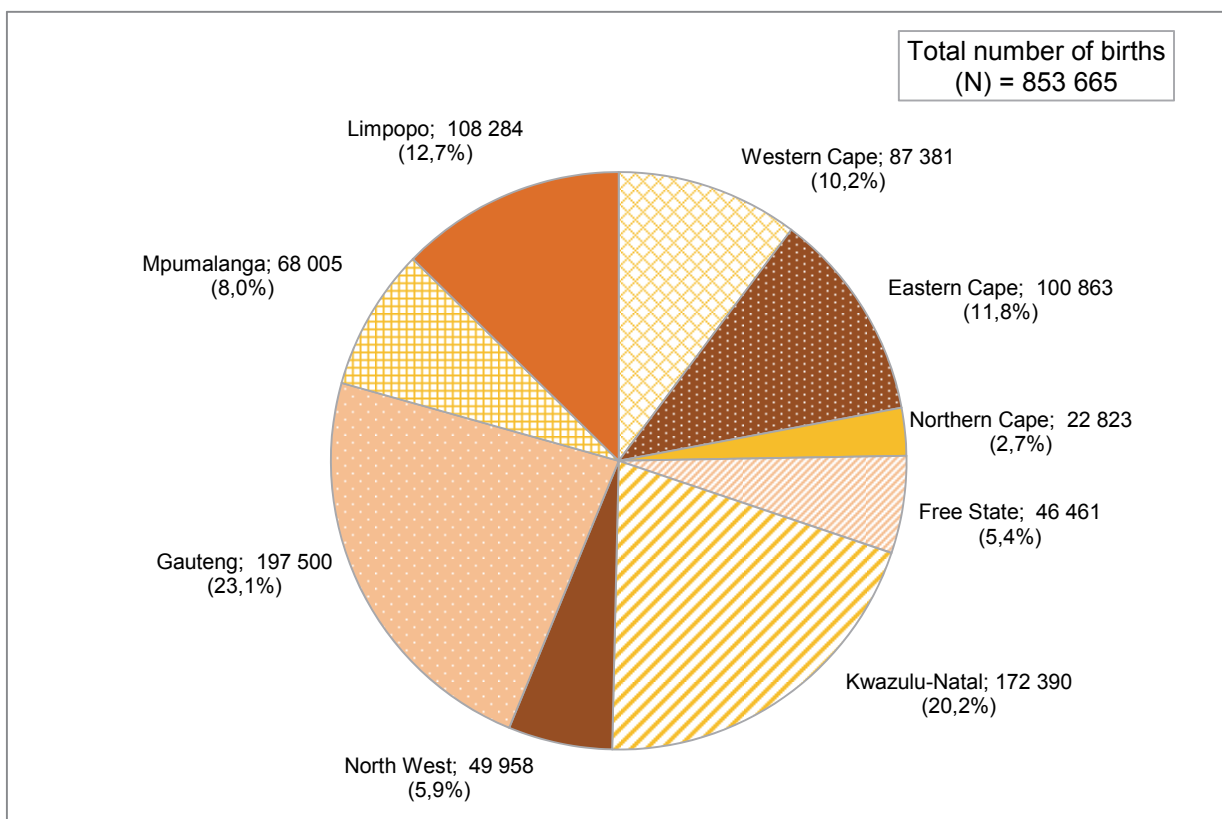
Provincial distribution of births in 2013

The distribution of births in 2013 (categorised by province of birth registration) is presented in Figure 7. The highest percentage of births were registered in Gauteng (23,1%) and KwaZulu-Natal (20,2%). The lowest proportion of births that occurred in 2013 were registered in Northern Cape (2,7%) and Free State (5,4%).

Further information on birth occurrences by province and age of mother is provided in Appendix E. It shows that KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of births amongst women aged 15–24 and 45–54, while Gauteng had the highest number of births amongst women in the other age categories (ages 25–44).

Further details on birth occurrences by province and district municipality for the period 2009 to 2013 are provided in Appendix F. The results show that KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of birth occurrences from 2009 to 2012, but in 2013, Gauteng had higher numbers. In terms of district municipalities, City of Cape Town had the highest number of births between 2009 and 2012 and City of Tshwane recorded the highest number in 2013.

Figure 7: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2013*



*Excluding 6 728 births with unspecified province

4.2 Birth occurrences as at 31 December 2014

Table 8 indicates that over 21 million births occurred in South Africa between 1993 and 2013, with an average of about 1 0022 56 births per year over the 21-year period. The number of birth occurrences fluctuated between 946 000 and around one million (per year) over the period 1993–2013, with the highest number occurring in 2008 and the lowest in 1998.

Note: Previous releases have shown the distribution of birth occurrence by citizenship. However, this analysis has been excluded in the 2013 release because of the drastic decline in the number of births for non-South African

citizens over the years. This peculiarity could not be resolved with the Department of Home Affairs by the time of publication.

Sex of the child

The distribution of total birth occurrences for the period 1993 to 2013 by sex is provided in Table 8. The table indicates that there were slightly more male births between 1993 and 2013 than female births. The sex ratios ranged between 100 and 102 male births per 100 female birth occurrences. Since 2010, sex ratios have been at 102 male births per 100 female births.

