
Babies' First Names 2013

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Main Points

The key points in this publication are:

- **Jack** remains the most popular first forename for baby boys, for a sixth consecutive year. **James** has risen to second place, and **Lewis** has dropped to third.
- For the ninth year, **Sophie** is the most popular first forename for baby girls. **Olivia** has climbed two places to second, and **Emily** has fallen to third.
- In total, 3,253 different boys' first forenames and 4,180 different girls' first forenames were registered in the first eleven months of the year.
- Jack was the first forename of just 2.1 per cent of the boys, and Sophie was the first forename of only 1.9 per cent of the girls.
- The top 50 boys' names accounted for 42 per cent of all boys' first forenames registered, and the top 50 girls' names accounted for 40 per cent of the girls' registrations.

The most popular first forenames in Scotland, 2013 (provisional)

All the information for 2013 in this publication is provisional, being based on data for births that were registered in the first eleven months of the year ([Note 2 on page 9](#) gives the precise specification of the 'cut-off' date). The information given for 2012 is based on data for all the births that were registered in that year, and so supersedes the provisional figures that appeared in the previous edition of this publication.

Table A (below) shows the Top Twenty boys' and girls' first forenames included in the statistics for 2013. The following more detailed information may be downloaded from our website:

- the Top 100 boys' and girls' first forenames in Scotland in 2013, showing changes since the previous year:
 - in order of popularity ([Table 1](#)); and
 - in alphabetical order ([Table 2](#));
- the Top Ten boys' and girls' first forenames for each Scottish council area ([Table 3](#)).

Full lists of all the first forenames which were given to babies in Scotland in 2012 (including those registered too late to be counted in the previous edition of this publication) are available from the [Babies' First Names 2012](#) pages of the NRS website. Equivalent lists of all the first forenames given to babies whose births were registered in Scotland in 2013 will be made available when the preliminary annual statistics for 2013 are published.

Table A: First forenames registered in Scotland in 2013 (provisional)

Boys				Girls			
Rank	Name	Number	Change in Rank 2012 - 2013 (prov.)	Rank	Name	Number	Change in Rank 2012 - 2013 (prov.)
1	Jack	561	no change	1	Sophie	474	no change
2	James	401	1	2	Olivia	465	2
3	Lewis	347	-1	3	Emily	452	-1
4	Oliver	334	6	4	Isla	374	2
5	Daniel	325	1	5	Lucy	372	no change
6	Logan	322	-1	6	Ava	353	-3
7	Alexander	298	2	7	Jessica	349	no change
8	Lucas	292	12	8	Ella	283	16
9	Harry	281	-1	9	Amelia	278	no change
10	Charlie	274	2	10	Millie	277	1
11	Mason	268	6	11	Lily	270	-4
12	Ethan	261	-5	12	Chloe	253	no change
13	Riley	253	-9	13	Eva	242	1
14	Noah	246	15	14=	Emma	237	5
15	Alfie	245	3	14=	Sophia	237	1
16	Harris	240	12	16	Ellie	233	-3
17	Finlay	237	-4	17	Mia	218	-7
18	Max	232	-7	18	Erin	213	4
19	Thomas	229	4	19	Freya	210	-3
20	Jacob	227	15	20	Grace	209	-3

Commentary

Boys' Names

Jack remains the most popular first forename for baby boys, for a sixth consecutive year. **James** became the second most popular boys' name for the first time in this century. From 1999 to 2012, Jack and Lewis were the top two boys' first forenames, with Jack number one (and Lewis second) in ten of those 14 years, and Lewis top (and Jack second) in the other four. However, in 2013, James is second and **Lewis** drops to third.

Oliver has risen six places to fourth, and **Daniel** is up one place to fifth. There are two new entrants to the boys' Top Ten: **Lucas** (up 12 places to eighth) and **Charlie** (up two places to tenth). **Logan** (sixth), **Alexander** (seventh) and **Harry** (ninth) make up the rest of the boys' Top Ten: each of them is within a place or two of their position in 2012.

