

Statistics Canada

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Low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) and borderline viable birth weight-adjusted low birth weight (500 to less than 2,500 grams), by sex, Canada, provinces and territories
 annual

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Geography	Sex	Low birth weight 4 , 4.13	Characteristics 17	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Yukon ¹⁴	Both sexes	Birth weight less than 2,500 grams 7 , 8	Number of low birth weight births 4 , 7 , 9	14	37	26	35	47	26	30	32	30	16	19	29	31	32	32	26	20	19	28	15	14
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4 , 5 , 8 , 10	2.8	7.8	4.9	6.7	8.7	5.0	6.5	6.6	6.3	3.1	4.0	5.2	5.5	6.0	6.3	5.9	4.3	4.3	5.9	3.8	3.7
		Birth weight 500 grams or more, but less than 2,500 grams 8 , 10	Number of low birth weight births 4 , 7 , 9	13	37	26	32	46	26	30	31	30	16	19	28	30	32	31	25	19	19	28	15	14
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4 , 5 , 8 , 10	2.6	7.8	4.9	6.1	8.5	5.0	6.5	6.4	6.3	3.1	4.0	5.0	5.3	6.0	6.1	5.7	4.0	4.3	5.9	3.8	3.7
	Males	Birth weight less than 2,500 grams 7 , 8	Number of low birth weight births 4 , 7 , 9	8	16	15	14	25	14	10	13	9	9	11	16	15	19	16	10	15	6	17	11	6
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4 , 5 , 8 , 10	3.0	6.3	5.5	5.4	8.7	5.0	4.1	5.7	4.1	3.1	4.3	5.2	5.2	7.0	5.9	4.7	6.1	2.6	6.9	5.3	3.3
		Birth weight 500 grams or more, but less than 2,500 grams 8 , 10	Number of low birth weight births 4 , 7 , 9	7	16	15	11	24	14	10	12	9	9	11	15	15	19	15	10	14	6	17	11	6
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4 , 5 , 8 , 10	2.6	6.3	5.5	4.2	8.4	5.0	4.1	5.3	4.1	3.1	4.3	4.9	5.2	7.0	5.6	4.7	5.7	2.6	6.9	5.3	3.3
	Females	Birth weight less than 2,500	Number of low birth weight births 4 , 7 , 9	6	21	11	21	22	12	20	19	21	7	8	13	16	13	16	16	5	13	11	4	8
			Proportion of low birth	2.6	9.4	4.2	7.9	8.7	5.0	9.2	7.5	8.2	3.0	3.6	5.2	5.8	5.0	6.7	7.0	2.2	6.2	4.8	2.1	3.9

