

## Recorded births P0305

1995

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### LATE REGISTRATIONS OF BIRTHS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

Between 1991 and 1993, registered births in the former TBVC states were excluded in this series. In 1994, the births in those states were separately categorised as foreign births but included in the totals for the RSA. In this release, registered births

from the former TBVC states form part of the main report. The total number of births registered in the RSA for 1995 is 809 439.

This represents a 16,0% gain over the registered births for 1994. Compared to 1994, the figures for 1995 show an increase in the number of births registered during the year of birth and in the number of births registered in years later than the year of birth (late registrations). Of the total late registrations of 548 559 for 1995, birth registration for those over six years old comprise 44,0%. For 1994, the corresponding figure was 42,0%. For a majority of the rural population, in spite of the birth and death

registration act, birth registration only becomes a reality when the children have reached school-going age or when adults need identity document for purposes of taking part in elections. For the urban population, the motivation for registering births are many. Firstly, it is easier to register a birth for people living in urban areas. When births are delivered in private hospitals the hospitals offer to register the birth for a small fee, and this may contribute to timely registration of births. Secondly, medical insurance schemes which insist that the birth has to be registered before the baby can be covered by the scheme, which provides a motivation for timely registration of births. Thirdly, when parents can benefit from social welfare schemes for their children with birth certificates, this provides another reason for timely registration of births. Fourthly, the more educated parents are about the benefits of registering the birth of their children, the more motivated they will be to register their children's births in the year of birth. It is against this background that the issue of late birth registration should be seen.

For the RSA as a whole, the completeness of birth registration is low; of the 809 439 births registered in 1995, a total of 548 559 (68,0%) are late registrations. Expressing late registrations as percentages of total births, the data show that the province with the highest percent of late registered births is Northern Province (88,0%), followed by Mpumalanga (85,0%), KwaZulu-Natal (80,0%), North West (73,0%), Eastern Cape (69,0%), Free State (62,0%), Gauteng (46,0%), Northern Cape (38,0%) and Western Cape (31,0%). The report gives the distribution of the registered births by year of registration and by district.

The reported late birth registrations has implications for the crude birth rate obtained for the census year of 1991. Of the late registered births in 1995, a total of 41 718

were actually born in 1991. In 1994, out of the late registered births, 32 721 were born in 1991. Instead of a decrease, one is observing an actual increase in the late registration on 1991 births. At this rate, vital statistics will not be in the position of giving an estimate of crude birth rate for South Africa for the census year of 1991 until the year 2000!

The report also gives the number of stillbirths by district. It is not likely that there will be delays in reporting of stillbirths. They are likely to be either promptly reported or not at all. In general, statistics on stillbirths is of far less complete than those on live births or on deaths. For these reasons, one has to treat the statistics on stillbirths with caution. For the RSA as a whole, the number of stillbirths in 1995 is 8 946. The province with the highest recorded number of stillbirths is KwaZulu-Natal (2 566) and the district with the highest recorded number of stillbirths is Durban (677).

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

Recorded births (birth registrations) indicate the number of births recorded (registered) in a specific year, irrespective of when the birth actually occurred.

Late registrations are births of previous years that were recorded (registered) during the present year.

A stillbirth is a birth of a viable fetus, but which showed no sign of life after complete birth.

As from 1991 statistical information regarding births registrations is no longer available by population group. The tables in this statistical release therefore contain information for the four population groups combined.

The particulars in this release are based on the magisterial district boundaries as published in the Standard Code List of Areas, Report No. 09-90-03 (1993), Eleventh Edition, 4 January 1993, Central Statistical Service, Pretoria.































NORTHERN PROVINCE	81 718	9 786	71 932	7 086	5 231	5 250	5 259	6 751	6 562	35 793	199
BOCHUM	722	69	653	60	58	54	48	65	62	306	2
BOLOBEDU	1 854	162	1 692	141	121	114	137	199	146	834	0
DZANANI	6	0	6	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
ELLISRAS	878	287	591	75	44	41	37	48	66	280	12
GIYANI	3 603	572	3 031	310	228	265	264	341	274	1 349	21
HLANGANANI	1 471	264	1 207	202	111	118	81	110	95	490	2
LETABA	2 323	815	1 508	156	126	108	90	154	125	749	17
LULEKANI	1 982	157	1 825	117	79	111	149	198	193	978	0
MALAMULELE	2 192	214	1 978	230	151	185	166	151	181	914	5
MAPULANENG	2 660	151	2 509	317	202	206	192	207	188	1 197	0
MESSINA	689	196	493	95	39	43	35	40	36	205	14
MHALA	4 315	388	3 927	490	298	290	290	335	295	1 929	3
MOKERONG	3 079	219	2 860	236	193	203	206	290	283	1 449	0
MUTALE	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
NAMAKGALE	2 440	166	2 274	120	134	137	144	148	174	1 417	0
NAPHUNO	1 697	149	1 548	145	109	115	106	126	163	784	1
NEBO	5 312	378	4 934	438	400	411	423	484	460	2 318	2
PHALABORWA	1 716	503	1 213	95	67	68	80	153	150	600	9
PIETERSBURG	6 643	1 699	4 944	685	345	347	347	414	393	2 423	70
POTGIETERSRUS	23 372	1 370	22 002	1 835	1 527	1 489	1 514	1 953	2 012	11 672	8
RITAVI	3 389	312	3 077	247	208	199	194	311	272	1 646	0
SEKGOSESE	883	91	792	68	57	51	63	101	76	376	2
SEKHUKHUNELAND	728	88	640	76	57	64	55	84	51	253	2
SESHEGO	2 643	304	2 339	272	219	232	203	196	226	991	4
SOUTPANSBERG	619	234	385	45	25	29	30	46	38	172	2
THABAMOOPO	2 998	246	2 752	276	215	204	220	303	295	1 239	3
THABAZIMBI	612	126	486	62	34	23	26	35	37	269	5

1/ RECORDED LIVE BIRTHS BY PLACE OF BIRTH OF CHILD

2/ RECORDED STILL BIRTHS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE OF MOTHER

#### 1. RECORDED BIRTHS AND STILL BIRTHS BY PROVINCE AND DISTRICT - 1995

PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS	RECORDED LIVE BIRTHS 1/										RECORDED STILL BIRTHS 2/
	YEAR OF BIRTH										
	TOTAL REGISTRA- TIONS	1995	LATE REGISTRATIONS								
			TOTAL	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	<1989	
THOHOYANDOU	70	8	62	5	7	5	3	4	6	32	6

VUMANI	8	0	8	1	1	0	0	3	3	0	0
WARMBAD	1 308	383	925	165	86	61	63	119	112	319	5
WATERBERG	1 505	235	1 270	120	90	87	92	132	148	601	3
UNSPECIFIED	63 023	7 587	55 436	7 212	4 234	3 987	4 070	5 087	4 867	25 979	0
FOREIGN BIRTHS	5	1	4	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0

1/ RECORDED LIVE BIRTHS BY PLACE OF BIRTH OF CHILD

2/ RECORDED STILL BIRTHS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE OF MOTHER

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