



England Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Quarterly Overview

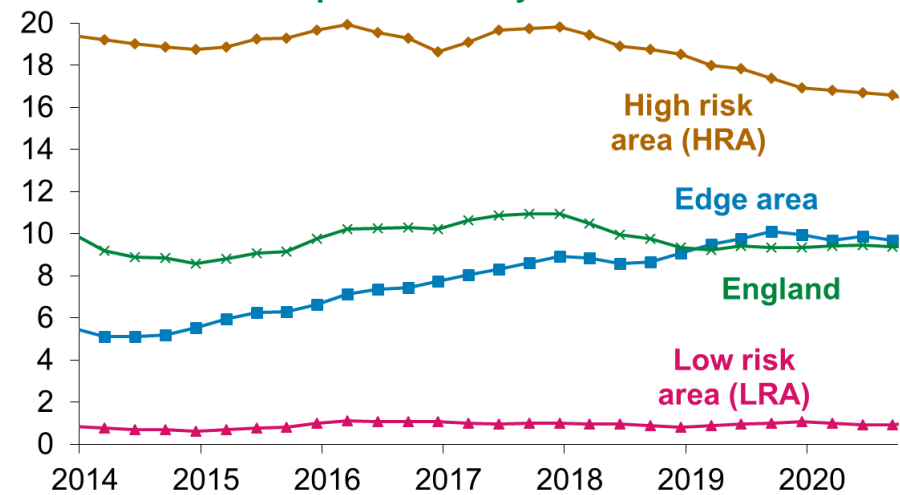
Released: 10 March 2021
Next update: 16 June 2021

This document has been designed to complement the **National Statistics** release. A further Great Britain bTB Overview showing the trends for England, Wales and Scotland 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

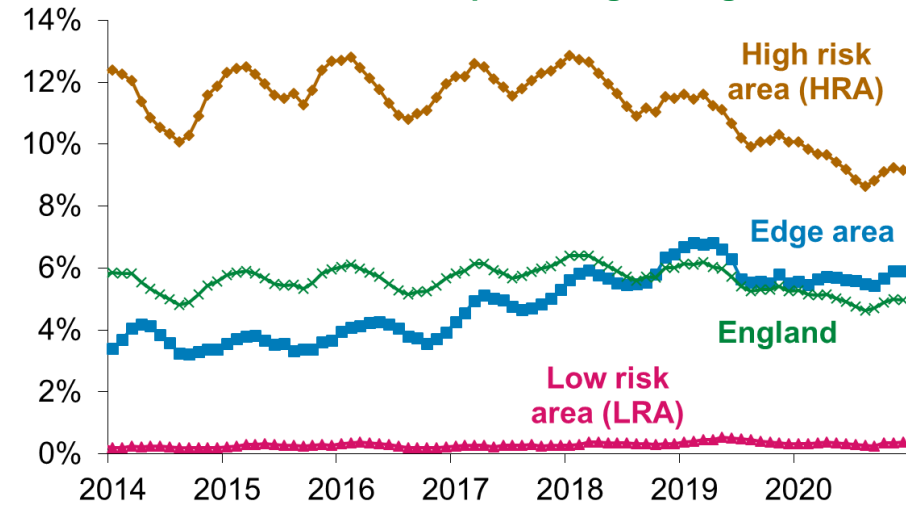


A – The headline incidence rate in England for the year 2020 was 9.4, the same level as 2019. This means that for every 1,000 unrestricted herds in a year, we would expect a new bTB breakdown to be detected in 94 herds. The HRA incidence rate decreased compared to 2019, whereas the Edge incidence rate increased slightly.

A2 – New Herd Incidents

Date	England	High risk area	Edge area	Low risk area
2017	3,825	3,042	658	125
2018	3,614	2,763	721	130
2019	3,302	2,509	642	151
2020	3,170	2,358	674	138
% change	-4.0%	-6.0%	+5.0%	-8.6%

