



Monthly publication of Official Statistics on the incidence and prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) in Cattle in Great Britain – to end May 2016

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday 10 August 2016 at 9:30. The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday 12 October 2016. The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday 14 September 2016.

Please note that within the accompanying datasets figures for “Herds under movement restrictions at the end of the period” have been revised – see pages 3 and 4 of this notice. These data revisions do not affect other data series or the quarterly key performance measures of Incidence or Prevalence.

Short term changes in these statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends.

Key tables summarising data to May 2016

Table 1: New herd incidents¹ and incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn²

	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		
	12 months to end May 2015	12 months to end May 2016	Year-on-year change	12 months to end May 2015	12 months to end May 2016	Year-on-year change
England	3,791	3,938	4%	2,847	2,706	-5%
High risk area	3,352	3,407	2%	2,638	2,470	-6%
Edge area	304	383	26%	165	192	16%
Low risk area	135	148	10%	44	44	0%
Scotland	36	45	25%	10	9	-10%
Wales	885	737	-17%	556	387	-30%

Table 2: Herds not officially TB free at the end of the period due to a bovine TB incident (non-OTF herds)³

	12 months to end May 2015	12 months to end May 2016	Year-on-year change
England	2,969	3,069	3%
High risk area	2,654	2,694	2%
Edge area	238	298	25%
Low risk area	77	77	0%
Scotland	24	26	8%
Wales	734	653	-11%

Table 3: Total animals slaughtered⁴

	12 months to end May 2015	12 months to end May 2016	Year-on-year change
England	26,270	29,766	13%
High risk area	22,800	26,175	15%
Edge area	2,869	2,903	1%
Low risk area	601	688	14%
Scotland	163	165	1%
Wales	6,538	8,973	37%

Footnotes

1. Herds which were previously OTF but either had cattle that reacted to a tuberculin test or had a tuberculous animal disclosed by routine meat inspection at slaughter, during the period shown. This is the preferred figure to measure the number of new breakdowns.
2. New herd incidents where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd.
3. Herds which were not officially TB-free (i.e. herds with an open breakdown with OTF status suspended or withdrawn) due to a TB incident, at the end of the period shown.
4. Reactors slaughtered + Inconclusive reactors slaughtered + Direct contacts Slaughtered.

Further information

The publication 'quarterly headline statistics on TB in cattle in GB' contains charts on trends in TB as well as data tables, detailed commentary and background information. This and the related datasets can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/incidence-of-tuberculosis-tb-in-cattle-in-great-britain>

A wide range of other statistics is available on the internet at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/about/statistics>

Data

These statistics are obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) work management IT support system (Sam), used for the administration of TB testing in GB. They are a snapshot of the position on the date on which the data were extracted. These statistics may be subject to regular revision until all test results are available. In particular figures from 2014 onwards will be subject to further revision as test and incident records are completed.

Methodology

For a description of the data sources and methodology used in the calculation of the TB statistics, together with notes on data revisions policy etc., please refer to the 'Background and Methodology' annex document at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/483748/bovinetb-annex-09dec15a.pdf

Additional information on bovine TB

More information on bovine TB can be found at:

England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reducing-bovine-tuberculosis>

Wales:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/?lang=en>

Scotland:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/tuberculosis>

Revisions to Herds under movement restrictions at the end of the period

Why has the data changed?

The figures have been revised following procedural changes to how dispersed herds are treated on APHA's Sam computer system. When a herd becomes overdue for a test on Sam it is flagged as being "Restricted – overdue". In the past if after investigation these herds were found to have dispersed or the premises no longer active, the herd number (CPHH number) would be "archived", and removed from the register of herds eligible for TB control testing¹.

As these herds no longer existed there was no operational need to remove the "restricted – overdue" flag, and this was retained on the Sam system as part of a herd's history, along with tests, incidents and administration notes. However it was recently identified that the presence of this flag meant archived herds continued to be counted in the figures for "Herds under movement restrictions at the end of the period". This overstated the number of herds with an overdue test within the total.

