Prewave

Situation Report | Natural Hazard

July 29, 2026

# Kumamoto Earthquake on Kyushu, Japan

**Alert ID: 39833442**

Semiconductor supply chain impact assessed as limited to date; automotive plants in the affected cluster remain halted pending assessment. Event: Jul 28, 2026 · As of: Jul 29, 2026 (developing) · Status: active, search and rescue ongoing.

## EVENT OVERVIEW

Just after 4:27 p.m. local time on July 28, 2026, the ground shook across Kumamoto Prefecture on the island of Kyushu — a magnitude 7.1 earthquake by the Japan Meteorological Agency's measure, revised by the USGS to M6.8, centered at a depth of roughly 10 km. *[C,JMA / Al Jazeera / CNN]* It struck a corner of Japan that concentrates an unusual density of semiconductor fabrication and automotive assembly, and it did not arrive alone: roughly 190 aftershocks followed within the first 24 hours, *[C,CNN / Fox News]* and the JMA has since warned residents in the hardest-shaken areas to stay alert for further strong aftershocks and landslides for about a week. *[C,Rappler]*

## HUMAN & INFRASTRUCTURE IMPACT

The human toll is still being counted. At least 13 people had been confirmed dead as of July 29, and authorities expect the figure to rise as search and rescue crews continue working through the wreckage. *[C,Al Jazeera / CNN / ABC News]* The most visible scene of the disaster is a partially collapsed Aeon shopping mall, where a gas explosion is suspected to have triggered the collapse; rescue teams are still searching for four missing mall employees and seven missing workers from a nearby factory. *[C,Al Jazeera / France24]*

Around the region, the practical aftermath compounds the rescue effort: more than 36,000 households remain without electricity, and crews are working in ambient heat near 34°C. *[C,CNBC / Rappler]* Rail service and expressways across the affected area remain halted or disrupted, slowing both the emergency response and the ordinary flow of goods through the region. *[C,CNBC]*

## SUPPLY CHAIN & INDUSTRY IMPACT

### Semiconductors & Electronics

Kyushu's chip-making cluster spent the hours after the quake on a company-by-company check for damage. TSMC's Kumamoto subsidiary, JASM, reported its site unaffected, with operations gradually resuming. *[C,Nikkei Asia]* Renesas Electronics fared worse: it suspended operations at two Kumamoto plants after finding cracked walls, fallen ceiling panels, and water leaks. *[C,DigiTimes / Seoul Economic Daily]* Tokyo Electron paused work at its Koshi and Ozu plants in Kumamoto pending safety inspections, *[C,DigiTimes]* and Sony Group began its own safety inspections at its Kumamoto site. *[C,DigiTimes]* Taken together, industry analysts report no major structural damage at the region's key plants to date, and assess the impact on the global semiconductor supply chain as limited. *[C,Seoul Economic Daily]*

### Automotive

The automotive sector felt the disruption more directly. Toyota halted three plants in the affected cluster — Miyata, which assembles Lexus models and carries roughly 430,000 units a year of capacity; Kanda, an engine plant; and Kokura, which builds hybrid powertrains — extending the shutdown through Friday, July 31, while it assesses the state of its suppliers and logistics network.

S&P Global Mobility identifies Toyota as the most-affected automaker in the region. *[C,S&P Global Mobility / autoevolution]* Honda extended the shutdown of its Kumamoto motorcycle plant through the same date. *[C,Autoblog / S&P Global Mobility]* Nissan, by contrast, reports that its Kyushu operations remain on schedule and unaffected. *[C,Autoblog]*

## COMPARISON TO PAST EVENTS

This is not Kyushu's first turn in this position. The region and its neighbors have recorded two other major earthquakes in the past decade with a comparable industrial footprint, and both offer a rough guide to how quickly — or slowly — this kind of disruption tends to clear:

| EVENT | DATE | MAGNITUDE / DEATHS | KEY INDUSTRY IMPACT | RECOVERY TIMELINE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***2026 Kumamoto (current)*** | *Jul 28, 2026* | *M7.1/6.8; 13+ deaths (rising)* | *Renesas, Tokyo Electron plants suspended for inspection; Toyota, Honda plants halted; TSMC/JASM unaffected* | *Ongoing; analysts assess global chip supply impact as limited* |
| ***2016 Kumamoto earthquakes*** | *Apr 14 & 16, 2016* | *M6.2 foreshock / M7.0 mainshock; ~45–50 deaths* | *Sony image-sensor fab and Renesas Kawajiri plant (Toyota ECU chips) halted* | *Most fabs resumed in days to weeks; Toyota Group took ~4 months to recover lost production volume* |
| ***2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake*** | *Jan 1, 2024* | *M7.6; 732 deaths (228 direct, 504 disaster-related)* | *Localized manufacturer disruption (e.g., electronic component maker); global semiconductor impact assessed as minimal* | *Some suppliers reported recovery stretching to May 2024; delivery delays of 15 weeks to 4 months* |

The 2016 sequence is the closer analogue: it hit the same prefecture, the same two chipmakers (Sony's image-sensor line and Renesas's Kawajiri plant, which supplied Toyota's engine-control chips) took the damage, and Toyota Group needed roughly four months to fully recover the production volume it lost. *[C,BBC / IEEE Spectrum]* The 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake was far deadlier — 732 deaths against 13 so far this week — but it struck a less industrially concentrated part of Honshu; local component makers reported recovery timelines stretching toward May 2024 and delivery delays of 15 weeks to four months, while the broader semiconductor supply chain was largely undisturbed.

For scale, the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami (M9.0, roughly 19,000 deaths) remains the reference point for nationwide supply chain disruption in Japan — including a shutdown of Renesas's Naka plant — though it struck a different regional cluster than the Kyushu-based facilities involved in the current and 2016 events. *[C,IEEE Spectrum]*

## LIMITATIONS & SOURCES

Fatality, missing-persons, and power-outage figures are provisional as of July 29, 2026 and subject to revision as search and rescue continues. Plant-level damage assessments reflect company and analyst statements; no independent structural inspection data was available at time of writing. Recovery-timeline figures for the current event are not yet determinable and are excluded above pending further reporting.

Sources: Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) · U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) · Al Jazeera · CNN · Reuters/wire reporting · Rappler · France24 · CNBC · ABC News · Fox News · Nikkei Asia · DigiTimes · Seoul Economic Daily · S&P Global Mobility (autotechinsight) · autoevolution · Autoblog · IEEE Spectrum · BBC. Figures reflect reporting as of July 29, 2026.