

Did you know in 2008:

- there were 26,252 births registered in Northern Ireland
- there were 13,535 baby boys and 12,717 baby girls registered
- the top boy's names were **Jack** (1st), **Matthew** (2nd) and **Daniel** (3rd)
- the top girl's names were **Katie** (1st), **Sophie** (2nd) and **Grace** (3rd)
- there were 1,545 different boy's names and 2,102 different girl's names registered
- only James remains in the top 10 boys' list from 1975
- none of the top 10 girls' names were in the 1975 top 10 list

Table 1 Most popular boy's names, 1975 to 2008

Rank	1975	1985	1995	2005	2007	2008
1	David	David	Ryan	Jack	Jack	Jack
2	Paul	Christopher	Matthew	Matthew	James	Matthew
3	John	Stephen	James	Adam	Matthew	Daniel
4	Mark	Mark	Conor	James	Daniel	Ryan
5	Stephen	John	Michael	Daniel	Ryan	James
6	Michael	Paul	Andrew	Ryan	Adam	Joshua
7	William	Michael	Christopher	Joshua	Joshua	Conor
8	James	Andrew	Daniel	Jamie	Thomas	Dylan
9	Jonathan	James	Mark	Ben	Dylan	Thomas
10	Robert	Jonathan	Jordan	Conor	Ben	Charlie / Ethan

Table 2 Most popular girl's names, 1975 to 2008

Rank	1975	1985	1995	2005	2007	2008
1	Joanne	Laura	Shannon	Katie	Katie	Katie
2	Karen	Emma	Lauren	Emma	Grace	Sophie
3	Catherine	Claire	Emma	Ellie	Sophie	Grace
4	Julie	Sarah	Sarah	Sophie	Lucy	Jessica
5	Sharon	Catherine	Rebecca	Niamh	Emma	Emma
6	Mary	Michelle	Hannah	Hannah	Ellie	Lucy
7	Claire	Nicola	Rachel	Amy	Sarah	Emily
8	Lisa	Lisa	Amy	Sarah	Hannah	Chloe
9	Michelle	Jennifer	Laura	Anna	Erin	Eva
10	Nicola	Danielle	Megan	Leah	Anna	Hannah

Analysis is based on first names recorded on birth registrations with only the first name used. Different spellings of a name have been treated as separate names, e.g. Conor and Connor. Names containing accents have been analysed without those accents, e.g. Séan was analysed as Sean.

This bulletin has been prepared by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Any queries relating to its statistical or data content and requests for further information should be addressed to NISRA Customer Services.

E-mail: census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk or Telephone Number: 028 9034 8160

Further copies can be found at:

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

Table 3 Most popular 100 boy's names in 2008, listed with count and rank in 2007 and 2008 and change in position

Name		2007 Count	2007 Rank	2008 Count	2008 Rank
Jack	(=)	311	1	342	1
Matthew	(↑)	268	3	290	2
Daniel	(↑)	259	4	270	3
Ryan	(↑)	255	5	264	4
James	(↓)	280	2	260	5
Joshua	(↑)	185	7	195	6
Conor	(↑)	167	12	186	7
Dylan	(↑)	178	9	181	8
Thomas	(↓)	185	7	181	8
Charlie	(↑)	149	13	176	10
Ethan	(↑)	170	11	176	10
Adam	(↓)	194	6	175	12
Jamie	(↑)	146	15	172	13
Aaron	(=)	148	14	154	14
Ben	(↓)	171	10	152	15
Harry	(↑)	139	19	143	16
Sean	(↑)	142	17	143	16
Callum	(↓)	146	15	140	18
Luke	(↑)	139	19	140	18
Lewis	(↑)	116	21	139	20
Jake	(↑)	114	22	137	21
Oliver	(↑)	96	28	137	21
Oisin	(↓)	114	22	121	23
Michael	(↓)	141	18	115	24
Rhys	(↑)	69	45	112	25
Nathan	(↓)	108	24	107	26
Shea	(↓)	105	25	103	27
Eoin	(↑)	90	30	102	28
Patrick	(↑)	90	30	102	28
William	(↑)	89	32	97	30
Joseph	(↓)	101	27	93	31
Alex	(↑)	68	47	91	32
Ronan	(↑)	77	38	91	32
Jay	(↑)	77	38	90	34
John	(↓)	86	33	86	35
Liam	(↑)	56	59	86	35
Samuel	(↓)	102	26	82	37
Darragh	(↓)	85	35	78	38
Jude	(↑)	64	50	78	38
Odhran	(↑)	71	44	78	38
Alexander	(↓)	75	40	77	41
Noah	(↑)	62	53	75	42
Reece	(↓)	73	41	74	43
Benjamin	(↑)	57	56	70	44
Jacob	(↑)	51	64	69	45
Christopher	(↑)	52	63	68	46
Eoghan	(↑)	33	99	68	46
David	(↓)	93	29	67	48
Corey	(↓)	80	37	66	49
Kyle	(↓)	81	36	66	49

