



**An
Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh**

Central
Statistics
Office

**Standard Report
on
Methods and Quality
for
Irish Babies' Names**



Standard Report on Methods and Quality (v1) for Irish Babies' Names

This documentation applies to the reporting period:
<2007 onwards>

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1 Overview

Every birth occurring in Ireland must be registered with the General Register Office. The details of these birth registrations are compiled into statistical reports by the Central Statistics Office, acting on behalf of the Minister for Social Protection.

Statistics on babies' names registered in Ireland have been collected and published since 1998. For the year 2017 onwards the number of births as per the Irish Babies' Names Tables are on the basis of those births registered in 2017 (from 01\01\2017 to 31\12\2017 inclusive) rather than the number of births recorded in the summary of the 4 quarters of the relevant year.

2 General Information

2.1 Statistical Category

Compilation based on administrative data

2.2 Area of Activity

Social Statistics

2.3 Organisational Unit Responsible, Persons to Contact

Vital Statistics

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2.4 Objectives and Purpose; History

Statistics on babies' names registered in Ireland have been collected and published since 1998. They are based on an analysis of the first names recorded on birth returns for registration and vital statistics.

An analysis of the top ten most popular surnames of babies' registered is also included in this babies' names publication for the year's 2014 et seq. The number of unique surnames in the data is presented for the relevant year. These unique surnames include some double-barreled surnames e.g. O'Brien-Murphy.

2.5 Periodicity

There is an annual publication of babies' names registered in the year.



2.6 Client

Vital Statistics releases and publications are prepared on behalf of the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of the Vital Statistics and Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1952, and the Government Order (S.I. 831 of 2007)

2.7 Users

Government

Other CSO sections e.g. Census, Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)

Demographic Researchers, Health Researchers

The general public

Professional Bodies

European Union/Eurostat

World Health Organisation

2.8 Legal basis

Vital Statistics releases and publications are prepared on behalf of the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of the Vital Statistics and Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1952 (as amended by section 7 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1972) and Section 73 (when commenced) of the Civil Registration Act 2004.

3 Statistical Concepts, Methods

3.1 Subject of the Statistics

Information on births occurring in Ireland.

3.2 Units of Observation/Collection Units/Units of Presentation

Births as recorded on birth notification forms. These are presented in tables aggregated by babies' names, the number and their rankings.

The CSO's Irish Baby Names 2018 publication will include the síneadh fada and other diacritics for the first time for the names registered in 2018. This change has resulted in a break in the series, with new entries created for names with the síneadh fada and other diacritics.

The inclusion of the síneadh fada and other diacritics has an impact in the order of the popularity of some forenames. For example Sean (without the síneadh fada) has always been in the top 5 most popular names for boys. Seán with the síneadh fada is now included in the 2019 data and both spellings are treated as 2 separate names and thus it falls out of the top 100 for boys.

3.3 Data Sources

General Registration Office.



3.4 Reporting Unit/Respondents

Every birth occurring in Ireland must be registered with the General Register Office.

3.5 Type of Survey/Process

Aggregation of administrative data concerning registered babies' names.



3.6 Characteristics of the Sample/Process

Not applicable

3.6.1 Population and Sampling Frame

Not applicable

3.6.2 Sampling/Census Design

Not applicable

3.7 Survey Technique/Data Transfer

Weekly files of births registered in the previous week are sent electronically from the General Register Office to the Central Statistics Office in encrypted xml format. File is downloaded, decrypted and uploaded on to our Data Capture System (DMS).

Reconciliation sheets containing the reference number of each birth is sent by the GRO to the CSO weekly. The number of births per the Reconciliation sheets is checked against the number of births on the DMS to ensure that numbers are the same.

3.8 Questionnaire (including explanations)

Not applicable

3.9 Participation in the Survey

Not applicable

3.10 Characteristics of the Survey/Process and its Results

Tables include listings of the top 100 babies' names, the number of occurrences and their rankings.

3.11 Classifications used

Not Applicable

3.12 Regional Breakdown of Results

The classification is at the level of region and county.

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4 Production of the Statistics, Data Processing, Quality Assurance

4.1 Data Capture

Details of the birth are captured on a birth notification form at the hospital and forwarded to the General Register Office, (copy of birth notification form at hospital attached to the end of this document). The birth notifications of the previous week from all registry offices are sent in a weekly xml encrypted file from the General Register Office to the Central Statistics Office.

4.2 Coding

Each Birth is geographically coded and given a socio-economic group code for each parent, breakdown of these classifications is below:

Nuts2 and Nuts3 regions

The regional classifications in this release are based on the NUTS (nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. The NUTS3 regions correspond to the eight Regional Authorities established under the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment) Order, 1993, which came into operation on 1 January 1994. The NUTS2 regions, which were proposed by Government and agreed by Eurostat in 1999, are groupings of the NUTS3 regions. The composition of the regions is set out below.

