

Babies' First Names 2022

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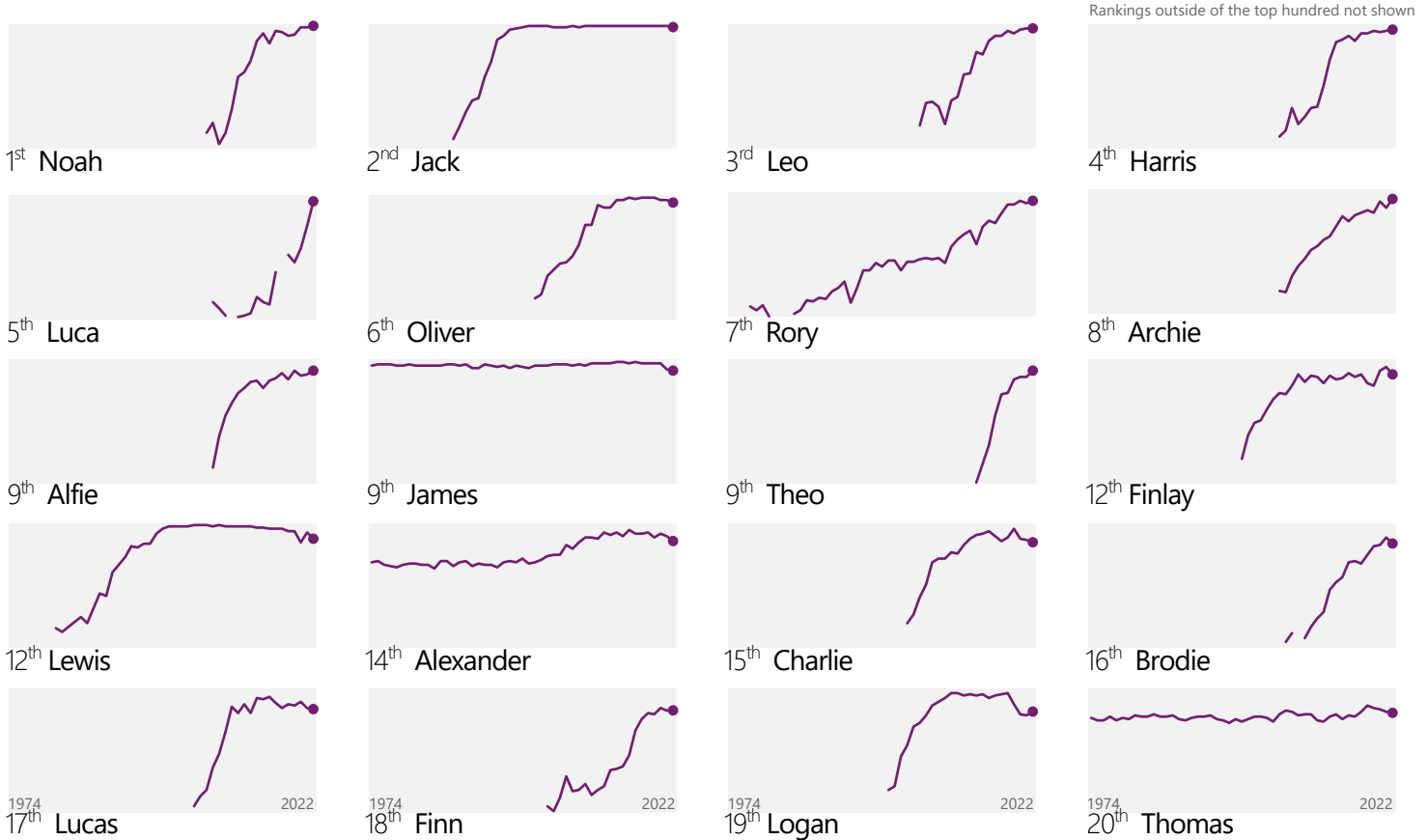


This statistical report looks at the most common babies' names for Scotland and council areas in 2022, from birth certificates.

