



Great Britain Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Quarterly Overview

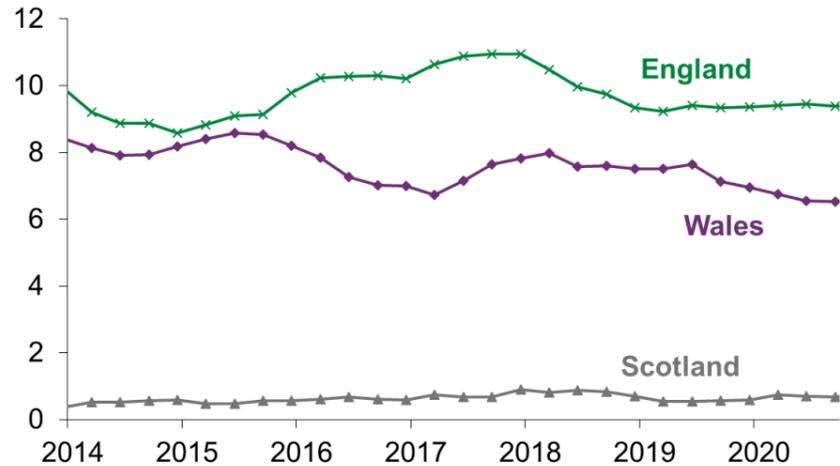
Released: 10 March 2021
Next update: 16 June 2021

This document has been designed to complement the **National Statistics** release. A further England bTB Overview is available.

These statistics have been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) work management IT support system (Sam).

Feedback can be sent to: tbstatistics@defra.gov.uk

A – Herd Incidence new herd incidents per 100 herd years at risk of infection

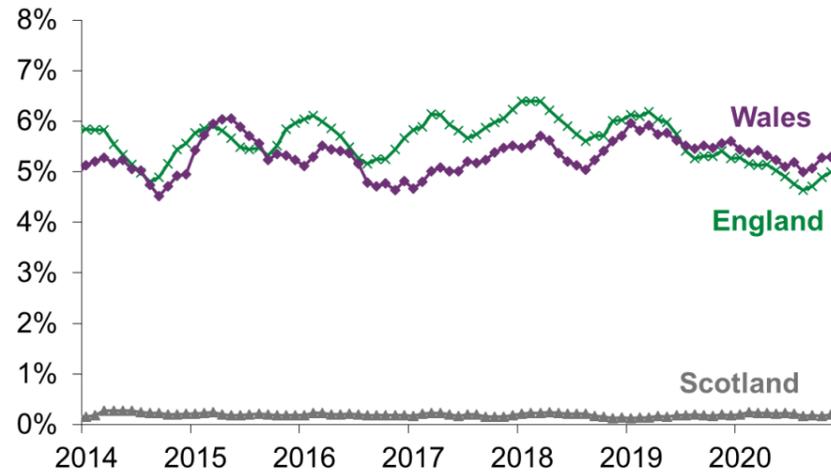


A – The headline incidence rate in England for the year 2020 was 9.4. This means that for every 1,000 unrestricted herds in a year, we would expect a new bTB breakdown to be detected in 94 herds. The Wales equivalent was 6.6 new herd incidents per 100 herd years at risk, and Scotland was 0.8.

A2 – New Herd Incidents

Period	England	Scotland	Wales
2017	3,825	42	789
2018	3,614	37	745
2019	3,302	34	667
2020	3,170	38	612
% change	-4.0%	+11.8%	-8.2%

