

NATIONAL RECORDS OF SCOTLAND

preserving the past; recording the present; informing the future

Babies' First Names 2011

Published on 20 December 2011

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.



These statistics were recently assessed by the UK Statistics Authority and are designated as National Statistics subject to meeting the requirements set out in the [Assessment of Compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) report, available on the UK Statistics Authority's website.

NATIONAL RECORDS OF SCOTLAND joins together



General Register Office
for
SCOTLAND
information about Scotland's people



THE NATIONAL
ARCHIVES OF SCOTLAND

Contents

Main Points	3
The most popular names in Scotland, 2011.....	4
Commentary	5
Boys' Names	5
Girls' Names.....	6
Changing Trends in Naming Babies	7
Number of Forenames	7
Regional variations	8
Notes	9
Notes on statistical publications.....	10

List of Tables

Table A Birth forenames in 2011	4
Table B Top ten names, as a percentage of all names, selected years, Scotland.....	7
Table C Most popular second forenames, Scotland, 2011	8

List of Figures

Figure A Number of forenames, Scotland 2011	7
---	---

Main Points

The key points in this publication are:

- **Jack** has stayed in first place as the most popular boys' name for new babies. **Lewis** and **James** keep their second and third places.
- For the seventh year, **Sophie** is the most popular girls' name for new babies. **Lily** climbs from ninth place to second whilst **Ava** stays in third.
- The top 50 boys' names accounted for 45 per cent of all boys' names registered and the top 50 girls' names accounted for 43 per cent of the registrations.
- More than 3,000 different boys' names and 4,000 different girls' names were registered.

The most popular names in Scotland, 2011

Table A Birth forenames in 2011

The table below gives information on the top 20 boys' and girls' birth names included in the statistics for 2011.

Boys				Girls			
Rank	Name	Count	Change in Ranking 2010-2011	Rank	Name	Count	Change in Ranking 2010-2011
1	Jack	588	no change	1	Sophie	612	no change
2	Lewis	463	no change	2	Lily	451	7
3	James	426	no change	3	Ava	449	no change
4	Logan	366	no change	4	Olivia	441	-2
5	Ethan	364	6	5=	Emily	419	-1
6	Daniel	362	-1	5=	Lucy	419	1
7	Ryan	323	-1	7	Isla	340	-2
8	Alexander	318	4	8	Jessica	309	3
9	Harry	316	7	9=	Chloe	299	-2
10	Aaron	312	-3	9=	Ellie	299	-1
11	Oliver	306	-3	11	Emma	285	-1
12	Cameron	301	1	12	Erin	260	no change
13	Lucas	292	7	13	Eva	256	5
14	Matthew	282	2	14	Mia	255	6
15	Callum	278	4	15	Grace	246	no change
16	Charlie	277	8	16	Freya	222	3
17	Riley	275	22	17	Katie	221	-4
18	Dylan	262	5	18=	Millie	219	9
19	Adam	261	-3	18=	Sophia	219	25
20	Aiden	260	2	20	Kayla	218	7

The following more detailed information may be downloaded from our website:

- the top 100 boys' and girls' birth names included in the statistics for 2011, together with changes since 2010:
 - in order of popularity; and
 - in alphabetic order;
- a set of tables giving the top ten boys' and girls' names for each of the 32 Scottish local authority areas;
- a full list of all first names registered in Scotland by late November 2011.

Commentary

Boys' Names

Jack has stayed in first place as the most popular boys' name for new babies. **Lewis**, **James** and **Logan** remain in second, third and fourth places respectively. **Ethan** (up 6 places to 5th), **Alexander** (up 4 places to 8th) and **Harry** (up 7 places to 9th) are new entrants to the top 10. **Charlie** (up 8 places to 16th), **Riley** (up 22 places to 17th), **Dylan** (up 5 places to 18th) and **Aiden** (up 2 places to 20th) are new entrants in the top 20. Between them, Jack and Lewis have been the top two boys' names for the past thirteen consecutive years. Jack has been number one (with Lewis second) in nine of those years, with Lewis top (and Jack second) for the other four.

