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Executive Summary

- European Windstorm Ciara (Sabine) becomes the costliest event of the peril since 2018
- February U.S. severe thunderstorms prompts insured payouts of roughly USD800 million
- “East Coast Low” leads to Australia wind & flood damage; sixth insurance catastrophe in five months



219
kph

Peak wind gust during Windstorm Ciara/Sabine at Cap Corse, France on February 9 (136 mph)



920
mbar

Minimum pressure of extratropical cyclone Dennis, likely among 4 lowest in the North Atlantic on record



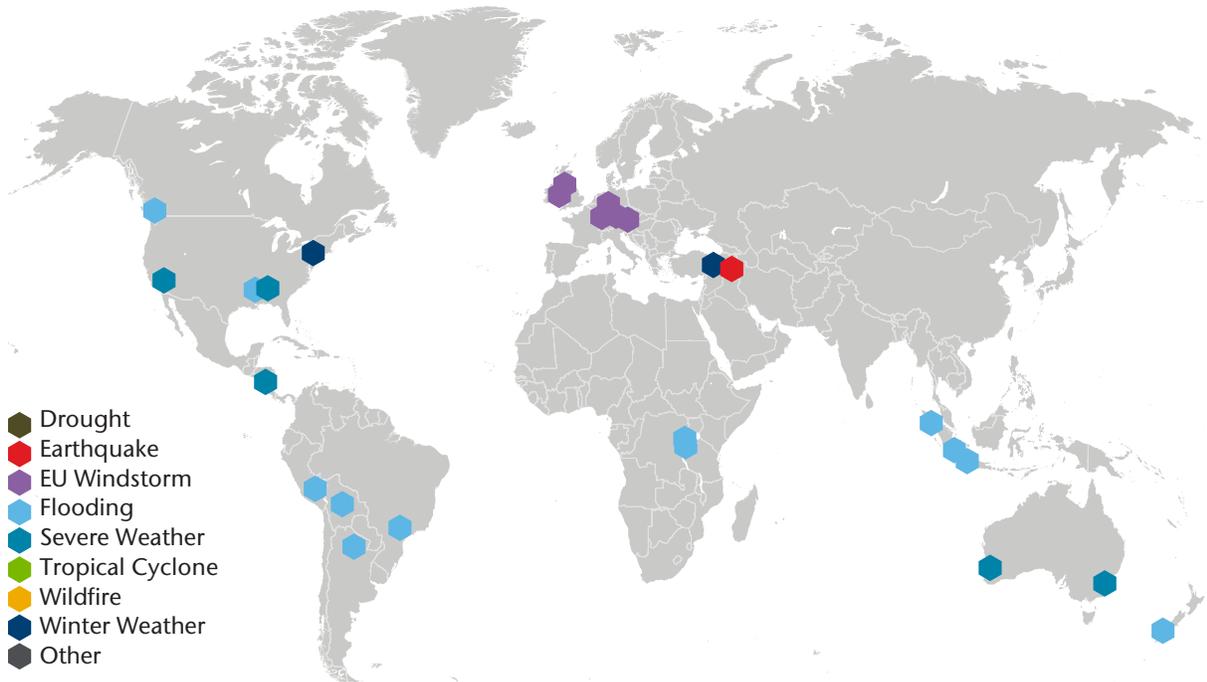
392
mm

Rainfall recorded in Sydney on February 7-10, highest in decades (15.4 inches)



0.2
inch

Average precipitation in California’s Northern Sierra foothills; driest February on record



United States

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
02/03-02/08	Severe Weather	Central & Eastern U.S.	3	100,000+	925+ million
02/08-02/10	Severe Weather	West	0	15,000+	140+ million
02/10-02/17	Flooding	Southeast	0	Thousands	100+ million
02/25-02/27	Winter Weather	Midwest, Northeast	1	Thousands	10s of Millions

A strong winter storm tracked across the eastern two-thirds of the United States from February 3-8, spawning at least 37 confirmed tornado touchdowns, large hail, damaging straight-line winds, heavy snow, freezing rain, and flooding rains. At least three people were killed, and dozens of others injured. Among the hardest-hit areas in terms of physical damage occurred in the Southeast – including Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Flash flood damage was also cited. Wintry weather resulted in thousands of flight delays. Total economic losses were estimated at more than USD925 million; insured losses topped USD675 million.

High winds and periods of heavy precipitation affected parts of California and Arizona from February 8-11. Some of the most severe damage occurred in the greater Los Angeles metro region, where surface wind gusts topped 75 mph (120 kph) just northeast of Glendale in the San Rafael Hills. Wind advisories were issued as the gusts downed a high volume of trees onto vehicles and other property. Similar damage was noted in the San Francisco Bay Area. Total economic losses were estimated at USD140 million. A majority of those costs were insured.

