

## Revisions to bovine TB statistics – September 2014

There have been downward revisions to the number of herds that are not officially TB Free (non-OTF) due to a TB incident, from January 2012 onwards. No other statistics, including the headline incidence rate, are affected.

### Background:

In January 2014 a data classification problem was identified in the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency's (AHVLA) 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).

A large scale exercise to investigate and amend the affected records was carried out in January and revised figures published in February 2014<sup>1</sup>. Since then, monthly checks on the data have been carried out, including confirming the status of TB breakdowns with local offices.

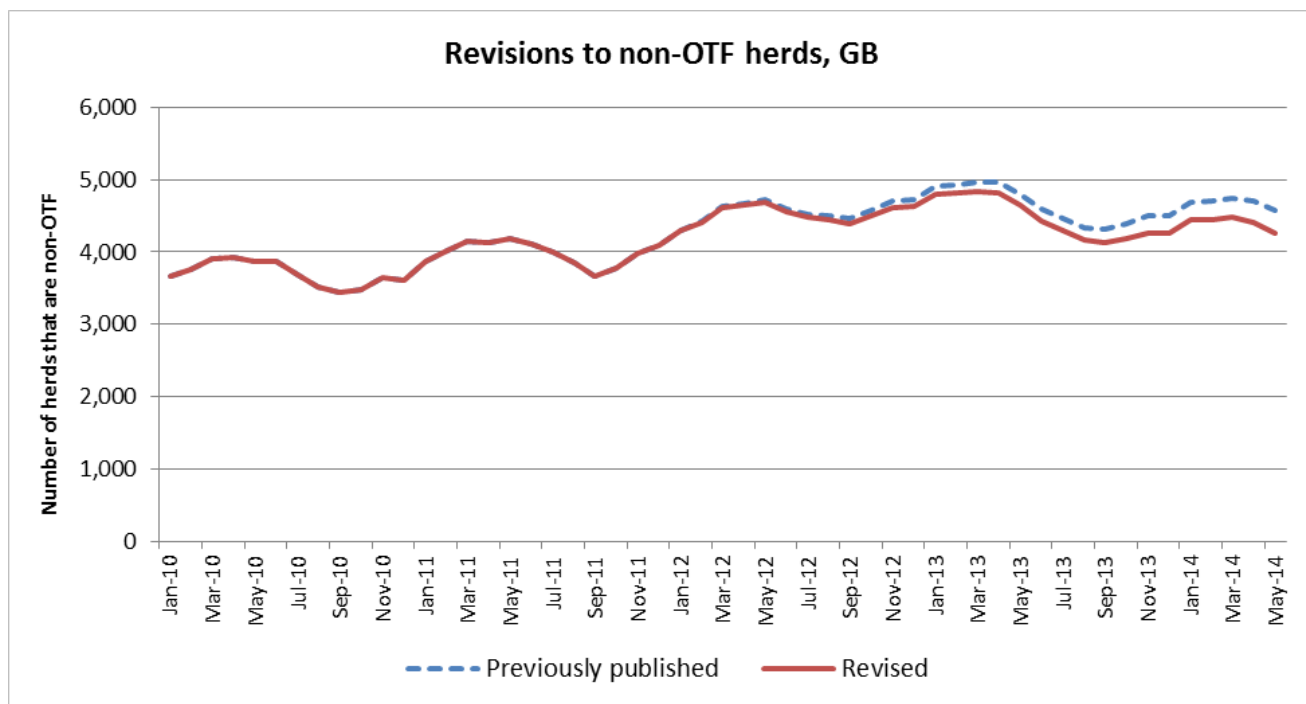
In this September statistical notice, further revisions have been made following these additional checks made by AHVLA local offices.

### Revisions Summary:

- The number of non-OTF herds due to a TB breakdown has been revised downwards from January 2012 onwards. Though not at the same scale as the revisions made in February 2014, these are larger than revisions made in a typical month.
- These figures have been revised and published in this notice.

### Scale of the revisions to non-OTF herd statistics:

The graph below shows the scale of the revisions in the context of the longer time series for GB (from 2010):



<sup>1</sup> Described in detail at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/288678/bovinetb-revisions-12feb14.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288678/bovinetb-revisions-12feb14.pdf)

The table below shows the previously published figures (taken from the statistics notice published on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and containing data up to May 2014) 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 revised and old figures are greater for the more recent months, because revisions have a cumulative effect over time; a small number of revisions made to data from January 2012 will carry over to February 2012 and March 2012 and so on. In addition, the most recent months typically see revisions of 22 non-OTF herds over one month and 42 over three months<sup>2</sup>.

	Wales		Scotland		England		GB	
	Previously published	Revised	Previously published	Revised	Previously published	Revised	Previously published	Revised
Jan-12	888	886	19	17	3,343	3,337	4,302	4,292
Feb-12	908	906	22	20	3,435	3,425	4,420	4,406
Mar-12	959	955	29	27	3,583	3,569	4,626	4,605
Apr-12	1,000	996	35	33	3,588	3,570	4,675	4,649
May-12	1,050	1,046	33	31	3,590	3,568	4,722	4,692
Jun-12	1,032	1,026	32	30	3,487	3,458	4,596	4,557
Jul-12	1,044	1,038	32	28	3,404	3,372	4,526	4,482
Aug-12	1,022	1,014	32	27	3,397	3,352	4,500	4,440
Sep-12	1,015	1,006	35	29	3,361	3,307	4,464	4,392
Oct-12	1,034	1,025	34	28	3,448	3,384	4,575	4,492
Nov-12	1,044	1,035	35	29	3,563	3,487	4,713	4,618
Dec-12	1,012	1,003	31	25	3,609	3,527	4,725	4,624
Jan-13	1,035	1,023	35	29	3,768	3,677	4,913	4,800
Feb-13	1,027	1,014	35	29	3,793	3,695	4,934	4,813
Mar-13	1,022	1,009	33	27	3,830	3,725	4,963	4,834
Apr-13	984	969	28	22	3,866	3,750	4,958	4,816
May-13	953	938	27	21	3,746	3,618	4,801	4,647
Jun-13	895	879	25	19	3,599	3,459	4,601	4,434
Jul-13	855	837	24	18	3,500	3,355	4,467	4,292
Aug-13	794	775	25	19	3,434	3,284	4,342	4,160
Sep-13	774	755	24	18	3,429	3,267	4,317	4,123
Oct-13	771	751	24	18	3,507	3,330	4,398	4,188
Nov-13	767	746	23	17	3,604	3,409	4,493	4,264
Dec-13	743	722	25	19	3,630	3,428	4,499	4,262
Jan-14	760	739	28	22	3,799	3,593	4,690	4,448
Feb-14	750	728	32	25	3,817	3,601	4,703	4,448
Mar-14	770	746	45	38	3,823	3,590	4,748	4,474
Apr-14	761	737	45	38	3,778	3,530	4,697	4,408
May-14	761	736	49	42	3,656	3,383	4,578	4,266

Note: the difference between the GB totals and the sum of the three countries is a small number of herds where the country information has not been captured in the source data. This is published within the regional summary tables and is referred to as the "balancing item".

## Quality Assurance

Since the original 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. The revisions described in this document are a result of those strengthened quality processes. A quality assurance document is due for publication in the autumn.

<sup>2</sup> Analysis presented at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/305850/bovinetb-annex-24apr14.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/305850/bovinetb-annex-24apr14.pdf)