

Top 100 Baby Names, 1935-2022

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This document was published alongside the release of 1935-1973 top one-hundred baby names data. The sections below give an overview of some of the key trends in baby names since 1935.

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Comeback names (left the top 100 then came back after a while)

Boy:

Arthur (left: 1970, returned: 2016)
Benjamin (left: 1942, returned: 1974)
Finlay (left: 1950, returned: 1998)
Hamish (left: 1965, returned: 1996)
Harry (left: 1962, returned: 1995)
Henry (left: 1975, returned: 2015)
Jack (left: 1959, returned: 1987)
Lewis (left: 1949, returned: 1979)
Louis (left: 1940, returned: 1999)
Owen (left: 1952, returned: 1991)

Girl:

Alexandra (left: 1966, returned: 1990)
Alice (left: 1964, returned: 1992)
Annie (left: 1962, returned: 2022)
Charlotte (left: 1948, returned: 1987)
Ellen (left: 1963, returned: 1996)
Elsie (left: 1946, returned: 2015)
Emily (left: 1941, returned: 1987)
Evelyn (left: 1969, returned: 2019)
Flora (left: 1944, returned: 2021)
Florence (left: 1944, returned: 2016)
Grace (left: 1962, returned: 1999)
Hannah (left: 1943, returned: 1983)
Isabella (left: 1964, returned: 2006)
Katherine (left: 1952, returned: 1973)
Lily (left: 1943, returned: 2003)
Matilda (left: 1938, returned: 2014)
Rachel (left: 1950, returned: 1971)
Rebecca (left: 1941, returned: 1975)
Rose (left: 1963, returned: 2010)
Violet (left: 1952, returned: 2016)

Old names that never went back into the top 100 after they left

Boy:

Albert (1962)
Alfred (1958)
Archibald (1968)
Bernard (1968)
Cornelius (1941)
Denis (1959)
Dennis (1959)
Dugald (1942)
Edwin (1952)
Ernest (1953)
Frederick (1964)
Gilbert (1953)
Harold (1952)
Hector (1948)
Herbert (1943)

Laurence (1956)
Lawrence (1965)
Leonard (1958)
Maurice (1955)
Murdo (1949)
Ralph (1963)
Reginald (1946)
Stanley (1961)
Sydney (1943)
Victor (1952)
Walter (1968)

Girl:

Agnes (1970)
Aileen (1977)
Barbara (1976)
Beatrice (1940)
Betty (1938)
Bridget (1947)
Cecilia (1942)
Doreen (1962)
Doris (1941)
Dorothy (1967)
Edith (1953)
Edna (1942)
Elspeth (1948)
Esther (1946)
Ethel (1940)
Euphemia (1947)
Georgina (1958)
Henrietta (1941)
Hilda (1938)
Iris (1945)
Isabel (1958)
Isobel (1965)
Janette (1965)
Jeanette (1961)
Jeanie (1954)
Jemima (1939)
Jessie (1958)
Joan (1969)
Joyce (1969)
Lillian (1949)
Mabel (1938)
Marjorie (1951)
Marjory (1951)
Marlene (1953)
Martha (1955)
May (1956)
Muriel (1952)
Myra (1948)
Norma (1962)
Olive (1941)
Phyllis (1954)
Roberta (1949)

Robina (1946)
Rosemary (1967)
Sheena (1963)
Sylvia (1961)
Theresa (1965)
Veronica (1962)
Williamina (1956)
Wilma (1963)
Winifred (1949)

Names that appeared in the top 100 only once

Boy:

Jan (1946)
Bailey (2006)
Barrie (1978)
Cecil (1937)
Conner (1997)
Dominic (1997)
Edmund (1946)
Gregory (1969)
Hamilton (1937)
Joey (2020)
Jon (1980)
Lyle (2018)
Murdoch (1937)
Olly (2012)
Parker (2022)
Rodger (1947)
Rodney (1966)
Shay (2012)
Wesley (1977)
Zachary (2014)

