



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

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

The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday 18 September 2019.

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

Key tables summarising data to May 2019

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	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		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 18	12 months to end May 19	Year-on-year change	12 months to end May 18	12 months to end May 19	Year-on-year change
England	3,675	3,533	-4%	2,478	2,196	-11%
High risk area	2,902	2,662	-8%	2,040	1,755	-14%
Edge area	635	720	13%	390	401	3%
Low risk area	138	151	9%	48	40	-17%
Scotland	44	27	-39%	16	6	-63%
Wales	757	740	-2%	433	411	-5%
High West	333	344	3%	184	190	3%
High East	272	249	-8%	175	157	-10%
Intermediate North	60	52	-13%	34	19	-44%
Intermediate Mid	59	70	19%	25	34	36%
Low	33	25	-24%	15	11	-27%

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 Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.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 New herd incidents where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where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 Figures for Wales do not include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only, in the absence of post-mortem confirmation.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 18	end May 19	Year-on-year change
England	3,042	2,923	-4%
High risk area	2,460	2,245	-9%
Edge area	507	575	13%
Low risk area	75	103	37%
Scotland	33	22	-33%
Wales	642	680	6%
High West	328	375	14%
High East	205	190	-7%
Intermediate North	51	49	-4%
Intermediate Mid	37	53	43%
Low	21	13	-38%

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 18	12 months to end May 19	Year-on-year change
England	33,687	32,310	-4%
High risk area	25,653	23,675	-8%
Edge area	7,087	7,859	11%
Low risk area	947	776	-18%
Scotland	536	196	-63%
Wales	10,104	12,189	21%
High West	6,610	8,277	25%
High East	2,296	2,106	-8%
Intermediate North	674	908	35%
Intermediate Mid	332	733	121%
Low	192	165	-14%

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.