B – Herd prevalence Disease restricted herds as a percentage of registered herds

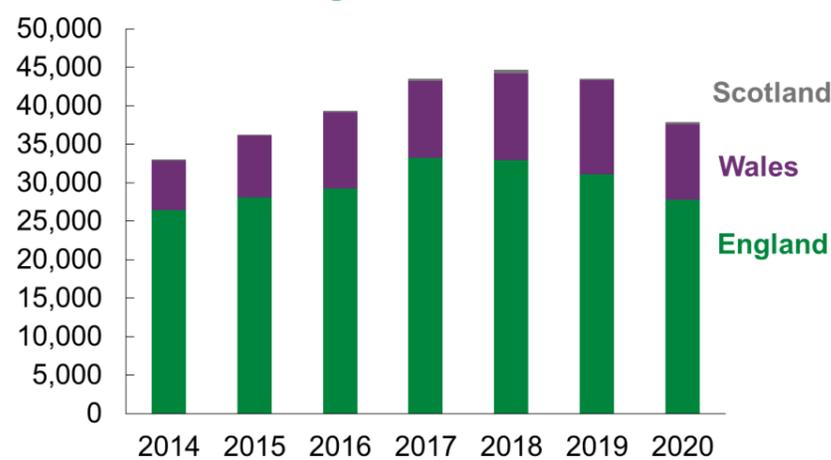


B – At the end of December 2020, 5.0% of herds were not officially TB-free (OTF) in England, compared with 5.3% at the end of December 2019. Wales herd prevalence was 5.4% of herds, compared with 5.6% at the end of December 2019. Scotland herd prevalence was 0.2% of herds.

B2 – Herds not OTF due to a bovine TB incident

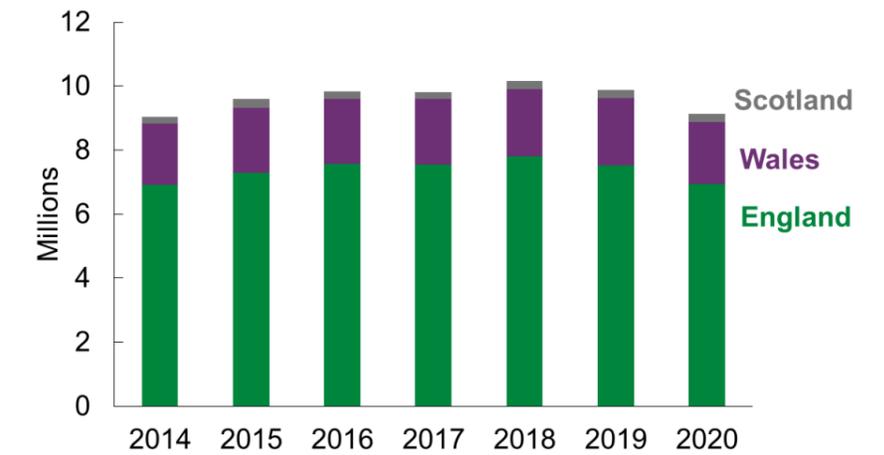
Period	England	Scotland	Wales
2017	3,139	25	661
2018	2,964	18	683
2019	2,599	24	659
2020	2,464	27	626
% change	-5.2%	+12.5%	-5.0%

C – Total animals slaughtered



C is the sum of reactors and direct contacts and inconclusive reactors (Wales only) slaughtered. In the year 2020, 37,834 cattle were slaughtered in GB due to a TB incident, compared to 43,548 in 2019, a 13.1% decrease.

D – Total cattle tests



D – Total cattle tests in England in 2020 were just under 7.0 million compared with over 7.5 million for the previous year. Testing numbers also decreased in both Wales and Scotland compared with the previous year.

A – New herd incidents per 100 herd years at risk

12 months to end	England	Scotland	Wales
December 19	9.4	0.6	6.9
December 20	9.4	0.8	6.6

B – Disease restricted herds as a percentage of registered herds

At end	England	Scotland	Wales
December 19	5.3%	0.2%	5.6%
December 20	5.0%	0.2%	5.4%

C – Total animals slaughtered

12 months to end	England	Scotland	Wales
December 19	31,093	199	12,256
December 20	27,810	261	9,762
% change	-11%	+31%	-20%