Consequently APHA administration guidelines have now been changed, so that the date a herd is archived is also applied to restriction records and the "restricted – overdue" flag is lifted at that date. This rule has been applied to 466 archived herds and has resulted in downward revisions to data back to January 2009. These revisions do not affect the long term downward trend in this data series.

Does this affect any other Measures?

No. In particular it should be noted that the number of "New herd Incidents", and "Herds not officially TB free at the end of the period due to a bovine TB incident (non OTF herds)" from which key Incidence and prevalence² measures are calculated are not affected by these revisions.

What has changed?

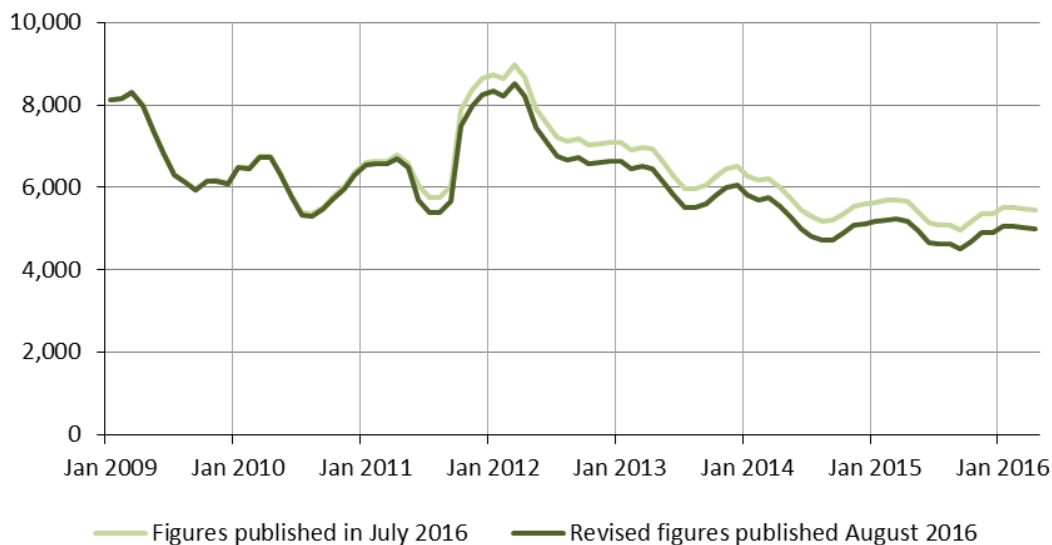
This data series has been revised at county, region and country level from January 2009 to April 2016.

Table 4 below shows the level of changes at GB level at December of each year. The majority of the revisions fall within the High risk area of England and in Wales. Figure 1 shows the full set of monthly historic revisions.

Table 4: Herds under movement restriction at the end of the period in Great Britain³

	Figures published in July 2016	Revised series August 2016	Change
Dec 2009	6,088	6,077	-11
Dec 2010	6,369	6,316	-53
Dec 2011	8,646	8,237	-409
Dec 2012	7,097	6,634	-463
Dec 2013	6,508	6,045	-463
Dec 2014	5,590	5,124	-466
Dec 2015	5,370	4,905	-465

Figure 1: Herds under movement restriction at the end of the period in Great Britain³



Notes:-

1. As published in monthly county and country data files, data series is called “Number of cattle herds registered on Sam”.
2. The key Incidence measure “New herd incidents per 100 herd years at risk” and prevalence measure “Disease restricted herds as a percentage of registered herds at end of the period”. These are published quarterly.
3. Includes herds under disease restriction (as a result of confirmed or suspected disease from bTB tests or detection at slaughterhouse), herds under restriction due to an overdue test and some movement restrictions on animals testing as inconclusive reactors pending their next test. These figures refer to herds under restriction at the end of the period. The figures may include some herds which have subsequently been dispersed or herds at premises which are not currently active.