



Monthly publication of Official Statistics on the incidence and prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) in Cattle in Great Britain – to end July 2017

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 9:30. The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday 15 November 2017.

The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday 13 December 2017.

Short term changes in TB statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends in incidence and prevalence, presented in the June 2017 quarterly statistical notice published in September 2017.

Key tables summarising data to July 2017

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	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		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 July 16	12 months to end July 17	Year-on-year change	12 months to end July 16	12 months to end July 17	Year-on-year change
England	3,842	3,864	1%	2,659	2,570	-3%
High risk area	3,322	3,345	1%	2,427	2,319	-4%
Edge area	377	400	6%	188	212	13%
Low risk area	143	119	-17%	44	39	-11%
Scotland	43	34	-21%	10	11	10%
Wales	726	745	3%	395	400	1%

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 July 16	12 months to end July 17	Year-on-year change
England	2,778	2,982	7%
High risk area	2,437	2,611	7%
Edge area	284	312	10%
Low risk area	57	59	4%
Scotland	27	28	4%
Wales	613	636	4%

Table 3: Total animals slaughtered⁴

	12 months to end July 16	12 months to end July 17	Year-on-year change
England	29,562	31,127	5%
High risk area	25,986	26,923	4%
Edge area	2,911	3,513	21%
Low risk area	665	691	4%
Scotland	206	149	-28%
Wales	9,462	9,831	4%

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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 Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.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 New herd incidents where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where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 (Wales only since April 2017) + Direct contacts Slaughtered.

Further information

The publication 'Quarterly TB in cattle in Great Britain statistical notice' 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: www.gov.uk/government/collections/bovine-tb

A wide range of other statistics is available at:

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 2015 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: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/data-and-methodology

Additional information on bovine TB

More information on bovine TB can be found at:

England:

www.gov.uk/government/policies/reducing-bovine-tuberculosis

Wales:

gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/?lang=en

Scotland:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/tuberculosis