

Volcanoes

Active volcanoes in the U.S. are found mainly in Hawaii, Alaska, and the Pacific Northwest. The United States is one of the most volcanically rich countries in the world, with 169 active and dormant volcanoes, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Worldwide, around 500 million people live near volcanoes, the majority of them in cities, according to a Munich Re analysis, which identified major cities at risk of volcanoes, including: Auckland (Auckland volcanic field); Vancouver (Mt. Baker); Seattle (Mt. Rainier); Tacoma (Mt. Rainier); Portland (Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens); Mexico City (Xitli); Surabaya (Ardjuno-Welirang); Semarang (Sundoro-Sumbing); Manila (Taal) and Tokyo (Fujiyama).

THE TEN COSTLIEST GLOBAL VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS, 1970-2013 (1)

(\$ millions)

Rank	Year	Event	Affected country	Overall
1	1993	Eruption of Unzen	Japan	
2	1980	Explosion Mt. St. Helens	United States	
3	1991	Eruption of Pinatubo	Philippines	
4	1995/1996, 2003	Eruption of Soufrière Hills	Montserrat	
5	2010	Eruption of Mt. Merapi	Indonesia	
6	1994	Eruption of Tavurvur, Rabalanakaia	Papua New Guinea	
7	1985	Eruption of Nevado del Ruiz	Colombia	
8	1973	Eruption of Helgafell	Iceland	
9	2006	Eruption of Tungurahua	Ecuador	
10	1983	Eruption of Gamalama	Indonesia	

(1) Ranked on overall losses.

NA=Data not available.

Source: Munich Re, GeoRisks Research, NatCatSERVICE. As of August 2014.

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THE FIVE DEADLIEST VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS, NORTH, SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA, 1900-2013

Rank	Year	Event	Location
1	1902	Eruption of Pelée	Martinique: Mt. Pelee, St. Pierre
2	1985	Eruption of Nevado del Ruiz	Colombia: Central, Armero, Tolima, Chinchina, Caldas, I
3	1902	Eruption of Santa Maria	Guatemala
4	1982	Volcanic activity, El Chichon	Mexico: South, Chiapas; Tabasco
5	1902	Eruption of La Soufrière	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: La Soufrière

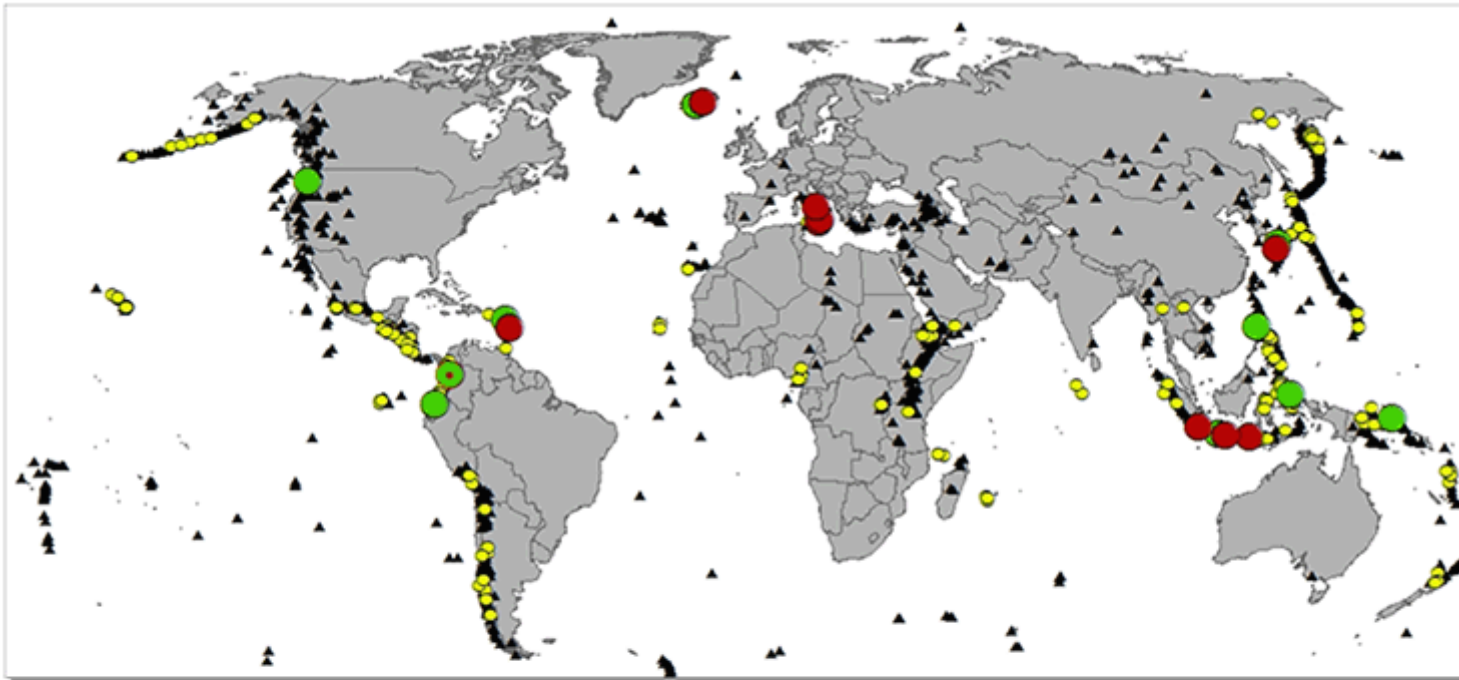
Source: Munich Re, Geo Risks Research, NatCatSERVICE.

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SIGNIFICANT VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

(Deadliest and costliest events)

[sign_vol_erupt_dead_and_cost_munichre_092014.gif](#) ^[3]



- ▲ Volcanoes
- Volcanic eruptions causing deaths and/or damage
- Deadliest volcanic eruptions since 0079
- Costliest volcanic eruptions since 1980

Source: © Munich Re, Geo Risks Research, NatCatSERVICE. As of August 2014.

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THE TEN DEADLIEST GLOBAL VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS, 0079-2013

Rank	Year	Event	Affected country	Fatalities
1	1815	Eruption of Tambora	Indonesia	92,000
2	1883	Eruption of Krakatau, tsunami	Indonesia	36,400
3	1902	Eruption of Pelée	Martinique	more than 29,000
4	1985	Eruption of Nevado del Ruiz	Colombia	25,000
5	1669-1682	Eruption of Etna	Italy	20,000
6	0079	Eruption of Vesuvius	Italy	18,000
7	1169	Eruption of Etna	Italy	15,000
8	1792	Eruption of Unzen	Japan	15,000
9	1586	Eruption of Kelut	Indonesia	10,000
10	1783-1784	Eruption of Laki	Iceland	more than 9,500

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