

Recorded Live Births 1998-2024

Statistics South Africa

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visit_data_catalog_at: <http://catalog.ihsn.org/>

Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

ZAF_1998-2024_RLB_v01_M

TITLE

Recorded Live Births 1998-2024

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM

RLB 1998-2024

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
South Africa	ZAF

STUDY TYPE

Recorded Live Births

ABSTRACT

The Recorded Live Births (RLB) dataset provides information on all registered live births in South Africa. The RLB dataset is part of a regular series of cumulative releases that Statistics South Africa, Stats SA, publishes and is based on data collected through the civil registration system. RLB 1998-2024 is the latest release in the series, which replaces and includes the data of the previous release (i.e. RLB 1998-2024 includes the data from RLB 1998-2023). The main objective of this dataset is to outline emerging trends and differentials in birth occurrence and registration, by selected socio-demographic and geographic characteristics in South Africa over time. Reliable birth statistics are necessary for population health assessment, health policy, service planning and programme evaluation. These data are particularly critical for planning, implementing and monitoring development policies and programmes such as the National Development Plan, NDP, in South Africa, Agenda 2063 at the regional level and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the international level.

KIND OF DATA

Administrative records data [adm]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Individuals

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

Version 01: Edited, anonymised data for public distribution

VERSION DATE

2026-01

VERSION NOTES

Version 1 of this dataset was downloaded from Statistics SA's Isibalo site on December 30, 2025

Scope

NOTES

Birth registration in South Africa is governed by the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1992 (Act No. 51 of 1992, as amended) and administered by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Upon registration, the DHA issues a birth certificate and updates the national population register. Once the data has been captured, it is transferred to the mainframe, where it is downloaded and the birth transactions are extracted for processing by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA).

TOPICS

Topic

Live births

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

This dataset has national coverage.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE NOTES

The distribution of births by DCs, metros and provinces are approximate figure as there was no perfect match of magisterial districts for all DCs, metros and provinces, since some magisterial districts are situated in more than one DC, metro or province. Such magisterial districts were allocated to the district council where the majority of the land area falls.

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT

The lowest level of geographic aggregation covered by the data is magisterial district using the 2016 municipal demarcations.

UNIVERSE

The target population is all births recorded on the Birth Register for the years 1998 to 2024. All births that occurred in South Africa, but where the parents were non-South African citizens or not permanent residents, have been excluded.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
Statistics South Africa	Government of South Africa

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Department of Home Affairs	DHA	Government of South Africa	Data capturing.

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
1998	2024

TIME PERIODS

Start date	End date
1998	2024

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Other [other]

DATA COLLECTORS

Name	Abbreviation	Role	Affiliation
Department of Home Affairs	DHA	Data capturing	Government of South Africa
Statistics South Africa	StatsSA	Dataset preparation	Government of South Africa

questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

The DHA uses two forms to record live births: Form DHA-24, Notice of Birth, to register births for persons aged 30 days and below; and Form DHA-24/LRB is used to register births for persons aged 31 days and older (along with other forms).

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
DataFirst Helpdesk	University of Cape Town	support@data1st.org	Link

ACCESS CONDITIONS

Use is under a Creative Commons BY attribution only license

CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Statistics South Africa. Recorded Live Births 1998-2024 [dataset]. Version 1. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa [producer], 2025. Cape Town: DataFirst [distributor], 2026. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25828/5JTQ-2R31>

ACCESS AUTHORITY

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	support@data1st.org	Link

LOCATION OF DATA COLLECTION

DataFirst data repository

ARCHIVE WHERE STUDY IS ORIGINALLY STORED

Statistics South Africa's Isibalo site

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_ZAF_1998-2024_RLB_v01_M

PRODUCERS

Name	Affiliation	Role	Abbreviation
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	Metadata producer	
Development Data Group	The World Bank	Metadata adapted for World Bank Microdata Library	DECDG

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Identical to a metadata (zaf-statssa-rlb-1998-2024-v1) published on DataFirst microdata repository (<https://www.datafirst.uct.ac.za/dataportal/index.php/catalog>). Some of the metadata fields have been edited.

data_dictionary

Data file	Cases	variables
rlb-1998-2024-v1	32506276	11

Data file: rlb-1998-2024-v1

Cases: 32506276

variables: 11

variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V1	SerialNo	Serial Number	
V2	RegistrationYear	The year the birth was processed	
V3	BirthYear	Year of birth occurrence	
V4	BirthMonth	Month of birth occurrence	
V5	Sex	Sex of the child	
V6	FatherAge	Age of father	
V7	MotherAge	Age of mother	
V8	RegistrationStatus	Status of birth registration	
V9	SeatCode	Magisterial district seat	
V10	DCCode	District municipality of birth occurrence	
V11	Province	Province of birth occurrence	

total: 11

SERIALNO: Serial Number**Data file: rlb-1998-2024-v1****Overview**

Valid: 32506276 Minimum: 19980000001 Maximum: 20240863858
 Type: Continuous Width: 16 Format: Numeric

