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Luke and Elena rose to first place as the most popular names given to newborns in Malta last year.

Naming Babies: 2013

There were 4,078 live births last year, down by 3.6 per cent over 2012, of which 52.4 per cent were boys.

Boys' Names

At 5.0 per cent, Luke (and its variants) was the most popular name given to baby boys last year. Matthew, including its variants, went down to second place while Jacob (and its variants) placed third (Table 1).

Names which gained in popularity include John, Michael, Andrew, Alexander, Nicholas, Daniel, Mason, Jack, Thomas, Julian and Gabriel. Kaiden, Aiden, Isaac, Jaden, Nathan, Joseph and James decreased in popularity. Adam, Noah, Samuel and Kieran placed in the top 20 list of names for the first time, while Yannick, Kyle and Denzel failed to re-appear.

Girls' Names

Elena (including Elenia, Helena and Ella) was the most popular name given to baby girls during 2013 (Table 2). Eliza and its variants placed second. Julia ranked as the third most popular for two consecutive years.

New entrants to the top 20 girls' list include Alexandra, Karla, Nina, Nicole, Rachel, Keira and Claire. Names declining in popularity include Lea, Christina, Amy, Mikela, Jade, Chloe, Amber and Jasmine. Chloe fell to seventeenth, from ninth place in the preceding year. Big climbers included Emilia and Alison, which rose by eight and six 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 Matthew, Jacob, Luke, Zachary, John and Isaac for boys and Eliza, Helen, Maria, Anna, Catherine and Sarah for girls. Some parents were also influenced by TV drama, pop culture and sports when naming babies. Examples include Mason, Denzel, Blake, Neymar and Drake for boys and Kendra, Holly, Rihanna, Sienna, Norah, Miley, Megan and Scarlett for girls ■

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Table 1. Top 20 boys' names: 2012-2013

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

* total number of boys = 2,136

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

* total number of boys = 2,191

Table 2. Top 20 girls' names: 2012-2013

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

* total number of girls = 1,942

2012		
Name	Number	% total girls*
Eliza / Elisa / Elizabeth / Elise	98	4.8
Elena / Elenia / Helena / Ella	91	4.5
Julia / Yulia / Julianne	67	3.3
Emma / Emmanuela / Ema	54	2.6
Maya / Mia / Myah	47	2.3
Lea / Leah / Leia	46	2.3
Christina / Christa / Christabel / Krystle	45	2.2
Mikela / Makaila / Michelle	44	2.2
Chloe / Khloe	39	1.9
Maria / Marija / Mariah / Marie		
Amy / Aimee	37	1.8
Kailey / Kai / Kaleigh	34	1.7
Martina / Martine	32	1.6
Catherine / Katrina / Kate / Katya	30	1.5
Jade / Giada	28	1.4
Anna / Hannah / Ann	27	1.3
Amber / Amberley	24	1.2
Sophia / Sophie		
Jasmine / Yasmine / Yasmeen	23	1.1
Chanel / Shanelle		
Emilia / Emily / Emelie	21	1.0
Hailey / Hailee / Hayleigh	19	0.9
Alison / Alice / Alicia / Alyssa / Aly		
Faith		
Aaliyah / Alaya	18	0.9

* total number of girls = 2,040

Methodological Notes:

1. Data from this release are based on records on registered births 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 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