Table 8: Birth occurrences (as at 31 December 2014) by sex and year of birth, South Africa: 1993–2013

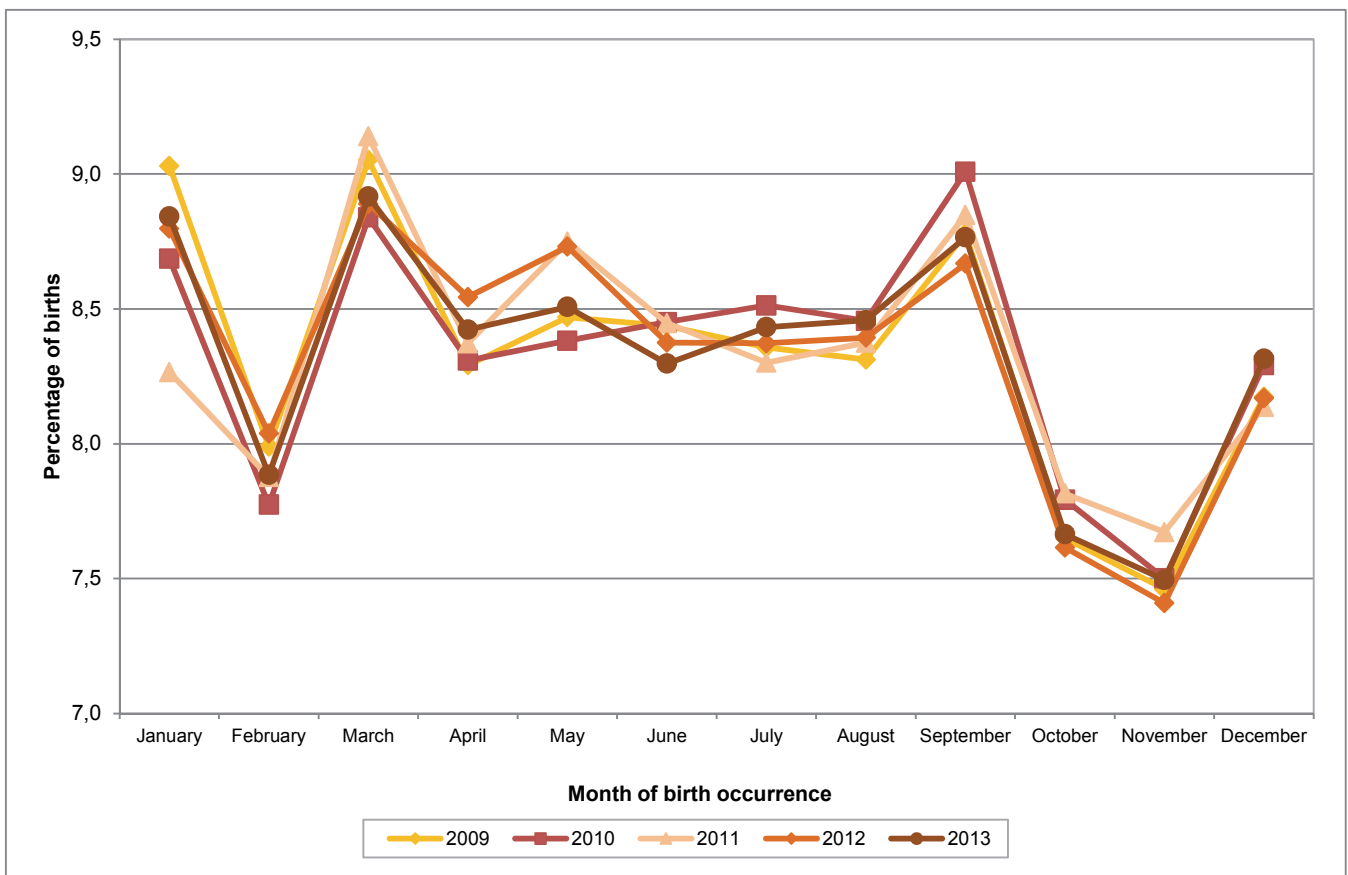
Year	Grand Total			Sex ratio
	Total	Male	Female	
1993	975 548	489 122	486 426	101
1994	982 617	492 794	489 823	101
1995	953 027	477 721	475 306	101
1996	978 815	490 914	487 901	101
1997	963 302	482 294	481 008	100
1998	946 965	473 855	473 110	100
1999	963 323	482 119	481 204	100
2000	974 654	488 262	486 392	100
2001	957 556	479 571	477 985	100
2002	967 842	484 574	483 268	100
2003	962 124	483 142	478 982	101
2004	1 018 677	511 983	506 694	101
2005	1 060 222	533 298	526 924	101
2006	1 089 203	546 970	542 233	101
2007	1 074 915	541 031	533 884	101
2008	1 097 468	551 913	545 555	101
2009	1 043 732	525 435	518 297	101
2010	1 013 478	511 291	502 187	102
2011	1 018 660	513 798	504 862	102
2012	1 014 198	511 585	502 613	102
2013	991 044	499 979	491 065	102
Total	21 047 370	10 571 651	10 475 719	101

Month of birth

Figure 8 shows the percentage distribution of birth occurrences for the period 2009 to 2013 by year and month of birth. In general, the pattern of birth occurrences by month and year of birth was uniform for the years 2009 to 2013. For 2010, the highest proportion of births occurred during the month of September, while for the other years the highest proportion of births occurred in March. The second most common month was March for 2010 birth occurrences, September for 2011 birth occurrences, and January for 2009, 2012 and 2013 birth occurrences. For all the years, the lowest proportion of births occurred during the month of November.

Additional information on birth occurrences from 1993 to 2013 by month of birth and sex is given in Appendix G.

Figure 8: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences by year and month of birth, South Africa: 2009–2013



5. Concluding remarks

This statistical release has provided information on recorded live births for births that occurred in 2013 as well as information for birth occurrences from 1993 to 2012. The completeness of birth registration in the country was estimated at 89,2% for births that occurred during the period 2007–2011, indicating that South Africa has made great strides towards completeness of birth registration.

A total of 1 166 554 births were registered in 2013. Of these, 860 393 (73,8%) were birth registrations for births that occurred in 2013, while 306 161 (26,2%) were late registrations for births that occurred in previous years. This indicates a 5,6% decrease in current registrations from the 79,3% proportion observed in 2012 current registrations.

In general, the results showed that most late registrations were higher in the year preceding the year of observation. For example, in 2012, most late registrations (32%) were for births that occurred in 2011, while approximately 50% of the late registrations in 2013 were for births that occurred in 2012.