REGISTRATIONYEAR: The year the birth was processed**Data file: rlb-1998-2024-v1****Overview**

Valid: 32506276 Minimum: 1998 Maximum: 2024
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1998	
1999	
2000	
2001	
2002	
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2018	
2019	
2020	

2021	
2022	
2023	
2024	

BIRTHYEAR: Year of birth occurrence

Data file: rlb-1998-2024-v1

Overview

Valid: 32506276 Minimum: 1875 Maximum: 2024

Type: Continuous Width: 16 Format: Numeric

BIRTHMONTH: Month of birth occurrence

Data file: rlb-1998-2024-v1

Overview

Valid: 32506276 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 99

Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	
2	
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99	

SEX: Sex of the child

Data file: rlb-1998-2024-v1

Overview

Valid: 32506276 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 2
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	
2	

FATHERAGE: Age of father

Data file: rlb-1998-2024-v1

Overview

Valid: 32506276 Minimum: 10 Maximum: 999
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
10	
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140	
998	
999	

MOTHERAGE: Age of mother

Data file: rlb-1998-2024-v1

Overview

Valid: 32506276 Minimum: 8 Maximum: 999

Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
8	
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100	
104	
998	
999	

REGISTRATIONSTATUS: Status of birth registration

Data file: rlb-1998-2024-v1

Overview

Valid: 32506276 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 2
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	
2	

SEATCODE: Magisterial district seat

Data file: rlb-1998-2024-v1

Overview

Valid: 32506276 Minimum: 10101 Maximum: 99904
 Type: Discrete Width: 45 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
10101	10101. Bellville
10102	10102. Cape Town
10103	10103. Goodwood
10104	10104. Kuils River
10201	10201. Khayelitsha
10202	10202. Mitchells Plain
10203	10203. Nyanga
10204	10204. Simons Town
10205	10205. Somerset West
10206	10206. Strand
10207	10207. Wynberg
10301	10301. Ceres
10302	10302. Montagu
10303	10303. Paarl
10304	10304. Robertson
10305	10305. Stellenbosch
10306	10306. Tulbagh
10307	10307. Wellington

10308	10308. Worcester
10401	10401. Beaufort-West
10402	10402. Laingsburg
10403	10403. Murraysburg
10404	10404. Prince Albert
10501	10501. Calitzdorp
10502	10502. George
10503	10503. Knysna
10504	10504. Ladismith
10505	10505. Mossel Bay
10506	10506. Oudtshoorn
10507	10507. Plettenberg Bay
10508	10508. Uniondale
10601	10601. Bredasdorp
10602	10602. Caledon
10603	10603. Grabouw
10604	10604. Heidelberg (Wc)
10605	10605. Hermanus
10606	10606. Riversdale
10607	10607. Swellendam
10701	10701. Citrusdal
10702	10702. Clanwilliam
10703	10703. Hopefield
10704	10704. Malmesbury
10705	10705. Moorreesburg
10706	10706. Piketberg
10707	10707. Vanrhynsdorp
10708	10708. Vredenburg
10709	10709. Vredendal
20101	20101. Adelaide
20102	20102. Alice
20103	20103. Bedford
20104	20104. Butterworth
20105	20105. Cathcart
20106	20106. Centane
20107	20107. Elliotdale
20108	20108. Fort Beaufort
20109	20109. Idutywa
20110	20110. Keiskammahoek

20111	20111. Kentani
20112	20112. Komga
20113	20113. Mbhashe
20114	20114. Middledrift
20115	20115. Mpofu
20116	20116. Nqamakwe
20117	20117. Peddie
20118	20118. Stutterheim
20119	20119. Victoria-East
20120	20120. Willowvale
20201	20201. Bizana
20202	20202. Maluti
20203	20203. Maluti-Matatiele
20204	20204. Matatiele
20205	20205. Mount Ayliff
20206	20206. Mount Frere
20207	20207. Tabankulu
20301	20301. Bisho
20302	20302. East London
20303	20303. King Williams Town
20304	20304. Mdantsane
20305	20305. Zwelitsha
20401	20401. Cala
20402	20402. Cofimvaba
20403	20403. Cradock
20404	20404. Elliot
20405	20405. Engcobo
20406	20406. Hofmeyr
20407	20407. Indwe
20408	20408. Lady Frere
20409	20409. Middelburg (Ec)
20410	20410. Molteno
20411	20411. Ntabethemba
20412	20412. Queenstown
20413	20413. Sterkstroom
20414	20414. Tarka
20415	20415. Tsomo
20416	20416. Whittlesea
20417	20417. Wodehouse

