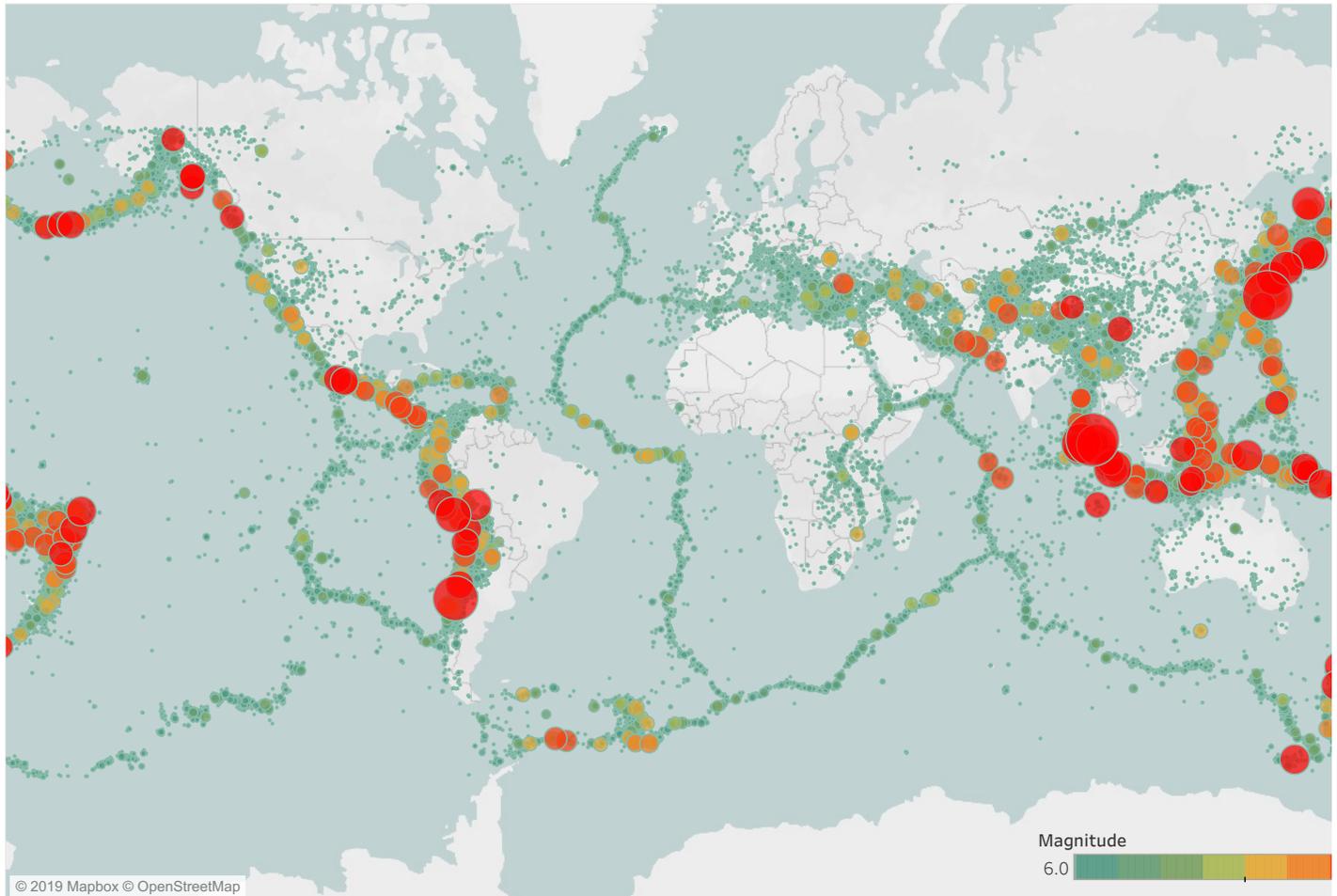


# Are big earthquakes on the rise?

Thousands of earthquakes are recorded every year.	About two quakes each year qualify as "major"	These megaquakes have drawn a lot of attention	The Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami of 2004	The Japanese