



Monthly publication of Official Statistics on the incidence and prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) in Cattle in Great Britain – to end May 2018

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday 15 August 2018 at 9:30. The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday 17 October 2018.

The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday 19 September 2018.

Short term changes in TB statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends in incidence and prevalence, presented in the March 2018 quarterly statistical notice published in June 2018.

Key tables summarising data to May 2018

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	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		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 May 17	12 months to end May 18	Year-on-year change	12 months to end May 17	12 months to end May 18	Year-on-year change
England	3,797	3,670	-3%	2,587	2,431	-6%
High risk area	3,061	2,900	-5%	2,182	2,012	-8%
Edge area	625	632	1%	364	374	3%
Low risk area	111	138	24%	41	45	10%
Scotland	35	44	26%	12	16	33%
Wales	723	755	4%	408	408	0%
High West	307	331	8%	164	168	2%
High East	264	272	3%	180	171	-5%
Intermediate North	55	60	9%	33	31	-6%
Intermediate Mid	69	59	-14%	27	23	-15%
Low	28	33	18%	4	15	275%

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 Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.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 New herd incidents where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where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 Figures for Wales do not include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only, in the absence of post-mortem confirmation.

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

	end May 17	end May 18	Year-on-year change
England	3,090	3,102	0%
High risk area	2,560	2,508	-2%
Edge area	480	518	8%
Low risk area	50	76	52%
Scotland	28	33	18%
Wales	592	646	9%
High West	302	329	9%
High East	194	208	7%
Intermediate North	44	51	16%
Intermediate Mid	45	37	-18%
Low	7	21	200%

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.

Table 3: Total animals slaughtered⁴

	12 months to end May 17	12 months to end May 18	Year-on-year change
England	30,848	33,687	9%
High risk area	25,258	25,652	2%
Edge area	5,016	7,088	41%
Low risk area	574	947	65%
Scotland	181	536	196%
Wales	9,906	10,130	2%
High West	6,396	6,634	4%
High East	2,004	2,296	15%
Intermediate North	613	676	10%
Intermediate Mid	674	332	-51%
Low	219	192	-12%

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 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bovine-tb>

A wide range of other statistics is available 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 2016 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/statistics/data-and-methodology>

Additional information on bovine TB

More information on bovine TB in Great Britain can be found at:

England:

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

Wales:

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

Scotland:

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