



Global Catastrophe Recap

January 2020

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Executive Summary

- Global flood events result in nearly USD2 billion in economic damage cost
- Hailstorms strike multiple Australia metro areas; total insured losses top USD430 million
- January tornado outbreak amid broader winter storm leaves estimated USD1.2 billion cost in the U.S.



7.7 Moment magnitude of the January 28 tremor near Cuba, strongest in more than 100 years



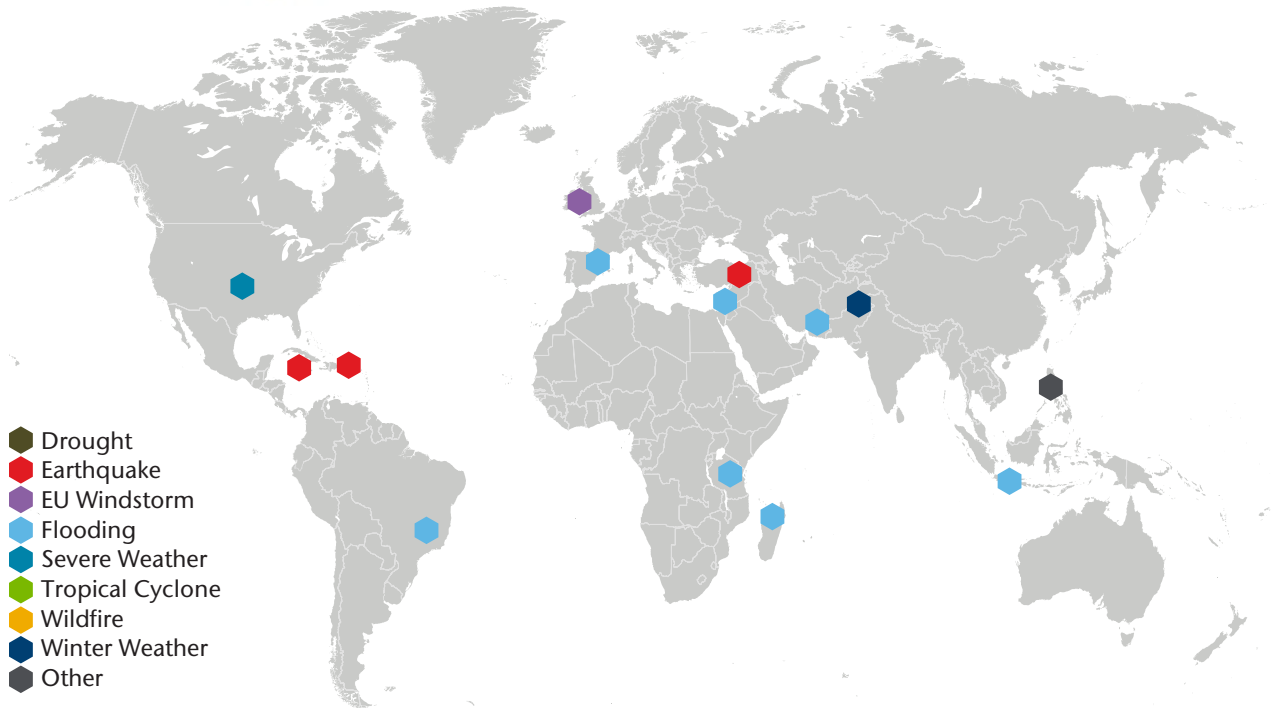
70K Number of claims reported by Australian insurers due to large hail in metro areas



79 Confirmed U.S. tornadoes from January 10-12; 3rd highest outbreak in January since 1950



157 Number of fatalities caused by winter storms in South Asia



United States

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/10-01/12	Severe Weather	Central, Eastern	12	100,000+	1.2+ billion

A powerful winter storm brought significant impacts across central and eastern sections of the United States from January 10-12. At least 12 people were killed. The most notable damage was incurred from a multi-day severe weather outbreak that saw at least 79 confirmed tornado touchdowns and reports of hail (23) and straight-line winds (701) that affected parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Georgia. Torrential rains and wintry weather led to additional damage. Total economic losses were estimated in excess of USD1 billion. More than two-thirds of the economic cost were expected to be insured.

