

FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER 2005

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 2005. They were also the most popular boys' and girls' names in 2004 and Jack has now been the most popular boys' name for three successive years;
- there were over 330 baby boys named **Jack** and over 280 baby girls named **Katie** registered in 2005;

- since the year 2000, **Jack** and **Matthew** have been the two most popular boys' names. **Matthew** remained the second most popular name in 2005, and for the last ten years has been the most or second most popular boys' name. **James** stayed at third place in 2005;

Top of the Tots 2005					
		Boys		Girls	
1	=	Jack	=	Katie	
2	=	Matthew	=	Emma	
3	=	James	↑	Ellie	
4	=	Adam	↓	Sophie	
5	↑	Ryan	↑	Niamh	
6	↓	Daniel	↑	Hannah	
7	↑	Jamie	↓	Amy	
8	↑	Joshua	↓	Sarah	
9	↓	Ben	↑	Anna	
10	↓ / ↑	Conor / Ethan	↑	Leah	

- for girls, **Katie** entered the top ten most popular names in 2002, becoming the most popular first name in 2004 and remains there in 2005. **Emma** is the second most popular name in 2005, whilst **Ellie** has gained one place to become the third most popular first name for girls;
- only one of the 1975 top 10 boys' names (**James**) is still in the top 10 in 2005, while none of the top 10 girls' names from 1975 appear in the 2005 top 10 list; and
- over the last decade, parents have become more diverse in the names they have given to their babies. In 2005, there were approximately 1,800 girls' and 1,200 boys' names used, compared with 1,500 girls' and 1,000 boys' names in 2001. These figures also show the wider variety of girls' names that are used.

Top 20 Names 2002-2005

The table below shows the most popular 20 boys' and girls' names in 2005 (with their positions over the last 4 years).

Boys	2005	2004	2003	2002	Girls	2005	2004	2003	2002
Jack	1	1	1	2	Katie	1	1	2	3
Matthew	2	2	2	1	Emma	2	2	1	7
James	3	3	4	5	Ellie	3	4	6	18
Adam	4	4	3	4	Sophie	4	3	11	14
Ryan	5	6	5	3	Niamh	5	7	14	10
Daniel	6	5	9	10	Hannah	6	12	10	9
Jamie	7	9	12	16	Amy	7	5	5	7
Joshua	8	11	6	6	Sarah	8	6	8	5
Ben	9	6	8	8	Anna	9	15	18	15
Conor	10	9	7	7	Leah	10	18	17	16
Ethan	10	13	15	11	Lucy	11	13	13	17
Luke	12	15	17	16	Chloe	12	8	3	1
Thomas	12	12	14	12	Caitlin	13	11	4	2
Aaron	14	14	12	14	Rachel	14	10	7	12
Dylan	15	8	10	9	Aoife	15	15	12	21
Jake	16	25	32	34	Rebecca	16	22	15	10
Callum	17	18	21	25	Erin	17	17	15	19
Michael	18	16	11	13	Aimee	18	9	19	23
Sean	19	17	22	18	Jessica	19	14	21	13
Lewis	20	21	25	33	Megan	20	19	9	4

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, 2005

Eastern Board	Northern Board	Southern Board	Western Board
Jack	Matthew	Jack	Jack
Matthew	Jack	James	Adam
James	Adam	Matthew	Conor
Daniel	Daniel	Ryan	Jamie (=4)
Ethan	Ryan	Daniel	Matthew (=4)

Top 5 girls' names by Health Board, 2005

Eastern Board	Northern Board	Southern Board	Western Board
Katie	Katie	Katie	Niamh
Sophie	Emma	Emma	Ellie
Emma	Ellie	Ellie (=3)	Caitlin
Anna (=4)	Hannah	Niamh (=3)	Hannah
Niamh (=4)	Amy	Amy	Emma

Changes in popularity between 2004 and 2005

Boys' names

- looking at the twenty most popular boys' first names in 2005, **Jake** and **Lewis** have entered the top twenty and steadily increased in popularity over the last three years. **Patrick** and **David** are no longer in the top 20 most popular boys' names;
- looking further down, **Noah** has risen from rank 108 to rank 57 and **Harvey** has risen from rank 117 in 2004 to rank 76 in 2005; while
- names with decreased popularity include **Aodhan**, down 49 places over the past year to rank 139 in 2005 and **Louis**, down 42 places to rank 126.

Girls' names

- looking at the twenty most popular girls' first names in 2005, **Anna**, **Hannah**, **Leah** and **Rebecca** have increased in popularity;
- **Rebecca** is the only new name in the top 20 for 2005, replacing **Emily**;
- looking further down, **Isabella** has risen from rank 200 to rank 79 in 2005 and **Ruby** has risen from rank 155 to rank 55 in 2005; and
- decreases in popularity include **Kathryn**, which has fallen from rank 70 to rank 156 and **Katherine** has fallen by 74 places to rank 164.

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

Additional Forenames / Forenames of Parents

Analysis has also been undertaken of additional forenames given to children by parents in 2005.

Key results are:

- ninety per cent of boys and eighty-five per cent of girls registered in 2005 have more than one forename;
- for boys, traditional forenames – **David, James, John, Joseph, 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.

This year analysis has also been undertaken of forenames given to children in relation to those of their parents. Just under 10 per cent of births were registered by the mother only, thus no comparison could be made with the father's name. Key results are:

- of boys registered in 2005, around one-third (34%) have at least one forename in common with their father and almost five per cent were given the same first name as their father;
- of girls registered in 2005, around one in eight (13%) have at least one forename in common with their mother, while under one per cent were given the same first name as their mother.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. A full list of the 100 most popular boys' and girls' names in 2004 can be obtained from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency website
http://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/financeandpersonnel/dmb/baby_names.htm
2. These results are based on an analysis of the first names recorded on births registered between 1 January 2005 and 12 December 2005 with the General Register Office, Northern Ireland. Final statistics for 2005, with a full list of the 100 most popular boys' and girls' names, will be published in 2006.
3. Only the first name was used for this analysis, surnames and additional forenames were not used. Different spellings of a name have been treated as separate names, e.g. while there were 171 boys named Conor (ranked 10th), another 44 boys had the alternate spelling Connor which was ranked 68th. 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 press information can be obtained from:
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