Noah overtakes Jack as the most popular boys name

Noah has become the top name for baby boys for the first time, overtaking Jack which had been the most popular name for fourteen consecutive years. Noah's upward arc towards first place began around 2005 when it first entered the top hundred, and has generally risen since then. Jack fell to second, followed by Leo, Harris and Luca.

Most popular boys' names by rank within top hundred names, 1974-2022



Fastest rising names between 2021 and 2022

- Teddy** (up 35 places to =66th)
- Parker** (up 33 places to =98th)
- Hudson** (up 30 places to 53th)
- Theodore** (up 29 places to =49th)

Most common name by age of mother

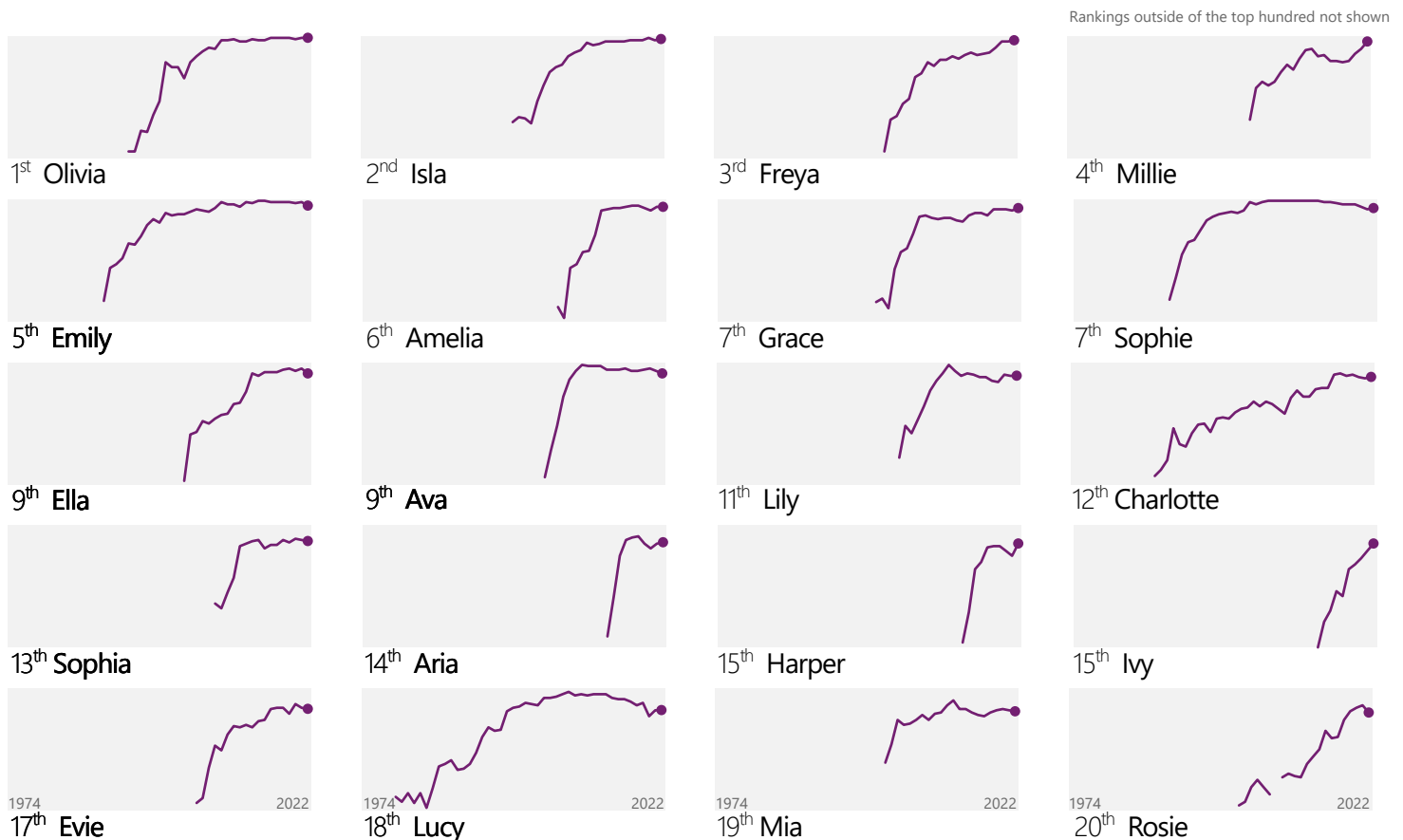
- Aged under 25 - **Noah**
- Aged 25 to 29 - **Noah**
- Aged 30 to 34 - **Jack**
- Aged 35 and over - **Noah**



