

Situation report period covered: 27 January 2024 to 16 February 2024

This report provides an update of the high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) situation, according to the information submitted through the World Animal Health Information System of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WAHIS) between 27 January and 16 February 2024 (3-week period).

Key messages

The current HPAI epidemic season continues with 35 outbreaks being reported in poultry and 64 in non-poultry birds over the 3 weeks covered by the report, in Americas, Asia and Europe. About 1.2 million poultry birds died or were culled worldwide mostly in Europe during the 3 weeks period. Based on the usual seasonal pattern of the disease, we may be reaching the peak of the epidemic (to be confirmed, depending on how the disease evolves over the coming months).

No outbreak was reported in mammals during the 3 weeks covered by the report, but WOAAH stresses the importance of reporting outbreaks of avian influenza in unusual hosts, as the virus has been increasingly detected in mammals in recent months, a situation that should be monitored.

WOAH recommends that countries 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.

WOAH also continues to pay close attention to the Antarctic region and is calling on the animal health community to monitor the situation. Experts are concerned about the huge potential negative impact of HPAI H5 on Antarctic wildlife. No case was reported in the region during the three weeks covered by the report.

During the period of interest, several human cases of avian influenza were reported to the World Health Organization (WHO): two in [Cambodia](#) between 26 and 28 January 2024 (subtype H5N1) and one in [China \(People's Rep. of\)](#) (coinfection with avian influenza A[H10N5] virus and seasonal influenza A[H3N2] virus). The three patients had exposure to poultry. Given reports of sporadic cases in humans, outbreaks in mammals, the widespread circulation in birds and the constantly evolving nature of influenza viruses, WHO continues to stress the importance of global surveillance to detect and monitor virological, epidemiological, and clinical changes associated with emerging or circulating influenza viruses that may affect human or animal health and timely virus sharing for risk assessment.

High quality of information is key to support early detection and rapid response to potential threats to both animal and public health.

Seasonal trend

Using data reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) between 2005 and 2019 by 76 affected countries and territories for 18,620 HPAI outbreaks in poultry, we carried out a Seasonal and Trend decomposition using Loess (STL) analysis to determine the seasonal pattern of the disease (detailed methodology presented in Awada et al., 2018¹). Based on the data reported to WOAAH, spread is lowest in September, begins to rise in October, and peaks in February. Figure 1 shows the global seasonal pattern of HPAI in poultry and the red rectangle indicates where we currently are in the cycle based on the period covered in “recent updates” below.

¹ Awada L, Tizzani P, Noh SM, Ducrot C, Ntsama F, Caceres P, Mapitse N and Chalvet-Monfray K, 2018. Global dynamics of highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in poultry between 2005 and 2016—focus on distance and rate of spread. *Transboundary and Emerging Diseases*, 65, 2006–2016. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tbed.12986>

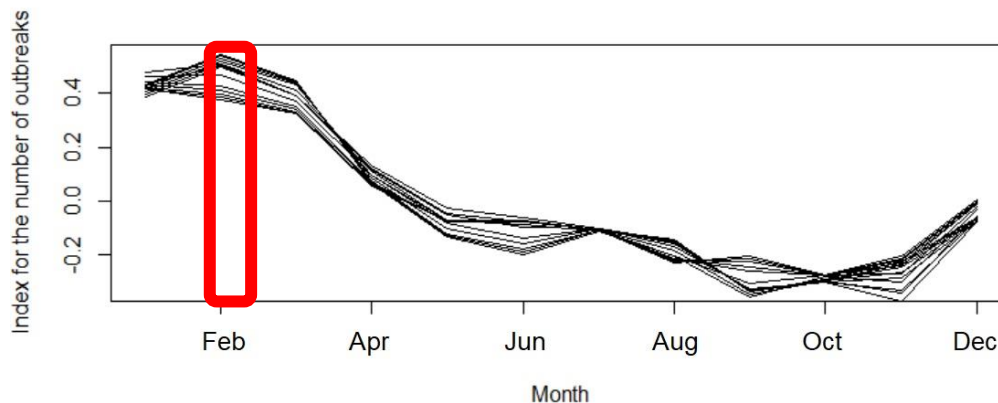


Figure 1. Seasonal trend in global HPAI incidence in poultry

Recent updates (27/01/2024-16/02/2024)

To describe the current disease situation of HPAI in poultry and in non-poultry birds, this section covers: (a) a list of new events² which started during the 3-week period (reported through immediate notifications); (b) information on events that started before the 3-week period but were still ongoing during that period; (c) the geographic distribution of new outbreaks³ that started during the 3-week period and d) events which started before the 3-week period but were reported during the 3-week period. The different subtypes of HPAI circulating during the 3-week period are also listed below. This information is based on the immediate notifications and follow-up reports received by WOA. H.

