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Luke and Elena remained the most popular names given to newborns in Malta last year.

Naming Babies: 2014

There were 4,277 registered live births last year at the Public Registry in Malta and Gozo, up by 4.9 per cent over 2013, of which 53.0 per cent were boys.

Boys' names

At 4.3 per cent, Luke (and its variants) was the most popular name given to baby boys last year. The names Matthew and Jacob, including their variants, ranked as the second and third most popular names respectively for the second consecutive year (Table 1).

Names which gained in popularity during the year under review include Liam, Benjamin, Joseph, Jack, Nathan, Thomas, Julian, Noah, James and Samuel. John, Kaiden, Alexander, Andrew, Nicholas, Daniel, Aiden and Jaden decreased in popularity. Yannick and Leon placed in the top 20 list of names for the first time, while Mason, Gabriel and Keiran failed to re-appear.

Girls' names

Elena (including Elenia, Helena and Ella) was the most popular name given to baby girls during 2014 (Table 2). The name Julia, including its variants, placed second with a popularity share of 3.6 per cent. Emma (and its variants) also gained one place and ranked as the third most popular name given to girls last year.

New entrants into the girls' top 20 list included Francesca, Sarah, Valentina and Eve. Names declining in popularity in 2014 include Eliza, Maya, Maria, Christina, Martina, Kailey, Mikela, Jade, Aaliyah and Jasmine. Martina fell to thirteenth, from eighth place in the preceding year. Big climbers for 2014 included Catherine and Hailey, which rose by five and four places respectively.

Some interesting trends

The predominance of biblical names or saints was once again apparent in the names given by parents to newborns. Examples include Luke, Matthew, Jacob, Zachary, John and Isaac for boys and Elena, Eliza, Catherine, Maria, Anna and Sarah for girls. Some parents were also influenced by TV drama, pop culture and sports when naming babies. Examples include Blake, Calvin, Craig, Denzel, Lionel, Mason and Neymar for boys and Adele, Chanel, Chloe, Megan, Nicole, Norah, Rihanna, Scarlett and Sienna for girls ■

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The advance release calendar may be consulted at www.nso.gov.mt

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Table 1. Top 20 boys' names: 2013-2014

Ranking		2014			2013		
		Name	Number	% total boys*	Name	Number	% total boys*
▼	1	(1) Luke / Luca / Lucas	98	4.3	Luke / Luca / Lucas	106	5.0
▼	2	(2) Matthew / Matthias / Matteo	97	4.3	Matthew / Matthias / Matteo	93	4.4
▼	3	(3) Jacob / Jake	77	3.4	Jacob / Jake	70	3.3
▼	4	(4) Zachary / Zak / Zack	59	2.6	Zachary / Zak / Zack	56	2.6
▼	5	(5) Michael / Miguel / Mikhail	53	2.3	John / Jean / Jonathan / Juan / Gan	53	2.5
▲	6	(9) Liam / William	51	2.2	Michael / Miguel / Mikhail		
▼	7	(5) John / Jean / Jonathan / Juan / Gan	50	2.2	Andrew / Andreas / Andre / Andy	46	2.2
▲	8	(7) Benjamin / Ben	46	2.0	Kaiden / Kayden / Kai	45	2.1
▼	9	(7) Kaiden / Kayden / Kai	45	2.0	Alexander / Alessandro / Alec	43	2.0
▼	10	(6) Alexander / Alessandro / Alec	45	2.0	Aiden / Ayden	42	2.0
▲	11	(6) Andrew / Andreas / Andre / Andy	40	1.8	Liam / William	41	1.9
▲	12	(19) Joseph / Beppe / Giuseppe / Josef	40	1.5	Nicholas / Nick / Nicolai	40	1.9
▲	13	(14) Jack / Jackson / Jacques	35	1.5	Benjamin / Ben	40	1.9
▲	14	(16) Nathan / Nathaniel	34	1.5	Daniel / Dan / Danil	33	1.5
▼	15	(10) Nicholas / Nick / Nicolai	34	1.5	Isaac / Izaak	32	1.5
▼	16	(12) Daniel / Dan / Danil	33	1.5	Mason / Maison	32	1.5
▼	17	(13) Isaac / Izaak	32	1.4	Jack / Jackson / Jacques	30	1.4
▲	18	(15) Thomas / Tommas / Tommy	32	1.4	Jaden / Jayden / Jadon	29	1.4
▼	19	(8) Aiden / Ayden	31	1.4	Thomas / Tommas / Tommy	28	1.3
●	20	(8) Yannick / Yan	29	1.3	Nathan / Nathaniel	27	1.3
▲	21	(17) Julian / Julien / Guiliano	29	1.3	Julian / Julien / Guiliano	24	1.1
▲	22	(19) Noah	27	1.2	Gabriel / Gabrijel / Gabryl	23	1.1
▲	23	(20) James / Jamie / Jayme	27	1.2	Adam	23	1.1
▲	24	(20) Samuel / Sam	25	1.1	Joseph / Beppe / Giuseppe / Josef	23	1.1
▼	25	(18) Adam	24	1.1	Noah	22	1.0
●	26	(18) Leon / Leonardo / Lionel	24	1.1	James / Jamie / Jayme		
▼	27	(15) Jaden / Jayden / Jadon	23	1.0	Samuel / Sam		
					Keiran / Kyran		

