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KUMAMOTO EARTHQUAKE

In April of 2016, at mid-month, the world was once again reminded of the potential power of seismic activity by a series of earthquakes that hit Kumamoto prefecture on the southernmost island of Japan, as well as by the large shake that occurred half way around the world in Ecuador. In this briefing we summarize the basic facts regarding the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, including a description of the event itself and the basic seismic background of the area. We also outline the major earthquake coverages provided by Japanese insurers, report on possible loss amounts and list some of the major affected facilities.

F-1 | EVENTS OF MOMENT MAGNITUDE 6.0 AND LARGER



Source: Guy Carpenter

EVENT DESCRIPTION

On April 14, 2016 at 9:26 p.m., local time, a moment magnitude 6.2 earthquake occurred approximately 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) west-northwest of Kumamoto city, which is situated in Kyushu, the southernmost main island of Japan. Two hours and 37 minutes later, a moment magnitude 6.0 earthquake occurred approximately 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) south of Kumamoto city.

On April 16 at 1:25 a.m., local time, 28 hours after the first foreshock, an event of moment magnitude 7.0 occurred approximately one kilometer (0.62 miles) west-southwest of Kumamoto city¹. The events were shallow earthquakes with reported depth of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles), according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The shallow depth of these events indicated that they occurred on crustal faults, the USGS said.

There were a series of foreshocks and aftershocks, shown in maps below, for the four day period that began with the first event of April 14.

¹ The source of the moment magnitudes are the USGS.

F-2 | EARTHQUAKE SHOCKS FROM APRIL 14TH THROUGH APRIL 17TH, UTC



Source: Guy Carpenter

T-1 | EARTHQUAKE EVENTS IN JAPAN STANDARD TIME

UTC+09		Moment	Depth in	Epicenter			
Date	Time	Magnitude	kilometers	Latitude	Longitude		
Apr-14	21:26	6.2	10.0	32.849	130.635		
Apr-14	21:42	4.8	10.0	32.578	130.636		
Apr-14	22:07	5.4	10.0	32.788	130.835		
Apr-14	22:22	4.8	10.0	32.683	130.646		
Apr-14	22:38	4.8	10.0	32.685	130.711		
Apr-14	22:43	4.5	10.0	32.704	130.696		
Apr-14	23:28	4.5	10.0	32.785	130.745		
Apr-14	23:29	4.6	10.0	32.752	130.726		
Apr-14	23:43	4.9	10.0	32.783	130.758		
Apr-15	00:03	6.0	6.0	32.693	130.732		
Apr-15	00:06	5.3	10.0	32.707	130.701		
Apr-15	00:34	4.7	10.0	32.698	130.759		
Apr-15	00:50	4.5	10.0	32.742	130.727		
Apr-15	01:53	4.6	11.8	32.696	130.767		
Apr-15	02:14	4.5	10.0	32.713	130.671		
Apr-15	05:10	4.7	10.0	32.754	130.694		
Apr-15	07:29	4.6	10.0	32.843	130.791		
Apr-15	07:46	4.5	10.0	32.804	130.729		
Apr-16	01:25	7.0	10.0	32.782	130.726		

