



Global Catastrophe Recap

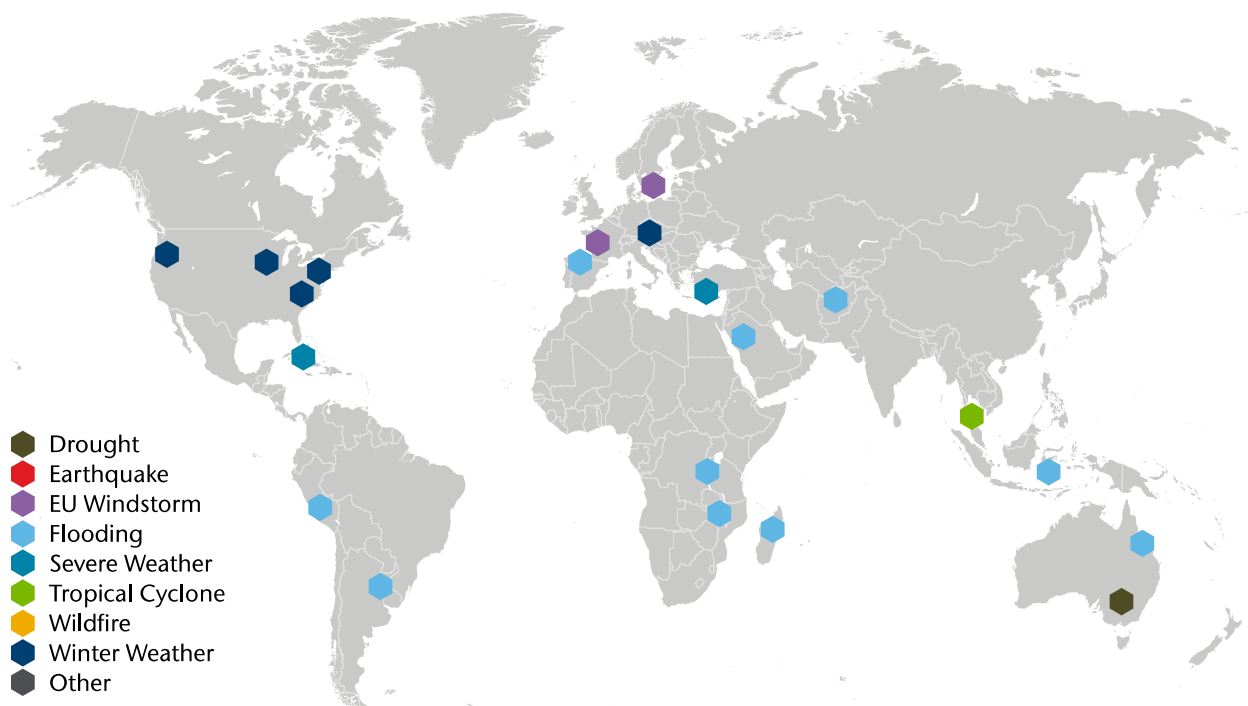
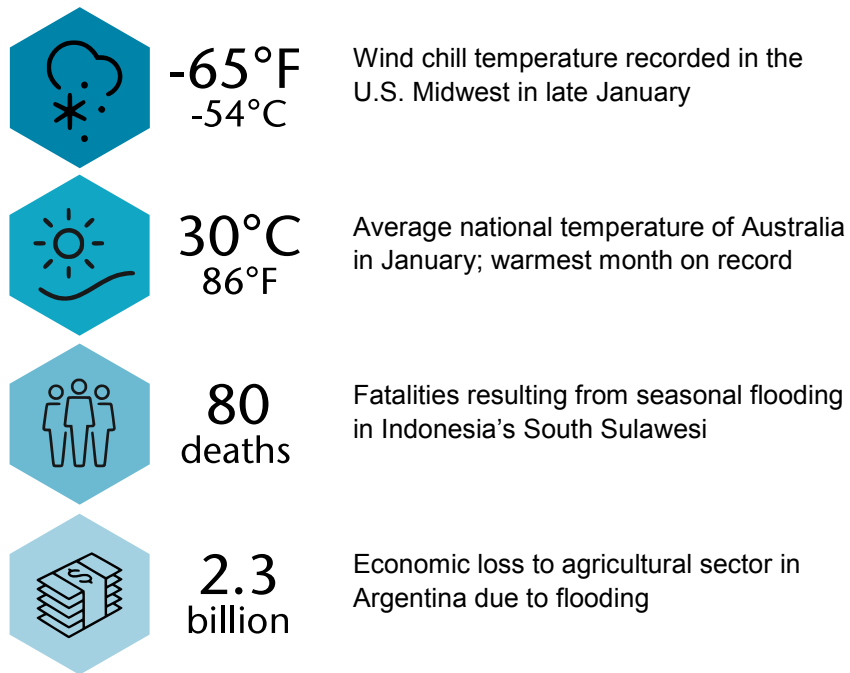
January 2019