Lucas is the fastest climber within the Top Twenty, followed by Oliver (up 6 places to fourth) and **Mason** (up 6 places to 11th). **Noah** (up 15 places to 14th), **Harris** (up 12 places to 16th), **Thomas** (up 4 places to 19th) and **Jacob** (up 15 places to 20th) are the new entrants to the boys' Top Twenty.

Leo (up 16 places to 23rd), **Kai** (up 14 places to 30th) and **David** (up 10 places to 35th) are among the other climbers within the Top Fifty. There are also four new entrants to the Top Fifty: **Oscar** (up 23 places to 37th), **Brodie** (up 6 places to joint 47th), **John** (up 2 places to 49th) and **Harrison** (up 4 places to 50th).

A little further down the Top 100, **Muhammad** (up 16 places to 52nd), **Murray** (up 14 places to joint 59th), **Cooper** (up 17 places to joint 61st), **Sam** (up 16 places to 63rd), and **Kayden** (up 16 places to joint 65th) are also moving upwards. By this stage, a relatively small change in numbers could make a marked difference to the ranking - for example, Benjamin (53rd) was the first forename of only 21 more babies than Blake (74th). **Callan**, **Corey**, **Hamish**, **Harvey**, **Reuben**, **Struan** and **Theo** are all new entrants to the Top 100.

Names with clear falls in their popularity include **Ethan** (down 5 places to 12th), **Riley** (down 9 places to 13th), **Max** (down 7 places to 18th), **Aaron** (down 9 places to 24th), **Liam** (down 8 places to 28th), **Jamie** (down 9 places to 31st), **Callum** (down 9 places to 33rd), **Tyler** (down 23 places to 36th) and **Kyle** (down 14 places to 41st).

Ethan and **Riley** drop out of the boys' Top Ten; **Aaron**, **Adam**, **Liam**, **Ryan** and **Tyler** drop out of the Top Twenty; **Cole**, **Joseph**, **Leon** and **Rhys** drop out of the Top Fifty; **Evan**, **Ewan**, **Kian**, **Mark**, **Olly**, **Reece**, **Scott** and **Shay** are no longer in the Top 100.

By the 'cut-off' date, 26,725 boys' births had been registered, with 3,253 different first forenames being used. A total of 2,091 boys were given first forenames that were unique (within the first eleven months of 2013).

Jack was the first forename of just 2.1 per cent of the boys. The top 50 names accounted for 42 per cent of all boys' first forenames.

Girls' Names

For the ninth year in a row, **Sophie** is the most popular first forename for baby girls. **Olivia** climbs two places to second, just nine behind Sophie in numbers. **Emily** fell from second to third, and **Isla** rose from sixth to fourth. **Lucy**, **Ava** and **Jessica** are fifth, sixth and seventh respectively, with Ava dropping from third and the other two not moving.

There are two new entrants to the girls' Top Ten: **Ella** has risen 16 places to eighth, and **Millie** is up one place to tenth. **Amelia** remains ninth.

Within the Top Twenty, **Emma** has moved up 5 places to joint 14th. Besides Ella, the other new entrant to the Top Twenty is **Erin** (up 4 places to 18th).

Anna (up 8 places to joint 25th), **Poppy** (up 10 places, also to joint 25th), **Lexi** (up 11 places to joint 29th), **Lacey** (up 12 places, also to joint 29th) and **Daisy** (up 11 places to joint 38th) are among the other climbers within the Top Fifty. There are also four new entrants to the Top Fifty: **Abigail** (up 14 places to joint 38th), **Georgia** (up 6 places to 48th), **Sienna** (up 32 places to joint 49th) and **Sofia** (up 11 places, also to joint 49th).

A little further down the Top 100, **Alice** (up 23 places to 54th), **Maya** (up 19 places to 55th) and **Gracie** (up 35 places to 62nd) are also moving upwards. By this stage, a relatively small change in numbers could make a marked difference to the ranking - for example, Mollie (65th) was the first forename of only 17 more babies than Amelie (87th). **Aria**, **Bethany**, **Esme**, **Harper**, **Heidi**, **Mila** and **Phoebe** are all new entrants to the Top 100.

