



## Monthly publication of Official Statistics on the incidence and prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) in Cattle in Great Britain – to end February 2017

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday 17 May 2017 at 9:30. The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday 19 July 2017.

The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday 14 June 2017.

**Short term changes in TB statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends in incidence and prevalence, presented in the quarterly statistical notice published in March 2017**

Key tables summarising data to May 2017

**Table 1: New herd incidents<sup>1</sup> and incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn<sup>2</sup>**

	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		
	12 months to end February 16	12 months to end February 17	Year-on-year change	12 months to end February 16	12 months to end February 17	Year-on-year change
England	3,987	3,725	-7%	2,861	2,487	-13%
High risk area	3,467	3,226	-7%	2,616	2,265	-13%
Edge area	359	377	5%	193	185	-4%
Low risk area	161	122	-24%	52	37	-29%
Scotland	43	35	-19%	9	10	11%
Wales	788	675	-14%	441	352	-20%

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

	12 months to end February 16	12 months to end February 17	Year-on-year change
England	3,197	3,091	-3%
High risk area	2,867	2,765	-4%
Edge area	256	268	5%
Low risk area	74	58	-22%
Scotland	31	30	-3%
Wales	627	574	-8%

**Table 3: Total animals slaughtered<sup>4</sup>**

	12 months to end February 16	12 months to end February 17	Year-on-year change
England	28,551	29,425	3%
High risk area	25,181	25,549	1%
Edge area	2,734	3,306	21%
Low risk area	636	570	-10%
Scotland	149	162	9%
Wales	8,475	9,773	15%

## Footnotes

1. Herds which were previously Officially TB free (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. Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.
2. New herd incidents where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where samples from one or more reactor, inconclusive reactor or a slaughterhouse case produce positive culture results for *Mycobacterium bovis* (the causative bacterium of bovine TB). Figures for Wales do not include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only, in the absence of post-mortem confirmation.
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 2015 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/568976/bovinetb-annex-16nov16.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/568976/bovinetb-annex-16nov16.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>