Mason (up 24 places to 31st), **Leo** (up 19 places to 39th), **Jay** (up 3 places to 48th) and **Harris** (up 17 places to 49th) are new entrants in the top 50. Other names making significant advances in the top 50 include **Max** (up 7 places to 26th), **Rory** (up 6 places to 32nd) and **Jacob** (up 8 places to 38th). Lower down the top 100, **Aidan** (up 14 places to 57th), **Harrison** (up 14 places to 74th) and **Kaiden** (up 14 places to 76th) also make advances. New names reaching the top 100 include **Ruaridh** (up 45 places to 85th) and **Lennon** (up 16 places to 96th).

There have been reductions in popularity for **Ross** (down 27 places to 76th), **Sean** (down 14 places to 82nd), **Declan** (down 17 places to 98th). Names dropping out of the top 100 are **George**, **Alex**, **Calvin**, **Craig** and **Kenzie**.

By late November 2011, nearly 28,000 boys had been registered, with more than 3,000 different first names being used. The top 50 names accounted for 45 per cent of the total. Nearly 1,900 boys were given unique (for 2011) first names.

A full list of all first names registered by late November 2011 may be downloaded from our website.

Girls' Names

For the seventh year in a row, **Sophie** is the most popular girls' name for new babies. **Lily** climbs seven places to second place whilst **Ava** stays in third. There is one new entrant to the top ten – **Jessica** (up 3 places to 8th). There are three new entrants in the top twenty – **Millie** and **Sophia** (up 9 and 25 places respectively to joint 18th) and **Kayla** (up 7 places to 20th).

Lilly (up 27 places to 42nd), **Molly** (up 7 places to 45th), **Poppy** (up 5 places to 46th) and **Lacey** (up 6 places to 49th) are new entrants in the top 50 whilst **Layla** (up 11 places to 37th) and **Isabella** (up 8 places to 40th) also make significant advances.

Sofia (up 24 places to 60th) and **Kara** (up 21 places to 75th) are among the climbers within the top 100 whilst **Gracie** (up 14 places to 88th), **Lara** (up 11 places to 91st) and **Jasmine** (up 18 places to 93rd) are among the new entrants.

Fallers within the top 50 include **Niamh** (down 12 places to 41st) and **Aimee** (down 15 places to 48th). Further down the top 100 **Skye** (down 16 places to 53rd), **Nicole** (down 17 places to 80th) and **Lucie** (down 18 places to 88th) were also less popular than last year.

Nieve, **Courtney** and **Cerys** are among those dropping out of the top 100 in 2011.

By late November 2011, more than 26,000 girls had been registered, with more than 4,000 different names being used. The top 50 girls' names accounted for 43 per cent of the registrations, and more than 2,600 girls in Scotland were given unique (for 2011) first names.

A full list of all first names registered by late November 2011 may be downloaded from our website.

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
2011	13.9	15.5

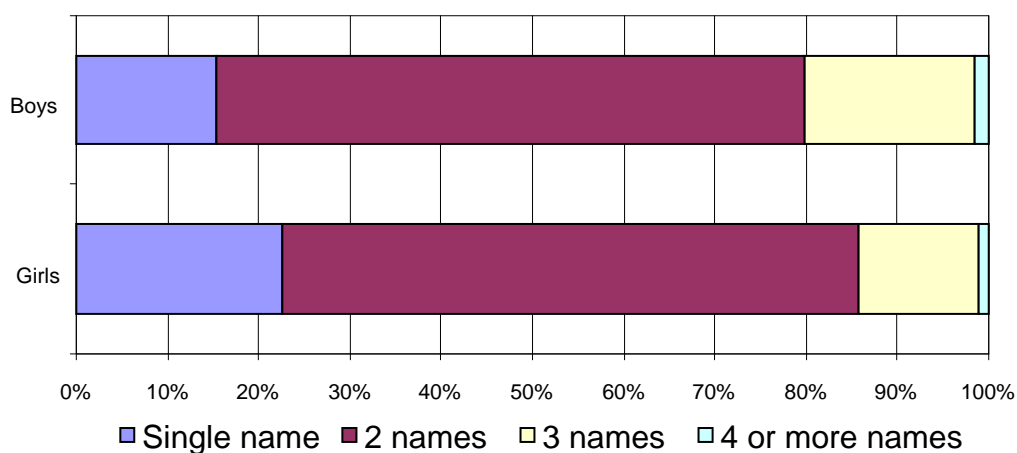
Another aspect of the changing range of names is an increasing variation in spelling. The tables presented here count different spellings separately. If combined, **Callum/Calum** would be in fourth place and **Aimee/Amy** would be in eighth.