earthquake and tsunami of 2011	More and more earthquakes are being detected	Especially on the eastern side of the Pa..
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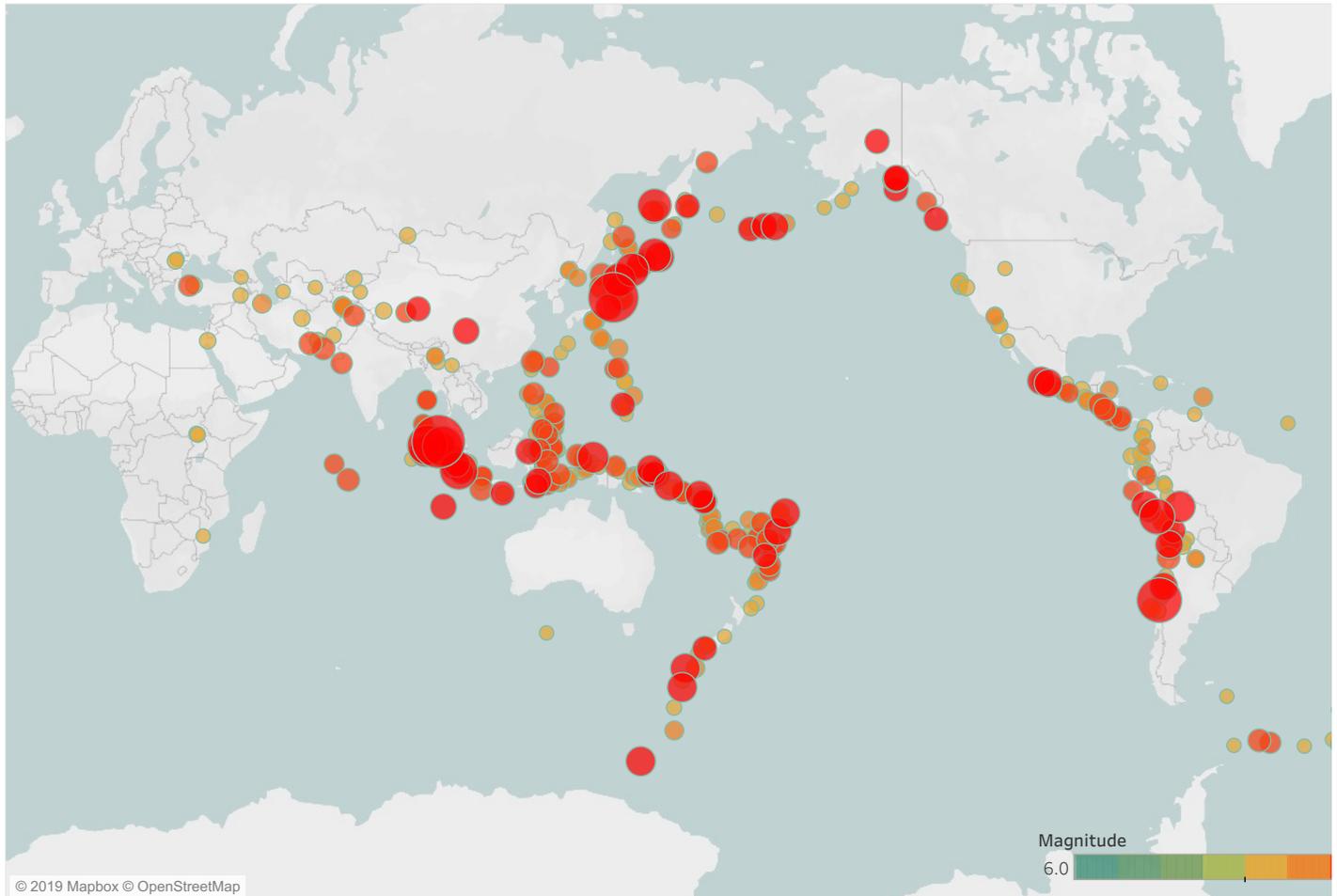
Exactly 131,834 earthquakes of magnitude 4.0 or greater have been recorded since 1973.



