**JMA Scale Explanation**

The JMA Scale runs from 0 to 7, with 7 being the strongest. Sometimes roman numerals are used, as in the Mercalli Intensity Scale; however this is not the usual practice in Japan. The real-time reports are calculated automatically from measurements of ground acceleration. The JMA reports the shindo based on the ground acceleration.

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| Shindo Scale | | | | | | | | |
| **Magnitude (Japanese Name)** | **People** | **Indoor Situations** | **Outdoor Situations** | **Wooden Houses** | **Reinforced-Concrete Buildings** | **Lifelines** | **Ground and Slopes** | **Peak ground acceleration** |
| 0 (0) | Imperceptible to people. |  |  |  |  |  |  | Less than 0.008 m/s² |
| 1 (1) | Felt by only some people in the building. |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.008–0.025 m/s² |
| 2 (2) | Felt by most people in the building. Some people awake. | Hanging objects such as lamps swing slightly. |  |  |  |  |  | 0.025–0.08 m/s² |
| 3 (3) | Felt by most people in the building. Some people are frightened. | Dishes in a cupboard rattle occasionally. | Electric wires swing slightly. |  |  |  |  | 0.08–0.25 m/s² |
| 4 (4) | Many people are frightened. Some people try to escape from danger. Most sleeping people awake. | Hanging objects swing considerably and dishes in a cupboard rattle. Unstable ornaments fall occasionally. | Electric wires swing considerably. People walking on a street and some people driving automobiles notice the tremor. |  |  |  |  | 0.25–0.80 m/s² |
| 5-lower (5弱) | Most people try to escape from a danger. Some people find it difficult to move. | Hanging objects swing violently. Most Unstable ornaments fall. Occasionally, dishes in a cupboard and books on a bookshelf fall and furniture moves. | People notice electric-light poles swing. Occasionally, windowpanes are broken and fall, unreinforced concrete-block walls collapse, and roads suffer damage. | Occasionally, less earthquake-resistant houses suffer damage to walls and pillars. | Occasionally, cracks are formed in walls of less earthquake-resistant buildings. | A safety device cuts off the gas service at some houses. On rare occasions water pipes are damaged and water service is interrupted. (Electrical service is interrupted at some houses) | Occasionally, cracks appear in soft ground. and rockfalls and small slope failures take place in mountainous districts. | 0.80–1.40 m/s² |
| 5-upper (5強) | Many people are considerably frightened and find it difficult to move. | Most dishes in a cupboard and most books on a bookshelf fall. Occasionally, a TV set on a rack falls, heavy furniture such as a chest of drawers falls, sliding doors slip out of their groove and the deformation of a door frame makes it impossible to open the door. | In many cases, unreinforced concrete-block walls collapse and tombstones overturn. Many automobiles stop because it becomes difficult to drive. Occasionally, poorly-installed vending machines fall. | Occasionally, less earthquake-resistant houses suffer heavy damage to walls and pillars and lean. | Occasionally, large cracks are formed in walls, crossbeams and pillars of less earthquake-resistant buildings and even highly earthquake-resistant buildings have cracks in walls. | Occasionally, gas pipes and / or water mains are damaged.(Occasionally, gas service and / or water service are interrupted in some regions) | Occasionally, cracks appear in soft ground. and rockfalls and small slope failures take place in mountainous districts. | 1.40–2.50 m/s² |
| 6-lower (6弱) | Difficult to keep standing. | A lot of heavy and unfixed furniture moves and falls. It is impossible to open the door in many cases. | In some buildings, wall tiles and windowpanes are damaged and fall. | Occasionally, less earthquake-resistant houses collapse and even walls and pillars of highly earthquake-resistant houses are damaged. | Occasionally, walls and pillars of less earthquake-resistant buildings are destroyed and even highly earthquake-resistant buildings have large cracks in walls, crossbeams and pillars. | Gas pipes and / or water mains are damaged.(In some regions, gas service and water service are interrupted and electrical service is interrupted occasionally.) | Occasionally, cracks appear in the ground, and landslides take place. | 2.50–3.15 m/s² |
| 6-upper (6強) | Impossible to keep standing and to move without crawling. | Most heavy and unfixed furniture moves and falls. Occasionally, sliding doors are thrown from their groove. | In many buildings, wall tiles and windowpanes are damaged and fall. Most unreinforced concrete-block walls collapse. | Many, less earthquake-resistant houses collapse. In some cases, even walls and pillars of highly earthquake-resistant houses are heavy damaged. | Occasionally, less earthquake-resistant buildings collapse. In some cases, even highly earthquake-resistant buildings suffer damage to walls and pillars. | Occasionally, gas mains and / or water mains are damaged.(Electrical service is interrupted in some regions. Occasionally, gas service and / or water service are interrupted over a large area.) | Occasionally, cracks appear in the ground, and landslides take place. | 3.15–4.00 m/s² |
| 7 (7) | Thrown by the shaking and impossible to move at will. | Most furniture moves to a large extent and some jumps up. | In most buildings, wall tiles and windowpanes are damaged and fall. In some cases, reinforced concrete-block walls collapse. | Occasionally, even highly earthquake-resistant buildings are severely damaged and lean. | Occasionally, even highly earthquake-resistant buildings are severely damaged and lean. | (Electrical service gas service and water service are interrupted over a large area.) | The ground is considerably distorted by large cracks and fissures, and slope failures and landslides take place, which occasionally change topographic features. | Greater than 4 m/s² |