

HIGH PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

Situation Report 68

Period covered:

February 2025

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.

Key messages and Recommendations

The new HPAI season which started in October 2024 continued in February 2025 with 121 outbreaks being reported in poultry and 166 outbreaks in non-poultry birds and mammals in Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania for the reporting month. About 11.4 million poultry birds died or were culled during the month, mostly in the Americas. It is interesting to note that **the total number of outbreaks in poultry notified for the first 5 months since the start of the current seasonal wave (October 2024-September 2025) already exceeded the number of outbreaks notified for the whole year of the previous wave (October 2023-September 2024), (949 outbreaks in the current wave vs 786 in the previous wave). The number of outbreaks in wild birds notified for the first 5 months since the start of the current seasonal wave is also comparable to those for the whole year of the previous wave (1028 outbreaks in the current wave vs 1062 in the previous wave).**

In Europe, the number of outbreaks among wild birds has been increasing since January 2025. During this period, United Kingdom newly reported cases in mammals. Research community present on site continue to report several suspected cases of HPAI in the sub-Antarctic islands and Antarctica proper (<https://scar.org/library-data/avian-flu>). The situation in Antarctica is of particular concern, as experts fear the negative impact of HPAI on Antarctic wildlife and biodiversity.

Given the spread of HPAI across the globe, continued surveillance in wild and domestic species is warranted. As this pathogen is impacting wildlife, livestock, and public health, a One Health approach to management would be beneficial. WOA, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), released the [The Global Strategy for the](#)

[Prevention and Control of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza \(2024–2033\)](#) in February 2025. This new global strategy aims to mitigate the impact of the HPAI over the next ten years.

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;
- 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 WOAHA: 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 as of 28 February 2025, according to the information submitted to WOAHA through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and aims to contribute to awareness of the global situation. Although all the information used in this report is already publicly accessible via the WOAHA website, the report aims to intelligently combine these various sources of information to present WOAHA 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 WOAHA 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 633 million poultry worldwide between 2005 and 2024, with an unprecedented

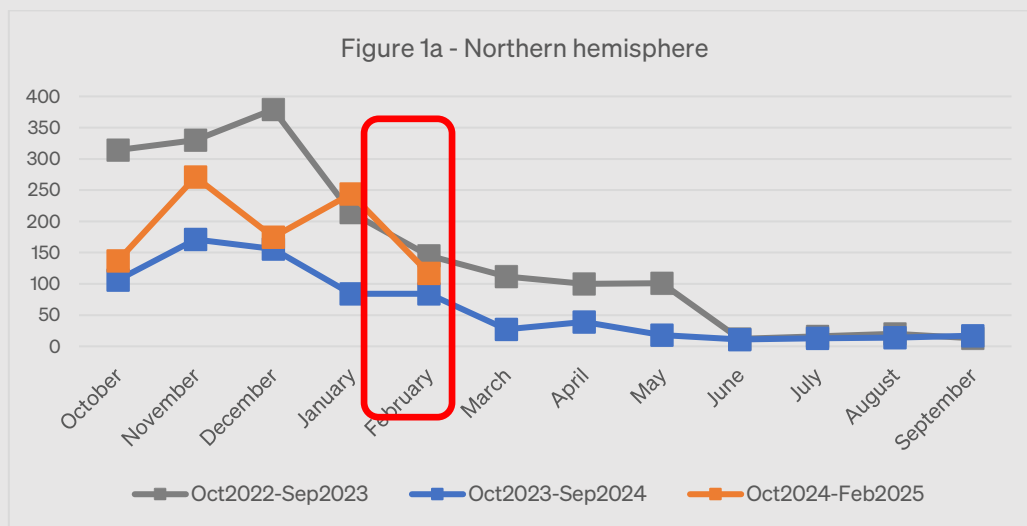
peak of 146 million in 2022. During the peak in 2022, 84 countries and territories in the world were affected with HPAI, a number comparable to the 82 affected in 2024. In addition, up to now, humans have been occasionally infected with several subtypes of avian influenza (mainly H5N1, H7N9, H5N6, H9N2 with more than 2500 cases since 2003)^{1,2}.