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Executive Summary

- Multiple winter storms & extreme cold leads to billion-dollar cost in the United States
- Torrential seasonal rainfall prompts USD2.3 billion economic loss to agriculture in Argentina
- Australia records its warmest month on record; first time nation averaged 30°C (86°F) in a month



United States

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/05-01/06	Winter Weather	West	0	7,500+	125+ million
01/11-01/14	Winter Weather	Plains, Midwest, Mid-Atlantic	13	Thousands	Millions
01/16-01/18	Winter Weather	West	0	12,000+	275+ million
01/18-01/24	Winter Weather	Midwest, Northeast	10	Thousands	100+ million
01/29-01/31	Winter Weather	Midwest, Northeast, Southeast	22	Thousands	100s of Millions+

A Pacific storm system brought heavy rainfall, mountain snow, high winds, and mudslides to parts of Washington, Oregon, and California. Total economic losses were estimated at up to USD125 million. Insurers covered roughly USD75 million.

A swath of heavy snow and freezing rain led to widespread damage and disruption across the Central and Eastern U.S. from January 11-14. Thirteen people were killed. States of emergency were declared in Virginia and North Carolina. Total economic and insured losses were each expected to reach into the millions (USD).

A Pacific storm system prompted periods of heavy rainfall, flooding, snow, gusty winds, and landslides across parts of California and Oregon from January 16-18. Total economic losses were estimated at upwards of USD275 million, with public and private insurers covering roughly USD175 million.

A potent winter storm brought periods of heavy snowfall, freezing rain, ice, rain, and thunderstorms to parts of the Eastern U.S. from January 18-21. Ten people were killed. A surge of Arctic air behind the system from January 22-24 resulted in sub-zero (F) temperatures in the Midwest and Northeast. Total economic and insured losses were each expected to surpass USD100 million.

A period of heavy snow, ice, and the coldest temperatures in decades engulfed much of the Eastern U.S. from January 29-31. At least 22 people were killed as actual air temperatures in parts of the Upper Midwest were colder than -50°F (-45.6°C). Total economic and insured losses were expected to reach into the hundreds of millions (USD).

Remainder of North America (Non-US)

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/27	Severe Weather	Cuba	6	Hundreds	Millions

The first F4 tornado since 1940 touched down near Havana, Cuba on January 27. Six people were killed, and more than 190 others were injured. The twister caused widespread damage to homes, schools, businesses, and vehicles. Total economic damage was likely to reach into the millions (USD).

South America

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/01-01/20	Flooding	Argentina, Uruguay	5	Thousands	2.3+ billion
01/27	Landslide	Peru	15	100+	Negligible

Excessive rainfall throughout January caused significant damage to the agricultural sector, and additionally to property and infrastructure in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Brazil. Five people were killed. The Confederation of Rural Associations of Argentina estimated agricultural damage at USD2.3 billion alone.

Heavy rain in the Apurimac region of Peru led to roughly 100 residential and commercial properties to be impacted by flooding and landslides. At least 15 people were killed, and dozens of others injured.

Europe

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures / Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/01-01/02	Windstorm Alfrida	Northern Europe	0	5,000+	30+ million
01/01-01/14	Winter Weather	Central Europe	26	Thousands	100s of Millions
01/22-01/24	Flooding	Spain	4	3,100+	58+ million
01/29	Windstorm Gabriel	France	0	4,000+	Millions+

Windstorm Alfrida (also known as Zeetje) generated relatively strong gusts across the Baltic Sea coast, causing minor damage in Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Estonia and Latvia. Insurers received several thousands of claim filings.

