

Babies' First Names 2023

Published on 28 March 2024

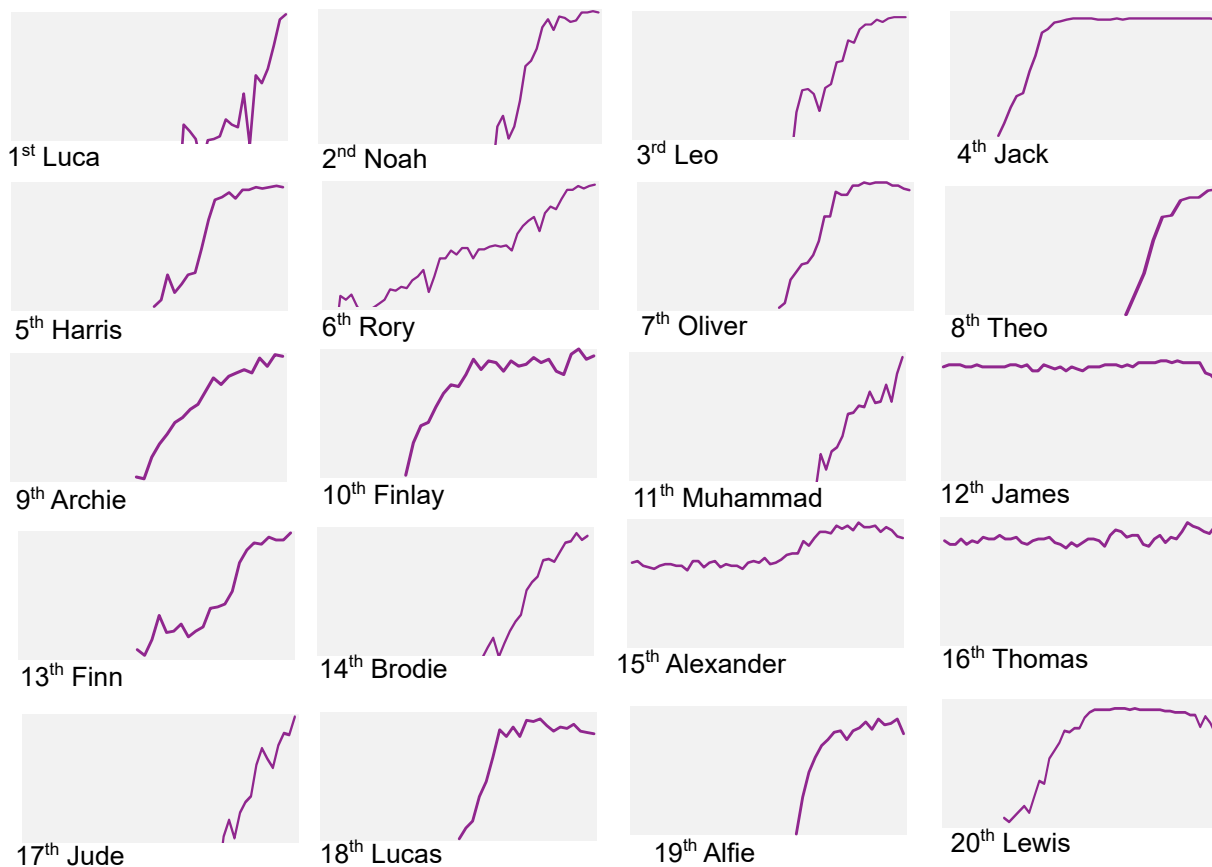


This statistical report looks at the most common babies' names for Scotland and council areas in 2023, from birth certificates.

Luca becomes the most popular boys' name

Luca overtook Noah and became the most popular name in 2023, marking the first time the name was number one since records began. The name fluctuated in and out of top 100 over the years but only made it into top 10 last year when it rose by 20 places to 5th.

