

A **birth** is defined as the start of life when a child emerges from the body of its mother. The total number of births includes both live births and stillbirths.

A **live birth** is the birth of a child who showed any sign of life; the number of live births refers to the number of births excluding stillbirths.

A **stillbirth** is the expulsion or extraction from the mother of a dead foetus after the time at which it would normally be presumed capable of independent extra-uterine existence (outside the uterus or womb). This is commonly taken to be after 24 or 28 weeks of **gestation** (the time from a child's conception to its birth).

A **live birth outside marriage** is a live birth where the mother's marital status at the time of birth is other than married.

The **crude birth rate** is the ratio of the number of births during the year to the average population in that year; the value is expressed per 1 000 inhabitants.

Further information

- [Fertility](#) (ESMS metadata file — demo_fer_esms)

Related concepts

- [Death](#)
- [Fertility](#)
- [Marriage](#)

Statistical data

- [Fertility statistics](#)