Names with clear falls in their popularity include **Ava** (down 3 places to sixth), **Lily** (down 4 places to 11th), **Mia** (down 7 places to 17th), **Holly** (down 6 places to 24th), **Hannah** (down 8 places to 28th), **Amy** (down 12 places to 35th), **Leah** (down 11 places to joint 36th), **Kayla** (down 12 places to 44th) and **Hollie** (down 9 places to 47th).

Lily and **Mia** drop out of the girls' Top Ten; **Hannah** and **Holly** drop out of the Top Twenty; **Abbie**, **Aimee** and **Summer** drop out of the Top Fifty; **Alyssa**, **Bella**, **Darcy**, **Jasmine**, **Kara**, **Lois**, **Lucie** and **Nicole** are no longer in the Top 100.

By the 'cut-off' date, 25,234 girls' births had been registered, with 4,180 different first forenames being used. A total of 2,732 girls were given first forenames that were unique (within the first eleven months of 2013).

Sophie was the first forename of only 1.9 per cent of the girls. The top 50 names accounted for 40 per cent of all girls' first forenames.

Changing Trends in Naming Babies

For both boys and girls, the range of names used has been consistently widening over the last 100 years. Parents are increasingly selecting names which are different. The following table illustrates this trend.

Table B: Top Ten names, as a percentage of all names, selected years, Scotland

	Boys	Girls
1900	68.4	58.1
1950	53.3	36.3
1975	32.6	20.2
2000	21.7	20.4
2013	12.9	14.6

NB: refer to [Note 9](#) regarding the definition of the 'Top Ten' for the purpose of this table

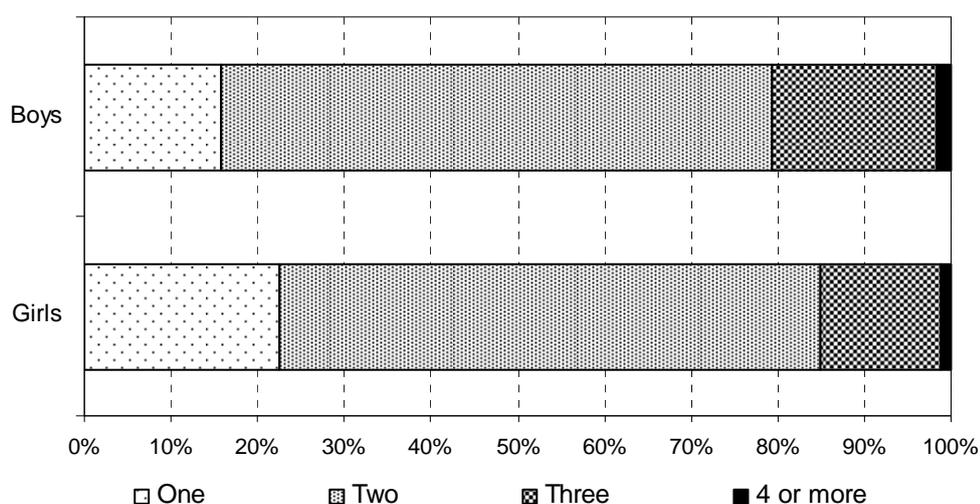
Another aspect of the changing range of names is an increasing variation in spelling. The tables presented here count different spellings separately. If combined, **Callum/Calum** (33rd and joint 65th, respectively) would be in eighth place and **Holly/Hollie** (24th and 47th, respectively) would be ninth. That assumes, of course, that they would not be overtaken by other combinations of different spellings of what some might consider should be counted together (for example, 'Aidan' and 'Aiden', 'Ben' and 'Benjamin', 'Charles' and 'Charlie', and so forth).

Number of Forenames

Additional names

The number of forenames given in the births counted in the statistics for 2013 is summarised in the chart below. Eighty-four per cent of boys and seventy-eight per cent of girls registered in 2013 have more than one forename.