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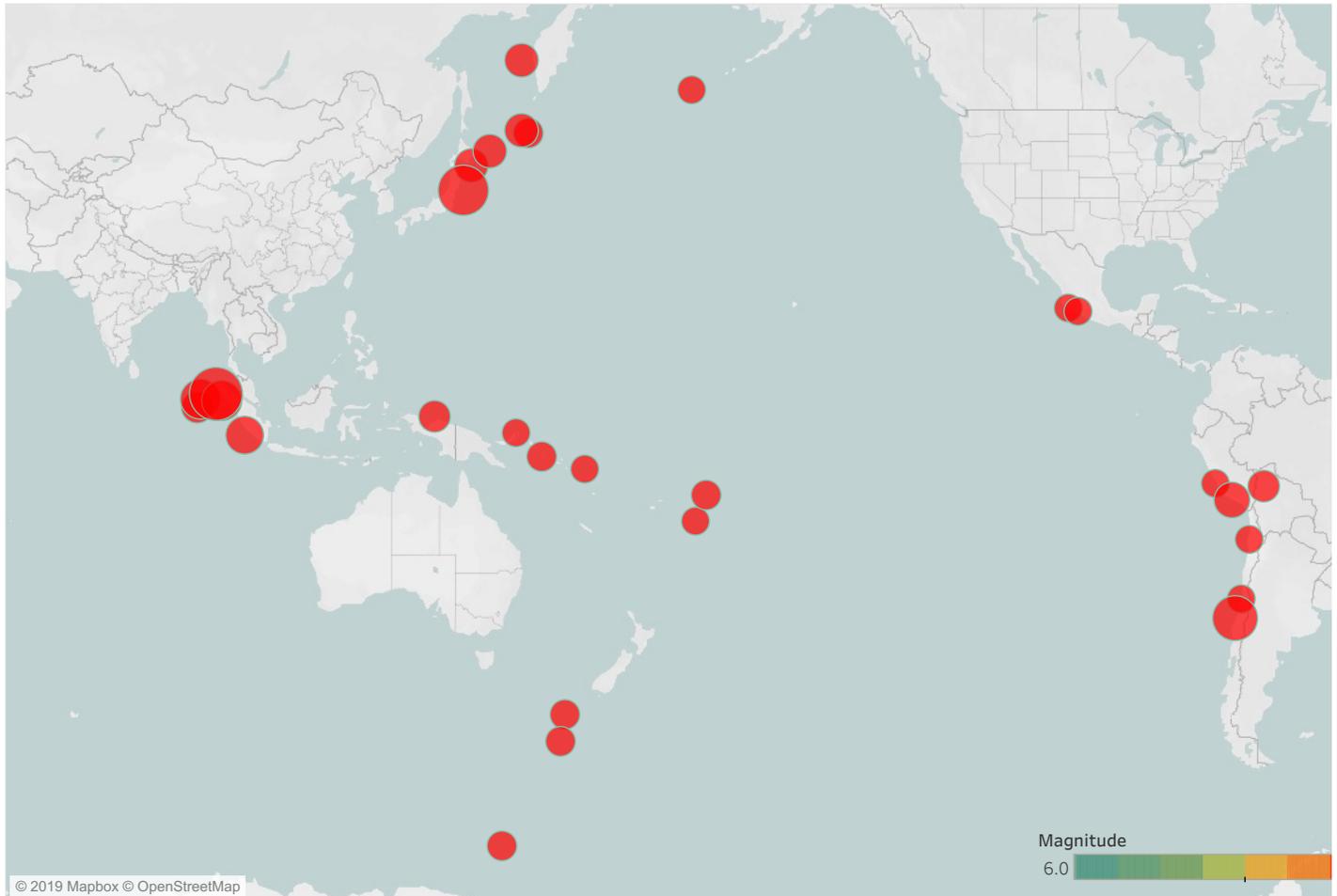
Out of over 130,000 earthquakes since 2004, only 174 were of magnitude 7.0 or greater  $\frac{3}{4}$  about two major earthquakes each year. But many wonder, "Are earthquakes happening more often?"



