SOUTH AFRICAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION
Founded 1904

DISTRIBUTION OF CHICKENS IN SOUTH AFRICA

FOR THE PERIOD: July to September 2026

(3Q2026)

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1 Provincial distribution of egg and broiler industry birds in South Africa

The provincial distribution of chicken farms, in terms of the broiler and egg industries, is given in Table 1. These figures were recorded during the course of the avian influenza (AI) survey, where producers provide data on actual bird numbers in addition to laboratory test results.

Table 1: Provincial distribution of chickens in South Africa

Province	Broiler industry		Egg industry		Total	
	birds	%	birds	%	birds	%
E. Cape	9 394 295	7.1	779 265	2.8	10 173 560	6.4
Free State	14 147 505	10.8	4 554 121	16.1	18 701 626	11.7
Gauteng	13 408 104	10.2	5 711 298	20.2	19 119 402	12.0
KwaZulu-Natal	13 177 734	10.0	3 316 771	11.7	16 494 505	10.3
Limpopo	5 436 292	4.1	2 317 482	8.2	7 753 774	4.8
Mpumalanga	21 211 842	16.1	2 741 220	9.7	23 953 062	15.0
North West	32 925 651	25.0	3 697 519	13.1	36 623 170	22.9
N. Cape	288 500	0.2	96 300	0.3	384 800	0.2
W. Cape	21 613 943	16.4	5 100 318	18.0	26 714 261	16.7
Total	131 603 866	100.0	28 314 294	100.0	159 918 160	100.0

Figure 1 gives the total number of chickens per province, as per the above table. The province of North West is home to the largest number of birds, followed by Western Cape and Mpumalanga. The provincial distributions of broiler and egg industry chickens are given in Figures 2 and 3 respectively.

