



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

Short term changes in TB statistics should be considered in the context of long term trends in incidence and prevalence. These long-term measures are available in the [June 2020 quarterly statistical notice published in September 2020](#).

Section 1 - Key tables summarising data to July 2020

New Herd Incidents (NHI)

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 Figures for Wales include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only.

Table 1: New herd incidents 12 months end

Region	July 19	July 20	Year-on-year change
England (All)	3,495	3,209	-8%
England - High risk area	2,633	2,435	-8%
England - Edge area	704	659	-6%
England - Low risk area	158	115	-27%
Scotland (All)	30	36	20%
Wales (All)	714	639	-11%
Wales - High West	335	272	-19%
Wales - High East	236	212	-10%
Wales - Intermediate North	51	54	6%
Wales - Intermediate Mid	69	58	-16%
Wales - Low	23	43	87%

Within the England LRA, Scotland and Wales Low any large percentage increases and decreases are a consequence of small baseline numbers.

New herd incidents where Officially TB free (OTF) status was withdrawn from the herd due to the detection of typical lesions of TB during post-mortem examination of one or more test reactors or inconclusive reactors, or where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 Figures for Wales do not include incidents where OTF status has been withdrawn for epidemiological reasons only, in the absence of post-mortem confirmation.

Table 2: OTFW new herd incidents 12 months end

Region	July 19	July 20	Year-on-year change
England (All)	2,180	1,927	-12%
England - High risk area	1,747	1,526	-13%
England - Edge area	396	374	-6%
England - Low risk area	37	27	-27%
Scotland (All)	10	16	60%
Wales (All)	414	340	-18%
Wales - High West	196	141	-28%
Wales - High East	151	129	-15%
Wales - Intermediate North	23	28	22%
Wales - Intermediate Mid	34	26	-24%
Wales - Low	10	16	60%

Non- officially TB-free (OTF) Herds

Herds with an open breakdown with OTF status suspended or withdrawn due to a TB incident, at the end of July.

Table 3: Non-OTF herds at end

Region	July 19	July 20	Year-on-year change
England (All)	2,649	2,368	-11%
England - High risk area	2,054	1,809	-12%
England - Edge area	498	500	0%
England - Low risk area	97	59	-39%
Scotland (All)	25	27	8%
Wales (All)	652	604	-7%
Wales - High West	365	310	-15%
Wales - High East	174	171	-2%
Wales - Intermediate North	48	58	21%
Wales - Intermediate Mid	52	39	-25%
Wales - Low	13	26	100%

Cattle slaughtered for TB control purposes

Total of reactors slaughtered, inconclusive reactors slaughtered (Wales only) and direct contacts slaughtered in the 12 months to end July.

Table 4: Total cattle slaughtered 12 months to end

Region	July 19	July 20	Year-on-year change
England (All)	32,781	27,872	-15%
England - High risk area	24,056	21,651	-10%
England - Edge area	7,836	5,829	-26%
England - Low risk area	889	392	-56%
Scotland (All)	127	255	101%
Wales (All)	12,723	10,674	-16%
Wales - High West	8,725	6,694	-23%
Wales - High East	2,122	1,957	-8%
Wales - Intermediate North	914	1,265	38%
Wales - Intermediate Mid	799	526	-34%
Wales - Low	163	232	42%

Section 2: About these statistics

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Official Statistics Status

This is an **Official Statistics** publication. These statistics have been produced to the high professional standards set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

Further information

The next monthly notice will be published on Wednesday 11 November 2020.

The next quarterly statistical notice which includes headline measures and charts will be published on Wednesday 16 December 2020.

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. A wide range of other Defra statistics are also available on the [Defra statistics webpage](#).

Effects of the coronavirus on the statistics.

A detailed summary of the testing changes is available on the [TB Hub](#). Caution should be applied when comparing year-on-year changes in these statistics.

Data source

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](#) document.

Additional information on bovine TB

More information on bovine TB in Great Britain can be found online for [England](#), [Wales](#) and [Scotland](#).

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.

This document has been designed to meet the accessibility requirements outlined in WCAG 2.1. Should you have any comments on this statistical release and how to improve it to meet your needs please contact us by email to tbstatistics@defra.gov.uk

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