



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

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday **12 February 2020** at 9:30.

The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday **15 April 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 **November 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	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		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 Nov 18	12 months to end Nov 19	Year-on-year change	12 months to end Nov 18	12 months to end Nov 19	Year-on-year change
England	3,649	3,311	-9%	2,380	2,002	-16%
High risk area	2,808	2,502	-11%	1,933	1,598	-17%
Edge area	714	656	-8%	412	370	-10%
Low risk area	127	153	20%	35	34	-3%
Scotland	40	32	-20%	13	13	0%
Wales	754	668	-11%	431	371	-14%
High West	330	318	-4%	189	171	-10%
High East	259	208	-20%	168	137	-18%
Intermediate North	65	52	-20%	29	22	-24%
Intermediate Mid	63	70	11%	31	32	3%
Low	37	20	-46%	14	9	-36%

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 Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.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 New herd incidents where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where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 Figures for Wales do not include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only, in the absence of post-mortem confirmation.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 Nov 18	end Nov 19	Year-on-year change
England	2,958	2,672	-10%
High risk area	2,336	2,089	-11%
Edge area	557	513	-8%
Low risk area	65	70	8%
Scotland	19	25	32%
Wales	672	653	-3%
High West	354	357	1%
High East	208	173	-17%
Intermediate North	48	58	21%
Intermediate Mid	42	48	14%
Low	20	17	-15%

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 Nov 18	12 months to end Nov 19	Year-on-year change
England	32,937	31,562	-4%
High risk area	24,766	23,412	-5%
Edge area	7,512	7,356	-2%
Low risk area	659	794	20%
Scotland	535	199	-63%
Wales	10,836	12,354	14%
High West	7,270	8,294	14%
High East	2,244	2,032	-9%
Intermediate North	683	1,060	55%
Intermediate Mid	439	750	71%
Low	200	218	9%

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 are 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.