

HIGH PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

Situation Report 87

Period covered:

September 2026

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 epidemic wave that started in October 2025 continued in September 2026, with 20 outbreaks reported in poultry and 30 in non-poultry birds and mammals. Approximately 467,458 poultry birds died or were culled during the month.

The current epidemic wave reached its peak in poultry outbreaks in November 2025. Since then, the number of poultry outbreaks has shown a decreasing trend in the Northern Hemisphere, consistent with the known seasonality of HPAI in poultry. In contrast, the number of outbreaks reported in wild birds during the current season was significantly higher than in the two previous full epidemic seasons, with 7,831 outbreaks reported between October 2025 and September 2026 across 61 countries and territories.

In September 2026, 30 new outbreaks in non-poultry birds were reported across 13 countries and territories, including detections in Europe and the Americas. One new outbreak in mammals was reported in an Arctic fox in Norway. In addition, unusual mortality was observed in Snow Petrels in the sub-Antarctic islands and Antarctica proper, although no HPAI cases were confirmed or suspected in these areas during the reporting period.

Given the continued circulation of HPAI across geographical regions and animal species, sustained surveillance in wild and domestic animals remains essential. As this pathogen affects wildlife, livestock and public health, a One Health approach to management is important. WOAH recommends that Members maintain surveillance efforts, implement biosecurity and preventive measures at farm level, and ensure the timely reporting of HPAI outbreaks in poultry and non-poultry species. Early detection remains a key component of prevention. Transparency and international collaboration are essential to strengthening global preparedness.



Considering the situation in mammals, WOAAH also recommends:

- Including HPAI as a differential diagnosis in mammals at high risk of exposure to the virus.
- Sharing genetic sequences of avian influenza viruses and associated metadata in publicly available databases.
- Protecting people in close contact with sick livestock and their products, while avoiding unjustified trade restrictions.

High-quality epidemiological information is essential to support HPAI prevention and rapid response.

Considering the situation in mammals, WOAAH also recommends:

- including avian influenza as a differential diagnosis in mammals with high risk of exposure to the viruses;
- reporting to WOAAH 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 \(2026\)*](#), three categories of avian influenza are listed by WOAAH: 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. Based on Chapter 3.3.4 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Manual (2025)*, infection of bovines (*Bos taurus*) with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in poultry is defined as an emerging disease by WOAAH.

This report provides an update of the situation as of 30 September 2026 according to the information submitted to WOAAH 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 WOAAH website, the report aims to intelligently combine these various sources of information to present WOAAH Members with the most accurate information possible, while recognising the limitations of the data available on a global scale.

Contextual information

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 2025 (October 2025 to September 2026), as well as the two previous waves for comparison.

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

Table 1. HPAI key figures for the current seasonal wave and the two previous waves

	01 Oct 2023 - 30 Sep 2024	01 Oct 2024 - 30 Sep 2025	01 Oct 2025 - 30 Sep 2026
Countries and territories reporting HPAI in poultry	39	51	47
No. of HPAI outbreaks in poultry	851	1,431	1,646
Countries and territories reporting HPAI in wild birds	55	55	61
No. of HPAI outbreaks in wild birds	1,076	1,926	7,831

*Please note that regarding the ‘Countries and territories reporting HPAI in poultry’ in the current seasonal wave, two countries reported stable situations through six monthly reports and are not covered in the “recent updates” section below.

Regarding the ‘Countries and territories reporting HPAI in wild birds’ in the current seasonal wave, one out of 61 countries/territories reported stable situation through six monthly reports and are not covered in the “recent updates” section below.

