

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** September 11, 2023

**Report Number:** PL2023-0024

**Report Name:** Poland Officially Free from Avian Influenza

**Country:** Poland

**Post:** Warsaw

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Pest/Disease Occurrences, Poultry and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

**Prepared By:** Anna Galica

**Approved By:** Levin Flake

**Report Highlights:**

On August 2, 2023, Poland regained the status of a country officially free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). In 2023, 48 commercial poultry farms and 12 backyard farms were infected with HPAI, located in nine Polish provinces. HPAI outbreaks led to culling of over one million birds. Slaughter duck farms and slaughter turkey farms were the most impacted, accounting for almost 70 percent of HPAI-culled birds. HPAI-free status will allow Poland to resume exports of poultry meat to non-European markets, which were restricted when the disease was present in the country.

The World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) published Poland’s self-declaration on regaining the status of a country free from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on August 2, 2023. In accordance with Article 10.4.6 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, if an HPAI infection in poultry occurs in a country previously free of avian influenza, recovery of free status may take place 28 days after the stamping-out policy is applied (including culling the birds and carrying out cleaning and disinfection). The activities related to the eradication of the disease in the last HPAI outbreak in poultry in Poland were completed on July 4, 2023. Therefore, the period of 28 days from the date of final disinfection expired on August 2, 2023, which allowed for submitting a declaration to WOAH.

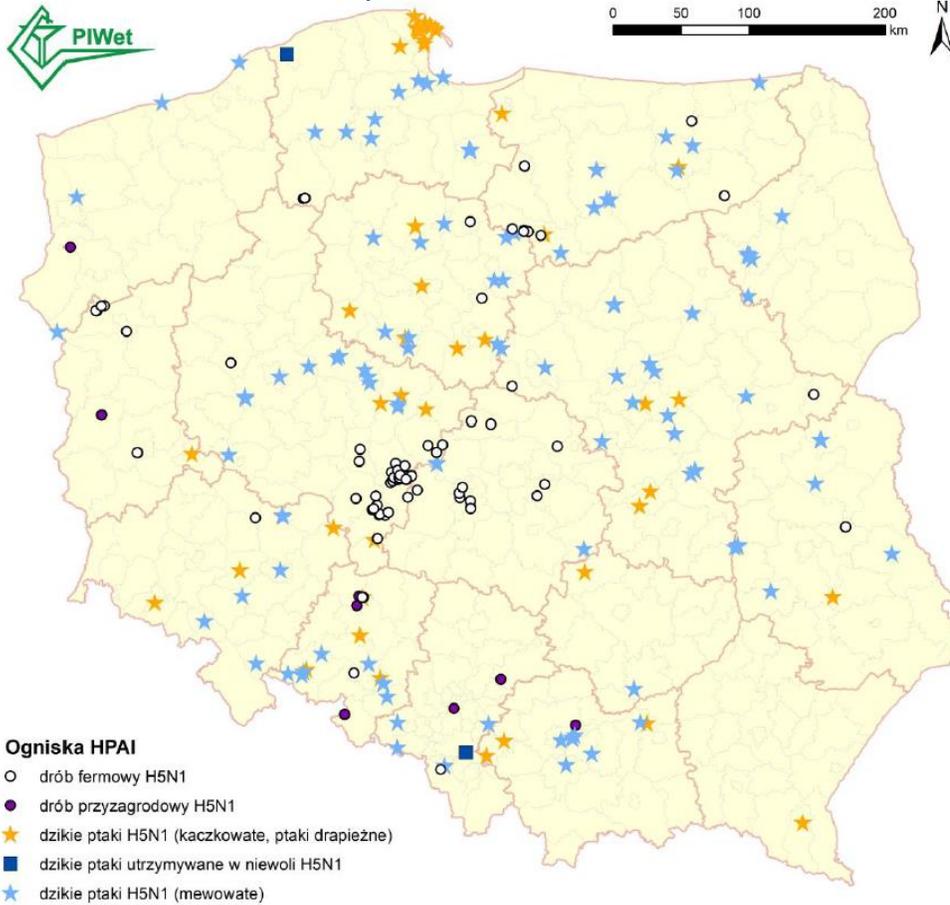
In 2023, 60 HPAI outbreaks occurred on Polish poultry farms, including 48 commercial poultry farms and 12 backyard farms. The infected farms were located in nine Polish provinces, including 31 farms in western Wielkopolskie province.