Most popular boys' names by rank within top hundred names, 1974-2023



Fastest rising names between 2022 and 2023

-  **Oakley** (up 65 places to 87th)
-  **Rowan** (up 40 places to joint 73rd)
-  **Ruairidh** (up 34 places to 89th)
-  **Muhammad** (up 12 places to 11th)

Most common name by age of mother

-  Aged under 25 - **Luca**
-  Aged 25 to 29 - **Luca**
-  Aged 30 to 34 - **Rory**
-  Aged 35 and over - **Jack**

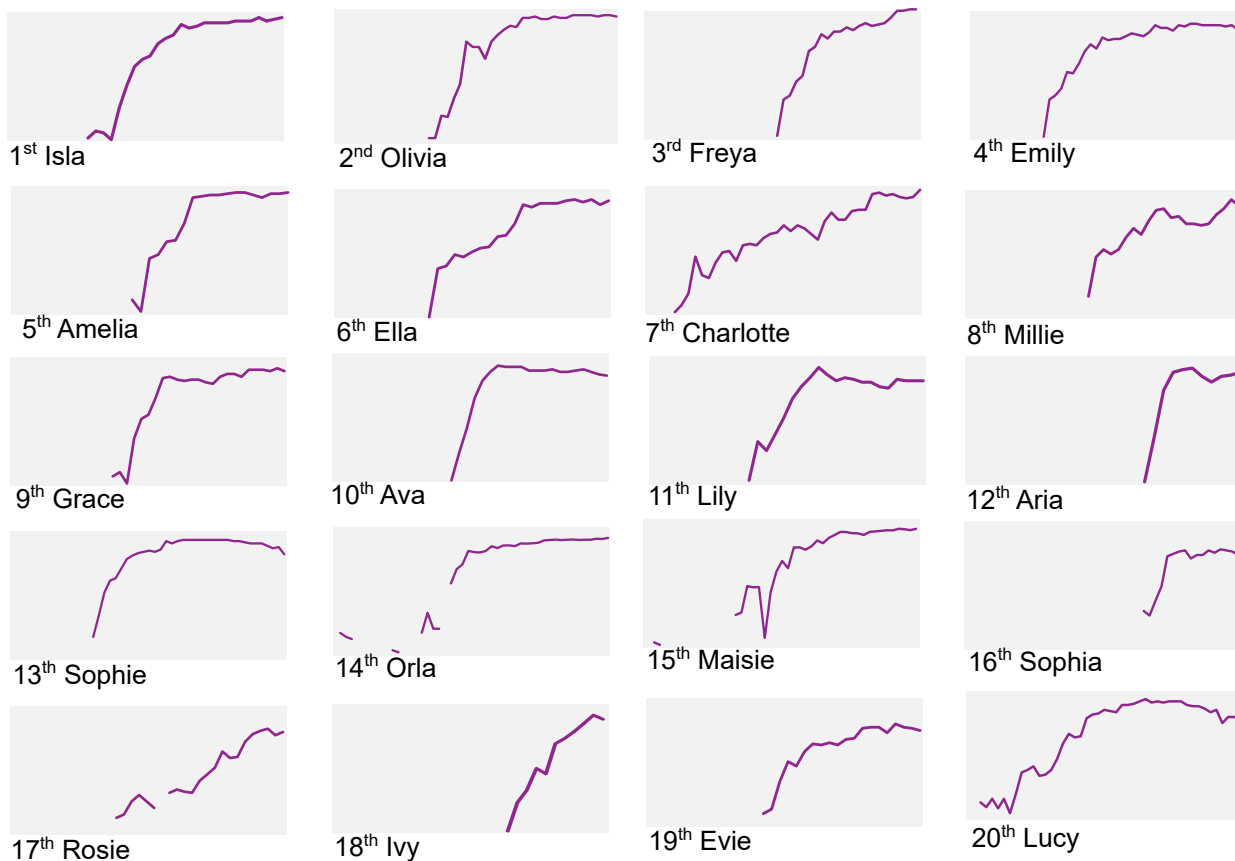
Note that rank is plotted rather than number of babies, and ranks outside of the top 100 have been omitted.



Isla becomes the most popular girls' name

Isla became the most popular girls' name for the second time in 2023 after it first climbed to the top in 2020 and was replaced by Olivia, which had been in first or second place since 2016. Isla first entered top 100 in the late 1990s and has been steadily gaining popularity every year until it entered top 5 in 2013.

