

HIGH PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

Situation Report 63

Period covered:

24 August –

27 September 2024

This report provides an update of the high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) situation, according to the information submitted to the World Organisation for Animal Health (5-week period).

Key messages and Recommendations

The current HPAI season continues with 13 outbreaks being reported in poultry and 48 in non-poultry birds and mammals over the 5 weeks covered by the report, in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. About 190,000 poultry birds died or were culled during the 5-week period, mostly in Asia.

The number of new outbreaks and new events notified in birds worldwide is currently relatively low in both hemispheres. We are coming to the end of the current global seasonal wave and can expect an increase in the number of outbreaks in the coming months, with the start of the new seasonal wave 2024/2025 in October.

Sporadic human cases of infection with avian influenza viruses continue to be detected in different parts of the world: the World Health Organization (WHO) was [notified](#) by Cambodia on 20 August 2024 of a laboratory-confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus (clade 2.3.2.1c), following exposure to poultry, and by [Ghana](#) on 26 August 2024 of the country's first reported human case of infection with a zoonotic influenza virus. Subsequent laboratory tests confirmed the presence of the avian influenza A(H9N2) virus.

WOAH recommends that Members maintain their surveillance efforts, implement biosecurity and preventive measures at farm level, and continue timely reporting of avian influenza outbreaks in both poultry and non-poultry species.

Considering the situation in mammals, WOAHA also recommends including avian influenza as a differential diagnosis in mammals with high risk of exposure to the viruses, reporting to WOAHA

outbreaks of avian influenza in all animal species including unusual hosts, sharing genetic sequences of avian influenza viruses and associated metadata in publicly available databases and protecting humans in close contact with sick livestock and their products, while avoiding implementing unjustified trade restrictions.

High quality of information is key to support prevention and rapid response to HPAI.

Objective of the report & limitations

Based on Chapter 1.3 of the [Terrestrial Animal Health Code \(2024\)](#), three categories of avian influenza are listed by WOA: 1) infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses (HPAI) (in poultry, as defined in the disease-specific chapter), 2) infection of birds other than poultry, including wild birds, with HPAI, and 3) infection of domestic and captive wild birds with low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) viruses having proven natural transmission to humans, associated with severe consequences.

This report provides an update of the situation, according to the information submitted to WOA (5-week period) and aims to contribute to awareness of the global situation. Although all the information used in this report is already publicly accessible via the WOA website, the report aims to intelligently combine these various sources of information to present Members with the most accurate information possible, while recognising the limitations of the data available on a global scale.

This month's report covers the HPAI situation only, as WOA has not been informed of any exceptional event of infection of domestic and captive wild birds with LPAI viruses having proven natural transmission to humans, associated with severe consequences.

Contextual information

Since its identification in China (People's Rep. of) in 1996, there have been multiple waves of intercontinental transmission of the H5Nx Gs/GD lineage virus. HPAI has led to the death and mass slaughter of over 547 million poultry worldwide between 2005 and 2023, with an unprecedented peak of 146 million in 2022. During this peak in 2022, 84 countries and territories in the world were affected with HPAI. This number continued to rise in 2023, reaching 88 countries and territories. In addition, up to now, humans have occasionally with several subtypes of avian influenza (mainly H5N1, H7N9, H5N6, H9N2 with more than 2500 cases since 2003)^{1,2}.

As described in the [Animal Health Situation Worldwide](#) report presented by WOA during its 91st General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates in May 2024, HPAI has been a global concern, particularly since October 2020, due to an unprecedented situation marked by:

¹ <https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/avian-influenza/monthly-risk-assessment-summary>

² [Cumulative number of confirmed human cases for avian influenza A\(H5N1\) reported to WHO, 2003-2023, 21 December 2023](#)

- its global spread and the increase in the number of countries affected worldwide, including an unprecedented spread to Latin America and the Antarctic region;
- the increase in the number of outbreaks and losses in poultry, with a peak during the seasonal wave October 2021-September 2022;
- the increased impact on wildlife and biodiversity;
- the increase in the number of cases detected in domestic and wild mammals.

