Babies' First Names 2014

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A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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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 seventh consecutive year. **James** is again in second place; **Lewis** and **Oliver** remain third and fourth respectively.

- **Emily** has risen from third to replace **Sophie** as the most popular first forename for baby girls. Sophie (which had been the top girls' name for the previous nine years) falls to second place, and **Olivia** (which had been second) is now third. **Isla** remains in fourth place.

- In total, 3,220 different boys' first forenames and 4,208 different girls' first forenames were registered in the first eleven months of the year.

- Jack was the first forename of only 2.0 per cent of the boys, and Emily was the first forename of just 2.1 per cent of the girls.

- The top 50 boys' names accounted for 41 per cent of all boys' first forenames registered, and the top 50 girls' names accounted for 39 per cent of the girls' registrations.

The most popular first forenames in Scotland, 2014 (provisional)

All the information for 2014 in this publication is provisional, being based on data for births registered in the first eleven months of the year (refer to Note 2 on page 9 for the precise 'cut-off'). The statistics for 2013 are based on data for all the births registered in that year, and so supersede the provisional figures that appeared in the previous edition.

Table A (below) shows the Top Twenty boys' and girls' first forenames for 2014. The following more detailed information may be downloaded from National records of Scotland (NRS) website:

- the Top 100 boys' and girls' first forenames in 2014, showing changes since the previous year:
  a) in order of popularity (Table 1); and
  b) in alphabetical order (Table 2);
- the Top Ten boys' and girls' first forenames for each council area (Table 3).

Full lists of all the first forenames which were given to babies in Scotland in 2013 (including those registered too late to be counted in the previous edition of this publication) are available from the 'Babies' First Names 2013' pages of the NRS website. Equivalent lists of all the first forenames given to babies whose births were registered in Scotland in 2014 will be made available when the preliminary annual statistics for 2014 are published.

Table A: First forenames registered in Scotland in 2014 (provisional)

Boys Rank	Name	Number	Change in rank: 2013 - 2014 (prov.)	**Girls** Rank	Name	Number	Change in rank: 2013 - 2014 (prov.)
1	Jack	540	no change	1	Emily	539	2
2	James	414	no change	2	Sophie	514	-1
3	Lewis	373	no change	3	Olivia	446	-1
4	Oliver	362	no change	4	Isla	401	no change
5	Logan	328	1	5	Jessica	392	2
6	Daniel	322	-1	6	Ava	349	no change
7	Noah	305	6	7	Amelia	340	1
8	Charlie	296	1	8	Lucy	338	-3
9	Lucas	292	-1	9	Lily	282	2
10	Alexander	285	-3	10=	Ella	256	-1
11	Mason	263	no change	10=	Sophia	256	3
12	Finlay	258	4	12	Ellie	254	2
13	Max	256	6	13	Grace	244	5
14	Adam	253	6	14	Freya	235	4
15	Harry	251	-5	15	Millie	233	-5
16	Harris	250	-2	16	Chloe	228	-4
17	Aaron	247	8	17	Emma	216	-1
18	Ethan	241	-6	18	Mia	213	-1
19	Cameron	237	4	19	Eilidh	207	4
20	Jacob	231	-2	20	Anna	200	5

Commentary

Boys' Names

Jack remains the most popular first forename for baby boys, for a seventh consecutive year. **James** is again in second place. 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 both 2013 and 2014, James is second and **Lewis** third. **Oliver** remains fourth.

Logan is up one place to fifth, and **Daniel** falls one place to sixth. There is one new entrant to the boys' Top Ten: **Noah**, which has risen six places to seventh. **Charlie** (up one place to eighth). **Lucas** (down one place to ninth) and **Alexander** (down three places to tenth) make up the rest of the boys' Top Ten.

The fastest climbers within the Top Twenty are Noah, **Max** (up 6 places to 13th) and **Adam** (up 6 places to 14th). **Aaron** (up 8 places to 17th) and **Cameron** (up 4 places to 19th) are the new entrants to the boys' Top Twenty.

Callum (up 12 places to 21st), **Rory** (up 15 places to 27th), **Oscar** (up 9 places to joint 31st) and **Samuel** (up 8 places to joint 38th) are among the other climbers within the Top Fifty. There are also five new entrants to the Top Fifty: **John** (up 11 places to 40th), **Kian** (up 51 places to 42nd), **Benjamin** (up 7 places to 46th), **Robert** (up 27 places to 49th) and **Muhammad** (up 2 places to 50th).