Most popular girls' names by rank within top hundred names, 1974-2023



Fastest rising names between 2022 and 2023

-  Mabel (up 102 places to 93rd)
-  Delilah (up 64 places to joint 99th)
-  Mollie (up 38 places to 67th)
-  Lottie (up 20 places to 41st)

Most common name by age of mother

-  Aged under 25 - Aria
-  Aged 25 to 29 - Freya
-  Aged 30 to 34 - Isla
-  Aged 35 and over - Emily

Note that rank is plotted rather than number of babies, and ranks outside of the top 100 have been omitted.



Variation across Scotland

The top girls' name, Isla, was also the most or joint most popular girls's name in eight of the council areas. Luca, the boys' most common name, was also the top boys' name in seven areas. Two councils, Moray and North Ayrshire, had both Isla and Luca as the top name, although in both areas the first place for boys' name was shared between multiple names.

Most popular names by council area, 1974-2023

Aberdeen City

Girl: Isla, Charlotte
Boy: Noah

Aberdeenshire

Girl: Freya
Boy: James

Angus

Girl: Amelia
Boy: Oliver

Argyll and Bute

Girl: Isla
Boy: Archie

City of Edinburgh

Girl: Isla
Boy: Leo

Clackmannanshire

Girl: Ellie, Lily
Boy: Archie, Harris, Noah

Dumfries and Galloway

Girl: Freya
Boy: Finlay, Noah

Dundee City

Girl: Isla
Boy: Muhammad

East Ayrshire

Girl: Ava
Boy: Luca

East Dunbartonshire

Girl: Emily
Boy: Alexander

East Lothian

Girl: Rosie
Boy: Harris, Noah

East Renfrewshire

Girl: Emily
Boy: Rory

Falkirk

Girl: Olivia
Boy: Noah

Fife

Girl: Olivia
Boy: Brodie

Glasgow City

Girl: Amelia
Boy: Muhammad

Highland

Girl: Ella
Boy: Archie

Inverclyde

Girl: Millie
Boy: Luca

Midlothian

Girl: Charlotte
Boy: Leo

Moray

Girl: Isla
Boy: Finn, Logan, Luca,
Noah, Oliver, Sonny

Na h-Eileanan Siar

Girl: Isla
Boy: James

North Ayrshire

Girl: Isla
Boy: Alfie, Freddie,
Luca, Noah

North Lanarkshire

Girl: Aria, Olivia
Boy: Luca

Orkney Islands

Girl:
Boy: Archie, Finn

Perth and Kinross

Girl: Emily
Boy: Harris

Renfrewshire

Girl: Isla
Boy: Noah

Scottish Borders

Girl: Charlotte
Boy: Harris

Shetland Islands

Girl:
Boy: James

South Ayrshire

Girl: Maya
Boy: Harris

South Lanarkshire

Girl: Emily
Boy: Luca

Stirling

Girl: Ava, Eilidh
Boy: Noah

West Dunbartonshire

Girl: Anna, Ella, Freya,
Sienna, Sophia, Willow
Boy: Leo, Luca

West Lothian

Girl: Freya, Olivia
Boy: Oliver

*Names by council area are only calculated for names with three or more occurrences.
Some areas had no names with three or more occurrences



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Key findings

- **LUCA** and **ISLA** were the most popular names for boys and girls in Scotland in 2023.
- Luca became the top name for the first time since records began in 1974, overtaking Noah after its rise to first place in 2022.
- Isla returned to first place again for the first time since 2021, overtaking Olivia, which has been the most popular name for girls in recent years.
- Within the top tens, **LUCA** rose by four places to 1st in the top boys' names, and **CHARLOTTE** rose by five places to 7th within the top girls' names.
- In the top 100 girls' names, notable changes were for **MABEL** (up 102 places to joint 93rd), **DELILAH** (up 64 places to joint 99th), and **MOLLIE** (up 38 places to 67th).
- For boys, **OAKLEY** (up 64 places to 87th), **ROWAN** (up 40 places to joint 73rd) and **RUAIRIDH** (up 34 places to joint 89th) rose by the largest number of places in the top 100.

How has the popularity of your name changed?

Visit our [interactive charts](#) and search for any name to see how many babies were given this name between 1974 and 2023 in Scotland.

