

TUESDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2009

Jack and Katie still top of the tots in 2009

- **Jack** and **Katie** were the most popular first names given to children whose births were registered in Northern Ireland in 2009. Jack has been the most popular boys' name for the last seven years and Katie the most popular girls' name for the last six.

- There were around 340 baby boys named **Jack** and around 240 baby girls named **Katie** registered in 2009;

- since 2003, **Jack** has been the most popular boys' name. **Matthew** remains as the second most popular name while **James** has climbed from fifth most popular in 2008 to share third place with **Daniel** in 2009. This year **Adam** has increased in popularity to return to the top 10 at rank 6;

Top of the Tots 2009				
		Boys		Girls
1	=	Jack	=	Katie
2	=	Matthew	=	Sophie
3	=/↑	Daniel/James	=	Grace
4			↑	Lucy
5	↓	Ryan	↑	Erin
6	↑	Adam	↑	Emily
7	↑	Ethan	↓	Emma
8	↑	Charlie	↑	Eva
9	↓	Thomas	↓	Chloe
10	↓	Conor	↑	Anna

- 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** and **Grace** remain the second and third most popular names respectively in 2009. **Erin** has increased in popularity to enter the top 10 at rank 5;

- only one of the 1975 top 10 boys' names (**James**) is still in the top 10 in 2009, while none of the top 10 girls' names from 1975 appear in the 2009 top 10 list;

- over the last decade, parents have become more diverse in the first names they have given to their babies. In 2009, there were approximately 2,000 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.

Changes in popularity between 2008 and 2009

Boys' Names

- **Jake** and **Oliver** are the only new boys' names to enter the top 20 in 2009 both moving from rank 21 in 2008 to ranks 20 and 17 respectively in 2009;
- **Aodhan** has risen from rank 110 to rank 59, **Charles** has risen from rank 144 to rank 93 and **Lucas** has risen 30 places from rank 54 in 2008 to rank 24 in 2009; and
- the greatest drops from the top 100 of 2008 were **Harvey**, down 29 places over the past year to rank 108 in 2009, **Padraig**, down 26 places to rank 118 and **Daire**, down 24 places to rank 105.

Girls' Names

- **Erin** was the largest mover within the girls' names top 20 in 2009 rising from rank 11 in 2008 to rank 5 in 2009, while **Aimee** moved from rank 30 in 2008 to rank 20 in 2009;
- **Miley** has risen from rank 370 to rank 100 in 2009 and **Lexie** has risen from rank 254 to rank 100 in 2009; and
- **Rebekah** has fallen from rank 75 to rank 133 and **Eabha** and **Lydia** have fallen by 55 places to rank 133 and 128 respectively.

Variation in forenames by mother's age

- First names like **Jack** and **Katie** are popular for new mothers across all age groups. However more modern names such as **Dylan** and **Brooke** are increasingly popular amongst younger mothers. In contrast more traditional names such as **Oliver** and **Sarah** are more popular with older mothers.

Top 20 Names 2006-2009

The table below shows the most popular 20 boys' and girls' names in 2009 (with their positions over the last 4 years).

Boys	2009	2008	2007	2006
Jack	1	1	1	1
Matthew	2	2	3	2
Daniel	3	3	4	5
James	3	5	2	4
Ryan	5	4	5	3
Adam	6	12	6	6
Ethan	7	10	11	10
Charlie	8	10	13	20
Thomas	9	8	7	13
Conor	10	7	12	12
Dylan	11	8	9	15
Jamie	11	13	15	11
Harry	13	16	19	22
Aaron	14	14	14	18
Callum	15	18	15	8
Joshua	16	6	7	7
Oliver	17	21	28	53
Sean	18	16	17	16
Ben	19	15	10	9
Jake	20	21	22	19
Luke	20	18	19	13

Girls	2009	2008	2007	2006
Katie	1	1	1	1
Sophie	2	2	3	3
Grace	3	3	2	2
Lucy	4	6	4	6
Erin	5	11	9	10
Emily	6	7	11	17
Emma	7	5	5	4
Eva	8	9	16	31
Chloe	9	8	12	11
Anna	10	14	10	20
Jessica	11	4	13	9
Hannah	12	10	8	8
Aoife	13	15	17	14
Ellie	13	13	6	5
Amy	15	22	13	14
Sarah	16	12	7	7
Olivia	17	21	25	23
Niamh	18	16	21	12
Ella	19	20	22	25
Aimee	20	30	23	19

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

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 2009 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, Grace, Jane, Louise, Marie, Mary**, and **Rose** - are more popular as additional forenames than **Katie** is as a first name.

Comparison Across Northern Ireland

The table below shows the most popular boys' and girls' names within each Local Government District.

Local Government District	Boys' Name	Girls' Name
Antrim	Daniel/Jack	Grace/Niamh
Ards	Daniel	Amy/Emma/Katie
Armagh	Jack	Emily/Grace
Ballymena	Ryan	Katie
Ballymoney	Jack	Lucy
Banbridge	Daniel	Lucy
Belfast	Daniel	Sophie
Carrickfergus	Matthew	Hannah
Castlereagh	Daniel/Matthew	Katie
Coleraine	Oliver	Lucy
Cookstown	Ryan	Niamh/Sarah
Craigavon	Jack	Grace
Derry	Matthew	Ava/Ellie
Down	Thomas	Erin
Dungannon	Ryan	Katie
Fermanagh	Jack	Mia
Larne	Matthew	Lucy
Limavady	Harry	Katie
Lisburn	Jack	Sophie
Magherafelt	Daniel	Emily/Katie
Moyle	Daniel	Aimee/Erin/Katie
Newry & Mourne	Jack	Katie
Newtownabbey	Jack/Matthew	Sophie
North Down	Jack/James	Olivia/Sophie
Omagh	Jack	Katie
Strabane	Daniel/Matthew/Ronan/Ryan	Chloe

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. A full list of the 100 most popular boys' and girls' names in 2008 can be obtained from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency website at:

http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/babynames/firstnamesbulletin_2008.pdf

The list of the 100 most popular boys' and girls' names in 2009 will be available in Summer 2010.

2. These results are based on an analysis of the first names recorded on births registered between 1 January 2009 and 10 December 2009 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. Different spellings of a name have been treated as separate names, e.g. while there were 157 boys named Conor (ranked 10th), another 36 boys had the alternate spelling Connor which was ranked 85th. Names containing accents have been recorded in this press release without those accents, e.g. Séan is 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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