Number of Forenames

Additional names

The number of forenames given in the births counted in the statistics for 2011 is summarised in the chart below. Eighty-five per cent of boys and seventy-seven per cent of girls registered in 2011 have more than one forename.

Figure A Number of forenames, Scotland 2011



The following table shows the relative popularity of second names:

Table C Most popular second forenames, Scotland, 2011

Boys			Girls		
Rank	Name	Count	Rank	Name	Count
1	James	2113	1	Elizabeth	958
2	John	1436	2	Rose	842
3	William	983	3	Louise	686
4	Alexander	876	4	Grace	542
5	David	828	5	Jane	477
6	Robert	700	6	Margaret	462
7	Thomas	636	7	Anne	430
8	Andrew	494	8	Catherine	360
9	Michael	422	9	Mary	348
10	George	396	10	Ann	331
11	Joseph	284	11	May	306
12	Scott	256	12	Marie	247
13	Peter	238	13	Isabella	215
14=	Ian	208	14	Helen	210
14=	Paul	208	15	Sarah	198
16	Jack	189	16	Jean	181
17=	Alan	183	17	Lily	142
17=	Christopher	183	18	Mae	135
19	Patrick	178	19	Anna	124
20	Edward	167	20	Maria	121

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. In the statistics for 2011 the top ten second names for boys and girls are the same as the previous five years with just a few minor changes in ranking.

Regional variations

Jack was the top boys’ name in 20 council areas, whilst **James** was top in 4 areas. **Sophie** was the most popular girls’ name in 14 council areas, whilst **Lily** was top in 5 areas.

The top ten names in each Council area can be downloaded from our website.

Notes

- By law, all births have to be registered, and the records sent in by local registrars to the General Register Office for Scotland. These records 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 new babies born in Scotland.
- All of the information for 2011 contained in these tables is provisional. It is based on births registered up to the 28th of November 2011. The information for 2010 contained in this paper is for the full year, and therefore varies from that contained in last year's paper.
- The rankings were based on the first forename recorded on the birth register.
- Different spellings, e.g. Stephen, Steven, were counted separately.
- Accents were ignored.

Notes on statistical publications

National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (available on the [UKSA](#) website).

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- 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.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

National Records of Scotland

From 1 April 2011, the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) merged with the National Archives of Scotland to become the National Records of Scotland (NRS). The GROS website will remain active until it is replaced by a new website for NRS.

We, the National Records of Scotland, are a non-ministerial department of the devolved Scottish Administration. Our aim is to provide relevant and reliable information, analysis and advice that meets the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland. We do this as follows.

- Preserving the past – We look after Scotland’s national archives so that they are available for current and future generations, and we make available important information for family history.
- Recording the present – At our network of local offices, we register births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland.
- 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](#) on the NRS/GROS website. Statistics from the 2001 Census are available from Scotland’s Census Results On-Line ([SCROL](#)) website and the [Census section](#) of the NRS/GROS website.

We also provide information about [future publications](#) on our website. If you would like us to tell you about future statistical publications, you can register your interest on the Scottish Government [ScotStat](#) website.

Enquiries and suggestions

Please contact our Customer Services if you need any further information.

Email: customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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

Kirsty MacLachlan

Senior Statistician

National Records of Scotland

Room 1/2/3

Ladywell House

Ladywell Road

Edinburgh

EH12 7TF.

Phone: 0131 314 4242

Email: kirsty.maclachlan@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Related organisations

Organisation	Contact
<p>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.</p>	<p>Office of the Chief Statistician Scottish Government 4.N06, St Andrew's House Edinburgh, EH1 3DG</p> <p>Phone: 0131 244 0442</p> <p>Email: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Customer Contact Centre Room 1.015 Office for National Statistics Cardiff Road Newport, NP10 8XG</p> <p>Phone: 0845 601 3034</p> <p>Minicom: 01633 812399</p> <p>Email: info@statistics.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.ons.gov.uk/</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency McAuley House 2-14 Castle Street Belfast, BT1 1SA</p> <p>Phone: 028 9034 8100</p> <p>Email: info.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.nisra.gov.uk</p>

© Crown Copyright. You may reproduce brief extracts from the material in this publication as long as you fully acknowledge the source.