Olivia remains the most popular girls' name

Olivia remained the most popular name for baby girls in 2022, as it was in 2021. It was previously the top name between 2016 and 2019, so it has been a highly popular name for a few years now. Olivia first broke into the top hundred in 1993 and has been in the top five consistently since 2008.

Most popular girls' names by rank within top hundred names, 1974-2022



Fastest rising names between 2021 and 2022

-  **Nova** (up 73 places to =62nd)
-  **Maeva** (up 59 places to =90th)
-  **Annie** (up 55 places to =80th)
-  **Nina** (up 46 places to =80th)

Most common name by age of mother

-  Aged under 25 - **Millie**
-  Aged 25 to 29 - **Freya**
-  Aged 30 to 34 - **Isla**
-  Aged 35 and over - **Sophie**



Variation across Scotland

The top girls name, Olivia, was the most (or joint most) common girls' name in five of Scotland's council areas. The top boys' name, Noah, was the top name in seven areas. No council area had both Olivia and Noah as the top names, showing the huge variation in the way babies are named around the country.

Most popular names by council area, 2022

Aberdeen City

Girl: Olivia
Boy: Leo

Aberdeenshire

Girl: Isla
Boy: Brodie

Angus

Girl: Daisy
Boy: Rory

Argyll and Bute

Girl: Emily
Boy: Alfie

City of Edinburgh

Girl: Isla
Boy: Noah

Clackmannanshire

Girl: Olivia
Boy: Archie, Harris, Tommy

Dumfries and Galloway

Girl: Olivia, Millie
Boy: Archie

Dundee City

Girl: Olivia, Millie
Boy: Leo

East Ayrshire

Girl: Freya
Boy: Harris

East Dunbartonshire

Girl: Emily
Boy: Jack

East Lothian

Girl: Isla, Ivy
Boy: Finlay

East Renfrewshire

Girl: Sophie
Boy: Rory

Falkirk

Girl: Amelia, Sophie
Boy: Leo

Fife

Girl: Emily
Boy: Noah

Glasgow City

Girl: Grace
Boy: Muhammad

Highland

Girl: Isla
Boy: Angus

Inverclyde

Girl: Millie
Boy: Leo, Noah

Midlothian

Girl: Freya
Boy: Leo

Moray

Girl: Ava
Boy: Brodie

Na h-Eileanan Siar

Girl: Annie, Ella, Freya
Boy: Leo, Finlay, Noah

North Ayrshire

Girl: Emily, Freya
Boy: Noah

North Lanarkshire

Girl: Millie
Boy: Noah

Orkney Islands

Girl:
Boy: Jack, Tommy

Perth and Kinross

Girl: Charlotte
Boy: Alexander

Renfrewshire

Girl: Evie
Boy: Jack

Scottish Borders

Girl: Olivia, Freya
Boy: Archie

Shetland Islands

Girl:
Boy: Theo

South Ayrshire

Girl: Amelia
Boy: Noah

South Lanarkshire

Girl: Ava
Boy: Jack

Stirling

Girl: Sophie
Boy: Lewis

West Dunbartonshire

Girl: Ava
Boy: Jack

West Lothian

Girl: Olivia, Millie
Boy: Logan

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



Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Key findings | 6 |
| Most common names..... | 6 |
| Names by age of mother..... | 8 |
| Variety of names chosen | 9 |
| Names and popular culture..... | 11 |
| Names by area within Scotland | 11 |
| Notes on statistical publications..... | 12 |

Key findings

- **NOAH** and **OLIVIA** were the most popular names for girls and boys in Scotland in 2021.
 - Noah becomes the top name for the first time, overtaking Jack which had been most popular for fourteen consecutive years.
 - Olivia remains the most popular name for girls, for the sixth time out of the last seven years.
- Within the top tens, **LUCA** rose by 20 places to 5th in the top boys' names, and **MILLIE** rose to 6th within the top girls' names.
- **NOVA** (up 73 places to 62nd), **MAEVA** (up 59 places to joint 90th) and **ANNIE** (up 55 places to joint 80th) rose by the largest amount of places in the top 100 girls' names.
- For boys, **TEDDY** (up 35 places to 66th), **PARKER** (up 33 places to 98th) and **HUDSON** (up 30 places to 53rd) rose by the largest number of places in the top hundred.