Figure A: Number of forenames, Scotland 2013 (provisional)



The following table shows the relative popularity of second names:

Table C: Most popular second forenames, Scotland, 2013 (provisional)

Boys			Girls		
Rank	Name	Number	Rank	Name	Number
1	James	1,962	1	Rose	1,039
2	John	1,296	2	Elizabeth	892
3	William	1,018	3	Grace	538
4	Alexander	847	4	Louise	522
5	David	780	5	Margaret	497
6	Robert	649	6	Jane	433
7	Thomas	589	7	Anne	395
8	Andrew	512	8	Ann	333
9	George	392	9	May	330
10	Michael	389	10	Catherine	325
11	Joseph	260	11	Mary	321
12	Scott	232	12	Marie	246
13	Peter	228	13	Isabella	191
14	Ian	214	14=	Jean	174
15	Paul	194	14=	Lily	174
16	Alan	184	16	Helen	156
17	Daniel	183	17	Sarah	153
18	Patrick	175	18	Mae	149
19	Christopher	173	19	Maria	133
20	Jack	167	20	Anna	131

It is clear that second names are more ‘traditional’, reflecting the names of previous generations in many cases. There are few changes in the lists of second names from year to year, with **James** and **Elizabeth** being consistently popular (although the latter was overtaken by **Rose** in 2012). In the statistics for 2006 to 2012, inclusive, there were no changes to the names which appeared in the two Top Tens, and just a few minor changes in some of their rankings. However, in 2013, **Mary** was replaced by **May** in the Top Ten for girls' second names.

Regional variations

Jack was the top boys' first forename in 15 council areas, **James** and **Oliver** were each top in four areas, and **Alexander** was top in three areas. **Sophie** was the most popular girls' first forename in 11 council areas, whilst **Emily** was top in five areas, **Ava**, **Isla** and **Olivia** were each top in four areas, and **Ella** was top in three areas. In some areas, these names may have been top jointly with other names.

The Top Ten first forenames in each Council area are given in [Table 3](#), which can be downloaded from our website.

Notes

1. By law, all births have to be registered, and the details are sent by local registrars to the National Records of Scotland (NRS). These data allow the production of tables showing the most popular first forenames, not just for a section of the population or those announced in a particular newspaper, but for all new babies born in Scotland.
2. All of the information for 2013 contained in these tables is provisional. It is based on births which were registered up to and including Saturday 30th November 2013 (unless their details had not been entered into the computer system by that date, which could have happened in a few cases - for example, if the registrar did not have access to the computer system, and the details were not keyed in until after this 'cut-off' date).
3. The information for 2012 contained in this paper is for all births that were registered in the whole year, and therefore differs from that contained in previous edition of this publication.
4. The rankings were based on the first name that was identified as having been recorded in the 'forename(s)' part of the entry of the registration of the birth. NRS identifies the names automatically, by using a computer program function which extracts (from the text in the 'forename(s)' field) sequences of characters which are 'delimited' by spaces (or by the start and end of the field). The computer function will count a sequence of characters which contains a hyphen (e.g. 'MARY-FRANCES') as a single name. However, it will count as two separate names any name that consists of two words, with a space between them. As a result, in the statistics in previous years, NRS has counted 'DA SILVA' as two separate names ('DA' and 'SILVA'), and likewise 'ST CLAIR'. Similarly, for the purposes of these statistics, NRS would count 'J' as the first forename of a child whose forenames were recorded as 'J ARTHUR', and NRS would count 'JK' as the first forename if those two letters (with no intervening space) were all that was recorded in the 'forename(s)' field. It follows that the full lists of all the first forenames may include some entries which are not actually babies' names, and that there could be some tiny percentage errors in the analysis of the numbers of forenames given to babies. It is simply not feasible for NRS to scrutinise carefully all the babies' names that are given in a year, in order to identify those that consist of two (or more) separate words, with the aim of counting them correctly for the purpose of these statistics.
5. Different spellings (e.g. Stephen, Steven) were counted separately.
6. Accents were ignored.
7. The NRS statistical database from which the tables are produced holds people's names in upper-case form. For example, in the statistical database, 'Mary-Frances' is held as 'MARY-FRANCES', and 'McKenzie' and 'Mckenzie' are both held as 'MCKENZIE'. When NRS produces the tables, it uses a computer function to convert the names appearing in the tables into 'proper case' format. The method used by the function produces the correct result in almost all cases (e.g. it will convert 'MARY-FRANCES' to 'Mary-Frances'). However, in a very small percentage of cases, it cannot return a name to its original form. For example, all names that are held in the statistical database as 'MCKENZIE' will be converted to 'Mckenzie': the function cannot convert some of them to 'Mckenzie' and others to 'McKenzie'. As a result, a few names in the full lists will have a lower-case letter where there should be an upper-case letter (for example, a first forename of 'JK' would appear in these lists as 'Jk'). Please note that this issue affects only a tiny proportion of the names which appear in lists that have been produced from the statistical copy of the data, and that the administrative computer system's record of every birth registration (from which any further copies of birth certificates will be produced) has