Age and provincial differentials show that most birth occurrences for 2013 occurred amongst women aged 20–29, and most births occurred in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces. The sex ratio in 2013 was 102 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations, indicating slightly more male than female birth registrations. Overall, most births occurred in the months of March, January and September.

Birth registration is essential both from a rights perspective and as a mechanism for informing effective planning for social and economic development. The Births and Deaths Registration Acts stipulate that registration in South Africa is universal, free for first-time applicants, compulsory and should be done within 30 days from the date of birth. There is need for continued advocacy and mass mobilisation of the public in order to bring early and universal birth registration to the forefront. The production of births information from the population register depends on the quality of input data. Accordingly, at the time of birth registration, officials at the Department of Home Affairs should ensure that details of the father of the child, if available, are filled in completely and accurately. These enhanced efforts will allow for reporting of information on fathers, which currently has not been possible due to a large proportion of missing information on fathers.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Notice of birth form (DHA-24) – page 1

DHA-24



Allocated Identity Number:

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NOTICE OF BIRTH

[Births and Deaths Registration Act 51 of 1992]
Regulation No 5

To be completed in full and submitted at the Department of Home Affairs' office or to a South African embassy or consulate. The form to be completed in black ink with BLOCK LETTERS. Please mark with the CORRECT box, where required. Applications that are not legible shall not be accepted.

Date of application Y Y Y Y M M D D Registration within 30 Days Registration after 30 Days

A. DETAILS OF THE CHILD

Surname: _____

Forenames in full: _____

Date of birth: Y Y Y Y M M M M M M M M M M D D (write month in full) Gender: _____

Place of birth: City/Town: _____ Province: _____

Country of birth: _____

Are the parents of the child married to each other? If Yes, nature of marriage Civil Customary Civil Union Religious: Specify _____

Date of marriage: Y Y Y Y M M D D *If Yes, enclose a certified copy of the marriage certificate*

COMPULSORY SECTION: Reasons for registering after 30 days as per section 9(1)

B. DETAILS OF FATHER (PARENT A)

Identity number (passport if foreigner) _____ Date of birth Y Y Y Y M M D D

Present surname: _____

Maiden surname: _____

Forenames in full: _____

Place of birth: City/Town: _____ Country of birth: _____

Citizenship: _____ Permanent/Temporary permit no. _____

C. DETAILS OF MOTHER (PARENT B) (In the case of Civil Union this section must be completed by the natural mother)

Identity number (passport if foreigner) _____ Date of birth Y Y Y Y M M D D

Present surname: _____

Maiden surname: _____

Forenames in full: _____

Place of birth: City/Town: _____ Country of birth: _____

Citizenship: _____ Permanent/Temporary permit no. _____

D. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PATERNITY OF A CHILD BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK

I hereby declare that I am the biological father of the child

Initials and surname	Signature
Identity number (passport if foreigner) _____	Identity number (passport if foreigner) _____
Date: Y Y Y Y M M D D	Date: Y Y Y Y M M D D

Mother's consent to the acknowledgement of paternity

Initials and surname	Signature
Identity number (passport if foreigner) _____	Identity number (passport if foreigner) _____
Date: Y Y Y Y M M D D	Date: Y Y Y Y M M D D

E. DETAILS OF THE LEGAL GUARDIAN/SOCIAL WORKER* *Compulsory if notice is not given by the parent

Identity number (passport if foreigner*) _____ Date of birth Y Y Y Y M M D D

Social Workers Case No: _____

Surname: _____

Forenames in full: _____

Place of birth: _____ Country of birth: _____

Residential address: Street _____ Town/Village _____ Province _____

Telephone no., incl. area code _____ Cell phone no. _____ Postal code _____

Citizenship: _____ Permanent/Temporary permit no. _____

Appendix B: Total birth registrations for 2013 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality

Province and district municipality	Grand Total	2013 (current)	Late registrations					2008 and below
			Total	2012	2011	2010	2009	
Total - South Africa	1 166 554	860 393	306 161	147 160	24 002	14 063	10 246	110 690
Western Cape								
Cape Winelands	13 800	11 974	1 826	1 250	157	97	66	256
Central Karoo	1 315	1 148	167	129	10	4	7	17
City of Cape Town	65 989	56 977	9 012	5 840	923	594	425	1 230
Eden	10 858	9 396	1 462	1 026	124	64	42	206
Overberg	3 575	3 021	554	354	59	32	18	91
West Coast	6 070	4 865	1 205	860	105	68	36	136
Total	101 607	87 381	14 226	9 459	1 378	859	594	1 936
Eastern Cape								
Alfred Nzo	26 533	18 343	8 190	4 633	881	558	407	1 711
Amatole	13 825	9 892	3 933	2 135	442	306	238	812
Buffalo City	16 275	14 084	2 191	1 363	220	145	111	352
Cacadu	6 118	4 736	1 382	813	170	98	66	235
Chris Hani	15 400	11 524	3 876	2 554	428	222	176	496
Joe Gqabi	6 275	4 698	1 577	1 016	154	102	79	226
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	20 705	16 727	3 978	2 598	429	224	179	548
O.R.Tambo	28 847	20 859	7 988	4 982	875	448	349	1 334
Total	133 978	100 863	33 115	20 094	3 599	2 103	1 605	5 714
Northern Cape								
Frances Baard	9 828	8 452	1 376	810	115	88	59	304
John Taolo Gaetsewe	6 453	5 509	944	693	56	44	24	127
Namakwa	1 809	1 610	199	140	18	7	9	25
Pixley ka Seme	3 586	2 849	737	464	61	45	36	131
Siyanda	5 284	4 403	881	538	66	44	23	210
Total	26 960	22 823	4 137	2 645	316	228	151	797
Free State								
Fezile Dabi	8 689	6 650	2 039	1 254	140	107	89	449
Lejweleputswa	10 967	9 052	1 915	968	136	121	96	594
Mangaung	18 775	15 954	2 821	1 549	223	137	114	798
Thabo Mofutsanyane	15 571	13 009	2 562	1 405	177	138	103	739
Xhariep	2 576	1 796	780	408	66	46	36	224
Total	56 578	46 461	10 117	5 584	742	549	438	2 804