Girl:

Abbi (2004)
Aoife (2019)
Blake (2021)
Charley (2007)
Constance (1936)
Darcie (2022)
Hanna (2016)
Kaitlin (1998)
Kay (1963)
Kimberly (1988)
Kylie (1988)
Laila (2011)
Linzi (1988)
Lois (2012)
Maeva (2022)
Marian (1954)
Miley (2009)
Rosa (2020)
Shelley (1980)

Names that are really consistent (almost always in top 100)

Boy:

Adam
Alexander
Christopher (up to 2015)
Daniel
David
George (apart from 2004 and 2011)
James
John (up to 2021)
Joseph
Matthew
Michael
Robert
Samuel
Thomas
William

Girl:

Elizabeth (apart from 2018 and 2021)

Some names worth noting on

JAN (B) has only been in the top 100 once and it was in 1946. The vast majority of baby boys called Jan had a father who was in the Polish military. Up to 200,000 Polish soldiers, sailors and airmen trained in Scotland between 1940 and 1947. Many Polish people were interned, imprisoned or conscripted during the war but thousands escaped and were sent to Scotland to train.

MARILYN (G) seems to have been popular around the same time that Marilyn Monroe would also have been popular. The name first entered the top 100 in 1946 and rose to the peak of its popularity in 1953. It hasn't been in the top 100 since 1955.

ALBERT (B) was popular in the 1930s but fell through the 40s and 50s. King George VI's birth name was Prince Albert of York. He became King in 1936 after the abdication of his older brother King Edward VIII (around the time Albert was at its most popular).

KYLIE (G) was popular in the same year that Kylie Minogue finished on Neighbours and launched her solo career (1988). This is the only year that Kylie was in the top 100.

AUDREY (G) seemed to rise in popularity around the time of Audrey Hepburn's debut in Roman Holiday (1953) alongside Gregory Peck. It reached a peak of 36th and dropped out of the top hundred in 1976.

FLORA (G) recently came back into the top hundred after a 78-year absence. It was previously in the top hundred from 1935 to 1943, suggesting it was a popular name many years ago in Scotland. A famous Scot with this name was Flora MacDonald, who helped Bonnie Prince Charlie escape after the battle of Culloden (1746), and was then held in the Tower of London. The name may have come back into popularity in Scotland after being depicted in "Outlander".

Methodology

The data used in this report is from a slightly different source from the main [National Statistics baby names report](#). The main report gets data direct from birth registrations, whereas the historic data is using registration district (RD) indexes. These are digitised versions of old indexes originally recorded on paper. There are some issues with these indexes in terms of data quality, that don't exist in the birth registration data used for the main report.

These are:

- **Duplication and re-registration** – Some records with the same registration year, registration district number, entry number and registration district suffix number (which together form a unique ID) were entered multiple times. We removed all duplicates and randomly selected one of the records to take the first name from. Generally the first name is the same on all of the records, and the re-registration was used to update a surname. We had no way to tell which of the records was the first registration and which was the last one, so we selected randomly.
- **Spelling or transcription errors** – Some records had names that looked like misspellings, i.e. “JONH”, “MAARY”, “ALEANDER”, “MARGRT”. We did nothing specific with these records as we had no reliable way of picking up all of these and had no way of knowing what the people registering the birth really wanted the name to be (other than manually checking the registration books for every single birth).
- **Non-birth records** – There is some evidence that some of the records corresponded to something other than registrations of new births. Some codes used as [RD suffixes appear to show some overseas adoptions, armed forces records](#) (unclear what, possibly infant children of armed forces personnel). We deleted records with RD suffix codes that corresponded with non-birth records.

The number of deaths each year was higher than what we know to be the true number of registered births in Scotland. Removing records based on duplication and RD suffix brought this number to within around 1% of the total each year.

Due to the fact that we can't be sure that our statistics are correct down to the record level, we have only provided aggregated statistics up to the top 100 by sex.