- **ARIA** and **LUCA** were the most common names for girls and boys with mothers aged under 25. For mothers aged 35 and over, the most common names were **JACK** and **EMILY**.
- The number of different names given to boys has been increasing year-to-year with a new all-time high in 2023, as did the number of unique names (not given to any other baby that year) for boys. The same pattern was observed for girls' names and the variety of names given to girls remains much greater than boys.
- The top girls' name, **ISLA**, was the most (or joint most) common girls' name in eight of Scotland's council areas. The top boys' name, **LUCA**, was the most (or joint most) common name in seven areas. Only two of the council areas, Moray and North Ayrshire had both **LUCA** and **ISLA** as the top names, however, in both councils the first place for boys was shared between several names.

Data for this publication:

[All names given to babies in 2023](#)

[All names given to babies between 1974-2023](#)

[Charts and tables from this publication](#)

Most common names

The most common names for girls and boys in Scotland in 2023 were **LUCA** and **ISLA**. **LUCA** has been fluctuating in and out of the top 100 boys' names since the early 2000s but finally rose up to fifth place in 2022 before taking the top place in 2023. **ISLA** first entered the Top 100 girls name list in the late 1990s and has steadily been increasing in popularity since, until it entered top five most popular names in 2013.

The top 20 names for boys and girls are shown below in Table 1.

Table 1: Top 20 babies' names in Scotland, 2023

Boys				Girls			
Rank ¹	Name	Number	Change in Ranking 2022-2023	Rank ¹	Name	Number	Change in Ranking 2022-2023
1	Luca	344	4	1	Isla	274	1
2	Noah	336	-1	2	Olivia	266	-1
3	Leo	288	no change	3	Freya	254	no change
4	Jack	285	-2	4	Emily	232	1
5	Harris	266	-1	5	Amelia	225	1
6	Rory	254	1	6	Ella	213	3
7	Oliver	250	-1	7	Charlotte	210	5
8	Theo	238	1	8	Millie	206	-4
9	Archie	235	-1	9	Grace	205	-2
10	Finlay	231	2	10	Ava	203	-1
11	Muhammad	225	12	11	Lily	201	no change
12	James	223	-3	12	Aria	190	2
13=	Finn	220	5	13	Sophie	189	-6
13=	Brodie	220	3	14	Orla	173	9
15	Alexander	214	-1	15	Maisie	166	9
16	Thomas	195	4	16	Sophia	164	-3
17	Jude	193	12	17	Rosie	155	3
18	Lucas	186	-1	18	Ivy	149	-3
19	Alfie	182	-10	19	Evie	146	-2
20	Lewis	180	-8	20	Lucy	141	-2

[click here to view the full list](#)

Within the top 100 girls' names, there were four names that rose by 20 places or more – **LOTTIE, PHOEBE, MAEVA, IONA, MOLLIE, FIADH, DELILAH, MADDISON**. Notably, **MABEL** entered top 100 this year after rising with 102 places.

Within the top 100 boys' names, there were six names that rose by 20 places or more – **LOUIE, ALBIE, HAMISH, JAX, MURRAY, OWEN, OAKLEY, RUAIRIDH, JOEY, CILLIAN**.