Seasonality of HPAI outbreaks in poultry

Figure 1 focuses on poultry outbreaks and shows the seasonality of HPAI separately for the northern and southern hemispheres. It covers the seasonal wave which is now coming to an end (October 2023 to September 2024), as well as the two previous waves for comparison. The red rectangle indicates where we currently are in the 2023/2024 cycle based on the period covered in “recent updates” below.

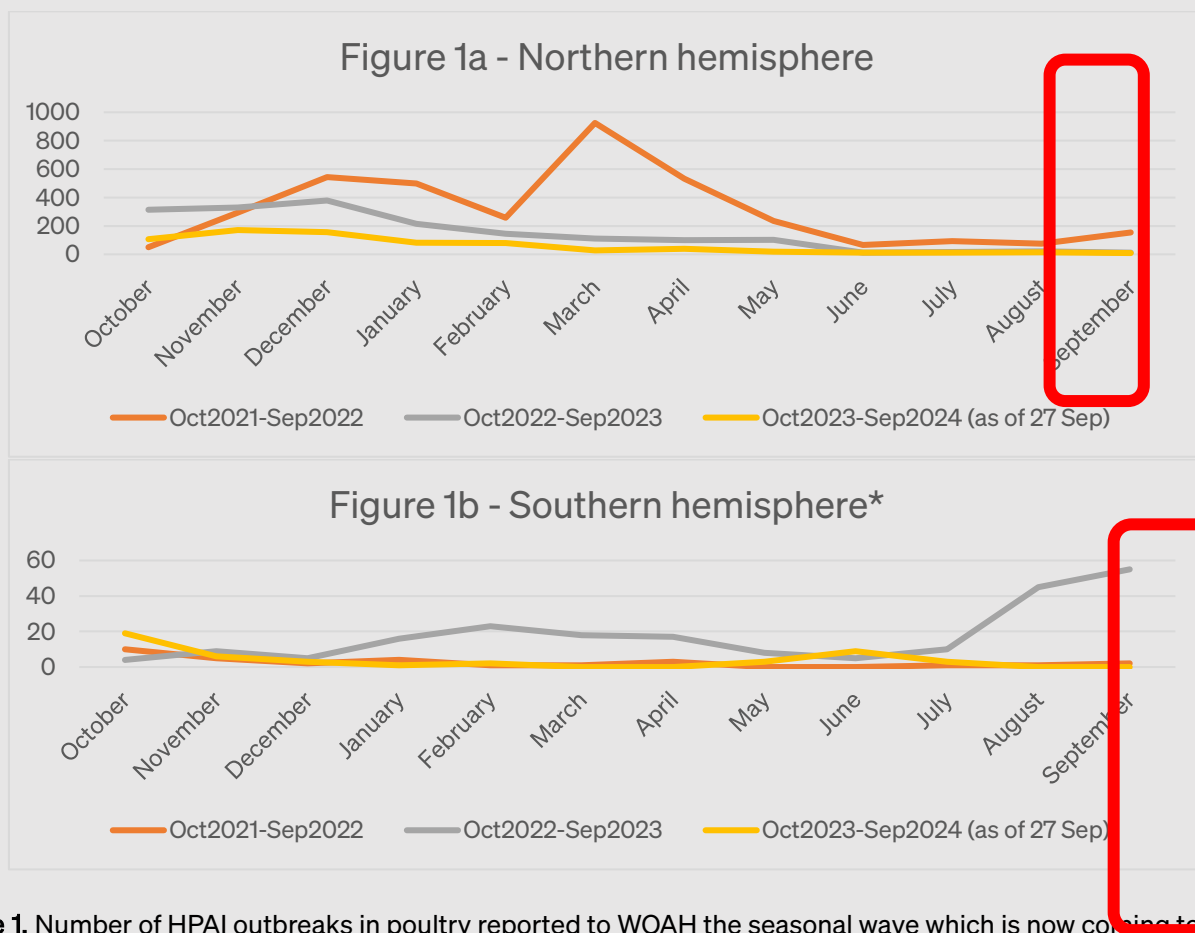


Figure 1. Number of HPAI outbreaks in poultry reported to WOAII the seasonal wave which is now coming to an end (October 2023 to September 2024), as well as the two previous waves for comparison. Data is presented by month and by hemisphere.

