



Monthly publication of Official Statistics on the incidence and prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) in Cattle in Great Britain – to end February 2018

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday 16 May 2018 at 9:30. The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday 18 July 2018.

The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday 13 June 2018.

Short term changes in TB statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends in incidence and prevalence, presented in the December 2017 quarterly statistical notice published in March 2018.

Changes to Edge Area statistics in January 2018

Five counties that formerly straddled the High Risk and Edge Areas of England have been reallocated to the Edge Area following a bovine TB surveillance policy change adopted on 1 January 2018. They are Cheshire, Derbyshire, East Sussex, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire. In the summary tables, data for the High Risk and Edge Areas are now presented as per the redefined boundaries for the complete time series. Therefore, the Edge and High Risk Area data published today are not comparable with the previous monthly releases. The detailed county datasets continue to be published with the former High and Edge Areas side-by-side for comparison for at least 12 months. Users can interrogate the data to identify trends on the pre-Jan 2018 basis.

Key tables summarising data to February 2018

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	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		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 February 17	12 months to end February 18	Year-on-year change	12 months to end February 17	12 months to end February 18	Year-on-year change
England	3,743	3,740	0%	2,553	2,486	-3%
High risk area	3,029	2,961	-2%	2,186	2,042	-7%
Edge area	591	662	12%	327	403	23%
Low risk area	123	117	-5%	40	41	3%
Scotland	34	41	21%	9	16	78%
Wales	676	794	17%	375	424	13%
High West	301	333	11%	158	171	8%
High East	247	304	23%	166	184	11%
Intermediate North	40	62	55%	25	31	24%
Intermediate Mid	58	65	12%	21	25	19%
Low	30	30	0%	5	13	160%

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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.

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 February 17	12 months to end February 18	Year-on-year change
England	3,096	3,276	6%
High risk area	2,598	2,676	3%
Edge area	439	537	22%
Low risk area	59	63	7%
Scotland	29	32	10%
Wales	562	659	17%
High West	293	320	9%
High East	182	235	29%
Intermediate North	34	44	29%
Intermediate Mid	41	42	2%
Low	12	18	50%

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.

Table 3: Total animals slaughtered⁴

	12 months to end February 17	12 months to end February 18	Year-on-year change
England	29,421	33,989	16%
High risk area	24,218	26,329	9%
Edge area	4,633	6,713	45%
Low risk area	570	947	66%
Scotland	162	358	121%
Wales	9,761	10,334	6%
High West	6,428	6,595	3%
High East	1,843	2,433	32%
Intermediate North	533	751	41%
Intermediate Mid	672	416	-38%
Low	285	139	-51%

4. Reactors slaughtered + Inconclusive reactors slaughtered (Wales only since April 2017) + Direct contacts Slaughtered.

Further information

The publication 'Quarterly TB in cattle in Great Britain statistical notice' 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/collections/bovine-tb>

A wide range of other statistics is available 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 2016 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/statistics/data-and-methodology>

Additional information on bovine TB

More information on bovine TB in Great Britain can be found at:

England:

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

Wales:

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

Scotland:

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