Figure 1a - Northern hemisphere

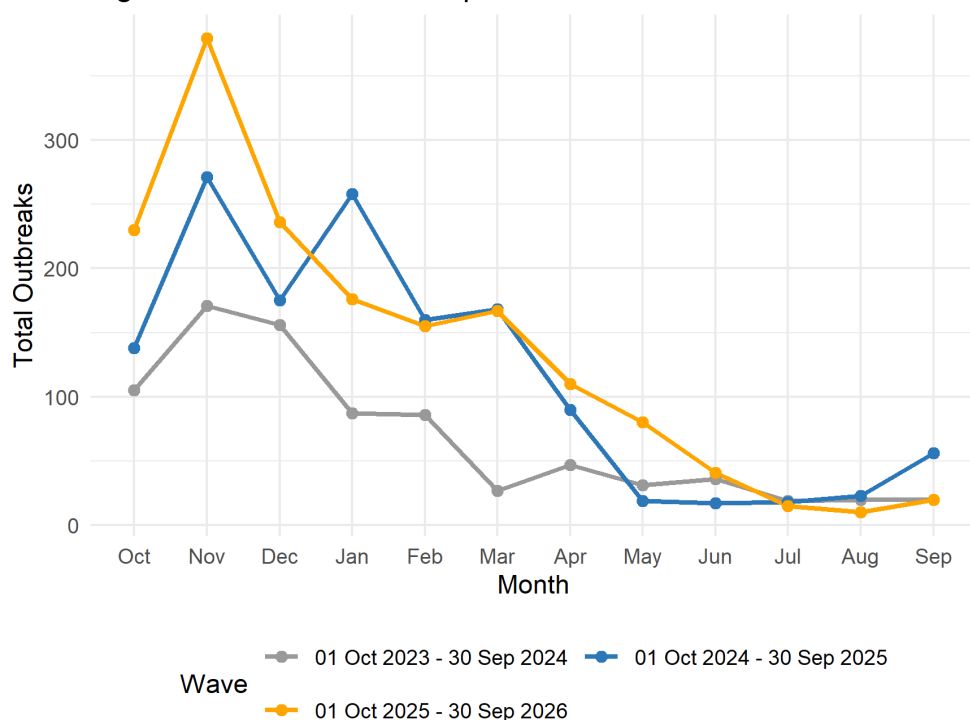


Figure 1b - Southern hemisphere

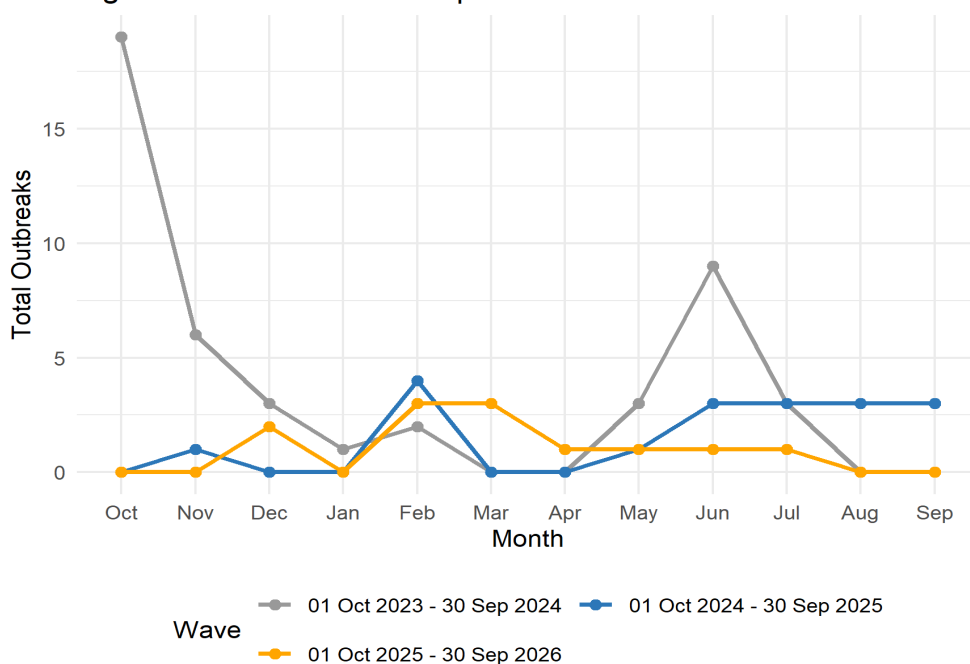


Figure 1. HPAI outbreaks as of September 2026 in poultry reported to WOAHP by seasonal waves. The current wave started in October 2025 (October 2025 to September 2026); the previous waves are included for comparison. Data is presented by month and by hemisphere.