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 2022 in Scotland.

- **MILLIE** and **NOAH** 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 **NOAH** and **SOPHIE**.
- The number of different names given to boys reached an all-time high in 2022, as did the number of unique names (not given to any other baby that year) for boys. But the variety of names given to girls is still much greater.
- The top girls' name, Olivia, was the most (or joint most) common girls' name in five of Scotland's council areas. The top boys' name, Noah, was the most (or joint most) common name in seven areas. No council area had both Olivia and Noah as the top names, showing the huge variation in the way babies are named around the country.

Data for this publication:

[All names given to babies in 2022](#)

[All names given to babies between 1974-2022](#)

[Charts and tables from this publication](#)

Most common names

The most common babies names for girls and boys in Scotland in 2022 were **NOAH** and **OLIVIA**. Noah overtakes Jack as top name, which was most popular every year between 2008 and 2021. Olivia has been the most common girls name for six out of the last seven years. The top 20 names for boys and girls are shown below in Table 1.

Table 1: Top 20 babies' names in Scotland, 2022

| Boys | | | | Girls | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------|-----------------------------|
| Rank ¹ | Name | Number | Change in Ranking 2021-2022 | Rank ¹ | Name | Number | Change in Ranking 2021-2022 |
| 1 | Noah | 373 | +1 | 1 | Olivia | 309 | no change |
| 2 | Jack | 342 | -1 | 2 | Isla | 296 | +1 |
| 3 | Leo | 310 | no change | 3 | Freya | 294 | +1 |
| 4 | Harris | 274 | +1 | 4 | Millie | 280 | +6 |
| 5 | Luca | 273 | +20 | 5 | Emily | 244 | -3 |
| 6 | Oliver | 261 | -2 | 6 | Amelia | 234 | no change |
| 7 | Rory | 251 | +2 | 7= | Grace | 233 | +2 |
| 8 | Archie | 246 | +7 | 7= | Sophie | 233 | +1 |
| 9= | Theo | 243 | +5 | 9= | Ella | 226 | -4 |
| 9= | Alfie | 243 | +3 | 9= | Ava | 226 | -2 |
| 9= | James | 243 | -1 | 11 | Lily | 218 | no change |
| 12= | Finlay | 234 | -6 | 12 | Charlotte | 214 | +1 |
| 12= | Lewis | 234 | -5 | 13 | Sophia | 184 | -1 |
| 14 | Alexander | 230 | -4 | 14 | Aria | 177 | +1 |
| 15 | Charlie | 226 | -2 | 15= | Harper | 169 | +10 |
| 16 | Brodie | 221 | -5 | 15= | Ivy | 169 | +6 |
| 17 | Lucas | 203 | -1 | 17 | Evie | 161 | -1 |
| 18 | Finn | 201 | no change | 18 | Lucy | 158 | no change |
| 19 | Logan | 195 | +3 | 19 | Mia | 156 | -1 |
| 20 | Thomas | 183 | -1 | 20 | Rosie | 154 | -6 |

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

Within the top 100 girls' names, there were ten names that rose by 20 places or more. These were: **NOVA, MAEVA, ANNIE, NINA, VIOLET, MATILDA, ELSIE, EVELYN, MAEVE** and **ELIZABETH**.