The first two weeks of January featured heavy snowfall and cold impacts across several countries in Central Europe. At least 26 people were killed. The heaviest snow was recorded in Austria, where snow depths exceeded 100-year return periods and set new records. Total economic damage was likely to reach into the hundreds of millions (EUR).

Heavy rainfall in northwest Spain on January 23-24 resulted in flooding and landslides. Four people were killed. Severe damage to infrastructure was observed in Cantabria and Asturias. Total economic losses were likely to exceed EUR50 million (USD58 million). Consorcio de Compensación de Seguros, a public insurance entity, anticipated 3,100 claims filings with payouts reaching EUR25 million (USD29 million).

Windstorm Gabriel, the first storm to be named by MétéoFrance in 2019, affected mainland France on January 29. Minor wind-related damage was recorded in areas along the Atlantic coast. Total economic and insured losses were expected to reach into the millions (EUR).

Middle East

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/27-01/29	Flooding	Saudi Arabia	12	1,000+	Millions
01/24-01/26	Severe Weather	Turkey	2	4,100+	20+ million

Torrential rainfall in northern and western Saudi Arabia caused notable flooding in multiple areas from January 27-29. At least 12 people were killed. Widespread damage was reported to homes, automobiles, and infrastructure. Total economic losses were likely to reach into the millions (USD).

Tornadoes, large hail, and damaging winds impacted southwest Turkey on January 24-26. Two people were killed and dozens injured. Most impacts occurred in Antalya Province. Economic damage was minimally listed at USD20 million.

Africa

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/01-01/31	Flooding	Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia	22	Hundreds	Millions
01/17-01/21	Flooding	Burundi	10	Hundreds	Unknown
01/19	Flooding	Madagascar	9	Unknown	Unknown

Heavy seasonal rains prompted widespread flooding in parts of Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia throughout January. Fatalities included 18 in Mozambique and 4 in Zambia.

Seasonal rains led to flooding across Madagascar on January 19. At least 9 people were killed in a series of landslides and overflowing rivers in Antananarivo, the nation's capital.

Heavy rain in Burundi triggered flooding from January 17-21. At least 10 people were killed as the floods were most severe in parts of Nyakabiga, Musaga, Kanyosha, Buterere, and Kinama.

Asia

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/03-01/05	Tropical Storm Pabuk	Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia	9	2,300+	150+ million
01/06	Flooding	Afghanistan	30	0	Negligible
01/21-02/01	Flooding	Indonesia	80	22,500+	Millions

Tropical Storm Pabuk made landfall in Thailand on January 4 with 95 kph (60 mph) winds and became the earliest named storm to come ashore in the country since at least 1951. Seven people were killed. The Thai Chamber of Commerce for Economic and Business Forecasting estimated economic losses of up to USD150 million. Two additional fatalities due to heavy rainfall was noted in Vietnam and Malaysia.

An overflowing river led to flash flooding across parts of Afghanistan’s Badakhshan province on January 6. The event also triggered a landslide in the Kohistan district that left at least 30 gold miners dead.

Torrential seasonal rainfall in Indonesia’s South Sulawesi during the last week of January into February led to severe flood and landslide damage. At least 80 people were killed. The government cited that roughly 22,500 homes and other structures and 14,000 hectares (34,000 acres) of cropland were impacted. Economic losses were likely to reach into the millions of dollars (USD).

Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific Islands)

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/01-01/31	Heatwave	Australia	N/A	Unknown	Unknown
01/26-02/04	Flooding	Australia	3	12,000+	100s of Millions

Australia recorded its hottest month in January since data began being kept in 1910. The Bureau of Meteorology cited that the nationwide average temperature was more than 30°C (86°F), the first time that this has occurred in any month. The record head coincided with most states receiving less than normal precipitation. This only enhanced the ongoing severe drought which deepened throughout 2018.

Heavy rains impacted Australia’s northern Queensland from late January into early February. One person was killed. Some rivers to reach their highest levels on record. Among the hardest-hit towns included were Townsville, Whyanbeel, and Daintree. The Insurance Council of Australia declared a catastrophe and cited more than 6,525 claims with payouts nearing AUD80 million (USD57 million), though this total was expected to significantly rise. Total economic damage may approach AUD1 billion (USD710 million).

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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