



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Monthly publication of National Statistics on the Incidence of Tuberculosis (TB) in Cattle to end May 2013 for Great Britain

These statistics were released today, Wednesday 14 August 2013 at 09:30, with the next notice to be updated on Wednesday 11 September 2013 at 09:30.

These statistics are obtained from the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) 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 2009 onwards will be subject to further revision as test and breakdown records are completed.

The key points relating to May 2013 are :-

- The provisional May 2013 incidence rate is 4.1%, compared to 4.4% in May 2012. However, care needs to be taken not to read too much into short term figures, especially as this figure includes a number of unclassified incidents. As such, the incidence rates are subject to further revisions as more tests and their results for the period are input.
- The number of new herd incidents during the period January to May 2013 was 2,246 compared to 2,397 for January to May 2012. The number of tests on officially TB free herds was 35,337 during January to May 2013, compared to 37,510 during January to May 2012.
- The number of cattle compulsorily slaughtered as reactors or direct contacts was 15,250 during January to May 2013, compared to 15,746 during January to May 2012.

Enquiries to :- tbstatistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Media Enquiries to :- 0207 238 6007 (Press Office)

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Figure 1: Number of officially TB free status being withdrawn breakdowns, as a percentage of tests on officially TB free herds :-

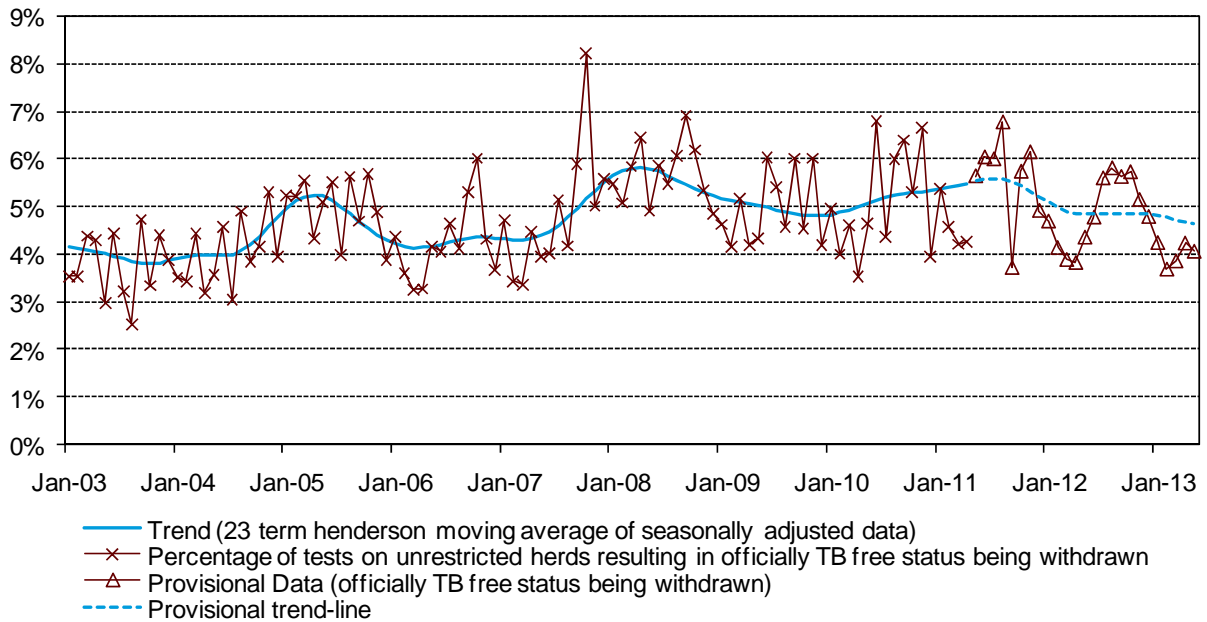
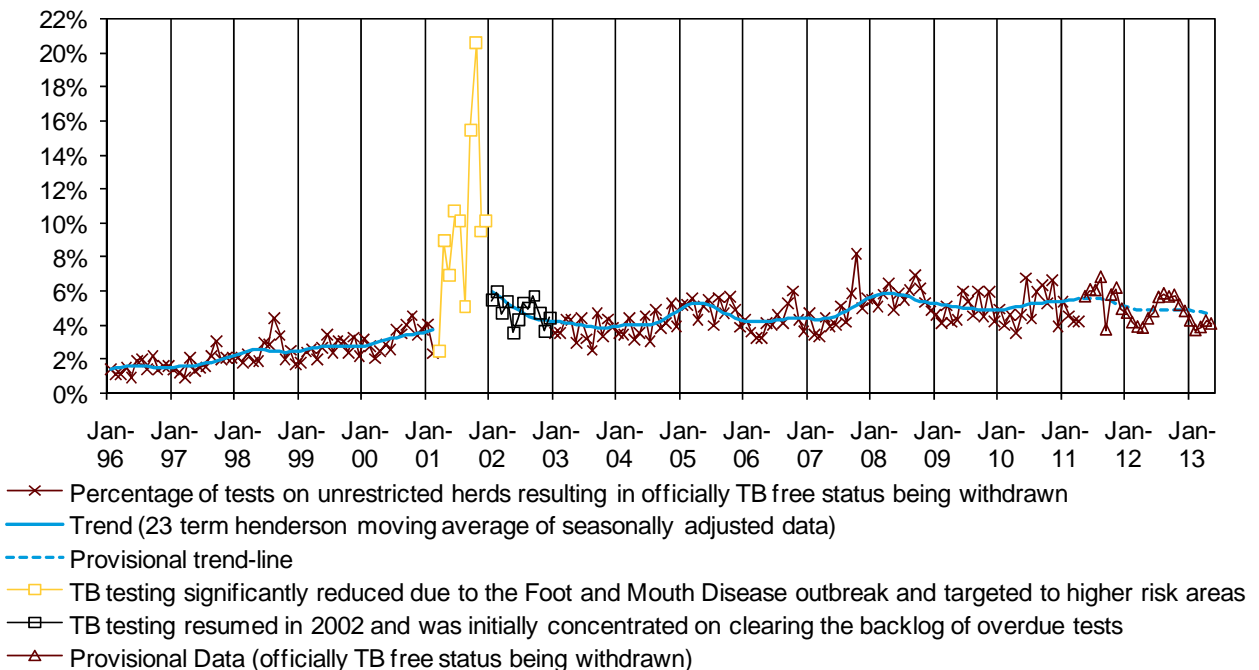