As described in the [Animal Health Situation Worldwide](#) report presented by WOAHA 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:

- its global spread and the increase in the number of countries and territories affected worldwide, including an unprecedented spread to Latin America in 2022 and Antarctica in 2024;
- 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 has started in October 2024 (October 2024 to September 2025), as well as the two previous waves for comparison. The red rectangle indicates where we currently are in the 2024/2025 cycle based on the period covered in “recent updates” below.



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](#)

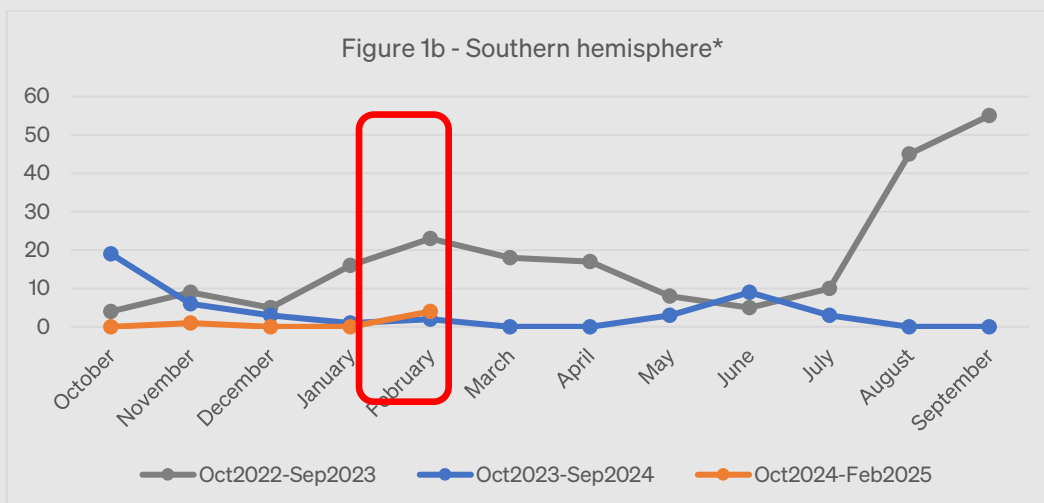


Figure 1. HPAI outbreaks of January in poultry reported to WOAHA the seasonal wave which started in October (October 2024 to September 2025), as well as the two previous waves for comparison. Data is presented by month and by hemisphere.

* 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 WOAHA to provide data aggregated by semester (and not by month). This is an important limitation, as the country reported an average of 17 outbreaks per six-month period between the second half of 2022 and the second half of 2023, which is significant on a hemispheric scale.

HPAI key figures for the current seasonal wave and the two previous waves

	Oct 2022-Sep 2023	Oct 2023-Sep 2024	Oct 2024-Sep 2025 (as of 28 February)
Countries and territories reporting HPAI in poultry	50	40	39 <i>(of which two reported stable situations through six monthly reports and are not covered in the “recent updates” section below)</i>
No. of HPAI outbreaks in poultry	1971	786	949
Countries and territories reporting HPAI in wild birds	63	52	48 <i>(of which one reported stable situation through six monthly reports and are not covered in the “recent updates” section below)</i>
No. of HPAI outbreaks in wild birds	3975	1062	1028
Countries and territories reporting HPAI in mammals	21	12	8

HPAI map for the current seasonal wave (Oct 2024-Sep 2025, as of February 2025)