Geography	Sex	Low birth weight 1.4.12	Characteristics 12	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
		grams 7.2	weight births 4.5.9.10																					
		Birth weight 500 grams or more, but less than 2,500 grams 3.10	Number of low birth weight births 2.2.2	6	21	11	21	22	12	20	19	21	7	8	13	15	13	16	15	5	13	11	4	8
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.9.10	2.6	9.4	4.2	7.9	8.7	5.0	9.2	7.5	8.2	3.0	3.6	5.2	5.4	5.0	6.7	6.6	2.2	6.2	4.8	2.1	3.9
Northwest Territories including Nunavut 13.14.14 (Terminated)	Both sexes	Birth weight less than 2,500 grams 7.2	Number of low birth weight births 2.2.2	97 ^(T)	80 ^(T)	74 ^(T)	102 ^(T)	92 ^(T)	83 ^(T)	66 ^(T)	97 ^(T)	91 ^(T)	98 ^(T)	78 ^(T)	86 ^(T)	87 ^(T)	101 ^(T)	86 ^(T)	107 ^(T)	112 ^(T)	86 ^(T)	74 ^(T)	85 ^(T)	94 ^(T)
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.9.10	7.6 ^(T)	6.1 ^(T)	5.7 ^(T)	7.5 ^(T)	6.2 ^(T)	5.7 ^(T)	4.6 ^(T)	6.4 ^(T)	6.0 ^(T)	6.3 ^(T)	5.3 ^(T)	5.4 ^(T)	5.3 ^(T)	6.5 ^(T)	5.5 ^(T)	6.8 ^(T)	6.9 ^(T)	5.5 ^(T)	5.0 ^(T)	6.3 ^(T)	6.7 ^(T)
		Birth weight 500 grams or more, but less than 2,500 grams 3.10	Number of low birth weight births 2.2.2	97 ^(T)	80 ^(T)	74 ^(T)	101 ^(T)	90 ^(T)	82 ^(T)	66 ^(T)	97 ^(T)	91 ^(T)	97 ^(T)	77 ^(T)	84 ^(T)	86 ^(T)	101 ^(T)	86 ^(T)	107 ^(T)	112 ^(T)	85 ^(T)	73 ^(T)	82 ^(T)	92 ^(T)
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.9.10	7.6 ^(T)	6.1 ^(T)	5.7 ^(T)	7.4 ^(T)	6.0 ^(T)	5.7 ^(T)	4.6 ^(T)	6.4 ^(T)	6.0 ^(T)	6.2 ^(T)	5.2 ^(T)	5.3 ^(T)	5.3 ^(T)	6.5 ^(T)	5.5 ^(T)	6.8 ^(T)	6.9 ^(T)	5.4 ^(T)	5.0 ^(T)	6.1 ^(T)	6.6 ^(T)
	Males	Birth weight less than 2,500 grams 7.2	Number of low birth weight births 2.2.2	49 ^(T)	40 ^(T)	36 ^(T)	53 ^(T)	48 ^(T)	37 ^(T)	19 ^(T)	56 ^(T)	39 ^(T)	41 ^(T)	35 ^(T)	38 ^(T)	39 ^(T)	50 ^(T)	43 ^(T)	62 ^(T)	47 ^(T)	39 ^(T)	36 ^(T)	38 ^(T)	44 ^(T)
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.9.10	7.6 ^(T)	6.2 ^(T)	5.1 ^(T)	7.3 ^(T)	6.1 ^(T)	5.0 ^(T)	2.6 ^(T)	7.3 ^(T)	5.1 ^(T)	5.5 ^(T)	4.4 ^(T)	4.6 ^(T)	4.8 ^(T)	6.1 ^(T)	5.5 ^(T)	7.2 ^(T)	5.7 ^(T)	4.8 ^(T)	4.9 ^(T)	5.5 ^(T)	6.3 ^(T)
		Birth weight 500 grams or more, but less than 2,500 grams 3.10	Number of low birth weight births 2.2.2	49 ^(T)	40 ^(T)	36 ^(T)	52 ^(T)	47 ^(T)	36 ^(T)	19 ^(T)	56 ^(T)	39 ^(T)	41 ^(T)	34 ^(T)	37 ^(T)	38 ^(T)	50 ^(T)	43 ^(T)	62 ^(T)	47 ^(T)	39 ^(T)	36 ^(T)	37 ^(T)	42 ^(T)
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.9.10	7.6 ^(T)	6.2 ^(T)	5.1 ^(T)	7.2 ^(T)	6.0 ^(T)	4.8 ^(T)	2.6 ^(T)	7.3 ^(T)	5.1 ^(T)	5.5 ^(T)	4.3 ^(T)	4.5 ^(T)	4.6 ^(T)	6.1 ^(T)	5.5 ^(T)	7.2 ^(T)	5.7 ^(T)	4.8 ^(T)	4.9 ^(T)	5.4 ^(T)	6.0 ^(T)
	Females	Birth weight less than 2,500 grams 7.2	Number of low birth weight births 2.2.2	48 ^(T)	40 ^(T)	38 ^(T)	49 ^(T)	44 ^(T)	46 ^(T)	47 ^(T)	41 ^(T)	52 ^(T)	57 ^(T)	43 ^(T)	48 ^(T)	48 ^(T)	51 ^(T)	43 ^(T)	45 ^(T)	65 ^(T)	47 ^(T)	38 ^(T)	47 ^(T)	50 ^(T)
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.9.10	7.5 ^(T)	6.1 ^(T)	6.3 ^(T)	7.7 ^(T)	6.2 ^(T)	6.6 ^(T)	6.7 ^(T)	5.5 ^(T)	6.8 ^(T)	7.0 ^(T)	6.3 ^(T)	6.3 ^(T)	5.9 ^(T)	6.9 ^(T)	5.6 ^(T)	6.3 ^(T)	8.2 ^(T)	6.3 ^(T)	5.2 ^(T)	7.1 ^(T)	7.2 ^(T)
		Birth weight 500 grams or more, but	Number of low birth weight births 2.2.2	48 ^(T)	40 ^(T)	38 ^(T)	49 ^(T)	43 ^(T)	46 ^(T)	47 ^(T)	41 ^(T)	52 ^(T)	56 ^(T)	43 ^(T)	47 ^(T)	48 ^(T)	51 ^(T)	43 ^(T)	45 ^(T)	65 ^(T)	46 ^(T)	37 ^(T)	45 ^(T)	50 ^(T)
			Proportion of low birth	7.5 ^(T)	6.1 ^(T)	6.3 ^(T)	7.7 ^(T)	6.1 ^(T)	6.6 ^(T)	6.7 ^(T)	5.5 ^(T)	6.8 ^(T)	6.9 ^(T)	6.3 ^(T)	6.2 ^(T)	5.9 ^(T)	6.9 ^(T)	5.6 ^(T)	6.3 ^(T)	8.2 ^(T)	6.1 ^(T)	5.1 ^(T)	6.8 ^(T)	7.2 ^(T)