Figure 2: Number of officially TB free status being withdrawn breakdowns, as a percentage of tests on officially TB free herds :-



The charts published in this statistical notice, together with the equivalent figures from January 1996 onwards, are also available in spreadsheet format on the Defra web site at :- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/incidence-of-tuberculosis-tb-in-cattle-in-great-britain>. Visit the second link (MS Excel spreadsheet) entitled "Incidence of TB in cattle in Great Britain - GB dataset".

Notes

Herd terminology

1. The terminology used to describe TB breakdowns in this notice to classify herds according to their TB status has been brought in line with that used in EU regulations. This means that in Table 1 of this notice the following changes have been made :-

Old terminology

Herds under movement restriction

Unrestricted herds

New confirmed herd incidents

New terminology

Herds not officially TB free (non-OTF herds)

(these are recorded in Table 1, column 2)

Officially TB free (OTF) herds

(these are recorded in Table 1, column 3)

New herd incidents with OTF status withdrawn (OTFW)

(these are recorded in Table 1, column 5)

2. There is no change to the composition of the underlying data. Further information on this and TB incident classification can be found at :-
http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/documents/ov/ov-newsletter/OV_newsletter_12.pdf
3. Data for more recent months should be treated as provisional results, as a number of TB incidents are still 'unclassified'. These are TB incidents that at the end of the period covered by this notice had not been designated OTFW, but were still ongoing and could become OTFW if further testing revealed one or more animals with post mortem evidence of TB.

