

About this publication	Description
Publication title	Babies' First Names
Description	Tables and commentary on the most popular first forenames given to babies whose births were registered during the first eleven months (or so) of the current year. Includes breakdowns by council areas. Later, extra spreadsheets are added to the website: these give full and final lists of all the first forenames that were registered in Scotland in the whole of the calendar year.
Theme	Population and Migration
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Format	Tables available in Excel, Comma-Separated Values (CSV) and Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF)
Data source(s)	Birth registrations
Date that data is acquired	Throughout the calendar year. Publication date is before Christmas. The publication's figures for the current year cover only the births that were registered between 1 January and around the start of December. The extra spreadsheets cover all the births that were registered in the whole of the calendar year
Release date	Around 20 December (the precise date varies from year to year, but should always be in the week or so before Christmas). The extra spreadsheets, giving the full and final lists, are due to be added to the website in March.
Frequency	Annual
Timeframe of data and timeliness	Birth registration records are received throughout the year, and are usually available for statistical analysis two days after registration.
Continuity of data	There are no breaks in the series for the total number of births. The name of the publication was changed in 2009 to 'Babies' First Names'. It was previously 'Popular Forenames'. There was no change to the content of the publication.
Revisions statement	Because the figures for the latest year are based on births which were registered by around the start of December, the results are provisional. The numbers of babies for many names (and, in some cases, the relative ranking of the names) will change when the extra spreadsheets, giving full and final lists for the year, are produced (usually around the start of March) from the data for the births that were registered in all twelve months. This is explained in the publication. Thereafter, there will be no further revisions, because it is very unlikely that there will be any subsequent changes to the statistical records of the first forenames that were given to births that were registered in the previous year. Revisions and corrections to previously published statistics are dealt with in accordance with the Scottish Government Statistician Group corporate policy statement on revisions and corrections - a copy of which is available on the Scottish Government website.

Concepts and definitions	Definitions are contained in the publication - for example, explaining that different spellings of a name (e.g., Steven, Stephen, etc) are counted separately.
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	This is a light-hearted publication of general interest which usually attracts considerable media attention.
Accuracy	As mentioned earlier, because the figures for the current year are based only on registrations up to around the start of December, the counts for many names, and the ranks of some names, will be revised when the extra spreadsheets, giving full and final lists for that year, are published. There is very little error in the full and final lists, as few (if any) births are not registered.
Completeness:	The published statistics cover Scotland as a whole, and include figures for each local authority.
Comparability	National Records of Scotland (NRS) is the only source of information on all births. Some websites (e.g. promoting certain baby products) produce their own lists of babies' names but (we assume) they compile such lists from less-comprehensive information (e.g.) provided by people who have chosen to supply the names of their babies, or obtained from birth announcements in some newspapers, etc.
Accessibility	It is the policy of the National Records of Scotland to make its website and products accessible according to published guidelines. More information is available in the Accessibility section of the NRS website.
Coherence and clarity	The statistics are provided in Excel, PDF and CSV formats. They are designed to be consistent, and incorporate comparable historical data where appropriate. Coherence: the statistics in the tables have been on the same standard basis for a number of years.
Value type and unit of measure	The statistics are mainly the numbers of registrations of each first forename broken down in various ways (e.g. by sex and area). Most of the lists also show the rank assigned to each name, and (in some cases) any change in ranking from the previous year. There is also a small table on second forenames. Other tables and charts provide information about (e.g.) the number of first forenames, the number of different first forenames and the number of 'unique' first forenames.
Official Statistics designation	National Statistics
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	Assessed by UK Statistics Authority, report can be found within the UK Statistic Authority - Assessments section on the National Records of Scotland website
Help email	statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk
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