UTC+09		Moment	Depth in	Epicenter			
Date	Time	Magnitude	kilometers	Latitude	Longitude		
Apr-16	01:44	5.3	10.0	32.695	130.735		
Apr-16	01:45	5.7	10.0	32.881	130.846		
Apr-16	02:04	4.6	11.7	32.757	130.742		
Apr-16	02:49	4.5	12.2	33.203	131.321		
Apr-16	03:03	5.4	4.9	32.926	131.043		
Apr-16	03:16	4.6	18.6	33.086	130.836		
Apr-16	03:20	4.5	19.4	33.101	130.997		
Apr-16	03:26	4.5	10.0	32.870	130.918		
Apr-16	03:55	5.5	13.8	32.980	131.136		
Apr-16	04:18	4.4	10.6	32.937	130.950		
Apr-16	04:51	4.7	3.4	32.698	130.734		
Apr-16	05:34	4.5	10.0	32.569	130.509		
Apr-16	06:31	4.3	11.0	32.867	131.137		
Apr-16	06:40	4.5	10.0	32.945	130.917		
Apr-16	07:11	5.1	10.0	33.256	131.370		
Apr-16	07:23	4.6	10.0	32.754	130.744		
Apr-16	07:42	4.1	10.0	32.788	130.645		
Apr-16	08:20	4.5	10.0	32.645	130.667		
Apr-16	09:16	4.3	10.0	32.559	130.583		
Apr-16	09:48	5.2	9.1	32.848	130.777		
Apr-16	10:38	4.3	10.0	32.486	130.465		
Apr-16	11:02	4.9	10.0	32.729	130.670		
Apr-16	14:03	4.6	10.7	33.003	131.118		
Apr-16	14:27	4.6	1.3	32.660	130.639		
Apr-16	16:02	5.3	16.2	32.747	130.668		
Apr-16	17:40	4.6	3.3	32.766	130.555		
Apr-16	21:05	4.6	12.7	32.728	130.750		
Apr-17	00:14	4.7	10.0	32.933	130.941		
Apr-17	03:30	4.3	16.0	33.016	131.050		
Apr-17	04:46	4.6	10.0	32.725	130.680		
Apr-17	19:23	4.7	5.1	32.733	130.564		
Apr-18	08:35	4.6	10.0	32.867	130.695		
Apr-18	20:42	5.3	10.7	33.013	131.092		
Apr-19	06:20	4.3	10.0	33.014	131.003		
Apr-19	17:52	5.1	3.2	32.512	130.567		
Apr-19	20:47	4.8	10.0	32.600	130.542		
Apr-20	03:38	4.1	5.0	32.480	130.656		
Apr-21	05:16	4.5	8.0	33.250	131.433		

Source: USGS

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) reported the first and second earthquake to be of magnitudes Mj 6.5 and Mj 7.3 (Mj is the local magnitude defined and calculated by the JMA) with depths of 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) and 12 kilometers (7.5 miles), respectively. The JMA named the sequence of earthquakes "The 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake"².

F-3 | EARTHQUAKE INTENSITY BY LOCATION USING MODIFIED MERCALLI INTENSITY







Source: USGS

T-2 | MODIFIED MERCALLI INTENSITY SCALE AND THE POPULATION BY OBSERVED INTENSITY

Instrume	ental Intensity	I	11-111	IV	v	VI	VII	VIII	іх	X+
Perceiv	ved Shaking	Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
Peak Acc	elerage (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
Peak Vel	locity (cm/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
Potential	Resistant Structures	None	None	None	Very light	Light	Moderate	Mod./Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
Damage	Vulnerable Structures	None	None	None	Light	Moderate	Mod./Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy	Very Heavy
Populatio Damage	on Exposed in Prone Areas		-		8,510,000	1,757,000	592,000	892,000	0	0

Source: Guy Carpenter

The USGS estimates that 892,000 people were exposed to the severe shaking of the second earthquake.

² Japan Meteorological Agency: Report for Kumamoto earthquake (No.4)

SEISMIC RISK IN THE KYUSHU AREA

The Ryukyu Trench is situated southeast of Kyushu where the Philippine Sea plate begins its subduction beneath Japan. While earthquakes have occurred several hundred kilometers northwest of the Ryukyu Trench, most earthquakes are at significant depths along this subduction zone. Thirteen magnitude 5-plus earthquakes have occurred at shallow depths of less than 50 kilometers (31.1 miles) within 100 kilometers (62.1 miles) of the Kumamoto earthquake over the past century, according to the USGS. In addition to the two events in April, a shallow magnitude 6.6 earthquake occurred in 2005 off the north coast of Kyushu. Two other events occurred in 1975 that were of magnitude 5.8 and 6.1 at distances of 40 kilometers (24.9 miles) and 65 kilometers (40.4 miles) to the northwest. The graphic below from the USGS illustrates the depth of the Ryukyu Trench at 20 kilometer (12.4 miles) increments in orange. The depth of the trench beneath Kumamoto city is roughly 140 plus kilometers (87.0 miles).