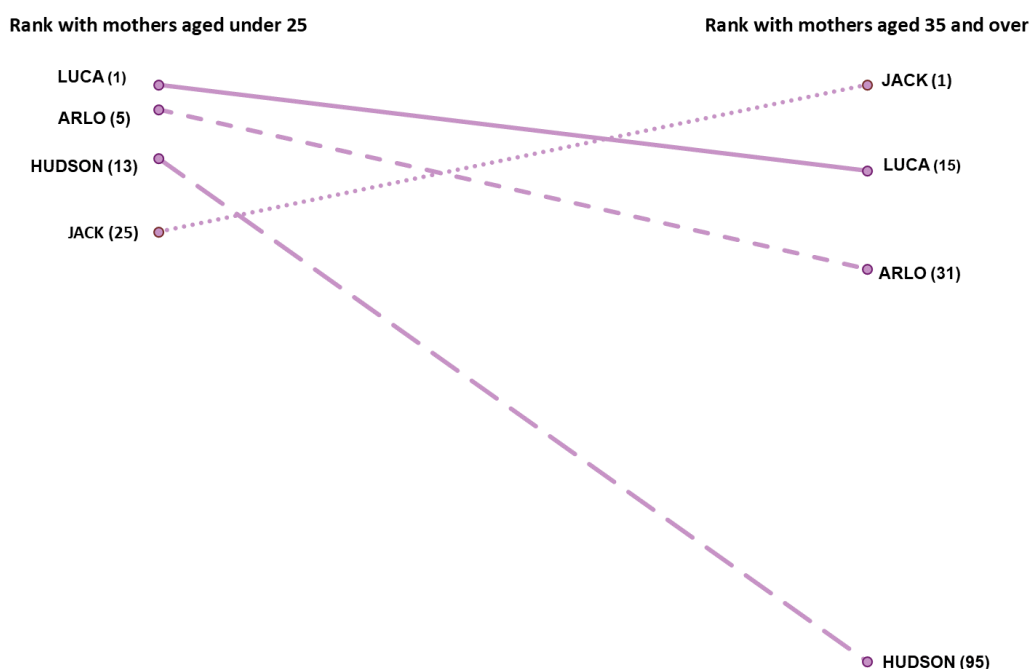
Names by age of mother

LUCA, the most popular name for boys in 2023, was the also the most popular name with younger mothers under 30 and was second most popular for mothers aged 30 to 34. The name was not as popular (15th place) with mothers aged 35 and over. **NOAH** was the second most popular name for babies for younger mothers under the age of 30. Although less popular with mothers aged 30 to 34 (7th place) and 35 and over (5th place), the name was still in top 10 most popular names for all age groups.

JACK (previous top name for boys) was the most popular name for babies with mothers aged 35 and over but was 25th for babies with mothers under 25.

Only two out of the 10 leading boys' names, **NOAH** and **LEO**, chosen by mothers aged under 25 also feature in the top 10 for mothers aged 35 and older. **OLIVER** also ranked high for all age groups, making it into top 10 for all ages, apart from 30 to 34 (13th place).

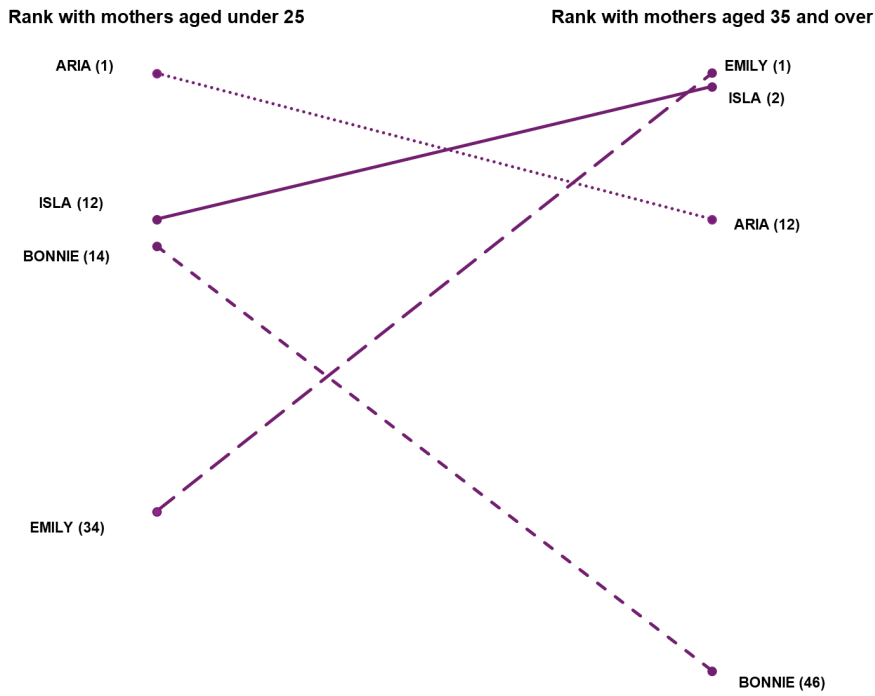
Figure 1a: Ranked boys' names by mothers' age group (selected names)



ISLA, the most popular name for girls in 2023, was the 2nd most popular name with mothers aged 35 and over but 12th with mothers under 25. **EMILY** was most popular for babies with mothers in the oldest age group, but was 34th for mothers in the youngest age group. **ARIA** was the most popular girls' name for babies with mothers aged 25 and under, but was 12th for mothers in the oldest age group.

