

# STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE



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## 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 2007. Jack has been the most popular boys name for the last five years and Katie the most popular girls name for the last four.
- There were over 290 baby boys named **Jack** and over 270 baby girls named **Katie** registered in 2007;
- Since 2003, **Jack** has been the most popular boys' names. **James** climbed from fourth most popular name in 2006 to second most popular in 2007 forcing **Matthew** out of the top two for the first time in twelve years;
- This year **Thomas** has increased in popularity rising from rank 13 in 2006 to rank 6 in 2007;
- For girls, **Katie** entered the top ten most popular names in 2002, becoming the most popular name in 2004, where it has remained since then. **Grace** and **Sophie** are the second and third most popular names for a second year running;
- Only one of the 1975 top 10 boys' names (**James**) is still in the top 10 in 2007, while none of the top 10 girls' names from 1975 appear in the 2007 top 10 list;
- Over the last decade, parents have become more diverse in the first names they have given to their babies. In 2007, there were approximately 1,900 girls' and 1,400 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.

Top of the Tots 2007					
		Boys		Girls	
1	=	Jack	=	Katie	
2	↑	James	=	Grace	
3	↓	Matthew	=	Sophie	
4	↑	Daniel	↑	Lucy	
5	↓	Ryan	↓	Emma	
6	↑	Thomas	↓	Ellie	
7	↓	Adam	=	Sarah	
8	↓	Joshua	↑	Erin	
9	↑	Dylan	=	Hannah	
10	↓	Ben	↑	Anna	

## Changes in popularity between 2006 and 2007

### Boys' Names

- **Harry** is the only new boys' name to enter the top 20 in 2007 moving from rank 22 in 2006 to rank 18 in 2007;
- **Zach** has risen from rank 145 to rank 83, **Cody** has risen from rank 131 to rank 83 and **Cillian** and **Robert** have both risen 32 places to ranks 78 and 42 respectively in 2007; and
- The greatest drops from the top 100 of 2006 were **Anthony**, down 44 places over the past year to rank 134 in 2007 and **Bradley**, down 34 places to rank 110.

### Girls' Names

- **Eva** was the largest mover in the girls' names top 20 in 2007 rising from rank 31 in 2006 to rank 18 in 2007, while **Anna** moved from rank 20 in 2006 to rank 10 in 2007;
- **Leona** has risen from rank 265 to rank 95 in 2007 and **Sara** has risen from rank 184 to rank 89 in 2007; and
- **Lucie** has fallen from rank 88 to rank 211 and **Abi** has fallen by 104 places to rank 197.

## 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 2004-2007

The table below shows the most popular 20 boys' and girls' names in 2007 (with their positions over the last 4 years).

Boys	2007	2006	2005	2004
Jack	1	1	1	1
James	2	4	4	3
Matthew	3	2	2	2
Daniel	4	5	5	5
Ryan	5	3	5	6
Thomas	6	13	12	12
Adam	7	6	3	4
Joshua	8	7	7	11
Dylan	9	15	15	8
Ben	10	9	9	6
Ethan	11	10	11	13
Conor	12	12	10	9
Charlie	13	20	28	54
Aaron	14	18	14	14
Jamie	15	11	8	9
Callum	16	8	16	18
Sean	16	16	18	17
Harry	18	22	32	38
Michael	18	17	17	16
Luke	20	13	13	15

Girls	2007	2006	2005	2004
Katie	1	1	1	1
Grace	2	2	22	21
Sophie	3	3	4	3
Lucy	4	6	12	13
Emma	5	4	2	2
Ellie	6	5	3	4
Sarah	7	7	8	6
Erin	8	10	16	17
Hannah	8	8	6	12
Anna	10	20	9	15
Chloe	11	11	11	8
Emily	12	17	20	20
Jessica	13	9	19	14
Amy	14	14	7	5
Caitlin	15	13	12	11
Molly	16	21	23	25
Aoife	17	14	12	15
Cara	18	24	25	24
Eva	18	31	29	38
Niamh	20	12	5	7
Rebecca	20	18	17	22

## 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, 2007**

Eastern Board	Northern Board	Southern Board	Western Board
Jack	Jack	James	Ryan
Daniel	Daniel	Jack	James
Matthew	Matthew	Daniel (=3)	Jack
James	James	Ryan (=3)	Matthew
Ryan	Ryan	Matthew	Dylan

### **Top 5 girls' names by Health Board, 2007**

Eastern Board	Northern Board	Southern Board	Western Board
Katie	Katie	Katie	Grace
Sophie	Grace	Ellie (=2)	Cara
Grace	Sarah	Grace (=2)	Sarah
Lucy	Anna	Lucy	Emma
Emma	Ellie	Sophie	Aoife (=5)
			Caitlin (=5)

## Additional Forenames

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

- Eighty-nine per cent of boys and 84 per cent of girls registered in 2007 have additional forenames;
- For boys, traditional forenames – **David, James, John, Joseph, Michael, Patrick, Thomas, Robert** 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 2006 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](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp?cmsid=20_45_53&cms=demography_Publications_Baby+Names&release)

The list of the 100 most popular boys' and girls' names in 2007 will be available in Summer 2008.

2. These results are based on an analysis of the first names recorded on births registered between 1 January 2007 and 4 December 2007 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 153 boys named Conor (ranked 12th), another 41 boys had the alternate spelling Connor which was ranked 74th. 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. Media inquiries should be directed to DFP Press Office

Telephone: 028 9052 7374

Fax: 028 9052 7149

6. Further statistical information can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services:

Telephone: 028 9034 8160

Fax: 028 9034 8161

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