

Overview: Kumamoto Earthquakes in 2016

On 14 and 16 April 2016, earthquakes occurred in the middle of Kyushu Island, in southwestern Japan, measuring seven (the highest level) on the seismic intensity scale of the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). The quakes caused 137 deaths in Kumamoto prefecture including those passed due to the injury or stress after the disaster and 8,329 houses were totally destroyed in Kumamoto and Oita Prefectures.

1. Outline of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes

The first quake (foreshock) occurred on 14 April 2016 at 21:26 in Kumamoto Prefecture. The epicenter was at 32°44.5′N, 130°48.5′E, at a depth of about 11 km below ground and the magnitude measured 6.5 (Mj). An earthquake with a JMA seismic intensity of 7 was recorded in Mashiki Town.

About 28 hours later, the second quake (main shock) occurred on 16 April 2016 at 01:25 in Kumamoto Prefecture. The epicenter was 32°45.2′N, 130°45.7′E at a depth of about 12 km, with the magnitude measuring 7.3 (Mj). A JMA seismic intensity of 7 was recorded in Mashiki Town and Nishihara Village. Mj7.3 is the same magnitude recorded during the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995. Also, this was the first time that two successive magnitude 7 earthquakes were recorded back-to-back in Japan. These Kumamoto Earthquakes are considered to have been connected, with the foreshock recorded at the northern end of the Hinagu fault, and the main shock recorded at the Futagawa fault.

Source: Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion

http://www.static.jishin.go.jp/resource/monthly/2016/2016_kumamoto_3.pdf



Science and Disaster Resilience

2. Outline of Damages and Status of Recovery

Human Casualties

The total number of deaths in Kumamoto Prefecture was 139, with 974 severely injured and 1,433 slightly injured as of 14 November 2016.



Pref.	Deaths	Severely Injured Slightly Inju	
Fukuoka	0	1	17
Saga	0	4	9
Kumamoto	137	974	1,433
Oita	0	11	22
Miyazaki	0	3	5
Total	137	993	1,486

Table 1 Human Casualties (persons)

Source: Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters

Note: Another eight deaths are considered to be quake-related deaths due to exacerbation of injuries caused by the disasters or diseases caused by physical burden after the earthquake events (The determination of disaster related deaths will be determined by municipal screening boards. And 138 injured persons in Kumamoto are have not yet been classified.)

Building Damage

Housing damage statistics show that across seven prefectures, there 8,329 houses totally destroyed, 31,692 houses half destroyed, and 143,651 houses partially destroyed as of 14 November 2016. Most of the totally destroyed buildings were in Kumamoto Prefecture, just as were most of the human casualties. As many as 311 public buildings were damaged in Kumamoto Prefecture alone.

The five municipalities of Kumamoto Prefecture have resumed operations at locations outside of their city halls due to damage (as of 14 November 2016).

- Yatsushiro City: To a temporary city hall and Sencho branch office
- Hitoyoshi City: To City hall Annex, Sport Palace, and the Culture Palace
- Uto City: To a temporary city hall
- Ozu Town: To public facilities (Okusu Plaza) and a prefabricated temporary city hall
- Mashiki Town: To central community center and a prefabricated temporary city hall

Table 2 Building Damage (Buildings)						
	Housing		Non-Residential Buildings			
Prefecture	Totally	Half	Partially	Public	Others	Fires
	destroyed	destroyed	destroyed	buildings	Others	
Yamaguchi			3			
Fukuoka		1	230		1	
Saga			1		2	
Nagasaki			1			
Kumamoto	8,320	31,475	135,613	311	4,185	15
Oita	9	214	7,783		60	
Miyazaki		2	20			
Total	8,329	31,692	143,651	311	4,248	15

Source: Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters



Lifelines

	Table 5 Liteline Danage and Recovery			
	Peak damage	Recovery situation		
Electricity	474,000 units blackout (16 Apr.)	Mostly restored as of 20 Apr., full		
		restoration as of 27 Apr.		
Gas	105,000 units outage (16 Apr.)	Full restoration at 30 Apr.		
Water	445,857 units water outage (16	Mostly restored at 28 July, except in		
	Apr.)	severely affected areas (approx. 560		
		houses)		
Oil	104 Service Stations closed	More than 90% working as of 14		
		November		

