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Statistics and Research Agency

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um Staitisticí agus Taighde



Baby Names in Northern Ireland 2022



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This booklet presents the most popular names given to babies whose birth was registered in Northern Ireland during 2022 and includes all live births to both resident and non-resident mothers. It examines the top 100 first names for boys and girls and discusses additional first names, variations in first name by the age and country of birth of the mother, and makes regional comparisons across Northern Ireland. It also discusses the change in popularity of names over time.

It should be noted that the year of registration is not necessarily the year in which the birth occurred as, for example, a birth that occurred towards the end of December 2022 may not have been registered until early January 2023. Similarly, some names included in this booklet for 2022 will have been given to babies born towards the end of 2021. It should also be noted that different spellings of a name have been treated as separate names, for example Amelia and Amelija. In contrast, names containing accents have been treated as if they did not have those accents, for example Séan is counted together with Sean.

Key users of baby name statistics include parents, soon-to-be parents and those who are interested in the popularity of their own name. Additional users include researchers who examine how names are changing over time and journalists who produce articles on the popularity of names.

The popularity of baby names can be influenced by a variety of factors including current celebrities, memorable places, religion, cultural and/or ethnic origins and names of relatives and friends.

A total of 20,929 births were registered in Northern Ireland during 2022.

There were slightly more births registered of males (10,687) than females (10,242), accounting for 51.1 per cent and 48.9 per cent of all registrations respectively.

As with previous years, a greater variety of girls' names (2,278) than boys' names (1,809) were registered in 2022. The range of names being used by parents has grown considerably over the past 40 years, with 1,179 girls' names and 668 boys' names being registered in 1982.

There were 406 new boys' names and 544 new girls' names registered in 2022 that had not been registered since the reporting of baby names began in 1997. Some 57.3 per cent of the new names were for girls and 42.7 per cent were for boys.

~ 20,929 births registered in 2022 ~



~Range of names~



950 new names registered in 2022

~Top 10 names~

1 James (175)	1 Grace (168)
2 Jack (169)	2 Emily (152)
3 Noah (146)	3 Fiadh (148)
4 Theo (132)	4 Olivia (141)
5 Charlie (131)	5 Isla (118)
6 Oliver (123)	6 Aoife (113)
7 Oisín (119)	7 Lily (110)
8 Harry (118)	8 Annie (97)
9 Cillian (111)	9 Evie (94)
10 Thomas (107)	=9 Freya (94)

~Top names~

James (175)

Grace (168)

~New to Top 10~



Oisín Thomas

Annie Evie

Freya Lily

12% of babies given
a top 10 name

Top 10 boys' names:

- James has returned to number one with 175 babies each being given this name. This is after its six-year stretch at the top spot between 2015 and 2020, and placing third in 2021.
- After reaching the top spot in 2021, Jack was a close second with 169 babies each given this name in 2022.
- Moving from second position in 2021, Noah is once again in third place, where it was in 2019 and 2020.
- Theo remains in the top 10 for the third year running, climbing to fourth position.
- Oisín entered the top 10 for the first time, and Thomas re-entered the top 10 after narrowly missing in 2021.
- Finn and Leo fell from the top 10 most popular boys' names.

Top 10 girls' names:

- For the fifth year running Grace was the most popular name for girls, with 168 girls given this name in 2022.
- This is the seventeenth consecutive year Grace has been in the top three.
- Emily remained the second most popular girls' name in 2022, holding this spot in the top 10 for the last five consecutive years.
- Fiadh followed in third position for 2022, after gaining steady popularity each year since 2008 and appearing in the top 10 for the first time in 2020.
- Annie entered the top 10 most popular girls' names for the first time in 2022.
- Evie and Freya returned to the top 10, after only appearing in 2019 and 2020 respectively. Lily returned to the top 10, after only appearing in 2011, 2016 and 2018.
- Anna, Ella, Sophia and Sophie left the top 10 most popular girls names in 2022.

~Joined the top 100 in 2022~



~Top Climbers since 2002~



~Top climbers in 2022~



~Left the top 100 in 2022~



Top 100 boys' names:

- Of the seven new entries to the top 100 boys' names in 2022, Hudson and Hugo made the top 100 for the first time since the reporting of baby names began in 1997.
- Aaron, Caolan and Dylan left the top 100 for the first time ever since the reporting of baby names began in 1997.
- Caoimhin, Donnacha and Sonny left the top 100 after joining for the one year in 2021.
- Carter left the top 100 for the first time since 2006.
- Within the boys' top 100, the highest climbers in popularity between 2021 and 2022 were Hugo, Luca, Hudson and Rian.

Top 100 girls' names:

- Of the 14 new entries to the top 100 girls' names in 2022, Croia, Nevaeh and Nina made the top 100 for the first time since the reporting of baby names began in 1997.
- Abigail and Holly returned to the top 100 in 2022 having only left it in 2021.
- Abbie left the top 100 girls' names for the first time since the reporting of baby names began in 1997.
- Ayla, Callie, Eireann, Evelyn, Hope and Remi left the top 100 girls' names having only joined for the first time in 2021.
- Pippa, Neveah and Lucia were the biggest climbers over the year 2021 to 2022, climbing 76, 73 and 60 places respectively.