Table 1. HPAI Outbreaks in 2023 by Province

Province	Number of Outbreaks	Number of Outbreaks on Commercial Farms
Dolnośląskie	0	0
Kujawsko-pomorskie	1	1
Lubelskie	0	0
Lubuskie	8	6
Łódzkie	3	2
Małopolskie	1	0
Mazowieckie	0	0
Opolskie	4	1
Podkarpackie	0	0
Podlaskie	0	0
Pomorskie	2	0
Świętokrzyskie	0	0
Śląskie	2	1
Warmińsko-mazurskie	6	6
Wielkopolskie	31	31
Zachodnio-pomorskie	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>48</b>

Source: Polish Veterinary Service

Map 1. HPAI Outbreaks in Poland as of July 17, 2023



*White dots indicate outbreaks on commercial farms of H5N1 virus.*

*Purple dots indicate outbreaks on backyard farms of H5N1 virus.*

*Yellow stars indicate outbreaks in wild birds of H5N1 virus (swans, ducks, geese, predatory birds).*

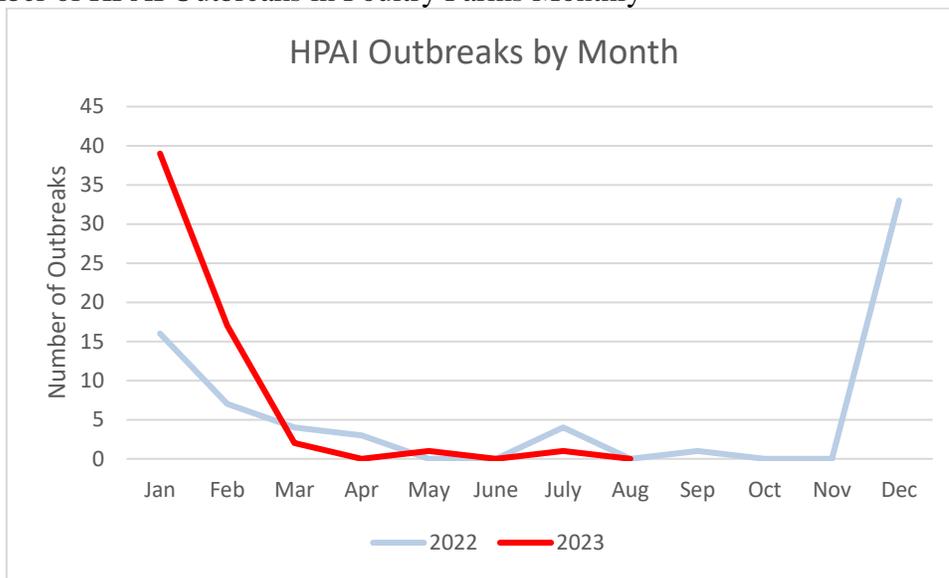
*Blue squares indicate outbreaks in captive wild birds of H5N1 virus.*

*Blue stars indicate outbreaks in wild birds of H5N1 virus (seagulls).*

Source: The National Veterinary Research Institute in Pulawy, National Reference Laboratory

The disease shows high seasonality, affecting poultry farms mostly in the winter months, with some isolated outbreaks also in the summertime. These summer outbreaks delayed the time when Polish authorities could apply for country-freedom from HPAI, thus prolonging export-related restrictions imposed on Polish poultry, poultry meat, and products.

Graph. 1. Number of HPAI Outbreaks in Poultry Farms Monthly



Source: FAS/Warsaw based on Polish Veterinary Service’s data

The 2023 HPAI wave mostly affected slaughter duck farms and slaughter turkey farms, with almost 70 percent of all birds culled in Poland being located on these farms.