* For the southern hemisphere (Figure 1b), it is important to highlight that the seasonality analysis does not take into account Indonesia, which has declared a sufficiently stable situation to WOAII to provide data aggregated by semester (and not by month). This is an important limitation, as the country reported an average of 16 outbreaks per six-month period between the second half of 2021 and the second half of 2023, which is significant on a hemispheric scale.

HPAI key figures for the last three seasonal waves

	Oct 2021-Sep 2022	Oct 2022-Sep 2023	Oct 2023-Sep 2024 (as of 27 Sep)
Countries and territories reporting HPAI in poultry	54	50	39
No. of HPAI outbreaks in poultry	3756	1971	771
Countries and territories reporting HPAI in wild birds	53	63	50
No. of HPAI outbreaks in wild birds	3540	3975	1023
Countries and territories reporting HPAI in mammals	8	21	11

HPAI map for the current seasonal wave (October 2023-September 2024, as of 27 September)

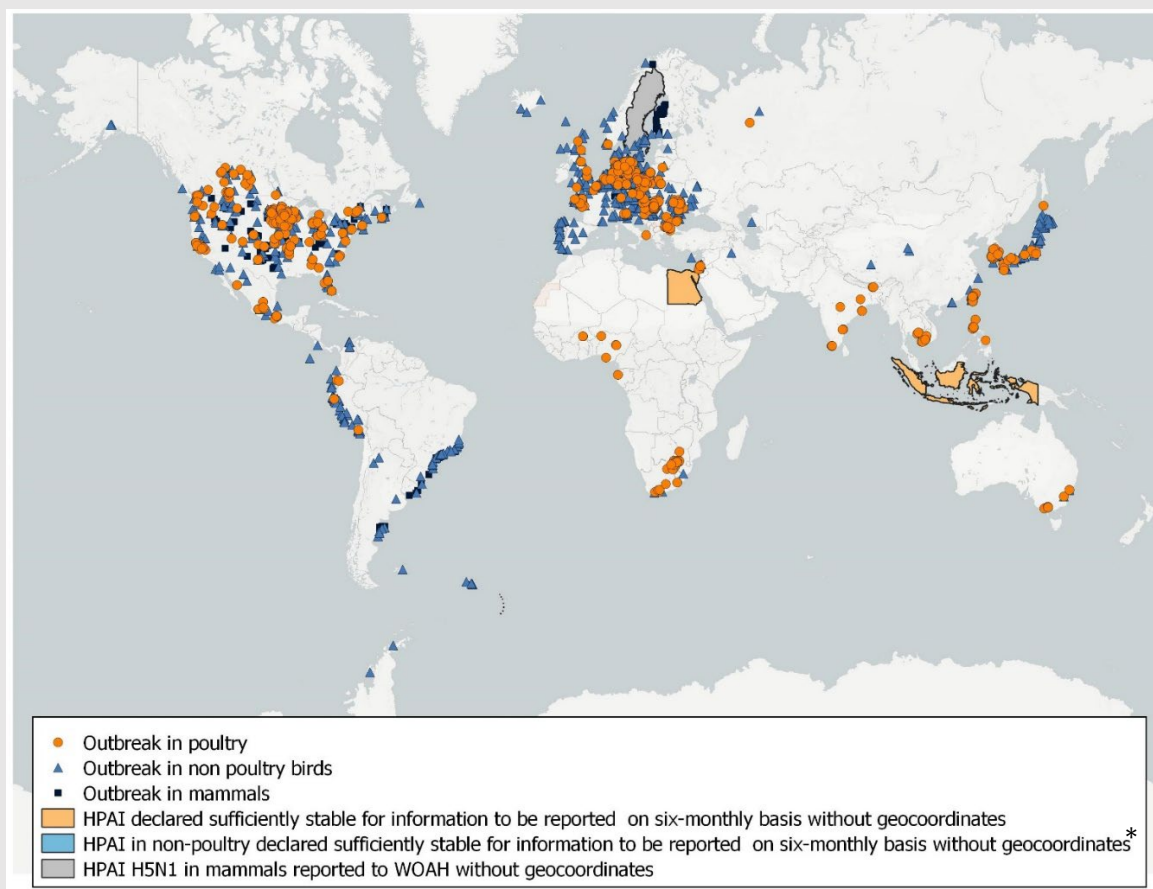


Figure 2. HPAI map for the current seasonal wave (October 2023-September 2024, as of 27 September).

*The country in the blue category is Croatia (hidden by the outbreak dots that cover it).

Recent Updates (24/08/2024 – 27/09/2024)

To describe the current disease situation of HPAI in poultry and in non-poultry birds, this section covers: (a) a list of new events³ which started during the 5-week period (reported through immediate notifications); (b) information on events that started before the 5-week period but were still ongoing during that period; (c) the geographic distribution of new outbreaks⁴ that started during the 5-week period, together with figures on numbers of outbreaks, cases, losses and animals vaccinated in response to outbreaks. The different subtypes of HPAI circulating during the 5-week period are also listed below. This information is based on the immediate notifications and follow-up reports received by WOAHA.