20501	20501. Albert
20502	20502. Aliwal North
20503	20503. Barkly-East
20504	20504. Burgersdorp
20505	20505. Lady Grey
20506	20506. Maclear
20507	20507. Mount Fletcher
20508	20508. Sterkspruit
20509	20509. Steynsburg
20510	20510. Venterstad
20601	20601. Bethelsdorp
20602	20602. Clearypark
20603	20603. Gqeberha
20604	20604. Ibhayi
20605	20605. Motherwell
20606	20606. Port Elizabeth
20607	20607. Uitenhage
20701	20701. Flagstaff
20702	20702. Libode
20703	20703. Lusikisiki
20704	20704. Mqanduli
20705	20705. Mthatha
20706	20706. Ngqeleni
20707	20707. Ntabankulu
20708	20708. Port St Johns
20709	20709. Qumbu
20710	20710. Tsolo
20711	20711. Umtata
20801	20801. Aberdeen
20802	20802. Albany
20803	20803. Alexandria
20804	20804. Bathurst
20805	20805. Graaff-Reinet
20806	20806. Grahamstown
20807	20807. Hankey
20808	20808. Humansdorp
20809	20809. Jansenville
20810	20810. Joubertina
20811	20811. Kirkwood

20812	20812. Pearston
20813	20813. Port Alfred
20814	20814. Somerset East
20815	20815. Steytlerville
20816	20816. Willowmore
30101	30101. Barkly West
30102	30102. Galeshewe
30103	30103. Hartswater
30104	30104. Jan Kempdorp
30105	30105. Kimberley
30106	30106. Pampierstad
30107	30107. Warrenton
30201	30201. Kudumane
30202	30202. Kuruman
30301	30301. Calvinia
30302	30302. Fraserburg
30303	30303. Namakwaland
30304	30304. Springbok
30305	30305. Sutherland
30306	30306. Williston
30401	30401. Britstown
30402	30402. Carnavon
30403	30403. Colesberg
30404	30404. De Aar
30405	30405. Douglas
30406	30406. Hanover
30407	30407. Herbert
30408	30408. Hopetown
30409	30409. Noupoort
30410	30410. Phillipstown
30411	30411. Prieska
30412	30412. Richmond (Nc)
30413	30413. Victoria-West
30501	30501. Gordonia
30502	30502. Groblershoop
30503	30503. Kenhardt
30504	30504. Postmansburg
30505	30505. Upington
40101	40101. Frankfort

40102	40102. Heilbron
40103	40103. Koppies
40104	40104. Kroonstad
40105	40105. Parys
40106	40106. Sasolburg
40107	40107. Viljoenskroon
40108	40108. Vredefort
40201	40201. Boshof
40202	40202. Bothaville
40203	40203. Brandfort
40204	40204. Bultfontein
40205	40205. Hennenman
40206	40206. Hoopstad
40207	40207. Odendaalsrus
40208	40208. Theunissen
40209	40209. Ventersburg
40210	40210. Virginia
40211	40211. Welkom
40212	40212. Wesselsbron
40213	40213. Winburg
40301	40301. Bloemfontein
40302	40302. Botshabelo
40303	40303. Dewetsdorp
40304	40304. Thaba Nchu
40305	40305. Wepener
40401	40401. Bethlehem
40402	40402. Clocolan
40403	40403. Excelsior
40404	40404. Ficksburg
40405	40405. Fouriesburg
40406	40406. Harrismith
40407	40407. Ladybrand
40408	40408. Lindley
40409	40409. Marquard
40410	40410. Phuthaditjaba
40411	40411. Reitz
40412	40412. Senekal
40413	40413. Slovo Park
40414	40414. Vrede

