



Monthly publication of Official Statistics on the incidence and prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) in Cattle in Great Britain – to end August 2016

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday 16 November 2016 at 9:30. The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday 18 January 2017.

The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday 14 December 2016. As part of publishing the new quarterly statistical notice in December 2015 and following a [statistical consultation](#), we committed to continue publishing the headline herd incidence charts (Figures 7 and 8 of that notice) at GB level with both old and new incidence measures for twelve months. This twelve month period ends after November and so the December 2016 quarterly notice will be the last time this comparison is published.

Short term changes in these statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends.

Key tables summarising data to August 2016

Table 1: New herd incidents¹ and incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn²

	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		
	12 months to end August 2015	12 months to end August 2016	Year-on-year change	12 months to end August 2015	12 months to end August 2016	Year-on-year change
England	3,885	3,806	-2%	2,886	2,588	-10%
High risk area	3,420	3,283	-4%	2,678	2,354	-12%
Edge area	325	381	17%	166	192	16%
Low risk area	140	142	1%	42	42	0%
Scotland	43	39	-9%	11	9	-18%
Wales	910	703	-23%	550	365	-34%

Table 2: Herds not officially TB free at the end of the period due to a bovine TB incident (non-OTF herds)³

	12 months to end August 2015	12 months to end August 2016	Year-on-year change
England	2,841	2,770	-2%
High risk area	2,560	2,452	-4%
Edge area	220	270	23%
Low risk area	61	48	-21%
Scotland	29	25	-14%
Wales	665	573	-14%

Table 3: Total animals slaughtered⁴

	12 months to end August 2015	12 months to end August 2016	Year-on-year change
England	27,101	29,609	9%
High risk area	23,630	25,914	10%
Edge area	2,886	3,010	4%
Low risk area	585	685	17%
Scotland	97	217	124%
Wales	7,178	9,630	34%

Footnotes

1. Herds which were previously Officially TB free (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. This is the preferred figure to measure the number of new breakdowns. Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.
2. New herd incidents where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where samples from one or more reactor, inconclusive reactor or a slaughterhouse case produce positive culture results for *Mycobacterium bovis* (the causative bacterium of bovine TB). Figures for Wales do not include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only, in the absence of post-mortem confirmation.
3. Herds which were not officially TB-free (i.e. herds with an open breakdown with OTF status suspended or withdrawn) due to a TB incident, at the end of the period shown.
4. Reactors slaughtered + Inconclusive reactors slaughtered + Direct contacts Slaughtered.

Further information

The publication 'quarterly headline statistics on TB in cattle in GB' contains charts on trends in TB as well as data tables, detailed commentary and background information. This and the related datasets can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/incidence-of-tuberculosis-tb-in-cattle-in-great-britain>

A wide range of other statistics is available on the internet at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/about/statistics>

Data

These statistics are obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) 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 2014 onwards will be subject to further revision as test and incident records are completed.

Methodology

For a description of the data sources and methodology used in the calculation of the TB statistics, together with notes on data revisions policy etc., please refer to the 'Background and Methodology' annex document at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/483748/bovinetb-annex-09dec15a.pdf

Additional information on bovine TB

More information on bovine TB can be found at:

England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reducing-bovine-tuberculosis>

Wales:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/?lang=en>

Scotland:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/tuberculosis>