

Matthew and Eliza rose to first place as the most popular names given to new-borns in Malta during 2012.

Naming Babies: 2012

A decrease of 1.2 per cent in live births was observed during 2012 when compared to the previous year. Of the 4,231 babies born last year, 51.8 per cent were boys.

Boys' names

The most popular name given to baby boys last year was Matthew (including variants like Matthias and Matteo), given to 4.6 per cent of baby boys. Jacob, including its variant Jake, rose to second place while Luke and its variants, which had held the first place for the most popular name for three consecutive years, fell to third place during 2012.

Names which rose in popularity during 2012 include Zachary, John, Aiden, Nathan, Isaac, Liam, Benjamin, Nicholas, Joseph, Yannick and Jack. Names including Kaiden, Alexander, Michael, Jaden, Daniel, Andrew, James and Gabriel decreased in popularity. Thomas, Mason, Julian and Denzel made their debut in the top 20 list last year, while the name Keiran failed to appear.

Girls' names

Eliza and its variants, including Lisa, Elsie, Elyse and Bettina, was the most popular name given to baby girls during 2012. Elena, which held this position for two consecutive years, placed second last year. Julia also fell one place and ranked as the third most popular name given to girls last year.

New entrants into the girls' top 20 list included Jade, Amber, Hailey and Faith. Other names declining in popularity for 2012 include Christina, Maria, Amy, Catherine, Sophia, Emilia, Alison and Aaliyah. Aaliyah went down most last year, ranking twentieth in contrast to eighth place in the preceding year. Big climbers for 2012 included Maya, Lea, Mikela and Chloe, which all gained five places respectively in popularity.

Some interesting trends

The predominance of biblical names was once again apparent in the list of popular names given to new-borns. Names like Matthew, Jacob, Luke, Zachary, John and Isaac for boys and Eliza, Helen, Maria, Anna, Catherine and Sarah for girls are all associated with biblical stories and saints. Some popular names given to babies reflect characters in pop culture and sports. Examples of such names include Mason, Denzel, Blake, Thiago, Gerrard and Zion for boys and Kendra, Khloe, Holly, Rihanna, Sienna, Norah, Kimora, Miley, Scarlett and Anouk for girls ■

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Table 1. Top 20 boys' names: 2011-2012

Ranking			2012		
			Name	Number	% total boys*
▲	1	(2)	Matthew / Matthias / Matteo	101	4.6
▲	2	(3)	Jacob / Jake	98	4.5
▼	3	(1)	Luke / Luca / Lucas	87	4.0
▲	4	(6)	Zachary / Zak / Zack	58	2.6
▼	5	(4)	Kaiden / Kayden / Kai	56	2.6
▲	6	(7)	John / Jean / Jonathan / Juan / Gan	50	2.3
▲	7	(9)	Aiden / Ayden	47	2.1
▲	8	(10)	Nathan / Nathaniel	45	2.1
▲	9	(13)	Isaac / Izaak	43	2.0
▲		(12)	Liam / William		
▼	10	(8)	Alexander / Alessandro / Alec	42	1.9
▲	11	(14)	Benjamin / Ben	40	1.8
▼	12	(5)	Michael / Miguel / Mikhail	39	1.8
▲	13	(15)	Nicholas / Nick / Nicolai	36	1.6
▼	14	(11)	Jaden / Jayden / Jadon	35	1.6
▲		(17)	Joseph / Beppe / Giuseppe / Josef		
▼	15	(13)	Daniel / Dan / Danil	30	1.4
▲	16	(19)	Yannick / Yan	29	1.3
▲		(20)	Jack / Jackson / Jacques		
•			Thomas / Tommas / Tommy		
•	17		Mason / Maison	28	1.3
◀		(17)	Kyle / Kail		
▼		(10)	Andrew / Andreas / Andre / Andy		
▼	18	(16)	James / Jamie / Jayme	26	1.2
▼	19	(18)	Gabriel / Gabrijel / Gabryl	24	1.1
•	20		Julian / Julien / Guiliano	22	1.0
•			Denzel / Danzel / Denzilee		