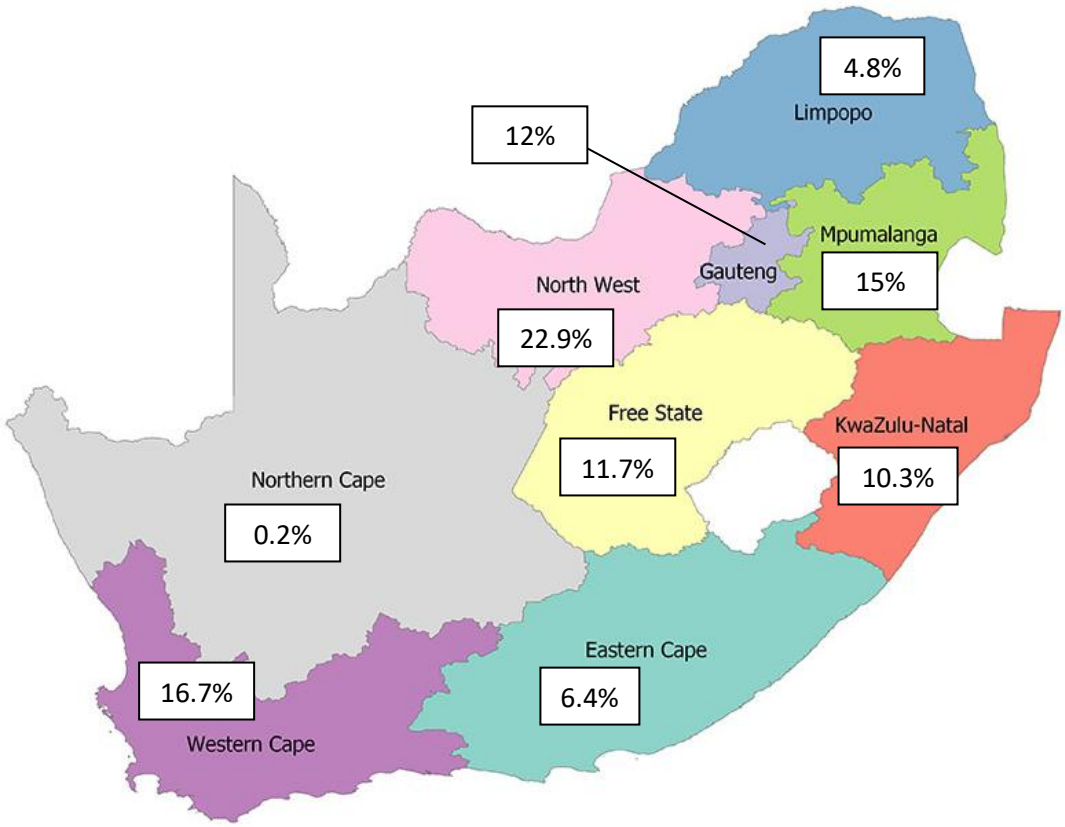


Figure 1: Provincial distribution of the national chicken flock

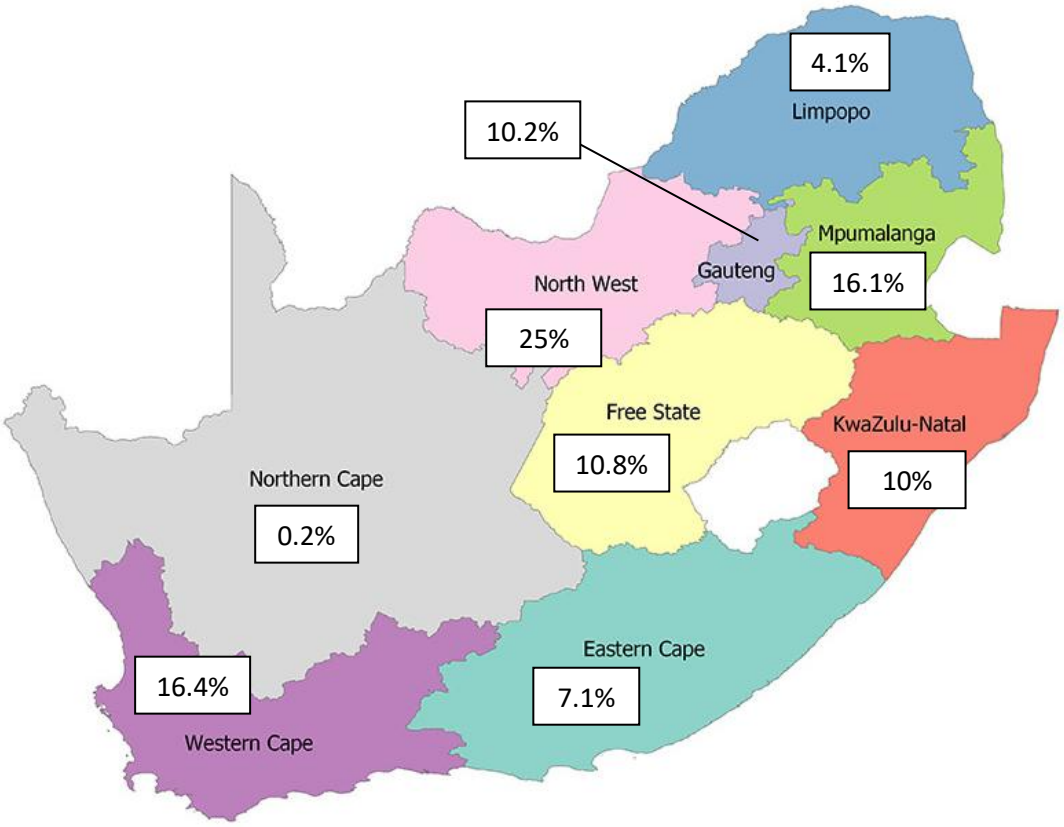


Figure 2: Provincial distribution of the broiler industry flock

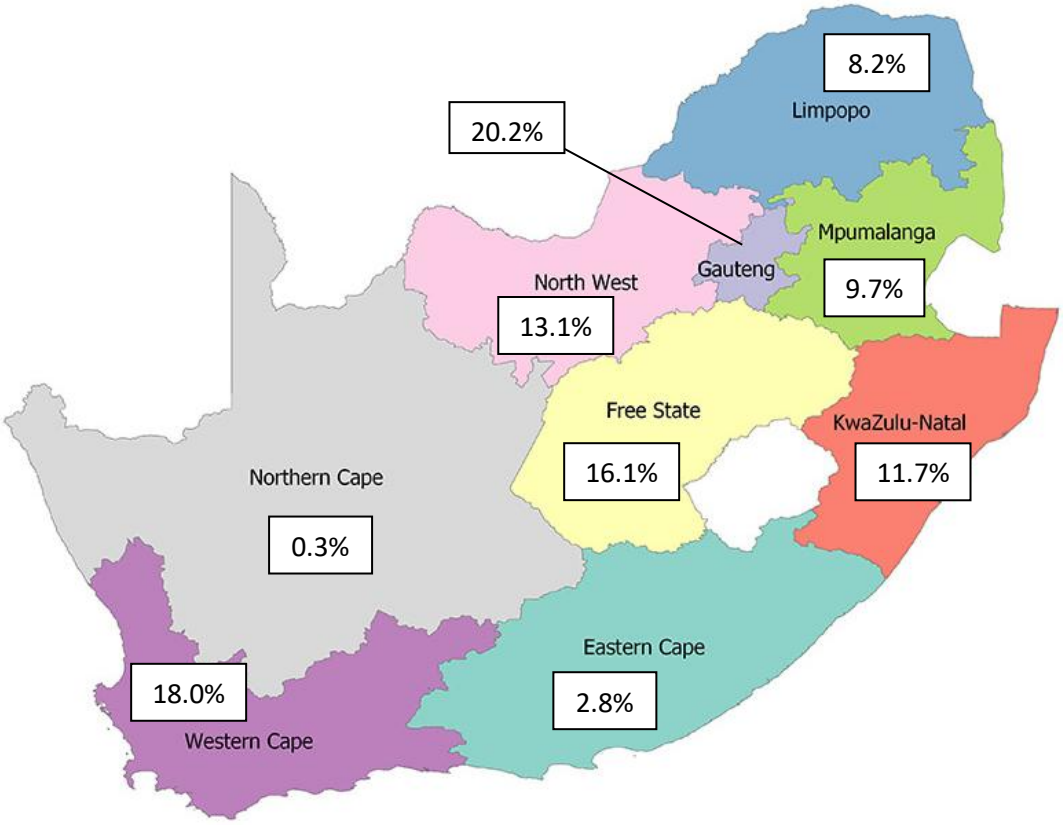


Figure 3: Provincial distribution of the egg industry flock

2 The number, type and distribution of poultry farms in South Africa

The number of farms on the AI database is given in Table 2. It also shows the birds numbers for the different farm types according to information supplied by producers. **It must be noted that the number of laying hens on egg producing farms is considerably underreported.**

Table 2: Number of farms on the AI database

Broiler industry	Farms	Birds
GGP and grandparent farms	26	656 741
Parent rearing farms	78	5 459 660
Broiler breeder farms	139	10 256 640
Broiler rearing farms	412	115 230 825
TOTAL	655	131 603 866
Egg industry		
Grandparent farms	6	23 559
Parent rearing farms	0	0
Layer breeder farms	27	713 367
Pullet rearing farms	37	6 092 487
Layer farms (egg producing)	212	21 484 881
TOTAL	282	28 314 294
Broiler and egg industries	937	159 918 160

The nationwide distribution of broiler and egg sector farms in the AI database is shown in Figures 4 and 5 respectively. The pie charts show the percentage of farms and birds in each province. North West has the highest percentage of the broiler sector farms and birds, followed by Western Cape and Mpumalanga. Gauteng has the highest percentages of egg sector farms and birds.

