



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

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday **15 January 2020** at 9:30.

The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday **12 February 2020**.

The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday **11 March 2020**.

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

Key tables summarising data to **October 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	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		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 Oct 18	12 months to end Oct 19	Year-on-year change	12 months to end Oct 18	12 months to end Oct 19	Year-on-year change
England	3,608	3,411	-5%	2,374	2,082	-12%
High risk area	2,782	2,576	-7%	1,933	1,669	-14%
Edge area	695	678	-2%	401	380	-5%
Low risk area	131	157	20%	40	33	-18%
Scotland	41	29	-29%	13	12	-8%
Wales	754	666	-12%	434	367	-15%
High West	325	316	-3%	182	175	-4%
High East	260	211	-19%	175	133	-24%
Intermediate North	64	51	-20%	30	20	-33%
Intermediate Mid	64	68	6%	30	31	3%
Low	41	20	-51%	17	8	-53%

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 Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.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 New herd incidents where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where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 Figures for Wales do not include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only, in the absence of post-mortem confirmation.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 18	end Oct 19	Year-on-year change
England	2,804	2,617	-7%
High risk area	2,235	2,054	-8%
Edge area	509	487	-4%
Low risk area	60	76	27%
Scotland	22	22	0%
Wales	650	643	-1%
High West	351	359	2%
High East	189	165	-13%
Intermediate North	48	55	15%
Intermediate Mid	43	46	7%
Low	19	18	-5%

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 18	12 months to end Oct 19	Year-on-year change
England	32,923	32,245	-2%
High risk area	24,860	23,854	-4%
Edge area	7,302	7,558	4%
Low risk area	761	833	9%
Scotland	657	193	-71%
Wales	10,303	12,742	24%
High West	6,912	8,609	25%
High East	2,170	2,091	-4%
Intermediate North	671	1,078	61%
Intermediate Mid	351	762	117%
Low	199	202	2%

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 if you have any specific accessibility requirements.