*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 WOAHP 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 map for the current seasonal wave (Oct 2025-Sep 2026, as of September 2026)

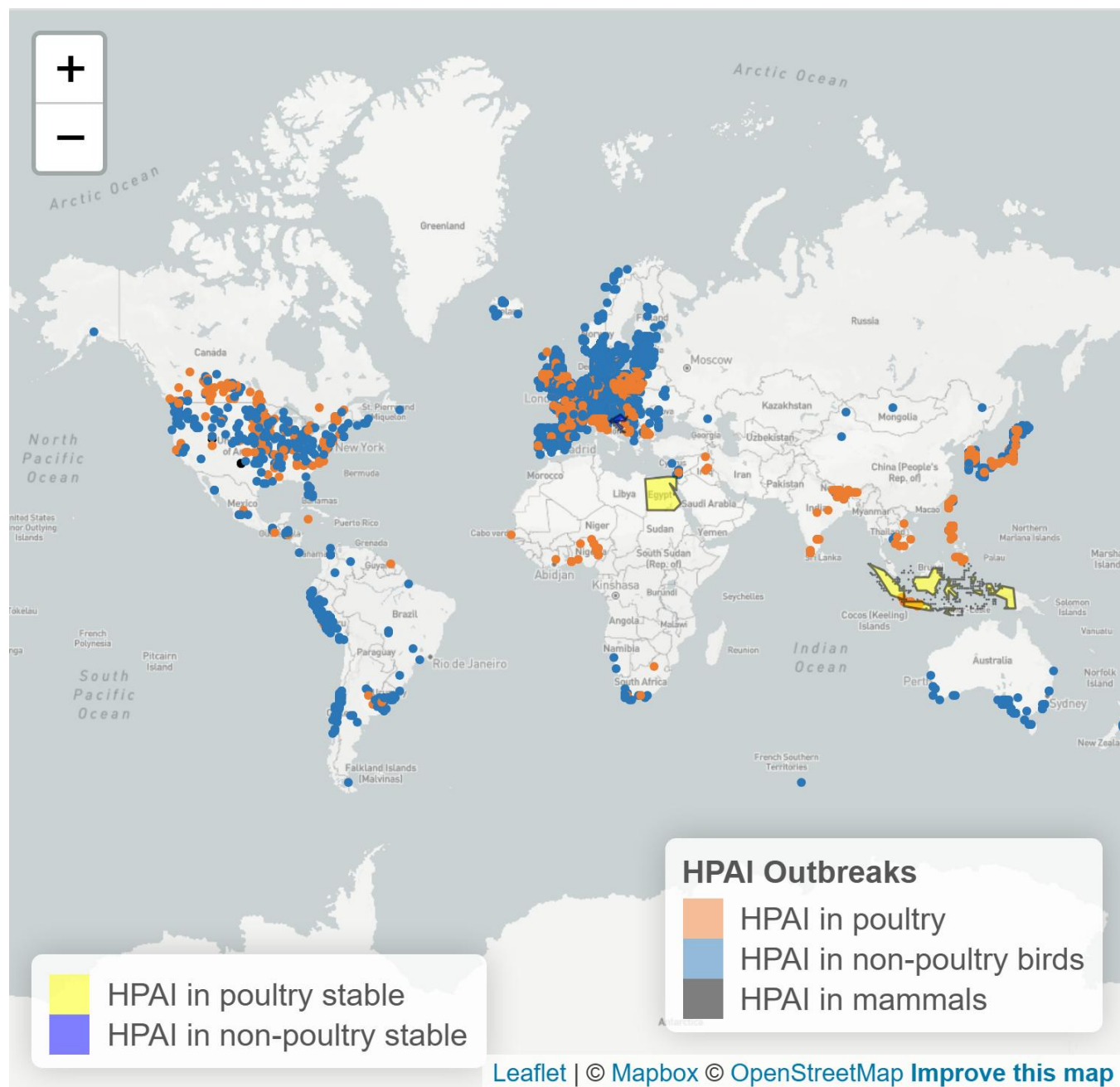


Figure 2. HPAI map for the current seasonal wave (October 2025–September 2026, as of September 2026). Please note that highlighted countries/territories in the map declared HPAI in poultry/non-poultry sufficiently stable for information to be reported on six-monthly basis without geocoordinates. The country in the purple category is Croatia (hidden by the outbreak dots that cover it).