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

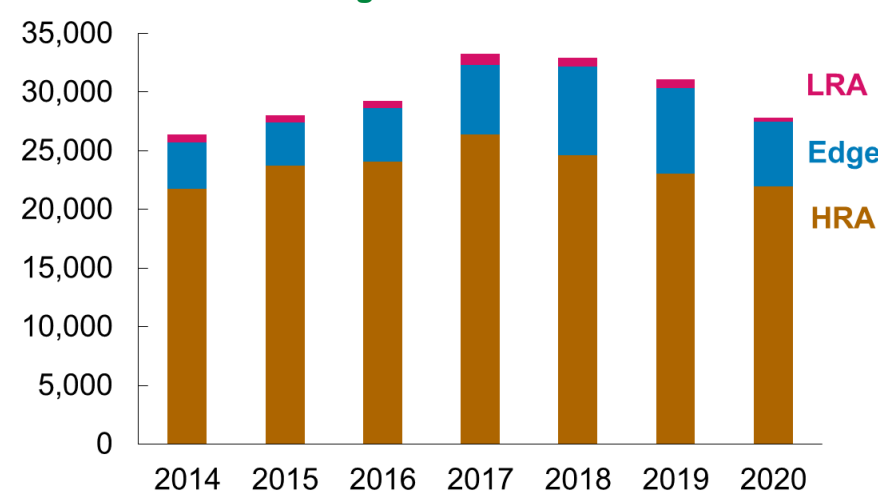


B – At the end of 2020, 5.0% of herds were not TB-free in England. High risk area herd prevalence was 9.2% compared with 10.1% at the end of 2019. Edge area prevalence has seen a year on year increase and remains above the England rate.

B2 – Herds not OTF due to a bovine TB incident

Date	England	High risk area	Edge area	Low risk area
2017	3,139	2,595	485	59
2018	2,964	2,327	570	67
2019	2,599	2,043	489	67
2020	2,464	1,865	520	79
% change	-5.2%	-8.7%	+6.3%	+17.9%

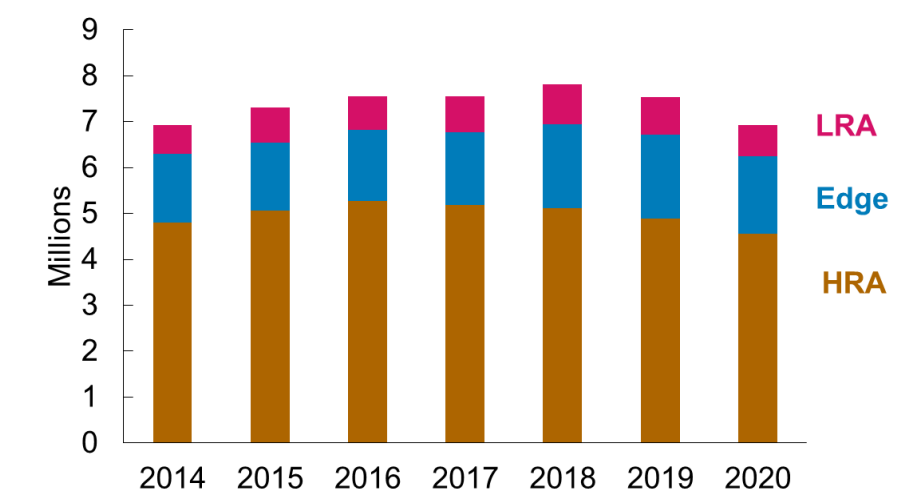
C – Total animals slaughtered



C – Sum of reactors and direct contacts slaughtered. In 2020, 27,810 cattle were slaughtered because of a TB incident, compared with 31,093 in 2019, a 10.6% decrease.

The large percentage change in the low risk area (LRA) is as a consequence of a small base number.

D – Total cattle tests



D – Total cattle tests in 2020 were just under 7.0 million compared with over 7.5 million for the previous 12 months. Within each of the TB risk areas (HRA, Edge and LRA) testing numbers decreased compared with 2019.

A – New herd incidents per 100 herd years at risk

12 months to end	England	High risk area	Edge area	Low risk area
December 19	9.4	16.9	10.0	1.1
December 20	9.4	16.1	10.1	1.1

B – Disease restricted herds as a percentage of registered herds

At end	England	High risk area	Edge area	Low risk area
December 19	5.3%	10.1%	5.5%	0.3%
December 20	5.0%	9.2%	5.9%	0.4%

C – Total animals slaughtered

12 months to end	England	High risk area	Edge area	Low risk area
December 19	31,093	23,053	7,291	749
December 20	27,810	21,977	5,485	348
% change	-10.6%	-4.7%	-24.8%	-53.5%