40501	40501. Bethulie
40502	40502. Edenburg
40503	40503. Fauresmith
40504	40504. Jacobsdal
40505	40505. Jagersfontein
40506	40506. Koffiefontein
40507	40507. Petrusburg
40508	40508. Philippolis
40509	40509. Reddersburg
40510	40510. Rouxville
40511	40511. Smithfield
40512	40512. Trompsburg
40513	40513. Zastron
50101	50101. Dannhauser
50102	50102. Madadeni
50103	50103. Newcastle
50104	50104. Utrecht
50201	50201. Chatsworth
50202	50202. Clermont
50203	50203. Durban
50204	50204. Inanda
50205	50205. Isipingo
50206	50206. Mpumalanga
50207	50207. Pinetown
50208	50208. Prospecton
50209	50209. Tongaat
50210	50210. Umbumbulu
50211	50211. Umlazi
50301	50301. Bulwer
50302	50302. Himeville
50303	50303. Ixopo
50304	50304. Kokstad
50305	50305. Mount Currie
50306	50306. Polela
50307	50307. Umzimkhulu
50308	50308. Underberg
50401	50401. Bhamshela
50402	50402. Lower Tugela
50403	50403. Mandeni

50404	50404. Maphumulo
50405	50405. Ndwedwe
50406	50406. Stanger
50407	50407. Sundumbili
50501	50501. Empangeni
50502	50502. Eshowe
50503	50503. Esikhaweni
50504	50504. Lower Umfolozi
50505	50505. Melmoth
50506	50506. Mtonjaneni
50507	50507. Mtunzini
50508	50508. Nkandla
50509	50509. Richards Bay
50601	50601. Alfred
50602	50602. Harding
50603	50603. Port Shepstone
50604	50604. Scottburgh (Umzinto)
50605	50605. Umzinto
50606	50606. Umzumbe
50701	50701. Camperdown
50702	50702. Howick
50703	50703. Impendle
50704	50704. Lions River
50705	50705. Mooi River
50706	50706. New Hannover
50707	50707. Pietermaritzburg
50708	50708. Richmond (Kzn)
50801	50801. Hlabisa
50802	50802. Hluhluwe
50803	50803. Ingwavuma
50804	50804. Kwangwanase
50805	50805. Mbazwana
50806	50806. Mkuze
50807	50807. Mtubatuba
50808	50808. Ubombo
50901	50901. Dundee
50902	50902. Glencoe
50903	50903. Greytown
50904	50904. Kranskop

50905	50905. Msinga
50906	50906. Nqutu
50907	50907. Umvoti
51001	51001. Bergville
51002	51002. Estcourt
51003	51003. Kliprivier
51004	51004. Ladysmith
51005	51005. Weenen
51101	51101. Babanango
51102	51102. Emondlo
51103	51103. Jozini
51104	51104. Mahlabathini
51105	51105. Ngotshe
51106	51106. Nongoma
51107	51107. Paulpietersburg
51108	51108. Pongola
51109	51109. Simdlangentsha
51110	51110. Ulundi
51111	51111. Vryheid
60101	60101. Itsoseng
60102	60102. Lichtenburg
60201	60201. Taung
60301	60301. Ganyesa
60401	
60501	60501. Christiana
60601	60601. Brits
60602	60602. Jericho
60603	60603. Letlhabile
60701	60701. Madibogo
60702	60702. Mmabatho
60703	60703. Molopo
60901	60901. Wolmaranstad
61001	61001. Klerksdorp
61101	61101. Makapanstad
61102	61102. Moretele 11
61201	61201. Madikwe
61202	61202. Mankwe
61301	61301. Huhudi
61302	61302. Vryburg

61401	61401. Lehurutshe
61501	61501. Rustenburg
61601	61601. Potchefstroom
61701	61701. Atamelang
61702	61702. Delareyville
61801	61801. Ventersdorp
61901	61901. Schweizer-Reneke
70101	70101. Alberton
70102	70102. Germiston
70201	70201. Benoni
70202	70202. Nigel
70203	70203. Springs
70301	70301. Boksburg
70302	70302. Edenvale
70303	70303. Kempton Park
70401	70401. Brakpan
70501	70501. Sebokeng
70502	70502. Vanderbijlpark
70503	70503. Vereeniging
70601	70601. Diepkloof
70602	70602. Eldorado Park
70603	70603. Ennerdale
70604	70604. Johannesburg
70605	70605. Lenasia
70606	70606. Soweto
70701	70701. Alexandra
70702	70702. Randburg
70801	70801. Roodepoort
70901	70901. Heidelberg (Gp)
71001	71001. Carletonville
71002	71002. Oberholzer
71101	71101. Evaton
71102	71102. Orange Farm
71201	71201. Krugersdorp
71301	71301. Randfontein
71401	71401. Centurion
71402	71402. Mamelodi
71403	71403. Pretoria
71404	71404. Wonderboom