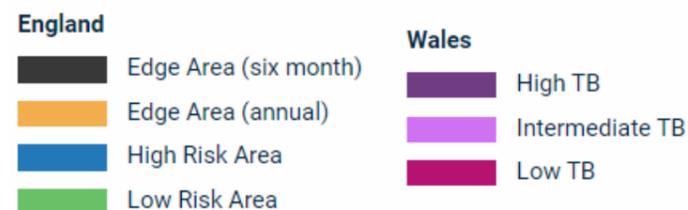
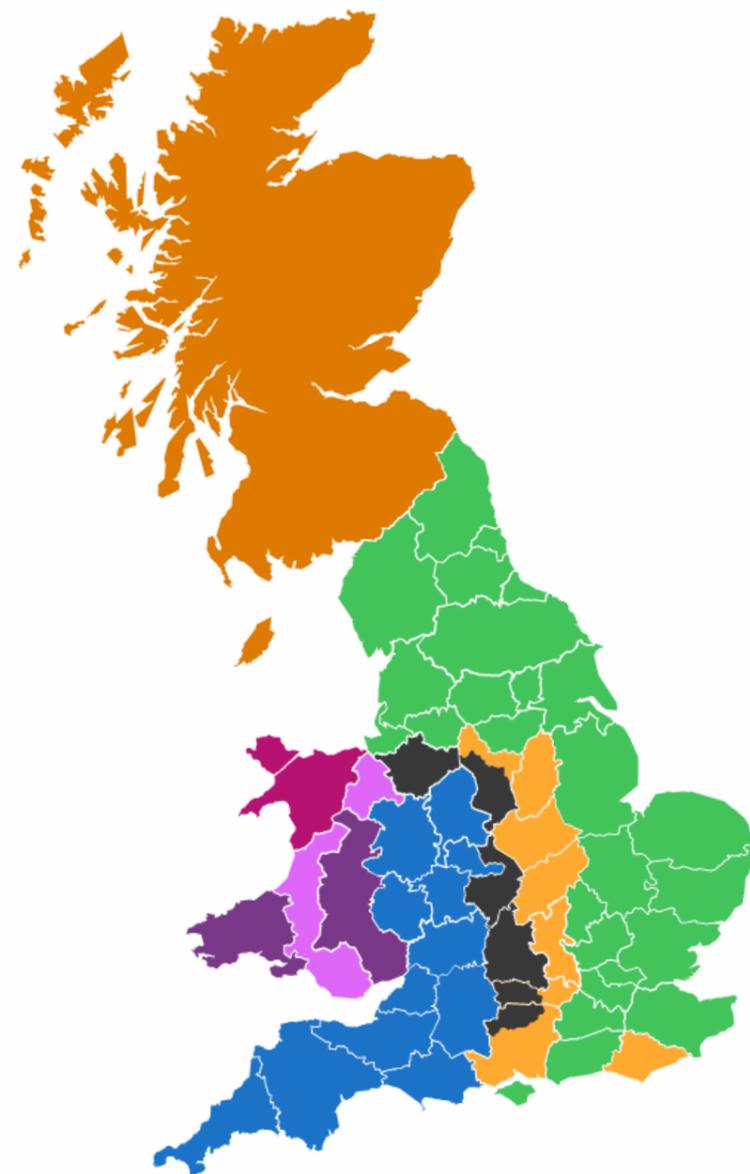
D – Total cattle tests

12 months to end	England	Scotland	Wales
December 19	7,528,329	248,090	2,093,438
December 20	6,931,526	244,204	1,951,110
% change	-7.9%	-1.6%	-6.8%

Short term changes in these statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends [published in the quarterly datasets](#).

Media Enquiries to: 020 8225 7318 (Press Office)

TB Areas of Great Britain



This map was sourced from [TB Hub](#).

[Testing intervals for England are available online.](#)

This data is based on Edge area definition since January 2018.

