



## DISTRIBUTION OF CHICKENS IN SOUTH AFRICA

**FOR THE SURVEILLANCE PERIOD:  
July 2017 to December 2017  
(2H 2017)**

### 1. Provincial distribution of layer and broiler birds in South Africa

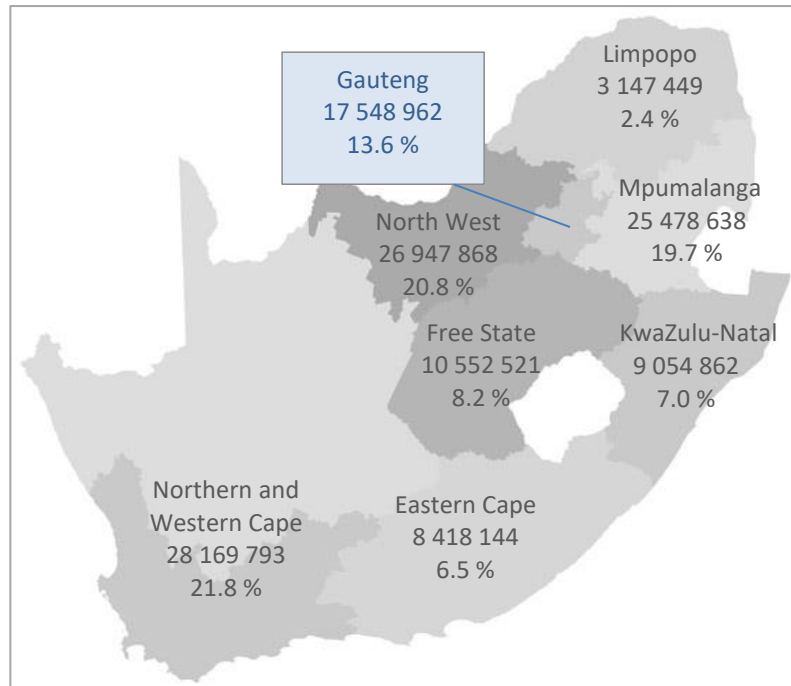
The provincial distribution of chicken farms, in terms of broilers and layers, is given in Table 1. These figures were recorded during the course of the AI survey, where producers provide data on actual bird numbers in addition to the AI laboratory test results. 'Broiler birds' refers to broiler breeders, broiler day-old chicks and broilers in rearing. 'Layer birds' refers to layer breeders, day-old pullets, pullets in rearing and layers in lay. Layer birds belong to the egg industry.

**Table 1:** Provincial distribution of chickens in South Africa

PROVINCE	BROILER		LAYER		TOTAL	
	birds	%	birds	%	birds	%
E. Cape	7 508 361	7.2	909 783	3.6	8 418 144	6.5
Free State	6 943 844	6.7	3 608 677	14.2	10 552 521	8.2
Gauteng	11 104 107	10.7	6 444 855	25.3	17 548 962	13.6
KZN	6 696 594	6.4	2 358 268	9.3	9 054 862	7.0
Limpopo	2 343 780	2.3	803 669	3.2	3 147 449	2.4
Mpumalanga	23 265 356	22.4	2 213 282	8.7	25 478 638	19.7
North West	24 286 311	23.4	2 661 557	10.5	26 947 868	20.8
N & W Cape	21 746 385	20.9	6 423 408	25.3	28 169 793	21.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103 894 738</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>25 423 499</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>129 318 237</b>	<b>100.0</b>