A little further down the Top 100, **Ben** (up 11 places to 52nd), **Euan** (up 16 places to joint 56th), **Jake** (up 18 places to 59th), **Ollie** (up 12 places to joint 60th), **Callan** and **Evan** (both up 16 places to joint 80th) and **Theo** (up 13 places to 86th) are also moving upwards. By this stage, a relatively small change in numbers could make a marked difference to the ranking - for example, Cole (58th) was the first forename of only 25 more babies than Luca (83rd). **Brody**, **Carson**, **Freddie**, **Jaxon**, **Mohammed**, **Scott** and **Zachary** are all new entrants to the Top 100.

Names with clear falls in their popularity include **Harry** (down 5 places to 15th), **Ethan** (down 6 places to 18th), **Alfie** (down 6 places to 23rd), **Riley** (down 10 places to 25th), **Ryan** (down 9 places to 33rd), **Liam** (down 9 places to 37th) and **Connor** (down 8 places to 45th).

Harry drops out of the boys' Top Ten; **Alfie** and **Riley** drop out of the Top Twenty; **Aiden, Jayden**, **Kai, Michael** and **Tyler** drop out of the Top Fifty; **Alex**, **Cody**, **Corey**, **Declan**, **Harvey**, **Reuben** and **Sean** are no longer in the Top 100.

By the 'cut-off' date, 26,863 boys' births had been registered, with 3,220 different first forenames being used. A total of 2,029 boys were given first forenames that were unique (within the first eleven months of 2014).

Jack was the first forename of only 2.0 per cent of the boys. The top 50 names accounted for 41 per cent of all boys' first forenames.

Girls' Names

Emily has risen from third to replace **Sophie** as the most popular first forename for baby girls. Sophie (which had been the top girls' name for the previous nine years) falls to second place, and **Olivia** (which had been second) is now third. **Isla** remains fourth.

Jessica has risen two places to fifth, **Ava** remains sixth, **Amelia** has risen one place to seventh, and **Lucy** has fallen three places to eighth.

There are two new entrants to the girls' Top Ten: **Lily** has risen two places to ninth, and **Sophia** is up three places to joint tenth.

Within the Top Twenty, **Grace** has moved up 5 places to 13th, and **Freya** rose 4 places to 14th. There are two new entrants to the girls' Top Twenty: **Eilidh** (up 4 places to 19th) and **Anna** (up 5 places to 20th).

Layla (up 9 places to 25th), **Molly** (up 10 places to joint 35th) and **Sofia** (up 8 places to 40th) are the fastest climbers within the Top Fifty. There are also four new entrants to the Top Fifty: **Georgia** (up 13 places to joint 39th), **Zoe** (up 5 places to joint 46th), **Rosie** (up 7 places to 49th) and **Summer** (up 9 places to 50th).

A little further down the Top 100, **Robyn** (up 10 places to 56th), **Aria** (up 29 places to joint 62nd), **Ayla** and **Phoebe** (both up 18 places to joint 67th), **Scarlett** (up 12 places to joint 70th), **Harper** (up 22 places to joint 74th), **Esme** (up 17 places to joint 76th) and **Ivy** (up 16 places to joint 84th) are also moving upwards. By this stage, a relatively small change in numbers could make a marked difference to the ranking - for example, Julia (69th) was the first forename of only 20 more babies than Alexis (90th). **Annabelle**, **Arianna**, **Bella**, **Eden**, **Lena**, **Lucia**, **Lucie** and **Neve** are all new entrants to the Top 100.

Names with clear falls in their popularity include **Millie** (down 5 places to 15th), **Eva** (down 8 places to 23rd), **Erin** (down 11 places to joint 31st), **Lacey** (down 9 places to 38th) and **Brooke** (down 13 places to joint 46th).

Millie drops out of the girls' Top Ten; **Erin** and **Eva** drop out of the Top Twenty; **Hollie**, **Kayla**, **Maisie** and **Sienna** drop out of the Top Fifty; **Beth**, **Heidi**, **Keira**, **Lexie** and **Taylor** are no longer in the Top 100.

By the 'cut-off' date, 25,619 girls' births had been registered, with 4,208 different first forenames being used. A total of 2,743 girls were given first forenames that were unique (within the first eleven months of 2014).