F-4 | DEPTH OF THE RYUKYU TRENCH AND DEPTH OF HISTORICAL EARTHQUAKES

Source: USGS

EARTHQUAKE COVERAGE IN JAPAN

Japan is known for its earthquake potential; and like many other earthquake-prone countries, the government participates in insuring earthquake risk. For houses and residential buildings there are two major sources of earthquake insurance. One is via commercial non-life insurance companies with support from the government and the other is via cooperative insurers. For all buildings and man-made structures other than houses and residential buildings, earthquake insurance is available from commercial non-life insurance companies, albeit on a strictly controlled basis.

Earthquake coverage can typically be included on marine hull, ocean cargo and aviation hull risks. It is typically excluded for motor vehicles and personal accident insurance, though can be obtained.

Earthquake coverage includes earthquake, fire following, tsunami and volcanic eruption.

RESIDENTIAL EARTHQUAKE COVERAGE

Residential earthquake insurance provided by non-life insurers is strictly governed by a special law concerning earthquake insurance that was enacted in 1966 following the Niigata earthquake of 1964. Earthquake insurance is provided for an additional premium as an endorsement to the fire insurance policy, which covers buildings in residential use. The amount insured under the earthquake policy must be between 30 percent and 50 percent of the amount insured under the associated fire policy, with a maximum amount of earthquake insurance of JPY50 million (USD467,000) for buildings and JPY10 million (USD93,000) for contents.

Earthquake insurance on residential risks written by commercial non-life insurance companies is 100 percent ceded to the Japan Earthquake Reinsurance Company, Ltd (JER). The JER in turn retrocedes most of this risk to the Japanese government via an excess of loss structure, with a small portion retroceded back to the non-life insurance companies and reinsurer Toa Re. The companies must retain 100 percent of the retrocession. As of April 1, 2014, the program's limit was JPY7,000 billion (USD 65.421 billion) with the government assuming JPY6,738.6 billion (USD62.978 billion) in limit (96.3 percent), the JER retaining JPY224.7 billion (USD2.100 billion) (3.2 percent) and the non-life insurance companies retaining JPY36.7 billion (USD0.343 billion) (0.5 percent). Starting April 1, 2016, the program's limit was increased to JPY11,300 billion (USD 105.607 billion) with the government retaining JPY10,990.2 billion (USD102.712 billion) in limit (97.3 percent)³.

As of 2014, the countrywide take-up rate with the JER was approximately 29.4 percent with the take-up in Kumamoto Prefecture at 28.9 percent.