Of the 10 leading girls' names chosen by mothers aged under 25, only **OLIVIA** and **FREYA** also feature in the top 10 for mothers of all ages. **ELLA** also made it into top 10 for mothers aged 35 and older.

Figure 1b: Ranked girls' names by mothers' age group (selected names)

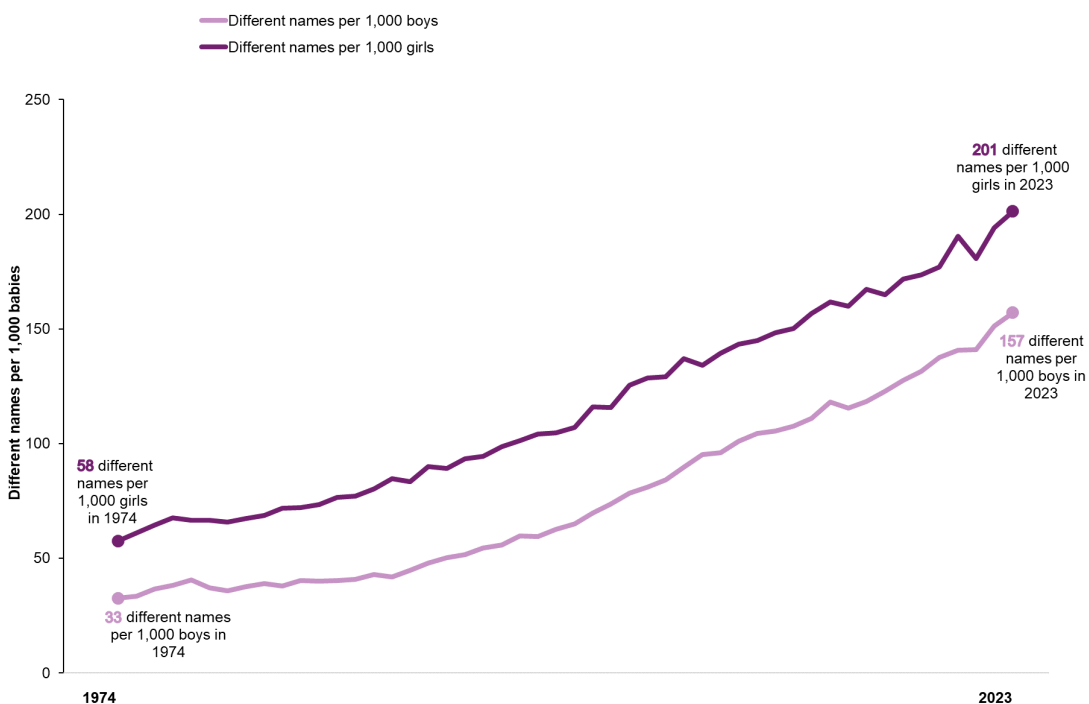


Variety of names chosen

In Scotland in 2023, there were 4,494 different first names given to girls and 3,704 different first names given to boys. These statistics are based on the birth registrations of 22,333 girls and 23,586 boys.

The rate of different names per 1,000 births rose between 2022 and 2023 from 194 to 201 for girls. The rate for boys rose from 151 to 157.

