

## Baby names in England and Wales, 2010



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**Coverage:** England and Wales **Theme:** Population

This bulletin presents the most popular baby names in England and Wales in 2010. In particular, it examines the 100 most popular names for boys and for girls and compares the ranks of those names with the ranks in 2009 and 2000. It examines the difference in ranks between England and Wales and the Government Office Regions along with the seasonality of names.

### Key findings

- Oliver and Olivia were the most popular first names given to babies born in England and Wales for the second year running in 2010
- George replaced Daniel in the top 10 most popular names for baby boys climbing two places from number 11 to number 9
- There were no changes in the top 10 most popular names for baby girls

The top 10 names and changes in rank for boys and for girls in England and Wales are as follows:

Name and change in rank since 2009		
Rank	Boys	Girls
1	Oliver (non-mover)	Olivia (non-mover)
2	Jack (non-mover)	Sophie (up three)
3	Harry (non-mover)	Emily (up one)
4	Alfie (non-mover)	Lily (up four)
5	Charlie (up two)	Amelia (up four)
6	Thomas (non-mover)	Jessica (non-mover)
7	William (up one)	Ruby (down five)
8	Joshua (down three)	Chloe (down five)
9	George (up two)	Grace (down two)
10	James (down one)	Evie (non-mover)

Source: Office for National Statistics

## Top 100 baby names in England and Wales in 2010

Word clouds for the 100 most popular names for boys and girls are given below. The size of a name represents how many times that name was given, rather than the rank of that name.



Source: Office for National Statistics

Within the 100 most popular boys' names given to babies born in England and Wales in 2010, there were only six new entries:

- Ollie at number 63 (up 52 places from 115)
- Bobby at number 83 (up 21 places from 104)
- Caleb at number 87 (up 17 places from 104)
- Jenson at number 96 (up 47 places from 143)
- Dexter at number 98 (up 27 places from 125) and
- Kayden at number 99 (up 8 places from 107)

These replaced Ellis (102), Christopher (104), Morgan (106), Austin (107), Joe (108) and Ewan (118) which fell out of the top 100.

Zachary showed the largest rise within the top 100, gaining 16 places to reach number 51. Noah (up 14 to number 18), Kai (up 12 to number 56) and Jude (up 12 to number 86) were also high climbers.

Aidan (down 13 to number 91), Callum (down 12 to number 40), John (down 11 to number 94), Brandon (down 10 to number 92) and Bradley (down 10 to number 100) showed the largest falls.

New entries in the top 100 most popular girls' names were:

- Annabelle at number 89 (up 16 places from 105)
- Eliza at number 93 (up 26 places from 119)
- Laila at number 95 (up 15 places from 110)
- Aisha at number 96 (up 5 places from number 101)
- Maryam at number 99 (up 3 places from 102) and
- Maisy at number 100 (up 41 places from 141)

These replaced Francesca (102), Sara (103), Lydia (107), Eve (112) and Alisha (114) which fell out of the top 100.

Lacey, which rose 31 places between 2009 and 2010 to 36, was the highest climber within the top 100, followed by Florence (up 26 to number 54), Esme (up 21 to number 74) and Maisie (up 20 to number 14).

Libby (down 20 to number 98), Isobel (down 15 to number 75), Maddison (down 13 to number 81), Amy (down 10 to number 38), Aimee (down 10 to number 80) and Alexandra (down 10 to number 97) were the names with the largest falls in popularity.

There are a number of possible reasons why the popularity of baby names can change over time. The popularity of names can be influenced by names of current celebrities and what they name their own babies however it is an individual choice which can also be influenced by a number of other factors such as the names of family, friends and fictional characters.

### **Changes between 2010 and 2000**

Five of the top 10 most popular boys' names in 2010 were also in the top 10 in 2000: Jack, Joshua, Thomas, James and Harry.

The biggest increases in popularity for those names in the top 10 in 2010 were Alfie (up 53 to number four), Charlie, (up 28 to number five), and Oliver, (up 13 to number one) when compared with 2000. Matthew (down 32 to number 41) and Callum (down 30 to number 40) have fallen the furthest since 2000.

Outside the top 10, Kayden (up 1,326 to number 99), Ollie (up 610 to number 63), Dexter (up 498 to number 98) and Ashton (up 359 to number 77) were the highest climbers between 2000 and 2010.

Among the most popular names for baby girls, five names appear in the top 10 in both 2000 and 2010: Olivia, Chloe, Emily, Sophie and Jessica.

Evie (up 111 to number ten), Ruby (up 71 to number seven), and Lily (up 41 to number four) were the highest climbing new entries to the 2010 top 10 girls names when compared with 2000, while Lauren (down 64 to number 70) and Hannah (down 22 to number 31) have fallen the furthest since 2000.