Prefecture	Zone	Number of Homes	Number of Homes Insured with the JER	Takeup Rate	Prefecture	Zone	Number of Homes	Number Home Insured v the JE	r of s with R
Hokkaido	1	2,727,000	619,000	22.7%	Hyogo	8	2,460,000	616,000)
Akita	2	425,000	82,000	19.3%	Kyoto	8	1,176,000	325,000	
Aomori	2	585,000	114,000	19.5%	Nara	8	577,000	158,000	
Niigata	2	874,000	179,000	20.5%	Osaka	8	4,117,000	1,258,000	
Yamagata	2	407,000	79,000	19.4%	Shiga	8	548,000	142,000	
Fukushima	3	760,000	209,000	27.5%	Wakayama	8	437,000	105,000	
Iwate	3	515,000	108,000	21.0%	Hiroshima	9	1,273,000	364,000	
Miyagi	3	950,000	493,000	51.9%	Okayama	9	817,000	172,000	
Gunma	4	808,000	159,000	19.7%	Shimane	9	284,000	42,000	
Ibaraki	4	1,187,000	328,000	27.6%	Tottori	9	232,000	51,000	
Saitama	4	3,085,000	948,000	30.7%	Yamaguchi	9	656,000	149,000	
Tochigi	4	793,000	206,000	26.0%	Ehime	10	645,000	148,000	
Chiba	5	2,704,000	897,000	33.2%	Kagawa	10	427,000	126,000	
Kanagawa	5	4,114,000	1,418,000	34.5%	Kochi	10	353,000	87,000	
Tokyo	5	6,699,000	2,446,000	36.5%	Tokushima	10	329,000	89,000	
Aichi	6	3,096,000	1,261,000	40.7%	Fukuoka	11	2,296,000	751,000	
Gifu	6	792,000	266,000	33.6%	Kagoshima	11	802,000	194,000	
Mie	6	768,000	213,000	27.7%	Kumamoto	11	757,000	219,000	
Nagano	6	846,000	156,000	18.4%	Miyazaki	11	515,000	123,000	
Shizuoka	6	1,518,000	453,000	29.8%	Nagasaki	11	626,000	86,000	
Yamanashi	6	350,000	103,000	29.4%	Oita	11	525,000	118,000	
Fukui	7	284,000	70,000	24.6%	Saga	11	321,000	59,000	
Ishikawa	7	466,000	111,000	23.8%	Okinawa	12	600,000	86,000	
Toyama	7	405,000	81,000	20.0%	Total		55,931,000	16,467,000	

T-3 | NUMBER OF DWELLINGS AND THE PERCENTAGE INSURED WITH THE JER

Source: http://www.nihonjishin.co.jp/disclosure/2015/a_05.pdf

3 Source: https://www.mof.go.jp/english/financial_system/earthquake_insurance/outline_of_earthquake_insurance.html

The other source of residential earthquake insurance is through a limited number of cooperative insurers. As opposed to residential earthquake insurance under the government's program, cooperative earthquake insurance is entirely run and managed by each individual cooperative insurer that writes the class, with no governmental support. The original policy terms tend to be somewhat similar in basic design to those of the government's program backed policies, but reinsurance arrangements are entirely at the discretion of the individual cooperatives. Almost all the cooperatives writing this class purchase non-proportional reinsurance from the international reinsurance market and, in certain cases, also access the capital markets for protection via catastrophe bond issuance.

In the cooperative sector, Zenkyoren, the agricultural mutual, is by far the largest. The number of policies Zenkyoren had in force in 2014 was 10,529 million⁴, which is 64 percent of the size of the JER in terms of number of policies. The next largest cooperative is Zenrosai, which had 2.1 million natural peril policies in force in 2014⁵.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL EARTHQUAKE COVERAGE

For all commercial and industrial risks, earthquake insurance is only available from commercial non-life insurance companies. The policy terms, including original rates, are set by the individual insurance companies or determined following negotiations between the insured and the insurer(s). Because of the high loss potential, insurance companies strictly control their earthquake aggregate exposure by sub limiting the potential payments. It is not unusual for these sublimits to be less than 5 percent of the fire sum insured for very large corporate insureds holding a large amount of property across Japan. Also, non-life insurance companies typically provide only very limited coverage for business interruption.

EARTHQUAKE FIRE EXPENSE INSURANCE (EFEI)

Earthquake Fire Expense Insurance (EFEI) is an expense insurance coverage specific to Japan that is designed to pay additional expenses caused by fire following an earthquake. For non-life insurers, EFEI is included as a standard feature in their normal fire insurance policies, for both residential and non-residential insureds. EFEI does not fall under the government's JER program.

POTENTIAL LOSSES FROM THE KUMAMOTO EARTHQUAKE

The catastrophe modeling firm RMS estimated the economic loss for property risks to be between USD2.5 billion and USD3.5 billion⁶. This estimate includes only residential, commercial, and industrial property and contents. Catastrophe modeling firm AIR estimated the insured loss to be between USD1.7 billion and USD2.9 billion for property risks⁷. Both catastrophe modeling firms' estimates exclude infrastructure, business interruption and contingent business interruption.

