

BABY NAMES

AUSTRALIA 2013

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The Australian Top 10

BOYS		GIRLS	
1.	William	1.	Charlotte
2.	Jack	2.	Ruby
3.	Oliver	3.	Lilly/Lily
4.	Noah	4.	Olivia
5.	Ethan	5.	Chloe
6.	Thomas	6.	Sophie
7.	Lucas	7.	Emily
8.	James	8.	Mia
9.	Cooper	9.	Amelia
10.	Jackson/Jaxon	10.	Ava

In 2012, more than 1 in 10 (11%) of Australian babies were given one of the Top 10 baby names (a total of 33,226 births). The top 5 boys' names accounted for 9,048 births and the top 5 girls' names for 8,747 births, showing a similar occurrence in the number of these top 5 occurrences.

Jack Wins Most States but William Prevails

Nationally

Jack was the number one name in four states/territories (VIC, QLD, SA, and the ACT), while **William** was top in three (NSW, NT, TAS) and **Noah** topped the list in Western Australia. However, while **Jack** topped more states than any other boys' name, when the state lists are compiled at a national level there were actually more babies named **William** in the last year than **Jack** (largely because of the dominance of births in NSW).

In 2012, there were 1997 boys named **William** (only 22 clear of Jack). While **Jack** was the number one name

nationally for 5 years until 2010, **William** has dominated for the last three years. However, while **Jack** might be currently number 2, the strength and popularity of this name is highlighted by the rise of **Jackson/Jaxon** which for the first time has entered the Top 10 names nationally. While many **Jacksons** will be called **Jack**, we have tallied these names separately – if combined, **Jack** would be a clear number one.

Charlotte was the choice for 1,854 girls in 2012 (with 47 occurrences more than **Ruby**), and was for the very first time the most popular girls' name across the nation, making a significant jump from its place as 7th in 2011.

Trends and Insights: Girls



The names **Ava**, **Amelia**, and **Emily** have entered the Top 10 girls' names while **Sienna**, **Ella**, and **Isabella** have left the Top 10 list. The names **Harper**, **Rose** and **Heidi** have all significantly increased in popularity over the year, rising at least 15 places; **Harper** is ranked at #35 compared to



#53 in 2011, **Rose** is ranked #63 compared to #82 in 2011, and **Heidi** is ranked #76 compared to #91 in 2011. A number of names have left the Top 100 list entirely over the last year – these include **Daisy**, **Rachel**, **Stephanie**, **Ashley**, **Natalie**, **Taylor/Tayla**, **Erin**, **Alana**, and **Abby/Abbey**.

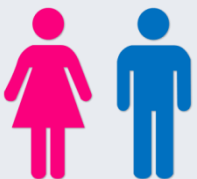
Trends and Insights: Boys



The Top 10 list for boys remains very similar to the 2011 list, with **Lachlan** being the only boys' name to have left the Top 10, having been replaced by **Jackson/Jaxon**. **Xavier** has left the top 20 list (previously at 20, now at 22) while **Mason** and **Jackson/Jaxon** have climbed the rankings into the Top 20.

In terms of significant leaps, **Braxton** has made an impressive first-time entry into the Top 100 list, jumping straight to the 41st spot. When looking at significant drops, **Ashton** has dropped twenty places from #60 in 2011 to #80 today. A number of other names have left the Top 100 list entirely – these include **Tyson**, **Aaron**, **Seth**, and **Jett**.

Gendered Names Triumph



While the names currently experiencing a peak in their popularity have changed over time—more so for girls—one trend that is growing is the preference for softer-sounding names for girls and firmer names for boys. Looking at the Top 20 list, 55% of girls' names end in an 'ah' sound, and 95% end in a vowel (or 'y'), compared to just 10% of boys' names that end with a vowel. On the other hand, 90% of the Top 20 boys' names begin with a consonant. When comparing these figures to the Top 100 list, 81% of girls'

names end in a vowel or vowel sound (including 'y' and 'ah' sounds) compared to only 23% of boys' names.

Girls' names are longer flowing compared to the oftentimes short and sharp boys' names. In the Top 100, 37 girls' names have three or more syllables with 9 of these having four syllables. There are only 18 boys' names with three or more syllables – and only one of these, **Alexander**, has four syllables. When it comes to single-syllable names, boys lead the way with 14 one-syllable names in the Top 100, twice as many as the girls.

Only one name in the Top 100, in its unchanged spelled form, **Charlie**, is commonly considered to be interchangeable between the two sexes – the rest are distinctly boys' or girls' names.