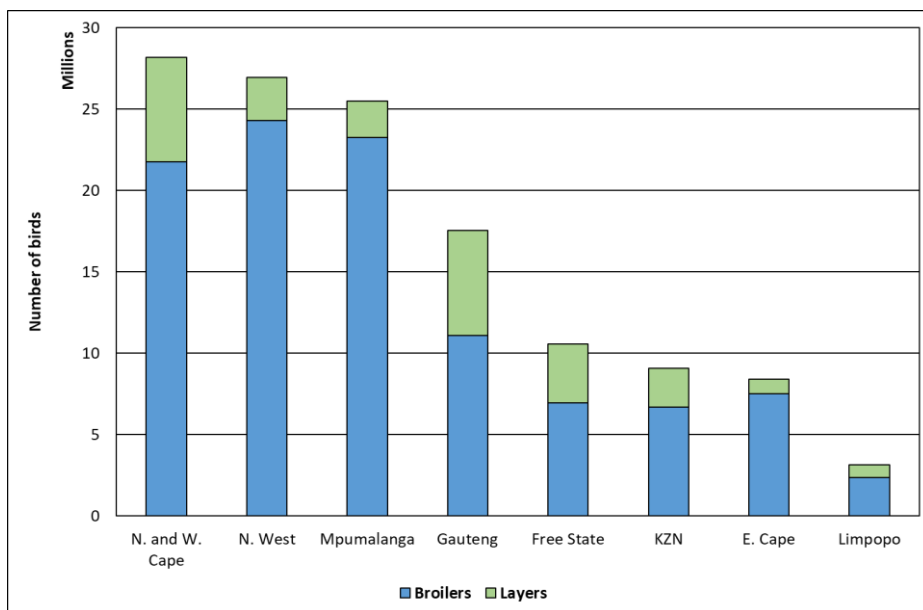
Note: The bird numbers do not reflect the mortalities and culls due to avian influenza.

Figure 1 gives the total number of chickens per province at 31 December 2017, as per Table 1. The Northern Cape has a very small number of poultry producers, thus in order to disguise their bird numbers the province is combined with the Western Cape. These two provinces are home to the largest number of birds with 21.8% of the national total, followed by the North West with 20.8%.



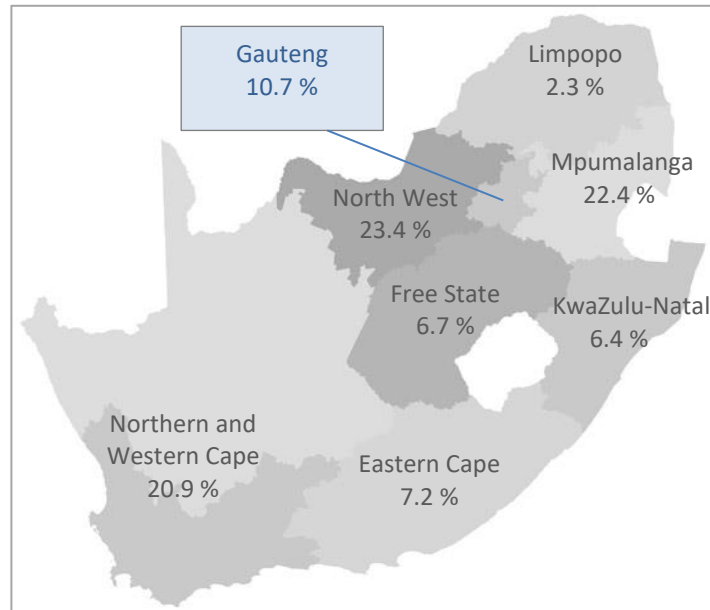
**Figure 1:** Provincial distribution of the national chicken flock in South Africa at December 2017; numbers per province and percentage of total flock.

The proportion of broiler birds and layer birds in each province is illustrated in Figure 2. Broiler production dominates in Mpumalanga, North West and E. Cape, with the ratio of broilers to layers being 10.5:1, 9.1:1 and 8.3:1 respectively.