New regions effective from
1st January 2018:

Northern and Western (Border and West), Southern (Mid-West, South-East and South-West) and Eastern and Midland (Dublin, Mid-East and Midland)

Border	Cavan	Dublin	Dublin City
	Donegal		Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown
	Leitrim		Fingal
	Monaghan		South Dublin
	Sligo		
		Mid-East	Kildare
			Meath
Midland	Laois		Wicklow
	Longford		Louth
	Offaly		
	Westmeath	Mid-West	Clare
			Limerick City and County
West	Galway city		Tipperary
	Galway County		
	Mayo		
	Roscommon	South-East	Carlow
			Kilkenny
South-West	Cork City		Waterford City and County
	Cork County		Wexford
	Kerry		



4.4 Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

No imputation.

4.5 Grossing and Weighting

No grossing or weighting.

4.6 Computation of Outputs, Estimation Methods Used

Results are aggregated – no estimation used.

4.7 Other Quality Assurance Techniques Used

Not applicable.

5 Quality

5.1 Relevance

Statistics on births are crucial for demographic research, and are also used in health research and social research.

5.2 Accuracy and Reliability

5.2.1. Sampling Effect & Representivity

Not applicable

5.2.2 Non-Sampling Effects

5.2.2.1 Quality of the Data Sources used

The source of the data is the information gathered on the birth notification form at the hospital where the birth occurred. Approximately 99% of births are in hospitals. The remaining 1% domiciliary births are registered by parents or on behalf of the parents.

5.2.2.2 Register Coverage

All births occurring in Ireland are legally obliged to be registered. Non-registration is extremely rare because of the necessity of a Birth certificate for many legal and social purposes.

5.2.2.3 Non-response (Unit and Item)

Not applicable

5.2.2.4 Measurement Errors

Not applicable

5.2.2.5 Processing Errors

Not applicable

5.2.2.6 Model-related Effects

Not applicable



5.3 Timeliness & Punctuality

5.3.1 Provisional Results

Not Applicable

5.3.2 Final Results

The annual report on Irish Babies' Names is generally published within 6 months of the end of the reference period.

5.4 Coherence

Not Applicable.

5.5 Comparability

Not Applicable.

5.6 Accessibility and Clarity

5.6.1 Assistance to Users, Special Analyses

Specific user requests are acceded to where possible, and where confidentiality issues do not arise. Please contact vitalstats@csso.ie

5.6.2 Revisions

Generally there are no revisions.

5.6.3 Publications

5.6.3.1 Releases, Regular Publications

Report on Irish Babies' Names (annual)

The most recent versions of these reports can be accessed at:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-ibn/irishbabiesnames2021/>

5.6.3.2 Statistical Reports

Statistical Yearbook

5.6.3.3 Internet

More publications are in our archive at:

<http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/birthsdeathsandmarriages/archive>

Users can create their own tables from the CSO Main Data Dissemination Service (PxStat): [PxStat](#)

5.6.4 Confidentiality

All data are treated as strictly confidential in accordance with Section 73 of the Civil Registration Act, 2004.



6 Additional documentation and publications

The entries for this statistic under StatCentral (the portal to Ireland's official statistics) is at https://statbank.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Database/eirestat/Irish%20Babies%20Names/Irish%20Babies%20Names_statbank.asp?SP=Irish%20Babies%20Names&Planguage=0



Notification of Birth - Hospital Copy

TYPE OF BIRTH (Live = 1, Still = 2)	1	PLACE OF BIRTH (Hospital = 1, BBA = 2, Domiciliary = 3)	2	NAME AND	
SENSITIVE CASE (YES = 1, NO = 2)	3	HOSPITAL NO.	4	ADDRESS OF	
		CASE NO.	7	HOSPITAL	

INFANT'S DETAILS	
DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)	15
TIME OF BIRTH	
IF MULTIPLE BIRTH	ORDER OF BIRTH No. 23 of 24
FORENAME(S)	
SURNAME	
SEX (Male = 1, Female = 2, Indeterminate = 3)	25
BIRTHWEIGHT	26
PERIOD OF GESTATION	30
FATHER'S DETAILS	
FORENAME(S)	
SURNAME	
BIRTH SURNAME	
FORMER SURNAME(S)	
BIRTH SURNAME OF FATHER'S MOTHER	
ADDRESS	
COUNTY	32
COUNTRY	35
NATIONALITY	39
OCCUPATION	43
DATE OF BIRTH (DDMMYYYY)	45
MOTHER'S DETAILS	
FORENAME(S)	
SURNAME	
BIRTH SURNAME	
FORMER SURNAME(S)	
BIRTH SURNAME OF MOTHER'S MOTHER	
ADDRESS	
COUNTY	53
COUNTRY	56
NATIONALITY	60
OCCUPATION	64
DATE OF BIRTH (DDMMYYYY)	66
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184	
IF 'YES', NAME OF HOSPITAL	
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GENERAL PRACTITIONER ATTENDED BY MOTHER	
G.P.'s NAME AND ADDRESS	
GENERAL PRACTITIONER TO ATTEND INFANT FOR IMMUNISATIONS	
G.P.'s NAME AND ADDRESS	

Signature	Date
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