HPAI in poultry

New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

Asia

H5N1:

A recurrence started in Bhutan (Chhukha) on 29 August 2024.

A recurrence started in Israel (HaZafon) on 2 September 2024.

Europe

H5N1:

A recurrence started in Denmark (Veterinary Inspection Unit East) on 8 September 2024.

A recurrence started in Germany (Sachsen-Anhalt) on 11 September 2024.

A recurrence started in Czech Republic (Středočeský) on 13 September 2024.

Africa, Americas, and Oceania

No new events reported.

On-going events for which there were new reported outbreaks, by world region (reported through follow-up reports):

Africa

H5N1: Nigeria

Americas

H5N1: United States of America

Asia

H5N1: Chinese Taipei (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian)

³ As defined in [Article 11.2](#) of the WOAHA Terrestrial Animal Health Code, an “event” means a single outbreak or a group of epidemiologically related outbreaks of a given listed disease or emerging disease that is the subject of a notification. An event is specific to a pathogenic agent and strain, when appropriate, and includes all related outbreaks reported from the time of the initial notification through to the final report. Reports of an event include susceptible species, the number and geographical distribution of affected animals and epidemiological units.

⁴ As defined in the [glossary](#) of the WOAHA Terrestrial Animal Health Code, an “outbreak” means the occurrence of one or more cases in an epidemiological unit.

Europe

H5: France

Oceania

No new outbreaks reported in the on-going events, or no on-going events.

New outbreaks and associated subtypes

During the period covered by this report, 13 new outbreaks in poultry were notified by nine countries and territories (Bhutan, Chinese Taipei, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Nigeria, United States of America). Details are presented in Figures 2 and 3.

