

WINTER DAMAGE IN EUROPE
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS BETWEEN 1980 AND 2010 - THE 10 MOST EXPENSIVE EVENTS FOR THE ECONOMY

Period	Event	Affected Area	Losses (US\$m)		Deaths	Explanations, descriptions
			original			
			Overall losses	Insured losses		
7.-13.2.2006	Winter damage	Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland	1.000	500	4	Heavy snowfall, snow pressure. Several storage buildings, construction hall, shopping centres, hotels damaged/destroyed. Numerous roofs damaged. Losses to infrastructure. Road traffic affected, traffic accidents. Livestock killed. Schools closed. Injured: 13.
26.12.1996-8.1.1997	Cold wave, snowstorms	Central and Eastern Europe	1.000	650	170	High wind speeds, low temperatures (Poland: -37° C), heavy snowfall, snowstorms, icing. Numerous water pipes burst. Infrastructure affected: airports closed, roads blocked, train and transport services disrupted, shipping affected/halted (rivers, waterways, Baltic Sea, North Sea), hundreds of vessels ice-bounded. Channel Tunnel traffic affected (electronic failure). Significant uninsured losses to (German) shipping industry. Power and communication lines downed, power failure.
22.-23.4.1995	Cold wave, winter damage	Spain: C, N, esp. Rioja	825	65		Major losses to vineyards, vegetable and fruit plantations.
20.-21.4.1991	Frost	France: W, Bordeaux, Médoc, Haut Médoc, Margeaux, Bayonne	690			Major losses to wine-growing areas: Bordeaux worst affected. Also affected: Champagne, Cognac, Languedoc, Provence, Touraine.
Jan.-March 1999	Winter damages, avalanches	Switzerland: SW, St. Gallen; Wallis, Goms, Lötschen Valley, Matter Valley, Arolla, Evolène, Zermatt; Oberland, Adelboden, Grindelwand; Graubünden, Davos, Klosters	685	200	30	Heavy snowfall, avalanches, landslides. Villages cut off. 330 houses destroyed. Thousands of tourists affected. Roads, tunnels closed, land traffic, train services disrupted. Electricity supply suspended. 6 km of forest destroyed. Evacuations.
25.-26.11.2005	Winter Storm Thorsten, winter damage	Belgium, Germany, France, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom	500	210		Snowstorms, wind speeds up to 100 km/h, heavy rain and snowfall, freezing rain, icing, snow pressure. Greenhouses damaged. Power lines downed, 50 pylons damaged/destroyed, 250,000 people without electricity. Pipes burst. Air/rail/road traffic severely affected, >2,000 traffic accidents (180 injured).
Feb. 1991	Winter damage	United Kingdom: Entire country	500	355		Freeze, melting of snow, floods. Roads blocked. Major losses to property.
Dec. 1981-Jan. 1982	Cold wave	United Kingdom: Entire country, esp. Wales, Scotland, England, Gloucester, York, Selby	500	470		Snowstorms, wind speeds up to 100 km/h, heavy rain and snowfall, freezing rain, icing, snow pressure. Greenhouses damaged. Power lines downed, 50 pylons damaged/destroyed, 250,000 people without electricity. Pipes burst. Air/rail/road traffic severely affected, >2,000 traffic accidents (180 injured).
1.-15.1.1987	Winter damage, cold wave	United Kingdom, France, Italy, Poland, Austria, Germany, Scandinavia, Romania, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal	455	400	233	Heavy snow, cold wave.
April 1997	Frost	Italy: C, N, S, Emilia Romagna, Trentino, Friuli, Calabria	360			Temperatures -7 °C. Losses to agriculture. Kiwi production 100% destroyed, damage to pear, peach, plum, apple tree plantations.