- the names exactly as they were given (i.e. with upper-case letters where the original name has upper-case letters).
8. In the NRS statistical database, the 'forename(s)' field can hold only 30 characters (including spaces between different forenames). Therefore, if a child is given several long forenames, the 'forename(s)' field may not have room for all of them: when that happens, the list of that child's forenames is 'truncated' after the 30th character. In such cases, any remaining forenames would be unavailable for the production of these statistics, and this could cause tiny percentage errors in the analysis of the numbers of forenames given to babies. Please note that the administrative computer system's record of every birth registration is designed to hold all the names that were given, so they will all appear in full in any further copies of a child's birth certificate that may be produced.
 9. For the purpose of [Table B](#), the 'Top Ten names' should consist of exactly ten names. For example, if two or more names were tied in tenth place, only one of them should be counted when the percentage given in [Table B](#) is calculated; similarly, if three or more names were tied in ninth place, only two of them should be counted for the calculation; and so on. This differs from the approach which is used for the other tables (both in this publication and on the website): other tables will show more than (say) 20 names in the 'Top Twenty' if (e.g.) two names are tied in twentieth place, or three names are tied in nineteenth place.
 10. The lists of the Top Ten first forenames for each council area do not show any first forenames which were given to fewer than three babies in that area.

Notes on statistical publications

National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in line with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (available on the [UKSA](#) website).

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.

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- Recording the present – At our network of local offices, we register births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland.
- Informing the future – We are responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which we use, with other sources of information, to produce statistics on the population and households.

You can get other detailed statistics that we have produced from the [Statistics](#) section of our website. Statistics from the 2001 Census are on [Scotland’s Census Results On-Line \(SCROL\)](#) website and the 2011 Census results are held on the [Scotland’s Census](#) website.

We also provide information about future publications on our website. If you would like us to tell you about future statistical publications, you can register your interest on the Scottish Government [ScotStat website](#).

Enquiries and suggestions

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Related organisations

Organisation	Contact
<p>The Scottish Government (SG) forms the bulk of the devolved Scottish Administration. The aim of the statistical service in the SG is to provide relevant and reliable statistical information, analysis and advice that meets the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland.</p>	<p>Office of the Chief Statistician Scottish Government 3WR, St Andrews House Edinburgh EH1 3DG</p> <p>Phone: 0131 244 0442</p> <p>Email: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics</p>
<p>The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for producing a wide range of economic and social statistics. It also carries out the Census of Population for England and Wales</p>	<p>Customer Contact Centre Office for National Statistics Room 1.101 Government Buildings Cardiff Road Newport NP10 8XG</p> <p>Phone: 0845 601 3034 Minicom: 01633 815044</p> <p>Email: info@statistics.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.ons.gov.uk/</p>
<p>The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is Northern Ireland's official statistics organisation. The agency is also responsible for registering births, marriages, adoptions and deaths in Northern Ireland, and the Census of Population.</p>	<p>Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency McAuley House 2-14 Castle Street Belfast BT1 1SA</p> <p>Phone: 028 9034 8100</p> <p>Email: info.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.nisra.gov.uk</p>

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