

Birth weight is the first weight of the fetus or newborn obtained after [birth](#) .

For [live births](#) , birth weight should preferably be measured within the first hour of life before significant postnatal weight loss has occurred. While statistical tabulations include 500 g groupings for birth weight, weights should not be recorded using those groupings; instead the actual weight should be recorded to the degree of accuracy to which it is measured.

At the lower end several birth weight categories can be defined:

- *low birth weight* : less than 2500 g (up to and including 2499 g);
- *very low birth weight* : less than 1500 g (up to and including 1499 g);
- *extremely low birth weight* : less than 1000 g (up to and including 999 g).

Note, however, that these definitions do not constitute mutually exclusive categories: below the set limits they are all-inclusive and therefore overlap (i.e. 'low' includes 'very low' and 'extremely low', while 'very low' includes 'extremely low').

Related concepts

- [Birth](#)
- [Gestational age](#)

Statistical data

- [Fertility statistics](#)

Source

- [World Health Organization](#)