Weeks of above-average precipitation across much of the U.S. Southeast culminated in riverine flooding in Mississippi. At least 1,000 homes were inundated, including 450 alone in the greater Jackson metro region after the Pearl River crested at its third-highest level on record. The Pearl River floods – which were most significant from February 10-17 – prompted a state of emergency declaration. Total economic damage to property, infrastructure, and agriculture was estimated to minimally reach into the tens of millions (USD). Low take-up of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies meant that a large portion of the damage was expected to be uninsured.

A notable winter storm prompted periods of heavy snowfall, accumulating ice, and heavy rains to eastern sections of the United States from February 25-27. At least one person was killed. The area of low pressure intensified as it entered the U.S. Midwest and resulted in hazardous travel conditions and high winds that closed highways and delayed flights. The system would later track into Canada as daily snowfall records for February 26 were recorded in parts of Ontario and Quebec. Total economic and insured losses were estimated into the millions (USD).

Remainder of North America (Non-US)

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/31-02/01	Flooding	Canada	0	2,000+	10s of Millions
02/26-02/28	Winter Weather	Canada	1	Thousands	75+ million
02/28-02/29	Severe Weather	Honduras	3	Hundreds	Millions

An atmospheric river prompted significant rainfall, flooding, and gusty winds across southern sections of British Columbia in Canada. States of emergency were declared in Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island and the District of Kent in the Fraser Valley after landslides and flash flood inundation affected hundreds of properties. Several rivers also approached its 1-in-100-year heights. High winds additionally caused further damage. Insured losses were expected to reach into the tens of millions (USD).

The winter storm that affected northeastern United States tracked into Canada as daily snowfall records for February 26 were recorded in parts of Ontario and Quebec. Total economic and insured losses in Canada were estimated into the millions (USD).

Heavy rains and strong winds resulted in minor damage in northern departments of Honduras on February 28-29. Among the worst affected were Gracias a Dios, Colón, Atlántida, Cortés, Yoro and Islas de la Bahía. The Office of Risk Management and National Contingencies (Copeco) noted that more than 3,500 families, or 17,700 people, were affected in total. Two people were killed, and one went missing. Preliminary estimates suggested at least 164 homes damaged or destroyed. Local authorities also noted the contrast between the northern departments affected by the deluge and drought conditions prevailing in the rest of the country.

South America

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
02/08-02/29	Flooding	Bolivia	17	1,000+	10s of Millions
02/09-02/10	Flooding	Brazil	4	4,000+	50+ million
02/11-02/19	Flooding	Argentina	1	1,000+	Millions
02/17-02/25	Flooding	Peru	4	2,400+	Millions

Seasonal rainfall resulted in significant flooding across several departments in Bolivia during the month of February. At least 17 people were killed. Bolivia’s Civil Defense agency cited overflowing rivers in La Paz, Santa Cruz, Potosi, Beni, Cochabamba, and Tarija. More than 1,000 homes and other structures were damaged. Total economic damage to property, infrastructure, and agriculture was estimated into the millions (USD).

Excessive rainfall on February 9-10 in the Brazilian state of Sao Paulo led to at least four fatalities and significant flood inundation. States of emergency were declared in the municipalities of Botucatu, Laranjal Paulista, and Taboao da Serra; while the city of Sao Paulo itself was paralyzed by more than 100 millimeters (4.00 inches) of rain that fell in just three hours. Overflow by the Tiete and Pinheiros rivers also resulted in further flooding and mudslides. Total economic damage to property and infrastructure was estimated to reach well into the millions (USD).

Torrential seasonal rains affected multiple northern provincial regions of Argentina from February 11-19, leaving at least one person dead and thousands of others affected. Some of the worst damage was noted in Chaco Province. Local officials cited vast areas of agricultural land that were submerged – though it remained too early to predict the impact on the soybean harvest. Further floods in Salta Province led to one fatality after the San Antonio River burst its banks. Additional flood damage was cited in Tucumán and La Rioja provinces. In total, more than 1,000 properties were reportedly inundated.

Continuing seasonal rains in Peru and Bolivia resulted in flooding and landslides in several regions of the country in the second half of February. A spell between February 17-21 caused damage to at least 200 homes in Arequipa. Flooding and landslides in the Tacna region on February 21-22 resulted in four deaths and at least 20 injuries, while more than 250 families were displaced. According to the Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia Nacional (COEN), at least 2,400 homes were affected. In an additional episode, three people were killed in Cusco region on February 25.

