



**General Register Office**  
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**SCOTLAND**  
*information about Scotland's people*

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**Popular Forenames –**  
Babies' First Names 2008

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## Main Points

The key points in this publication are:

- After dropping to second place last year, **Jack** has returned to number one, replacing **Lewis** as the most popular boys' name for new babies. **Lewis** falls to second place whilst **Daniel** climbs four places to third.
- For the fourth year, **Sophie** is the most popular girls' name for new babies. **Emily** climbs five places to second place whilst **Olivia** climbs seven places to third.
- The top 50 boys' names accounted for 47 per cent of all boys' names registered and the top 50 girls' names accounted for 43 per cent of the registrations.
- Around 2,900 different boys' names and 4,000 different girls' names were registered.

## Birth forenames in 2008

The table below gives information on the top 20 boys' and girls' birth names in 2008.

Boys				Girls			
Rank	Name	Count	Change in Ranking 2007-2008	Rank	Name	Count	Change in Ranking 2007-2008
1	Jack	692	1	1	Sophie	632	No change
2	Lewis	611	-1	2	Emily	433	5
3	Daniel	475	4	3	Olivia	421	7
4	Liam	448	4	4	Chloe	404	5
5=	James	444	-1	5	Emma	401	-3
5=	Ryan	444	-2	6	Lucy	391	-3
7	Callum	368	-2	7	Ava	383	7
8	Logan	359	3	8	Katie	360	-4
9	Matthew	349	No change	9	Erin	355	-3
10	Cameron	332	-4	10	Hannah	344	1
11	Alexander	327	4	11	Ellie	330	-6
12=	Aiden	311	5	12	Jessica	321	No change
12=	Dylan	311	8	13	Amy	309	-5
14	Aaron	300	7	14	Isla	305	2
15	Ben	297	3	15	Grace	289	-2
16	Kyle	296	-3	16	Eva	272	2
17	Jamie	291	-7	17	Rebecca	251	-2
18	Finlay	288	-6	18	Leah	250	16
19	Adam	267	-5	19	Freya	212	11
20	Andrew	266	-4	20	Holly	210	8

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

1. the top 100 boys' and girls' birth names in 2008, together with changes since 2007:
  - a) in order of popularity; and
  - b) in alphabetic order;
2. a set of tables giving the top ten boys' and girls' names for each of the 32 Scottish local authority areas;
3. a full list of all first names registered in Scotland in 2008.

## Commentary

### Boys' Names

After dropping to second place last year, **Jack** has returned to number one, replacing **Lewis** as the most popular boys' name for new babies. **Lewis** falls to second place whilst **Daniel** climbs four places to third. There is one new entrant to the top 20 - **Aaron** (up 7 places to 14<sup>th</sup>). Between them, Jack and Lewis have been the top two boys' names for the past ten consecutive years. Jack has been number one (with Lewis second) in six of those years with Lewis top (and Jack second) for the other four.

**Jayden** (up 26 places to 26<sup>th</sup>), **Max** (up 26 places to 32<sup>nd</sup>) and **Lucas** (up 17 places to 36<sup>th</sup>) are new entrants in the top 50. Other names making significant advances in the top 50 include **Oliver** (up 16 places to 24<sup>th</sup>) and **Jay** (up 15 places to 34<sup>th</sup>). Lower down the top 100, **Riley** (up 34 places to 64<sup>th</sup>), **Alex** (up 19 places to joint 67<sup>th</sup>) and **Declan** (up 10 places to joint 67<sup>th</sup>) also make advances. New names reaching the top 100 include **Kayden** (up 46 places to joint 82<sup>nd</sup>), **Muhammad** (up 27 places to joint 82<sup>nd</sup>), **Brodie** (up 14 places to 88<sup>th</sup>), **Oscar** (up 24 places to 92<sup>nd</sup>) and **Peter** (up 18 places to 100<sup>th</sup>). **Corey** (up 23 places to 78<sup>th</sup>) has re-entered the top 100 after falling to 101<sup>st</sup> last year.

There have been reductions in popularity for **John** (down 10 places to 41<sup>st</sup>), **Kieran** (down 12 places to joint 47<sup>th</sup>), **Ross** (down 20 places to 47<sup>th</sup>) and **Fraser** (down 12 places to 49<sup>th</sup>). Names dropping out of the top 100 are **Lennon**, **George**, **Shaun**, and **Stuart**.

By the end of November 2008, around 28,100 boys had been registered, with over 2,900 different first names being used. The top 50 names accounted for 47 per cent of the total. Over 1800 boys were given unique (for 2008) first names.

A full list of all first names registered in 2008 may be downloaded from our website.

## Girls' Names

For the fourth year, **Sophie** is the most popular girls' name for new babies. **Emily** climbs five places to second place whilst **Olivia** climbs seven places to third. There are two new entrants to the top ten – **Ava** (up 7 places to 7<sup>th</sup>) and **Hannah** (up 1 place to 10<sup>th</sup>). There are three new entrants in the top twenty - **Leah** (up 34 places to 18<sup>th</sup>), **Freya** (up 11 places to 19<sup>th</sup>) and **Holly** (up 8 places to 20<sup>th</sup>).

**Summer** (up 21 places to 32<sup>nd</sup>), **Amber** (up 12 places to joint 49<sup>th</sup>) and **Zara** (up 7 places to 49<sup>th</sup>) are new entrants in the top 50 whilst **Lily** (up 13 places to 23<sup>rd</sup>), **Sarah** (up 8 places to 24<sup>th</sup>), **Millie** (up 7 places to 30<sup>th</sup>) also make significant advances.