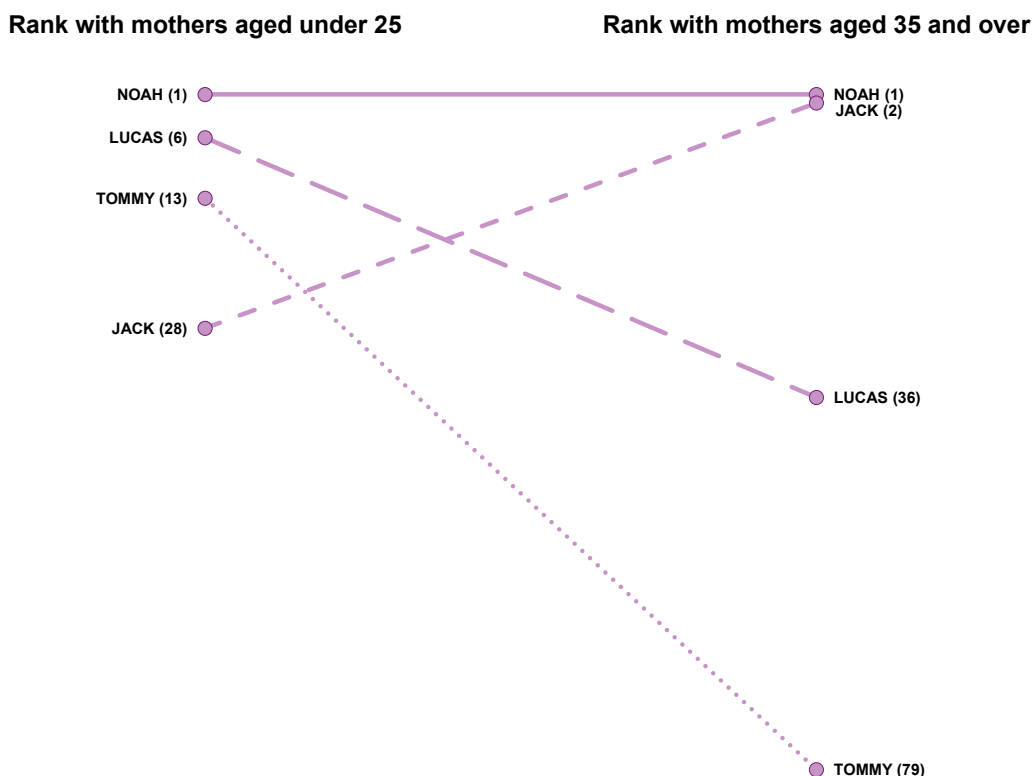
Within the top 100 boys' names, there were eleven names that rose by 20 places or more. These were: **TEDDY, PARKER, HUDSON, THEODORE, CODY, BRODY, ANDREW, RUARIDH, STRUAN, MUHAMMAD** and **LUCA**.

Names by age of mother

NOAH, the most popular name for boys in 2022, was the also the most popular name with mothers aged 35 and above, and with mothers aged under 25. **JACK** (previous top name for boys) was the second most popular name for babies with mothers aged 35 and over, but was 28th for babies with mothers under 25.