* total number of boys = 2,191

2011		
Name	Number	% total boys*
Luke / Luca / Lucas	113	5.4
Matthew / Matthias / Matteo	94	4.5
Jacob / Jake	88	4.2
Kaiden / Kayden / Kai	69	3.3
Michael / Miguel / Mikhail	65	3.1
Zachary / Zak / Zack	54	2.6
John / Jean / Jonathan / Juan / Gan	51	2.4
Alexander / Alessandro / Alec	50	2.4
Aiden / Ayden	46	2.2
Nathan / Nathaniel	43	2.0
Andrew / Andreas / Andre / Andy		
Jaden / Jayden / Jadon	42	2.0
Liam / William	37	1.8
Daniel / Dan / Danil	36	1.7
Isaac / Izaak		
Benjamin / Ben	35	1.7
Nicholas / Nick / Nicolai	34	1.6
James / Jamie / Jayme	33	1.6
Kyle / Kail	28	1.3
Joseph / Beppe / Giuseppe / Josef		
Gabriel / Gabrijel / Gabryl	27	1.3
Yannick / Yan	26	1.2
Jack / Jackson / Jacques	20	1.0
Keiran / Kyran		

* total number of boys = 2,182

Table 2. Top 20 girls' names: 2011-2012

Ranking			2012		
			Name	Number	% total girls*
▲	1	(3)	Eliza / Lisa / Elsie / Elyse / Bettina	98	4.8
▼	2	(1)	Elena / Elenia / Helena / Ella	91	4.5
▼	3	(2)	Julia / Yulia / Julianne	67	3.3
▲	4	(5)	Emma / Emmanuela / Ema	54	2.6
▲	5	(10)	Maya / Mia / Myah	47	2.3
▲	6	(11)	Lea / Leah / Leia	46	2.3
▼	7	(6)	Christina / Christa / Christabel / Krystle	45	2.2
▲	8	(13)	Mikela / Makaila / Michelle	44	2.2
▲	9	(14)	Chloe / Khloe	39	1.9
▼		(4)	Maria / Marija / Mariah / Marie		
▼	10	(7)	Amy / Aimee	37	1.8
▲	11	(12)	Kailey / Kai / Kaleigh	34	1.7
◀	12	(12)	Martina / Martine	32	1.6
▼	13	(9)	Catherine / Katrina / Kate / Katya	30	1.5
•	14		Jade / Giada	28	1.4
▲	15	(16)	Anna / Hannah / Ann	27	1.3
•	16		Amber / Amberley	24	1.2
▼		(12)	Sophia / Sophie		
▲	17	(20)	Jasmine / Yasmine / Yasmeen	23	1.1
▲		(20)	Chanel / Shanelle		
▼	18	(15)	Emilia / Emily / Emelie	21	1.0
•	19		Hailey / Hailee / Hayleigh	19	0.9
▼		(17)	Alison / Alice / Alicia / Alyssa / Aly		
•			Faith		
▼	20	(8)	Aaliyah / Alaya	18	0.9

* total number of girls = 2,040

2011		
Name	Number	% total girls*
Elena / Elenia / Helena / Ella	99	4.7
Julia / Yulia / Julianne	74	3.5
Eliza / Lisa / Elsie / Elyse / Bettina	67	3.2
Maria / Marija / Mariah / Marie	66	3.1
Emma / Emmanuela / Ema	57	2.7
Christina / Christa / Christabel / Krystle	44	2.1
Amy / Aimee	39	1.9
Aaliyah / Alaya	37	1.8
Catherine / Katrina / Kate / Katya	35	1.7
Maya / Mia / Myah	34	1.6
Lea / Leah / Leia	33	1.6
Sarah / Sara / Sera	31	1.5
Martina / Martine		
Kailey / Kai / Kaleigh		
Sophia / Sophie		
Mikela / Makaila / Michelle	30	1.4
Chloe / Khloe	29	1.4
Emilia / Emily / Emelie	25	1.2
Nicole / Nicola / Nicky	24	1.1
Anna / Hannah / Ann		
Alison / Alice / Alicia / Alyssa / Aly	21	1.0
Karla / Carla / Carly	20	1.0
Alexandra / Alessia / Alexia / Lexi	19	0.9
Chanel / Shanelle	18	0.9
Jasmine / Yasmine / Yasmeen		

* total number of girls = 2,101

Methodological Notes:

1. Data from this release are based on records provided by the Public Registry.
2. Names referred to have variants which have been grouped with the most popular name for the purpose of this release.
3. Only live births occurring in Malta and Gozo are considered for the purpose of this release. The total births includes births to both Maltese and foreign residents.
4. The total number of children is provisional and may be subject to minor changes later on during the year.
5. Key to symbols in Tables 1 and 2.

- ◀ retained ranking
- ▲ higher ranking
- ▼ lower ranking
- new entries