



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



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

These statistics were released today, Wednesday 16 October 2013 at 09:30, with the next notice to be updated on Wednesday 13 November 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 July 2013 are :-

- Short term changes in these statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends. The charts and tables in this statistical notice illustrate how the trend in bovine TB incidence has changed since 1996.
- The provisional incidence rate for January to July 2013 is 4.2% compared to 4.4% for January to July 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 July 2013 was 2,873 compared to 3,039 for January to July 2012. The number of tests on officially TB free herds was 42,945 during January to July 2013, compared to 45,545 during January to July 2012.
- The number of cattle compulsorily slaughtered as reactors or direct contacts was 19,988 during January to July 2013, compared to 21,581 during January to July 2012.

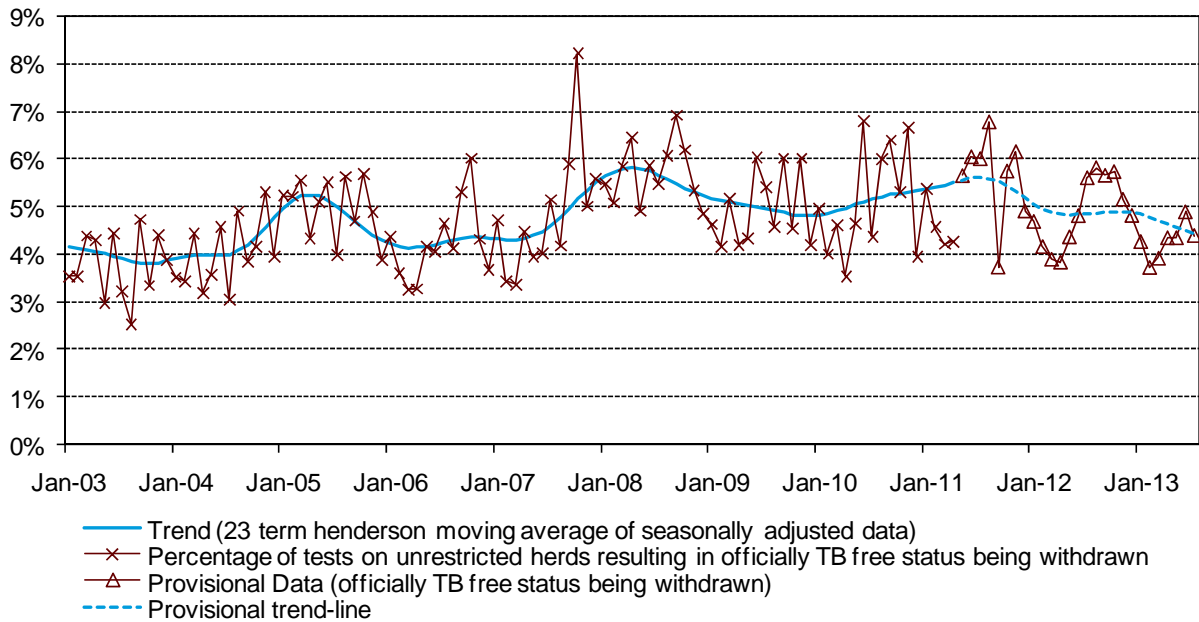
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Enquiries to :- [tbstatistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tbstatistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk)  
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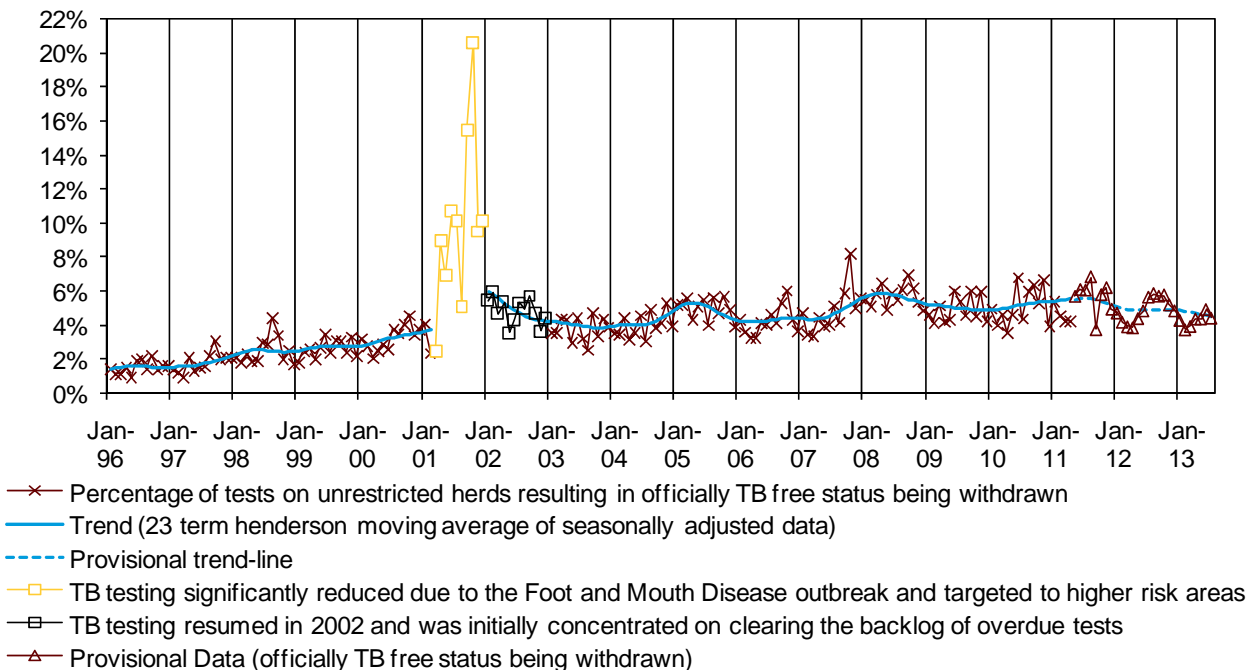
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**Figure 1: Number of officially TB free status being withdrawn breakdowns, as a percentage of tests on officially TB free herds :-**



