

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** May 06, 2022

**Report Number:** PL2022-0008

**Report Name:** Avian Influenza Confirmed in Commercial Flocks in Poland

**Country:** Poland

**Post:** Warsaw

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Pest/Disease Occurrences, Poultry and Products

**Prepared By:** Anna Galica

**Approved By:** Alicia Hernandez

**Report Highlights:**

In Poland, the 2021/2022 wave of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) began on November 2, 2021, leading to 93 confirmed outbreaks in poultry through April 28, 2022, in 13 Polish provinces. The outbreaks were confirmed mainly in commercial flocks (83 farms) keeping slaughter ducks (33) and turkey (22). At the beginning of the second quarter of 2022, the HPAI situation in Poland appeared to stabilize, as the last outbreak in Poland was confirmed on March 9, 2022, despite the deteriorating epidemiological situation of HPAI observed in Western Europe. However, on April 21 and 22, 2022, respectively, two outbreaks of HPAI were confirmed in the western Wielkopolskie province, affecting large commercial farms keeping laying hens and slaughter turkeys. Despite the unfavorable HPAI situation, the economic impact of the disease on trade and exports is not significant.

## Background

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is a viral disease affecting birds of different species, both domestic and wild. Certain avian influenza virus strains may indicate increased adaptation to the organism of mammals and, thus, could cause human infections. However, genetic tests of the H5N1 virus strain from the first outbreak in Poland in the 2021/2022 HPAI wave concluded that the virus currently circulating in Poland does not pose a threat to humans.

HPAI is a seasonal disease associated with the winter migration of wild birds, which bring the virus to the European territory. In 2021, Poland reported 403 outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry. Most of them were confirmed in the first half of the year, following the virus detection in fall 2020, with the last outbreak reported on August 9, 2021.

## 2021/2022 HPAI Wave

The 2021/2022 HPAI wave began on November 2, 2021, leading to 64 confirmed outbreaks in poultry in 2021 and 29 outbreaks in 2022, through April 28, 2022, in 13 Polish provinces. In these outbreaks, over 3.6 million birds have been culled. The reported outbreaks were confirmed mainly in commercial flocks (83 farms) keeping slaughter ducks (33) and turkey (22).

Table 1. HPAI Outbreaks in Poland in the 2021/2022 HPAI Season, as of April 27, 2022

Province	District	No. of outbreaks in HPAI wave in poultry	No. of outbreaks in poultry in 2022	No. of outbreaks in non-poultry
dolnośląskie	milicki	2	1	-
	średzki	1	-	-
	wołowski	-	-	1
kujawsko-pomorskie	inowrocławski	2	1	1
	sępoleński	1	1	1
	świecki	1	1	3
	tucholski	1	1	-
	włocławski	-	-	1
lubelskie	bialski	1	1	-
	lubartowski	1	1	-
lubuskie	międzyrzecki	2	-	-
łódzkie	łęczycki	1	1	1
	łódzki	-	-	1
	piotrkowski	1	-	-
	poddębicki	7	2	-
	sieradzki	5	2	-
	wieruszowski	1	-	-
	zgierski	1	-	1

małopolskie	krakowski	1	1	-
mazowieckie	legionowski	-	-	2
	łosicki	2	2	-
	nowodworski	-	-	1
	siedlecki	7	-	2
	sokołowski	1	-	-
	warszawski	-	-	1
opolskie	głubczycki	1	1	-
	namysłowski	-	-	1
podkarpackie	przeworski	1	1	-
pomorskie	człuchowski	1	1	1
	nowodworski	-	-	2
	pucki	-	-	3
śląskie	bielski	1	-	-
	pszczyński	-	-	2
	tarnogórski	2	-	-
	zawierciański	1	-	-
świętokrzyskie	konecki	-	-	2
warmińsko- mazurskie	iławski	5	-	-
wielkopolskie	gostyński	1	-	-
	kaliski	12	1	-
	kępiński	1	-	-
	kolski	2	-	1
	kościański	1	1	-
	ostrowski	5	3	-
	ostrzeszowski	6	2	-
	poznański	1	1	-
	turecki	9	-	1
	wolsztyński	4	3	-
zachodniopomorskie	koszaliński	-	-	3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>

Source: The National Veterinary Research Institute in Pulawy - National Reference Laboratory and the General Veterinary Inspectorate