Appendix B: Total birth registrations for 2013 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality (concluded)

Province and district municipality	Grand Total	2013 (current)	Total	Late registrations				
				2012	2011	2010	2009	2008 and below
Total - South Africa	1 166 554	860 393	306 161	147 160	24 002	14 063	10 246	110 690
KwaZulu-Natal								
Amajuba	9 854	7 121	2 733	1 819	293	124	111	386
eThekweni	76 102	58 399	17 703	10 617	2 047	1 119	830	3 090
iLembe	8 885	6 040	2 845	1 728	327	195	139	456
Sisonke	7 535	5 445	2 090	1 082	178	130	96	604
Ugu	18 865	14 884	3 981	2 381	412	242	156	790
uMgungundlovu	19 936	14 630	5 306	2 953	519	329	231	1 274
uMkhanyakude	19 929	13 231	6 698	4 022	894	449	275	1 058
uMzinyathi	16 252	11 077	5 175	3 342	520	286	200	827
uThukela	15 057	10 716	4 341	2 580	454	251	187	869
uThungulu	22 733	15 942	6 791	4 044	810	422	263	1 252
Zululand	23 212	14 905	8 307	4 624	1 073	607	457	1 546
Total	238 360	172 390	65 970	39 192	7 527	4 154	2 945	12 152
North West								
Bojanala	23 517	17 799	5 718	3 245	555	346	271	1 301
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	12 880	9 991	2 889	1 526	334	209	133	687
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	15 764	11 206	4 558	3 225	385	222	156	570
Ngaka Modiri Molema	15 264	10 962	4 302	2 557	447	258	195	845
Total	67 425	49 958	17 467	10 553	1 721	1 035	755	3 403
Gauteng								
City of Johannesburg	71 769	60 446	11 323	7 169	1 036	691	550	1 877
City of Tshwane	148 641	64 480	84 161	8 819	1 579	937	745	72 081
Ekurhuleni	60 637	49 583	11 054	6 087	989	664	560	2 754
Sedibeng	12 347	10 289	2 058	1 246	239	135	74	364
West Rand	15 411	12 702	2 709	1 551	245	182	125	606
Total	308 805	197 500	111 305	24 872	4 088	2 609	2 054	77 682
Mpumalanga								
Ehlanzeni	42 346	33 475	8 871	5 552	879	494	302	1 644
Gert Sibande	21 314	15 286	6 028	3 912	613	346	278	879
Nkangala	25 329	19 244	6 085	4 132	542	301	228	882
Total	88 989	68 005	20 984	13 596	2 034	1 141	808	3 405
Limpopo								
Capricorn	32 927	26 596	6 331	4 682	525	315	193	616
Greater Sekhukhune	29 568	22 868	6 700	4 841	664	340	231	624
Mopani	29 030	23 950	5 080	3 640	398	208	183	651
Vhembe	28 694	22 472	6 222	4 756	576	286	152	452
Waterberg	15 498	12 398	3 100	2 207	293	179	97	324
Total	135 717	108 284	27 433	20 126	2 456	1 328	856	2 667
Unspecified	8 135	6 728	1 407	1 039	141	57	40	130

Appendix C: Birth registrations by registration status, sex, province and district municipality, 2013

Province and district municipality	Total registrations			Current registrations			Late registrations					
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Before age 15			After age 15		
							Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total - South Africa	1 166 554	589 209	577 345	860 393	433 809	426 584	235 081	118 306	116 775	71 080	37 094	33 986
Western Cape												
Cape Winelands	13 800	7 036	6 764	11 974	6 106	5 868	1 818	926	892	8	4	4
Central Karoo	1 315	664	651	1 148	581	567	167	83	84	0	0	0
City of Cape Town	65 989	33 470	32 519	56 977	28 919	28 058	8 994	4 545	4 449	18	6	12
Eden	10 858	5 568	5 290	9 396	4 797	4 599	1 455	769	686	7	2	5
Overberg	3 575	1 798	1 777	3 021	1 517	1 504	551	279	272	3	2	1
West Coast	6 070	3 046	3 024	4 865	2 451	2 414	1 204	595	609	1	0	1
Total	101 607	51 582	50 025	87 381	44 371	43 010	14 189	7 197	6 992	37	14	23
Eastern Cape												
Alfred Nzo	26 533	13 471	13 062	18 343	9 342	9 001	8 134	4 103	4 031	56	26	30
Amatole	13 825	6 932	6 893	9 892	5 024	4 868	3 913	1 900	2 013	20	8	12
Buffalo City	16 275	8 252	8 023	14 084	7 114	6 970	2 184	1 134	1 050	7	4	3
Cacadu	6 118	3 055	3 063	4 736	2 354	2 382	1 377	697	680	5	4	1
Chris Hani	15 400	7 729	7 671	11 524	5 825	5 699	3 871	1 902	1 969	5	2	3
Joe Gqabi	6 275	3 136	3 139	4 698	2 346	2 352	1 568	785	783	9	5	4
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	20 705	10 540	10 165	16 727	8 498	8 229	3 968	2 037	1 931	10	5	5
O.R.Tambo	28 847	14 496	14 351	20 859	10 497	10 362	7 947	3 974	3 973	41	25	16
Total	133 978	67 611	66 367	100 863	51 000	49 863	32 962	16 532	16 430	153	79	74
Northern Cape												
Frances Baard	9 828	5 033	4 795	8 452	4 302	4 150	1 369	728	641	7	3	4
John Taolo Gaetsewe	6 453	3 249	3 204	5 509	2 776	2 733	940	471	469	4	2	2
Namakwa	1 809	927	882	1 610	829	781	198	97	101	1	1	0
Pixley ka Seme	3 586	1 839	1 747	2 849	1 446	1 403	736	393	343	1	0	1
Siyanda	5 284	2 695	2 589	4 403	2 252	2 151	872	437	435	9	6	3
Total	26 960	13 743	13 217	22 823	11 605	11 218	4 115	2 126	1 989	22	12	10
Free State												
Fezile Dabi	8 689	4 414	4 275	6 650	3 393	3 257	2 026	1 016	1 010	13	5	8
Lejweleputswa	10 967	5 525	5 442	9 052	4 527	4 525	1 869	973	896	46	25	21
Mangaung	18 775	9 495	9 280	15 954	8 071	7 883	2 759	1 389	1 370	62	35	27
Thabo Mofutsanyane	15 571	7 967	7 604	13 009	6 631	6 378	2 509	1 308	1 201	53	28	25
Xhariep	2 576	1 305	1 271	1 796	917	879	777	385	392	3	3	0
Total	56 578	28 706	27 872	46 461	23 539	22 922	9 940	5 071	4 869	177	96	81

