

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE



FRIDAY, 2 JANUARY 2004

Jack and Emma were the most popular first names in Northern Ireland in 2003

- **Jack** and **Emma** were the most popular first names given to children whose births were registered in Northern Ireland in 2003;
- There were over 330 boys named **Jack** and over 220 girls named **Emma**;

- **Emma** has moved up from joint seventh place in 2002 to be the most popular girls name in 2003, while **Jack** has moved up from second place in 2002 to first in 2003;

Top of the Tots 2003				
		Male	Female	
1	↑	Jack	↑	Emma
2	↓	Matthew	↑	Katie
3	↑	Adam	↓	Caitlin
4	↑	James	↓	Chloe
5	↓	Ryan	↑	Amy
6	=	Joshua	↑	Ellie
7	=	Conor	↑	Hannah
8	↑	Daniel	↑	Rachel
9	↓	Ben	↓	Sarah
10	↓	Dylan	↓	Megan

- For boys **Matthew** and **Jack** have alternately been the most popular names from 2000. This year **Matthew** has moved from the most popular name in 2002, to the second most popular in 2003 and **Adam** has moved from fourth place in 2002, to third place in 2003;
- For girls **Chloe** had been the most popular name for the past six years since 1997 but this year moved down from first to fourth place. **Katie** has moved up one place to become the second most popular girl's name and **Caitlin** has moved down one place to become the third most popular girl's name in 2003.
- Only one of the top 10 boy's names in 1975 (**James**) is still in the top 10 in 2003, while none of the top 10 girl's names in 1975 appear in the 2003 top 10;

- Over the past few years there have been approximately 1,500 different girl's and 1,000 different boy's names used every year.

Changes in popularity (2002 to 2003)

Boy's Names

- **Kai** has risen from rank 156 in 2002 to rank 94 in 2003 and **Robbie** has risen from rank 141 in 2002 to 81 in 2003; and
- **Jason** has fallen 20 places over the past year to rank 72 in 2003 and **Curtis** has fallen 17 places to rank 88 in 2003.

Girl's Names

- **Lily** has risen from rank 162 in 2002 to rank 75 in 2003 and **Sophia** has risen from rank 155 in 2002 to rank 81 in 2003; and
- **Claire** has fallen from rank 58 to rank 95 in the past year and **Catherine** has fallen by 28 places to rank 64 in 2003.

Comparison with 1975

The table below shows the ten most popular names for boys and girls in 1975.

Most popular boy's and girl's names, 1975

Rank	Male	Female
1	David	Joanne
2	Paul	Karen
3	John	Catherine
4	Mark	Julie
5	Stephen	Sharon
6	Michael	Mary
7	William	Claire
8	James	Lisa
9	Jonathan	Michelle
10	Robert	Nicola

Top 20 Names 2000-2003

The table below shows the most popular 20 boy's and girl's names in 2003 (with their positions over the last 4 years).

Boys	2003	2002	2001	2000	Girls	2003	2002	2001	2000
Jack	1	2	1	2	Emma	1	7	3	2
Matthew	2	1	2	1	Katie	2	3	12	13
Adam	3	4	3	5	Caitlin	3	2	4	3
James	4	5	5	4	Chloe	4	1	1	1
Ryan	5	3	4	3	Amy	5	7	9	8
Joshua	6	6	7	13	Ellie	6	18	31	47
Conor	7	7	6	6	Hannah	6	9	6	10
Daniel	8	10	10	8	Rachel	8	12	10	11
Ben	9	8	21	20	Sarah	9	5	7	9
Dylan	10	9	7	10	Megan	10	4	5	4
Michael	11	13	11	11	Sophie	10	14	15	15
Thomas	12	12	9	12	Aoife	12	21	16	18
Aaron	13	14	16	8	Lucy	13	17	21	22
Ethan	14	11	14	19	Niamh	14	10	10	7
Jamie	15	16	12	18	Rebecca	15	10	8	5
Nathan	16	15	23	15	Erin	16	19	13	22
Luke	17	16	15	24	Aimee	17	23	21	25
Patrick	18	20	24	23	Anna	17	15	13	12
David	19	21	18	13	Lauren	19	6	2	6
John	19	23	22	26	Leah	20	16	19	17

Comparison Across Northern Ireland

The tables below show the five most popular names for boys and girls within each Health and Social Services Board.

Top 5 boy's names by Health Board, 2003

	Eastern Board	Northern Board	Southern Board	Western Board
1	Matthew	Jack	James	Jack
2	Jack	Matthew (2=)	Jack	Adam (2=)
3	Adam	Adam (2=)	Ryan	Ryan (2=)
4	James	Ryan	Matthew	Conor
5	Joshua	Joshua	Adam (5=)	Matthew
			Dylan (5=)	

Top 5 girl's names by Health Board, 2003

	Eastern Board	Northern Board	Southern Board	Western Board
1	Katie	Emma	Katie	Caitlin
2	Emma	Katie	Emma	Emma
3	Caitlin (3=)	Megan	Aoife	Chloe
4	Sophie (3=)	Chloe	Caitlin	Aoife
5	Ellie (5=)	Rachel	Amy (5=)	Niamh
	Rachel (5=)		Chloe (5=)	

Additional Forenames

This year analysis has also been undertaken of additional forenames given to children. Some key results are:

- The most popular additional forenames for boys were, in order, **James, John, Patrick, William, Joseph** and **Thomas**. Each of these names was more popular as an additional forename than was **Jack** as a first name, with over 330 boys being given one of these names as additional forename.
- The most popular additional forenames for girls were, in order, **Louise, Elizabeth, Mary, Marie, Rose** and **Jane**.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Information on the most popular first names in previous years can be obtained from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) website at <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/financeandpersonnel/dmb/publications.htm>
2. The results for 2003 in this release are based on an analysis of the first names recorded on births registered between 01/01/2003 and 28/11/2003 with the General Register Office, Northern Ireland. Final figures based on the full year will be published on the NISRA website.
3. Only the first name was used for this analysis, surnames and additional forenames were not used. Different spellings of a name have been treated as separate names, e.g. while there were 188 boys named Conor (ranked seventh), another 55 boys had the alternate spelling Connor which was ranked fifty-sixth. Names containing accents have been recorded without those accents, e.g. Séan was recorded as Sean. Names of equal rank have been placed in alphabetical order.
4. Corresponding information for England and Wales will be published by the Office for National Statistics (London) and for Scotland by the General Register Office for Scotland in (Edinburgh).
5. Further information can be obtained from:
 - Press Office
 - Department of Finance and Personnel
 - Craigantlet Buildings
 - Stoney Road
 - BELFAST
 - BT4 3SX

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6. Statistical queries should be addressed to:
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