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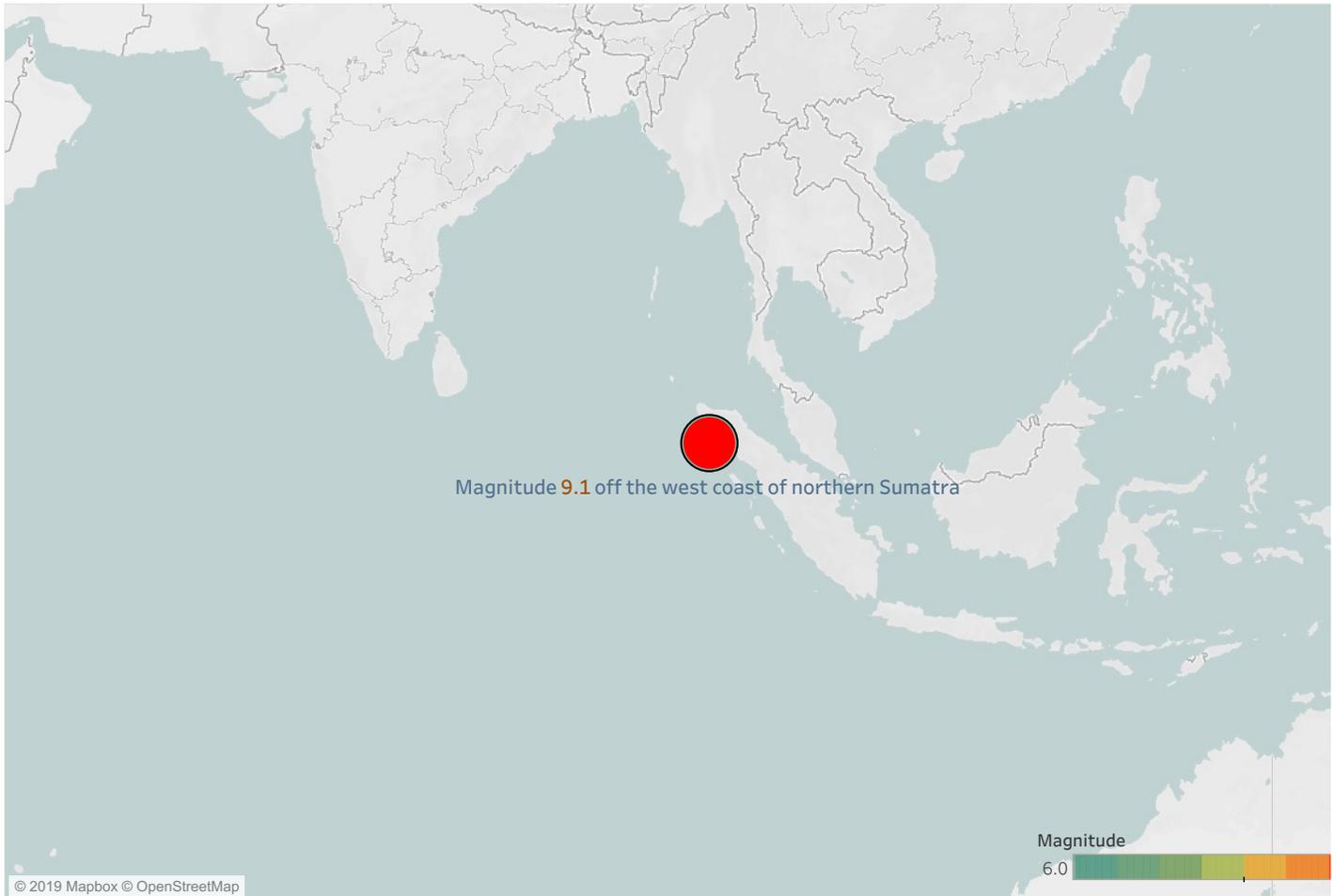
Recent megaquakes of magnitude 8.0 have often caused significant damage and loss of life. Recent undersea megaquakes near Indonesia and also caused tsunamis that have killed many thousands of people.



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The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake was an undersea megathrust earthquake that occurred on December 26, 2004. It is the third largest earthquake recorded and had the longest duration of faulting ever observed, between 8.3 and 10 minutes.