For several weeks in the spring of 2022, it seemed that the situation in Poland was stabilizing, as the last outbreak in Poland was confirmed on March 9, 2022. The contrasted with the deteriorating epidemiological situation of HPAI in Western Europe, especially in France, where, in a short period of time, about 500 new outbreaks in poultry were recorded and the total number of HPAI outbreaks in the country exceeded 1,000. On April 14, 2022, the Polish National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza recommended repealing the order to keep poultry indoors in areas at high risk of HPAI, but

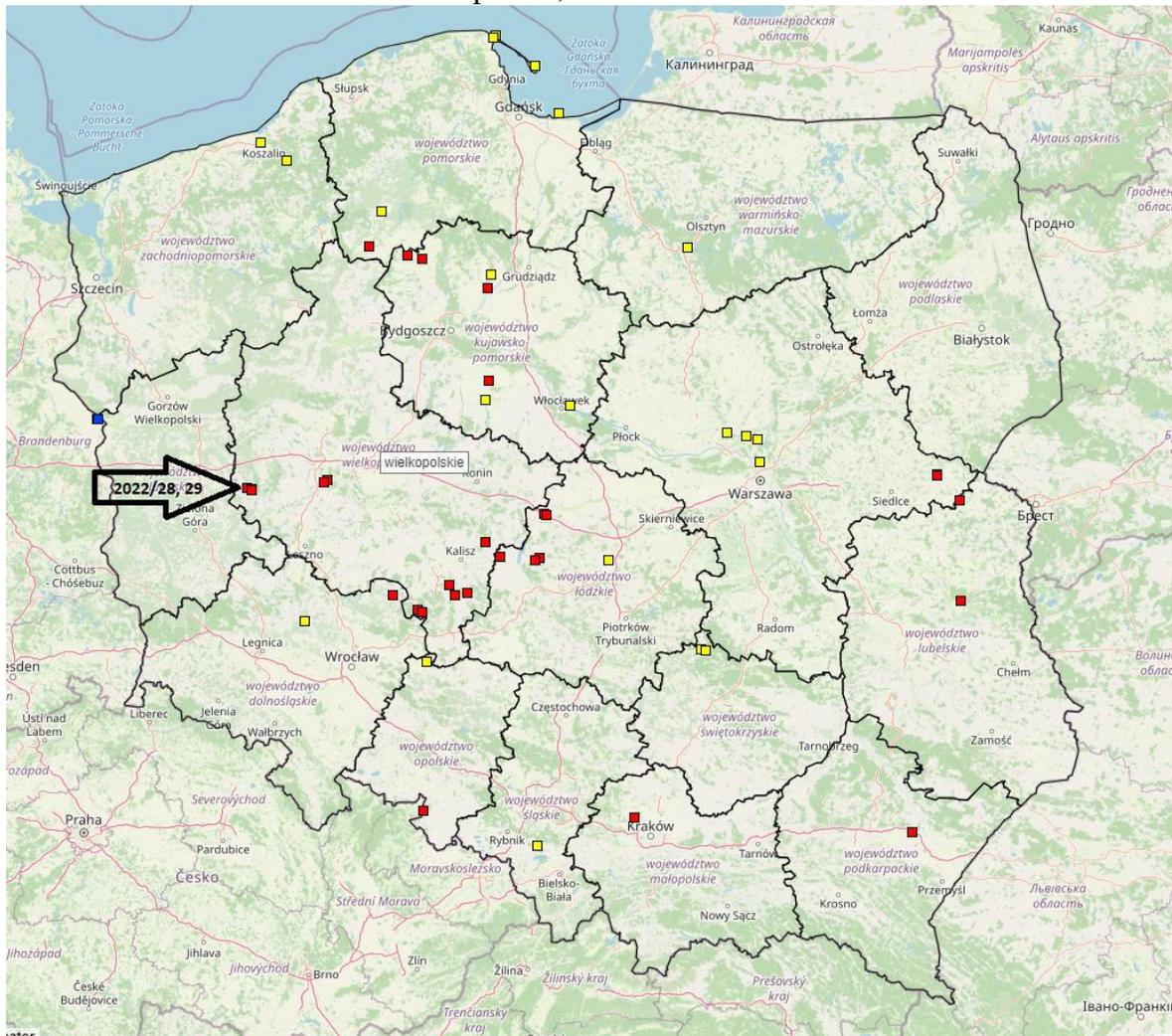
simultaneously proposed to maintain the remaining restrictions, including the examination of samples from poultry showing symptoms suggestive of HPAI.