* total number of boys = 2,267

* total number of boys = 2,136

Table 2. Top 20 girls' names: 2013-2014

Ranking		2014			2013		
		Name	Number	% total girls*	Name	Number	% total girls*
▲	1	Elena / Elenia / Helena / Ella	97	4.8	Elena / Elenia / Helena / Ella	106	5.5
▲	2	Julia / Yulia / Julianne	72	3.6	Eliza / Elisa / Elizabeth / Elise	78	4.0
▲	3	Emma / Emmanuela / Ema	70	3.5	Julia / Yulia / Julianne	69	3.6
▼	4	Eliza / Elisa / Elizabeth / Elise	69	3.4	Emma / Emmanuela / Ema	51	2.6
▲	5	Catherine / Katrina / Kate / Katya	46	2.3	Maya / Mia / Myah	47	2.4
▼	6	Maya / Mia / Myah	44	2.2	Maria / Marija / Mariah / Marie	42	2.2
▲	7	Lea / Leah / Leia	42	2.1	Lea / Leah / Leia	37	1.9
▲	8	Emilia / Emily / Emelie	41	2.0	Martina / Martine	36	1.9
▲	9	Amy / Aimee	39	1.9	Christina / Christa / Christabel / Krystle	35	1.8
▼	10	Maria / Marija / Mariah / Marie	37	1.8	Kailey / Kai / Kaleigh		
▲	11	Anna / Hannah / Ann	34	1.7	Catherine / Katrina / Kate / Katya	34	1.8
▼	12	Christina / Christa / Christabel / Krystle	34	1.7	Emilia / Emily / Emelie		
▲	13	Alexandra / Alessia / Alexia / Lexi	28	1.4	Amy / Aimee	32	1.6
▼	14	Martina / Martine	26	1.3	Anna / Hannah / Ann	31	1.6
▼	15	Kailey / Kai / Kaleigh	24	1.2	Mikela / Makaila / Michelle		
▲	16	Chloe / Khloe	22	1.1	Alison / Alice / Alicia / Alyssa / Aly	27	1.4
▲	17	Sophia / Sophie	21	1.0	Sophia / Sophie	26	1.3
▲	18	Hailey / Hailee / Hayleigh	20	1.0	Jade / Giada		
▼	19	Mikela / Makaila / Michelle	20	1.0	Alexandra / Alessia / Alexia / Lexi	22	1.1
●	20	Francesca	19	0.9	Aaliyah / Alaya	21	1.1
▼	21	Jade / Giada	18	0.9	Chloe / Khloe		
▼	22	Aaliyah / Alaya	18	0.9	Amber / Amberley	20	1.0
▲	23	Nina	17	0.8	Karla / Carla / Carly		
●	24	Sarah / Sara / Sera	17	0.8	Jasmine / Yasmine / Yasmeen		
▲	25	Keira / Kyra	17	0.8	Nina	17	0.9
●	26	Valentina	17	0.8	Faith		
▼	27	Jasmine / Yasmine / Yasmeen	17	0.8	Hailey / Hailee / Hayleigh	16	0.8
●	28	Eve / Eva	14	0.7	Nicole / Nicola / Nicky		
					Rachel / Raquel	14	0.7
					Keira / Kyra		
					Claire / Clara / Clarrisse		

* total number of girls = 2,010

* total number of girls = 1,942

Methodological Notes

1. Data from this release are based on records provided by the Public Registry on registered births.
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 non-Maltese mothers.
4. The total number of children may be subject to very minor changes later on during the year.
5. Key to symbols in Tables 1 and 2:
 - ◀ retained ranking
 - ▲ higher ranking
 - ▼ lower ranking
 - new entries