[An interactive dashboard is also available.](#)

This table highlights the measures included in this document along with the others available in the official and national statistics releases. Almost all data is available at county level from 1996 onwards with the exception of the headline herd incidence.

Label	Measure	Description
A	New herd incidents per 100 herd years at risk of infection during the year	This is the headline measure of herd incidence. See " Herd incidence methodology paper ".
B	New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW) per 100 herd years at risk of infection during the year	In lower incidence areas there are proportionately more false positive results to the skin test than elsewhere in GB. Consequently it is also important to consider the number of new herd TB incidents where officially TB free status is withdrawn (OTFW) following confirmation of TB.
	Number of non-OTF herds at the end of the period as a percentage of registered herds	Herd prevalence is not published at county level but may be derived from the county number of herds and non OTF herds measures.
B2	Number of cattle herds registered on Sam	By the end of 2019 there were approx 49,500 herds in England, 11,800 in Wales and 12,800 in Scotland
	Herds not officially TB free at the end of the period due to a bovine TB incident (non OTF herds)	Herds which were not officially TB-free (OTF) due to a TB incident, at the end of the month specified i.e. herds with an open breakdown with OTF status suspended or withdrawn.
	Herds not officially TB free during the period due to a bovine TB incident (non OTF herds)	Herds with OTF status suspended or withdrawn due to a TB incident, during the period shown. A herd with more than one incident in the period will be counted more than once.
	Herds under movement restrictions at the end of the period	Counts the number of herds that have had a restriction notice served in the period and is still in effect at the end of the period. Restrictions could be due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TB testing or detection at slaughterhouse ● Overdue test ● Some movement restrictions on animals testing as IRs pending their next test.
	Total tests on herds	Herds for which tuberculin skin testing is carried out on at least one animal. Excludes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pre- and post-movement (these are published online separately) ● Gamma interferon blood tests ● Private tests.
	Tests on officially TB free herds (OTF)	Any test carried out in an OTF herd. Excludes: Pre- and post-movement, Gamma interferon blood tests, Short interval tests, Private tests, TB Unit Tests.
D	Total cattle tests	Number of TB tests on cattle. Does not equal number of animals tested as an individual animal could be tested more than once in each time period. Interferon-gamma blood tests used to supplement the skin test in known infected herds are included.
A2	New herd incidents (NHI)	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.
	NHI of which: officially TB free herd status withdrawn (OTFW)	OTF is withdrawn either because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lesions typical of TB detected at post-mortem examination of test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or ● Samples from one or more reactor, inconclusive reactor or a slaughterhouse case produce positive culture results for M bovis.
	NHI of which: officially TB free herd status suspended (OTFS)	OTF suspended because of reactors in the herds, but post-mortem evidence of TB is not detected. It remains suspended until further herd tests confirm no infection on the farm.
C	NHI of which: still unclassified TB Incidents (pending culture results)	Not currently OTFW, but where testing was still underway and could become OTFW if tests revealed any reactors with post-mortem evidence of TB or a positive culture result.
	Total animals slaughtered	Reactors slaughtered + Inconclusive reactors slaughtered + Direct contacts (DC) Slaughtered.
	Reactors slaughtered	Count of animals compulsorily slaughtered because it responded to the tuberculin skin test or interferon-gamma test in a way that was consistent with it being infected with M bovis.
	Inconclusive reactors slaughtered (Wales only and starts April 2017)	Inconclusive reactors are animals showing positive reactions to bovine tuberculin that are not strong enough for them to be deemed reactors.
	Direct contacts (DCs) slaughtered	An animal in an OTFW incident that, although not a test reactor, was considered to have been exposed to M bovis and compulsorily slaughtered.
	Slaughterhouse cases reported to APHA	Non-reactor and non-direct contact animals that displayed suspect lesions of TB during post-mortem meat inspection at routine slaughter.
	Confirmed slaughterhouse cases	Slaughterhouse cases where laboratory culture of the suspect TB lesions has identified M bovis.