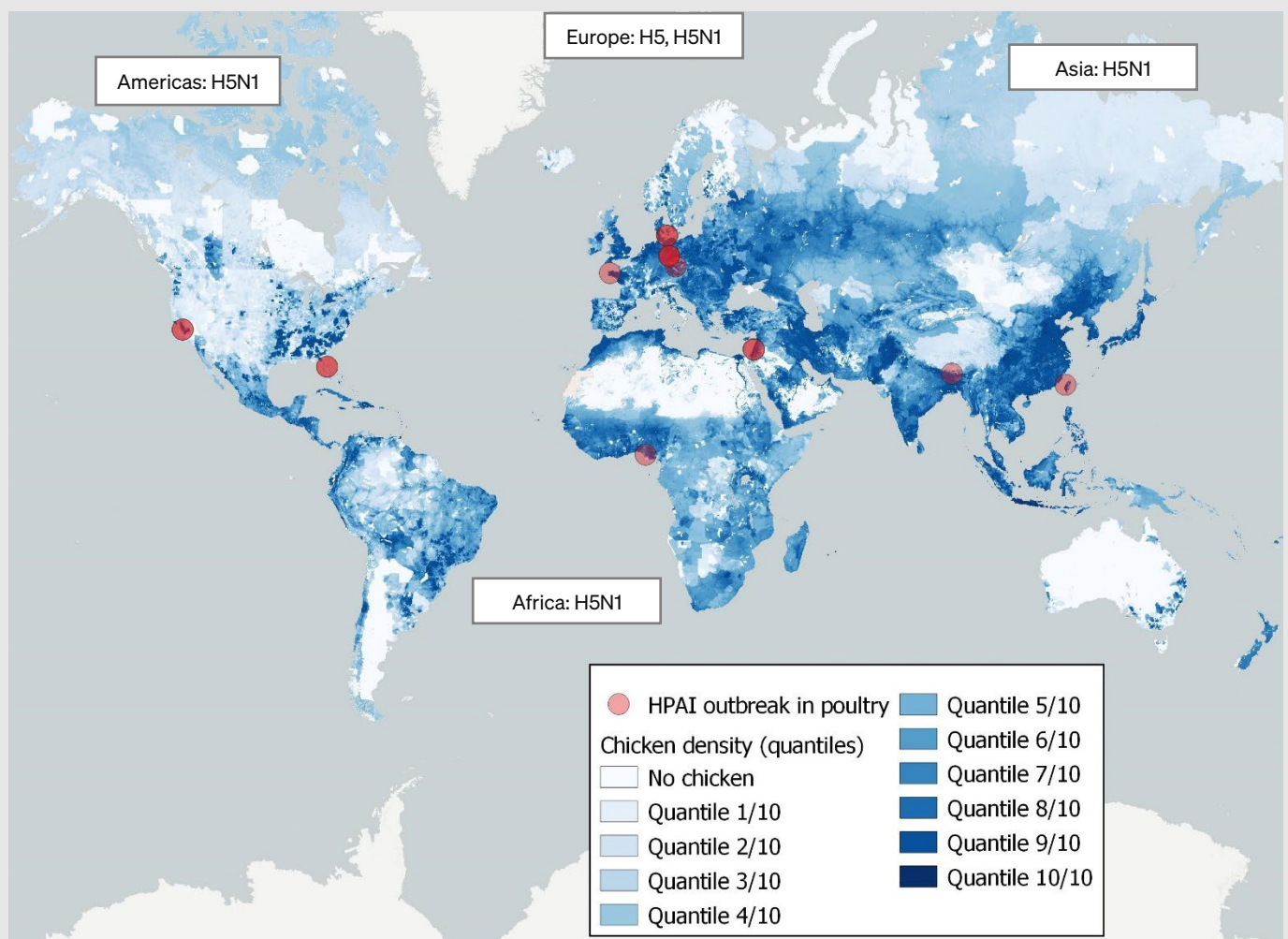


Figure 3. Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in poultry, and corresponding subtypes. The outbreaks are presented on top of the chicken density layer⁵ produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - [GLW 4: Gridded Livestock Density \(Global - 2020 - 10 km\)](#)

⁵ Layers for the distribution of other poultry species (such as ducks, turkeys, geese, etc.) are not currently available under FAO GLW 4: Gridded Livestock Density (Global - 2020 - 10 km).