Some of the girls' names from the Top 100 that can be interchanged as boys' names are **Harper**, **Jade**, and **Mackenzie**. Conversely, girls are utilising the pool of the currently popular boys' names on a much grander scale – these include the names **Riley**, **Charlie**, **Dylan**, **Tyler**, **Bailey**, **Hayden**, **Jordan**, **Cameron**, **Ashton**, **Kai**, **Jesse**, **Luca**, **Jayden**, **Aiden**, and **Alex**.

Spell it for Me



Not content to simply find a distinctive name, many parents are resorting to unique spelling for their newborns. These often incorporate an emphasised phonetic spelling and occasionally the use of an apostrophe or hyphen. In our Top 100 list, we have combined the occurrences of names which are phonetically identical but unique in their spellings.

Examples of creative spellings and variations of the Top 100 List include the following:



Girls: Mikayla/Makayla | Indiana/Indianna |
Charlie/Charli/Charlee | Maddison/Madison |
Sophia/Sofia | Lily/Lilly | Isabelle/Isabel | Mila/Milla
Boys: Jackson/Jaxon | Aiden/Aidan

But when it comes to spelling, the presence of double letters is common, but more frequent for girls - with 23 girls' names containing double letters compared to 13 boys' names.

Girls: Isabella, Sienna, Anna, Ellie, Alyssa, Molly, Poppy, Milla, Addison, Annabelle, Holly, Savannah, Stella, Willow, Lilly, Summer, Maddison, Isabelle, Jessica, Scarlett, Hannah, Emma, and Lillian.
Boys: William, Cooper, Harrison, Isaac, Flynn, Matthew, Connor, Mitchell, Finn, Jesse, Harry, Callum, and Muhammad.

State versus State



Jack topped the boys' list in 4 states and territories and ranked second in WA, third in the NT, and only fifth in NSW. William came first in NSW,

TAS, and NT, and Noah was first in WA. Another nationwide favourite was James, ranking at second in NT, fourth in ACT, fifth in WA, seventh in both SA and VIC, tenth in QLD and NSW, and 16th in TAS.

Charlotte came first in four states (ACT, QLD, SA & WA), was a close second in NSW, VIC and TAS, and came at tenth in the NT list. Ruby came in first in NSW and TAS, Olivia took #1 in VIC, and a surprising Chloe topped the charts in NT. Ruby was the most consistent across board, appearing in the Top 4 across all the states and territories.

Surnames as First Names

We have seen a rise of surnames as first names, particularly for boys, which follows the masculine trend tradition. Examples include Cooper, Hudson, Harrison, Connor, Jackson, Lincoln, Tyler, Flynn, Hunter, Riley, Owen, Mason, Ryder, Archer, Ashton, Austin, Bailey, Braxton, and Harper.

This trend of surnames is not exclusive to boys, however, and we are seeing an increase in this trend in some girls' names (e.g. Mackenzie, Madison, and Addison).

Pride of Place



More girls were named Victoria in New South Wales (104) than in the state of Victoria (81), but, in terms of ranking, the name was most popular in its self-

termed state, Victoria (at 64th). While Victoria was outdone by international place names such as Charlotte (1,854), Madison/Maddison (1,144), Georgia (587), Savannah (471), and Indiana (279), it was the NSW central tablelands town of Isabella (1,441) that featured second highest among the place names and ranked 12th overall. Other occurrences of Australian places feature the Melbourne suburb of Chelsea (532) and the southern NSW coastal region, Eden (233).

Jordan (449) featured strongly on the boys' list – along with several US-American place names such as Jackson/Jaxon (1,472), Lincoln (414), and Austin (322).



Inspired by Nature



A number of the Top 100 boys' and girls' names show a significant influence of nature. These include **Lilly/Lily**, **Ivy**, **Ebony**, **Skye**, **Olive**, **Amber**, **Jade**, **Rose**, **Violet**, **Poppy**, **Holly**, **Savannah**, **Willow**, **Summer**, **Jasmine**, and **Ruby**.

Shooting for the Stars



Celebrities such as actors, actresses, sports, and music stars have certainly influenced the Top 100 list, to a great degree than any other influence. **Ava** (10th) is the daughter of Australian tennis player Lleyton Hewitt and actress Bec Hewitt (2010). **Mason** (17th) is the daughter of reality TV star Kourtney Kardashian (2009) and rapper Ne-Yo (2011). **Harper** (35th) can be linked back to the babies of British sports and music stars David & Victoria Beckham (2011), rock musician Dave Grohl (2009), Elvis Presley's granddaughter, daughter of Lisa Marie Presley (2008), and US actor Neil Patrick Harris (2010). **Willow** (40th) is the name of the pop musician Pink (2011), **Stella** (41st) is the daughter of US actor Matt Damon (2010), and **Olive** (90th), is the daughter of US actress Drew Barrymore (2012) and US/Aus actors Sacha Baron Cohen and Isla Fisher (2007).

