

EAS 100 Lecture Note Figure IV

World-Wide Earthquakes: 1990-1993

Thousands of earthquakes occur around the world every day, although most are so small they can only be detected by sensitive seismographs. As more and more seismographs have been installed in the world, more earthquakes can be and have been located. However, the number of large earthquakes (magnitude 6.0 and greater) has stayed relatively constant. The U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center currently locates over 18,000 earthquakes per year worldwide.

Frequency of occurrence of earthquakes based on observations since 1900

Descriptor	Magnitude	Average Annually
Great	8 and Higher	1
Major	7-7.9	18
Strong	6-6.9	120
Moderate	5-5.9	800
Light	4-4.9	6,200 (estimated)
Minor	3-3.9	49,000 (estimated)
Very Minor	<3.0	Mag. 3.0: about 1,000/day Mag. 1.2: about 8,000/day