Appendix C: Birth registrations by registration status, sex, province and district municipality, 2013 (concluded)

Province and district municipality	Total registrations			Current registrations			Late registrations					
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Before age 15			After age 15		
							Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total - South Africa	1 166 554	589 209	577 345	860 393	433 809	426 584	235 081	118 306	116 775	71 080	37 094	33 986
KwaZulu-Natal												
Amajuba	9 854	5 032	4 822	7 121	3 617	3 504	2 702	1 399	1 303	31	16	15
eThekweni	76 102	38 128	37 974	58 399	29 216	29 183	17 597	8 856	8 741	106	56	50
iLembe	8 885	4 510	4 375	6 040	3 043	2 997	2 834	1 462	1 372	11	5	6
Sisonke	7 535	3 802	3 733	5 445	2 739	2 706	2 042	1 042	1 000	48	21	27
Ugu	18 865	9 702	9 163	14 884	7 644	7 240	3 953	2 039	1 914	28	19	9
uMgungundlovu	19 936	9 979	9 957	14 630	7 258	7 372	5 267	2 699	2 568	39	22	17
uMkhanyakude	19 929	10 051	9 878	13 231	6 697	6 534	6 676	3 345	3 331	22	9	13
uMzinyathi	16 252	8 219	8 033	11 077	5 611	5 466	5 154	2 596	2 558	21	12	9
uThukela	15 057	7 480	7 577	10 716	5 345	5 371	4 319	2 124	2 195	22	11	11
uThungulu	22 733	11 421	11 312	15 942	8 011	7 931	6 746	3 390	3 356	45	20	25
Zululand	23 212	11 531	11 681	14 905	7 421	7 484	8 292	4 101	4 191	15	9	6
Total	238 360	119 855	118 505	172 390	86 602	85 788	65 582	33 053	32 529	388	200	188
North West												
Bojanala	23 517	11 860	11 657	17 799	9 002	8 797	5 579	2 767	2 812	139	91	48
Dr Kenneth Kaunda Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti	12 880	6 436	6 444	9 991	5 018	4 973	2 874	1 411	1 463	15	7	8
Ngaka Modiri Molema	15 764	7 869	7 895	11 206	5 582	5 624	4 545	2 278	2 267	13	9	4
Total	67 425	33 772	33 653	49 958	25 106	24 852	17 281	8 547	8 734	186	119	67
Gauteng												
City of Johannesburg	71 769	36 178	35 591	60 446	30 478	29 968	11 294	5 683	5 611	29	17	12
City of Tshwane	148 641	76 262	72 379	64 480	32 555	31 925	15 053	7 657	7 396	69 108	36 050	33 058
Ekurhuleni	60 637	30 552	30 085	49 583	25 041	24 542	10 751	5 361	5 390	303	150	153
Sedibeng	12 347	6 236	6 111	10 289	5 210	5 079	2 041	1 018	1 023	17	8	9
West Rand	15 411	7 748	7 663	12 702	6 391	6 311	2 641	1 319	1 322	68	38	30
Total	308 805	156 976	151 829	197 500	99 675	97 825	41 780	21 038	20 742	69 525	36 263	33 262
Mpumalanga												
Ehlanzeni	42 346	21 247	21 099	33 475	16 903	16 572	8 710	4 270	4 440	161	74	87
Gert Sibande	21 314	10 649	10 665	15 286	7 629	7 657	5 988	2 998	2 990	40	22	18
Nkangala	25 329	12 689	12 640	19 244	9 605	9 639	6 002	3 031	2 971	83	53	30
Total	88 989	44 585	44 404	68 005	34 137	33 868	20 700	10 299	10 401	284	149	135
Limpopo												
Capricorn	32 927	16 614	16 313	26 596	13 377	13 219	6 248	3 192	3 056	83	45	38
Greater Sekhukhune	29 568	14 835	14 733	22 868	11 445	11 423	6 671	3 376	3 295	29	14	15
Mopani	29 030	14 565	14 465	23 950	12 023	11 927	4 905	2 447	2 458	175	95	80
Vhembe	28 694	14 461	14 233	22 472	11 282	11 190	6 210	3 177	3 033	12	2	10
Waterberg	15 498	7 811	7 687	12 398	6 246	6 152	3 094	1 562	1 532	6	3	3
Total	135 717	68 286	67 431	108 284	54 373	53 911	27 128	13 754	13 374	305	159	146
Unspecified	8 135	4 093	4 042	6 728	3 401	3 327	1 404	689	715	3	3	0

Appendix D: Birth occurrences by year of birth and age of the mother, 2009–2013*

Age of the mother	Year of birth occurrence				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
15–19	146 934	141 727	141 707	145 899	117 824
20–24	285 082	276 913	276 214	293 200	233 323
25–29	255 787	257 871	261 953	275 117	221 868
30–34	180 637	180 895	181 877	200 440	163 500
35–39	105 539	105 590	108 289	115 021	87 448
40–44	34 192	34 390	32 889	36 842	25 757
45–49	5 012	3 719	3 399	3 070	1 828
50–54	500	389	334	301	207
Unspecified/outside 15–54 age range	4 064	3 344	3 067	3 996	8 638
Total	1 017 747	1 004 838	1 009 729	1 073 886	860 393

* Figures include birth occurrences as at 31 December 2013.

