

HIGH PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) Situation Report 66

Period covered:

December 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.

Key messages and Recommendations

The new HPAI season which started in October 2024 continued in December 2024 with 93 outbreaks being reported in poultry and 293 in non-poultry birds and mammals in the Americas and Europe. About 9.1 million poultry birds died or were culled during the month, mostly in the Americas.

In this period, the number of outbreaks in non-poultry notified to WOAHP significantly increased compared to November, including a rise in outbreaks among mammals while the number of outbreaks in poultry appears to have decreased based on the current data available. Cases in mammals continued to be reported in the United States of America, with outbreaks in cattle significantly contributing to the increase. During this period, Norway and Slovenia newly reported cases in mammals.

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.

The recurrence of HPAI in Antarctica is of particular concern, as experts fear the negative impact of HPAI on Antarctic wildlife and biodiversity. WOAHP is calling on the animal health community to monitor the situation. In addition to the information reported through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), Members can find more information on recent and previous reports of HPAI occurrences in wildlife on and around Antarctica at <https://scar.org/library-data/avian-flu>.

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, WOAH also recommends:

- including avian influenza as a differential diagnosis in mammals with high risk of exposure to the viruses;
- reporting to WOAH 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 WOAH: 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 31 December 2024, according to the information submitted to WOAH 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 WOAH 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 WOAH 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 this peak in 2022, 84 countries and territories in the world were affected with HPAI. On the other hand, this number decreased in 2024, reaching 80 countries and territories. 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 WOAHP 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.

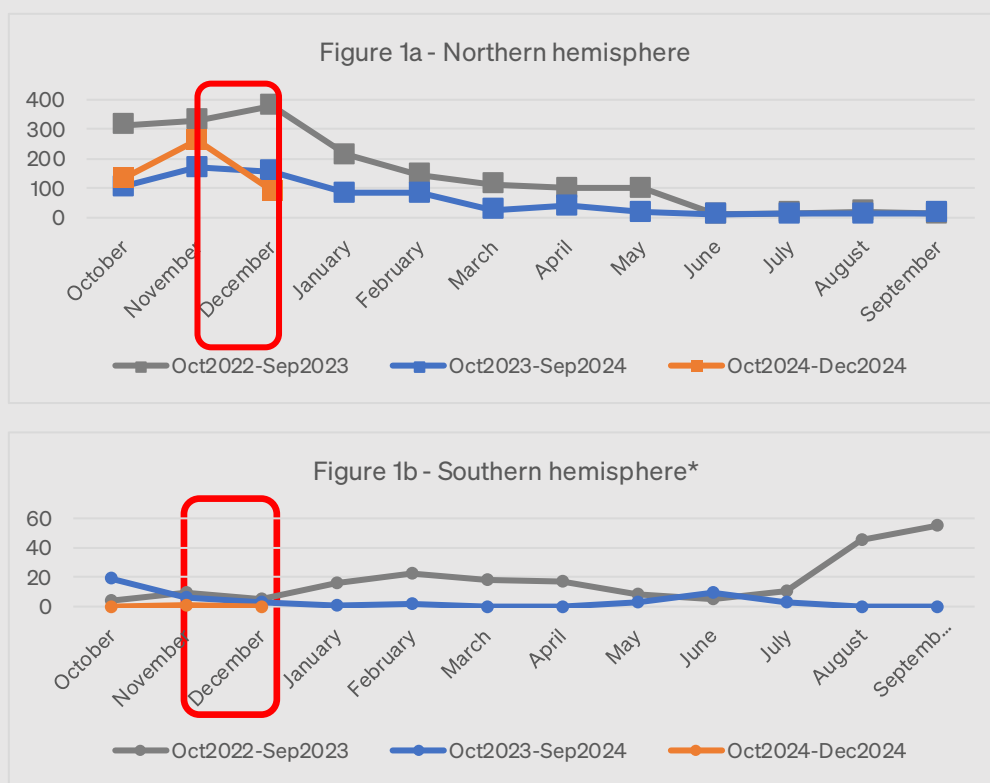


Figure 1. HPAI outbreaks of December in poultry reported to WOAHP the seasonal wave which started in October (October 2024 to September 2025), as well as the two previous waves for comparison. Data is presented by month and by hemisphere.

