



Monthly publication of Official Statistics on the incidence and prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) in Cattle in Great Britain – to end **February 2020**

These statistics and accompanying datasets were released on Wednesday **13 May 2020** at 9:30.

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

The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday **17 June 2020**.

Short term changes in TB statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends in incidence and prevalence, [December 2019 quarterly statistical notice published in March 2020](#).

Key tables summarising data to **February 2020**

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	New herd incidents			New herd incidents where OTF status is withdrawn (OTFW)		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 Feb 19	12 months to end Feb 20	Year-on-year change	12 months to end Feb 19	12 months to end Feb 20	Year-on-year change
England	3,562	3,263	-8%	2,276	1,965	-14%
High risk area	2,698	2,494	-8%	1,824	1,584	-13%
Edge area	719	626	-13%	410	353	-14%
Low risk area	145	143	-1%	42	28	-33%
Scotland	31	40	29%	7	16	129%
Wales	744	647	-13%	424	352	-17%
High West	340	290	-15%	189	159	-16%
High East	250	211	-16%	162	134	-17%
Intermediate North	62	48	-23%	29	19	-34%
Intermediate Mid	62	67	8%	32	27	-16%
Low	30	31	3%	12	13	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 Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.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 New herd incidents where OTF status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where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 Figures for Wales do not include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only, in the absence of post-mortem confirmation.

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An **Official Statistics** publication. These statistics have been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Statistics. See <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice>

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

	end Feb 19	end Feb 20	Year-on-year change
England	2,962	2,548	-14%
High risk area	2,287	1,997	-13%
Edge area	594	484	-19%
Low risk area	81	67	-17%
Scotland	19	30	58%
Wales	689	628	-9%
High West	361	313	-13%
High East	203	182	-10%
Intermediate North	55	60	9%
Intermediate Mid	51	50	-2%
Low	19	23	21%

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 Feb 19	12 months to end Feb 20	Year-on-year change
England	32,222	30,810	-4%
High risk area	23,854	23,483	-2%
Edge area	7,550	6,728	-11%
Low risk area	818	599	-27%
Scotland	409	237	-42%
Wales	11,495	11,889	3%
High West	7,692	7,951	3%
High East	2,163	2,009	-7%
Intermediate North	782	1,089	39%
Intermediate Mid	660	639	-3%
Low	198	201	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 are available at :-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/departments-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 2018 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 and Official 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.