Name		2007 Count	2007 Rank	2008 Count	2008 Rank
Alfie	(↑)	36	89	65	51
Caolan	(↓)	64	50	64	52
Tiernan	(↑)	61	55	64	52
Caleb	(↑)	46	70	63	54
Joel	(↓)	63	52	63	54
Lucas	(↑)	36	89	63	54
Sam	(↑)	57	56	63	54
Ciaran	(↓)	62	53	62	58
Cormac	(↑)	55	60	60	59
Mark	(↓)	67	48	60	59
Rory	(↓)	67	48	59	61
Niall	(↓)	55	60	58	62
Aidan	(↓)	57	56	57	63
Finn	(↓)	53	62	57	63
Jayden	(↑)	32	101	57	63
Owen	(↑)	46	70	57	63
Tyler	(↑)	50	65	57	63
Max	(↑)	39	82	56	68
Peter	(↑)	47	69	56	68
Shane	(↓)	48	68	55	70
Cameron	(↓)	72	42	54	71
Isaac	(↑)	38	87	54	71
Robert	(↓)	72	42	54	71
Carter	(↑)	40	79	53	74
Connor	(=)	43	74	53	74
Josh	(↑)	42	76	53	74
Reuben	(↓)	46	70	49	77
Scott	(↑)	39	82	48	78
Harvey	(↑)	39	82	47	79
Andrew	(↓)	86	33	45	80
Daire	(↑)	35	95	44	81
Ross	(↓)	49	66	44	81
Oran	(↑)	35	95	43	83
Riley	(↑)	29	108	43	83
Ruairi	(↓)	49	66	43	83
Dara	(↓)	43	74	39	86
Fionn	(↑)	34	97	39	86
Logan	(↑)	34	97	39	86
Calum	(↓)	69	45	38	89
Leo	(=)	36	89	38	89
Tom	(↓)	42	76	38	89
Padraig	(↑)	29	108	37	92
Blake	(↑)	15	159	36	93
Jonathan	(↓)	45	73	36	93
Paul	(↓)	36	89	36	93
Stephen	(↓)	42	76	36	93
Lorcan	(↓)	37	88	35	97
Cillian	(↓)	40	79	34	98
Mason	(↑)	23	123	34	98
Zach	(↓)	40	79	34	98

Table 4 Top 5 boy's names by Health Board, 2008

Eastern Board		
Name	Count	Rank
Jack	124	1
James	102	2
Matthew	89	3
Ryan	89	3
Daniel	88	5

Northern Board		
Name	Count	Rank
Jack	83	1
Daniel	78	2
Matthew	72	3
Ryan	69	4
Joshua	58	5

Southern Board		
Name	Count	Rank
Jack	81	1
Matthew	75	2
James	69	3
Ryan	65	4
Daniel	61	5

Western Board		
Name	Count	Rank
Conor	60	1
Jack	54	2
Matthew	54	2
Daniel	43	4
Oisin	43	4

Table 5 Most popular 100 girl's names in 2008, listed with count and rank in 2007 and 2008 and change in position

Name		2007 Count	2007 Rank	2008 Count	2008 Rank
Katie	(=)	281	1	281	1
Sophie	(↑)	208	3	221	2
Grace	(↓)	234	2	217	3
Jessica	(↑)	153	13	206	4
Emma	(=)	195	5	205	5
Lucy	(↓)	202	4	198	6
Emily	(↑)	161	11	192	7
Chloe	(↑)	159	12	179	8
Eva	(↑)	134	16	178	9
Hannah	(↓)	176	8	172	10
Erin	(↓)	172	9	166	11
Sarah	(↓)	184	7	163	12
Ellie	(↓)	189	6	162	13
Anna	(↓)	165	10	158	14
Aoife	(↑)	133	17	154	15
Niamh	(↑)	129	21	144	16
Leah	(↑)	114	24	138	17
Caitlin	(↓)	137	15	136	18
Mia	(↑)	101	27	126	19
Ella	(↑)	124	22	125	20
Olivia	(↑)	111	25	123	21
Amy	(↓)	153	13	122	22
Molly	(↓)	132	18	117	23
Ava	(↑)	56	46	111	24
Cara	(↓)	131	19	109	25
Rebecca	(↓)	131	19	109	25
Lauren	(↑)	75	34	108	27
Megan	(↑)	87	29	108	27
Ruby	(↑)	98	28	108	27
Aimee	(↓)	123	23	105	30
Abigail	(↑)	75	34	86	31
Caoimhe	(=)	83	31	86	31
Holly	(↓)	86	30	84	33
Lily	(↑)	75	34	84	33
Rachel	(↓)	103	26	84	33
Brooke	(↑)	64	42	82	36
Abbie	(↑)	69	39	78	37
Charlotte	(↓)	72	37	71	38
Nicole	(↑)	66	41	69	39
Zara	(↓)	76	32	66	40
Ciara	(↑)	64	42	60	41
Zoe	(↑)	58	45	60	41
Eve	(↓)	70	38	56	43
Ellen	(↑)	56	46	54	44
Beth	(↑)	43	53	53	45
Evie	(↑)	46	51	53	45
Sophia	(↑)	53	50	53	45
Eimear	(↓)	76	32	50	48
Isabella	(↑)	35	64	50	48
Madison	(↓)	64	42	49	50