Note: this map uses interactive Mapbox tiles, which are fixed to the Web Mercator projection (EPSG:3857). The Equal Earth projection (EPSG:8857) cannot be applied to tile-based interactive maps and is therefore not used here.

Recent Updates (September 2026)

To describe the current disease situation of HPAI in poultry and in non-poultry birds, this section covers: (a) a list of new events¹ which started in September 2026 (reported through immediate notifications); (b) information on events that started before September 2026 but were still ongoing during that period; (c) the geographic distribution of new outbreaks² that started in September 2026, together with figures on numbers of outbreaks, cases, losses and animals vaccinated in response to outbreaks. The different subtypes of HPAI circulating during September 2026 are also listed below. This information is based on the immediate notifications and follow-up reports received by WOAHP through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).

HPAI in poultry

New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

Region	Sub/genotype	Clade	Country/territory	Subnational area	Event_Start_Date
Americas			Suriname	Paramaribo	9 September 2026
Asia and the Pacific	H5N1		Cambodia	Otdar Mean Chey	21 September 2026
Europe	H5N5		United Kingdom	Scotland	21 September 2026

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

Region	Sub/genotype	Clade	Country/territory
Americas	H5N1		Canada , United States of America
Europe	H5N1	Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian	France
Europe	H5N1		Bulgaria

¹ As defined in [Article 11.2](#) of the WOAHP *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.

² As defined in the [glossary](#) of the WOAHP *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, an “outbreak” means the occurrence of one or more cases in an epidemiological unit.

New outbreaks

During the period covered by this report, 20 new outbreaks in poultry were notified by 7 countries and territories (Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, France, Suriname, United Kingdom, United States of America). Details are presented in Figures 3 and 4.