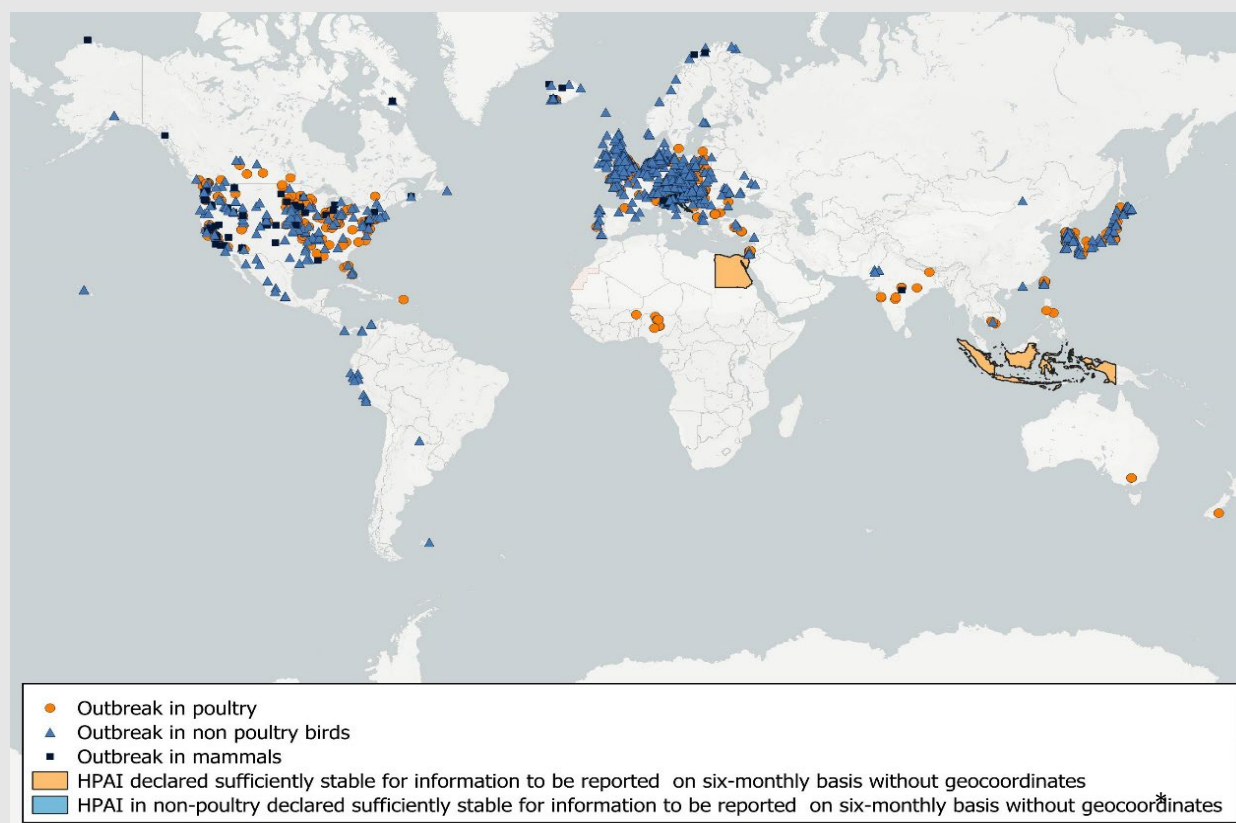


Figure 2. HPAI map for the current seasonal wave (October 2024-September 2025, as of February 2025).

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

Recent Updates (February 2025)

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 in February 2025 (reported through immediate notifications); (b) information on events that started before February 2025 but were still ongoing during that period; (c) the geographic distribution of new outbreaks⁴ that started in February 2025, together with figures on numbers of outbreaks, cases, losses and animals vaccinated in response to outbreaks. The different subtypes of HPAI circulating during February 2025 are also listed below. This information is based on the immediate notifications and follow-up reports received by WOA through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).

³ As defined in [Article 1.1.2](#) of the WOA 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 WOA Terrestrial Animal Health Code, an “outbreak” means the occurrence of one or more cases in an epidemiological unit.

HPAI in poultry

New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

Africa

H5N1:

A recurrence started in Niger (Niamey) on 5 February 2025.

Asia

H5N1:

A recurrence started in Nepal (province 1) on 2 February 2025.

