



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

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday 16 January 2019 at 9:30. The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday 13 February 2019.

The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday 13 March 2019.

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

Key tables summarising data to October 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	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		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 Oct 17	12 months to end Oct 18	Year-on-year change	12 months to end Oct 17	12 months to end Oct 18	Year-on-year change
England	3,880	3,604	-7%	2,638	2,336	-11%
High risk area	3,110	2,782	-11%	2,187	1,906	-13%
Edge area	645	692	7%	401	390	-3%
Low risk area	125	130	4%	50	40	-20%
Scotland	36	41	14%	11	13	18%
Wales	781	756	-3%	434	422	-3%
High West	340	326	-4%	181	173	-4%
High East	288	260	-10%	187	173	-7%
Intermediate North	60	65	8%	34	29	-15%
Intermediate Mid	68	64	-6%	26	30	15%
Low	25	41	64%	6	17	183%

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 Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.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 New herd incidents where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where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 Figures for Wales do not include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only, in the absence of post-mortem confirmation.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 Oct 17	end Oct 18	Year-on-year change
England	3,058	2,818	-8%
High risk area	2,558	2,251	-12%
Edge area	447	508	14%
Low risk area	53	59	11%
Scotland	22	22	0%
Wales	645	654	1%
High West	334	353	6%
High East	221	189	-14%
Intermediate North	42	49	17%
Intermediate Mid	38	44	16%
Low	10	19	90%

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 Oct 17	12 months to end Oct 18	Year-on-year change
England	32,352	32,922	2%
High risk area	25,764	24,858	-4%
Edge area	5,808	7,303	26%
Low risk area	780	761	-2%
Scotland	139	657	373%
Wales	10,185	10,307	1%
High West	6,616	6,913	4%
High East	2,284	2,171	-5%
Intermediate North	677	673	-1%
Intermediate Mid	494	351	-29%
Low	114	199	75%

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>

Feedback on this release

We encourage our users to engage with us so we can improve our National Statistics and identify gaps in the statistics that we produce. Should you have any comments on this statistical release and how to improve it to meet your needs please contact us. Contact details for the statisticians who produced these statistics are given at the front of this document. We wish to make our publications widely accessible. Please contact us at if you have any specific accessibility requirements.