

News Release



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Demography

Naming babies: 2007

The most popular names given to babies in 2007 were Luke and Maria, the same as in 2006.

A total of 3,871 live births were recorded in 2007, a decrease of 0.4 per cent over 2006. 53 per cent of these babies were boys.

Names for baby boys

Luke was once again the most popular name given to boys, with 4.8 per cent of boys being named Luke or Luca. Matthew (with its variants) and Jake remained in second and third place, with 4.3 and 2.8 per cent respectively. Names that notably gained in popularity were Julian, Zach, James/Jamie and Jayden, while Michael, Kyle and Christian (and their variants) were significantly less popular than in the previous year.

Appearing for the first time in the top 20 boys' names in 2007 were Jeremy (including Jerome), Miguel, Mark (including Marco) and Dejan, while Jean, Andrew, Neil and Karl (and their variants) reappeared, having been absent in 2006. Tristan, Kurt, Leon and Sven, while all in the top 20 in 2006, fell from this range as of 2007.

Names for baby girls

For the fifth consecutive year, Maria (including its variant Mariah) was the most popular name given to baby girls in 2007, 4.0 per cent of baby girls being so named. In its wake was Martina with 2.6 per cent, which moved up from fourth place in 2006. Christina, including its variants, occupied third place in 2007, having been noticeably absent from the top 20 girls' names in 2006 as compared to previous years. Also reappearing this year were Jade, Kylie and Elena, while Alexandra (including Alessia), Ella, Leah, Rihanna and Kiera were among the names appearing for the first time in the top 20.

Julia, Elisa, Nicole, Katrina and Aaliyah (and their variants) all increased in popularity between 2006 and 2007. On the other hand, Emma, Maya, Amy, Michela/Michelle and Shania all registered drops between these two years. Names present in the top 20 in 2006 but not in 2007 were Amber, Lara, Mireille, Naomi, Matthea and Kaylie.

Some interesting trends

The practice of naming babies after international celebrities is very much in evidence, with names such as Denzel, Shania, Aaliyah and Rihanna all appearing among the 20 most popular babies' names. The Maltese people's religious connotations are also apparent, with biblical names such as Luke, Matthew, Isaac, Maria and Sarah remaining consistently popular year after year ■

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Table 1. Top 20 boys names: 2007

Ranking	Name	Number	% total boys*
1	Luke / Luca	98	4.8
2	Matthew / Matteo / Matthias	88	4.3
3	Jake	56	2.8
4	Julian	40	2.0
5	John / Gianni / Jean / Juan / Sean	38	1.9
6	Nicholas / Nikolai Aiden	37	1.8
7	Kieran	35	1.7
8	Isaac	34	1.7
9	Andrew / Andre' / Andrea Zack	33	1.6
10	Nathan / Nathaniel	32	1.6
11	Jeremy / Jerome James / Jamie Jayden	31	1.5
12	Daniel Gabriel Miguel	29	1.4
13	Liam	28	1.4
14	Alexander / Alessandro / Alejandro Neil	26	1.3
15	Michael / Mikiel / Mikail / Michele Carl / Carlo / Karl Kyle	24	1.2
16	Benjamin Thomas / Tommaso	20	1.0
17	Christian / Kristian	18	0.9
18	Mark / Marc / Marco	17	0.8
19	Dejan Denzel	16	0.8
20	Kayden	13	0.6

* total number of boys = 2,036

Table 2. Top 20 girls names: 2007

Ranking	Name	Number	% total girls*
1	Maria / Mariah	73	4.0
2	Martina	47	2.6
3	Julia / Giulia	42	2.3
4	Christina / Kristina / Christine / Christa	41	2.2
5	Elisa / Eliza / Elizabeth	39	2.1
6	Sarah	36	2.0
7	Emma Maya	34	1.9
8	Nicole / Nicola / Nicolette	31	1.7
9	Amy Jasmine / Yasmine	30	1.6
10	Michela / Michelle	29	1.6
11	Katrina / Katie Shania	27	1.5
12	Aaliyah Hayley Jade	21	1.1
13	Alexandra / Alessandra / Alessia	20	1.1
14	Francesca Ylenia	19	1.0
15	Kylie	18	1.0
16	Kaya	17	0.9
17	Emily Kayleigh	16	0.9
18	Kelsey Leah Rihanna Thea	15	0.8
19	Ella Elena Kiera Kyra	14	0.8
20	Hannah	13	0.7

* total number of girls = 1,835

Table 3. Top 20 boys names: 2006

Ranking	Name	Number	% total boys*
1	Luke/Luca	79	3.9
2	Matthew / Matteo / Matthias	78	3.8
3	Jake	67	3.3
4	Andre Isaac Michael / Michele	49	2.4
5	Nicholas	46	2.3
6	Aidan	42	2.1
7	Kieran	41	2.0
8	Daniel	40	2.0
9	Kyle	37	1.8
10	Nathan/Nathaniel	31	1.5
11	Gabriel	30	1.5
12	Christian Julian Liam	27	1.3
13	Alexander	26	1.3
14	Zachary	23	1.1
15	Thomas	22	1.1
16	James	21	1.0
17	Benjamin	18	0.9
18	Tristan	17	0.8
19	Jaydon Kurt Leon Sven	16	0.8
20	Denzel John Paul	15	0.7

* total number of boys = 2,039

Table 4. Top 20 girls names: 2006

Ranking	Name	Number	% total girls*
1	Maria / Mariah	73	4.0
2	Maya	53	2.9
3	Amy	43	2.3
4	Martina Emma	40	2.2
5	Shania	36	2.0
6	Ylenia Michela / Michaela Sarah	35	1.9
7	Elisa / Eliza	33	1.8
8	Julia	32	1.7
9	Jasmin	30	1.6
10	Hailey	27	1.5
11	Nicole	26	1.4
12	Francesca	25	1.4
13	Catherine/Caterina/Kate	23	1.2
14	Amber Hannah	19	1.0
15	Emily Kelsey	18	1.0
16	Thea	16	0.9
17	Kaylie Lara	15	0.8
18	Matthea	14	0.8
19	Mireille Naomi	13	0.7
20	Aaliyah	12	0.7

* total number of girls = 1,846

Methodological Notes

1. This release covers births occurring in Malta to Maltese and foreign residents.
2. Data in this release are based on information provided by the Public Registry.
3. Only live births are considered for the purpose of this release.
4. The total number of children is provisional and may be subject to minor changes later on during the year.