HPAI in poultry

New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

Asia

H5N6

A recurrence started in Japan (Kagoshima) on 10 February 2024.

Europe

H5N1

A recurrence started in Czech Republic (Kraj Vysočina, Pardubický) on 30 January 2024 (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian and Clade: 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Reassortment Eurasian and North American)

A recurrence started in Germany (Hessen) on 31 January 2024

A recurrence started in Russia (Sakhalin) on 1 February 2024

A recurrence started in Poland (Opolskie) on 11 February 2024

A recurrence started in United Kingdom (England) on 12 February 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):

Americas

H5N1

United States of America

Asia

H5N1

Cambodia, Japan

Europe

H5N1

² As defined in [Article 1.1.2](#) of the WOA. H. 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.

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

Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Moldova (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian), Poland, Slovakia (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian)

Africa, 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, a total of 35 new outbreaks in poultry were notified by 12 countries (Bulgaria, Cambodia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, United Kingdom, United States of America). Details are presented in Figures 2 and 3.



Figure 2. Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in poultry, and corresponding subtypes

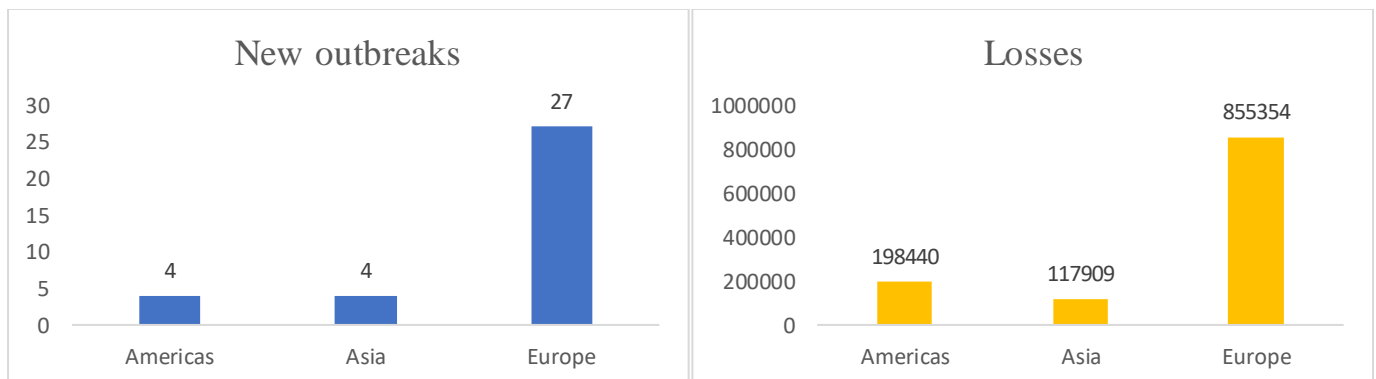


Figure 3. Number of new outbreaks and associated losses by geographical region (losses include animals dead and killed and disposed of within outbreaks – they do not include culling around outbreaks).

Events which started before the 3-week period but were reported during the 3-week period (reported through immediate notifications)

AsiaH5N1

A recurrence started in Cambodia (Prey Vêng) on 24 January 2024.

EuropeH5N1 (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian)

A recurrence started in Moldova (Strășeni) on 25 January 2024.

A recurrence started in Slovakia (Nitriansky) on 26 January 2024.

Africa, Americas, and Oceania

No events reported.