* For the southern hemisphere (Figure 1b), it is important to highlight that the seasonality analysis does not take into

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](#)

account Indonesia, which has declared a sufficiently stable situation to WOAAH 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 31 December)
Countries and territories reporting HPAI in poultry	50	40	25 <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	491
Countries and territories reporting HPAI in wild birds	63	52	34 <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	508
Countries and territories reporting HPAI in mammals	21	12	4

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

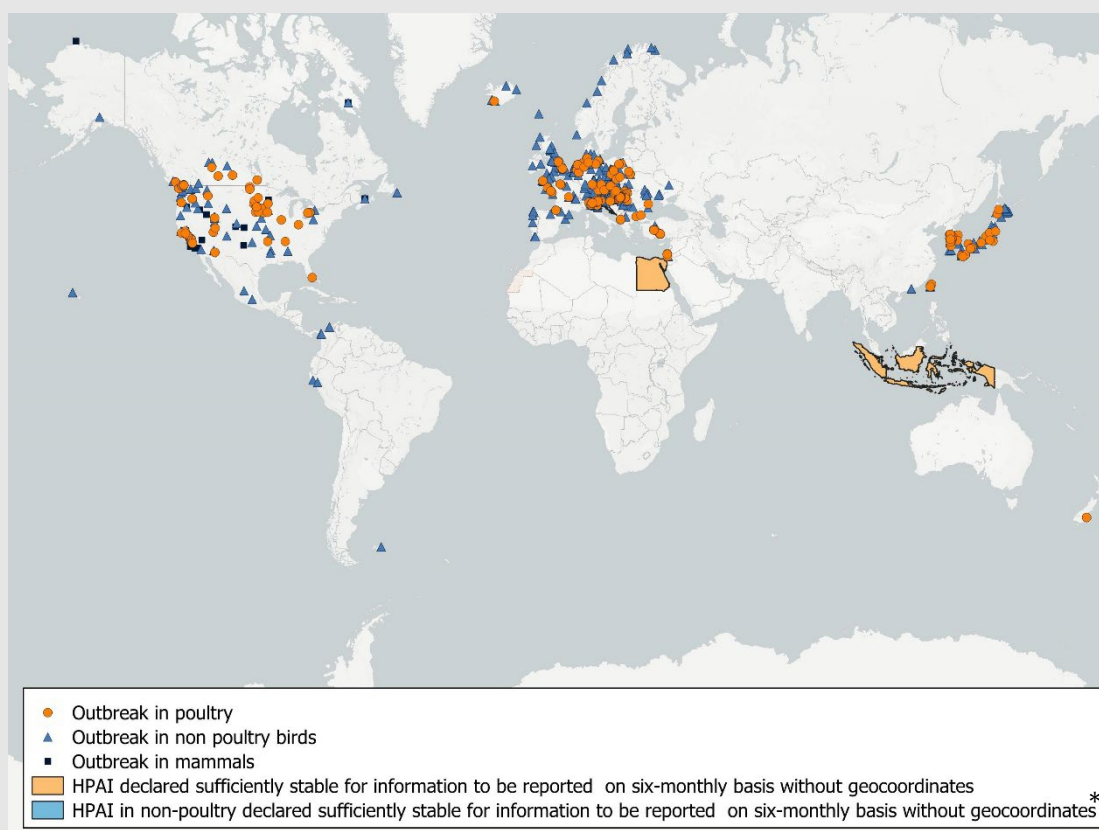


Figure 2. HPAI map for the current seasonal wave (October 2024–September 2025, as of December 2024).

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

Recent Updates (December 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 in December 2024 (reported through immediate notifications); (b) information on events that started before December 2024 but were still ongoing during that period; (c) the geographic distribution of new outbreaks⁴ that started in December 2024, together with figures on numbers of outbreaks, cases, losses and animals vaccinated in response to outbreaks. The different subtypes of HPAI circulating during December 2024 are also listed below. This information is based on the immediate notifications and follow-up reports received by WOAAH through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).

HPAI in poultry

New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

Europe

H5:

A recurrence started in Germany (Bayern) on 23 December 2024.

A recurrence started in France (Normandie) on 23 December 2024.

H5N1:

A recurrence started in the United Kingdom (England) on 1 December 2024.

A recurrence started in Albania (Tiranë) on 27 December 2024 (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian).

H5N5:

The first occurrence started in Iceland (Suðurland) on 2 December 2024.