Figure 2: Rate of different names per 1,000 births

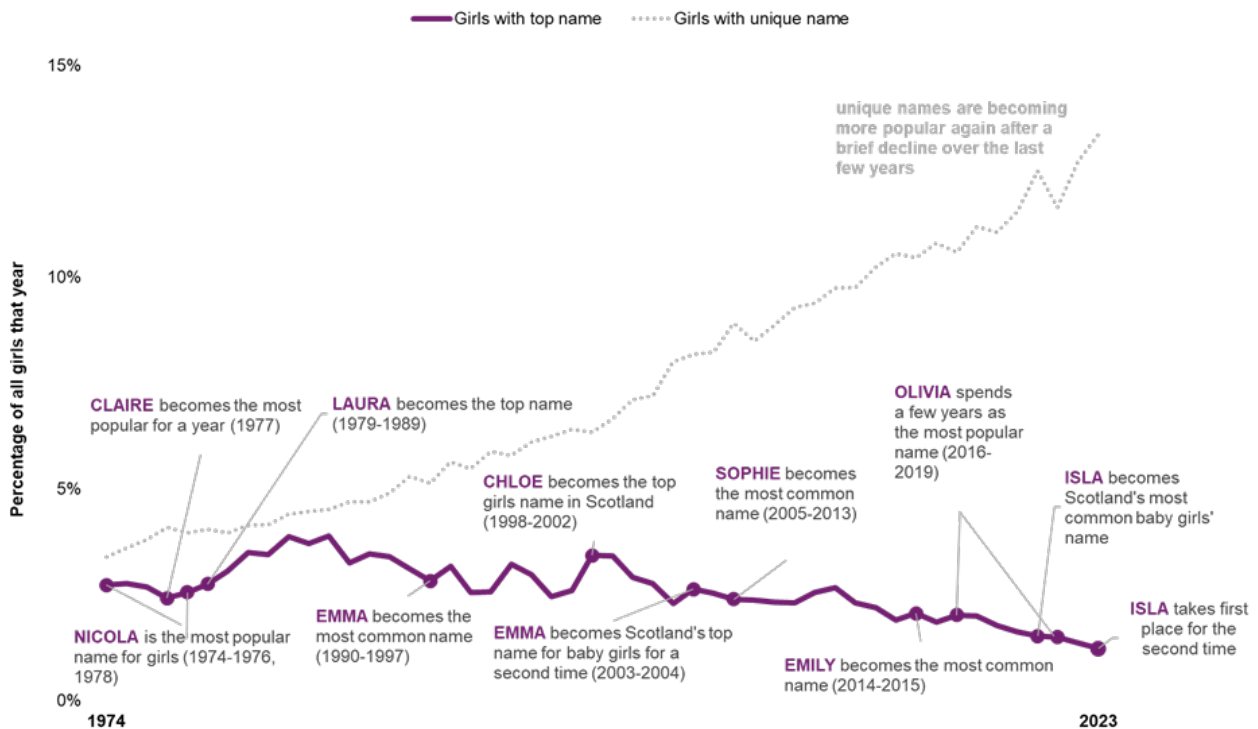


A random selection of 1,000 baby girls born in 2023 would have 201 different names among them, meaning that any one baby girl would be likely to share her name with five others. For boys, this figure is six, as there were 157 different names per 1,000 babies.

For baby girls born in 1974, there would have been around 58 different names per 1,000 babies; meaning that any one baby would share her name with an average of 17 others. A boy born in 1974 would have likely shared his name with 30 others.

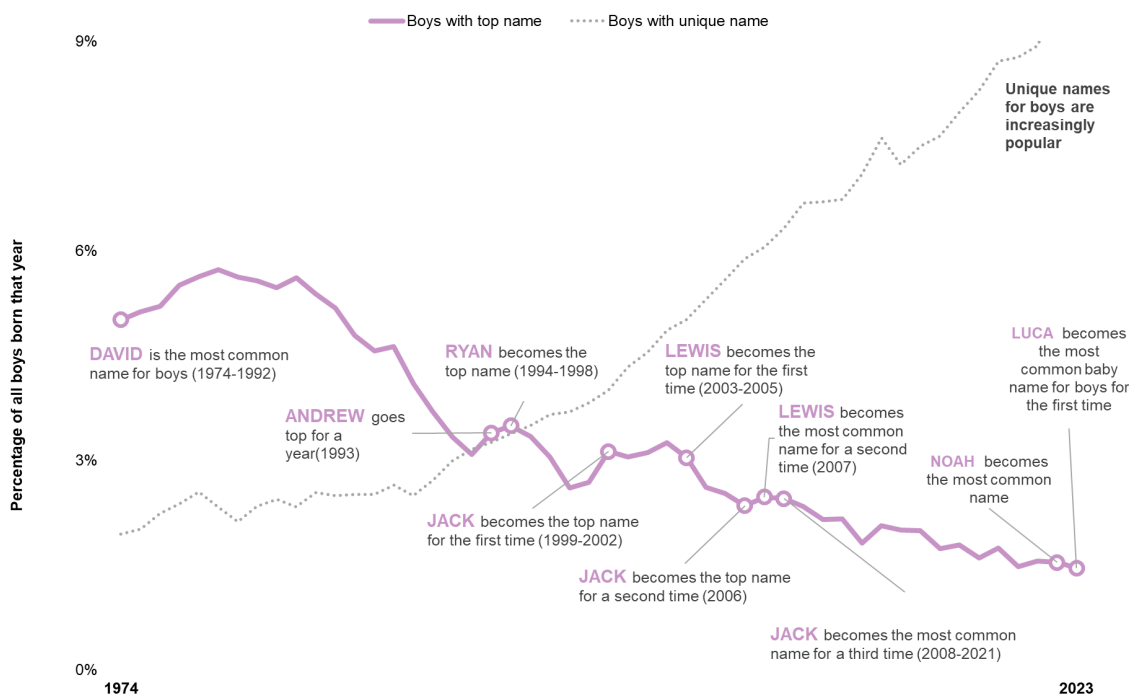
Figure 3a and Figure 3b show how the popularity of the most common baby names and unique baby names have changed over time.