Top 10 boys' names: 1982 versus 2022

- James is the only name from the 1982 top 10 boys' names to have made the top 10 in 2022.
- David, Christopher, Paul, John, and Stephen were the five most popular boys' names registered in 1982.
- The names David and Christopher were given on more than 500 birth registrations in 1982. The two most popular names in 2022 were given fewer than 200 times each.
- Three names (James, Thomas and Oliver) from the top 10 in 2022 appeared in the top 100 in 1982 .

Top 10 boys' names: 2002 versus 2022

- Of the top 10 boys' names in 2002, only James and Jack appear in the top 10 in 2022. Jack was ranked second and James was ranked fifth in 2002.
- Matthew, Jack, Ryan, Adam and James were the five most popular boys' names in 2002.

Top 10 girls' names: 1982 versus 2022

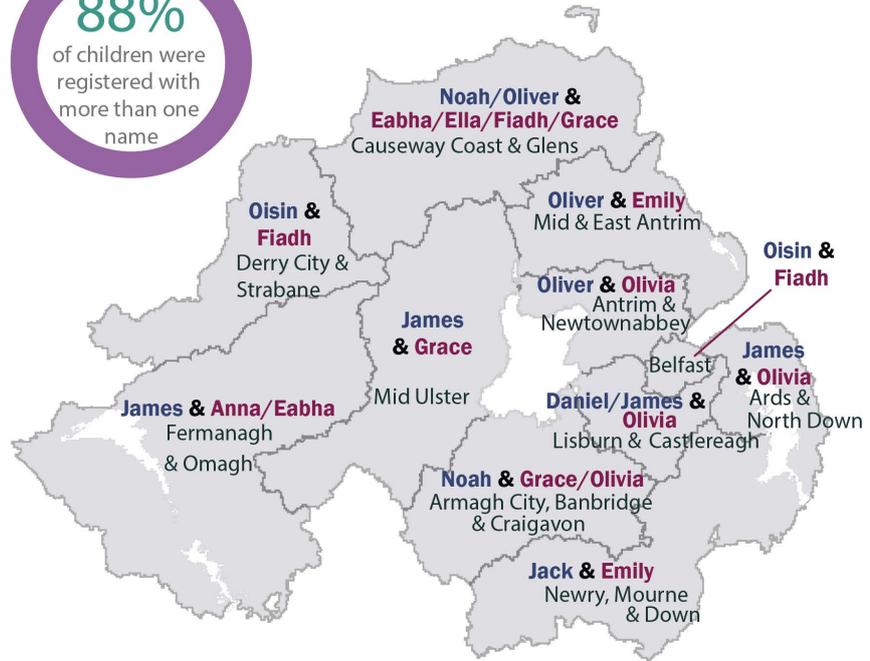
- None of the top 10 girls' names of 1982 made the top 10 in 2022.
- Emma, Claire, Laura, Lisa and Sarah were the five most popular girls' names chosen by parents in 1982.
- Even in 1982, parents were more diverse in the range of names given to girls (1,179) as opposed to boys (668).
- The variety of girls' names has continued to expand with a total of 2,278 different girls' names registered in 2022.

Top 10 girls' names: 2002 versus 2022

- None of the most popular girls' names in 2002 appeared in the top 10 in 2022.
- Chloe, Caitlin, Katie, Megan and Sarah were the five most popular girls' names in 2002.

Additional Names and Regional Variations of First Names

~Top 5 additional names~



~Top first names by Local Government District~

Additional boys' names:

- 89 per cent of boys whose births were registered in 2022 were given at least one additional name.
- James, John, Patrick, Michael and Thomas were the most popular choices for additional names.
- Almost 900* boys were given James as an additional name.

Regional variations boys' names:

- James, which was the most popular boys' name in Northern Ireland in 2022, was the most popular in four of the 11 Local Government Districts (LGDs).
- Although Jack was the second most popular boys' name in Northern Ireland in 2022, at district level it was the most popular in only one of the 11 LGDs.
- Oliver was the most popular name in three of the 11 LGDs.

Additional girls' names:

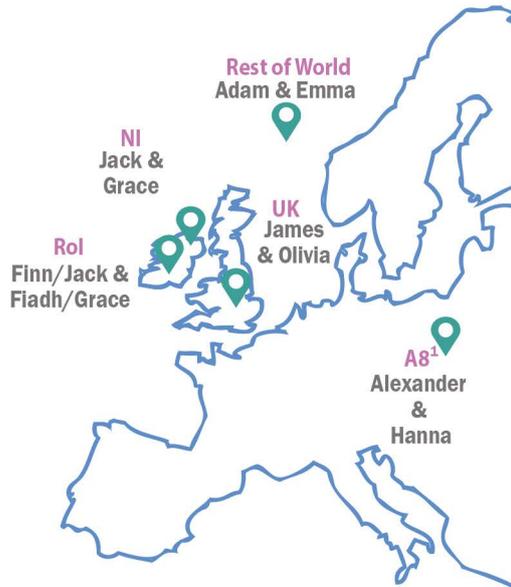
- 86 per cent of girls registered in 2022 were given one or more additional names.
- Rose, Grace, Elizabeth, Mary and Marie were the five most popular additional names for girls.
- More than 650* girls were given Rose as an additional name.

