

Katrina on the Gulf Coast  
NASA photo



# Hurricane Katrina: Indicators of Impact

Deaths caused by Hurricane Katrina, as of May 23, 2006 <sup>1</sup>	1,577
Deaths caused by 20th century's most lethal hurricane, 1935's "Labor Day Hurricane" in Florida <sup>2</sup>	400+
Land area damaged by Hurricane Katrina <sup>3</sup>	90,000 sq. miles
Ratio of area damaged by Katrina to area of United Kingdom	1:1
Homes destroyed or made unlivable by Hurricane Katrina <sup>4</sup>	300,000
Ratio of homes damaged or made unlivable by Katrina to the number similarly affected by 1992's Hurricane Andrew, the most destructive recent hurricane <sup>5</sup>	10:1
Estimated economic loss related to Hurricane Katrina <sup>6</sup>	\$125 - \$150 billion
Estimated economic loss related to 20th century's previous most destructive hurricane (Andrew, FL, 1992) <sup>7</sup>	\$48.4 billion (2005 dollars)
Economic losses from 9/11 terror attacks, 2001 <sup>8</sup>	\$87 billion (2005 dollars)
Louisiana unemployment rate, August 2005	5.6 percent <sup>9</sup>
Louisiana unemployment rate, September 2005	12.1 percent <sup>10</sup>
Widest extent of Katrina's tropical-storm force winds the day before landfall <sup>11</sup>	460 miles
Approximate ratio to distance from Kansas City to Dallas	1:1
Sustained-wind speed at landfall, August 29, near Buras, LA <sup>12</sup>	125 miles per hour
Rainfall accumulation along Gulf Coast from Katrina <sup>13</sup>	8 to 10 inches
Storm surges above normal ocean levels, various locations <sup>14</sup>	20 to 30 feet
Electric customers, all types, left without power by storm <sup>15</sup>	1.7 million
Gulf of Mexico daily oil output shut down by Katrina <sup>16</sup>	95 percent
Number of oil spills caused by Katrina <sup>17</sup>	142
Gallons of oil spilled <sup>18</sup>	8 million
Gallons of oil recovered by Coast Guard as of Dec. 7, 2005 <sup>19</sup>	3.8 million
Estimated debris created by Hurricane Katrina <sup>20</sup>	118 million cu. yds
Ratio to debris created by Hurricane Andrew <sup>21</sup>	6:1
Number of children reported displaced/missing <sup>22</sup>	5,088
Number reunited with families or guardians <sup>23</sup>	5,088
Last date at which bodies have been found in New Orleans <sup>24</sup>	April 17, 2006
Number of bodies unclaimed or unidentified <sup>25</sup>	200



Approximate ratio of New Orleans population in 2000 to January 2006 <sup>26</sup>	3:1
Ratio of tons of debris created by Katrina in the three coastal Mississippi counties, as compared to the combined debris of the 9/11 attacks and Hurricane Andrew <sup>27</sup>	1:1

1 Michelle Hunter, "Deaths of evacuees push toll to 1,577," New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, May 19, 2006, p. 1. The article indicates that the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals added 281 victims to earlier counts on May 18, 2006, after officials concluded from a review of evacuees' out-of-state death certificates that many were Katrina-related, such as from stress or loss of access to essential medications.

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3 Written Statement of Sec. Michael Chertoff, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, for the U.S. Senate, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, hearing on *Hurricane Katrina: The Homeland Security Department's Preparation and Response*, Feb. 15, 2006, p. 1.

4 Written Statement of Sec. Chertoff, Senate Committee hearing, Feb. 15, 2006, p. 1.

5 Written Statement of Walter Isaacson, Vice Chairman, Louisiana Recovery Authority, for the U.S. House, Committee on Financial Services, hearing on *H.R. 4100, the Louisiana Recovery Corporation Act*, Nov. 17, 2005, p. 1.

6 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, "Bank Performance After Natural Disasters: A Historical Perspective," Jan. 16, 2006. [http://www.fdic.gov/bank/analytical/regional/ro20054q/na/2005\\_winter01.html](http://www.fdic.gov/bank/analytical/regional/ro20054q/na/2005_winter01.html). Accessed on Mar. 26, 2006.

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8 Written Statement of Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director, Congressional Budget Office, for the U.S. House, Committee on the Budget, hearing on *After the Hurricanes: Impact on the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget*, Oct. 6, 2005.

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18 Cmdr. Anthony Popiel, e-mail to Jason Yanussi, Senate Committee staff member, Apr. 6, 2006, 2 pm.

19 Cmdr. Anthony Popiel, e-mail to Jason Yanussi, Senate Committee staff member, Apr. 6, 2006, 2 pm.

20 Written Statement of Sec. Chertoff, Senate Committee hearing, Feb. 15, 2006, p. 2.

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