Europe

H5N1:

Two recurrences started in the United Kingdom:

- In England on 6 February 2025.
- In Northern Ireland on 14 February 2025.

A recurrence started in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska) on 7 February 2025.

A recurrence started in Belgium (Vlaanderen) on 17 February 2025.

A recurrence started in Sweden (Kristianstad) on 21 February 2025.

Oceania

H7N8:

A recurrence started in Australia (Victoria) on 3 February 2025.

Americas

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: Cambodia, India, Korea (Rep. of)

Europe

H5N1: Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Poland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom

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, 121 new outbreaks in poultry were notified by 17 countries and territories (Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia,

Germany, Hungary, India, Korea (Rep. of), Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Poland, Sweden, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States of America). Details are presented in Figures 3 and 4.

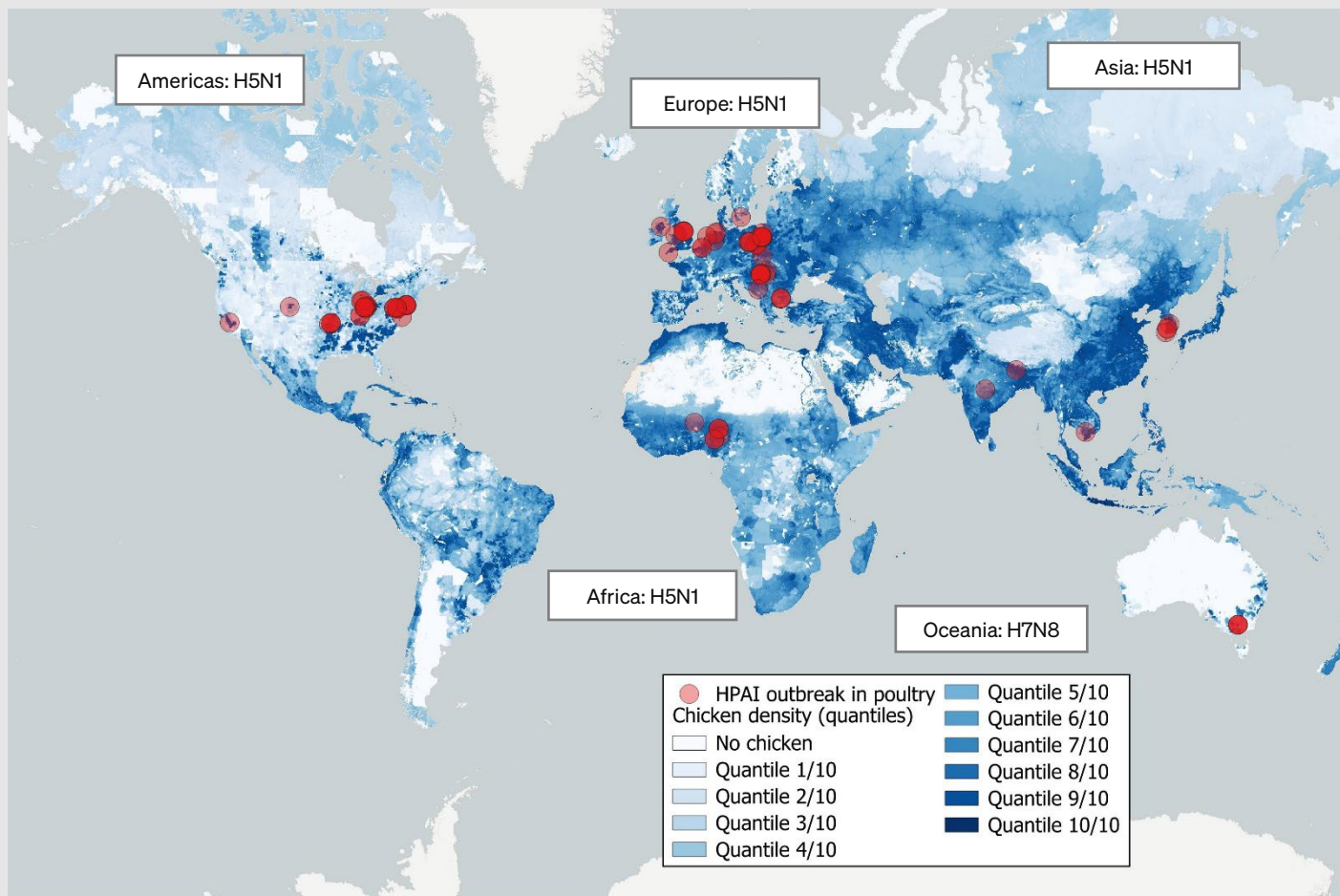


Figure 3. Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in poultry, and corresponding subtypes. The outbreaks are presented on top of the chicken density layer⁵ produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - [GLW 4: Gridded Livestock Density \(Global - 2020 - 10 km\)](#)

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).

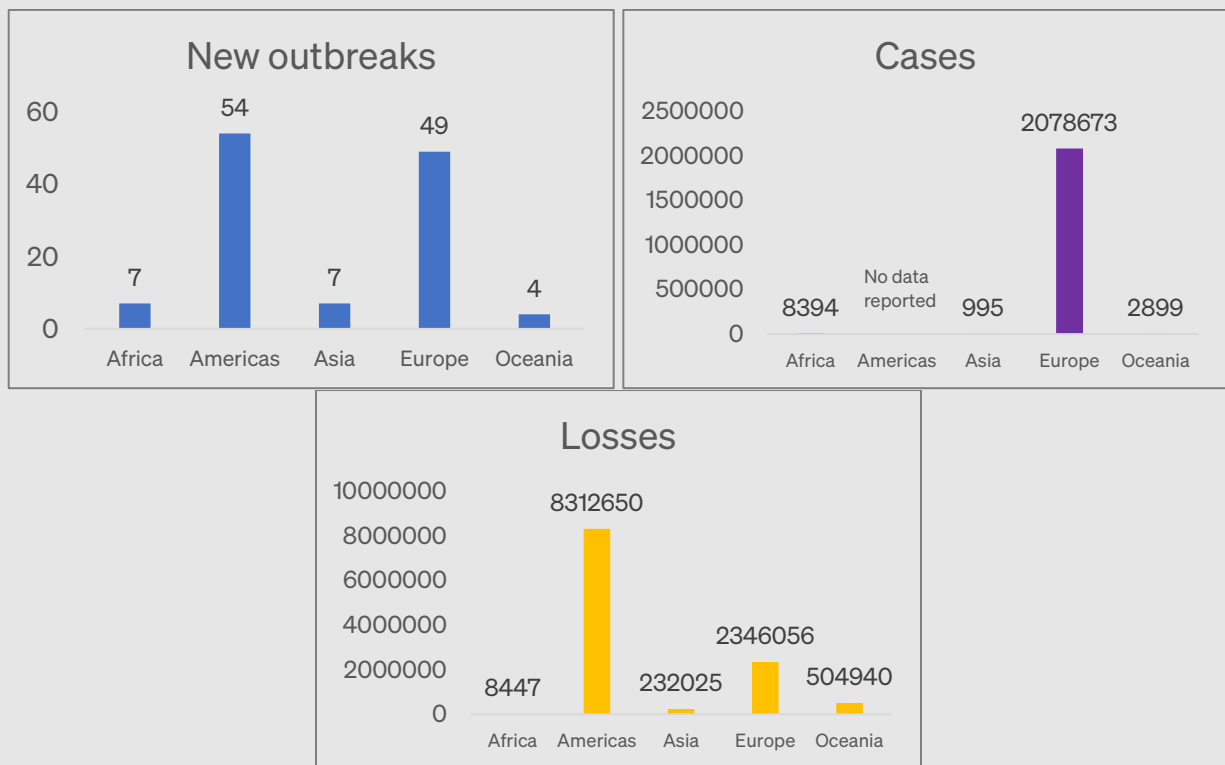


Figure 4. Number of new outbreaks, associated cases and losses (losses include animals dead and killed and disposed of within outbreaks – they do not include culling around outbreaks. It should also be noted that some countries or territories are unable to provide a precise number of cases and leave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

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 reports 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)

Americas

H5 in non-poultry birds:

A recurrence started in Argentina (CHACO) on 11 February 2025.