Geography	Sex	Low birth weight 1.4.12	Characteristics 12	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999		
		less than 2,500 grams 2.10	weight births 4.5.9.10																							
Northwest Territories 14.15.16	Both sexes	Birth weight less than 2,500 grams 7.8	Number of low birth weight births 4.7.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	46	42	44	41	41	26	38	39		
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.9.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.5	5.4	5.0	5.3	4.7	5.0	3.6	5.6	5.9
		Birth weight 500 grams or more, but less than 2,500 grams 9.10	Number of low birth weight births 4.7.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	46	42	44	41	41	26	35	37
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.9.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.5	5.4	5.0	5.3	4.7	5.0	3.6	5.1	5.6
	Males	Birth weight less than 2,500 grams 7.8	Number of low birth weight births 4.7.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	24	26	26	16	19	11	20	18	
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.9.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.8	5.5	6.0	5.6	3.5	4.5	3.0	5.8	5.5
		Birth weight 500 grams or more, but less than 2,500 grams 9.10	Number of low birth weight births 4.7.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	24	26	26	16	19	11	19	16
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.9.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.8	5.5	6.0	5.6	3.5	4.5	3.0	5.5	4.8
	Females	Birth weight less than 2,500 grams 7.8	Number of low birth weight births 4.7.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	22	16	18	25	22	15	18	21	
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.9.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.3	5.3	4.0	5.0	6.0	5.6	4.2	5.3	6.4
		Birth weight 500 grams or more, but less than 2,500 grams 9.10	Number of low birth weight births 4.7.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	22	16	18	25	22	15	16	21
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.9.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.3	5.3	4.0	5.0	6.0	5.6	4.2	4.7	6.4
Nunavut 13.14.16	Both sexes	Birth weight less than	Number of low birth weight births 4.7.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	55	44	63	71	45	48	47	55		