Figure 3a: Most popular names and unique names (girls), 1974-2023



In 2023, 1.2% of baby girls born in Scotland had the most common name (Isla), and 13.4% had a name that no other baby girl was given (highest ever percentage). The popularity of the most common name has generally decreased over time, with the name Laura being given to nearly one in every twenty-five girls born in 1983 (3.9%), more than twice as common as Isla is now.

Figure 3b: Most popular names and unique names (boys), 1974-2023



The name Luca was given to 1.5% of boys born in 2023, while 10% of boys shared their name with no other baby boy born last year (highest ever percentage). Up until 1994, more boys were given the most common name for the year than were given unique names. In 1979, nearly 1 in 18 babies born was given the name David (5.7%), while around 1 in every 43 babies was given a unique name (2.3%).

Names and popular culture

Many names become popular due to appearing on TV or film, or due to a celebrity having this name or choosing it for their baby.

Appearances on the reality TV shows or popular films seem to coincide with increased popularity for a number of names in recent years. Last year, the name **LUCA** had a huge increase in popularity, entering top five baby boy names for the first year since records started. A potential reason for the peak in popularity could be the Disney and Pixar film of the same name which came out in the middle of 2021. This year's data is no different, with **LUCA** climbing to the top and overtaking **NOAH**. Luca Bish, who appeared on Love Island in 2022, could be part of the reason for the continued interest in the name.

OAKLEY saw the biggest rise in rank this year (up 64 places), entering the top 100 boy names for the first time since records began. A potential reason for the rise in popularity of the name in 2023 is Lauren Oakley, a professional dancer who gained popularity after joining the cast of BBC's Strictly Come Dancing in 2022.

The reality show has been suggested as an influence on baby name trends before when the number of baby girls called **TILLY** in 2022 rose to 101st place after Tilly Ramsay's appearance on Strictly Come Dancing in late 2021.

A notable rise was seen for the name **MABEL**, which was the name with biggest change in rank for the year, rising 102 places from 195 last year and making it into top 100 girls'

names with 47 baby girls called Mabel in 2023. This could be in part due to the character Mabel Mora, played by Selena Gomez, in the TV show 'Only Murders in The Building' which has been gaining popularity over the last couple of years. Another possible influence is the British singer and songwriter Mabel, who rose to prominence in 2017 and has been increasing in popularity since.

MOLLIE also saw an increase in popularity in 2023 (up 38 places) with 64 babies named Mollie last year. This could be in part due to Mollie King, a well-known signer, who has been making her way into reality TV and most recently co-hosted the reality show Beauty and the Geek.

Names by area within Scotland

The top girls' name, **ISLA**, was the most (or joint most) common girls' name in eight of Scotland's council areas (out of thirty-two). The top (or joint top) boys' name, **LUCA**, was the top name in seven areas. Only two of the council areas, Moray and North Ayrshire had both LUCA and ISLA as the top names, however, in both councils the first place for boys was shared between several names.

A table with the most popular names in each council area is available at the beginning of this report.

Council area baby name statistics are only available for names that had three instances or more. Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands had no girls names used three or more times in 2023, following a similar pattern to recent years.

Notes on statistical publications

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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.

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