Asia

H5N1 in non-poultry birds:

A recurrence started in Türkiye (Rep. of) (Hatay) on 7 February 2025 (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian).

Europe

H5N1 in non-poultry birds:

A recurrence started in Germany (Bremen) on 4 February 2025.

A recurrence started in Ukraine (Sumy) on 6 February 2025.

Two recurrences started in Belgium:

- In Belgian Exclusive Economic Zone on 11 February 2025.
- In Vlaanderen on 11 February 2025.

A recurrence started in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Federacija Bosna i Hercegovina) on 12 February 2025.

A recurrence started in Greece (Florina) on 14 February 2025.

A recurrence started in Ireland (Wicklow) on 17 February 2025.

H5N5 in mammals: An event started in United Kingdom (England) (Grey seal [*Halichoerus grypus*]) on 7 February 2025.

Africa 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 non-poultry birds: Canada (Clade: 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Reassortment Eurasian and North American), United States of America

H5N1 in mammals: United States of America (bovine and cats)

Asia

H5N1 in non-poultry birds: Japan, Korea (Rep. of)

Europe

H5N1 in non-poultry birds: Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian), Germany, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom

Africa and Oceania

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

Antarctica

Several reports of suspect HPAI cases in subantarctic islands and in Antarctica proper. Details coming from the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and available here: <https://scar.org/library-data/avian-flu>. The [Updated Biological Risk Assessment and Recommendations for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Antarctica](#) published on behalf of the SCAR Antarctic Wildlife Health Network on 03 December 2024 presents a summary of the situation as well as recommendations.

New outbreaks

During the period covered by this report, a total of 166 outbreaks in non-poultry birds and mammals were reported through WAHIS by 24 countries and territories (Argentina, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Moldova, Peru, Poland, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Türkiye (Rep. of), Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America)⁶. Details are presented in Figures 5 and 6.