Geography	Sex	Low birth weight 1.4.12	Characteristics 12	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
		2,500 grams 7.8	Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.8.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.4	7.8	6.1	8.3	9.6	6.0	6.4	7.0	7.5
		Birth weight 500 grams or more, but less than 2,500 grams 8.10	Number of low birth weight births 4.7.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	55	44	63	71	44	47	47	55
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.8.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.2	7.8	6.1	8.3	9.6	5.9	6.3	7.0	7.5
		Birth weight less than 2,500 grams 7.8	Number of low birth weight births 4.7.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	26	17	36	31	20	25	18	26
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.8.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.8	6.8	4.7	9.0	8.4	5.1	6.7	5.2	7.0
	Males	Birth weight 500 grams or more, but less than 2,500 grams 8.10	Number of low birth weight births 4.7.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	26	17	36	31	20	25	18	26
	Males		Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.8.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.5	6.8	4.7	9.0	8.4	5.1	6.7	5.2	7.0
		Birth weight less than 2,500 grams 7.8	Number of low birth weight births 4.7.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	29	27	27	40	25	23	29	29
			Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.8.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.1	9.0	7.4	7.6	10.8	7.1	6.2	9.0	7.9
	Females	Birth weight 500 grams or more, but less than 2,500 grams 8.10	Number of low birth weight births 4.7.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	29	27	27	40	24	22	29	29
	Females		Proportion of low birth weight births 4.5.8.10	8.1	9.0	7.4	7.6	10.8	6.8	5.9	9.0	7.9

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Symbol legend:

- (T) Series is terminated
- .. Not available

Footnotes:

1. Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Vital Statistics, Birth Database
3. Over time, there has been increased registration of live births with birth weight less than 500 grams. To improve comparability of this indicator over an extended time period, low birth weight birth counts and low birth weight birth rates are calculated two ways, including and excluding live births with birth weight under 500 grams.
4. Counts and rates in this table exclude: live births to mothers not resident in Canada; live births to mothers resident in Canada, province or territory of residence unknown; live births with unknown birth weight.
5. Rates in this table are based on place of residence for indicators derived from birth events.

6. Missing data on sex of infant were imputed based on birth registration number.
7. Standard low birth weight birth counts in this table include all live births with birth weight less than 2,500 grams.
8. Standard low birth weight birth rates are calculated as follows: low birth weight birth counts in a given year divided by live birth counts for the same year with known birth weight.
9. Borderline viable birth weight-adjusted low birth weight counts in this table are calculated by subtracting the number of live births with a birth weight of less than 500 grams from the standard low birth weight counts in the same year
10. Borderline viable birth weight-adjusted low birth weight birth rates in this table are calculated as follows: (subtract the number of live births with a birth weight of less than 500 grams from the standard low birth weight birth counts in the same year) and divide by (live birth counts for the same year with a known birth weight greater than 499 grams).
11. Live births for the years 1979 to 1981 and 1985 to 1990 to mothers resident in Newfoundland and Labrador were adjusted to correct for undercounts.
12. No data on birth weight are available for 1979 to 1990 live births to mothers resident in Newfoundland and Labrador.
13. Live births for the years 1979 to 1990 to mothers resident in Nunavut are included with live births to mothers resident in the Northwest Territories.
14. Number and proportion of low birth weight births for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut should be interpreted with caution due to a small underlying count.
15. Northwest Territories excluding Nunavut.
16. Nunavut and the Northwest Territories (excluding Nunavut) came into existence on April 1, 1999. Data for these two territories are shown combined and separated for years 1991 to 1999 and separated from 2000 on. Historical data prior to 1991 are shown for the two territories combined as the "Northwest Territories including Nunavut" series; it was terminated in 1999. The vital statistics data that pertain to these territories for 1999 were previously published on the basis of the legal definition of each territory, as per the date of the event. Vital events for Nunavut that occurred before April 1, 1999 were tabulated with those of the Northwest Territories; only those events that occurred from April 1, 1999 on were tabulated separately. See the paper versions of the following publications for data year 1999: catalogue numbers 84F0001XPB, 84F0210XPB, 84F0211XPB, 84F0208XPB and 84F0209XPB.
17. The following standard symbols are used in this Statistics Canada table: (..) for figures not available for a specific reference period, (...) for figures not applicable and (x) for figures suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.
18. Live birth is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached.
19. Birth weight is the first weight of the newborn obtained immediately after birth, expressed in grams.

Source: Statistics Canada. *Table 102-4005 - Low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) and borderline viable birth weight-adjusted low birth weight (500 to less than 2,500 grams), by sex, Canada, provinces and territories, annual*, CANSIM (database). (accessed:)

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