



## Monthly publication of Official Statistics on the incidence and prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) in Cattle in Great Britain – to end **May 2020**

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday **12 August 2020** at 9:30.

The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday **14 October 2020**.

The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday **16 September 2020**.

**Short term changes in TB statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends in incidence and prevalence, [March 2020 quarterly statistical notice published in June 2020](#).**

### Effects of the coronavirus on the statistics.

On 19 March 2020 social distancing measures and self-isolation requirements were introduced that influenced the volume of TB testing that could be carried out. If a TB test cannot be completed before the end of the prescribed testing window, then the affected herd will be placed under restriction and its officially TB-free (OTF) status suspended. Herds not officially TB-free that have missed their next test will remain under restriction. Caution should be applied when comparing year-on-year changes due to these changes in the testing regime.

### Key tables summarising data to **May 2020**

**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 and incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn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	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		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 May 19	12 months to end May 20	Year-on-year change	12 months to end May 19	12 months to end May 20	Year-on-year change
England	3,544	3,184	-10%	2,229	1,900	-15%
High risk area	2,664	2,420	-9%	1,779	1,515	-15%
Edge area	726	642	-12%	410	357	-13%
Low risk area	154	122	-21%	40	28	-30%
Scotland	28	37	32%	6	16	167%
Wales	743	615	-17%	426	335	-21%
High West	345	261	-24%	199	143	-28%
High East	249	203	-18%	161	128	-20%
Intermediate North	53	54	2%	20	27	35%
Intermediate Mid	71	58	-18%	35	22	-37%
Low	25	39	56%	11	15	36%

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 Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.

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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)<sup>3</sup>**

	end May 19	end May 20	Year-on-year change
England	2,928	2,497	-15%
High risk area	2,240	1,917	-14%
Edge area	583	510	-13%
Low risk area	105	70	-33%
Scotland	20	25	25%
Wales	683	609	-11%
High West	376	305	-19%
High East	190	168	-12%
Intermediate North	50	60	20%
Intermediate Mid	54	49	-9%
Low	13	27	108%

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 slaughtered<sup>4</sup>**

	12 months to end May 19	12 months to end May 20	Year-on-year change
England	32,310	27,851	-14%
High risk area	23,675	21,591	-9%
Edge area	7,859	5,768	-27%
Low risk area	776	492	-37%
Scotland	196	281	43%
Wales	12,189	10,974	-10%
High West	8,277	6,928	-16%
High East	2,106	2,060	-2%
Intermediate North	908	1,189	31%
Intermediate Mid	733	572	-22%
Low	165	225	36%

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 are 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 2018 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:

<https://gov.wales/bovine-tb>

Scotland:

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

## **Feedback on this release**

We encourage our users to engage with us so we can improve our National and Official Statistics and identify gaps in the statistics that we produce. Should you have any comments on this statistical release and how to improve it to meet your needs please contact us. Contact details for the statisticians who produced these statistics are given at the front of this document. We wish to make our publications widely accessible. Please contact us if you have any specific accessibility requirements.