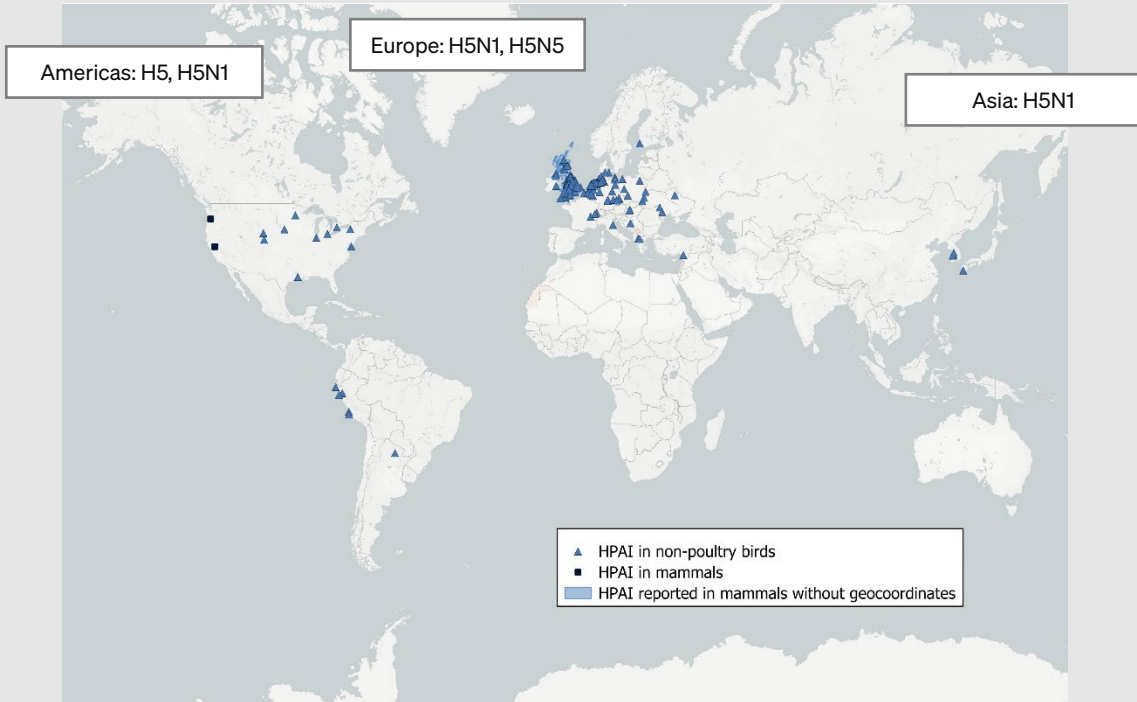


Figure 5. Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in non-poultry animals reported through WAHIS, and corresponding subtypes.

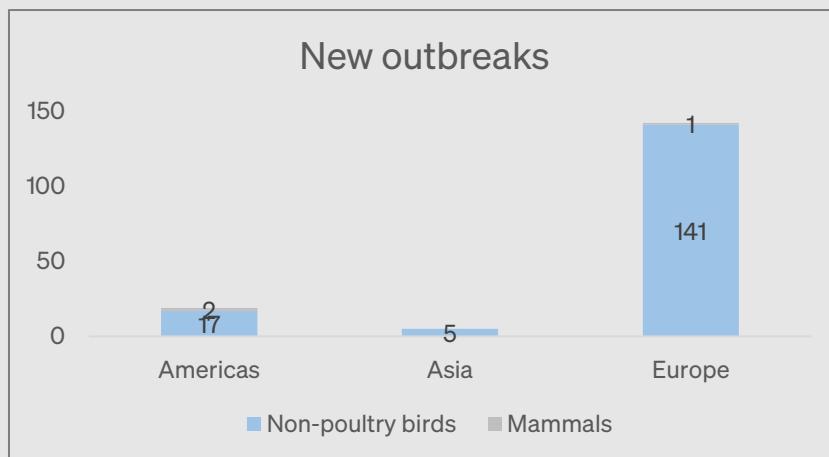


Figure 6. Number of new outbreaks reported through WAHIS by geographical region.

⁶ This list corresponds to countries and territories that have notified cases in wild birds, mammals or domestic birds other than poultry. This explains why their numbers are different from those presented on page 4 in the 'HPAI key figures for the current seasonal wave and the two previous waves' table, which does not cover domestic birds other than poultry.

Self-declarations of freedom published during February 2025

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.

The WOAAH Delegates of [France](#) and [Czech Republic](#) declared that the country complied with the requirements for recovery of freedom from infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses in poultry, as of 4 February and 13 February 2025, respectively, in accordance with Article 10.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code* (2024) and consistent with the information provided in WAHIS.

Recent news

[Meeting on Vaccination and Surveillance for HPAI in Poultry: Current Situation and Perspectives,](#)

[WOAH HQ, Paris – France, October 22-23, 2024.](#)

[Updated joint FAO/WHO/WOAH public health assessment of recent influenza A\(H5N1\) virus events in animals and people \(December 2024\)](#)

[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](#)

[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 February 2025 meeting](#)

[OFFLU Statement on the Development of a Global Consensus H5 Influenza Genotyping Framework](#)

[OFFLU Avian Influenza Vaccine Matching \(AIM\) for poultry vaccines: H5Nx executive summary \(October 2024\)](#)

[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

[FAO, Recommendations for the surveillance of influenza A\(H5N1\) in cattle](#)

[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 20 July to 27 September 2024](#)

[HPAI detections in livestock](#)