Europe

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
02/03-02/04	Windstorm Petra	Central Europe	3	Thousands	150+ million
02/09-02/10	Windstorm Ciara	Western & Central Europe	14	750,000+	1.9+ billion
02/15-02/16	Windstorm Dennis	Western & Northern Europe	6	Thousands	100s of millions
02/23-02/24	Windstorm Yulia	Central Europe	0	Thousands	100+ million
02/27	Windstorm Bianca	Western & Central Europe	0	Thousands	10s of millions
02/29	Windstorm Jorge	Western Europe	0	Thousands	10s of millions

Windstorm Petra swept through multiple European countries on February 3-4, bringing strong gusts to a limited area in eastern France, Switzerland, southern Germany, Austria, Hungary and Slovakia. At least three people were killed. Additional effects included intense rain, which resulted in localized flooding. Regional insurers cited that thousands of claims had been filed, with payouts minimally exceeding the tens of millions (EUR). The overall economic cost was expected to top USD100 million.

Windstorm Ciara – also known locally in some locations as “Sabine” – led to significant impacts across 17 separate European countries on February 9-10. At least 14 people were killed. Major wind-related damage was incurred on property and automobiles. Preliminary public estimates by insurers and industry groups placed the total insured loss at well above EUR1 billion (USD1.1 billion), with a majority occurring in Germany. The total economic loss will be even higher.

Windstorm Dennis (Victoria) – resulted in flood- and wind-related damage in multiple European countries on February 15-16. Impacts from storm Dennis were expected to be generally much lower than the effects of Ciara; with most damage occurring in Germany, France, Belgium, United Kingdom and parts of Northern Europe. Widespread flooding occurred in Wales and England. At least six people were killed. Total economic losses were expected to well exceed USD100 million.

Windstorm Yulia affected parts of Central and Western Europe on February 23-24 with moderate wind gusts. The incurred damage was generally moderate in scope, and was not expected to exceed the damage previously caused during earlier windstorm events of recent weeks. Based on initially available estimates, it was anticipated that both economic and insured losses will minimally reach into the tens of millions EUR.

Windstorm Bianca tracked through France, southern Germany, northern Switzerland and parts of Austria on February 27, causing largely minor damage due to notable, yet compact wind field. Both economic and insured losses were initially expected to reach into the tens of millions EUR.

Windstorm Jorge became the last windstorm to affect Europe in February, in a sequence of multiple successive storms which continued into early March. Jorge’s main impacts were felt in Ireland and the United Kingdom, to a lesser extent also in parts of France, Benelux and western Germany. Both economic and insured losses were initially expected to reach into the tens of millions EUR.

Middle East

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
02/04-02/05	Winter Weather	Turkey	41	Unknown	Unknown
02/23	Earthquake	Turkey, Iran	14	6,000+	Millions

Two deadly avalanches occurred in Eastern Turkey on February 4 and 5 in the Karabet pass area of the Van - Bahçesaray highway, located between the Bahçesaray and Çatak districts of Van Province. Per the Ministry of Health, at least 41 people were killed and 84 others were injured.

A strong, magnitude-6.0 earthquake and a magnitude-5.8 foreshock struck the Turkey-Iran border region on February 23, causing major damage. In Turkey, 10 people were killed and at least 1,000 homes were destroyed. Iranian officials noted 5,000 housing units damaged or destroyed and four fatalities.

Africa

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/28-02/13	Flooding	Burundi	3	5,000+	Millions
02/02-02/03	Flooding	Rwanda	19	100+	Unknown

Prolonged flooding affected parts of Burundi from January 28 to February 13. At least three people were killed. The hardest-hit areas included in Bubanza, Buumbura Mairie, and Bujumbura Rural provinces. Nearly 5,000 homes were damaged or destroyed as vast swaths of infrastructure and agriculture were also affected.

An intense rain spell on February 2-3 affected parts of Rwanda, causing landslides and local flooding. At least 19 people were killed in Kigali and other southern provinces. Dozens of homes were destroyed, along with at least two bridges and several sections of regional roads.

Asia

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
02/07-02/12	Flooding	Indonesia	0	4,000+	Millions
02/12-02/15	Severe Weather	China	1	Hundreds	16+ million
02/13-02/16	Winter Weather	China	0	Hundreds	30+ million
02/16-02/20	Flooding	Indonesia	6	20,000+	Millions
02/21-02/25	Flooding	Indonesia	10	35,000+	10s of millions

Heavy seasonal rainfall affected Indonesia's South Sumatra province and in the greater Jakarta metro region on February 7-8. The hardest-hit areas came in the Musi Rawas Regency in South Sumatra after nearly 2,800 homes were inundated. Another 1,000 homes were flooded in east Jakarta and South Jakarta after the Ciliwung, Sunter, and Buaran rivers overflowed their banks. Further flooding on February 12 caused flash floods and landslides in West Sumatra after the Batang Maek, Batang Kasok, and Batang Samo rivers surpassed flood stage.