Outside the top 10, Lexi (up 1,949 to number 46), Amelie (up 1,420 to number 55), Lexie (up 1,027 to number 68), Sienna (up 608 to 47), Lacey (up 351 to number 36), Lola (up 320 to number 33) and Laila (up 302 to number 95) were the highest climbers between 2000 and 2010.

### Seasonal variations

Oliver was the most popular boys name in eleven months during 2010, with Harry claiming the top spot in November. Olivia was number one in ten months of the year, with Lily claiming the top spot in November and Holly in December. Thirteen boys' names reached the top 10 for at least one month during 2010, as did 13 girls' names.

Holly (number 25 in the annual ranks) the most popular name for girls in December (number 13 in January) fell to number 51 in June and July. Summer (number 30 in the annual ranks) reached number 12 in June and July but was below number 88 in December.

### Regional variations

There are some similarities between the top 10 most popular names in England and in Wales. For both boys and girls, the two countries have six common names in the top 10.

Oliver is the most popular name for boys born to mothers usually resident in Wales, just ahead of Jack, Ethan (number 14 in England), Jacob (number 12 in England) and Thomas. Dylan is seventh (number 21 in England) and Logan is tenth (number 31 in England).

Among girls born to mothers usually resident in Wales, Ruby is the most popular girls name, Olivia is number two, followed by Lily, Amelia and Seren (number 228 in England). Ava is sixth (number twelve in England), Megan is eighth (number 24 in England) and Mia is tenth (number 13 in England).

Oliver was the most popular boys name in eight of the English government regions. Jack was the most popular in the North East.

Among baby girls, Olivia was the most popular name in seven regions, with Sophie and Lily proving the most popular in the East and South West respectively.

### Users and uses of baby name statistics

Users of baby name statistics can be split into four groups:

- Special interest groups and individuals, which includes parents and soon-to-be parents who want to pick a rare or a common name for their child or are simply seeking inspiration. Other individuals include people interested in the popularity of their name or the names of friends and family, or names from a particular origin. Special interest groups, such as Bounty, produce their own popularity lists and compare their lists to those published by ONS
- Those involved in the manufacture and sale of named items, such as mugs
- Researchers, who examine how names are changing over the years and possibly how this reflects changes in culture
- Journalists who report and produce articles on the popularity of names

## Further Information

More detailed data for baby names, including ranks for 1996 onwards and historical ranks of boys and girls names for 1904–1994 can be found at:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15282](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15282)

A baby names comparison tool is available which allows you to analyse changing trends in boys and girls names in England and Wales. The tool enables comparison of baby name rankings in 2010 with 2009 and 2000. The tool can be found at: [www.statistics.gov.uk/babynames/default.htm](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/babynames/default.htm)

Information on the most popular baby names in Scotland is available at:

[www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/vital-events/births/popular-names/index.html](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/vital-events/births/popular-names/index.html)

Information on the most popular baby names in Northern Ireland is available at:

[www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp28.htm](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp28.htm).

## Background Notes

1. To help the ONS determine user requirements and improve our outputs please take part in our user feedback survey on baby name statistics at: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/LLSL89G](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LLSL89G)
2. A news release on the publication of Baby Names 2010 data can be found at: [www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/namesnr0711.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/namesnr0711.pdf)
3. The baby names statistics released today have been derived from final annual births registration data which includes all live births occurring in England and Wales in each year. For more information on births data and collection please see births metadata, available at: [www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408)
4. There were 723,165 live births in England and Wales during 2010, with 27,700 different boys' names and 34,700 different girls' names registered.
5. Baby name ranks previously appearing on the ONS website prior to 2008 were compiled by the General Register Office (GRO) and were not derived from final annual births registration data. As a result, there may be differences between the GRO ranks previously published and ONS ranks published today.
6. The published ranks have been produced using exact spelling of first names given on the birth certificate. Grouping names with similar pronunciation would change the ranks. Although some groupings are straightforward, others are more a matter of opinion, and thus raw data are given so users can group if they wish.
7. Births where the name of the baby was not stated (16 boys and 6 girls in the 2010 dataset) were excluded from all the ranks. Births where the usual residence of the mother was not stated (104 boys and 102 girls in the 2010 dataset) were excluded from the regional ranks and from the separate England and Wales ranks.
8. The launch of the new ONS website on 28 August 2011 will bring changes to the design and format of statistical bulletins. The bulletin main body will be in html and pdf format but detailed

data tables will be available as Excel spreadsheets only. The new website will improve the way users can access our statistics but many existing bookmarks and links will no longer work and users will need to update them. Find out more at: [www.ons.gov.uk/about/what-we-do/programmes---projects/web-development/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/what-we-do/programmes---projects/web-development/index.html)

9. Follow ONS on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/statisticsONS](http://www.twitter.com/statisticsONS) and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/statisticsONS](http://www.facebook.com/statisticsONS).
10. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the Media Relations Office.
11. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.  
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