**Orla** (up 22 places to 61<sup>st</sup>) **Mya** (up 16 places to 62<sup>nd</sup>), **Bethany** (up 14 places to 64<sup>th</sup>) and **Libby** (up 20 places to 79<sup>th</sup>) are among the climbers within the top 100 whilst **Rosie** (up 35 places to 69<sup>th</sup>), **Lexi** (up 107 places to 74<sup>th</sup>), **Amelie** (up 33 places to 77<sup>th</sup>), **Lara** (up 18 places to joint 86<sup>th</sup>) and **Nieve** (up 130 places to 86<sup>th</sup>) are among the new entrants. **Maisie** (up 37 places to 82<sup>nd</sup>), **Cerys** (up 51 places to 60<sup>th</sup>) and **Alisha** (up 26 places to 95<sup>th</sup>) also make significant advances after dropping out of the top 100 last year.

Fallers within the top 50 were **Megan** (down 11 places to 31<sup>st</sup>) and **Eilidh** (down 13 places to 34<sup>th</sup>). Further down the top 100 **Jennifer** (down 18 places to 85<sup>th</sup>), **Carly** (down 20 places to 89<sup>th</sup>) **Jenna** (down 40 places to 90<sup>th</sup>) and **Kayleigh** (down 48 places to 98<sup>th</sup>) were also less popular than last year.

**Alice, Elise, Shannon, Jasmine, Kaitlyn, Hayley, Laura, Natalie, Casey, Courtney, Layla, Rachael, Chelsea and Charley** have all dropped out of the top 100.

By the end of November 2008, nearly 27,200 girls had been registered, with over 4,000 different names being used. The top 50 girls' names accounted for 43 per cent of the registrations, and nearly 2,600 girls in Scotland were given unique (for 2008) first names.

A full list of all first names registered in 2008 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.

### Top ten names, as a percentage of all names, selected years, Scotland

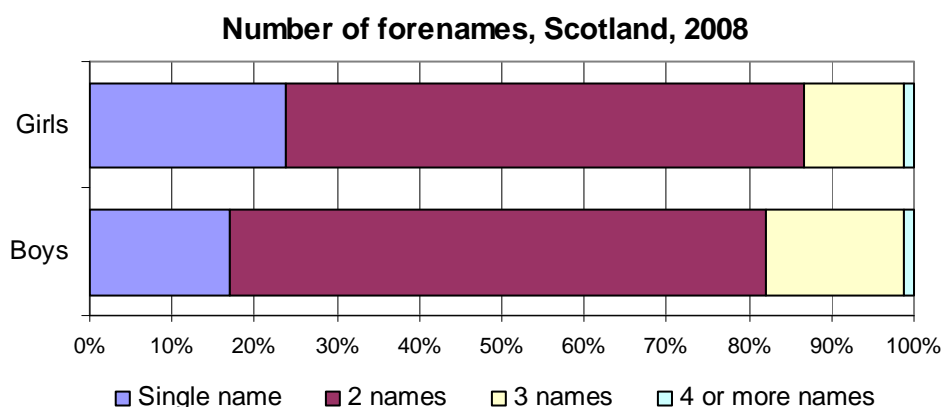
	Boys	Girls
<b>1900</b>	68.4	58.1
<b>1950</b>	53.3	36.3
<b>1975</b>	32.6	20.2
<b>2000</b>	21.7	20.4
<b>2008</b>	16.1	15.2

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 third place and **Aimee/Amy** would be second.

## Number of Forenames

### Additional names

The number of forenames given in 2008 is summarised in the chart below. Eighty-three per cent of boys and seventy-six per cent of girls registered in 2008 have more than one forename.



The following table shows the relative popularity of second names:

### Most popular second forenames, Scotland, 2008

Boys			Girls		
Rank	Name	Count	Rank	Name	Count
1	James	2119	1	Elizabeth	1045
2	John	1425	2	Louise	908
3	William	983	3	Rose	628
4	David	865	4	Jane	557
5	Alexander	864	5	Grace	542
6	Robert	733	6	Margaret	530
7	Thomas	721	7	Anne	522
8	Andrew	542	8	Ann	442
9	George	398	9	Mary	392
10	Michael	358	10	Catherine	355
11	Joseph	269	11	Marie	337
12	Scott	247	12	May	254
13	Paul	246	13	Jean	229
14	Peter	245	14	Helen	204
15	Patrick	212	15	Sarah	174
16	Alan	203	16	Isabella	173
17	Jack	195	17	Anna	128
18=	Daniel	188	18	Christina	122
18=	Ian	188	19	Olivia	120
20	Stuart	177	20	Leigh	114

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 **John**, and **Elizabeth** and **Louise** being consistently popular. In 2007 the top ten second names for boys and girls are the same as last year with just a few minor changes in ranking.

### Regional variations

**Jack** was the top boys’ name in 18 council areas, whilst **Lewis** was top in 8 areas. **Sophie** was the most popular girls’ name in 19 council areas, whilst **Emily** and **Isla** were both top in 4 areas.

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

## Notes

- All births have, by law, to be registered, and the records sent in by local registrars to the General Register Office for Scotland. This allows 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 2008 contained in these tables is provisional. It is based on most births registered up to the end of November 2008. The information for 2007 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

**ENQUIRIES ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** Enquiries should be addressed to: Statistics Customer Services, General Register Office for Scotland, Ladywell House, Edinburgh, EH12 7TF Telephone: (0131) 314 4299, Fax: (0131) 314 4696, E-mail: [customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

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**COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS** If you are not satisfied with our service, please write to Kirsty MacLachlan, Head of Demography Division, Room 1/2/7, Ladywell House, Ladywell Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7TF, Telephone: (0131) 314 4242, E-mail: [kirsty.maclachlan@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.maclachlan@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

We also welcome any comments or suggestions that would help us to improve our standards of service.

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