Remainder of North America (Non-US)

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/07-01/11	Earthquake	Puerto Rico	1	5,000+	450+ million
01/28	Earthquake	Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Cuba	0	2,250+	Millions

A series of strong earthquakes struck just offshore or along the southern coast of Puerto Rico, including a magnitude-6.4 tremor on January 7. A strong, magnitude-5.9 tremor struck near the southwest coast on January 11 that caused even more damage in already affected areas. One person was killed, and eight others injured. The hardest-hit areas included from Ponce to the municipalities of Yauco, Guayanilla, Lajas, and Guanica. More than 5,000 homes and structures were damaged or destroyed, including at least 3,200 in Ponce alone. Local municipalities indicated that the economic cost from the tremors totaled at least USD450 million. Insured losses were only a fraction of that total.

The strongest earthquake to strike the northwest Caribbean Sea in more than a century occurred on January 28. The magnitude-7.7 tremor struck offshore both coasts of Cuba and Jamaica but was widely felt as far away as the Cayman Islands and the U.S. state of Florida. A strong magnitude-6.1 aftershock would later strike near the Cayman Islands a few hours later on January 28. Economic losses were expected to be under USD100 million.

South America

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/17-01/29	Flooding	Brazil	70	Thousands	210+ million

Significant flooding, associated with seasonal occurrence of the South Atlantic Convergence Zone, impacted southeastern Brazil from January 17-29. Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, and Rio de Janeiro were the hardest hit. At least 70 people were killed, and tens of thousands were displaced after the heaviest rains in 110 years occurred. Economic losses in Espírito Santo alone reached BRL666 million (USD157 million). The federal government announced that BRL892 million (USD210 million) in aid would be used to alleviate damage in all three states.

Europe

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/13	Windstorm Brendan	Ireland, United Kingdom	1	Thousands	Millions
01/19-01/23	Flooding	Spain	14	11,600+	200+ million

A deep, Atlantic low-pressure system, named Brendan by Met Éireann, impacted Ireland and parts of the United Kingdom with strong gusts on January 13, causing more than 100,000 power outages and minor damage to homes, farms and businesses. Flood warnings were issued across the UK and minor property damage was noted.

A combination of strong winds, storm surge, inland flooding and large hail impacted parts of Eastern Spain on January 19-23, with Catalonia and Valencia regions among the worst affected. The period of inclement weather, associated with “Windstorm Gloria” caused at least 14 fatalities and significant damage on agriculture, infrastructure, and both private and commercial property. The insurance sector expected more than 11,600 claims worth EUR76 million (USD84 million). Total economic losses were even higher.

Middle East

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/04-01/09	Flooding	Israel	7	45,000+	580+ million
01/07-01/20	Flooding	Iran	4	20,000+	808+ million
01/24	Earthquake	Turkey	41	23,000+	10s of millions

Record-breaking rainfall in central and northern Israel on January 4-9 led to widespread flooding and notable material losses in the country. Local insurance entities expected at least 45,000 claims filed with losses exceeding NIS1.5 billion (USD434 million). Total economic losses were estimated beyond NIS2 billion (USD580 million).

Widespread flooding has impacted nearly 1,000 settlements in southeastern Iran on January 9-20, after heavy rainfall totaling up to 186 millimeters (7.3 inches) in isolated locations. Sistan and Balochestan Province was the worst affected. Four people lost their lives and notable infrastructure damage and interruption occurred. According to local officials, at least 20,000 homes were damaged or destroyed and at least 1,200 people were rescued. The government assessed economic damage at IRR34 trillion (USD808 million), which included widespread impacts to provincial infrastructure, housing, agriculture, public structures, energy grid, and other sectors.

A strong, magnitude-6.8 earthquake impacted Elazig and Malatya Provinces in eastern Turkey on January 24, causing significant structural damage and loss of life. Authorities confirmed 41 fatalities, more than 1,600 injuries, and more than 23,000 structures identified as damaged or destroyed. The scope of damage suggested totals reaching well into the millions USD. The Turkish Natural Catastrophe Insurance Pool announced a minimum of 13,000 claims filed as a result of the tremor.