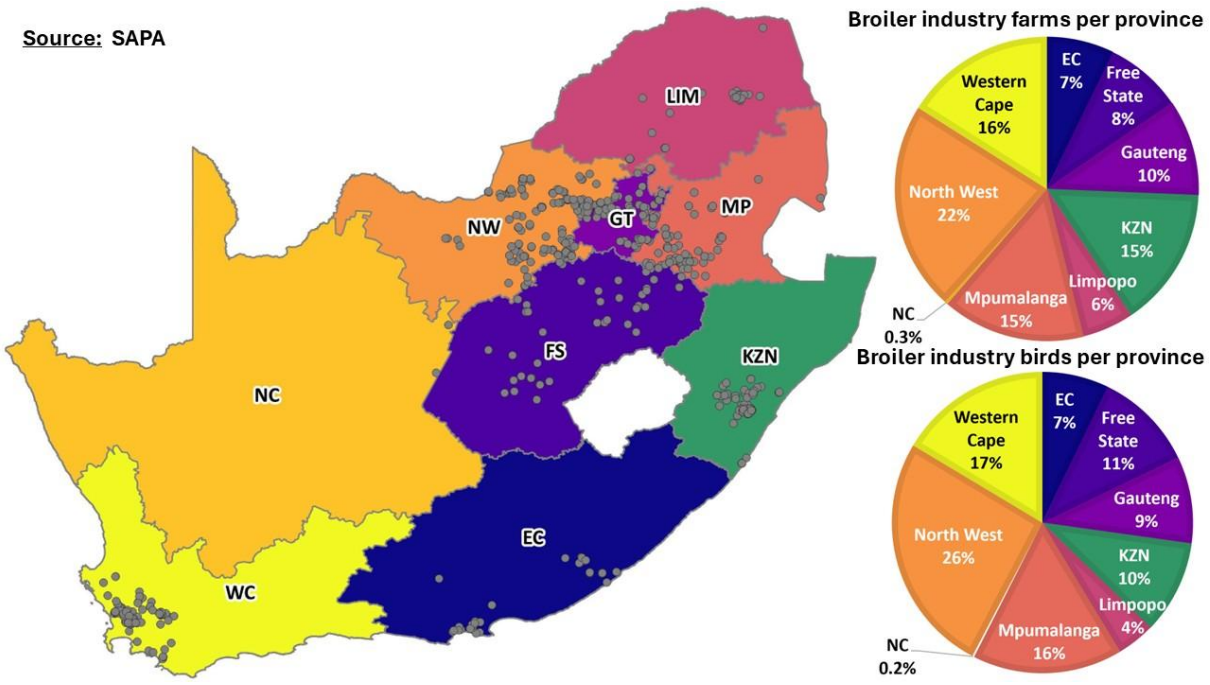


Figure 4: Geographical location of broiler industry farms

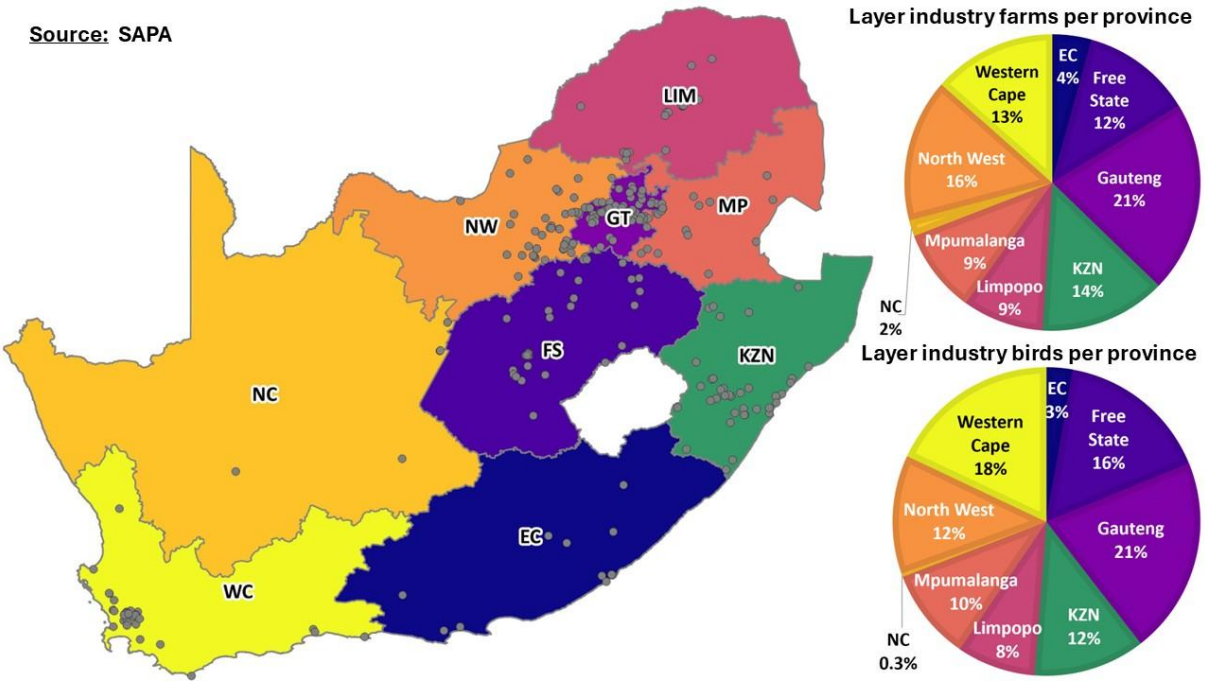


Figure 5: Geographical location of egg industry farms

Figures 6 and 7 show the local municipal density of the broiler and egg sector farms respectively. The local municipal districts containing the highest number of broiler industry farms are Lekwa (36) in Mpumalanga and Mkhambathini (35) in KwaZulu-Natal. The highest density of egg industry farms is found in the local municipal districts of City of Tshwane (21) in Gauteng and Ventersdorp/Tlokwe (17) in North West.

