



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

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday 14 November 2018 at 9:30. The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday 16 January 2019.

The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday 12 December 2018.

Short term changes in TB statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends in incidence and prevalence, [presented in the June 2018 quarterly statistical notice published in September 2018](#).

Key tables summarising data to August 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	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		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 Aug 17	12 months to end Aug 18	Year-on-year change	12 months to end Aug 17	12 months to end Aug 18	Year-on-year change
England	3,896	3,634	-7%	2,657	2,373	-11%
High risk area	3,132	2,842	-9%	2,220	1,954	-12%
Edge area	634	665	5%	385	381	-1%
Low risk area	130	127	-2%	52	38	-27%
Scotland	37	43	16%	10	15	50%
Wales	763	739	-3%	435	413	-5%
High West	317	326	3%	176	166	-6%
High East	280	262	-6%	188	178	-5%
Intermediate North	65	59	-9%	37	28	-24%
Intermediate Mid	73	56	-23%	28	25	-11%
Low	28	36	29%	6	16	167%

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 Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.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 New herd incidents where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where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 Figures for Wales do not include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only, in the absence of post-mortem confirmation.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 Aug 17	end Aug 18	Year-on-year change
England	2,963	2,804	-5%
High risk area	2,470	2,258	-9%
Edge area	431	484	12%
Low risk area	62	62	0%
Scotland	28	31	11%
Wales	618	606	-2%
High West	310	333	7%
High East	214	179	-16%
Intermediate North	48	43	-10%
Intermediate Mid	38	35	-8%
Low	8	16	100%

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 Aug 17	12 months to end Aug 18	Year-on-year change
England	31,767	33,220	5%
High risk area	25,805	25,079	-3%
Edge area	5,279	7,351	39%
Low risk area	683	790	16%
Scotland	144	651	352%
Wales	9,807	10,030	2%
High West	6,523	6,537	0%
High East	1,997	2,366	18%
Intermediate North	647	664	3%
Intermediate Mid	505	282	-44%
Low	135	181	34%

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>