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

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

Asia

H5N1: Chinese Taipei (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian), Israel (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian), Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Türkiye (Rep. of) (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian)

Europe

H5N1: Austria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, The Netherlands

Africa and 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, 93 new outbreaks in poultry were notified by 17 countries and territories (Albania, Austria, Canada, Chinese Taipei, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Poland, The Netherlands, Türkiye (Rep. of), United Kingdom, United States of America). Details are presented in Figures 3 and 4

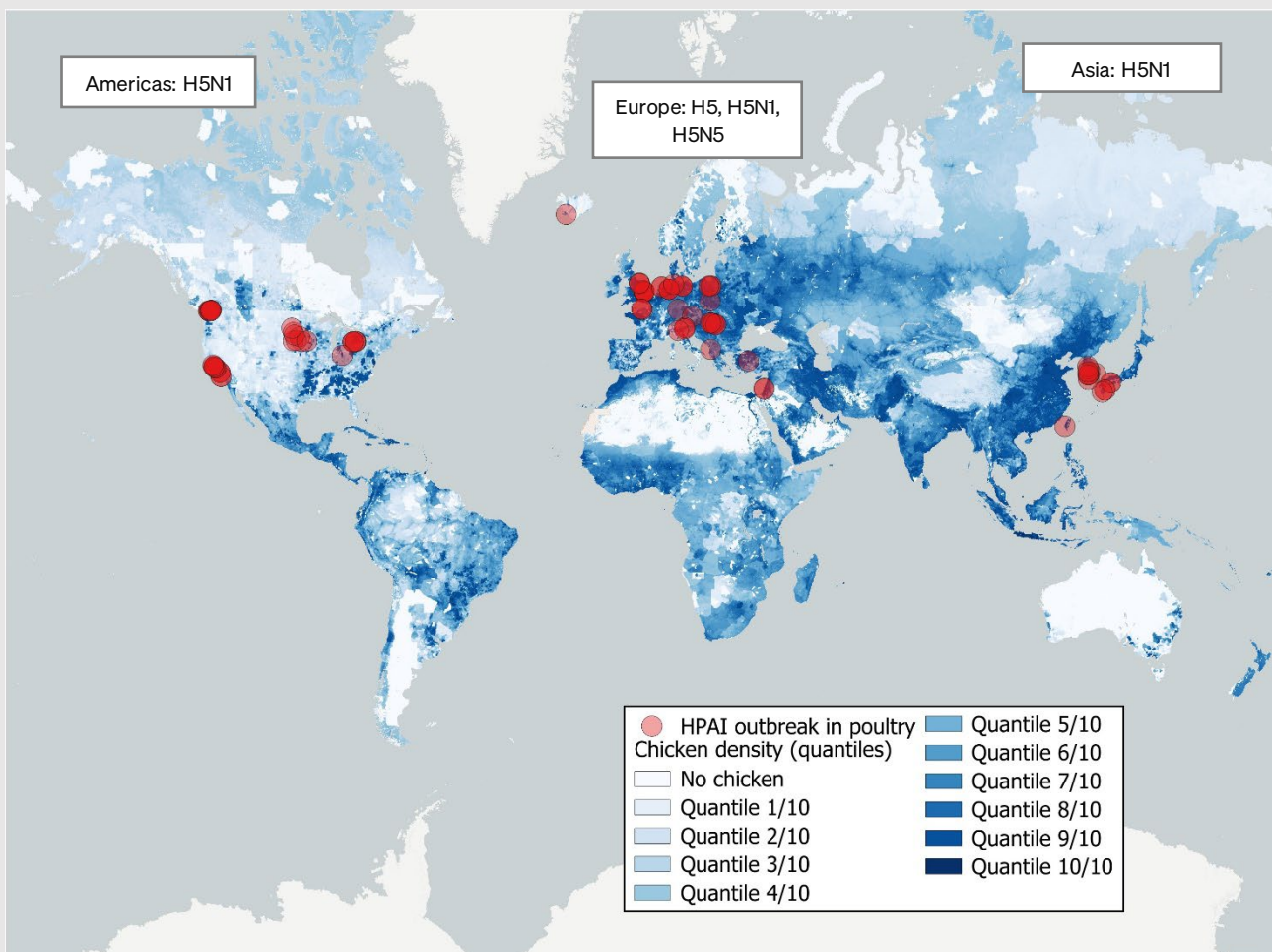


Figure 3. Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in poultry, and corresponding subtypes. The outbreaks are presented on top of the chicken density layer⁵ produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - [GLW 4: Gridded Livestock Density \(Global - 2020 - 10 km\)](#)

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).

