



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

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday **13 November 2019** at 9:30.

The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday **15 January 2020**.

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

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

### Key tables summarising data to **August 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 and incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn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	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		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 Aug 18	12 months to end Aug 19	Year-on-year change	12 months to end Aug 18	12 months to end Aug 19	Year-on-year change
England	3,639	3,453	-5%	2,410	2,123	-12%
High risk area	2,843	2,597	-9%	1,975	1,699	-14%
Edge area	667	699	5%	395	388	-2%
Low risk area	129	157	22%	40	36	-10%
Scotland	43	30	-30%	15	12	-20%
Wales	739	699	-5%	432	380	-12%
High West	326	324	-1%	180	174	-3%
High East	261	229	-12%	180	143	-21%
Intermediate North	59	54	-8%	30	20	-33%
Intermediate Mid	56	70	25%	26	33	27%
Low	37	22	-41%	16	10	-38%

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 Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.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 New herd incidents where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where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 Figures for Wales do not include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only, in the absence of post-mortem confirmation.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)<sup>3</sup>**

	end Aug 18	end Aug 19	Year-on-year change
England	2,763	2,584	-6%
High risk area	2,216	2,006	-9%
Edge area	483	487	1%
Low risk area	64	91	42%
Scotland	31	27	-13%
Wales	604	644	7%
High West	331	363	10%
High East	178	166	-7%
Intermediate North	43	53	23%
Intermediate Mid	35	48	37%
Low	17	14	-18%

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 Aug 18	12 months to end Aug 19	Year-on-year change
England	33,223	32,793	-1%
High risk area	25,083	24,009	-4%
Edge area	7,350	7,875	7%
Low risk area	790	909	15%
Scotland	651	194	-70%
Wales	10,011	12,799	28%
High West	6,522	8,698	33%
High East	2,364	2,091	-12%
Intermediate North	662	983	48%
Intermediate Mid	282	819	190%
Low	181	208	15%

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.