



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

Short term changes in TB statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends in incidence and prevalence. These long-term measures are available in the [June 2020 quarterly statistical notice published in September 2020](#).

Section 1 - Key tables summarising data to August 2020

New Herd Incidents (NHI)

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 Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.

Table 1: New herd incidents 12 months end

Region	August 19	August 20	Year-on-year change
England (All)	3,456	3,185	-8%
England - High risk area	2,598	2,421	-7%
England - Edge area	701	650	-7%
England - Low risk area	157	114	-27%
Scotland (All)	32	34	6%
Wales (All)	701	633	-10%
Wales - High West	326	264	-19%
Wales - High East	229	217	-5%
Wales - Intermediate North	54	50	-7%
Wales - Intermediate Mid	70	57	-19%
Wales - Low	22	45	105%

Within the England LRA, Scotland and Wales Low any large percentage increases and decreases are a consequence of small baseline numbers.

New herd incidents where Officially TB free (OTF) status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where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 Figures for Wales do not include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only, in the absence of post-mortem confirmation.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: OTFW new herd incidents 12 months end

Region	August 19	August 20	Year-on-year change
England (All)	2,155	1,902	-12%
England - High risk area	1,724	1,512	-12%
England - Edge area	394	363	-8%
England - Low risk area	37	27	-27%
Scotland (All)	13	12	-8%
Wales (All)	396	343	-13%
Wales - High West	187	139	-26%
Wales - High East	144	132	-8%
Wales - Intermediate North	22	28	27%
Wales - Intermediate Mid	33	26	-21%
Wales - Low	10	18	80%

Non- officially TB-free (OTF) Herds

Herds which were not officially TB-free (i.e. herds with an open breakdown with Officially TB free status suspended or withdrawn) due to a TB incident, at the end of the period shown.

Table 3: Non-OTF herds at end

Region	August 19	August 20	Year-on-year change
England (All)	2,579	2,302	-11%
England - High risk area	2,000	1,756	-12%
England - Edge area	488	488	0%
England - Low risk area	91	58	-36%
Scotland (All)	26	22	-15%
Wales (All)	646	584	-10%
Wales - High West	365	306	-16%
Wales - High East	166	165	-1%
Wales - Intermediate North	53	53	0%
Wales - Intermediate Mid	48	36	-25%
Wales - Low	14	24	71%

Cattle slaughtered for TB control purposes

Table 4 counts reactors slaughtered, inconclusive reactors slaughtered (Wales only) and direct contacts slaughtered in the 12 months to ending month listed.

Table 4: Total cattle slaughtered 12 months to end

Region	August 19	August 20	Year-on-year change
England (All)	32,793	27,360	-17%
England - High risk area	24,009	21,296	-11%
England - Edge area	7,875	5,702	-28%
England - Low risk area	909	362	-60%
Scotland (All)	194	194	0%
Wales (All)	12,799	10,462	-18%
Wales - High West	8,698	6,579	-24%
Wales - High East	2,091	1,905	-9%
Wales - Intermediate North	983	1,201	22%
Wales - Intermediate Mid	819	565	-31%
Wales - Low	208	212	2%

Section 2: About these statistics

Contact details

Enquiries: tbstatistics@defra.gov.uk | Phone (UK only): 03459 33 55 77
Phone (outside UK): +44 20 8225 7318
Media Enquiries (Press Office): 020 8225 7318

Official Statistics Status

This is an **Official Statistics** publication. These statistics have been produced to the high professional standards set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

Further information

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

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. A wide range of other Defra statistics are also available on the [Defra statistics webpage](#).

Data source

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](#) document.

Additional information on bovine TB

More information on bovine TB in Great Britain can be found online for [England](#), [Wales](#) and [Scotland](#).

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.

This document has been designed to meet the accessibility requirements outlined in WCAG 2.1. Should you have any comments on this statistical release and how to improve it to meet your needs please contact us by email to tbstatistics@defra.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2020. You may re-use this information free of charge under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. [The licence is available to view online](#).