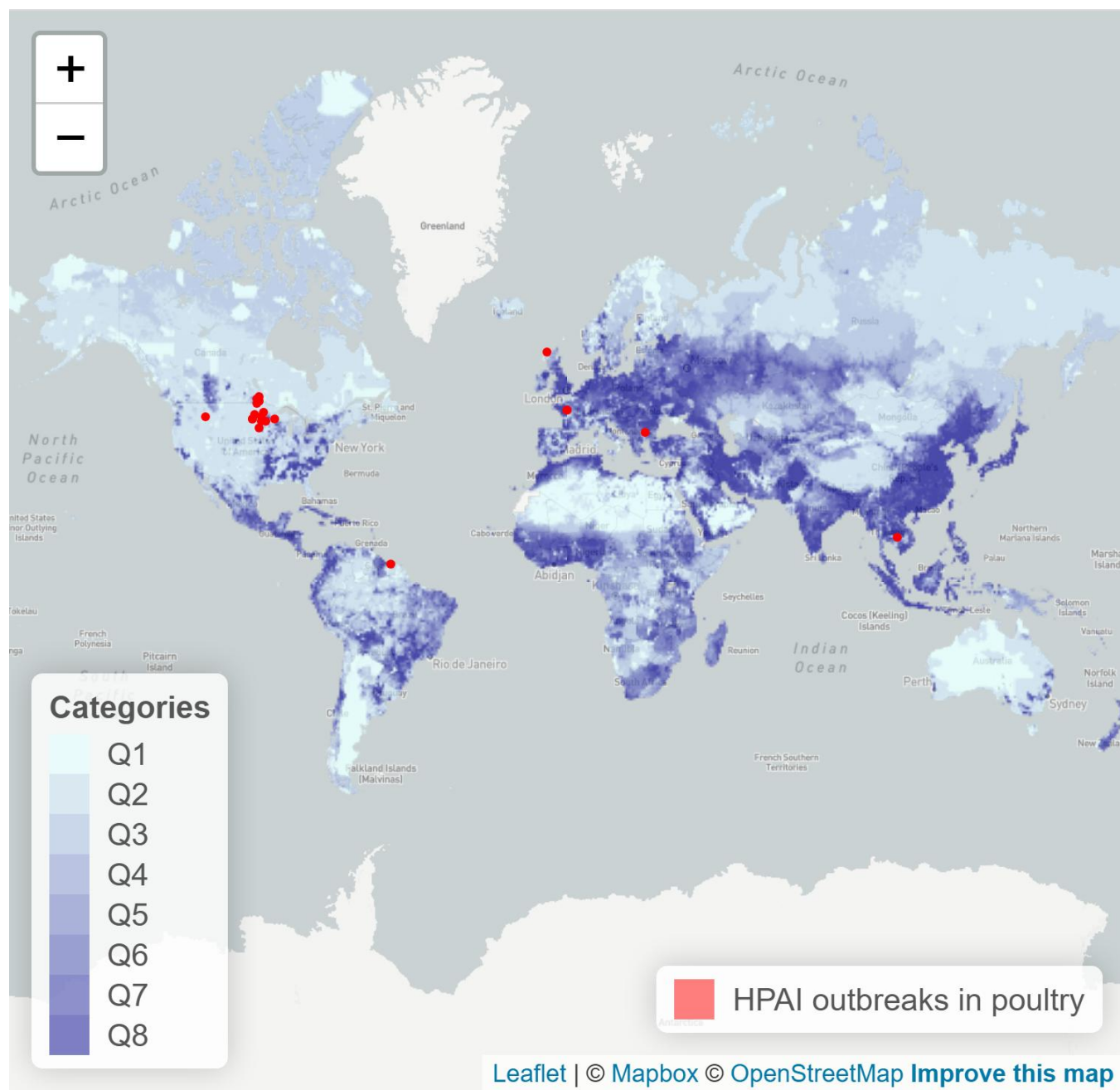


Figure 3. Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in poultry. The outbreaks are presented on top of the chicken density layer³ produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - [GLW 4: Gridded Livestock Density \(Global - 2020 - 10 km\)](#). Note: this map uses interactive Mapbox tiles, which are fixed to the Web Mercator projection (EPSG:3857). The Equal Earth projection (EPSG:8857) cannot be applied to tile-based interactive maps and is therefore not used here.

³ 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).