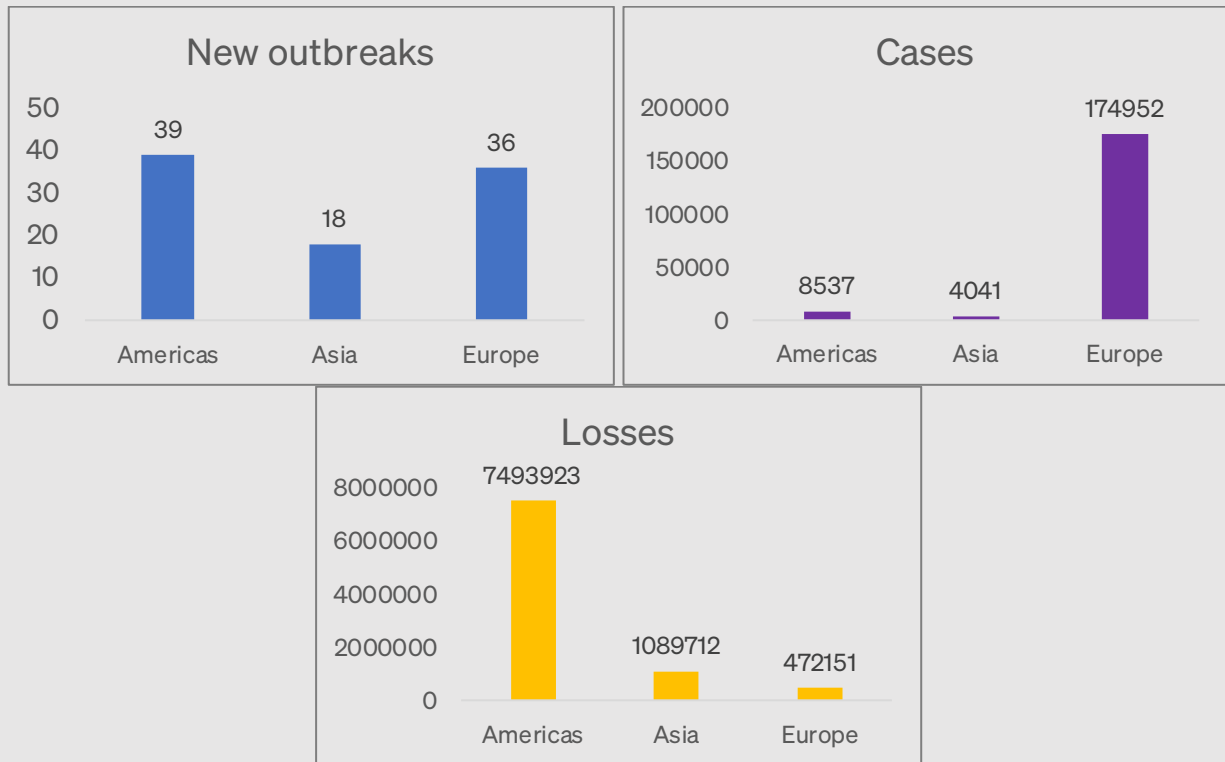


Figure 4. Number of new outbreaks, associated cases and losses (losses include animals dead and killed and disposed of within outbreaks – they do not include culling around outbreaks. It should also be noted that some countries or territories are unable to provide a precise number of cases and leave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

Europe

H5N1 in non-poultry birds:

A recurrence started in Portugal (Faro) on 4 December 2024.

Three recurrences started in Germany:

- In Baden-Württemberg on 9 December 2024.
- In Brandenburg on 16 December 2024.
- In Rheinland-Pfalz on 27 December 2024.

H5N1 in mammals:

An event started in Slovenia (Podravska) (*Vulpes vulpes*) on 4 December 2024 (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian).

H5N5 in mammals:

An event started in Norway (Troms Og Finnmark) (Lynx lynx) on 19 December 2024.

Africa, Asia, 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

H5 in non-poultry birds: Peru

H5N1 in non-poultry birds: Colombia and United States of America

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

Asia

H5N1 in non-poultry birds: Chinese Taipei (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian), Japan, Korea (Rep. of)

Europe

H5N1 in non-poultry birds: Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian), Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian), Switzerland, United Kingdom

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.