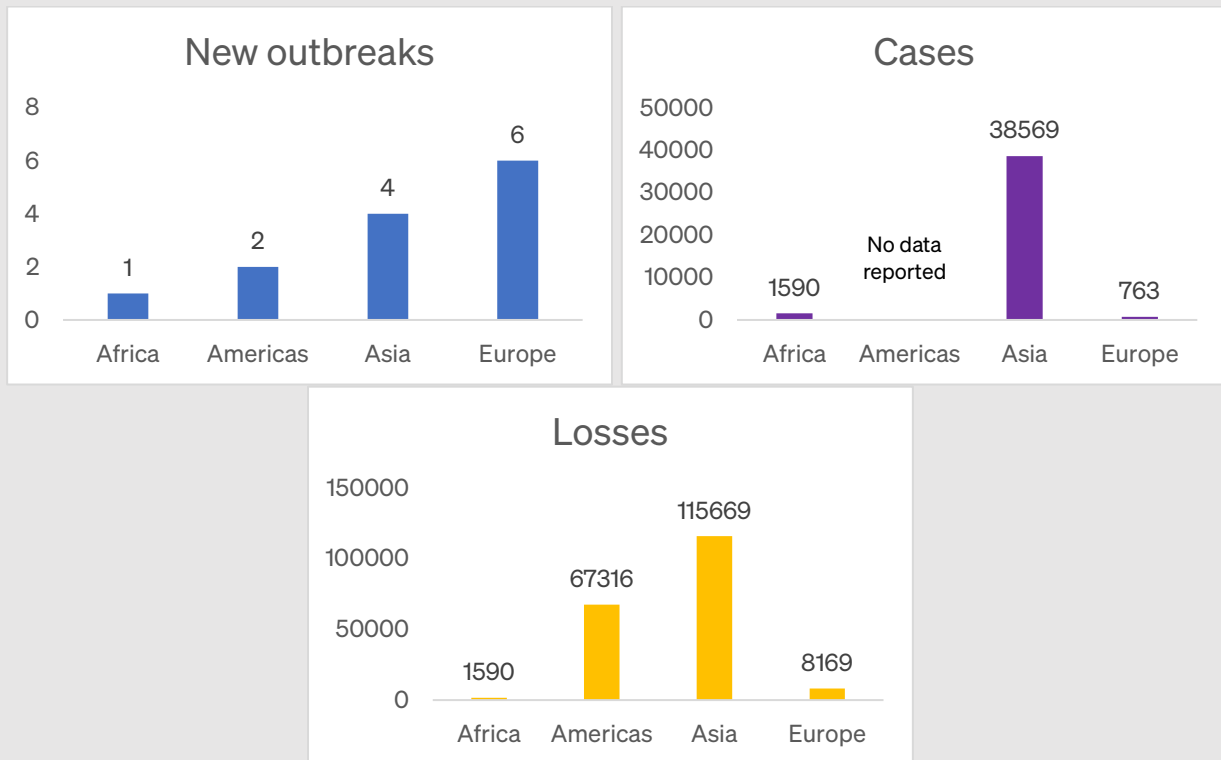


Figure 4. Number of new outbreaks, associated cases, losses, and number of poultry birds vaccinated in response to these outbreaks by geographical region (losses include animals dead and killed and disposed of within outbreaks – they do not include culling around outbreaks. It should also be noted that some countries or territories are unable to provide a precise number of cases and leave this field blank).

During the period covered by the report, no country/territory reported vaccination of poultry birds in response to the outbreaks. The number of poultry birds under preventive official vaccination programmes are reported through the six-monthly channel to WOA and this information is not yet available for the period under review.

HPAI in non-poultry

New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

Europe

H5 in non-poultry birds:

Two recurrences started in Ukraine:

- One in Mykolayiv on 17 September 2024.
- Another one in Kirovohrad on 22 September 2024.

H5N1 in non-poultry birds:

In Croatia, the first occurrence in the area of Šibensko-Kninska started on 5 September 2024

A recurrence started in Denmark (Veterinary Inspection Unit East) on 8 September 2024

Several recurrences started in Germany:

- One in Sachsen-Anhalt on 11 September 2024.
- One in Bayern on 10 September 2024.
- One in Hessen on 13 September 2024.
- And one in Hamburg on 19 September 2024.