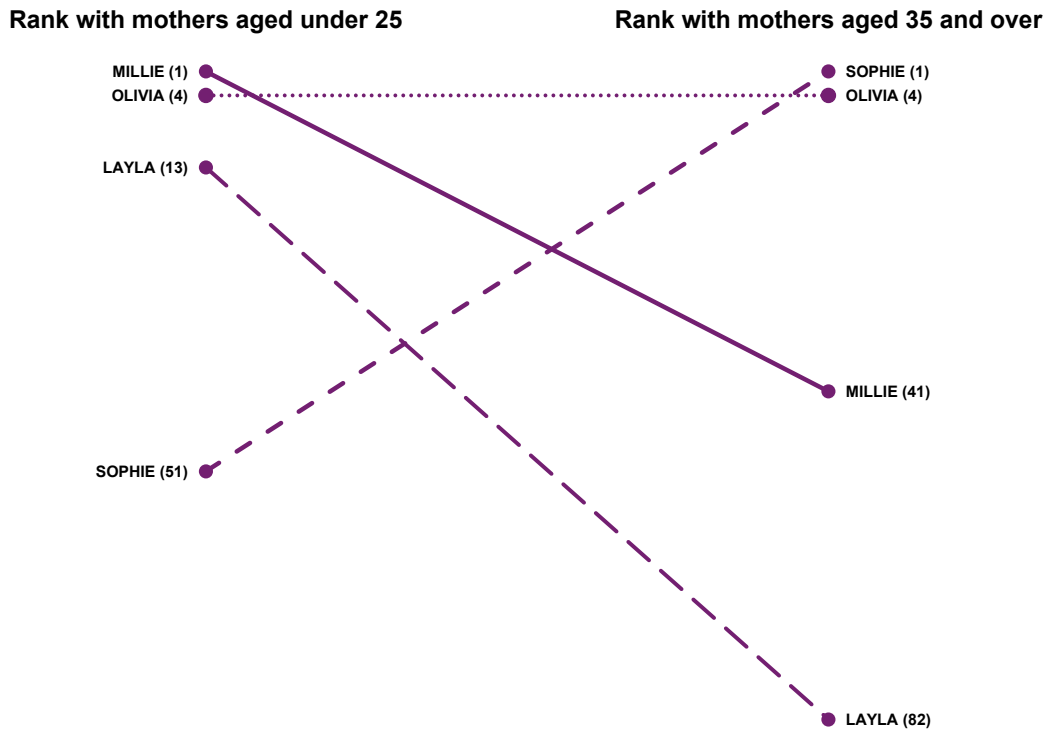
Only 2 of the 10 leading boys' names (**LEO** and **NOAH**) chosen by mothers aged under 25 also feature in the top 10 for mothers aged 35 and older.

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



OLIVIA, the most popular name for girls in 2022, was the fourth most popular name for a girl with mothers under 25 and for mothers aged 35 and over. **SOPHIE** was most popular for babies with mothers in the oldest age group, but was 51st for babies with mothers in the youngest age group. **MILLIE** was the most popular girls' name for babies with mothers aged 25 and under, but was 41st for babies with mothers in the oldest age group.