The Japan Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA) released its forty-fourth Kumamoto Earthquake Bulletin on April 28. The bulletin reports 65 fatalities, 332 severe injuries and 1,161 minor injuries. The bulletin also reports residential building damage of:

- Total damage to 2,111 buildings
- Half damage to 2,414 buildings
- Partial damage to 9,592 buildings

⁴ Source: http://www.ja-kyosai.or.jp/ebook/2015annual/index.html#page=15

⁵ Source: https://www.zenrosai.coop/english/

⁶ Source: RMS Own Event Response webpage update 27 and Asia Insurance Review,

http://www.asiainsurancereview.com/News/View-NewsLetter-Article?id=35722&Type=eDaily

⁷ Source: http://www.air-worldwide.com/Facet-Search/Search-Results/

For non-residential buildings, FDMA reported damage to 94 public buildings and 351 other buildings. They also reported 16 fires as a result of the earthquakes.

There is a potential for business interruption and contingent business interruption losses to companies relying on supplies from factories in the Kumamoto region. There are a number of industrial parks in the area that are shown in blue in the map below and some of the companies in these parks are highlighted in the table insert.



F-5 | INDUSTRIAL PARKS AND CORPORATIONS IN KUMATOMO PREFECTURE

Source: Guy Carpenter

Toyota Motor Corporation expects to lose 80,000 units of production after shutting down nearly all of its assembly plants in Japan. The shutdowns occurred after disruption to two of its suppliers, Aisin Seiki, which produces automotive components and Renesas Electronics, a manufacturer of automotive microchips⁸. Aisin Seiki said production at two plants that make engine and auto parts, semiconductors and other components have been stopped since April 14. Renesas's plant was also shut down⁹.

Toyota was not the only automaker affected. Nissan experienced a brief slowdown, Honda suspended a motorcycle plant in the region and Mitsubishi closed a production line due to a parts shortage¹⁰.

General Motors temporarily closed four North American assembly plants because of supply chain disruptions. The assembly plants shutdowns were in Spring Hill, Tennessee; Lordstown, Ohio; Fairfax, Kansas and Oshawa, Ontario¹¹.

Source: http://www.autonews.com/article/20160424/OEM/160429922/toyota-estimates-loss-in-output-from-japan-quakes-at-80000-vehicles
Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-04-18/toyota-seen-losing-277-million-from-japan-earthquake-stoppages

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Source: http://www.autonews.com/article/20160422/OEM01/160429944/gm-to-idle-4-n.a.-plants-for-2-weeks-after-japan-quakes-disrupt

Other companies in the area reporting suspended operations according to Newswitch¹²:

- Fuji Seiko (Precision): Operations at their Kumamoto factory in Otsu-town were suspended, but the supply of their products, such as cutting tools, will be maintained by shifting production to other factories.
- Chuo Katan Kogyo: Operations at their Kumamoto factory in Otsu-town, which cuts aluminum and other mold products for automobiles, were suspended.
- Koshi Tech: Operations at their Kumamoto factory, which manufactures components and parts for motorbikes, automobiles and general-purpose engines, were suspended.
- Honda: Operations at their Kumamoto factory in Otsu-town were suspended but Honda's product supply was maintained by shifting production to other Honda factories.
- Bridgestone: Operations at their Kumamoto factory in Tamana-city that produce rubber crawlers and high-pressure hoses were suspended.
- NOK: Operations at their Kumamoto factory in Aso-city, which manufactures O-rings, were suspended due to power shortages.
- Toyota Motor Kyushu: Both the Kanda factory, which manufactures engines, and the Kokura factory, which manufactures the components for hybrid cars, suspended operations.
- NIFCO: The factory that manufactures resin interior parts for automobile cabins and certain components for fuel systems suspended operations due to property damage.
- Alfresa Holdings: Shipping of its pharmaceutical supplies was suspended from its Kyushu logistics Centre.
- Kumamoto Milling: Production at the Kumamoto factory and the Koshi rice mill was suspended.
- Fuji Film Kyushu: Production at their Kumamoto factory was suspended.

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