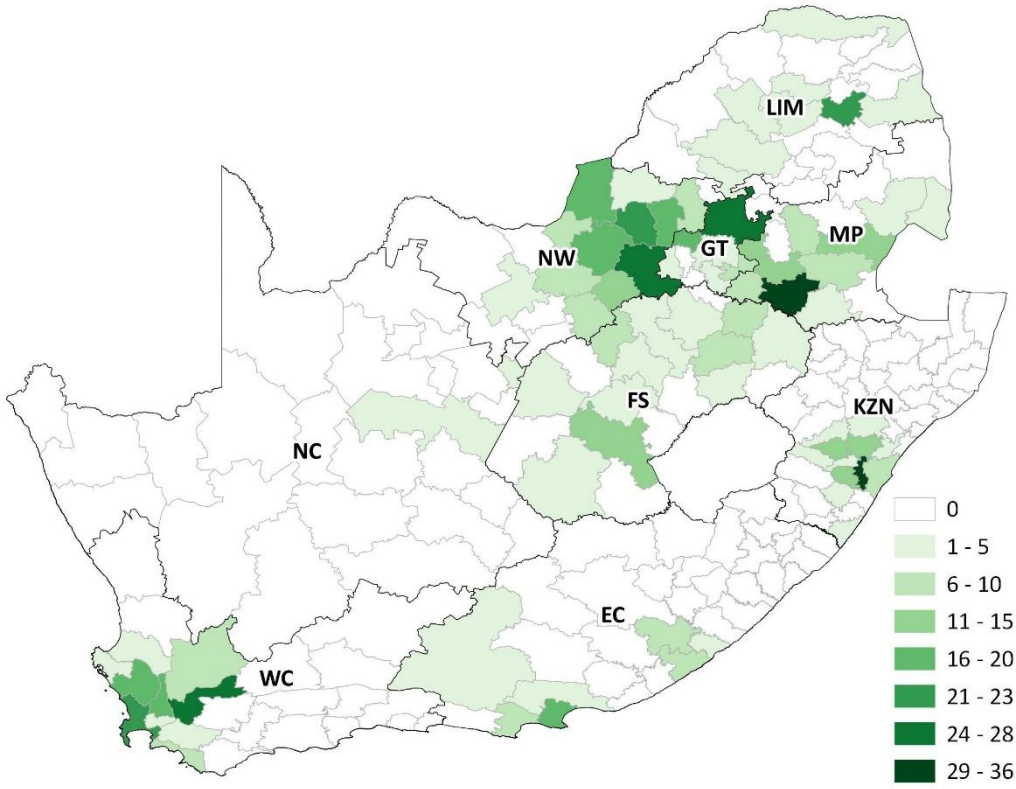
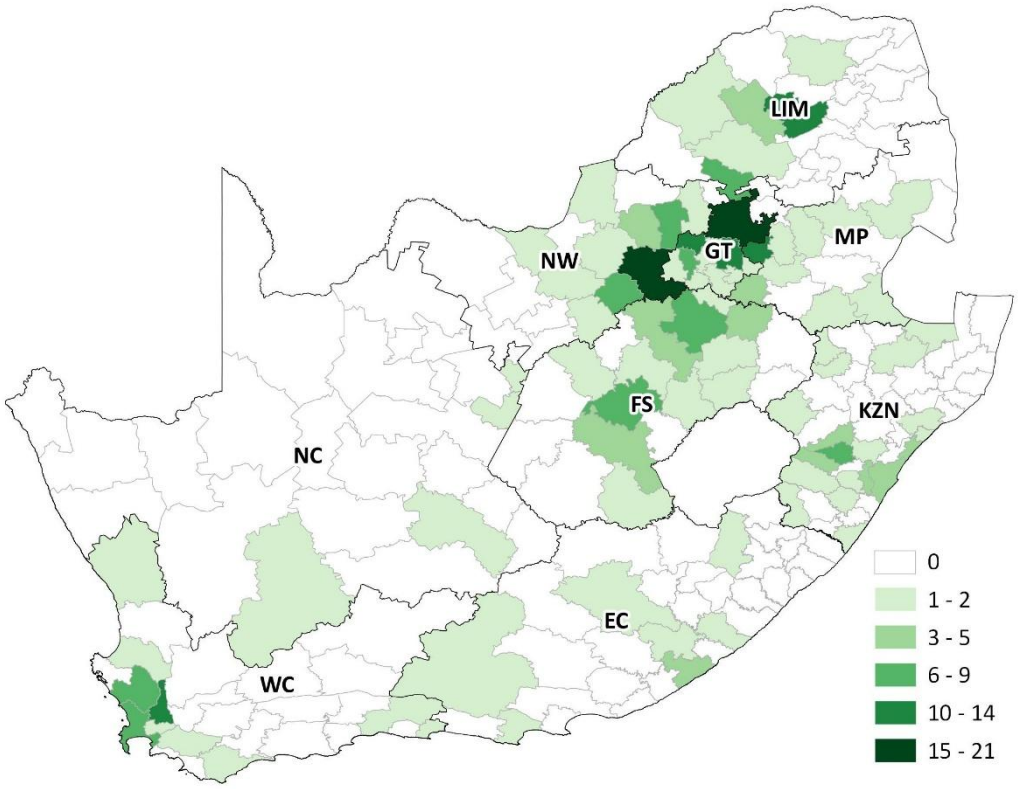


Figure 6: Density of broiler industry farms per local municipality



Source: **SAPA**

Figure 7: Density of egg industry farms per local municipality

Figures 8 and 9 indicate the density of broiler and egg sector birds per local municipality.

In the broiler industry, the most densely populated municipalities are Rustenburg in North West and Lekwa in Mpumalanga, both with 7.9 million birds.

In the egg industry, the Western Cape local municipality of Drakenstein has 2.31 million birds, followed by Gauteng's City of Tshwane with 2.11 million birds.