71501	71501. Bronkhorstspuit
71502	71502. Cullinan
71601	71601. Akasia
71602	71602. Ga-Rankuwa
71603	71603. Mabopane
71604	71604. Odi
71605	71605. Soshanguve
71606	71606. Temba
71701	71701. Westonaria
80101	80101. Mapulaneng
80102	80102. Mapulaneng View
80103	80103. Mhala
80201	80201. Carolina
80202	80202. Eerstehoek
80301	80301. Balfour
80401	80401. Mbibana
80402	80402. Mdutjana
80403	80403. Mmametlhake
80404	80404. Siyabuswa
80501	80501. Amersfoort
80502	80502. Volksrust
80503	80503. Wakkerstroom
80601	80601. Belfast
80602	80602. Waterval-Boven
80701	80701. Kriel
80702	80702. Witbank
80801	80801. Bethal
80802	80802. Evander
80803	80803. Highveld Ridge
80901	80901. Standerton
81001	
81002	81002. Kabokweni
81003	
81004	81004. Nelspruit
81005	81005. Nsikazi
81006	81006. Witrivier
81101	81101. Piet Retief
81201	81201. Ermelo
81301	81301. Komatipoort

81302	81302. Malelane
81303	81303. Nkomazi
81401	81401. Middelburg (Mp)
81501	81501. Lydenburg
81502	81502. Pelgrimsrus
81503	81503. Sabie
81601	81601. Kwamhlanga
81602	81602. Mkobola
81701	81701. Barberton
81801	81801. Delmas
90101	90101. Lulekani
90102	90102. Namakgale
90103	90103. Phalaborwa
90201	90201. Bela-Bela
90301	90301. Bochum
90302	90302. Eldorado
90303	90303. Eldorado (Lp)
90401	90401. Dennilton
90402	90402. Groblersdal
90501	90501. Giyani
90502	90502. Hlaneki
90601	90601. Lebowakgomo
90602	90602. Thabamopo
90701	90701. Ellisras
90702	90702. Lephalale
90801	90801. Bolobedu
90802	90802. Letaba
90803	90803. Modjadjiskloof
90901	90901. Bungeni
90902	90902. Dzanani
90903	90903. Elim
90904	90904. Hlanganani
90905	90905. Louis Trichardt
90906	90906. Soutpansberg
91001	91001. Apel
91002	91002. Nebo
91101	91101. Malamulele
91102	91102. Senwamokgope
91103	91103. Tshakhuma

91104	91104. Vuwani
91201	91201. Modimolle
91202	91202. Waterberg
91301	91301. Mokerong
91302	91302. Mokopane
91401	91401. Dendron
91402	91402. Machaka
91403	91403. Molemole
91404	91404. Soekmeaar
91501	91501. Mookgopong
91601	91601. Musina
91701	91701. Masisi
91702	91702. Mutale
91801	91801. Mankweng
91802	91802. Polokwane
91803	91803. Seshego
91901	91901. Thabazimbi
92001	92001. Sibasa
92002	92002. Thohoyandou
92101	92101. Jane Furse
92102	92102. Praktiseer
92103	92103. Sekhukhune
92201	92201. Lenyenye
92202	92202. Naphuno
92203	92203. Sekororo
92204	92204. Tzaneen
99801	99801. Foreign
99901	99901. Ho - Identity Documents (Data Typists)
99902	99902. Ho - Passport
99903	99903. Ho - Status Services
99904	99904. Unknown

DCCODE: District municipality of birth occurrence

Data file: rlb-1998-2024-v1

Overview

Valid: 32506276

Type: Continuous Width: -4 Format: character

PROVINCE: Province of birth occurrence

Data file: rlb-1998-2024-v1

Overview

Valid: 32506276 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 99

Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
98	
99	

study_resources

questionnaires

Notice of Birth [DHA-24/LBR]

title Notice of Birth [DHA-24/LBR]
 country South Africa
 publishers Statistics South Africa
 description This form is used for late birth registration
 filename rlb-1998-2024-dha-24lrbr-form.pdf

Notice of Birth Form [DHA 24]

title Notice of Birth Form [DHA 24]
 authors Department of Home Affairs
 country South Africa
 publishers StatsSA
 description A tool used to record live births for children below 31 days.
 filename rlb-birthnotificationform-dha24.pdf

technical_documents

Recorded Live Births 1998-2024 Metadata

title Recorded Live Births 1998-2024 Metadata
 authors Statistics South Africa
 country South Africa
 publishers StatsSA
 description This is a codebook document
 filename rlb-1998-2024-metadata.pdf

other_materials

RLB2024_SeatCodes

title RLB2024_SeatCodes
 authors Statistics South Africa
 date 2025-12-30
 country South Africa
 filename rbl-1998-2024-Codelist.xlsx