All of the above names apart from **Ava** have entered the Top 100 in the past five years.

Characters from popular culture such as movies and television have also shaped the popularity of baby names. Notable is the influence of the Twilight saga, featuring **Bella** (51st), **Isabella** (10th), **Jacob** (13th), and **Edward** (69th), and the influence of the Australian

television series, Home & Away, featuring **Braxton** (41st).

Religious Influences



Religious influence is certainly felt, with more than 1 in 5 boys in the Top 100 list (23 total) deriving their name directly from Biblical origins. Two names of Biblical Apostles appear in the Top 10 boys' list – **Thomas** (6th) and **James** (8th). Other apostles in the Top 100 list include **Matthew** (43rd), **Andrew** (96th), and **John** (98th).

Biblical Old Testament Names are of especial popularity among boys names – these include **Noah** (3rd), **Ethan** (4th), **Joshua** (13th), **Jacob** (14th), **Samuel** (15th), **Isaac** (25th), **Daniel** (27th), **Levi** (31st), **Eli** (47th), **Elijah** (44th), **Zachary** (53rd), **Michael** (49th), **Nathan** (63rd), **Caleb** (69th), **Jesse** (91st), **Gabriel** (92nd), **David** (95th), and **Jonathan** (99th). Biblical Old Testament names for girls are also common – **Hannah** (21st), **Abigail** (30th), **Sarah** (37th), **Leah** (78th), and **Eve** (82nd).

For the first time appearing in the Top 100 list for boys are boys' names that reflect Islamic influence – **Ali** (97th) and **Muhammad** (100th).

European Origins

Australia's strong European origins can be felt in the continuation of British Royal Names in the Top 100 List:

William (1st), **James** (8th), **Henry** (29th), **Edward** (68th), **George** (71st), **Charles** (79th), and **John** (98th), as well as the female names **Matilda** (18), **Elizabeth** (46), and **Victoria** (81).



Similar in influence, and slightly stronger in the girls' names, is the occurrence of French names such



as **Charlotte** (1st), **Ruby** (2nd), **Ella** (13th), **Isabelle** (22nd), **Jasmine** (33rd), **Holly** (47th), **Paige** (54th), **Evelyn** (59th), **Violet** (60th), **Rose** (63rd), **Madeleine** (66th), **Eloise** (86th), **Josephine** (93), and **Lauren** (99). There is no shortage of boys' names according to the French tradition either – **William** (1st), **Henry** (29th), **Sebastian** (39th), **Beau** (58th), **Jordan** (60th), **Bailey** (75th), **Jasper** (77th), **Darcy** (85th), and **Christopher** (93rd) all reflect French influence.

Baby Name No Nos

While one might think a baby name is entirely up to the parents, across all the states and territories in Australia there are some binding rules. Below are the key guidelines regarding what parents cannot name their offspring.

Baby Name Rules Across the States and Territories

1. It cannot be obscene or offensive or contrary to public interest (no racial slurs or infringements on the right of another)
2. It cannot be too long (In NSW, this means under 50 characters)
3. It cannot consist of or include symbols without phonetic significance (such as N@talie, Dalsy, J#ke)
4. It cannot include or resemble an official title or rank recognised in Australia such as King, Lady, Father, Prince, Sir or Admiral
5. Birth name must use English letters
6. Some states (such as Queensland) have an additional rule that the name can't include a statement (for instance, 'Save Mother Earth' or 'Down with Capitalism')
7. Some states and territories mandate that the name can't be similar to a recognised body, organisation or trademark.
8. The state and territory Births Registrars have the right to refuse a name for the reasons above and assign a name to the child if no agreement can be reached.
9. Choose carefully – in some Australian jurisdictions you are only permitted to change your name twice!



Sources

Baby Names Australia is the nation's only analysis of all of the registered baby names across the 8 Births, Deaths and Marriages offices. The data which we have analysed has been provided by the following offices:

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths, & Marriages

ACT Births, Deaths, & Marriages

Births, Deaths, Marriages Victoria

SA Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Office

QLD Births, Deaths, and Marriages

WA Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages

TAS Births, Deaths, and Marriages

NT Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages

1 May 2013 Update: When Baby Names Australia 2013 was first published in April 2013 Jack was the top ranking boys' name however on 30 April 2013 Births, Deaths and Marriages Tasmania corrected their Top 100 Boys names after a processing error had left William and Oliver off their tally. With this updated data, William is confirmed as Australia's top boys' name, Jack is ranked second, and Oliver third.

This report is a compilation of all the registered birth names from every state and territory. There is one difference with the ACT data where rankings but not occurrences are used because Births, Deaths & Marriages ACT reveal rankings but do not disclose numbers.