Methodology

1. Certain statistics are affected by seasonal patterns and variations in the frequency of testing. TB testing is seasonal as more herds are tested in the winter when more cattle are housed. The animals tested are not a random sample of the whole GB herd. Furthermore, herds are tested more frequently in areas of higher TB incidence than in those of historically low incidence. In general, as more tests are carried out, more TB incidents (infected herds) are likely to be found.
2. The herd TB incidence figure is calculated by first estimating a point average for OTFW incidents where there are a number of unclassified results (the average of the ranges provided in the accompanying tables, for each month), this average is then divided by the number of tests in OTF herds each month, and an average is then calculated.
3. The trend in the incidence of TB in cattle in Great Britain is analysed using a 23-term Henderson moving average of the seasonally adjusted data of the incidence rate (the number of OTFW breakdowns divided by the number of tests on OTF herds).
4. From March to December 2001, the trend was not published because the reliability of the underlying data was significantly affected as a result of the disruption to TB testing during the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak. Publication of the underlying trend resumed from January 2002 onwards, although 2002 data and trend should be treated with caution as post-FMD testing was initially targeted at higher risk herds and herds with overdue tests.

Further Information

1. This statistical notice and a wide range of other statistics are available on the internet at - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/about/statistics>
2. For further information on TB in cattle, TB testing and much more, please go to the Defra TB Website – <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reducing-bovine-tuberculosis>
3. For statistics on TB in Northern Ireland please visit - <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/dard-statistics/animal-disease-statistics.htm>
4. For statistics on TB in the Republic of Ireland please visit - <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrol/bovinetbbrucellosiseradicationschemes/statistics/tbstats>

TABLE 1: TB INCIDENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN - HERDS

