

Chapter 2 Outline of the Damage from the 2011 Disaster

1 Overview of the Disaster

On March 11, 2011, a mega-earthquake occurred off the coast of Sanriku, and at magnitude 9.0 it was the largest observed in Japanese history.

All over Iwate Prefecture, aftershocks of over magnitude 4 were observed, with some as high as lower 6 in Ichinoseki, Ofunato, Takizawa, Fujisawa, Hanamaki, and Oshu.

The tsunami following the earthquake reached recorded heights of over 8 meters in Ofunato and over 8.5 meters in Miyako. The waves exceeded the breakwaters and levees along the coast, bringing devastating damage to Rikuzentakata City and elsewhere in the prefecture.



Rikuzentakata City (before the disaster)



Rikuzentakata City (after the disaster)



Noda Village (before the disaster)



Noda Village (after the disaster)

Overview of the Earthquake

Name	The 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake (The 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake)
Time	2:24 P.M., Friday, March 11, 2011
Epicenter	Off Sanriku, 38.062°N, 142.516°E
Magnitude	9.0 (moment magnitude)
Aftershocks in the Prefecture	Low 6 (Ichinoseki, Kamaishi, Ofunato, Takizawa, Fujisawa, Hanamaki, Oshu)
Height of Tsunami	Miyako: over 8.5 m Ofunato: over 8.0 m Kamaishi: over 4.2 m Kuji Port: 8.6m (estimate)

(From the Japan Meteorological Agency)

2 Overview of Damage

4,672 people died in the earthquake and tsunami, mostly along the coast, and 1,132 people remain missing. 23,872 houses along the coast were partially or completely destroyed, as well as 1,844 houses inland, totaling 25,716.

In addition, damage to industry in the prefecture came to 608.7 billion yen. The fishing industry and fishing ports in particular suffered extensive damage. Damage to public works facilities totaled 257.3 billion yen.

Damage to lifelines, including power, gas, and water outages and interruptions to telephone services, were seen throughout the entire prefecture. This, coupled with disruptions to transportation networks and a lack of gasoline, brought about delays to recovery efforts and confusion in daily lives.



Kamaishi city center, which suffered heavy damage



Many fishing boats were destroyed in the disaster

■ Casualties/Damage to Homes

	Deaths	Missing	Houses Destroyed
Hirono	0	0	26
Kuji	2	2	278
Noda	38	0	479
Fudai	0	1	0
Tanohata	14	15	270
Iwaizumi	7	0	200
Miyako	420	94	4,098
Yamada	604	148	3,167
Otsuchi	803	427	3,717
Kamaishi	888	152	3,655
Ohunato	340	79	3,937
Rikuzentakata	1,556	207	4,045
Inland	0	5	1,844
Prefecture Total	4,672	1,130	25,716

(As of December 31, 2014)

*Deaths based only on those directly killed. Iwate police investigation.

*Houses destroyed includes complete or partial destruction.

■ Damage to Industry

	Damages (yen)
Agriculture and forestry	98.4 b
Fishing and ports	564.9 b
Commerce and industry	133.5 b
Tourism (accommodations)	32.6 b
Total	829.4 b

(As of November 25, 2011)

■ Damage to Public Works

	Damages (yen)
Rivers, banks, roads	172.3 b
Parks	40.5 b
Harbors	44.5 b
Total	275.3 b

(As of July 25, 2011)