### New HPAI Outbreaks

After more than a month since the last outbreak, on April 21 and April 22, 2022, respectively, two outbreaks of HPAI (H5N1 subtype) were confirmed in the western Wielkopolskie province:

- Outbreak no. 2022/28 in a farm where 190,105 laying hens were kept
- Outbreak no. 2022/29 in a farm where 23,645 slaughter turkeys were kept

Map 1. HPAI Outbreaks in Poland as of April 28, 2022



Red square – HPAI outbreaks in poultry  
Yellow square – HPAI outbreaks in wild birds  
Blue square – HPAI outbreaks outside Polish borders

Source: The General Veterinary Inspectorate

## **HPAI Affected Poultry Farms**

In total, in 2022 only, the outbreaks in poultry were located in ten Polish provinces (regions). Most of the affected poultry farms were located in the western Wielkopolskie province. Out of 29 infected farms, one kept reproductive hens, six (including four backyard) kept laying hens, six kept slaughter turkeys, one reproductive ducks, eight slaughter ducks, four geese, and three different types of poultry.

In the 2022 HPAI outbreaks, over 1.16 million birds were culled. The majority of them were laying hens (57 percent) and slaughter turkeys (26 percent). This results from the fact that the outbreak no. 2022/27 was reported in a farm where 477,544 laying hens were kept and the outbreak no. 2022/28 in a farm where 190,105 laying hens were kept.

## **Economic Impact**

Highly pathogenic avian influenza occurrence has an economic impact on poultry production because HPAI-free countries may impose trade restrictions on the disease-affected country or its regions. The regionalization established in the European Union (EU) excludes from the intra-EU trade only specific zones around the disease outbreaks and for a limited period of time. Whereas measures in non-EU countries may be ranging wider and last longer.

In the 2020/2021 HPAI wave, several important export markets banned Polish poultry and egg products, notably South Africa, China, South Korea, Singapore, Japan, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and the Philippines. Ukraine, Belarus, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Russia, Armenia, Cuba, and Saudi Arabia restricted Polish poultry imports ban based on Poland's regionalization plan. Most of those markets maintained their restrictions after the improvement of the animal health situation in Poland in the summer of 2021, however, certain importing countries eased their restrictions. For example, Singapore accepted EU regionalization rules and, therefore, was regarded by the industry as a perspective market for exports of Polish poultry meat.

Nevertheless, in the short period of 2021 when Poland had the status of an HPAI-free country, the most profitable markets of China and South Africa did not reopen and in the new 2021/2022 HPAI wave, certain countries have extended their import restrictions to the newly infected regions, namely Belarus, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and North Macedonia. Simultaneously, as a result of market access negotiations, in March 2022, Polish authorities agreed to export conditions for eggs destined to the Israeli market. Additionally, as informed by the General Veterinary Inspectorate, as of April 21, 2022, the Cuban National Center for Animal Health (Centro Nacional de Sanidad Animal - CENASA), lifted the import ban on poultry meat and poultry products from authorized establishments located in 10 Polish provinces.

Poland is the largest poultry meat producer in the European Union, with 20 percent market share, and the third egg producer in EU, after Spain and Germany, with a 17 percent share of EU production.

With production exceeding domestic consumption, over half of the poultry meat produced is exported. According to Polish Customs' data, in 2021 Poland exported 1.4 million tons of chicken meat, valued at \$3.1 billion, which is a three-percent increase in volume over 2020, despite the unfavorable HPAI

situation. The main export destination markets were the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and the Netherlands, which are the countries recognizing EU regionalization.

According to Polish Customs' data, in 2021 Poland exported eggs and egg products valued nearly \$333 million, a five percent decrease over 2020. The top five recipients were the EU member states, with Singapore sixth in total and the largest non-EU destination.

However, the long-term outlook for the egg market is positive. Analysts of the National Poultry and Feed Manufacturers Chamber (NPFMC) expect short- and medium-term increases in egg prices for consumers, with limited supply following culling of birds due to HPAI and significantly increased production costs (feed, energy) observed in early 2022. In the long term, the NPFMC expects a normalization of the market situation and a balance between supply and demand.

As NPFMC noted, hatching data for laying hens for 2021 show the largest annual increase in the egg production base in the history of Polish egg industry. The data presented by NPFMC shows that over 40 million laying hen chicks were produced in 2021, which is a 16.5-percent increase compared to 2020. In the first two months of 2022, this trend continued, with over 7.2 million laying hen chicks produced, 10.9 percent more than in the same period a year ago.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.