		Total tests on herds	Herds not officially TB free (non-OTF herds)	Tests on officially TB free herds (OTF)	Of which: New herd incidents	Of which: officially TB free withdrawn (OTFW)	Number of OTFW breakdowns as a percentage of tests on officially TB free herds
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1996		36,314	1,589	34,812	1,075	490	1.4%
1997		34,065	1,632	32,295	1,195	540	1.7%
1998		37,046	2,077	34,502	1,514	787	2.3%
1999		41,365	2,374	38,338	1,661	967	2.5%
2000		40,669	2,482	37,184	1,738	1,135	3.1%
2001	*	13,187	1,697	11,118	802	571	5.2%
2002	**	49,709	4,167	43,641	3,323	2,042	4.7%
2003		56,208	5,460	47,568	3,214	1,789	3.8%
2004		56,836	5,220	49,027	3,341	1,934	4.0%
2005		55,887	5,669	46,725	3,665	2,308	4.9%
2006		64,457	5,859	56,051	3,530	2,303	4.1%
2007		64,145	6,582	54,856	4,188	2,546	4.7%
2008		66,432	7,935	54,854	5,011	3,093	5.6%
2009	(prov)	72,205	8,386	58,894	4,599	2,847	4.9%
2010	(prov)	74,474	7,964	61,587	4,723	3,013	4.9%
2011	(prov)	76,662	8,252	62,493	4,909	3,109	5.2%
2012	(prov)	88,566	9,067	73,656	5,192	3,465	4.8%
2013	(prov)	42,441	7,533	35,337	2,246	1,404	4.0%
2011	Jan	(prov) 7,830	3,881	6,531	538	350	5.4%
	Feb	(prov) 7,910	4,025	6,653	464	302	4.6%
	Mar	(prov) 8,615	4,164	7,486	510	312	4.2%
	Apr	(prov) 7,035	4,143	5,694	397	241	4.3%
	May	(prov) 6,142	4,199	4,898	467	270 - 285	5.5% - 5.8%
	Jun	(prov) 4,675	4,121	3,415	347	202 - 212	5.9% - 6.2%
	Jul	(prov) 4,656	4,009	3,388	300	183 - 225	5.4% - 6.6%
	Aug	(prov) 4,231	3,864	3,209	292	188 - 248	5.9% - 7.7%
	Sep	(prov) 5,900	3,688	4,660	251	166 - 183	3.6% - 3.9%
	Oct	(prov) 6,010	3,786	5,026	421	281 - 298	5.6% - 5.9%
	Nov	(prov) 6,563	4,013	5,570	489	331 - 356	5.9% - 6.4%
	Dec	(prov) 7,095	4,137	5,963	433	283 - 306	4.7% - 5.1%
2012	Jan	(prov) 8,195	4,360	6,996	485	326 - 334	4.7% - 4.8%
	Feb	(prov) 9,062	4,498	7,702	465	315 - 326	4.1% - 4.2%
	Mar	(prov) 11,717	4,760	10,282	591	398 - 406	3.9% - 3.9%
	Apr	(prov) 7,891	4,882	6,536	408	249 - 254	3.8% - 3.9%
	May	(prov) 7,306	4,979	5,994	448	259 - 266	4.3% - 4.4%
	Jun	(prov) 5,426	4,941	4,177	326	199 - 202	4.8% - 4.8%
	Jul	(prov) 5,061	4,922	3,860	315	216 - 218	5.6% - 5.6%
	Aug	(prov) 5,422	4,973	4,244	357	245 - 250	5.8% - 5.9%
	Sep	(prov) 5,881	5,028	4,742	376	264 - 272	5.6% - 5.7%
	Oct	(prov) 6,816	5,214	5,748	452	328 - 333	5.7% - 5.8%
	Nov	(prov) 9,060	5,450	7,680	570	393 - 401	5.1% - 5.2%
	Dec	(prov) 6,729	5,545	5,695	399	273 - 275	4.8% - 4.8%
2013	Jan	(prov) 8,750	5,795	7,339	508	307 - 319	4.2% - 4.3%
	Feb	(prov) 9,004	5,907	7,561	409	278 - 283	3.7% - 3.7%
	Mar	(prov) 9,257	6,029	7,990	496	306 - 314	3.8% - 3.9%
	Apr	(prov) 8,076	6,103	6,545	429	275 - 282	4.2% - 4.3%
	May	(prov) 7,354	6,039	5,902	404	238 - 244	4.0% - 4.1%

Notes:- The data are a snapshot extracted from Sam. Data for 2009 onwards will remain provisional and subject to revision until all culture results are available and final data validation has been carried out. The herd incidence rates for the latest months are given as a range because a number of incidents are still unclassified, so data for these months should be treated as provisional results.

- (1) Herds for which tuberculin skin testing is carried out on at least one animal during the period shown.
- (2) Herds that had lost their OTF status at some time during the period shown due to a TB incident.
- (3) Any test carried out in an OTF herd during the period shown.
- (4) 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, during the period shown.
- (5) New herd incidents (column 4) where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd.
- (6) Column 5 as a percentage of column 3.
- * Data for 2001 are not comparable with other years. During the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease, TB testing was significantly reduced and necessarily targeted to areas of higher risk.
- ** Data for 2002 are not comparable with other years. Testing resources were concentrated on herds overdue their tests (because of the backlog caused by the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak).

TABLE 2: TB INCIDENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN - ANIMALS

