

# News Release



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## Demography

### Naming Babies: 2006

*Luke and Maria were the most popular babies' names in 2006.*

In 2006, 3885 live births were recorded, of which 52.5 per cent were boys. This implies a minimal increase of 0.7 per cent when compared to 2005. In the year under review, five babies were born at home.

#### Names for baby boys

As the name given to 3.9 per cent of all newborn boys, Luke, with its variants, was the most popular name given in 2006. Matthew, as well as variations on this name, was the next most popular, although this name registered a drop of 2.1 per cent in the popularity stakes when compared to the previous year. Having said so, Matthew had been the most popular name for male newborns since 2001.

Kyle made an entry in the 20 most popular names for baby boys while names like Jean, Neil, Sam and Ryan disappeared from these ratings.

#### Names for baby girls

Maria, with its variants, has maintained prime position in the 20 most popular names given to baby girls in 2006. As the name given to 2.9 per cent of newborn girls, Maya was next in popularity. Amber appeared for the first time in these ratings while female names like Kaya, Christine, Jessica and Kimberly exited the 20 most popular names for baby girls.

#### Some interesting trends

The practice of naming babies after international celebrities is still in evidence among parents in Malta. Worthy of note is an increase in Maltese names. With respect to the year under review, these included Krispin, Danjel, Ġużeppi, Melita, Mikiela and Katarina. Maltese parents' devotion to modern religious personalities is reflected in the choice of names for baby boys such as Karol and John Paul ■

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**Table 1. Top 20 boys' names: 2006**

Ranking	Names	Number	% total boys' names*
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	Zachery	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 2. Top 20 girls' names: 2006**

Ranking	Names	Number	% total girls' names*
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/Katarina/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

**Table 3. Top 20 boys' names: 2005**

Ranking	Names	Number	% total boys' names*
1	Matthew / Matthias / Matteo	118	5.9
2	Luke / Luca	71	3.6
3	Michael / Michele	50	2.5
4	Aidan	43	2.2
5	Jake Jamie/James	39	2.0
6	Andre / Andrea Isaac	38	1.9
7	Nathan / Nathaniel	37	1.9
8	Zach	36	1.8
9	Nicholas	35	1.8
10	Kearon	31	1.6
11	Daniel	30	1.5
12	Gabriel	26	1.3
13	Jean	25	1.3
14	Julian Neil	22	1.1
15	Samuel	21	1.1
16	Liam	20	1.0
17	Thomas Sven	19	1.0
18	Carl Denzel	18	0.9
19	Kurt Ryan Alex	17	0.9
20	Kyle	16	0.8

\* total number of boys = 1,984

**Table 4. Top 20 girls' names: 2005**

Ranking	Names	Number	% total girls' names*
1	Maria/Mariah	77	4.1
2	Martina	51	2.7
3	Amy	45	2.4
4	Gulia/Julia	43	2.3
5	Shania	42	2.2
6	Maia/Maya	40	2.1
7	Catherine/Katrina Emma/Emily Nicole	38	2.0
8	Michela	35	1.9
9	Yasmin/Jasmin	29	1.5
10	Elisa/Eliza	26	1.4
11	Hayley	25	1.3
12	Francesca	23	1.2
13	Elenia/Elena	22	1.2
14	Sara/Sarah	21	1.1
15	Kylie	20	1.1
16	Jade Thea	18	1.0
17	Kaya Kelsey	17	0.9
18	Christina	15	0.8
19	Hannah Jessica Kimberly Lara	14	0.7
20	Aaliyah Kaylee Rachel	12	0.6

\* total number of girls = 1,874

**Methodological Note:**

Data from this release is based on data provided by the Public Registry.

Only live births are considered for the purpose of this release.

The total number of children is provisional and may be subject to minor changes later on during the year.