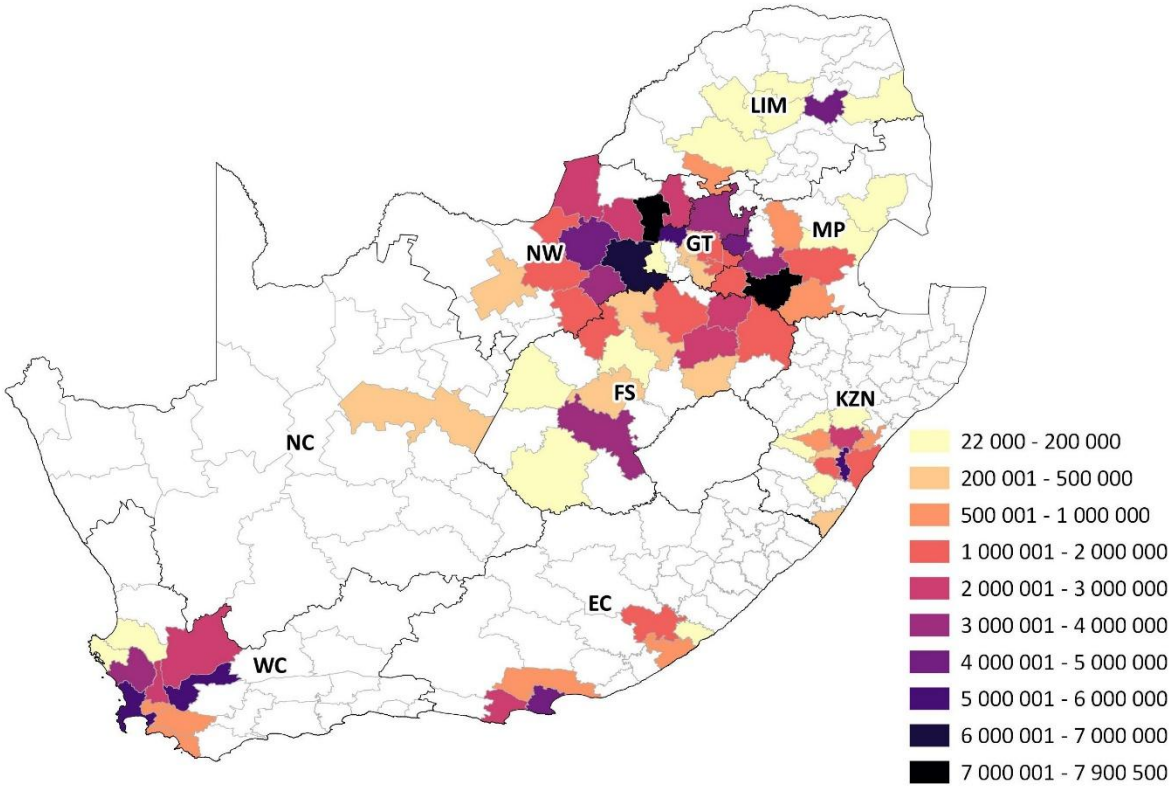


Figure 8: Density of broiler industry birds per local municipality

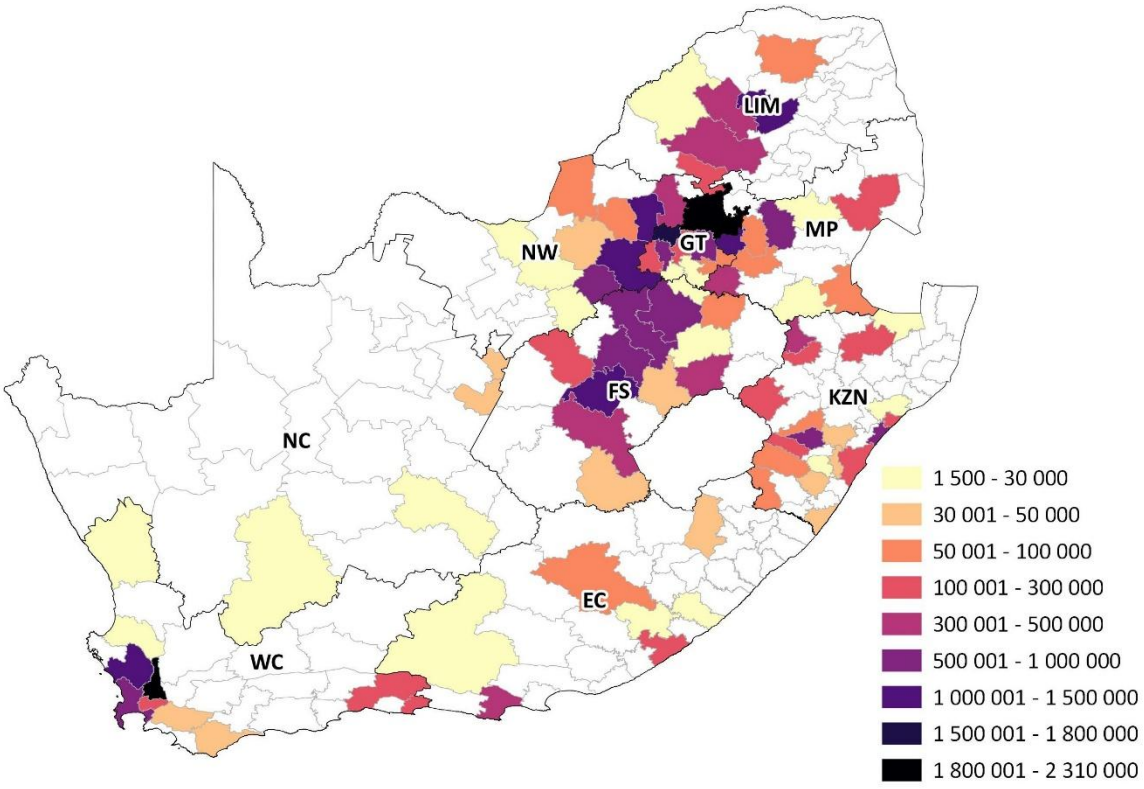


Figure 9: Density of egg industry birds per local municipality

Source: SAPA

3 Distribution of farms according to bird volumes

Table 3 shows the distribution of farms according to the size of the operation. Tables 4 and 5 provide a breakdown of producers that are registered on the AI database, according to the three categories: subsistence, small commercial and large commercial farmers. The number of subsistence farmers reported here represents those that take part in SAPA's statistical surveys. It is not an accurate representation of the total number in South Africa.

Table 3: Distribution of farms according to bird capacity

Number of birds		Number of farms		
From	To	Broiler industry	Egg industry	Total
700 001	and more	15	0	15
600 001	700 000	9	2	11
500 001	600 000	15	2	17
400 001	500 000	20	6	26
300 001	400 000	92	11	103
200 001	300 000	127	18	145
100 001	200 000	112	58	170
90 001	100 000	7	3	10
80 001	90 000	21	8	29
70 001	80 000	10	17	27
60 001	70 000	12	4	16
50 001	60 000	16	13	29
40 001	50 000	46	16	62
30 001	40 000	62	21	83
20 001	30 000	20	22	42
15 001	20 000	10	21	31
10 001	15 000	21	13	34
5 001	10 000	1	17	18
1 501	5 000	4	7	11
501	1 500	0	3	3
101	500	0	0	0
1	100	35	20	55
Total		655	282	937

Table 4: Classification of broiler industry farms

Category	Birds/cycle	No. farms
Subsistence farmers	1 - 1 500	35
Small commercial farmers	1 501 - 40 000	118
Large commercial farmers	40 001 +	502
Total		655

Table 5: Classification of egg industry farms

Category	No. birds	No. farms
Subsistence farmers	1 - 500	20
Small commercial farmers	501 - 50 000	120
Large commercial farmers	50 001 +	142
Total		282

Data collated by Silverpath Consulting
Report compiled by Leading Edge Poultry Software

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