## Are big earthquakes on the rise?

About two quakes each year qualify as "major"

These megaquakes have drawn a lot of attention

The Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami of 2004

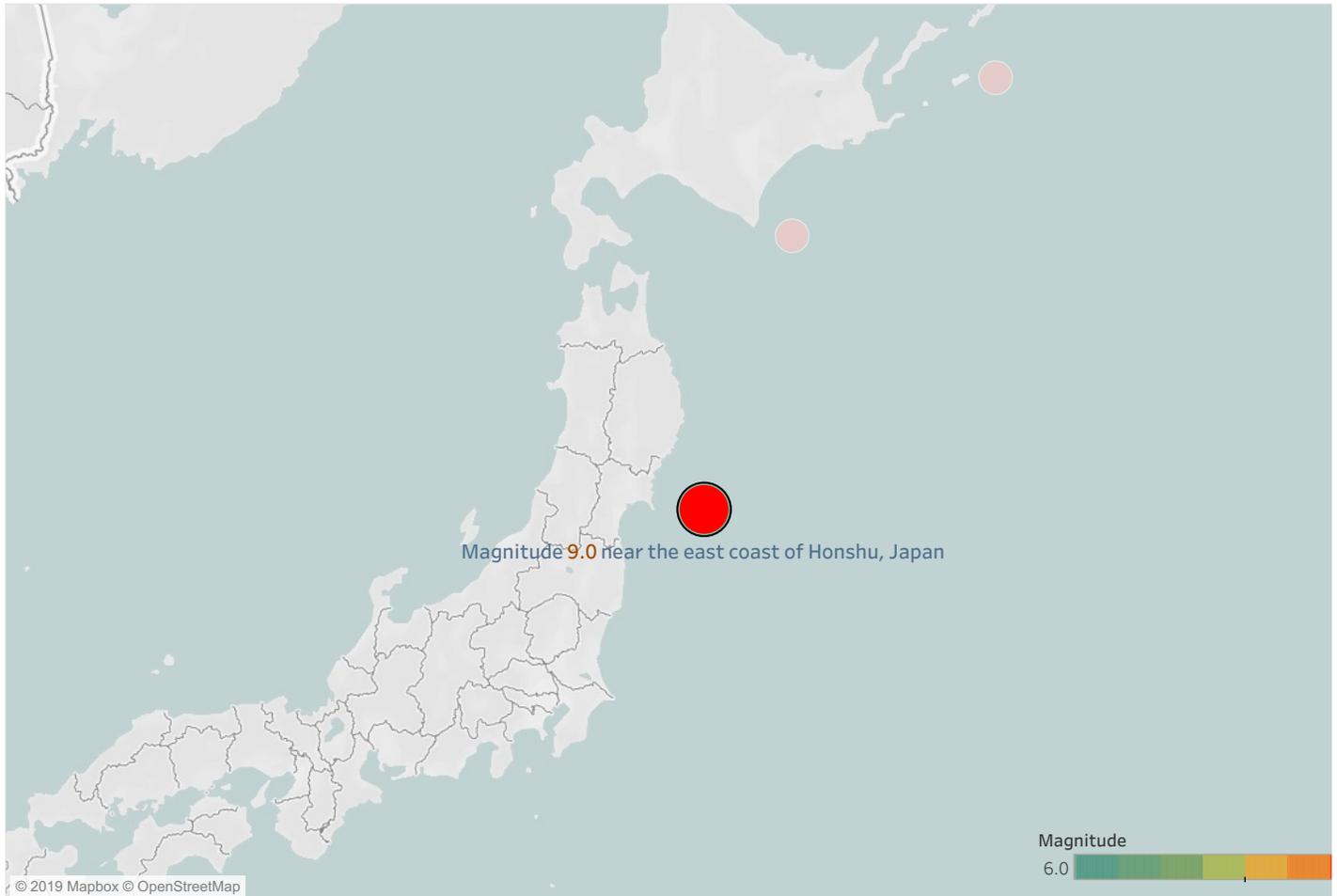
The Japanese earthquake and tsunami of 2011

