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 2008. Jack has been the most popular boys name for the last six years and Katie the most popular girls name for the last five.

- There were around 320 baby boys named **Jack** and around 260 baby girls named **Katie** registered in 2008;

- Since 2003, **Jack** has been the most popular boys' name. **Matthew** has returned to the top two in 2008 after being forced to third place last year and **Daniel** has climbed from fourth most popular name in 2007 to third most popular in 2008;

Top of the Tots 2008				
		Boys		**Girls**
1	=	Jack	=	Katie
2	↑	Matthew	↑	Sophie
3	↑	Daniel	↓	Grace
4	↓	James	↑	Jessica
5	=	Ryan	=	Emma
6	↑	Joshua	↓	Lucy
7	↑	Conor	↑	Emily
8	↓	Thomas	↑	Chloe
9	=	Dylan	↓	Hannah
10	↑	Charlie	↑	Eva

- This year **Conor** has increased in popularity rising from rank 12 in 2007 to rank 7 in 2008 and **Charlie** has also moved from rank 13 in 2007 to rank 10 in 2008;

- 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. **Sophie** has moved to second most popular name in 2008 dropping **Grace** to third place in 2008;

- Only one of the 1975 top 10 boys' names (**James**) is still in the top 10 in 2008, while none of the top 10 girls' names from 1975 appear in the 2008 top 10 list;

- Over the last decade, parents have become more diverse in the first names they have given to their babies. In 2008, there were approximately 2,000 girls' and 1,500 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 2007 and 2008

Boys' Names

- **Lewis** is the only new boys' name to enter the top 20 in 2008 moving from rank 21 in 2007 to rank 19 in 2008;

- **Blake** has risen from rank 159 to rank 100, **Eoghan** has risen from rank 99 to rank 52 and **Alfie** has risen 42 places from rank 89 in 2007 to rank 47 in 2008; and

- The greatest drops from the top 100 of 2007 were **Charles**, down 43 places over the past year to rank 142 in 2008, **Lee**, down 27 places to rank 109 and **Taylor**, down 24 places to rank 106.

Girls' Names

- **Jessica** was the largest mover in the girls' names top 20 in 2008 rising from rank 13 in 2007 to rank 4 in 2008, while **Leah** moved from rank 24 in 2007 to rank 16 in 2008;

- **Abi** has risen from rank 190 to rank 73 in 2008 and **Eabha** has risen from rank 147 to rank 81 in 2008; and

- **Faye** has fallen from rank 91 to rank 205 and **Daisy** has fallen by 56 places to rank 139.

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 2005-2008

The table below shows the most popular 20 boys' and girls' names in 2008 (with their positions over the last 4 years).

Boys	2008	2007	2006	2005
Jack	1	1	1	1
Matthew	2	3	2	2
Daniel	3	4	5	5
James	4	2	4	4
Ryan	5	5	3	5
Joshua	6	7	7	7
Conor	7	12	12	10
Thomas	8	7	13	12
Dylan	9	9	15	15
Charlie	10	13	20	28
Ethan	11	11	10	11
Jamie	11	15	11	8
Adam	13	6	6	3
Aaron	14	14	18	14
Ben	15	10	9	9
Luke	16	19	13	13
Callum	17	15	8	16
Harry	17	19	22	32
Lewis	19	21	23	21
Sean	20	17	16	18

Girls	2008	2007	2006	2005
Katie	1	1	1	1
Sophie	2	3	3	4
Grace	3	2	2	22
Jessica	4	13	9	19
Emma	5	5	4	2
Lucy	6	4	6	12
Emily	7	11	17	20
Chloe	8	12	11	11
Hannah	9	8	8	6
Eva	10	16	31	29
Ellie	11	6	5	3
Sarah	12	7	7	8
Erin	13	9	10	16
Anna	14	10	20	9
Aoife	15	17	14	12
Caitlin	16	15	13	12
Leah	16	24	16	10
Niamh	16	21	12	5
Ella	19	22	25	26
Olivia	20	25	23	35

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, 2008

Eastern Board	Northern Board	Southern Board	Western Board
Jack	Jack	Jack	Conor
James	Daniel	Matthew	Matthew
Daniel	Matthew	James (=3)	Jack
Ryan	Ryan	Ryan (=3)	Oisin
Matthew	Joshua	Daniel	Daniel

Top 5 girls' names by Health Board, 2008

Eastern Board	Northern Board	Southern Board	Western Board
Katie	Katie	Katie	Katie
Sophie	Sophie	Emma	Ava
Jessica	Grace	Ellie	Hannah
Grace	Emily	Grace (=4)	Chloe
Lucy	Jessica (=5)	Lucy (=4)	Aoife
	Lucy (=5)		

Additional Forenames

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

- Eighty-nine per cent of boys and 85 per cent of girls registered in 2008 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 2007 can be obtained from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency website http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/babynames/firstnamesbulletin_2007.pdf
   The list of the 100 most popular boys' and girls' names in 2008 will be available in Summer 2009.

2. These results are based on an analysis of the first names recorded on births registered between 1 January 2008 and 7 December 2008 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 176 boys named Conor (ranked 7th), another 49 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. Media inquiries should be directed to DFP Press Office

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

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