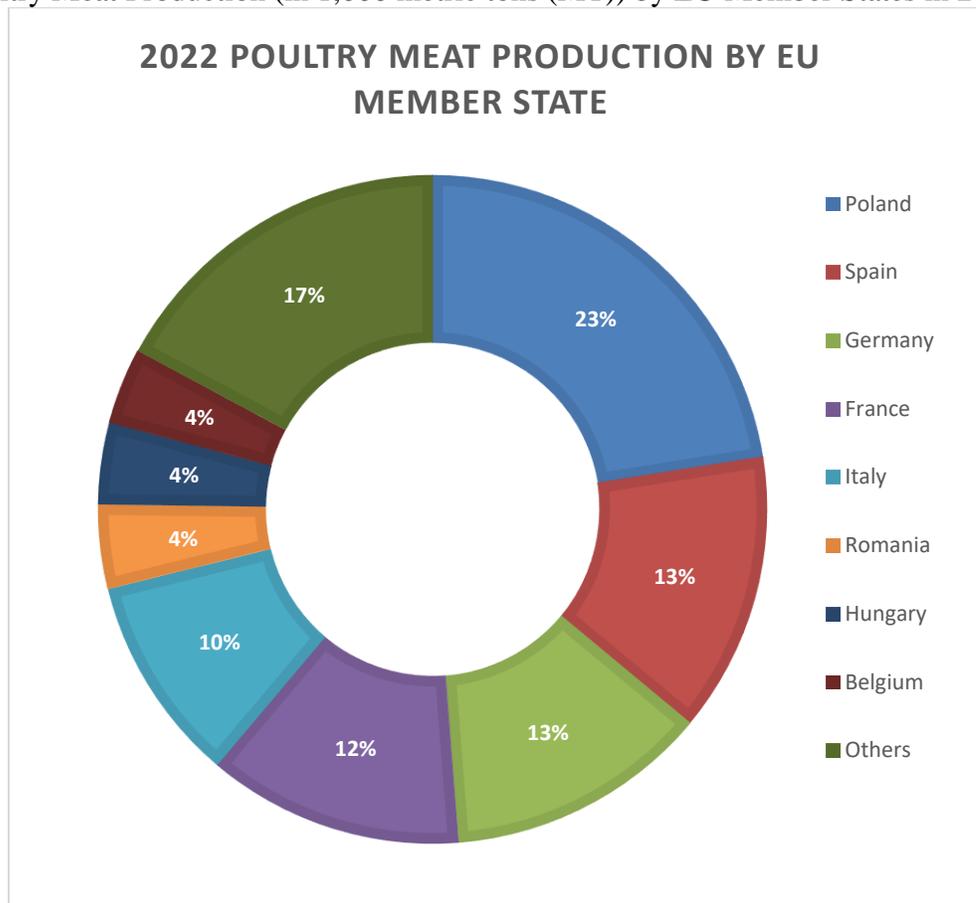
Table 2. HPAI Outbreaks in 2023 by Poultry Species Kept on Farm

	TOTAL	reproductive hens	broiler	laying hens	reproductive turkey	slaughter turkey	reproductive ducks	slaughter ducks	geese	mixed
<b>Number of HPAI positive farms</b>	60	0	3	4	0	15	2	26	1	9
<b>Number of birds culled</b>	1,031,407	0	205,683	115,767	0	410,930	18,848	275,489	3,766	924
<b>% of birds culled</b>		0	19.94	11.22	0	39.84	1.83	26.71	0.37	0.09

Source: FAS/Warsaw based on Polish Veterinary Service’s data

Poland is the leading European producer of poultry meat, with 23-percent market share.

Graph 2. Poultry Meat Production (in 1,000 metric tons (MT)) by EU Member States in 2022



Source: Eurostat

Note: the Netherlands and Estonia restricted their data accessibility

Boilers dominate poultry production in Poland, accounting for over 80 percent, followed by turkeys and ducks. In accordance with the Polish poultry slaughter data, as presented by Eurostat, in January-June 2023 broiler slaughter increased by 3.6 percent, while duck slaughter decreased by 0.6 percent, and turkey slaughter decreased by 12.5 percent. The decline in duck and turkey meat production resulted from bird losses in HPAI outbreaks, as well as from lower demand from consumers, both in domestic and export markets. These consumers are more frequently choosing cheaper meats, as their purchasing power is depressed by the high inflation rate.

Table 3. Poultry Meat Production in Poland in 2022 by Species

	TOTAL	broiler	turkey	ducks	other
Slaughter in 1,000 MT	2,730	2,232	409	65	24
share		81.75%	14.99%	2.40%	0.87%

Source: Eurostat

The high volume of the production of poultry meat in Poland allows the Polish industry to also supply foreign markets. In 2022, 1.8 million MT of poultry meat and poultry meat products and preparations were exported from Poland, valued at USD 5.3 billion. Exports were directed mostly to other European Union (EU) Member States and in 2022 amounted to 1.2 million MT, valued at USD 3.9 billion. EU Member States operate under the same legislation concerning HPAI-related trade restrictions limited to surveillance and protection zones around the infected farms.

After publication of the self-declaration, the Polish Chief Veterinary Officer informed the competent authorities of all countries which introduced HPAI-related restrictions, about freedom from HPAI in Poland. This should result in wider access to export markets.

Currently, negotiations are ongoing, but in late August the competent services of the Republic of the Philippines announced the recognition of Poland's regionalization system for HPAI at the provincial level. Exports of poultry meat, poultry meat products, hatching eggs, and day-old chicks will be allowed if accompanied by bilaterally agreed health certificates for poultry meat and poultry meat products, or for hatching eggs or day-old chicks. The certificates require attestation that: "Poultry from which meat was obtained was born and raised in Poland or moved to Poland from countries accredited by the Philippines where temporary restrictions on poultry and poultry products are not in effect." In 2019, until exports were blocked from the whole country due to HPAI outbreaks, Poland exported over 12,600 MT of meat and edible offal of poultry valued at USD 6.1 million to the Philippines. In accordance with the new export arrangements, when HPAI outbreaks occur on Polish poultry farms, exports can continue, and restrictions would apply only to the province where the infected farm is located.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.