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

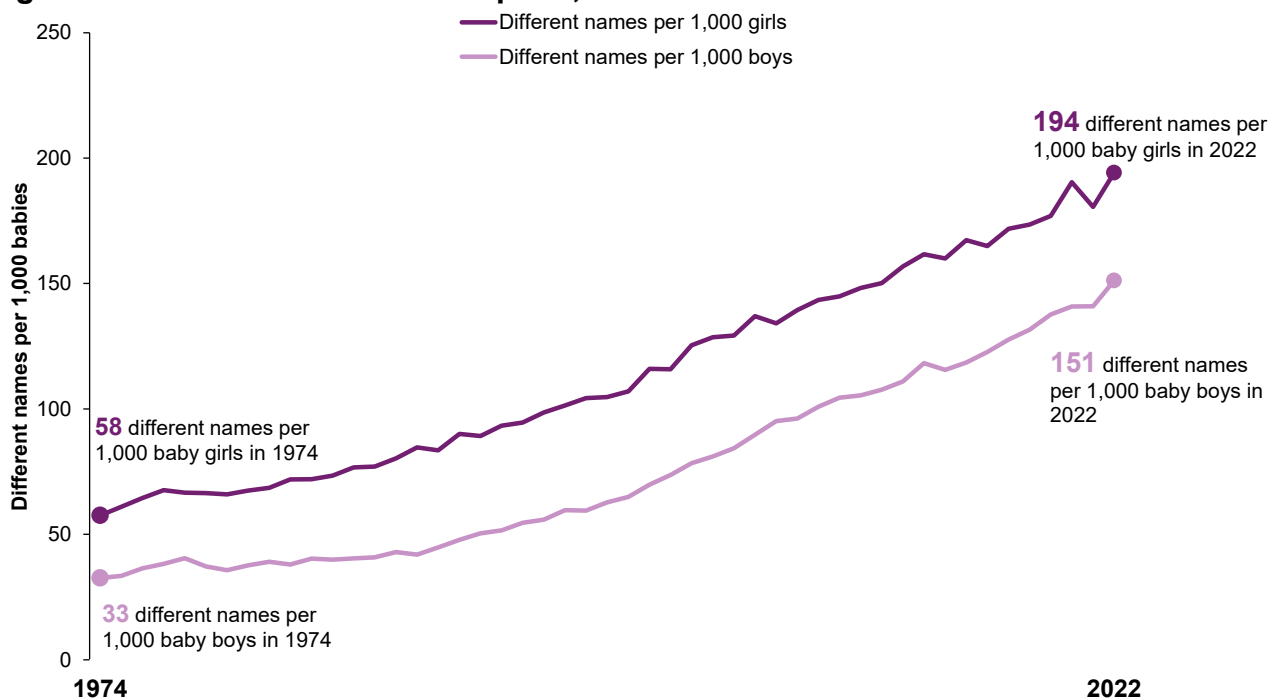


Variety of names chosen

In Scotland in 2022, there were 4,408 different first names given to girls and 3,667 different first names given to boys. These statistics are based on the birth registrations of 22,698 girls and 24,255 boys.

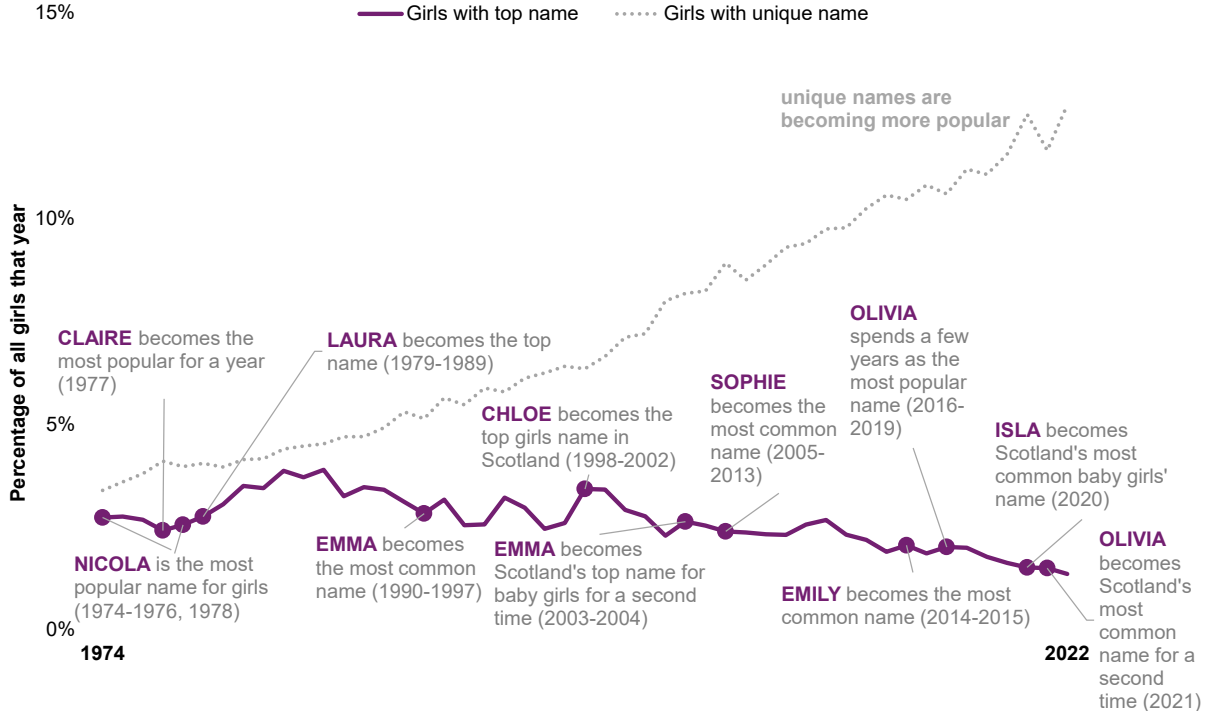
The rate of different names per 1,000 births rose between 2021 and 2022 from 181 to 194 for girls. The rate for boys rose from 141 to 151.