Regional variations girls' names:

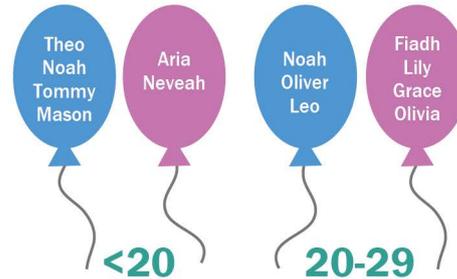
- Grace, which was the most popular girls' name in Northern Ireland in 2022, was the most popular in three of the 11 LGDs, having tied for first place in two of them.
- Although Emily was the second most popular girls' name in Northern Ireland in 2022, at district council level it was most popular name in two of the 11 LGDs.
- Olivia was the most popular name in four of the 11 LGDs, having tied for first place in one of them.

* All additional names have been included in this figure, not just the first additional name.

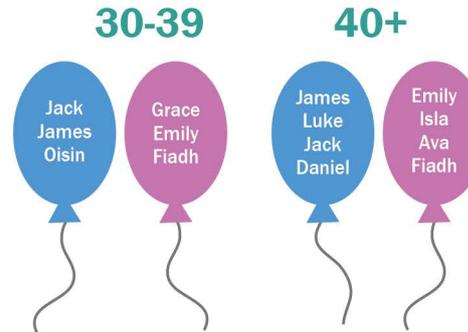
~Top names by mothers' country of birth~



¹ The A8 countries are Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia



~Top names by mothers' age~



Mothers' country of birth - boys' names:

- Jack was the most popular boys' name choice for mothers born in Northern Ireland.
- James was the favourite for mothers born throughout the rest of the United Kingdom. Jack and Finn the most popular for mothers born in the Republic of Ireland
- For mothers born in the A8 countries, Alexander was the most popular choice of boys' name. Adam was the most popular among mothers born elsewhere in the world.

Variation by mothers' age - boys' names:

- For teenage mothers the most popular choice of boys' name was Theo while Noah was the most popular name given by mothers in their twenties.
- Jack was the most popular choice with mothers in their thirties and James and Luke were the most popular choice with mothers aged 40 and over.

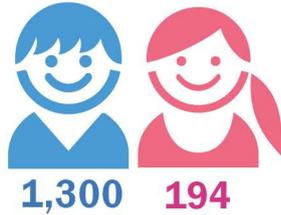
Mothers' country of birth - girls' names:

- Grace was the favourite girls' name given by mothers born in Northern Ireland.
- Olivia was the most popular girls' name given by mothers born in the rest of the United Kingdom, while Fiadh and Grace were most popular for mothers born in the Republic of Ireland.
- Hanna was the most popular choice of first name for mothers born in the A8 countries whilst Emma was the most popular name for mothers born elsewhere in the world.

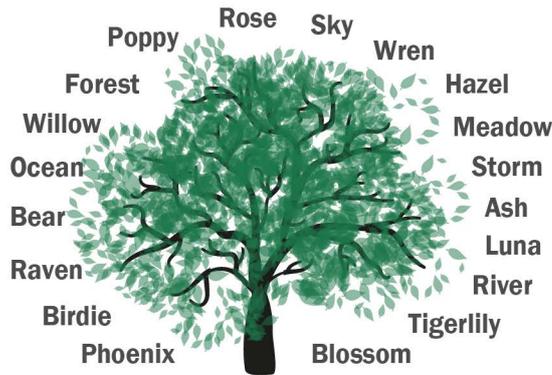
Variation by mothers' age - girls' names:

- Aria was the most popular girls' name choice for teenage mothers.
- Fiadh was the favourite name for mothers in their twenties and Grace for those in their thirties.
- Emily was the favourite name for mothers aged 40 and over.

~Children given the name of a parent~



~Nature names~



~Place names~



~Fairytale names~



Place names:

- Rome, Vienna, Brooklyn, Dallas and India were some of the place names given to children whose births were registered in 2022.

Names from nature:

- Some girls were given names inspired by nature. These included; Poppy, Willow, Lily, Meadow and Ocean. Boys given nature names included; Bear, River, Forest and Storm.

Fairy-tale names:

- This year saw a trend of fairy-tale inspired names. For girls, these included Aurora, Anastasia, Merida, Jasmine, and Belle. For boys, these included Sebastian, Eric, and Robin.

Less common names:

- There were 22 names in 2022 that consisted of at least 11 letters (not including those containing a hyphen). The longest name given was 14 letters long, Chrisovalantou.
- Some of the less common names given to baby boys in 2022 included: King, Great and Art.
- Some of the less common names given to baby girls in 2022 included: North, Angel and Pearl.

Parents' names:

- Of those registrations containing details of the father, 1,300 boys were given their father's first name as a first or additional name. Only 194 girls were given their mother's name.

All of the data in this booklet are available on the NISRA website

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