Appendix E: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration and age of the mother, 2013

Province of birth registration	Age of mother									Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	Unsp.*	
Western Cape	9 898	21 415	24 118	18 932	9 485	2 517	114	13	889	87 381
Eastern Cape	18 732	28 119	23 530	16 843	9 553	3 127	301	56	602	100 863
Northern Cape	3 799	6 374	5 459	4 249	2 138	646	34	0	124	22 823
Free State	6 403	13 494	11 760	8 426	4 279	1 276	91	3	729	46 461
KwaZulu-Natal	28 297	51 047	43 393	28 692	15 072	4 437	395	79	978	172 390
North West	6 710	14 127	12 610	9 391	5 051	1 663	102	6	298	49 958
Gauteng	17 210	46 594	54 796	44 685	23 686	6 299	329	17	3 884	197 500
Mpumalanga	10 733	19 128	17 122	11 939	6 299	1 964	153	14	653	68 005
Limpopo	15 310	31 224	27 241	18 891	11 221	3 654	297	19	427	108 284
Unspecified	732	1 801	1 839	1 452	664	174	12	0	54	6 728
Total	117 824	233 323	221 868	163 500	87 448	25 757	1 828	207	8 638	860 393

* Unspecified or outside the 15–54 age range.

Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2009–2013*

Province and district municipality	Year of birth				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total - South Africa	1 015 565	1 004 232	1 009 446	1 073 714	860 393
Western Cape					
Cape Winelands	13 450	13 400	13 365	13 939	11 974
Central Karoo	1 191	1 082	1 114	1 239	1 148
City Of Cape Town	73 895	72 176	70 981	73 610	56 977
Eden	10 007	9 672	9 526	9 963	9 396
Overberg	2 791	2 869	2 822	3 119	3 021
West Coast	6 019	5 762	5 840	5 990	4 865
Total	107 353	104 961	103 648	107 860	87 381
Eastern Cape					
Alfred Nzo	15 303	14 222	14 168	16 251	18 343
Amatole	14 170	12 775	13 313	14 616	9 892
Buffalo City	15 639	15 663	15 668	16 067	14 084
Cacadu	6 562	6 497	6 782	6 912	4 736
Chris Hani	15 227	14 116	14 079	14 822	11 524
Joe Gqabi	6 058	5 684	5 621	5 930	4 698
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	21 447	20 123	19 962	20 850	16 727
O.R.Tambo	32 252	32 650	33 689	34 890	20 859
Total	126 658	121 730	123 282	130 338	100 863
Northern Cape					
Frances Baard	8 855	8 635	8 832	9 326	8 452
John Taolo Gaetsewe	5 009	5 305	5 672	6 256	5 509
Namakwa	1 573	1 508	1 419	1 595	1 610
Pixley Ka Seme	4 229	4 131	3 767	4 079	2 849
Siyanda	4 639	4 674	4 568	5 208	4 403
Total	24 305	24 253	24 258	26 464	22 823
Free State					
Fezile Dabi	8 824	8 638	8 152	8 937	6 650
Lejweleputswa	11 874	11 690	11 460	11 919	9 052
Mangaung	17 020	17 762	17 478	18 427	15 954
Thabo Mofutsanyane	15 233	15 041	14 984	15 690	13 009
Xhariep	1 495	1 538	1 403	1 561	1 796
Total	54 446	54 669	53 477	56 534	46 461

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 31 December 2013.

Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2009–2013 (concluded)*

Province and district municipality	Year of birth				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total - South Africa	1 015 565	1 004 232	1 009 446	1 073 714	860 393
KwaZulu-Natal					
Amajuba	12 373	12 003	11 613	12 413	7 121
Ethekwini	69 038	69 418	66 942	69 409	58 399
Ilembe	12 453	9 696	8 795	8 850	6 040
Sisonke	11 673	12 004	12 154	12 077	5 445
Ugu	15 775	15 141	14 435	15 463	14 884
Umgungundlovu	17 838	17 646	17 729	19 044	14 630
Umkhanyakude	14 329	13 650	14 315	15 744	13 231
Umzinyathi	8 488	10 490	11 466	13 698	11 077
Uthukela	14 548	14 246	14 014	14 857	10 716
Uthungulu	23 230	21 706	22 132	23 130	15 942
Zululand	20 327	19 954	19 656	20 271	14 905
Total	220 072	215 954	213 251	224 956	172 390
North West					
Bojanala	36 461	36 500	36 096	36 706	17 799
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	14 787	14 034	14 048	14 931	9 991
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	18 262	17 835	18 060	19 740	11 206
Ngaka Modiri Molema	10 680	10 599	10 517	11 791	10 962
Total	80 190	78 968	78 721	83 168	49 958
Gauteng					
City Of Johannesburg	66 234	64 804	64 070	68 044	60 446
City Of Tshwane	41 854	44 185	44 395	50 494	64 480
Ekurhuleni	57 091	56 703	57 377	59 556	49 583
Sedibeng	17 350	17 585	17 035	17 348	10 289
West Rand	14 756	14 679	15 250	15 887	12 702
Total	197 285	197 956	198 127	211 329	197 500
Mpumalanga					
Ehlanzeni	43 664	42 815	44 759	47 580	33 475
Gert Sibande	19 110	19 087	19 038	20 929	15 286
Nkangala	22 138	20 790	22 147	24 490	19 244
Total	84 912	82 692	85 944	92 999	68 005
Limpopo					
Capricorn	30 468	32 380	33 728	36 467	26 596
Greater Sekhukhune	19 791	20 196	19 895	22 832	22 868
Mopani	25 575	25 670	27 368	29 409	23 950
Vhembe	28 704	28 892	30 241	32 545	22 472
Waterberg	15 628	15 689	16 804	17 312	12 398
Total	120 166	122 827	128 036	138 565	108 284
Foreign**	2 182	606	283	172	0
Unspecified	178	222	702	1 501	6 728

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 31 December 2013.