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



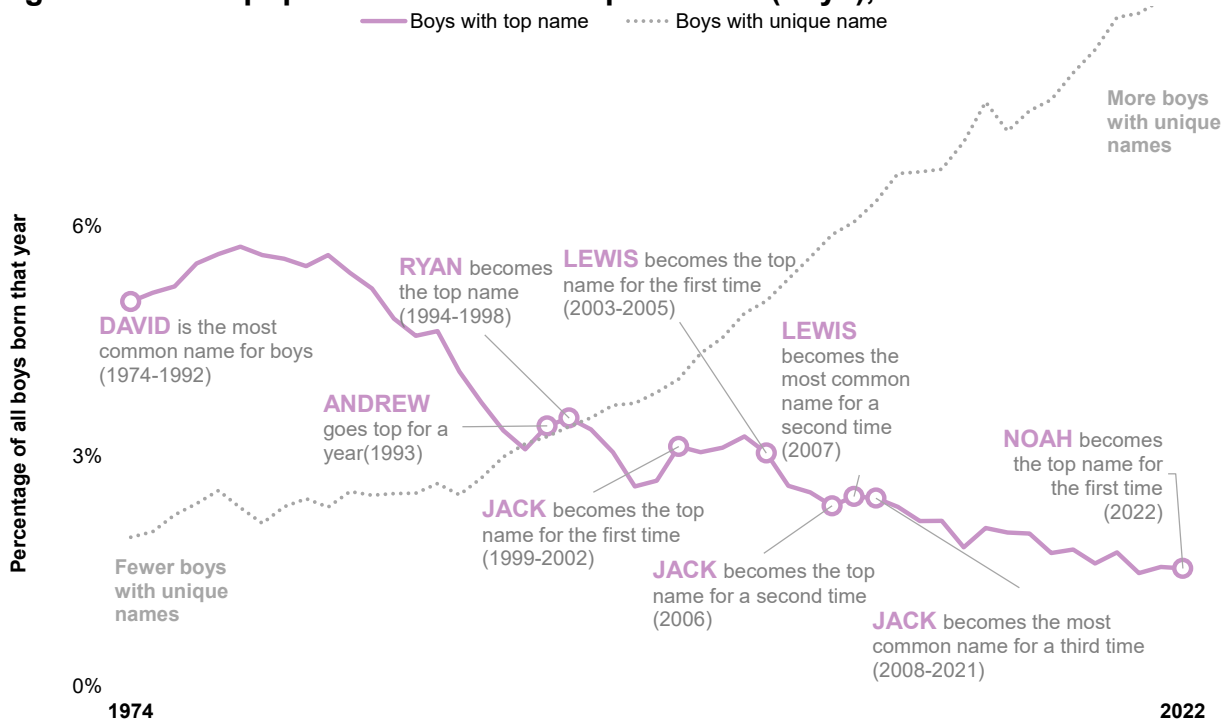
A random selection of 1,000 baby girls born in 2022 would have 194 different names among them, meaning that any one baby would be likely to share their name with 5 others. For baby girls born in 1974, there would have been around 58 different names per 1,000 babies; meaning that any one baby would share their name with an average of 17 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), 1974-2022



In 2022, 1.4% of baby girls born in Scotland had the most common name (Olivia), and 12.8% 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 Olivia is now.

Figure 3b: Most popular names and unique names (boys), 1974-2022



The name Noah was given to 1.5% of boys born in 2022, while 9.6% 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 TV show Love Island seems to coincide with increased popularity for a number of names in recent years. This year's data is no different, with a huge increase in the number of baby boys called **LUCA**, Which rose twenty places in the rankings to fifth placed. A total of 273 babies born last year were called Luca. It was the third most popular boys name for babies with mothers aged under 25 and aged 25 to 29. This could be in part due to Luca Bish's appearance on Love Island in 2022.

There was also a noticeable rise in the number of baby girls called **TILLY** in 2022, this could be in part due to Tilly Ramsay's appearance on Strictly Come Dancing in late 2021. There were 43 baby girls called Tilly in 2022, which is 20 more than in 2021.

Names by area within Scotland

The top girls' name, **OLIVIA**, was the most (or joint most) common girls' name in five of Scotland's council areas (out of thirty-two). The top (or joint top) boys' name, **NOAH**, was the top name in seven areas. No council area had both Olivia and Noah as the top names, showing the huge variation in the way babies are named around the country.

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 2022.

Notes on statistical publications

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