More and more earthquakes are being detected

Especially on the eastern side of the Pacific Rim

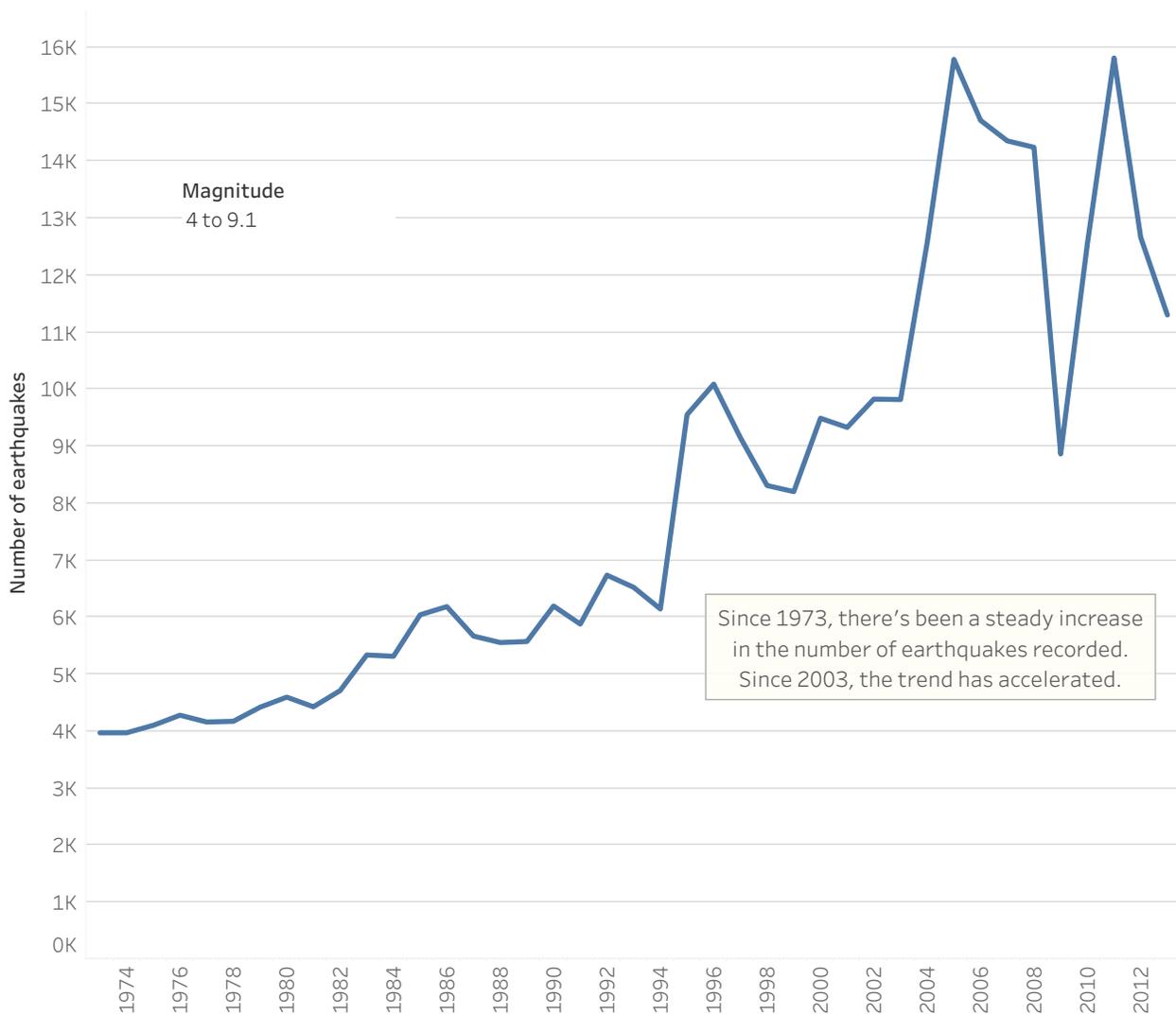
But the trend in big quakes is not as clear

The 2011 quake off the coast of Tōhoku was a magnitude 9.0 (Mw) undersea megathrust earthquake. It was the most powerful known earthquake to have hit Japan, and the 5th most powerful earthquake ever recorded.



