



## Monthly publication of Official Statistics on the incidence and prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) in Cattle in Great Britain – to end February 2019

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 9:30. The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday 17 July 2019.

The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday 12 June 2019.

**Short term changes in TB statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends in incidence and prevalence, [presented in the December 2018 quarterly statistical notice published in March 2019](#).**

### Key tables summarising data to February 2019

**Table 1: New herd incidents<sup>1</sup> and incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn<sup>2</sup>**

	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		
	12 months to end Feb 18	12 months to end Feb 19	Year-on-year change	12 months to end Feb 18	12 months to end Feb 19	Year-on-year change
England	3,741	3,555	-5%	2,532	2,232	-12%
High risk area	2,965	2,692	-9%	2,076	1,792	-14%
Edge area	657	718	9%	410	401	-2%
Low risk area	119	145	22%	46	39	-15%
Scotland	42	31	-26%	17	6	-65%
Wales	799	744	-7%	447	407	-9%
High West	336	341	1%	184	180	-2%
High East	304	250	-18%	190	158	-17%
Intermediate North	62	62	0%	32	26	-19%
Intermediate Mid	67	61	-9%	28	31	11%
Low	30	30	0%	13	12	-8%

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 Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.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 New herd incidents where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where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 Figures for Wales do not include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only, in the absence of post-mortem confirmation.

Enquiries to: [tbstatistics@defra.gov.uk](mailto:tbstatistics@defra.gov.uk)

General Enquiries 03459 33 55 77 (UK only) +44 20 8225 7318 (outside UK)  
Media Enquiries to: 020 8225 7318 (Press Office)

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

	end Feb 18	end Feb 19	Year-on-year change
England	3,207	2,977	-7%
High risk area	2,626	2,303	-12%
Edge area	520	594	14%
Low risk area	61	80	31%
Scotland	32	22	-31%
Wales	661	692	5%
High West	321	364	13%
High East	232	202	-13%
Intermediate North	46	56	22%
Intermediate Mid	44	51	16%
Low	18	19	6%

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 slaughtered<sup>4</sup>**

	12 months to end Feb 18	12 months to end Feb 19	Year-on-year change
England	33,988	32,221	-5%
High risk area	26,329	23,853	-9%
Edge area	6,712	7,550	12%
Low risk area	947	818	-14%
Scotland	358	409	14%
Wales	10,302	11,497	12%
High West	6,564	7,692	17%
High East	2,432	2,163	-11%
Intermediate North	751	784	4%
Intermediate Mid	416	660	59%
Low	139	198	42%

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 2017 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:

<https://beta.gov.wales/animal-health>

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.