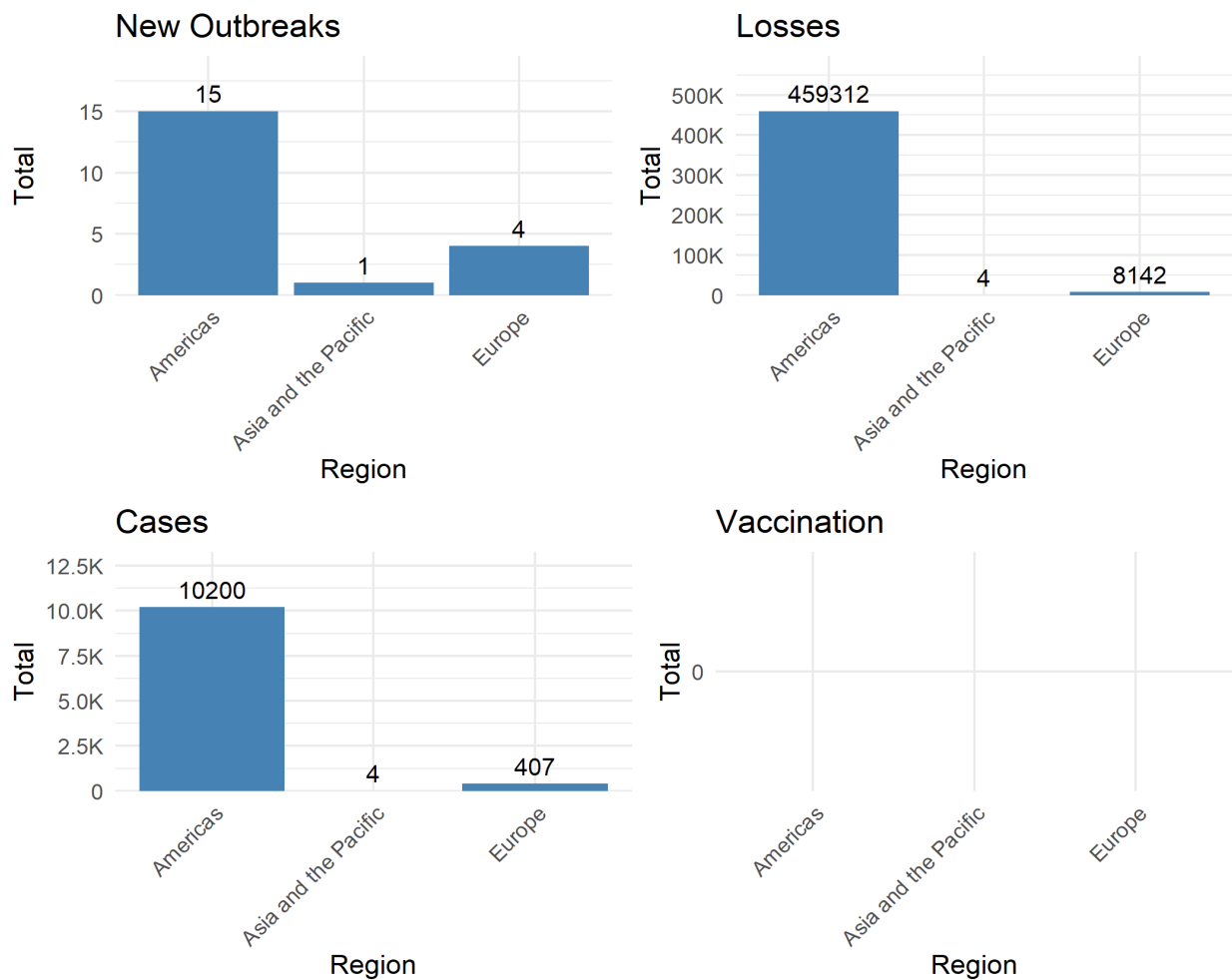


Figure 4. Number of new outbreaks, associated cases and losses (losses include animals dead and killed and disposed of within outbreaks – they do not include culling around outbreaks). It should also be noted that some countries or territories are unable to provide a precise number of cases and leave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

HPAI in non-poultry

New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

Non-poultry birds

Region	Sub/genotype	Clade	Country/territory	Subnational area	Event_Start_Date
Americas	H5N1		Chile	Araucanía	26 September 2026
Americas	H5N1		Uruguay	Colonia	4 September 2026
Americas	H5N1		Argentina	BUENOS AIRES	14 September 2026
Europe	H5 (N untyped)		Norway	Akershus	25 September 2026
Europe	H5N1		Belgium	Vlaanderen	25 September 2026
Europe	H5N1		Cyprus	Nicosia	23 September 2026
Europe	H5N1		Denmark	Veterinary Inspection Unit East	24 September 2026

Region	Sub/genotype	Clade	Country/territory	Subnational area	Event_Start_Date
Europe	H5N1		Germany	Nordrhein-Westfalen	24 September 2026
Europe	H5N1		Sweden	Kristianstad	21 September 2026
Europe	H5N5		Iceland	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	10 September 2026
Europe	H5N5		Iceland	Norðurland vestra	10 September 2026

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

Non-poultry birds

Region	Sub/genotype	Clade	Country/territory
Americas	H5N1	Clade: 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Reassortment Eurasian and North American	Peru
Europe	H5N1	Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian	Netherlands
Europe	H5N1		United Kingdom , Norway , Sweden , Denmark

Mammals

Region	Sub/genotype	Species	Clade	Country/territory
Europe	H5N5	Arctic Fox		Norway

New outbreaks

Antarctica

No HPAI confirmed and suspected cases were reported in the subantarctic islands and in Antarctica proper during September 2026. Unusual mortality has been observed in Snow Petrel. Details coming from the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) are 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 18 December 2024 presents a summary of the situation as well as recommendations.

During the period covered by this report, 30 new outbreaks in non-poultry were notified by 13 countries and territories (Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Sweden, United Kingdom, Uruguay)⁴. Details are presented in Figures 5 and 6.

⁴ 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.

