

BABY NAMES AUSTRALIA 2016: SUMMARY

Thursday 17 March 2016 – This just in, Charlotte and Oliver are Australia’s top baby names based on the just-released data for 2015! Birth registration data released by Births, Deaths and Marriages in Australia’s 8 states and territories has been collated and analysed by McCrindle Research to reveal the national top 10 names for babies born last year.

Rank	GIRLS		BOYS	
	Name	Number	Name	Number
1	Charlotte	1659	Oliver	2189
2	Olivia	1601	William	1791
3	Amelia	1375	Jack	1733
4	Ava	1360	Noah	1406
5	Mia	1324	Thomas	1348
6	Chloe	1151	James	1267
7	Emily	1138	Lucas	1208
8	Grace	1085	Ethan	1189
9	Sofia	993	Isaac	847
10	Zoe	873	Jacob	811

Charlotte regains her position as the top baby girl name

Charlotte is, once again, the top baby name for 2015, regaining her position from Olivia who was the 2014 top baby girl name. Charlotte was the most popular girls’ name from 2011-2013, and has regained first position boosted by the birth of the Princess Charlotte of Cambridge in May of 2015.

Traditional over trendy

There is a ‘Hundred-Year Return’ theme taking place, with many of the top names of today also amongst the top names a century ago, while names of a few decades ago have fallen out of favour. Today’s parents are not choosing names of their own generation, rather, century-old names dominate the Top 10 Baby Names list. William is an example of the ‘hundred-year’ return, having ranked 2nd overall in NSW in the 1910s and ranking second in 2015. Jack climbed up to 5th place in the 1920s before seeing a steep decline from the 1940s to 1970s, with a marked resurgence over the last decade and making it to top ten, and Oliver, Ethan and Thomas have similarly returned to popularity. Grace was a popular girls’ name at the turn of the 20th century, becoming almost extinct from the 1910s to 1970s but climbing

significantly in popularity since the 1980s with the rise to the Top 10 with Charlotte and Ava having followed similar trends.

Flowing girls names, short boys' names

Parents are choosing softer-sounding girls' names and firmer sounding boys', through the use of vowels and consonants. All of the top 10 girls' names end in a vowel (or Y) with half ending in the letter 'a' (Olivia, Amelia, Ava, Mia and Sofia). On the boys' list, however every name in the top 10 ends with a consonant. sound (all apart from Noah). The boys' names average less than 2 syllables (1.9) with 9 out of the 10 having just 1 or 2 syllables. However the girls' names are most likely to have more than 2 syllables (averaging 2.5) with 4 comprising 3 or 4 syllables compared to just 1 for boys.

A royal influence

The original category of celebrities – the royals – have not only captured the loyalty and affections of modern Australians but continue to significantly influence their choice in baby names. Prince William's popularity first placed William in the Top 10 in 2001 and the name's popularity has grown significantly since then. In 2011, the year of the royal wedding, William became the most popular boy's name Australia-wide and maintained this position until 2012 when Oliver took the top spot.

The birth of the royal princess in May of last year, Charlotte Elizabeth Diana, has also contributed to the royal baby name trend. Like George's rank, which increased from 71st (in the year prior to Prince George's 2013 birth) to 42nd in 2014, we have seen the name of Charlotte regain first position for baby girls born in 2015.

Sources

Baby Names Australia is produced from a comprehensive analysis of all of the registered baby names across the 8 Births, Deaths and Marriages offices in Australia (NSW, VIC, QLD, WA, SA, TAS, ACT and NT). Because NSW and SA have only released their top 10 so far, we have only provided the top 10 list of baby names for this summary.

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