** Foreign births in 2013 reflected in district of registration

Appendix G: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1993–1995*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences		
		Total	Male	Female
1993	January	81 246	40 730	40 516
	February	72 677	36 572	36 105
	March	84 229	42 119	42 110
	April	78 608	39 437	39 171
	May	79 094	39 564	39 530
	June	83 719	42 085	41 634
	July	79 009	39 608	39 401
	August	82 577	41 522	41 055
	September	92 653	46 363	46 290
	October	79 291	39 630	39 661
	November	76 457	38 206	38 251
	December	85 988	43 286	42 702
	Total		975 548	489 122
1994	January	82 696	41 571	41 125
	February	74 915	37 641	37 274
	March	82 388	41 371	41 017
	April	83 854	41 874	41 980
	May	81 151	40 687	40 464
	June	84 603	42 265	42 338
	July	78 970	39 752	39 218
	August	82 773	41 480	41 293
	September	91 075	45 748	45 327
	October	79 605	40 006	39 599
	November	75 279	37 600	37 679
	December	85 308	42 799	42 509
	Total		982 617	492 794
1995	January	81 532	40 860	40 672
	February	71 577	35 909	35 668
	March	79 885	40 099	39 786
	April	76 483	38 178	38 305
	May	79 306	39 962	39 344
	June	82 094	41 320	40 774
	July	78 296	39 006	39 290
	August	80 897	40 724	40 173
	September	89 538	44 797	44 741
	October	77 783	38 743	39 040
	November	73 293	36 717	36 576
	December	82 343	41 406	40 937
	Total		953 027	477 721

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

Appendix G.1: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1996–1998*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences		
		Total	Male	Female
1996	January	85 244	42 608	42 636
	February	75 025	37 727	37 298
	March	82 600	41 156	41 444
	April	79 244	39 931	39 313
	May	80 933	40 500	40 433
	June	85 044	42 751	42 293
	July	80 493	40 271	40 222
	August	82 906	41 634	41 272
	September	91 803	45 985	45 818
	October	78 303	39 501	38 802
	November	73 467	36 682	36 785
	December	83 753	42 168	41 585
	Total		978 815	490 914
1997	January	83 292	41 732	41 560
	February	74 231	37 143	37 088
	March	84 858	42 530	42 328
	April	79 579	39 683	39 896
	May	79 416	39 705	39 711
	June	81 808	40 758	41 050
	July	80 634	40 388	40 246
	August	81 153	40 476	40 677
	September	89 204	44 816	44 388
	October	76 538	38 541	37 997
	November	71 448	35 923	35 525
	December	81 141	40 599	40 542
	Total		963 302	482 294
1998	January	81 975	40 830	41 145
	February	74 118	37 100	37 018
	March	83 461	41 787	41 674
	April	78 185	38 813	39 372
	May	79 156	39 814	39 342
	June	80 323	40 216	40 107
	July	77 729	39 109	38 620
	August	79 469	39 547	39 922
	September	87 843	44 113	43 730
	October	75 725	37 934	37 791
	November	70 312	35 292	35 020
	December	78 669	39 300	39 369
	Total		946 965	473 855

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

Appendix G.2: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1999–2001*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences		
		Total	Male	Female
1999	January	80 053	39 992	40 061
	February	71 218	35 774	35 444
	March	82 753	41 249	41 504
	April	81 885	40 815	41 070
	May	82 687	41 282	41 405
	June	83 057	41 530	41 527
	July	79 637	39 902	39 735
	August	80 660	40 425	40 235
	September	88 551	44 451	44 100
	October	76 841	38 255	38 586
	November	73 528	37 154	36 374
	December	82 453	41 290	41 163
	Total		963 323	482 119
2000	January	85 376	42 760	42 616
	February	79 399	39 905	39 494
	March	85 697	42 879	42 818
	April	81 116	40 543	40 573
	May	82 665	41 208	41 457
	June	83 118	41 682	41 436
	July	80 190	40 097	40 093
	August	81 215	40 842	40 373
	September	87 349	43 805	43 544
	October	77 179	38 799	38 380
	November	72 996	36 477	36 519
	December	78 354	39 265	39 089
	Total		974 654	488 262
2001	January	86 313	43 279	43 034
	February	73 808	36 771	37 037
	March	84 346	42 360	41 986
	April	80 360	40 245	40 115
	May	81 587	40 665	40 922
	June	80 621	40 123	40 498
	July	78 500	39 570	38 930
	August	79 226	39 585	39 641
	September	85 783	43 114	42 669
	October	76 436	38 003	38 433
	November	72 174	36 356	35 818
	December	78 402	39 500	38 902
	Total		957 556	479 571