HPAI in non-poultry

New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

EuropeH5N1 in non-poultry birds

The first occurrence in the area of Cahul in Moldova started on 27 January 2024 (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian)

A recurrence started in Lithuania (Kauno) on 30 January 2024

A recurrence started in Slovenia (Podravska) on 3 February 2024 (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian)

A recurrence started in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska) on 6 February 2024

A recurrence started in Ukraine (Odessa) on 7 February 2024

Africa, Americas, 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):

AmericasH5N1 in non-poultry birds

Brazil, United States of America

EuropeH5N1 in non-poultry birds

Austria, Czech Republic (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian), Denmark, Germany, Poland, Romania,

Sweden, Ukraine

Africa, Asia, 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 64 outbreaks in non-poultry birds were reported through WAHIS by 14 countries (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, United States of America). Details are presented in Figures 4 and 5.

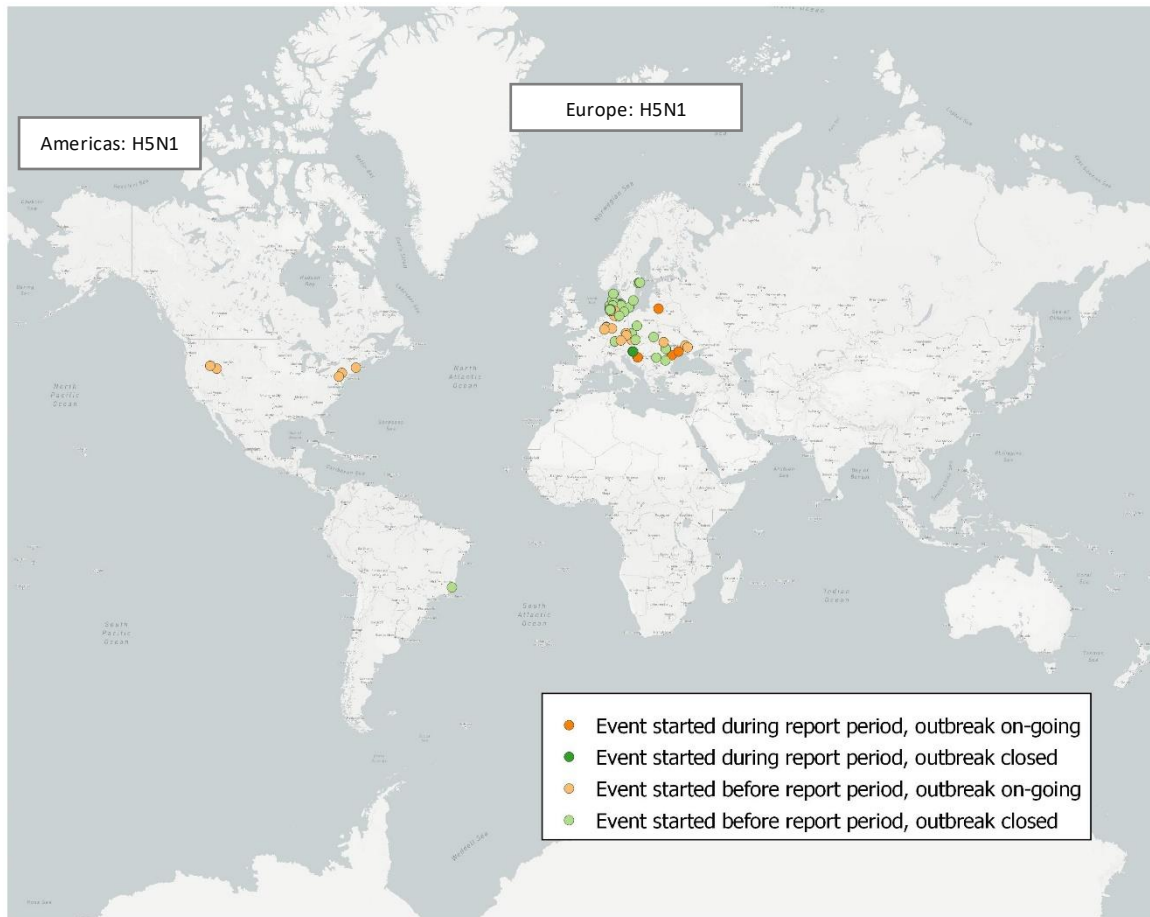


Figure 4. Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in non-poultry animals reported through WAHIS, and corresponding subtypes.