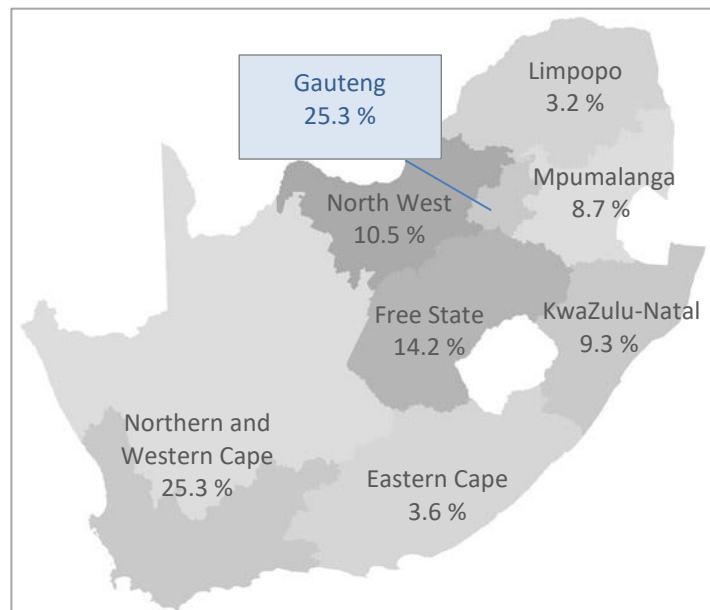


**Figure 2:** Provincial distribution of layer and broiler birds in South Africa in 2H 2017

The provincial distributions (%) of broiler and layer chickens are given in Figures 3 and 4 respectively. Bird numbers are shown in Table 1.



**Figure 3:** Provincial distribution of the national broiler flock in South Africa at December 2017, as a percentage of the total flock.



**Figure 4:** Provincial distribution of the national layer flock in South Africa at December 2017, as a percentage of the total flock.

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

The number of farms is given in Table 2. For this surveillance period the number of broiler farms increased by five; two farms closed or temporarily had zero production and seven new farms started trading or became operational again. The number of layer farms decreased by two; three farms closed or temporarily stopped producing eggs and one of the layer farms resumed production.

**Table 2:** Number of farms participating in the survey

<b>BROILER INDUSTRY</b>	
Broiler breeder farms	121
Broiler rearing farms	424
TOTAL	545
<b>EGG INDUSTRY</b>	
Layer breeder farms	24
Layer rearing farms	28
Layer farms (egg producing)	147
TOTAL	199
<b>BROILER AND EGG INDUSTRIES</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>744</b>

The nationwide distribution of broiler and layer farms is shown in Figures 5 and 6 respectively.