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

Appendix G.3: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2002–2004*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences		
		Total	Male	Female
2002	January	86 193	43 285	42 908
	February	75 944	38 037	37 907
	March	82 708	41 154	41 554
	April	78 829	39 289	39 540
	May	81 401	40 575	40 826
	June	82 272	41 277	40 995
	July	81 647	40 705	40 942
	August	80 539	40 759	39 780
	September	88 038	44 293	43 745
	October	78 149	38 870	39 279
	November	72 403	36 349	36 054
	December	79 719	39 981	39 738
	Total		967 842	484 574
2003	January	84 552	42 513	42 039
	February	75 228	37 712	37 516
	March	85 913	43 028	42 885
	April	80 699	40 523	40 176
	May	81 918	41 183	40 735
	June	81 232	40 777	40 455
	July	78 897	39 612	39 285
	August	79 917	40 061	39 856
	September	88 215	44 441	43 774
	October	76 319	38 165	38 154
	November	70 675	35 502	35 173
	December	78 559	39 625	38 934
	Total		962 124	483 142
2004	January	84 531	42 674	41 857
	February	77 508	39 216	38 292
	March	85 253	42 774	42 479
	April	81 981	41 276	40 705
	May	84 252	42 150	42 102
	June	85 521	42 824	42 697
	July	85 620	43 133	42 487
	August	88 385	44 521	43 864
	September	95 988	48 099	47 889
	October	82 784	41 499	41 285
	November	80 247	40 193	40 054
	December	86 607	43 624	42 983
	Total		1 018 677	511 983

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

Appendix G.4: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2005–2007*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences		
		Total	Male	Female
2005	January	89 887	45 497	44 390
	February	81 434	40 980	40 454
	March	92 899	46 470	46 429
	April	89 186	44 657	44 529
	May	92 533	46 552	45 981
	June	90 792	45 373	45 419
	July	88 210	44 339	43 871
	August	88 200	44 562	43 638
	September	93 256	46 877	46 379
	October	82 241	41 521	40 720
	November	81 321	41 038	40 283
	December	90 263	45 432	44 831
	Total		1 060 222	533 298
2006	January	94 265	47 340	46 925
	February	85 335	42 669	42 666
	March	95 026	47 493	47 533
	April	90 989	45 543	45 446
	May	94 186	47 393	46 793
	June	92 552	46 470	46 082
	July	90 949	45 620	45 329
	August	91 296	45 735	45 561
	September	98 803	49 514	49 289
	October	85 994	43 287	42 707
	November	81 536	41 281	40 255
	December	88 272	44 625	43 647
	Total		1 089 203	546 970
2007	January	95 974	48 169	47 805
	February	83 223	42 031	41 192
	March	94 633	47 657	46 976
	April	91 900	46 057	45 843
	May	94 695	47 412	47 283
	June	90 880	45 962	44 918
	July	90 275	45 263	45 012
	August	88 915	44 677	44 238
	September	94 256	47 510	46 746
	October	82 260	41 604	40 656
	November	79 892	40 162	39 730
	December	88 012	44 527	43 485
	Total		1 074 915	541 031

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

Appendix G.5: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2008–2010*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences		
		Total	Male	Female
2008	January	94 410	47 502	46 908
	February	88 511	44 573	43 938
	March	96 808	48 452	48 356
	April	91 621	45 960	45 661
	May	91 334	45 769	45 565
	June	90 414	45 494	44 920
	July	92 751	46 392	46 359
	August	92 413	46 693	45 720
	September	99 202	50 168	49 034
	October	85 671	42 842	42 829
	November	82 740	41 782	40 958
	December	91 593	46 286	45 307
	Total		1 097 468	551 913
2009	January	94 244	47 586	46 658
	February	83 383	41 895	41 488
	March	94 481	47 607	46 874
	April	86 533	43 393	43 140
	May	88 394	44 143	44 251
	June	88 056	44 433	43 623
	July	87 222	43 707	43 515
	August	86 756	43 676	43 080
	September	91 632	46 160	45 472
	October	79 850	40 449	39 401
	November	77 870	39 354	38 516
	December	85 311	43 032	42 279
	Total		1 043 732	525 435
2010	January	88 026	44 331	43 695
	February	78 786	39 696	39 090
	March	89 584	45 242	44 342
	April	84 200	42 380	41 820
	May	84 951	42 967	41 984
	June	85 646	43 130	42 516
	July	86 276	43 575	42 701
	August	85 694	43 436	42 258
	September	91 297	46 242	45 055
	October	78 972	39 697	39 275
	November	76 015	38 301	37 714
	December	84 031	42 294	41 737
	Total		1 013 478	511 291

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

Appendix G.6: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2011–2013*

Year	Month	Birth Occurrences		
		Total	Male	Female
2011	January	84 194	42 491	41 703
	February	80 240	40 602	39 638
	March	93 101	47 169	45 932
	April	85 288	42 712	42 576
	May	89 121	44 861	44 260
	June	86 050	43 373	42 677
	July	84 556	42 834	41 722
	August	85 313	42 993	42 320
	September	90 138	45 544	44 594
	October	79 613	39 725	39 888
	November	78 156	39 597	38 559
	December	82 890	41 897	40 993
	Total		1 018 660	513 798
2012	January	89 221	45 054	44 167
	February	81 522	41 044	40 478
	March	90 156	45 335	44 821
	April	86 648	43 627	43 021
	May	88 546	44 598	43 948
	June	84 939	42 858	42 081
	July	84 911	42 744	42 167
	August	85 125	43 102	42 023
	September	87 906	44 377	43 529
	October	77 235	38 875	38 360
	November	75 141	37 922	37 219
	December	82 848	42 049	40 799
	Total		1 014 198	511 585
2013	January	87 631	44 373	43 258
	February	78 138	39 613	38 525
	March	88 365	44 284	44 081
	April	83 477	42 099	41 378
	May	84 309	42 514	41 795
	June	82 226	41 536	40 690
	July	83 567	42 074	41 493
	August	83 820	42 246	41 574
	September	86 869	43 612	43 257
	October	75 958	38 610	37 348
	November	74 283	37 511	36 772
	December	82 401	41 507	40 894
	Total		991 044	499 979

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

Explanatory Notes

Sources of data

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

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

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

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

The South African population register

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

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

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

Municipal demarcation

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

Population group

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

Definitions of concepts used

1.1 Live birth

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

1.2 Recorded live births

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

1.3 Late registration

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.

1.4 Current live births

Births occurring in a specific year and registered within that same year.