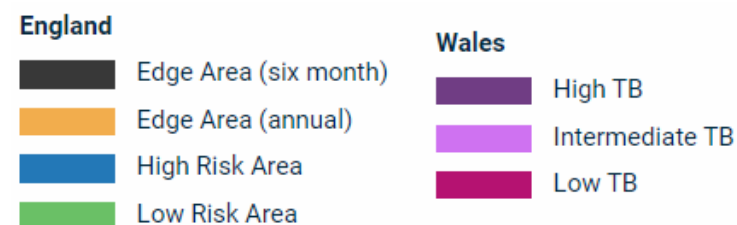
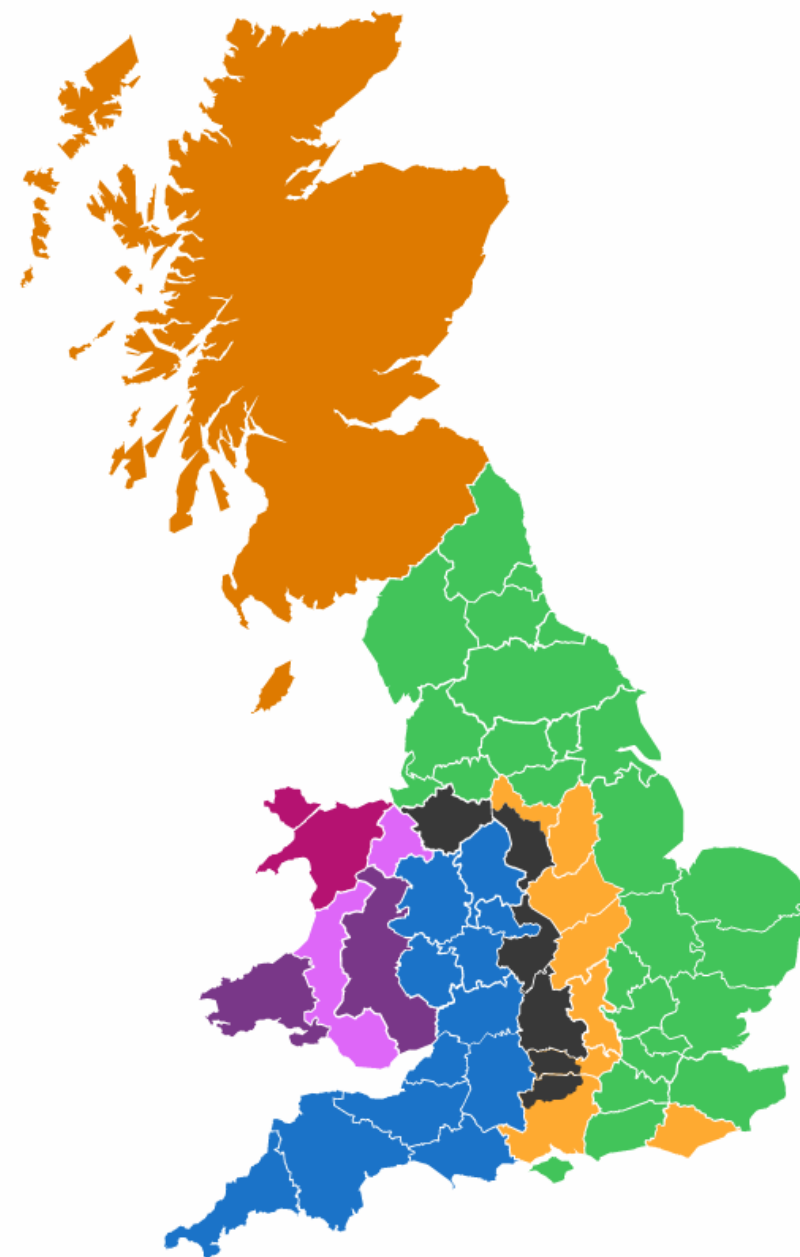
D – Total cattle tests

12 months to end	England	High risk area	Edge area	Low risk area
December 19	7,528,329	4,888,387	1,819,523	820,419
December 20	6,931,526	4,555,788	1,690,418	685,320
% change	-7.9%	-6.8%	-7.1%	-16.5%

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



Scotland & Isle of Man

- OTF (Officially TB Free)

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 Number of non-OTF herds at the end of the period as a percentage of registered herds Number of cattle herds registered on Sam	In the LRA there are proportionately more false positive results to the skin test than elsewhere in England. 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. Herd prevalence is not published at county level but may be derived from the county number of herds and non OTF herds measures. By the end of 2019 there are roughly the same number of registered herds in the Low and High Risk Areas at around 20,300; there are under half the amount in the Edge area at just under 9,000.
B2	Herds not officially TB free at the end of the period due to a bovine TB incident (non OTF herds) Herds not officially TB free during the period due to a bovine TB incident (non OTF herds) Herds under movement restrictions at the end of the period	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 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. 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) NHI of which: officially TB free herd status withdrawn (OTFW) NHI of which: officially TB free herd status suspended (OTFS) NHI of which: still unclassified TB Incidents (pending culture results)	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. 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. 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. 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.
C	Total animals slaughtered Reactors slaughtered Inconclusive reactors slaughtered (Wales only and starts April 2017) Direct contacts (DCs) slaughtered Slaughterhouse cases reported to APHA Confirmed slaughterhouse cases	Reactors slaughtered + Inconclusive reactors slaughtered + Direct contacts (DC) 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 are animals showing positive reactions to bovine tuberculin that are not strong enough for them to be deemed reactors. An animal in an OTFW incident that, although not a test reactor, was considered to have been exposed to M bovis and compulsorily slaughtered. Non-reactor and non-direct contact animals that displayed suspect lesions of TB during post-mortem meat inspection at routine slaughter. Slaughterhouse cases where laboratory culture of the suspect TB lesions has identified M bovis.