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About two quakes each year qualify a..	These megaquakes have drawn a lot of attention	The Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami of 2004	The Japanese earthquake and tsunami of 2011	<b>More and more earthquakes are being detected</b>	Especially on the eastern side of the Pacific Rim	But the trend in big quakes is not as clear
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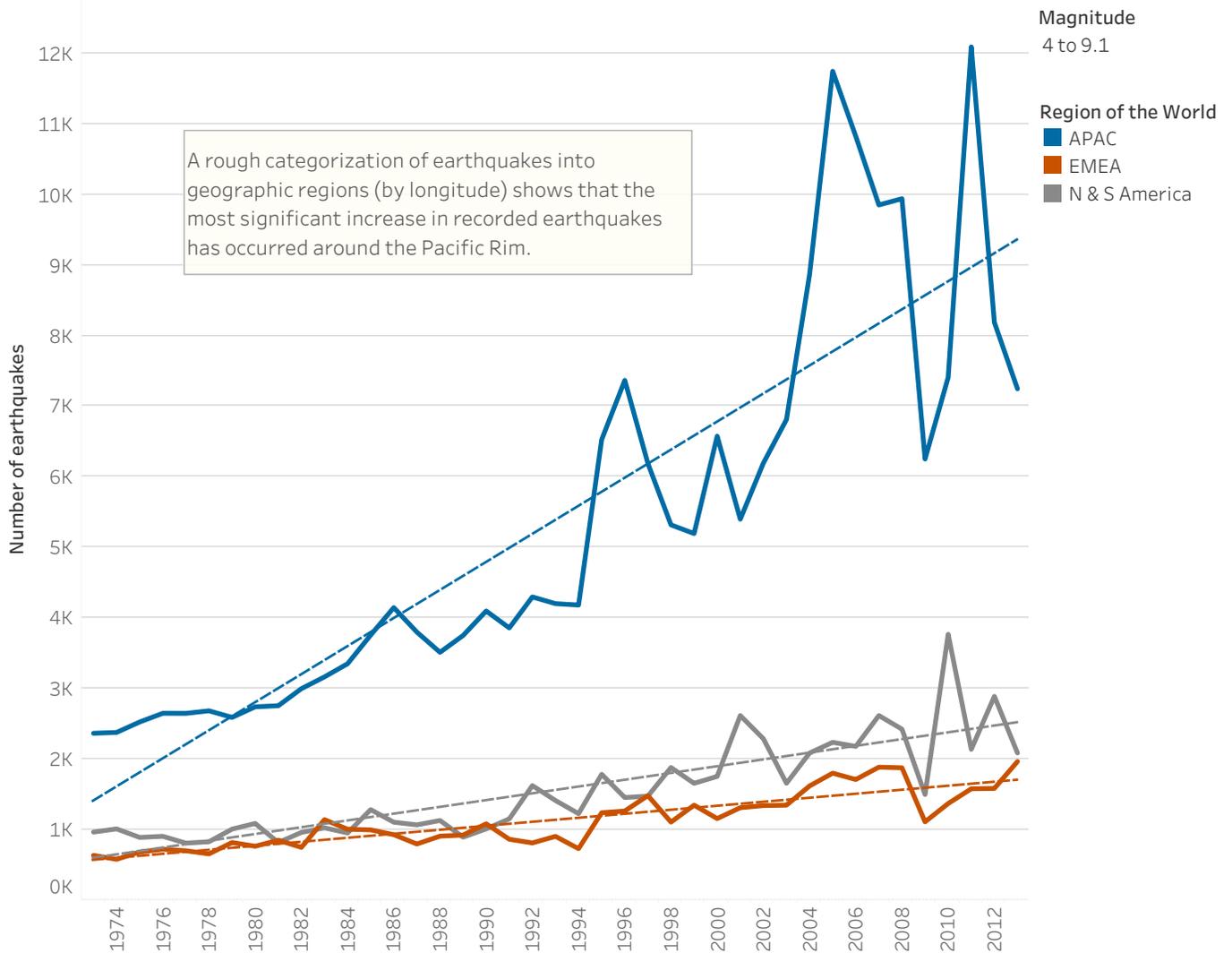
The Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami of 2004

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