Table 3 Lifeline Damage and Recovery

Source: Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters

Transportation

	Peak damage	Recovery situation
Highways	Many road surfaces damaged, 33	All traffic regulations have been canceled as of
	sections of bridge damaged, landslides	29 Apr.
National	Displacements and landslides in 15	As of 14 November, four sections are blocked,
roads	locations	bypass route available
Railways	Much damage to private railway tracks,	As of 14 Nov., service remains suspended on
	facilities, and stations	two lines
Shinkansen	Deadhead train was derailed, tracks and	Full restoration as of 27 Apr.
bullet train	Kumamoto station were damaged	
Airports	Kumamoto airport was closed on 16	All the domestic flights are in service as of 2 Jun.
	Apr.	and some international flights as of 3 Jun.
Ports	Four major ports affected	Mostly restored, except two areas in Beppu Port
		(as of 14 Nov.)

 Table 4 Transportation System Damage and Recovery

Source: Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters

Evacuation Situation

Affected municipal governments provided gymnasiums and other public buildings for use as public shelters for affected residents who could not live in their damaged houses in Kumamoto, Oita, Nagasaki, and Fukuoka Prefectures. The peak numbers recorded were 855 shelters and 183,882 evacuees as of 17 April. There were one shelter and three evacuees in Kumamoto as of 14 Public November. shelters except Kumamoto Pref. were closed by 16 May.



Figure 1 Evacuation Situation

Source: Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters



Other Damage: Landslides

Many landslides occurred due to the earthquakes. As many as 190 sediment-related disasters such as landslides and debris flows were recorded, killing 15 people including victims caused by the sediment disaster triggered by the heavy rain in June 2016. In addition, 494 river embankment locations were damaged. (Source: Emergency Disaster Response Headquarters:

http://www.bousai.go.jp/updates/h280414jishin/pdf/h280414jishin_36.pdf, and MLIT: http://www.mlit.go.jp/river/sabo/jirei/h28dosha/160914 gaiyou_sokuhou.pdf)

3. Economic Losses

The direct economic losses are estimated at 2.4-4.6 trillion yen (22.4-43.0 billion USD). It is a scale behind to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995.

		Direct Economic	
Past Earthquake in Japan	Source	Losses	
		¥ trillion	US\$ billion
2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes	Cabinet Office analyst	2.4-4.6	24-46
2011 Croat East Japan Earthquake	Cabinet Office for Disaster Management	16.9	169
2011 Great East Japan Earthquake	Cabinet Office analyst	16-25	16-25
2004 Chuetsu Earthquake	Niigata Prefecture	1.7-3	17-30
1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji	National Land Agency, Hyogo Prefecture	9.6-9.9	96-99
Earthquake	National Land Agency, Hyogo Prefecture	9.0-9.9	90-99

Table 5 Direct Economic Losses Caused by Past Earthquakes in Japan

Source: "Ministerial Conference Materials on Monthly Economic Report," 23 May 2016, Cabinet Office (http://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai3/getsurei/2016/05kaigi.pdf), Calculated as 1USD = 110 yen.

In addition, Kumamoto Prefecture estimated 3.8 trillion yen (34.5 billion USD) of the direct economic losses as of 14 September 2016.

4. Comparison with Recent Earthquake Disasters

A comparison of the earthquakes that occurred in Japan and ADRC member countries in recent years reveals that the magnitude of shaking in the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes is same as that experienced during the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, which was an inland active fault-type earthquake. However, it caused only 137 deaths because the epicenters were not in Kumamoto City, the prefectural capital and the second largest city on Kyushu Island. A comparison against the 2015 Nepal Earthquake and 2009 China Sichuan Earthquake, however, shows that while those earthquakes caused more casualties, the Kumamoto Earthquakes will result in much higher direct economic losses than were caused by the Nepal Earthquake.

Table 6	Direct Economic Losses Due to Recent Earthquakes in Asia
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	Magnitude (M)	Deaths (persons)	Direct Economic Losses (billion USD)
2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes	7.3	137	22.4-43.0
2015 Nepal Earthquake	7.8	8,964	5
2011 Great East Japan Earthquake	9.0	19,846	145-227
2009 China Sichuan Earthquake	8.0	87,476	85
2004 Sumatra Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami	9.1	226,408	9.3
1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake	7.3	6,434	87-90

Source: Cabinet Office, EM-DAT, Calculated as 1USD = 110 yen.

2016 Kumamoto Earthquake Damage Survey Report