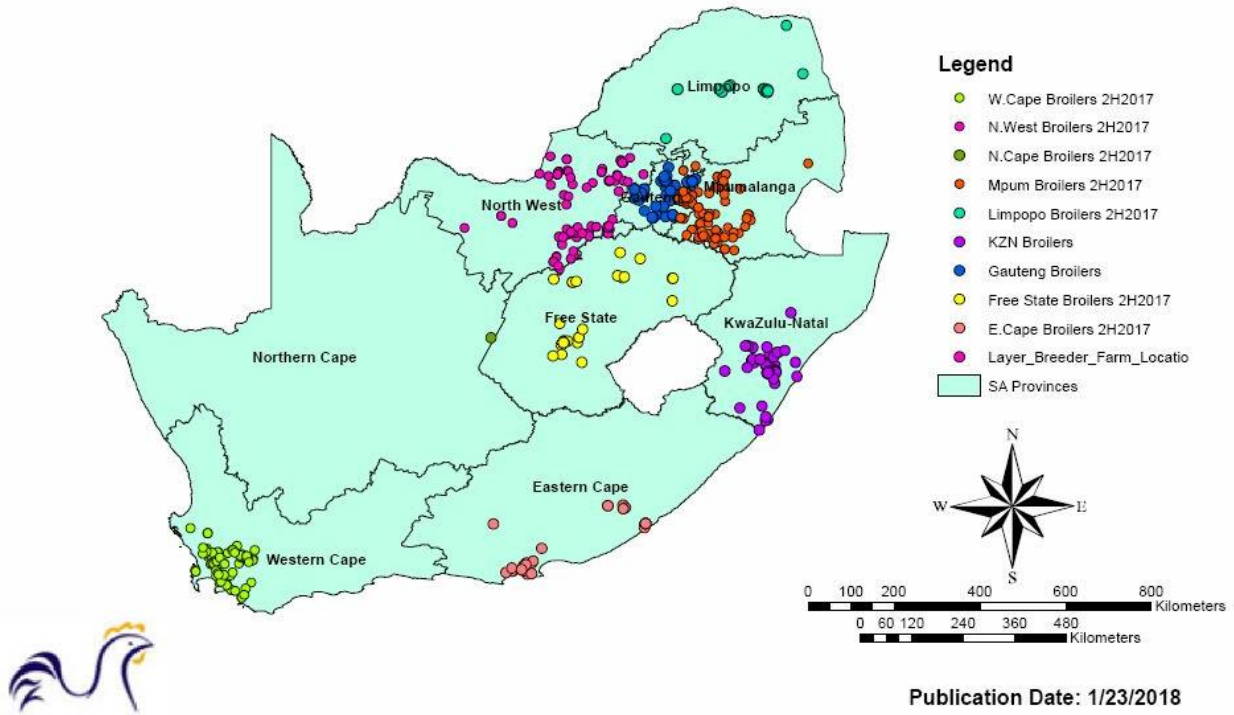


Figure 5: Geographical location of broiler farms

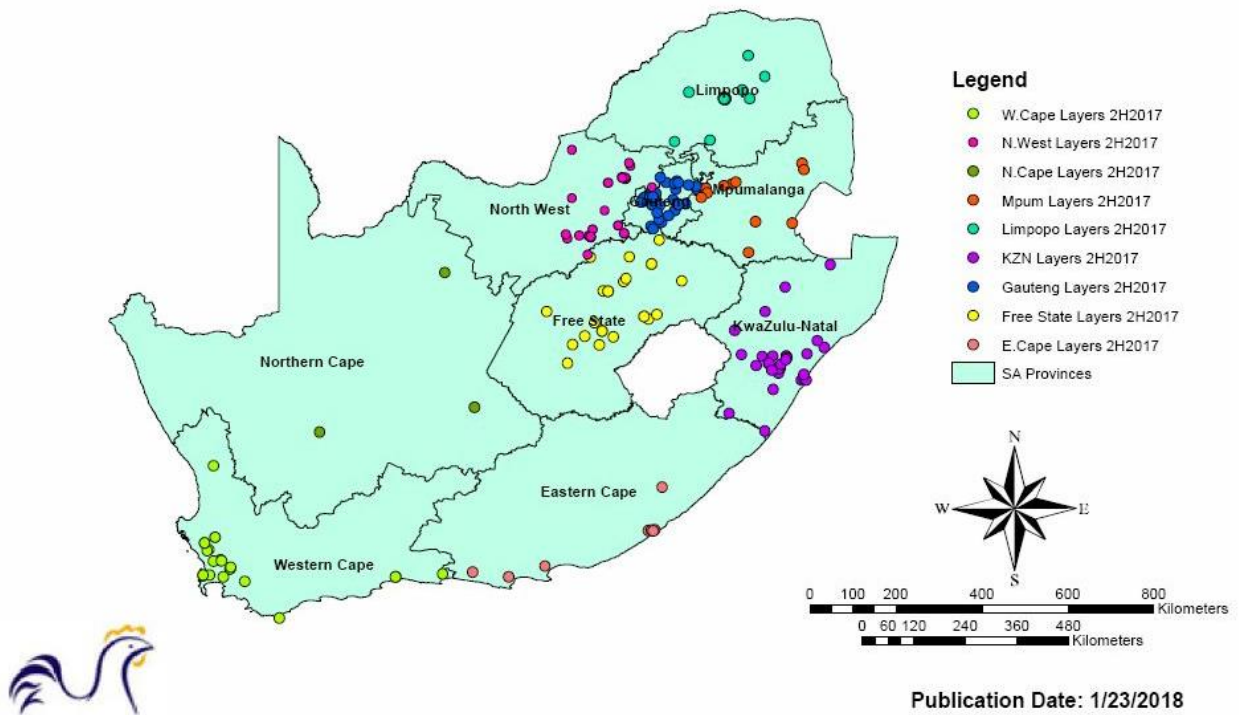


Figure 6: Geographical location of layer farms

### 3. Distribution of farms according to volumes recorded in the AI survey

Table 3 shows the distribution of farms according to size of operation. 48 % of the farms fall in the 100 000 to 400 000 bird range (359 farms out of a total of 744).

**Table 3:** The distribution of farms according to the average number of birds on the farms

Number of birds		Number of farms
from	to	
700 000	and more	12
600 000	699 999	12
500 000	599 999	18
400 000	499 999	19
300 000	399 999	50
200 000	299 999	135
100 000	199 999	174
90 000	99 999	21
80 000	89 999	15
70 000	79 999	8
60 000	69 999	26
50 000	59 999	17
40 000	49 999	31
30 000	39 999	84
20 000	29 999	35
15 000	19 999	18
10 000	14 999	28
5 000	9 999	19
100	4 999	22
		744