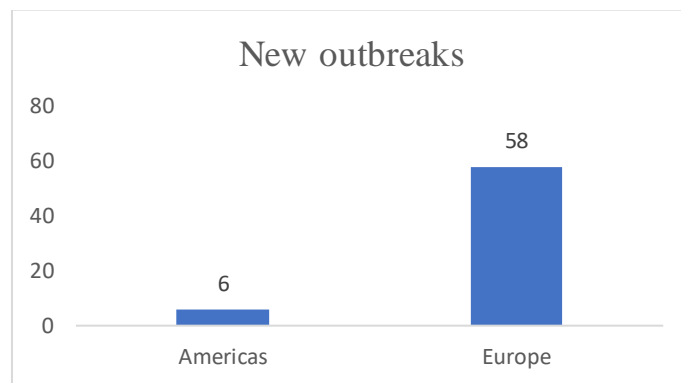


Figure 5. Number of new outbreaks reported through WAHIS by geographical region

Events which started before the 3-week period but were reported during the 3-week period (reported through immediate notifications or through emails)

Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania
No new events reported.

Other cases in mammals by world region (reported through emails)

Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania
No new cases reported.

Self-declarations of freedom submitted during the 3-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 Member submitted a self-declaration for HPAI during the three weeks covered by this report.

Epidemiological background

High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) is caused by influenza A viruses in the family Orthomyxoviridae. 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 557 million poultry worldwide between 2005 and 2023, with an unprecedented peak of 141 million in 2022. During this peak in 2022, more than 85 countries and territories in the world were affected with HPAI. In addition, up to now, humans have occasionally been infected with subtypes H5N1 (around 870 cases reported, of which half died), H7N9 (around 1,500 cases reported, of which about 600 died), H5N6 (around 80 cases reported, of which about 30 died), H9N2 (around 80 cases reported, of which 2 died) and sporadic cases have been reported with subtypes H3N8, H7N4, H7N7 and H10N3^{4,5,6,7,8}.

Recent news

- [WOAH policy brief: Avian influenza vaccination: why it should not be a barrier to safe trade](#)
- [OFFLU statement: Continued expansion of high pathogenicity avian influenza H5 in wildlife in South America and incursion into the Antarctic region](#)
- [OFFLU call to discuss AI in the Latin America and Caribbean Region](#)
- [OFFLU avian influenza matching \(OFFLU-AIM\) report](#)
- [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's annual report: tackling animal influenza through data sharing](#)
- [WOAH's Animal Health Forum reshapes avian influenza prevention and control strategies](#)
- [WOAH Statement on avian influenza and mammals](#)
- [OFFLU statement: Infections with Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\) virus in cats in Poland](#)

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 WOA General Session 2023: Strategic challenges in the global control of HPAI](#)

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](#)

Press inquiries: media@woah.org

OFFLU resources

- [OFFLU annual report 2022](#)

⁴ Chen H. 2019. H7N9 viruses. *Cold Spring Harb Perspect Med* doi: 10.1101/cshperspect.a038349

⁵ WHO. Influenza (Avian and other zoonotic), 2018, available at [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-\(avian-and-other-zoonotic\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-(avian-and-other-zoonotic))

⁶ WHO. Cumulative number of confirmed human cases for avian influenza A(H5N1) reported to WHO,

2003-2022, 25 November 2022, available at https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/influenza/human-animal-interface-risk-assessments/2022_nov_tableh5n1.pdf?sfvrsn=babfcad1_1&download=true

⁷ Yang L, Zhu W, Li X, Chen M, Wu J, Yu P, Qi S, Huang Y, Shi W, Dong J, Zhao X, Huang W, Li Z, Zeng X, Bo H, Chen T, Chen W, Liu J, Zhang Y, Liang Z, Shi W, Shu Y, Wang D. 2017a. Genesis and spread of newly emerged highly pathogenic H7N9 avian viruses in mainland China. *J Virol* doi: <https://doi.org/10.1128/JVI.01277-17>

⁸ WHO Avian Influenza Weekly Update Number 924, <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/365675/AI-20231201.pdf?sequence=1906&isAllowed=y>

- [OFFLU Statement on high pathogenicity avian influenza caused by viruses of the H5N1 subtype](#)
- [OFFLU avian influenza matching \(AIM\) pilot study](#)
- [OFFLU avian influenza VCM report for WHO vaccine composition meetings \(September 2023\)](#)

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 2 November to 21 December 2023](#)