NISRA STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE
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EMILY & JAMES TOP TOTS FOR THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

It's official - Emily and James were the most popular first names given to baby girls and baby boys in Northern Ireland, for births registered in 2017.

This is one of the findings of the Baby Names 2017 statistics published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Emily has been the most popular girls' name in each of the past five years, albeit jointly with Grace in 2013, whereas James has been the most popular boys' names in each of the past three years.

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 Noah in third place. Hunter climbed the greatest number of places to join the top 100 names for boys, rising from rank 207 in 2016 to rank 98 in 2017. Logan joined the boy's top 10 for the first time in 2017.

While the popularity of boys' names has varied over the years, James, Jack, Daniel and Thomas have all stood the test of time featuring in both the 2017 top 10 and the top 10 a decade previously. Zeplin, Blaise, Maverick, Ace and Jupiter on the other hand, were some of the less common names given to baby boys in 2017.

In terms of **girls' names**, Grace has once again taken second place in the top 10, whilst Olivia comes a close third. Roise climbed the greatest number of places to join the top 100 names for girls, moving from rank 151 in 2016 to rank 90 in 2017. Isla and Charlotte both joined the girl's top 10 for the first time in 2017.

Compared with boys, a greater number of girls' names have held the top spot since the reporting of first names began in 1997. Some of the less common names given to baby girls in 2017 were Lady, Divine, Rio, Star and Vogue.

Almost 1,000 new baby names were registered in 2017 that had not been registered since the reporting of baby names began in 1997. Blockbuster movies, popular television series, current celebrities and memorable places continue to appear to be influencing factors for some parents.

Of those registrations containing details of the father, almost 500 boys were given their fathers' name as a first or additional name. However fewer than 100 girls were given their mothers' name.

More generally, the statistics published today highlight that the popularity of baby names in 2017 (both boys and girls) varied, for example, by District Council, age of mother, country of birth of mother and month of registration.

Top 10 baby names in Northern Ireland, 2017

Boys:

1. James – 243 Babies
2. Jack – 226 Babies
3. Noah – 189 Babies
4. Charlie – 185 Babies
5. Jacob – 180 Babies
6. Harry – 169 Babies
7. Thomas – 158 Babies
8. Daniel – 147 Babies
9. Oliver – 143 Babies
10. Logan – 125 Babies

Girls:

1. Emily – 216 Babies
2. Grace – 202 Babies
3. Olivia – 179 Babies
4. Isla – 153 Babies
5. Anna – 142 Babies
6. Sophie – 132 Babies
7. Ella – 128 Babies
8. Amelia – 127 Babies
9. Charlotte – 124 Babies
10. Sophia – 121 Babies

An interactive tool which will return the rank that any particular name has held over the period 1997 to 2017 is available at the following link
https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/Baby_Search_tool_2017.xlsx.

A booklet containing infographics to accompany this release is available at the following link
https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/firstnamesbulletin2017.pdf

We welcome any feedback that you may have regarding this release, which can be provided using 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 2017. This is not necessarily the year these births will have occurred (e.g. a birth that occurs near the end of December 2017 may not have been registered until early January 2018. Similarly, births occurring near the end of 2016 but not registered until 2017 will have been included in this analysis).

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 2018.

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.gov.uk
- Telephone Number: 028 9025 5156
- Responsible Statistician: Brian Green

11. Media enquiries only to DoF Press Office on 028 9081 6724 or e-mail: dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk. 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 2018: Spring 2019.