Convective storms affected parts of the middle and lower reaches of China's Yangtze River Basin from February 12-15 with large hail and strong winds. Economic losses were estimated at CNY110 million (USD16 million).

A notable period of winter weather with blizzard conditions, freezing temperatures and heavy rain affected parts of China on February 13-16, particularly the northeastern provinces of Liaoning, Hebei and Shandong. Economic losses were estimated at CNY210 million (USD30 million).

Several regions of Indonesia were hit by flooding from February 16-20. Two people were killed in West Sumatra Province on February 16, while landslides and floods affected Pasaman and Solok Regencies and hundreds of homes were damaged. West Java Province was also hit by floods and at least 1,120 homes were affected Cirebon Regency alone. Nearly 115,000 people were affected by further waves of flooding in Bandung Regency on February 18/19 that left 16,117 homes and other structures inundated. Elsewhere, four people were killed by landslide in Bogor Regency on February 20. Some additional flooding was reported from Borneo. All data comes from Indonesia’s National Board for Disaster Management (BNPB).

Heavy rainfall in late February resulted in widespread flooding in parts of Indonesia. East Jakarta was among the worst affected. More than 22,400 homes were also affected in Karawang, east of Jakarta on February 24. Additional flooding episodes occurred elsewhere in Indonesia: at least 250 were displaced in Sambelia District, East Lombok Regency on February 23 and 10 students were killed in a flash flood near Sleman, Yogyakarta on February 21.

Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific Islands)

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
02/01-02/03	Flooding	New Zealand	0	1,000+	Millions
02/07-02/11	Severe Weather	Australia	0	21,000+	100+ million
02/25	Severe Weather	Australia	0	2,000+	Millions

Extreme rainfall occurred on New Zealand’s South Island from February 1-3 that resulted in regionally significant flooding and landslides. Some of the worst damage was registered in the Gore district after an overflow of the Matarua River. More than 2,400 residents were evacuated, and at least 1,100 farms were damaged.

A powerful coastal area of low pressure – known as an “East Coast Low” – brought severe thunderstorms, very gusty winds, and some of the heaviest rainfall to the Sydney metro region in 30 years from February 7-11. Storm damage was widespread across numerous communities in New South Wales and Queensland, with local State Emergency Service agencies citing more than 10,500 requests for assistance. The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) declared an insurance catastrophe with at least 21,000 claims initially filed and payouts expected to top AUD100 million (USD67 million). The overall economic loss will be even higher.

A powerful thunderstorm hit the city of Perth in Western Australia on February 25, causing notable wind and hail damage on property and motor. There were at least 21,000 power outages. Insurers initially listed 1,300 claims a day after the event; this total was expected to increase.

Appendix

Updated 2020 Data: January

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

Remainder of North America (Non-U.S.)

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/07-01/11	Earthquake	Puerto Rico	1	5,000+	450+ million
01/11-01/12	Flooding	Canada	0	6,200+	180+ million
01/14-01/18	Winter Weather	Canada	0	Thousands	10s of Millions
01/14-01/20	Winter Weather	Canada	0	Thousands	10s of Millions
01/17-01/18	Winter Weather	Canada	0	Thousands	10s of Millions
01/28	Earthquake	Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Cuba	0	2,250+	Millions

South America

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/17-01/29	Flooding	Brazil	70	Thousands	300+ million

Europe

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/13	Windstorm Brendan	Ireland, United Kingdom	1	Thousands	10s of millions
01/19-01/23	Flooding	Spain	14	11,600+	200+ million

Middle East

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

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	40	3,000+	Millions

Asia

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
01/04-01/07	Winter Weather	China	0	5,000+	70+ million
01/05-01/09	Severe Weather	China	0	2,500+	35+ million
01/11-01/14	Winter Weather	Afghanistan, Pakistan, India	157	Thousands	Millions
01/12-01/15	Volcano	Philippines	0	3,813	67+ million
01/19	Earthquake	China	1	8,000+	25+ million
01/23-01/28	Flooding	Indonesia	10	15,000+	Millions
01/24-01/31	Winter Weather	China	0	1,000+	50+ million

Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific Islands)

Date	Event	Location	Deaths	Structures/ Claims	Economic Loss (USD)
11/08-01/17	Heatwave/Bushfire	Australia	34	23,362+	Billions
01/19-01/20	Severe Weather	Australia	0	87,500+	675+ 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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