Africa

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/01-01/31	Flooding	Madagascar, Mozambique	60+	25,800+	Millions
01/28-02/03	Flooding	Tanzania	13	3,000+	Millions

Prolonged heavy rains associated with seasonal rains resulted in notable flooding in parts of norther Madagascar and Mozambique during the month of January. There were at least 60 fatalities and more than 25,000 homes affected in both countries.

Torrential rains resulted in widespread flooding across Tanzania from January 28 until February 3. At least 13 people were killed, and another five were left missing. Red Cross officials confirmed that Kilwa, Liwale and Ruangwa in the Lindi region were worst-hit. More than 3,000 homes and structures were inundated.

Asia

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/11-01/14	Winter Weather	Afghanistan, Pakistan, India	157	Thousands	Millions
01/12-01/15	Volcano	Philippines	0	Hundreds	66+ million
01/23-01/28	Flooding	Indonesia	10	15,000+	Millions

A winter storm system brought snow and rain to parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan between January 11-14, triggering avalanches, landslides and flash floods. As many as 107 people were killed in Pakistan after more than 1,300 homes were damaged or destroyed. In Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Herat provinces of Afghanistan, at least 300 houses were damaged or destroyed and no fewer than 39 people killed by the inclement weather during this time. Avalanches in the state of Jammu & Kashmir in India resulted in a further 11 deaths.

Taal, a compound volcano, located in the Batangas Province, Philippines underwent a phreatic eruption on January 12. Following activity caused ashfall, which reached a wide-area including Quezon City, Caloocan, Cavite and Laguna. The event affected more than 15,000 hectares (37,000 acres). Official assessments indicated that damage to agriculture and infrastructure alone was at least PHP3.35 billion (USD66 million).

Heavy rains triggered notable flooding across Java in Indonesia on January 23-28. The worst affected region was the Bandung Regency in West Java Province. Ten people were killed and at least 15,000 structures affected.

Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific Islands)

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
11/08-01/17	Heatwave/Bushfire	Australia	34+	20,000+	Billions
01/19-01/20	Severe Weather	Australia	0	69,850+	550+ million

Continued heat aided in more fire development during the month of January across parts of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, and Western Australia. The combined death toll for the 2019/20 Australia bushfire season rose to at least 34. More than 5,900 homes and other structures were destroyed, and another 1,500 structures damaged. The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) noted that at least 20,000 claims had been filed with insured losses now AUD1.65 billion (USD1.13 billion) for the fires that have been ongoing since early November 2019. These totals will further rise.

Powerful thunderstorms resulted in large hail in major metro areas of Australia – including Melbourne, Canberra, and Sydney – on January 19-20, causing widespread damage to structures and vehicles. The Insurance Council of Australia reported 69,850 claims filed with estimated insured losses of AUD638 million (USD430 million) as of February 4. A majority of claims were filed in the Australian Capital Territory.

Additional Report Details

TD = Tropical Depression, TS = Tropical Storm, HU = Hurricane, TY = Typhoon, STY = Super Typhoon, CY = Cyclone

Fatality estimates as reported by public news media sources and official government agencies.

Structures defined as any building – including barns, outbuildings, mobile homes, single or multiple family dwellings, and commercial facilities – that is damaged or destroyed by winds, earthquakes, hail, flood, tornadoes, hurricanes or any other natural-occurring phenomenon. Claims defined as the number of claims (which could be a combination of homeowners, commercial, auto and others) reported by various public and private insurance entities through press releases or various public media outlets.

Damage estimates are obtained from various public media sources, including news websites, publications from insurance companies, financial institution press releases and official government agencies. Damage estimates are determined based on various public media sources, including news websites, publications from insurance companies, financial institution press releases, and official government agencies. Economic loss totals are separate from any available insured loss estimates. An insured loss is the portion of the economic loss covered by public or private insurance entities. In rare instances, specific events may include modeled loss estimates determined from utilizing Impact Forecasting's suite of catastrophe model products.

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