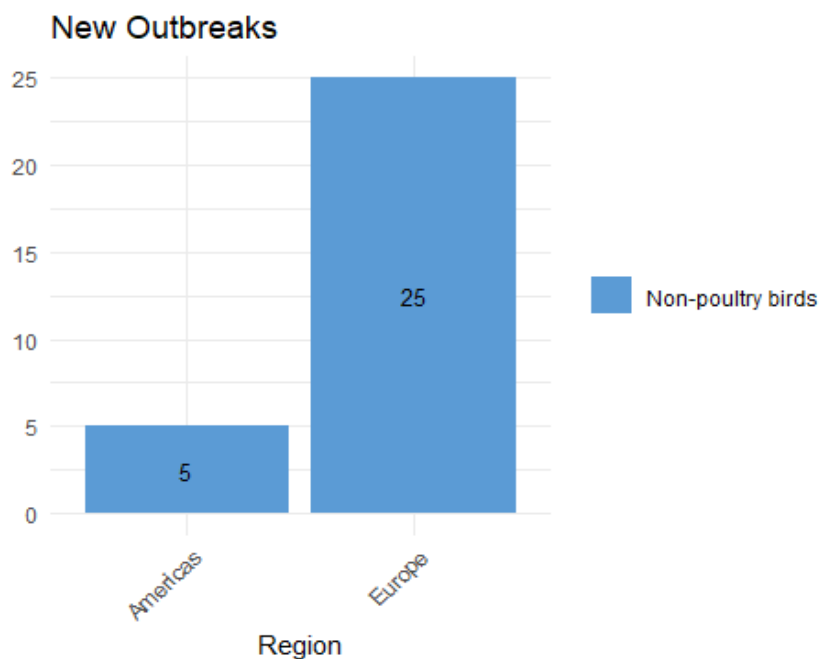


Figure 6. Number of new outbreaks in non-poultry reported through WAHIS by geographical region.

Self-declarations of freedom published during September 2026

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 WOAHP Delegates of Peru declared that the country complied with the requirements for recovery of freedom from infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses in poultry, as of 3 September, in accordance with Article 10.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code* and consistent with the information provided in WAHIS.

Recent news

[Global Framework to accelerate action on avian influenza](#)

[Preparing before the emergency: New Zealand's approach to HPAI](#)

[Australia notifies first case of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza H5N1 in a wild bird](#)

[How WOA's new and revised chapters ensure better control of avian influenza](#)

[HPAI Poultry Vaccination: Moving Beyond Trade Barriers](#)

[Updated joint FAO/WHO/WOA public health assessment of recent high pathogenicity avian influenza A\(H5\) virus events in animals and people \(based on data as of 1 March 2026\)](#)

[Guidelines for Surveillance of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza for Smallholder Poultry Systems in Resource-Limited Settings](#)

[Statement on the impact of HPAI on wildlife worldwide - WOA - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

[GF-TAD Webinar \(December 2025\): Update on the global situation of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza \(HPAI\)](#)

[The State of the World's Animal Health](#)

[Statement on the impact of HPAI on wildlife worldwide](#)

[High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) in Cattle](#)

[Interview: Avian influenza prevention: could vaccination support egg security?](#)

[Case definition for HPAI in cattle](#)

[Updated joint FAO/WHO/WOA public health assessment of recent influenza A\(H5\) virus events in animals and people](#)

[Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza \(2024–2033\)](#)

[Webinar of global strategy: Advancing Global Efforts for the Prevention and Control of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza](#)

[Pathogenicity Avian Influenza - WOA - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

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

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

[GF-TADs Meeting: Detection of HPAI in Ruminants and Humans in the USA \(cont.\)](#)

WOAH resources

[Avian influenza portal](#)

[Self-declared Disease Status](#)

[WAHIS](#)

[Resoluion adopted in WOA 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](#)

[Webinar: Launch of Guidelines 'Mitigating Disease Transmission Risk at the Wildlife – Livestock Interface to Facilitate Safe Trade'](#)

Awareness tools

[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, e-mail us at media@woah.org.

OFFLU resources

[OFFLU statement on the first detections of H5N1 HPAI in mainland Australia and New Zealand](#)

[Incursion of HPAI H5 into Australia and New Zealand with potential to impact wildlife populations and to spread further in oceania.](#)

[OFFLU statement on the use of the harmonised nomenclature system for A/H9 avian influenza viruses](#)

[OFFLU avian influenza matching \(AIM\) explainer video](#)

[OFFLU Summary Report from the WHO Influenza Vaccine Composition Meeting, February 2026](#)

[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](#)

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

[Webinar: OFFLU Avian Influenza Matching \(AIM\) for Poultry Vaccines](#) [OFFLU diagnostic guidance: HPAI dairy cattle](#)

[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](#)

[Human infection with avian influenza A\(H5\) viruses](#)

[WHO, Influenza at the human-animal interface, Summary and risk assessment from 23 January to 31 March 2026](#)

[HPAI Detections in Livestock](#)