

NISRA STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE

27 April 2017

EMILY & JAMES TOP TOTS FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

It's official - Emily and James were the most popular first names given to baby girls and boys in Northern Ireland, for births registered in 2016.

This is one of the findings of the Baby Names 2016 statistics published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Emily has been the most popular girls' name in each of the past four years, albeit jointly with Grace in 2013. This is only the second time that James has held the top spot, despite being in the top five since records began in 1997.

In terms of **boys' names**, Jack (which held the top spot for 12 consecutive years between 2003 and 2014) comes a close second to James in popularity with Oliver in third place. Ezra however climbed the greatest number of places to join the top 100 names for boys, rising from rank 126 in 2015 to rank 88 in 2016. Alfie and Jacob were new entries into the boy's top 10, replacing Jake and Thomas.

While the popularity of boys' names has varied over the years, James, Jack, Daniel and Matthew have all stood the test of time featuring in both the 2016 top 10 and the top 10 a decade previously. Colby, Hendrix, Kiefer, Prince and Woody on the other hand, were some of the less common names given to baby boys in 2016.

In terms of **girls' names**, Grace has taken second place in the top 10 for the third time in four years, whilst Olivia comes a close third. Elsie climbed the greatest number of places to join the top 100 names for girls, moving from rank 155 in 2015 to rank 59 in 2016. Lily and Sophia also rose in popularity to join the girl's top 10, replacing Aoife and Lucy.

Compared with boys, a greater number of girls' names have held the top spot since the reporting of first names began in 1997. Emily and Sophie have held the top position on four and three occasions respectively, while Chloe and Katie each held it on six occasions. In terms of popularity, Sophie and Grace have stood the test of time featuring in the top 10 in 2016 and also a decade previously. Some of the less common names given to baby girls in 2016 were Cinderella, Dallas, Gigi, Melania and Scout.

More generally, the statistics published today also highlight that the popularity of baby names in 2016 (both boys and girls) varied, for example, by District Council, age of mother, country of birth of mother and month of registration. Blockbuster movies, popular television series, current celebrities and memorable places continue to appear to be influencing factors for some parents.

Top 10 baby names in Northern Ireland, 2016

Boys:

1. James – 254 Babies
2. Jack – 243 Babies
3. Oliver – 207 Babies
4. Charlie – 204 Babies
5. Noah – 201 Babies
6. Harry – 188 Babies
7. Jacob – 173 Babies
8. Daniel – 159 Babies
9. Matthew – 142 Babies
10. Alfie – 139 Babies

Girls:

1. Emily – 237 Babies
2. Grace – 198 Babies
3. Olivia – 191 Babies
4. Anna – 164 Babies
5. Sophie – 155 Babies
6. Lily – 151 Babies
7. Amelia – 150 Babies
8. Ella – 142 Babies
9. Ava – 136 Babies
10. Sophia – 135 Babies

An interactive tool which will return the rank that any particular name has held over the period 1997 to 2016 is available at the following link
https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/Baby_Search_tool.xlsx.

An infographic to accompany this release is available at the following link
https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/Infographic_0.pdf

A feedback survey can be completed at the following link
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BabyNamesNI>

Notes to Editors:

1. The baby name statistics have been derived from annual births registration data and include all live births, to both resident and non-resident mothers, registered in Northern Ireland during 2016. This is not necessarily the year these births will have occurred (e.g. a birth that occurs near the end of December 2016 may not have been registered until early January 2017).

2. 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).

3. A8 countries include the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

4. Further information on the production of Baby Names statistics in Northern Ireland is provided in the *Baby Names Information Paper* on the NISRA website at https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/Baby_Names_Information_Paper.pdf

5. We welcome feedback from users on the content, format and relevance of this release. Please send feedback to the email address below.

6. Follow NISRA on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

7. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance review to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2017.

8. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

9. The [Vital Statistics Quality Assurance Policy](#) and [Revisions and Errors Policy](#) are both available from the NISRA website.

10. Any queries relating to its statistical or data content and requests for further information should be addressed to NISRA Customer Services at:

- E-mail: census.nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk
- Telephone Number: 028 9025 5156
- Responsible Statistician: Brian Green

11. Media enquiries only to DOF Communications Office on 028 9081 6724 or 028 9081 6895. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Officer via pager number 07623 974 383 and your call will be returned.

12. Date of next publication of most popular baby names in 2017: Spring 2018.