Emily was the first forename of just 2.1 per cent of the girls. The top 50 names accounted for 39 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
2014	13.1	15.1

NB: refer to Note 9 regarding the definition of the 'Top Ten' for the purpose of this table
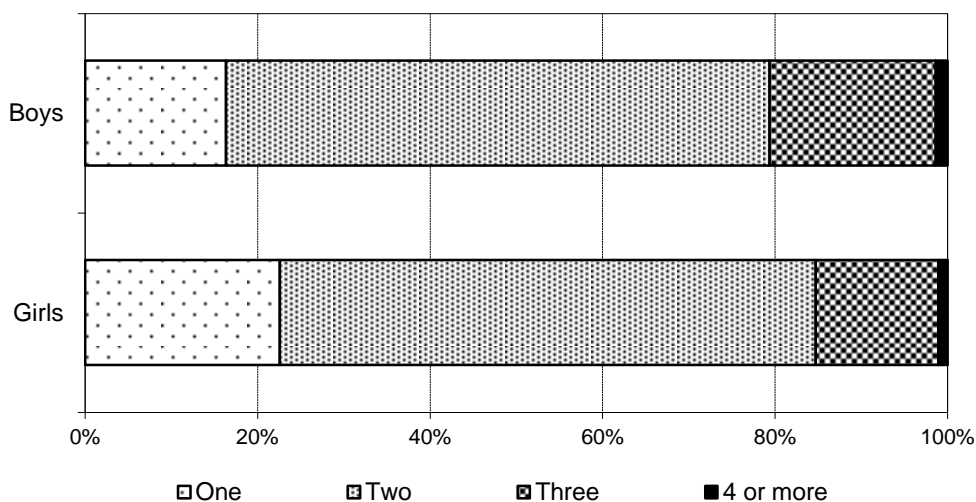
Another aspect of the changing range of names is an increasing variation in spelling. The tables presented here count different spellings separately. If combined, **Callum/Calum** (21st and joint 78th, respectively) would be in seventh place and **Holly/Hollie** (24th and joint 52nd, respectively) would be tenth. 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 2014 is summarised in the chart below. Eighty-four per cent of boys and seventy-seven per cent of girls whose births were registered in 2014 have more than one forename.

Figure A: Number of forenames, Scotland 2014 (provisional)

⊡ One   ⊠ Two   ▧ Three   ■ 4 or more

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The following table shows the relative popularity of second names:

Table C: Most popular second forenames, Scotland, 2014 (provisional)

Boys			Girls		
Rank	Name	Number	Rank	Name	Number
1	James	1,972	1	Rose	1,088
2	John	1,290	2	Elizabeth	929
3	William	947	3	Grace	646
4	Alexander	903	4	Louise	506
5	David	800	5	Anne	440
6	Robert	655	6	Margaret	438
7	Thomas	613	7	Jane	434
8	Andrew	492	8	Catherine	352
9	George	460	9	May	341
10	Michael	351	10	Mary	337
11	Joseph	259	11	Ann	305
12	Peter	227	12	Marie	240
13	Scott	210	13	Mae	214
14	Ian	206	14	Jean	207
15	Daniel	197	15	Isabella	197
16	Christopher	195	16	Helen	177
17	Paul	187	17	Lily	170
18	Patrick	184	18	Sarah	161
19	Alan	174	19	Maria	125
20	Edward	163	20	Anna	114

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, **May** replaced **Mary** in the Top Ten for girls' second names; but in 2014 Mary was back, with **Ann** falling from eighth to eleventh.

Regional variations

Jack was the top boys' first forename in 18 council areas, **James** was top in four areas, **Oliver** was top in three and **Daniel** and **Finlay** were each top in two areas. **Emily** was the most popular girls' first forename in 13 council areas, whilst **Sophie** was top in 12 areas, **Isla** and **Olivia** were each top in five areas, and **Ava** was top in two areas. In some areas, these names may have been top jointly with other names. Several other names were top (or joint top) in one council area.

The Top Ten first forenames in each Council area are given in Table 3, which can be downloaded from the NRS 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 babies born in Scotland.

2. All of the information for 2014 contained in these tables is provisional. It is based on births which were registered up to and including Saturday 29th November 2014 (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 2013 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. Variants based on the same name were counted separately – for example, in these statistics, 'Ben' and 'Benjamin' are different names, likewise 'Agnes' and 'Senga'. Different spellings (e.g. Stephen, Steven) were counted separately.

6. Accents were ignored, so (for example) 'Chloe', 'Chloé', 'Chloë'. 'Chloè' and 'Chlöe' are all counted as the same name: 'Chloe'.

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

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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).

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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.

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- 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.

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If you have comments or suggestions that would help us improve our standards of service, please contact:

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Related organisations

Organisation	Contact
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.	Office of the Chief Statistician Scottish Government 3WR, St Andrews House Edinburgh EH1 3DG Phone: 0131 244 0442 Email: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk Website: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics
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	Customer Contact Centre Office for National Statistics Room 1.101 Government Buildings Cardiff Road Newport NP10 8XG Phone: 0845 601 3034 Minicom: 01633 815044 Email: info@statistics.gsi.gov.uk Website: www.ons.gov.uk/
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.	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency McAuley House 2-14 Castle Street Belfast BT1 1SA Phone: 028 9034 8100 Email: info.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk Website: www.nisra.gov.uk