A recurrence started in Austria (Burgenland) on 13 September 2024

In Moldova, the first occurrence in the area of Nisporeni started on 20 September 2024 (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian)

A recurrence started in Ukraine (Kiev) on 23 September 2024

A recurrence started in Italy (Veneto) on 24 September 2024

Africa, Americas, Antarctica, Asia and Oceania

No new events reported.

On-going events for which there were new reported outbreaks, by world region (reported through follow-up reports):

Americas

H5 in non-poultry birds: Peru

H5N1 in mammals: United States of America (bovine)

Europe

H5N1 in non-poultry birds: France (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian), Germany, Poland

Africa, Asia, Antarctica, and Oceania

No new outbreaks reported in the on-going events, or no on-going events.

New outbreaks

During the period covered by this report, a total of 48 outbreaks in non-poultry birds and mammals were reported through WAHIS by 11 countries (Austria, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Moldova, Peru, Poland, Ukraine, United States of America). Details are presented in **Figures 4** and **5**.

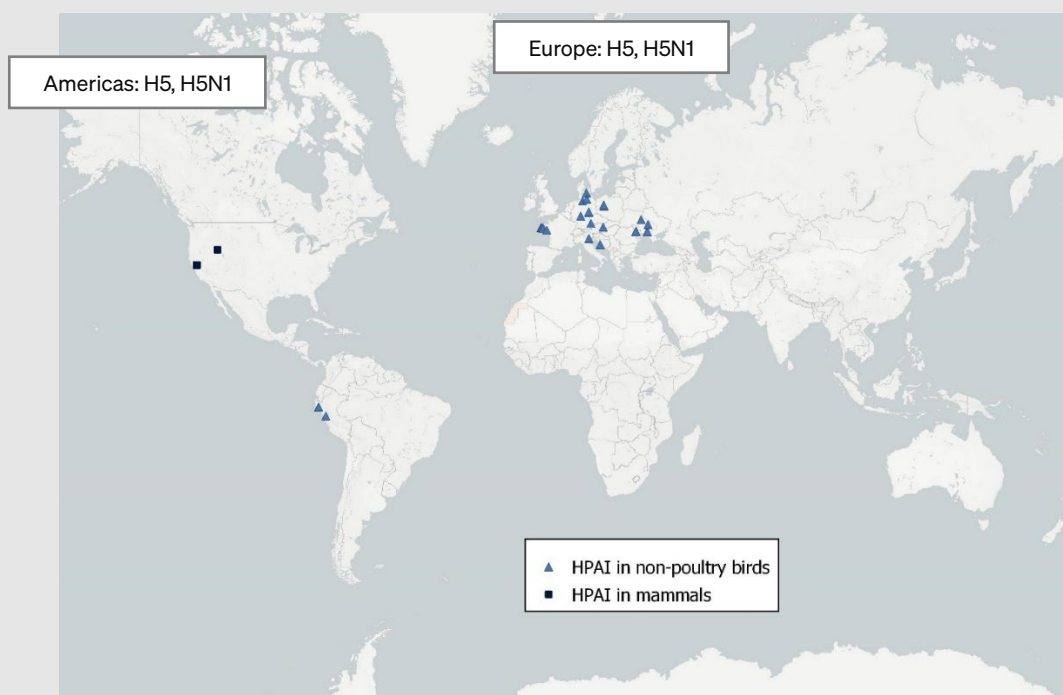


Figure 4. Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in non-poultry animals reported through WAHIS, and corresponding subtypes.