Name		2007 Count	2007 Rank	2008 Count	2008 Rank
Clodagh	(↑)	44	52	47	51
Mya	(↑)	35	64	47	51
Laura	(↓)	56	46	45	53
Hollie	(↑)	28	75	42	54
Orlaith	(↑)	30	72	42	54
Faith	(↑)	39	57	40	56
Phoebe	(↑)	23	91	40	56
Kayla	(↑)	24	84	39	58
Shannon	(↓)	68	40	39	58
Mollie	(↑)	31	71	38	60
Alexandra	(↑)	28	75	37	61
Amelia	(↑)	24	84	37	61
Annie	(↑)	33	68	37	61
Bethany	(↑)	33	68	37	61
Maria	(↓)	42	54	36	65
Orla	(↑)	32	70	36	65
Summer	(↑)	19	115	36	65
Aine	(↓)	55	49	35	68
Clara	(↑)	29	74	34	69
Julia	(↑)	22	97	34	69
Paige	(↑)	26	79	34	69
Victoria	(↑)	21	103	34	69
Lydia	(↑)	18	122	33	73
Sara	(↑)	22	97	33	73
Cora	(↓)	36	62	32	75
Rebekah	(↓)	30	72	32	75
Jodie	(↓)	42	54	31	77
Abi	(↑)	10	190	30	78
Alex	(↓)	36	62	30	78
Aoibheann	(↑)	24	84	30	78
Eabha	(↑)	14	147	30	78
Kate	(↓)	39	57	30	78
Rihanna	(↓)	27	77	30	78
Casey	(↓)	38	61	29	84
Catherine	(↓)	39	57	29	84
Connie	(↑)	16	131	29	84
Naomi	(↓)	34	67	29	84
Alicia	(↓)	23	91	28	88
Cassie	(↓)	26	79	28	88
Jasmine	(↑)	21	103	28	88
Clíodhna	(↑)	21	103	27	91
Georgia	(↓)	41	56	27	91
Kayleigh	(↑)	16	131	27	91
Meabh	(↑)	22	97	27	91
Isla	(↑)	16	131	26	95
Courtney	(↓)	24	84	25	96
Darcy	(↑)	18	122	25	96
Jenna	(↑)	22	97	25	96
Leona	(↓)	23	91	25	96
Poppy	(↓)	26	79	25	96

Table 6 Top 5 girl's names by Health Board, 2008

Eastern Board		
Name	Count	Rank
Katie	110	1
Sophie	96	2
Jessica	91	3
Grace	88	4
Lucy	78	5

Northern Board		
Name	Count	Rank
Katie	64	1
Sophie	58	2
Grace	55	3
Emily	53	4
Emma	53	4
Jessica	53	4

Southern Board		
Name	Count	Rank
Katie	63	1
Emma	47	2
Eva	44	3
Aoife	43	4
Grace	43	4
Lucy	43	4

Western Board		
Name	Count	Rank
Ava	46	1
Katie	44	2
Hannah	37	3
Chloe	36	4
Aoife	35	5

Table 7 Most popular 100 boy's and girl's names in 2008 listed with 2007 and 2008 rank in alphabetical order

