

Revisions to bovine Tb statistics – February 2014

Revisions Overview:

The number of herds that are not officially TB Free (non-OTF) due to a TB incident has been significantly revised downwards for 2012 and 2013. There has been a small downward revision in the number of new herd incidents. All other statistics, including the headline incidence rate, are unaffected.

A separate issue has resulted in some minor revisions to “herds under movement restrictions at the end of the period due to a TB incident or overdue TB test” (published as part of the regional statistics). This has resulted in revisions to this series between 2011 and June 2012. It was identified that some historic incident start dates were incorrect in the source data and these have now been corrected.

Background:

In the monthly statistical notice of the 15th January, the publication of the majority of bovine tuberculosis (TB) statistics in Table 1 was suspended from September 2011 onwards. At that time, the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) had identified a data classification problem in the source data stored in their IT system (Sam). This had resulted in incorrect statistics being produced for the number of herds that are not Officially TB free due to a TB incident (breakdown). It was not fully understood at the time whether other TB statistics relating to the number of tests in OTF herds, the number of new breakdowns, and the headline TB incidence rate were also affected. Therefore, these were also suspended as a precaution.

The AHVLA has now completed an exercise to investigate and amend the affected records. Approximately 2,500 herd records have been reviewed and corrected where they were found to be in error. This notice contains the revised TB statistics from September 2011.

Revisions Summary:

- The main TB statistic affected was the number of non-OTF herds due to a TB breakdown between September 2011 and September 2013 (Table 1, column 2). These figures have been revised and published in this notice.
- There has also been a small downward revision in the number of new herd incidents (Table 1, column 4). The total number of new herd incidents in GB during 2012 has been revised from 5,201 to 5,154. The number of new herd incidents in GB between January 2013 and September 2013 has been revised from 3,556 to 3,487.
- All other TB statistics that were not published on 15 January as a precaution, including our headline TB incidence statistic (the number of OTFW breakdowns as a percentage of tests on OTF herds, as shown in Table 1, column 6), were not affected and have been re-introduced in this notice.
- Some revisions to herds under movement restrictions at the end of the period due to a TB incident or overdue test, between 2011 and June 2012.

Scale of the revisions to non-OTF herd statistics:

As a result of the data checks carried out by AHVLA, the numbers of non-OTF herds due to a TB breakdown that were originally reported for 2012 and 2013 have been revised downwards. The table below shows the previously incorrect published figures (taken from the statistics notice published on 11th December 2013 and containing data up to September 2013) and the revised

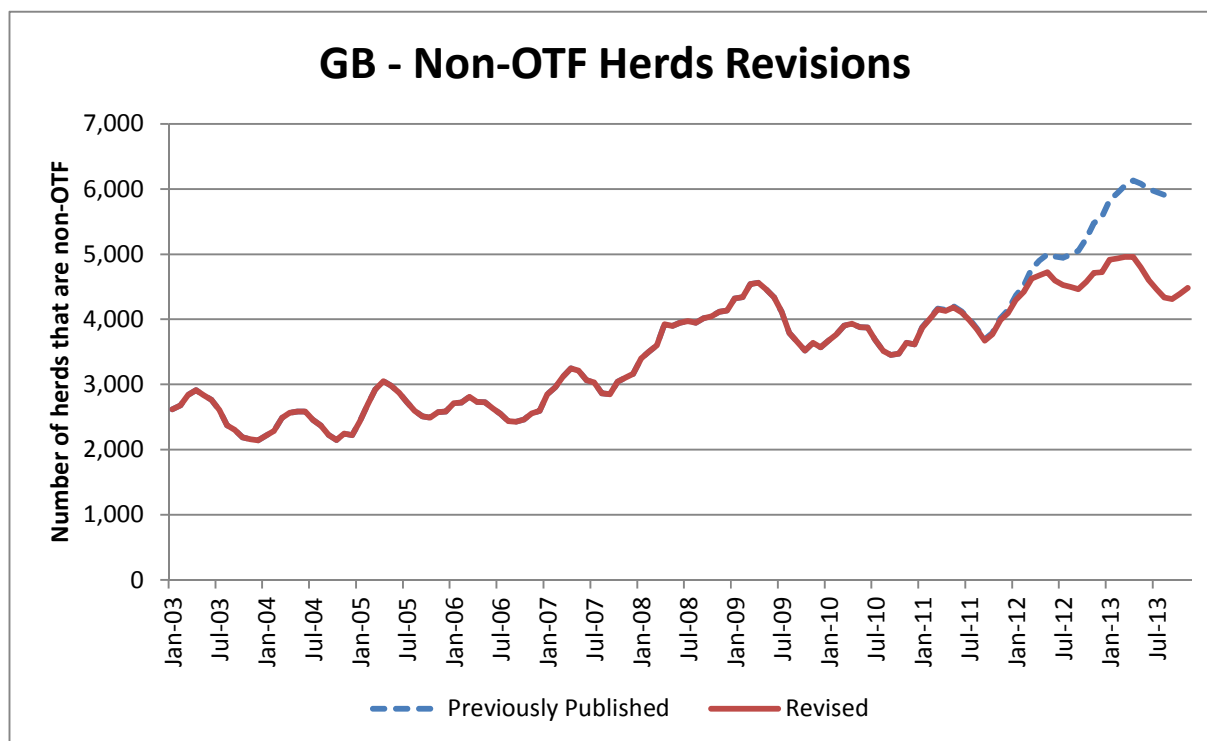
statistics published today. The table shows the effect of the revisions for England, Wales, Scotland and Great Britain as a whole. The differences between the corrected and old figures are greater for the more recent months, as the effect of the errors was cumulative over the affected period:

Herds not officially TB free due to a bovine TB incident (non-OTF herds)

	England		Wales		Scotland		Balancing Item		GB	
	Previously published	Revised	Previously published	Revised	Previously published	Revised	Previously published	Revised	Previously published	Revised
Sep-11	2,873	2,866	790	779	17	16	12	12	3,692	3,673
Oct-11	2,943	2,934	799	788	15	14	34	34	3,791	3,770
Nov-11	3,121	3,105	832	819	15	14	51	51	4,019	3,989
Dec-11	3,211	3,179	866	850	16	13	52	52	4,145	4,094
Jan-12	3,388	3,341	908	886	22	19	54	53	4,372	4,299
Feb-12	3,500	3,434	928	906	25	22	58	57	4,511	4,419
Mar-12	3,706	3,582	982	958	32	29	58	57	4,778	4,626
Apr-12	3,774	3,588	1,033	999	38	35	55	54	4,900	4,676
May-12	3,823	3,589	1,087	1,049	36	33	53	51	4,999	4,722
Jun-12	3,791	3,488	1,086	1,031	35	32	49	47	4,961	4,598
Jul-12	3,752	3,405	1,105	1,021	36	32	50	48	4,943	4,528
Aug-12	3,804	3,395	1,102	1,023	36	32	53	51	4,995	4,499
Sep-12	3,846	3,359	1,107	1,015	39	35	58	55	5,050	4,464
Oct-12	3,994	3,445	1,140	1,034	39	34	64	61	5,237	4,574
Nov-12	4,185	3,560	1,169	1,043	43	35	79	74	5,476	4,712
Dec-12	4,296	3,607	1,151	1,011	41	31	82	76	5,570	4,725
Jan-13	4,508	3,765	1,186	1,034	45	35	85	78	5,824	4,912
Feb-13	4,611	3,790	1,191	1,024	45	35	90	83	5,937	4,932
Mar-13	4,725	3,824	1,196	1,019	45	33	92	84	6,058	4,960
Apr-13	4,821	3,860	1,174	982	42	28	95	87	6,132	4,957
May-13	4,784	3,739	1,159	952	43	27	93	81	6,079	4,799
Jun-13	4,734	3,593	1,122	896	42	25	99	87	5,997	4,601
Jul-13	4,714	3,493	1,091	855	42	24	105	93	5,952	4,465
Aug-13	4,716	3,423	1,046	794	43	25	107	95	5,912	4,337
Sep-13	4,778	3,417	1,032	775	42	24	109	96	5,961	4,312

(Note - The "balancing item" column represents herds where the country information has not been captured in the source data.)

The graph below also shows the scale of the revisions in the context of the longer time series for GB:



Revisions to herds under movement restrictions at the end of the period due to a TB incident or overdue test, between 2011 and June 2012:

Whilst carrying out additional data quality assurance checks, it was identified that some historic incident start dates were incorrect in the source data and these have now been corrected. This has resulted in minor revisions to the statistics between 2011 and June 2012. The scale of these revisions is detailed below:

Herds under movement restrictions at the end of the period due to a TB incident or overdue test

	England		Wales		Scotland		GB	
	Previously published	Revised	Previously published	Revised	Previously published	Revised	Previously published	Revised
Jan-11	4,989	4,987	1,477	1,476	164	164	6,630	6,627
Feb-11	5,002	5,000	1,480	1,479	170	170	6,652	6,649
Mar-11	5,020	5,013	1,480	1,479	171	171	6,671	6,663
Apr-11	5,166	5,157	1,479	1,478	160	160	6,805	6,795
May-11	5,017	5,006	1,411	1,410	160	160	6,588	6,576
Jun-11	4,673	4,660	1,275	1,274	144	144	6,092	6,078
Jul-11	4,434	4,415	1,250	1,249	105	105	5,789	5,769
Aug-11	4,437	4,415	1,261	1,260	92	92	5,790	5,767
Sep-11	4,663	4,595	1,386	1,375	87	85	6,136	6,055
Oct-11	6,028	5,874	1,955	1,904	130	112	8,113	7,890
Nov-11	6,470	6,287	1,982	1,964	167	146	8,619	8,397
Dec-11	6,550	6,394	2,091	2,073	229	198	8,870	8,665
Jan-12	6,546	6,459	2,089	2,076	252	223	8,887	8,758
Feb-12	6,421	6,360	2,081	2,073	232	226	8,734	8,659
Mar-12	6,611	6,553	2,235	2,232	206	202	9,052	8,987
Apr-12	6,333	6,249	2,257	2,254	187	185	8,777	8,688
May-12	5,831	5,772	1,990	1,989	173	172	7,994	7,933
Jun-12	5,472	5,459	1,969	1,968	172	172	7,613	7,599

Quality Assurance

Since this problem was identified, Defra statisticians and AHVLA IT experts have been working closely to review and strengthen quality assurance procedures in relation to bovine TB data.

A quality assurance plan will be produced and published by the end of April 2014.