**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](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)	76,659	8,254	62,489	4,910	3,108	5.2%
2012	(prov)	88,568	9,074	73,653	5,193	3,468	4.8%
2013	(prov)	52,600	8,173	42,945	2,873	1,784	4.2%
2011	Jan	(prov) 7,830	3,882	6,531	538	350	5.4%
	Feb	(prov) 7,910	4,026	6,653	464	302	4.6%
	Mar	(prov) 8,615	4,165	7,486	510	312	4.2%
	Apr	(prov) 7,035	4,144	5,694	397	241	4.3%
	May	(prov) 6,142	4,200	4,898	467	270 - 285	5.5% - 5.8%
	Jun	(prov) 4,675	4,122	3,415	347	202 - 212	5.9% - 6.2%
	Jul	(prov) 4,656	4,010	3,388	300	183 - 225	5.4% - 6.6%
	Aug	(prov) 4,231	3,865	3,209	292	188 - 248	5.9% - 7.7%
	Sep	(prov) 5,900	3,689	4,660	251	166 - 183	3.6% - 3.9%
	Oct	(prov) 6,009	3,788	5,025	422	281 - 298	5.6% - 5.9%
	Nov	(prov) 6,562	4,016	5,569	489	331 - 356	5.9% - 6.4%
	Dec	(prov) 7,094	4,141	5,961	433	282 - 305	4.7% - 5.1%
2012	Jan	(prov) 8,194	4,366	6,995	485	325 - 333	4.6% - 4.8%
	Feb	(prov) 9,061	4,504	7,701	465	316 - 327	4.1% - 4.2%
	Mar	(prov) 11,718	4,767	10,283	591	398 - 406	3.9% - 3.9%
	Apr	(prov) 7,891	4,889	6,535	409	249 - 254	3.8% - 3.9%
	May	(prov) 7,306	4,987	5,994	448	259 - 266	4.3% - 4.4%
	Jun	(prov) 5,425	4,949	4,176	326	200 - 203	4.8% - 4.9%
	Jul	(prov) 5,063	4,930	3,861	315	216 - 218	5.6% - 5.6%
	Aug	(prov) 5,422	4,981	4,244	357	245 - 250	5.8% - 5.9%
	Sep	(prov) 5,881	5,037	4,742	376	265 - 273	5.6% - 5.8%
	Oct	(prov) 6,816	5,223	5,748	452	328 - 333	5.7% - 5.8%
	Nov	(prov) 9,061	5,461	7,680	571	393 - 401	5.1% - 5.2%
	Dec	(prov) 6,730	5,555	5,694	398	274 - 276	4.8% - 4.8%
2013	Jan	(prov) 8,749	5,809	7,337	509	308 - 320	4.2% - 4.4%
	Feb	(prov) 9,003	5,923	7,559	409	280 - 285	3.7% - 3.8%
	Mar	(prov) 9,257	6,045	7,990	495	310 - 318	3.9% - 4.0%
	Apr	(prov) 8,079	6,119	6,548	429	282 - 289	4.3% - 4.4%
	May	(prov) 7,356	6,063	5,904	410	255 - 260	4.3% - 4.4%
	Jun	(prov) 5,082	5,982	3,864	338	186 - 193	4.8% - 5.0%
	Jul	(prov) 5,074	5,935	3,743	283	163 - 167	4.4% - 4.5%

**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)	76,659	7,587,853	34,239	33,454	785
2012	(prov)	88,568	8,025,131	37,733	37,048	685
2013	(prov)	52,600	4,917,858	19,988	19,307	681
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) 6,009	559,254	2,129	2,050	79
	Nov	(prov) 6,562	680,068	3,164	3,108	56
	Dec	(prov) 7,094	683,933	3,295	3,259	36
2012	Jan	(prov) 8,194	720,196	2,580	2,537	43
	Feb	(prov) 9,061	782,134	3,769	3,714	55
	Mar	(prov) 11,718	990,541	3,124	3,090	34
	Apr	(prov) 7,891	721,749	2,805	2,774	31
	May	(prov) 7,306	579,835	3,467	3,414	53
	Jun	(prov) 5,425	489,401	2,525	2,459	66
	Jul	(prov) 5,063	477,332	3,311	3,244	67
	Aug	(prov) 5,422	486,978	2,989	2,864	125
	Sep	(prov) 5,881	547,191	2,637	2,619	18
	Oct	(prov) 6,816	655,740	3,935	3,874	61
	Nov	(prov) 9,061	931,597	3,753	3,681	72
	Dec	(prov) 6,730	642,437	2,838	2,778	60
2013	Jan	(prov) 8,749	771,015	3,202	3,143	59
	Feb	(prov) 9,003	813,933	3,104	2,997	107
	Mar	(prov) 9,257	851,862	2,973	2,860	113
	Apr	(prov) 8,079	825,073	2,728	2,692	36
	May	(prov) 7,356	664,608	3,244	2,963	281
	Jun	(prov) 5,082	480,345	2,034	2,004	30
	Jul	(prov) 5,074	511,022	2,703	2,648	55

**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) Count of the number of tests on cattle. An individual animal could be tested more than once in each time period.
- (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).