Australia's Top 100 Boys' Names

Name	Occurrence
1. William	1997
2. Jack	1975
3. Oliver	1757
4. Noah	1727
5. Ethan	1723
6. Thomas	1570
7. Lucas	1555
8. James	1516
9. Cooper	1490
10. Jackson/Jaxon	1473
11. Lachlan	1458
12. Liam	1351
13. Joshua	1323
14. Jacob	1281
15. Samuel	1198
16. Alexander	1194
17. Mason	1134
18. Max	1132
19. Benjamin	1131
20. Charlie	1098
21. Riley	1064
22. Xavier	1056
23. Ryan	991
24. Harrison	985
25. Isaac	935
26. Tyler	930
27. Daniel	921
28. Harry	916
29. Henry	905
30. Oscar	879
31. Levi	877
32. Jayden	863
33. Hunter	845

34. Aiden/Aidan	789
35. Jake	735
36. Blake	732
37. Flynn	695
38. Logan	689
39. Sebastian	660
40. Dylan	654
41. Braxton	641
42. Patrick	630
43. Matthew	629
44. Elijah	609
45. Luke	604
46. Archie	594
47. Eli	593
48. Nicholas	590
49. Michael	583
50. Connor	583
51. Hudson	569
52. Hayden	558
53. Zachary	550
54. Leo	527
55. Mitchell	523
56. Nate	514
57. Angus	502
58. Beau	471
59. Chase	450
60. Jordan	449
61. Kai	443
62. Archer	443
63. Nathan	440
64. Joseph	436
65. Finn	428
66. Adam	417
67. Lincoln	414

68. Edward	411
69. Caleb	391
70. Owen	367
71. George	364
72. Hamish	363
73. Marcus	362
74. Luca	360
75. Bailey	348
76. Hugo	341
77. Jasper	328
78. Toby	326
79. Charles	323
80. Ashton	323
81. Austin	322
82. Alex	315
83. Christian	275
84. Declan	271
85. Darcy	269
86. Ryder	245
87. Anthony	218
88. Dominic	217
89. Cameron	213
90. Zac	211
91. Jesse	209
92. Gabriel	207
93. Christopher	197
94. Callum	192
95. David	182
96. Andrew	137
97. Ali	135
98. John	130
99. Jonathan	128
100. Muhammad	109



Australia's Top 100 Girls' Names

Name	Occurrence
1. Charlotte	1854
2. Ruby	1807
3. Lily/Lilly	1768
4. Olivia	1676
5. Chloe	1642
6. Sophie	1611
7. Emily	1600
8. Mia	1564
9. Amelia	1555
10. Ava	1497
11. Isabella	1441
12. Sophia/ Sofia	1428
13. Ella	1408
14. Grace	1320
15. Sienna	1249
16. Maddison/ Madison	1144
17. Zoe	1064
18. Matilda	938
19. Emma	870
20. Isla	865
21. Hannah	864
22. Isabelle/ Isabel	820
23. Lucy	778
24. Scarlett	747
25. Ivy	688
26. Evie	669
27. Mila/Milla	668
28. Eva	655
29. Jessica	616
30. Abigail	610
31. Zara	608
32. Layla	599

33. Jasmine	591
34. Georgia	587
35. Harper	556
36. Summer	551
37. Sarah	539
38. Chelsea	532
39. Alexis	522
40. Willow	477
41. Stella	477
42. Savannah	471
43. Alice	467
44. Mackenzie	449
45. Imogen	448
46. Elizabeth	437
47. Holly	435
48. Annabelle	427
49. Hayley	412
50. Bella	411
51. Audrey	407
52. Charlie/ Charli/ Charlee	404
53. Maya	379
54. Paige	372
55. Addison	365
56. Molly	341
57. Poppy	341
58. Phoebe	313
59. Evelyn	312
60. Violet	311
61. Claire	306
62. Alyssa	305
63. Rose	299
64. Indiana/ Indianna	285
65. Piper	279

66. Madeleine	278
67. Ellie	274
68. Amy	260
69. Jade	252
70. Mikayla/ Makayla	249
71. Eliza	240
72. Lara	236
73. Eden	233
74. Anna	232
75. Lola	232
76. Heidi	226
77. Tahlia	225
78. Alexandra	222
79. Leah	206
80. Kayla	195
81. Victoria	191
82. Eve	183
83. Aria	175
84. Amber	175
85. Caitlin	169
86. Eloise	164
87. Aaliyah	158
88. Gabriella	152
89. Samantha	135
90. Olive	133
91. Amelie	125
92. Skye	108
93. Josephine	77
94. Mariam	76
95. Angelina	76
96. Elise	76
97. Ebony	76
98. Lacey	75
99. Lauren	74
100. Lillian	69