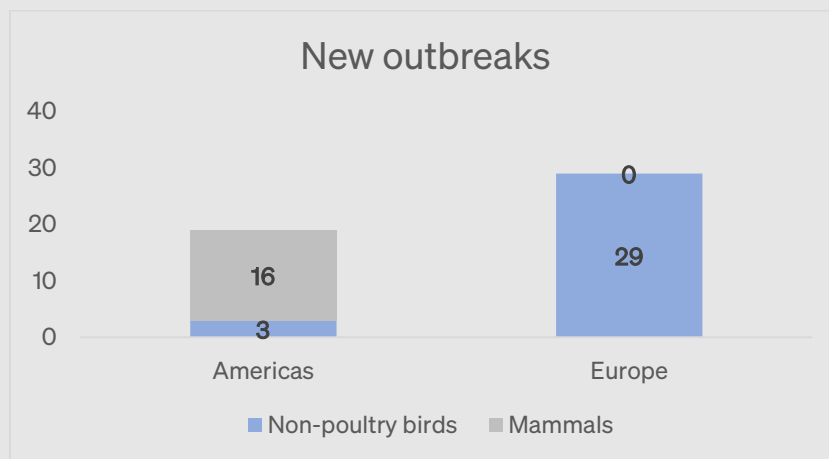


Figure 5. Number of new outbreaks reported through WAHIS by geographical region.

Self-declarations of freedom published during the 5-week period

In accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, Members may wish to self-declare the freedom of their country, zone or compartment from HPAI. A Member wishing to publish its self-declaration for disease-freedom, should provide the relevant documented evidence of compliance with the provisions of the Code.

No declaration was published during the period covered by this report.

Recent news

[Updated joint FAO/WHO/WOAH assessment of recent influenza A\(H5N1\) virus events in animals and people](#)

[Global strategy for the prevention and control of high pathogenic avian influenza \(2024–2033\)](#)

[High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in Cattle](#)

[GF-TADs meeting: Detection of HPAI in ruminants and humans in the USA](#)

[Wildlife under threat as avian influenza reaches Antarctica](#)

[WOAH policy brief: Avian influenza vaccination: why it should not be a barrier to safe trade](#)

[WOAH's Animal Health Forum reshapes avian influenza prevention and control strategies](#)

[WOAH Statement on avian influenza and mammals](#)

WOAH resources

[Avian influenza portal](#)

[Self-declared disease status](#)

[World Animal Health Information System \(WAHIS\)](#)

Animal Health Forum on avian influenza: policy to action: The case of avian influenza – reflections for change

Strategic challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza

Resolution adopted in WOAHA General Session 2023: Strategic challenges in the global control of HPAI

Considerations for emergency vaccination of wild birds against high pathogenicity avian influenza in specific situations

Practical guide for authorised field responders to HPAI outbreaks in marine mammals

Awareness tools

Infographic: Understanding avian influenza

Avian influenza: understanding new dynamics to better combat the disease

Avian influenza: why strong public policies are vital

Video: Avian influenza threatens wild birds across the globe

For any press inquiry on HPAI, email us at media@woah.org.

OFFLU resources

[OFFLU summary report from the WHO Vaccine Composition Meetings \(September 2024\)](#)

[Webinar: OFFLU avian influenza matching for poultry vaccines \(July 2024\)](#)

[OFFLU statement on high pathogenicity avian influenza in dairy cows](#)

[Updated OFFLU statement on high pathogenicity avian influenza in dairy cows](#)

[OFFLU diagnostic guidance: HPAI dairy cattle](#)

[OFFLU ad-hoc group on HPAI H5 in wildlife of South America and Antarctica: Southward expansion of high pathogenicity avian influenza H5 in wildlife in South America: estimated impact on wildlife populations, and risk of incursion into Antarctica](#)

[OFFLU statement: Continued expansion of high pathogenicity avian influenza H5 in wildlife in South America and incursion into the Antarctic region](#)

Other relevant resources

Cumulative number of confirmed human cases for avian influenza A(H5N1) reported to WHO, 2003-2023

WHO, Human infection with avian influenza A(H5) viruses

Epidemiological Alert Outbreaks of avian influenza and human infection caused by influenza A(H5) public health implications in the Region of the Americas

WHO, Influenza at the human-animal interface, Summary and risk assessment, from 27 February to 28 March 2024

HPAI detections in livestock