Africa 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 293 outbreaks in non-poultry birds and mammals were reported through WAHIS by 24 countries and territories (Austria, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Moldova, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States of America)⁶. Details are presented in Figures 5 and 6.

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.

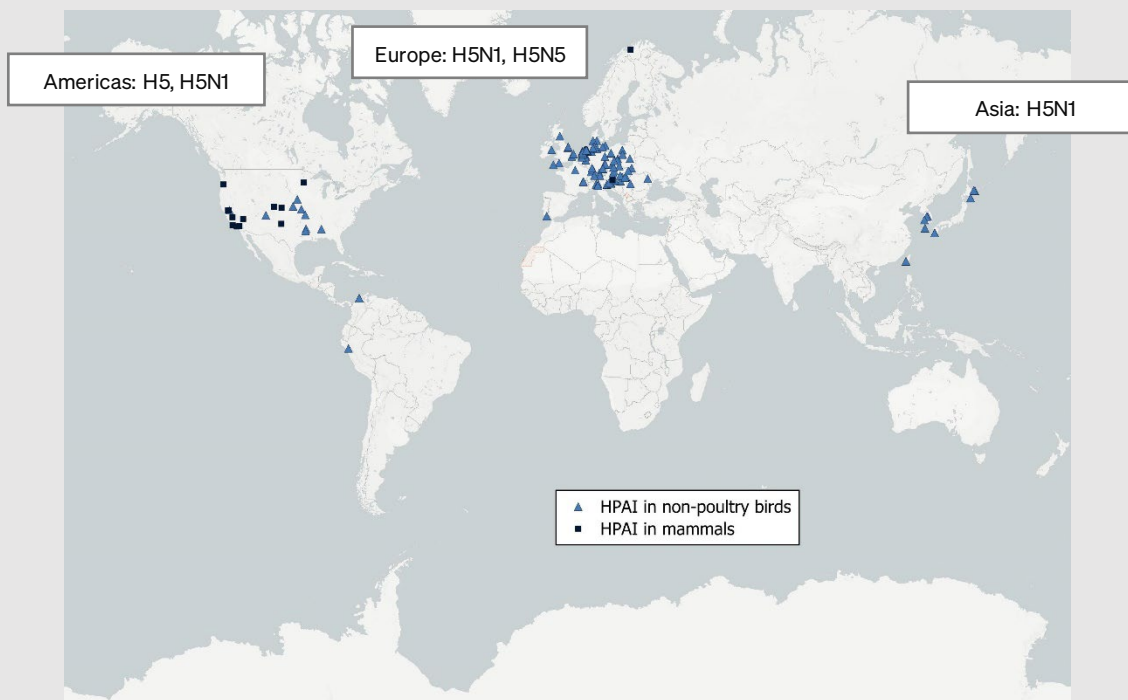


Figure 5. Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in non-poultry animals reported through WAHIS, and corresponding subtypes.

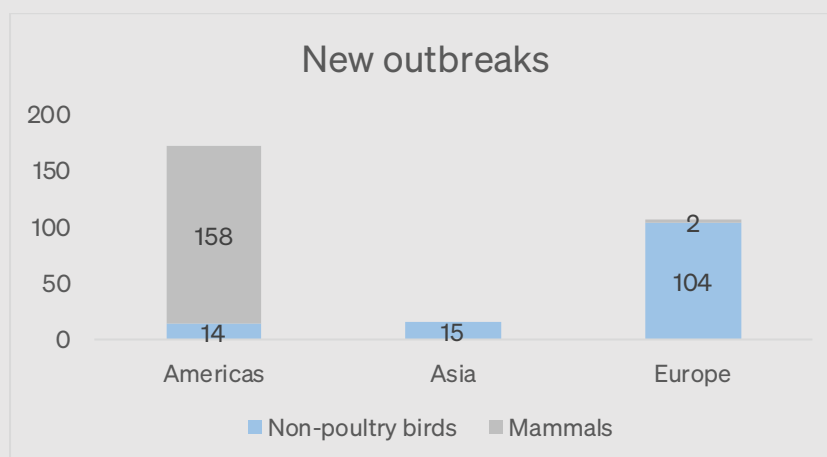


Figure 6. Number of new outbreaks reported through WAHIS by geographical region.

Self-declarations of freedom published during December 2024

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

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

[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

[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](#)