BOY'S NAMES					
Name	2007 Rank	2008 Rank	Name	2007 Rank	2008 Rank
Aaron	14	14	Joshua	7	6
Adam	6	12	Jude	50	38
Aidan	56	63	Kyle	36	49
Alex	47	32	Leo	89	89
Alexander	40	41	Lewis	21	20
Alfie	89	51	Liam	59	35
Andrew	33	80	Logan	97	86
Ben	10	15	Lorcan	88	97
Benjamin	56	44	Lucas	89	54
Blake	159	93	Luke	19	18
Caleb	70	54	Mark	48	59
Callum	15	18	Mason	123	98
Calum	45	89	Matthew	3	2
Cameron	42	71	Max	82	68
Caolan	50	52	Michael	18	24
Carter	79	74	Nathan	24	26
Charlie	13	10	Niall	60	62
Christopher	63	46	Noah	53	42
Ciaran	53	58	Odhran	44	38
Cillian	79	98	Oisin	22	23
Connor	74	74	Oliver	28	21
Conor	12	7	Oran	95	83
Corey	37	49	Owen	70	63
Cormac	60	59	Padraig	108	92
Daire	95	81	Patrick	30	28
Daniel	4	3	Paul	89	93
Dara	74	86	Peter	69	68
Darragh	35	38	Reece	41	43
David	29	48	Reuben	70	77
Dylan	9	8	Rhys	45	25
Eoghan	99	46	Riley	108	83
Eoin	30	28	Robert	42	71
Ethan	11	10	Ronan	38	32
Finn	62	63	Rory	48	61
Fionn	97	86	Ross	66	81
Harry	19	16	Ruairi	66	83
Harvey	82	79	Ryan	5	4
Isaac	87	71	Sam	56	54
Jack	1	1	Samuel	26	37
Jacob	64	45	Scott	82	78
Jake	22	21	Sean	17	16
James	2	5	Shane	68	70
Jamie	15	13	Shea	25	27
Jay	38	34	Stephen	76	93
Jayden	101	63	Thomas	7	8
Joel	52	54	Tiernan	55	52
John	33	35	Tom	76	89
Jonathan	73	93	Tyler	65	63
Joseph	27	31	William	32	30
Josh	76	74	Zach	79	98

GIRL'S NAMES					
Name	2007 Rank	2008 Rank	Name	2007 Rank	2008 Rank
Abbie	39	37	Holly	30	33
Abi	190	78	Isabella	64	48
Abigail	34	31	Isla	131	95
Aimee	23	30	Jasmine	103	88
Aine	49	68	Jenna	97	96
Alex	62	78	Jessica	13	4
Alexandra	75	61	Jodie	54	77
Alicia	91	88	Julia	97	69
Amelia	84	61	Kate	57	78
Amy	13	22	Katie	1	1
Anna	10	14	Kayla	84	58
Annie	68	61	Kayleigh	131	91
Aoibheann	84	78	Laura	46	53
Aoife	17	15	Lauren	34	27
Ava	46	24	Leah	24	17
Beth	53	45	Leona	91	96
Bethany	68	61	Lily	34	33
Brooke	42	36	Lucy	4	6
Caitlin	15	18	Lydia	122	73
Caoimhe	31	31	Madison	42	50
Cara	19	25	Maria	54	65
Casey	61	84	Meabh	97	91
Cassie	79	88	Megan	29	27
Catherine	57	84	Mia	27	19
Charlotte	37	38	Mollie	71	60
Chloe	12	8	Molly	18	23
Ciara	42	41	Mya	64	51
Clara	74	69	Naomi	67	84
Clíodhna	103	91	Niamh	21	16
Clodagh	52	51	Nicole	41	39
Connie	131	84	Olivia	25	21
Cora	62	75	Orla	70	65
Courtney	84	96	Orlaith	72	54
Darcy	122	96	Paige	79	69
Eabha	147	78	Phoebe	91	56
Eimear	32	48	Poppy	79	96
Ella	22	20	Rachel	26	33
Ellen	46	44	Rebecca	19	25
Ellie	6	13	Rebekah	72	75
Emily	11	7	Rihanna	77	78
Emma	5	5	Ruby	28	27
Erin	9	11	Sara	97	73
Eva	16	9	Sarah	7	12
Eve	38	43	Shannon	40	58
Evie	51	45	Sophia	50	45
Faith	57	56	Sophie	3	2
Georgia	56	91	Summer	115	65
Grace	2	3	Victoria	103	69
Hannah	8	10	Zara	32	40
Hollie	75	54	Zoe	45	41

- the highest climbing boy's names were **Blake** (up 66 places to 93), **Eoghan** (up 53 places to 46) and **Alfie** and **Jayden** (up 38 places to 51 and 63 respectively)
- the highest climbing girl's names were **Abi** (up 112 places to 78), **Eabha** (up 69 places to 78) and **Summer** (up 50 places to 65)