		Total tests on herds	Total cattle tests	Cattle compulsorily slaughtered as reactors or contacts:		
				Total	Reactors	Direct contacts
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1996		36,314	2,249,891	3,776	3,151	625
1997		34,065	2,170,630	3,384	3,017	367
1998		37,046	2,447,848	5,685	4,782	903
1999		41,365	2,825,177	6,754	5,794	960
2000		40,669	2,931,658	8,123	6,877	1,246
2001	*	13,187	1,181,861	6,156	5,200	956
2002	**	49,709	3,961,145	22,072	19,191	2,881
2003		56,208	4,474,526	23,972	20,798	3,174
2004		56,836	4,604,721	22,214	19,636	2,578
2005		55,887	4,811,699	29,231	25,627	3,604
2006		64,457	5,417,573	22,062	20,090	1,972
2007		64,145	5,753,244	26,882	25,330	1,552
2008		66,432	6,178,789	39,007	36,968	2,039
2009	(prov)	72,205	6,840,568	37,979	36,739	1,240
2010	(prov)	74,474	7,447,653	31,949	31,277	672
2011	(prov)	76,662	7,588,147	34,243	33,458	785
2012	(prov)	88,566	8,024,165	37,734	37,049	685
2013	(prov)	42,441	3,925,693	15,250	14,654	596
2011	Jan	(prov) 7,830	789,054	2,657	2,592	65
	Feb	(prov) 7,910	783,669	3,582	3,535	47
	Mar	(prov) 8,615	847,824	3,154	3,116	38
	Apr	(prov) 7,035	752,330	2,604	2,562	42
	May	(prov) 6,142	559,750	2,881	2,836	45
	Jun	(prov) 4,675	458,101	3,180	2,939	241
	Jul	(prov) 4,656	489,866	2,454	2,417	37
	Aug	(prov) 4,231	402,353	2,619	2,573	46
	Sep	(prov) 5,900	581,651	2,520	2,467	53
	Oct	(prov) 6,010	559,257	2,130	2,051	79
	Nov	(prov) 6,563	680,091	3,167	3,111	56
	Dec	(prov) 7,095	684,201	3,295	3,259	36
2012	Jan	(prov) 8,195	720,265	2,580	2,537	43
	Feb	(prov) 9,062	782,196	3,769	3,714	55
	Mar	(prov) 11,717	990,455	3,125	3,091	34
	Apr	(prov) 7,891	722,238	2,805	2,774	31
	May	(prov) 7,306	579,838	3,467	3,414	53
	Jun	(prov) 5,426	489,660	2,525	2,459	66
	Jul	(prov) 5,061	477,199	3,311	3,244	67
	Aug	(prov) 5,422	486,981	2,988	2,863	125
	Sep	(prov) 5,881	547,177	2,637	2,619	18
	Oct	(prov) 6,816	655,811	3,935	3,874	61
	Nov	(prov) 9,060	931,365	3,754	3,682	72
	Dec	(prov) 6,729	640,980	2,838	2,778	60
2013	Jan	(prov) 8,750	770,867	3,202	3,143	59
	Feb	(prov) 9,004	813,482	3,104	2,997	107
	Mar	(prov) 9,257	851,649	2,972	2,859	113
	Apr	(prov) 8,076	825,724	2,728	2,692	36
	May	(prov) 7,354	663,971	3,244	2,963	281

Notes: The data are a snapshot extracted from Sam. Data for 2009 onwards will remain provisional and subject to revision each month until all culture results are available and final data validation has been carried out.

- (1) Herds in which tuberculin skin testing was carried out in at least one animal during the period shown. (same as column 1 in Table 1).
- (2) Number of animals tested.
- (3) Animals compulsorily slaughtered because they reacted to the tuberculin skin test or because they were considered to be direct contacts (see below). Not all of these animals showed evidence of *Mycobacterium bovis* infection at post-mortem examination.
- (4) An animal which was compulsorily slaughtered because it responded to the tuberculin skin test in a way that was consistent with it being infected with *Mycobacterium bovis*.
- (5) An animal in an OTFW incident that, although not a test reactor, was considered to have been exposed to *Mycobacterium bovis* and compulsorily slaughtered.
- * Data for 2001 are not comparable with other years. During the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease, TB testing was significantly reduced and necessarily targeted to areas of higher risk.
- ** Data for 2002 are not comparable with other years. Testing resources were concentrated on herds overdue their tests (because of the backlog caused by the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak).