

# Higher fertility rate in the country

ADELAIDE women are having fewer babies than their country and interstate counterparts, according to the latest figures.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data show the total fertility rate – the average number of babies a woman is likely to bear – is just 0.9 per cent for Adelaide. This is the lowest TFR in the country besides Perth, and half the national average of 1.81.

The figures, released yesterday, show women in some country areas are having up to three times as many babies as those in the city.

The TFR in Orroroo/Carrieton was 3.27, and in Cleve it was 3.07. The state's average in 2005 was 1.79 – higher than the 2004 figure of 1.71 but slightly lower than the national average.