

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE



WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2006

Jack and Katie are still the most popular baby names in Northern Ireland

- **Jack** and **Katie** were the most popular first names given to children whose births were registered in Northern Ireland in 2006. Jack has been the most popular boys name for the last four years and Katie the most popular girls name for the last three.
- There were over 290 baby boys named **Jack** and over 280 baby girls named **Katie** registered in 2006;

- Since 2000, **Jack** and **Matthew** have been the two most popular boys' names. **Matthew** remained the second most popular name in 2006, and, since 1995, has been the most or second most popular boys' name;

Top of the Tots 2006				
		Boys	Girls	
1	=	Jack	=	Katie
2	=	Matthew	↑	Grace
3	↑	Ryan	↓	Emma
4	=	James	=	Sophie
5	=	Daniel	↓	Ellie
6	↓	Adam	↑	Lucy
7	=	Joshua	↑	Sarah
8	↑	Callum	↓	Hannah
9	=	Ben	↑	Jessica
10	↑	Ethan	↑	Erin

- This year the popularity of both **Calum** and **Callum** increased. Both names are in the top 20 boys' names with over 300 boys named **Callum** or **Calum** last year;
- For girls, **Katie** entered the top ten most popular names in 2002, becoming the most popular name in 2004. **Grace** has risen 20 places to become the second most popular name in 2006;
- Only one of the 1975 top 10 boys' names (**James**) is still in the top 10 in 2006, while none of the top 10 girls' names from 1975 appear in the 2006 top 10 list;
- Over the last decade, parents have become more diverse in the names they have given to their babies. In 2006, there were approximately 1,800 girls' and 1,300 boys' names used; compared with 1,500 girls' and 1,000 boys' names in 2001. These figures show the wider variety of girls' names that are used.

Changes in popularity between 2005 and 2006

Boys' Names

- **Calum** is the only new boys' name to enter the top 20 in 2006; the alternative spelling **Callum** also rose in popularity within the top 20 from rank 16 in 2005 to rank 8 in 2006. This shows the significant increase in popularity of these two names in 2006.
- **Carter** has risen from rank 119 to rank 59 and **Rory** has risen from rank 79 in 2005 to rank 35 in 2006; and
- The greatest drops from the top 100 of 2004 were **Jordan**, down 62 places over the past year to rank 153 in 2006 and **Darren**, down 39 places to rank 138.

Girls' Names

- The largest movers in the girls' names top 20 in 2006 were **Amy**, **Anna**, **Grace** and **Jessica**.
- **Kayleigh** has risen from rank 159 to rank 73 in 2006 and **Lucie** has risen from rank 169 to rank 86 in 2006; and
- **Chantelle** has fallen from rank 99 to rank 175 and **Jane** has fallen by 94 places to rank 193.

Most popular forenames in 1975

The table below shows the ten most popular names for boys and girls in 1975.

Most popular boys' and girls' names, 1975

Rank	Male	Female
1	David	Joanne
2	Paul	Karen
3	John	Catherine
4	Mark	Julie
5	Stephen	Sharon
6	Michael	Mary
7	William	Claire
8	James	Lisa
9	Jonathan	Michelle
10	Robert	Nicola

Top 20 Names 2003-2006

The table below shows the most popular 20 boys' and girls' names in 2006 (with their positions over the last 4 years).

Boys	2006	2005	2004	2003
Jack	1	1	1	1
Matthew	2	2	2	2
Ryan	3	5	6	5
James	4	4	3	4
Daniel	5	5	5	9
Adam	6	3	4	3
Joshua	7	7	11	6
Callum	8	16	18	21
Ben	9	9	6	8
Ethan	10	11	13	15
Jamie	11	8	9	12
Conor	12	10	9	7
Luke	12	13	15	17
Thomas	14	12	12	14
Dylan	15	15	8	10
Sean	16	18	17	22
Michael	17	17	16	11
Aaron	18	14	14	12
Jake	19	18	25	32
Calum	20	47	89	89

Girls	2006	2005	2004	2003
Katie	1	1	1	2
Grace	2	22	21	26
Emma	3	2	2	1
Sophie	4	4	3	11
Ellie	5	3	4	6
Lucy	6	12	13	13
Sarah	7	8	6	8
Hannah	8	6	12	10
Jessica	9	19	14	21
Erin	10	16	17	15
Niamh	11	5	7	14
Caitlin	12	12	11	4
Chloe	13	11	8	3
Amy	14	7	5	5
Leah	15	10	18	17
Aoife	16	12	15	12
Rebecca	16	17	22	15
Emily	18	20	20	24
Aimee	19	18	9	19
Anna	19	9	15	18

Comparison Across Northern Ireland

The tables below show the five most popular names for boys and girls within each Health and Social Services Board.

Top 5 boys' names by Health Board, 2006

Eastern Board	Northern Board	Southern Board	Western Board
Jack	Jack	Jack	Callum
Matthew	Matthew	Matthew	Jack
Joshua	Ryan	Ryan	Conor
Daniel	James	James	Adam (=4)
James (=5)	Ben	Daniel	Ben (=4)
Ryan (=5)			Matthew (=4)

Top 5 girls' names by Health Board, 2006

Eastern Board	Northern Board	Southern Board	Western Board
Sophie	Katie	Katie	Ellie
Katie	Emma	Grace	Aoife
Grace	Grace	Emma	Niamh
Lucy	Ellie	Ellie	Katie
Emma	Sophie	Sarah	Caitlin (=5)
			Erin (=5)

Additional Forenames

Analysis has been undertaken of additional forenames given to children. Key results are:

- Ninety per cent of boys and 85 per cent of girls registered in 2006 have additional forenames;
- For boys, traditional forenames – **David, James, John, Joseph, Michael, Patrick, Thomas,** and **William** - are more popular as additional forenames than **Jack** is as a first name; and
- For girls, traditional forenames – **Elizabeth, Louise, Marie, Mary,** and **Rose** - are more popular as additional forenames than **Katie** is as a first name.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. A full list of the 100 most popular boys' and girls' names in 2005 can be obtained from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency website
http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp?cmsid=20_45_53&cms=demography_Publications_Baby+Names&release
2. These results are based on an analysis of the first names recorded on births registered between 1 January 2006 and 5 December 2006 with the General Register Office, Northern Ireland. The analysis is carried out on births to both resident and non-resident mothers registered within the above time period.
3. Only the first name was used for this analysis. Different spellings of a name have been treated as separate names, e.g. while there were 161 boys named Conor (ranked 12th), another 45 boys had the alternate spelling Connor which was ranked 70th. Names containing accents have been recorded without those accents, e.g. Séan was recorded as Sean. Names of equal rank have been placed in alphabetical order.
4. Corresponding information for England and Wales is published by the Office for National Statistics (London) and for Scotland by the General Register Office for Scotland in (Edinburgh).
5. Further information can be obtained from:

Press Office, Department of Finance and Personnel
Craigantlet Buildings
Stoney Road
BELFAST
BT4 3SX

Telephone: 028 9052 7374
Fax: 028 9052 7149

6. Statistical queries should be addressed to:

NISRA Customer Services
2-14 Castle Street,
BELFAST
BT1 1SA

Telephone: 028 9034 8160
Fax: 028 9034 8161